

# The CIRCUIT

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



\*\*\* Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 84 Years

June 2023

## Holiday Office Closing

In observance of Independence Day, the Ark Valley office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th.

If you experience an outage, please call 888-297-9212.



## Rate Study Performed

It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees and management to review rates periodically to ensure that the cooperative continues to operate in a financially sound manner and to be sure that rates are fair and reasonable. Last year, Ark Valley retained the services of a consultant to perform an analysis of our costs of providing electricity and the rates charged to our members.



The results showed that there isn't currently a need to increase rates overall in order to continue to fulfill service obligations to the members and financial requirements to the cooperative's lenders. However, the study did show that the rates should be adjusted with revenue neutral changes to assess the costs more fairly and accurately for the different billing components and rates. This means the cooperative would collect the same amount of money overall, but with any change, some members will pay more, some will pay less, and some will pay the same. In addition, the study showed that the single phase rate is not collecting enough revenue, and the other rate structures (with the exception of the irrigation rate) should be adjusted to more accurately reflect the cost of providing service.

In addition to purely recovering costs through rates, the Board of Trustees examines other factors such as the competitive position of the cooperative in relationship to other energy suppliers, the equability of rates paid by different classes, and the effect of rate changes on each of the customer classes. The overall objective of the rate design process is to set fair and equitable rates for each of the customer classes which will recover costs identified and assigned to the customer classes during the study.

More detailed information about the proposed rate changes will be provided in future newsletters.

## Happy Father's Day!

"A father is someone you look up to no matter how tall you grow." ~ Unknown



## Summer Line Crew Hours

Ark Valley's line crews will begin working summer hours when we experience extreme heat.

Each year, during this period, the line department will begin work at 7 a.m., continuing until 3:30 p.m. We change the schedule in an effort to complete most of the

day's work before the major heat of the day arrives.



The office will remain open and operating on the normal 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday schedule.

The after-hour emergency telephone numbers are not affected by this in any way. If you need assistance, please give us a call at 620-662-6661 or 888-297-9212.

## Drawing Winner

**SHAUN MOORE** is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

Shaun, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by June 30, 2023 & give us the account number from your bill.

## Irrigation On-Peak Demand Period

June 1st through September 30th Weekdays, 2:30-6 p.m. (excluding holidays). Typically occurs on days with temps above 95 degrees.

You will receive notification via your preferred method. Call us with changes to your notification preference.

## Energy Efficiency Tip

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.



Ark Valley Electric Cooperative  
10 E 10th Ave, South Hutchinson, KS 67505

(620) 662-6661  
www.arkvalley.com

# Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of April on April 24, 2023.

Everybody welcomed the newest Trustee member, Doug Barr of Nickerson, to the Board of Trustees. Doug was elected Trustee at the 2023 Annual Meeting of Members. This is Doug's first time serving on the Board.

A review of the 2023 Annual Meeting was conducted by the Board and staff. The meeting was an overall success. After the review was completed, the Board instructed staff to begin preparations for the 2024 Annual Meeting of Members, including reserving the Sunflower North building at the Kansas State Fairgrounds, booking the sound system provider, and reserving catering services.

The Trustees took considerable time continuing their consideration of the recent cost of service study and discussing possible rate adjustments. In recent months, the Board worked with the engineering firm that conducted the study and requested multiple rate options that had a neutral revenue impact on the Cooperative in order to fairly distribute costs to its members. The Board decided it would hold a rate hearing at the end of summer to present any rate adjustments, including a time-of-use electric charge to address peak demand. The official time and date of the rate hearing has not been set. Prior to any rate hearing being held, notice will be provided to all Cooperative members.

## Managing Energy Use During Peak Hours

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity. As demand for electricity rises and fluctuates throughout the day, Ark Valley Electric must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the needs of all members during times of highest energy use or "peak hours" — regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

During those peak hours, which typically occur on the hottest days during the summer months, the cooperative pays more for electricity. The time frames that members should be aware of for the peak hours occur from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. from June through September, excluding weekends and holidays. Members can reduce their bill if they consistently manage their energy use during the peak time frames.

If the peak times concept is a bit confusing, here's another way to think about it. Imagine that it being similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it's more expensive. When they don't, it's cheaper—like a bargain matinee or an early bird special at a restaurant.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of this time-of-use approach to electricity use allows greater control over your bill and reduces the power-supply peak demand cost which in turn impacts every co-op member.

## Things to do *Before* a Power Outage

- Create or update your emergency supplies with this list: [www.ready.gov/kit](http://www.ready.gov/kit)
- Have emergency supplies at home in case there is a power outage.
- Learn what supplies you need when a power outage happens at <https://www.ready.gov/kit>
- Stock up on batteries for flashlights, radios, medical devices, and phones.
- Always have extra batteries in your emergency kit.
- Ask your doctor how you can prepare for a power outage if you have medical needs.
- Make sure medical equipment can keep being used if there is a power outage.
- Have medication for at least three days in your emergency supplies.
- If you rely on medical equipment, make a plan before a power outage or other emergency.
- Keep water, non-perishable food, and other supplies at home.
- Check the expiration date on emergency supplies and replace any old items.

#LifeSavingSkills

The Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).