

# The CIRCUIT

## Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



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

November 2023

Happy Thanksgiving!

**GIVING THANKS: A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND GRATITUDE.**



Ark Valley Electric would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and remind members the office will be closed on November 23rd & 24th. If you need to report an outage, please call 1-888-297-9212.

**Veterans Day  
November 11**



## Are You Wanting to Serve?

Ark Valley's Board of Trustees have a variety of skill sets and are community-minded individuals that live right here in the co-op's service area. We rely on their many talents to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments.

Serving on Ark Valley's board means you're making a difference locally, using your individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the co-op that in turn benefit the larger community. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves. The board members provide input and guidance on budgets, goals, upgrades in equipment and technology, energy contracts and set policies.

While you don't need to be an expert in electricity or business to run for a board position, you do need to have a passion for the community and a willingness to actively serve and learn. Our board meets on a regular basis and receives specialized training to help them make informed decisions, gain a deeper understanding of the electric utility industry and the cooperative business model.

The energy industry is undergoing a major transition and seeing technological advancements. Ark Valley is facing big decisions, and board members have an opportunity to help chart a course for our future. Any member with a bona fide residence served by the Cooperative who has interest in serving as a trustee is welcome to contact the Ark Valley office. The potential candidates will be referred to the nomination committee for further consideration when they meet in January.

## Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of September on September 25, 2023.

The matter of general capital credit unretired balances was addressed. As of September 30, 2023, Ark Valley had \$19,544,259.76 in allocated, but not retired, patron capital dating back to 2003. In prior years, the Board used approximately five percent (5%) of the Cooperative's total margin and equity as a benchmark for the amount of capital credits it would retire, which is an amount consistent with the equity Board policy. The Board approved a motion to retire all outstanding Ark Valley capital credit balances from 2003 (\$368,335.15), sixteen percent (16%) of the outstanding capital credit balances from 2021 (\$189,863.89), and thirty-seven (37%) of the outstanding capital credit balances from 2022 (\$700,654.74). The total amount of the capital credit retirements equals \$1,258,853.78, or approximately five and two-tenths percent (5.2%) of the Cooperative's total margin and equity. The capital credit retirement checks will be processed and mailed to members in December.

The Board also reviewed an annual report created by National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) that analyzes Key Ratio Trends among rural electric cooperatives. It compared Ark Valley to other rural electric cooperatives from around the country and in Kansas. The data suggests that Ark Valley is a financially sound and very efficient electric cooperative, as it has a small staff and lower overhead. Unfortunately, it also shows the Cooperative is adversely impacted by the lower number of customers it serves for such a relatively large geographic area. The low customer density per mile of line causes Ark Valley customers to pay for a greater amount of operations and maintenance expense on average than most other rural electric cooperative customers in the United States.

The Cooperative's distributed generation and load control were reviewed. The estimated savings realized from running diesel generators at the Arlington and Medora substations, production at the Huntsville solar site, and by utilizing irrigation load control totaled \$87,531.76 for the month of August. The potential winter savings was estimated at \$559,193.99. This estimate is less than projected in July due to the increase in the summer peak in August.



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

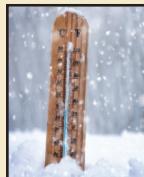
(620) 662-6661  
www.arkvalley.com

# Cold Weather Rule Starts

(1). The provisions of the Cold Weather Rule establish the disconnection procedures for any Residential Customer of the Cooperative throughout the cold weather period, which extends from November 15 through March 15.

(2). The Cooperative shall not disconnect a Customer's service between November 15 and March 15 when the local temperature is forecast to drop below 32 degrees within the following 24-hour period unless:

- (a). It is at the Customer's request;
- (b). The service is abandoned;
- (c). A dangerous condition exists on the Customer's premises;
- (d). The Customer violates any rule of the



Cooperative that may adversely affect the safety of the persons or property, including the physical integrity of the Cooperative's delivery system; or

(e). The Customer causes or permits the unauthorized interference with, diversion or use of (meter bypass), the Cooperative's electric service situated or delivered on or about the Customer's premises.

In any of these situations, the Cooperative may disconnect the service immediately. Electric service disconnected under (c), (d), or (e) above may be restored as soon as possible after the physical problems as defined in (c), (d) and (e) above have been corrected and all applicable fees, costs, and security deposits have been paid.

(3). Responsibilities of the Cooperative: The Cooperative will send one written notice mailed first class at least five (5) days prior to termination of service. A Customer may not be disconnected until a 24-hour forecast above the activating temperature is predicted.

On the day of disconnection, the Cooperative must receive a 24-hour forecast above the activating temperature. If the temperature is then forecast to be below the activating temperature, the disconnection may not be carried out. Instead, the Cooperative must wait for another 24-hour forecast above the activating temperature, but further notice to the Customer will not be required.

The Cooperative will, in the five (5)-day written notice, also inform the Customer of the existence of the Cold Weather Rule and that the Customer can avoid disconnection by bringing the Customer's electric bill current.

# Drawing Winner

**MARK SCHOTTLER** is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

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

# Scholarships Available

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative is offering two scholarships for qualified juniors or seniors.

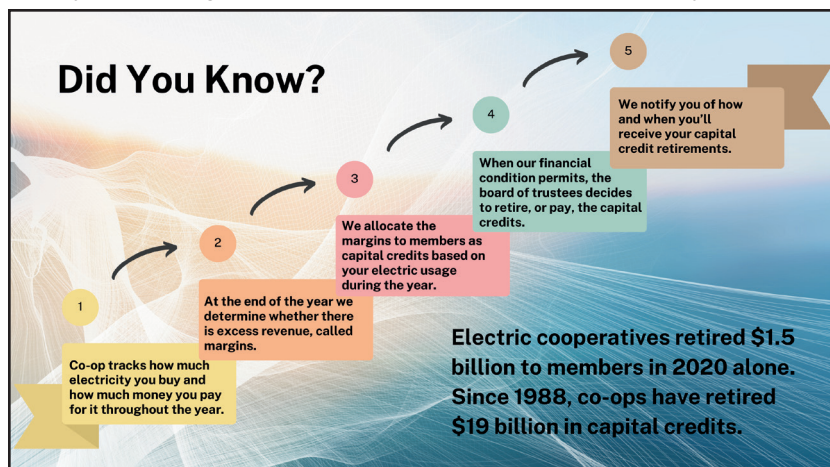
The student's parent(s) must be a member of Ark Valley Electric and either a junior or senior in high school to apply. Ark Valley members may nominate students that they know are eligible.

- ▶ **First Place:** A \$3,000 College Scholarship.
- ▶ **Second Place:** A \$1,000 College Scholarship.
- ▶ **Third Place:** A \$500 College Scholarship.

The scholarship application is available on our website; [www.arkvalley.com](http://www.arkvalley.com). The completed application and written essay must be submitted to Ark Valley Electric by 5:00 p.m., November 30, 2023 via e-mail to [dalexander@arkvalley.com](mailto:dalexander@arkvalley.com) or mail to PO Box 1246, Hutchinson, KS 67504-1246.

# How Capital Credits Work

Unlike investor-owned utilities, Ark Valley Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit organization that returns its profits, or "margins", back to its members! As a member, you are a part-owner of the co-op who is entitled to receiving money back through Capital Credit Retirements. Here's how they work:



# Security Lights

**Installation costs:** There is a \$30 service fee to install the light. Member is responsible to power the light.

**Servicing Security Lights:** The light is owned by the member, but Ark Valley Electric will be happy to service lights purchased through us. Cost varies, so please call to get an estimate.

**Location:** Security lights or any other attachments are not allowed on primary poles due to the inherent dangers it poses during installation and maintenance in relation to the high-voltage source. Security lights are allowed on meter poles if installation doesn't pose a threat to our employees.

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).