

# The CIRCUIT

## Ark Valley Electric Cooperative

**Spring**  
forward

Don't forget to set clocks  
ahead one hour on  
March 12th at 2:00 a.m.



\*\*\* Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 83 Years

March 2023

## Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of January on January 30, 2023.

The Board heard a report on the results of the Nominating Committee Meeting, held on January 14, 2023.



The committee consisted of Ark Valley members Geoffrey Burgess, Sterling; Bret Dunn, Abbyville; Budd Fountain, Langdon; Randy Goering, Pretty Prairie; Don Langford, Plevna; Russ Willems, Inman; Derek Zongker, Plevna. The committee elected Derek Zongker as Chairman and Budd Fountain as Vice Chairman. It nominated the following four (4) Ark Valley members to run for three (3) Trustee positions at the 2023 Annual Meeting of Members: Larry Froese, Inman; Joe Seiwert, Pretty Prairie; Doug Barr, Nickerson; and Nathan Eck, Little River.

The Audit Committee, consisting of Trustees Steve Schweizer, Judy Kinsler, and



Dan Schnurr, reported to the Board as well. The committee members met on Saturday, January 14, 2023 and reviewed the expense accounts and petty cash reimbursements. No irregularities were noted for any of the expenses or reimbursements.

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## Join us at the Annual Meeting

Ark Valley Electric's most important event is coming up on April 4th, when the cooperative will host our annual meeting for you, the members we proudly serve. It's a great opportunity for the employees and the Board of Trustees to talk with our members and visit about their energy needs for the future. We'll also have activity bags for the kids, a delicious meal, and some door prizes.

The annual meeting is held each year to communicate the cooperative's operations and financial status for the past year. It also is time for members to vote on the co-op's board of trustees. Purchasing electric power from Ark Valley gives you membership in the cooperative, and, as a member, you have voting rights.

Members of the board of trustees are responsible for directing the business and affairs of the cooperative. Like you, trustees are cooperative members that live throughout the Ark Valley service area. The trustees' primary function is planning and policy oversight, establishing the long-term objectives of the cooperative, and providing resources to meet those objectives.

Each member will receive an official notice of the meeting in the mail a few weeks before the meeting. It includes your registration card to help with the registration process, but if you forget to bring it with you, there will be another opportunity to register. We hope you'll join us for the annual meeting at the Kansas State Fairgrounds.



## LIEAP Energy Assistance

Throughout the year Ark Valley Electric is asked by members where they can get assistance to help pay their electric bill. The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded program that helps eligible households with a portion of their home energy costs once a year. For more information, go to <http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/ees/Pages/EnergyAssistance.aspx> or call 800-432-0043.

**Deadline to apply 03/30/23.**

## Cold Weather Rule



The Cold Weather Rule ends on March 15th. Please have your bill caught up prior to that date.

Be aware that prior to March 15th, the Cooperative can disconnect service for non-payment if the local forecasted temperature will not drop *below* 32 degrees within the following 24-hour period (see the notice posted in the November 2022 newsletter for allowed circumstances, also available at [arkvalley.com](http://arkvalley.com)).



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

(620) 662-6661  
[www.arkvalley.com](http://www.arkvalley.com)

## Unclaimed Checks

Below is a list of members whose capital credit checks were returned due to an improper address. If you know someone, *please have them contact us directly.*

Bailey, Ben  
Barker, Heath  
Bauer, Justin  
Benewiat, Jennifer  
Berschauer, Linnie  
Bishop, Stephanie  
Black, Jeff  
Boyea, Amy  
Boyles, Ola Mae  
Brockleman, Kim  
Budreau, Nick  
Cain, Larry G  
Chandler, Shane  
Collicott, Larry  
Combs, Jim  
D&J Farms  
Dawson, Rita  
Depenbusch, Kenny  
Detter, Dennis  
Downing, James A  
Edwards, Jammie  
Edwards, Matthew  
Fiscus, Paul  
Flickinger, Randy  
Gano, Jared  
Gehring, Connie  
Gibson, James D  
Glenn, John  
Glenn, Lavon  
Griffin, Bennie  
Hager, W Z  
Harrington, Sharon  
Hayley, Rhonda  
Heling, Ferril L  
Heyen Orlin Construction  
Keen, Zach  
Kroeker, Richard  
Loughridge, Christina  
Mansfield, Mitch  
Matthews, Roger

## Play it Safe When Using Portable Generators

Storm season is upon us, which means greater potential for power outages. If you're planning to use a portable generator in the event of an outage, Ark Valley Electric reminds you to play it safe.

With proper use and maintenance, portable generators can provide great convenience during an outage. However, when generators are used incorrectly, they can be extremely hazardous. In a 2022 report, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated 85 U.S. consumers die every year from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning caused by gasoline-powered portable generators.



Here are 10 do's and don'ts to keep in mind when using portable generators:

1. DO: Install backup CO alarms.
2. DO: Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.
3. DO: Position generators at least 25 feet outside the home, away from doors, windows and vents that can allow CO to enter the home.
4. DO: Ensure your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electric shock injuries.
5. DO: Use three-pronged extension cords that are rated to handle the load of the generator. Inspect extension cords for cuts, frays or other damage before use.
6. DON'T: Operate a generator inside your home or an enclosed (or partially-enclosed) space. Generators produce high levels of CO, which can be deadly.
7. DON'T: Open windows or doors while the generator is running.
8. DON'T: Rely on generators as a full-time source of power. They should only be used temporarily or in emergency situations to power essential equipment or appliances.
9. DON'T: Overload generators. They should only be used to power essential equipment. Make sure your generator can handle the load of the items you plan to power.
10. DON'T: Connect generators directly into household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can backfeed along power lines and electrocute utility lineworkers making repairs.

While generators provide convenience during power outages, they can quickly become hazardous—even deadly—if improperly operated. Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.

## Drawing Winner

**PAT MALONEY** is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

Pat, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by March 31, 2023 & give us the account number from your electric bill.



## Board Meeting *Highlights*

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The Board reviewed the furnishing of electric energy in excess of operating costs and expenses. The General Manager, Jackie Holmberg, presented the margins available for allocation derived from Ark Valley and its energy provider, KEPCo, for 2022. These amounts totaled \$1,965,668.20. The Board passed a motion to allocate the margins furnished by each patron to their capital credit account. At the Board's discretion, the capital credits will be retired and paid out to each member accordingly. Ark Valley has a policy to retire patron capital credits on a 20-year rotation cycle.

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).