

The CIRCUIT

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



*** Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for over 84 Years

May 2023

Ark Valley Electric's 84th Annual Meeting

The 84th Annual Meeting of The Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. was held on Tuesday, April 4, at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson.

There were 237 registered members, and 7 registered by proxy. About 500 people attended the dinner meeting, which was catered by Fence Post Catering of Harper.



Joe Seiwert

LARRY FROESE of Inman and **JOE SEIWERT** of Pretty Prairie and **DOUG BARR** of Nickerson were elected to a three-year term on the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees.



Larry Froese



Doug Barr

All members attending the meeting received an Ark Valley Electric multi-directional LED garage light and afterward a drawing was held for door prizes.



Top Left: Keith McNickle gives President's Report.
Top Right : City of The Highlands, represented by Carol Moore, received the prize donated by Plains State Bank.
Bottom Left: Gaylen Wichert of Inman, winner of a TV donated by Royer Brothers Tree Service.
Bottom Right: Teresa Haught of Kingman, winner of a TV donated by Royer Brothers Tree Service.
Below: Members of the 84th Annual Meeting.



Board Meeting Highlights

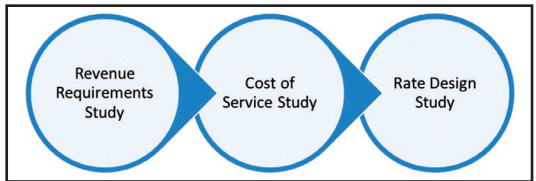
The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of March on March 27, 2023.

Jackie Holmberg, General Manager, presented the CPA audit prepared by Kelso Lynch, P.C., P.A., which was mailed to the Trustees in the Board packet. The audit results consisted of two documents:



the Financial Statement and Report to the Board of Trustees. The audit covered the financial activity from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2022. The auditor issued an unmodified report and identified no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, which is the best designation available.

After reviewing the results of a cost-of-service (COS) study performed by Power System Engineering (PSE) at the February regular meeting, the Board instructed Cooperative staff to work with PSE to develop more options that would



fairly address demand costs. Possible rate structures incorporating a time-of-use peak demand charge were presented at the March regular meeting. Utilizing a time-of-use rate structure would be a shift in how the Cooperative's electricity has traditionally been charged, but doing so would more fairly capture the costs associated with producing electricity during peak demand hours. Several usage scenarios were presented to the Board, which showed a general trend that residential customers' winter bills would decrease while their summer bills would increase. However, in such instances customers could lower their summer bills by lowering electric usage during peak demand hours of 3:01pm to 6:00pm. No action was taken, as this item will continue to be discussed at future Board meetings.



Ark Valley Electric Cooperative
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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 when cooling systems need to operate longer to cool homes. The peak hours time frame that members should be aware of occurs from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., June through September, and excludes 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 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.

2023 Scholarship Winners

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative would like to congratulate Samuel Steele, Brant Floyd, and Morgan Carson, winners of the Scholarship Contest.

Samuel will receive a \$3,000 scholarship to use in attending the college of his choice. He is the son of Nathan and Carey Steele of Lyons.



Brant Floyd
Runner-Up

Brant Floyd will receive a \$750 scholarship to use in attending the college of his choice. He is the son of Mike and Susan Floyd of Kingman.



Samuel Steele
1st Place Winner

Morgan Carson will receive a \$500 scholarship to use in attending the college of her choice. She is

the daughter of Jerame and Cori Carson of Hutchinson.

Ark Valley would like to thank all the applicants for their time and effort put into the 2023 Youth Competition.



Morgan Carson
2nd Runner-Up

Peak Alert For Irrigators



The peak period will start June 1st during the hours of 2:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. daily, excluding July 4th, Labor Day and weekends.

A test of the communication software used to send the alert messages will take place toward the end of May. If it is not sent to your preferred contact and/or method, please call 620-662-6661 to update your information.

You are welcome to call the office if you would like to have the load control equipment signal at your irrigation system tested while you are at the system.

Holiday Office Closing

In observance of Memorial Day, we will be closed on Monday, May 29th. Have a fun and *safe* Holiday!



Drawing Winner

DENNIS BERNDSEN is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

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



“A mother’s happiness is like a beacon, lighting up the future but also reflected on the past in the guise of fond memories.”
- *Honore de Balzac*

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, 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 e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov.