

The CIRCUIT

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



*** Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for 85 Years

March 2024

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 29th.

The Board heard a report on the results of the Nominating Committee Meeting, held on January 13, 2024. The committee consisted of Ark Valley members Geoffrey Burgess, Sterling; Bret Dunn, Abbyville; Budd Fountain, Langdon; Paul Gorges, Nickerson; Doug Schrag, Pretty Prairie; Russ Willems, Inman; and Derek Zongker, Plevna. The committee elected Budd Fountain as Chairman and Derek Zongker as Vice Chairman. It nominated the following five (5) Ark Valley members to run for two (2) Trustee positions at the 2024 Annual Meeting of Members: Keith McNickle, Stafford; Dan Schnurr, Sterling; Peggy Burgess, Arlington; John Helmer, Inman; and Paul Mikols, Hutchinson.

The Audit Committee, consisting of Trustees Steve Schweizer, Larry Froese, and Doug Barr, reported to the Board as well. The committee members met on Saturday, January 13, 2024 and reviewed the expense accounts and petty cash reimbursements. No irregularities were noted for any of the expenses or reimbursements.

The Board reviewed the Cooperative's allocation of margins for 2023. Margins are all amounts received and receivable from 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 2023. These amounts totaled \$1,690,957.80. 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.

Make Plans to Attend Your Annual Meeting

Ark Valley is run by people like you, members of the communities we serve, who are elected to oversee the operations of your cooperative. Each year, Ark Valley hosts its annual meeting so members can participate in the election process and learn more about their cooperative. This is also a community gathering where members have an opportunity to meet other members – or catch up with old acquaintances.

If you have not attended your annual meeting in the past or it has been a few years, we hope you will take the time to be with your fellow cooperative members. As a token of our appreciation, members in attendance will receive a registration gift.

Your time is important to us, so AVEC's annual meeting is designed with that in mind. The evening begins with a buffet dinner and is promptly followed by the cooperative business meeting. The agenda of the meeting is planned to only use the time necessary to complete the election process. After the results of the election are announced, the meeting concludes with door prizes.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at the North Sunflower Building (Kansas State Fairgrounds) in Hutchinson. Members will receive their official meeting notice with all of the details in the mail during the first week of April. The notice includes a registration card, so please bring it with you to the meeting to help expedite the registration process. We hope you make plans to join us.



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 <https://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/ees/Pages/EnergyAssistance.aspx> or call 888-369-4777.

Deadline to Apply: 03/29/24

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 2023 newsletter for allowed circumstances, also available at arkvalley.com).



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

(620) 662-6661
www.arkvalley.com

EV Chargers

If you are planning to purchase an electric vehicle, keep in mind that high amperage charging systems may require significant electrical upgrades to your home, as well as the transformer that supplies power to your home. It is important that you are aware that Level 2 chargers can range from 7 kW to 19 kW of load, with the United States average being 7.6 kW of extra load. This could potentially require a service upgrade and additional cost, so it is important to contact an electrician and Ark Valley before purchasing an EV charging unit.

EV charging creates additional energy demand and can have an impact on the grid as well as your monthly costs. If you are unable to manage your demand needs for your household, your demand charges will likely increase. Additionally, the time of day an EV is charged will greatly impact your bill in the summer months.

The current rate tariff that went into effect October 1, 2023, was designed to encourage off-peak usage. The kWh charge was lowered during all off-peak hours and increased during peak hours of 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm on weekdays during the months of June through September. By contacting Ark Valley about your EV charging needs, we can help ensure your home is prepared for your additional energy load and help you avoid charging during peak summer periods when energy costs are the highest.

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.*



Adams, Kathy
Alumbaugh, Harold
Beaton, Don
Belden, Linda R
Bell, Jackie
Benbenek, David
Bieghler, Zachary
Blackburn, Robert
Boman, Cephas
Borecky, Mark
Bradley, Brian
Compton, Gene
Eckles, Steve
Estabrook, Jesse D
Farney, Tyler
Folk Oil
Gee, Janet
Gray, Doug
Grosvenor, Andre
Gustus, Carolyn
Hendrixson, Danita
Hershberger, Elizabeth
Horizon Farms
Jackson, Edward
Jenkins, John C
Johnson, Michael
Klee, Rick
Ladd, David
Leclair, Deanna
Lightner, Mary

Minor, Jim
Moeder, Cathy
Moore, Chad
Morrow, Dorothy
Osenbaugh, Jean
Parker, Elizabeth
Pickard, Patricia
Pitzer, Phillip
Pollock, Alisha
Pritchard, Aron
Reardon, Connor
Redd, Jerry L
Root, Antoinette
Rupp, Mildred
Scribner, Valecia
Sellens, Mark
Sidebottom, Kevin
Skinner, Dan
Smith, James C
Smith, Robert A
Snyder, James
Strawn, Chris
Surface, Jason L
Swemke, Nathan
Thomas, Ron
Warner, Todd
Wendell, Holly
Westfahl, Mattie L
Wilson, Lois A
Yocam, Justin S
Zink, Brian

Drawing Winner

BECKY CORPENING is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

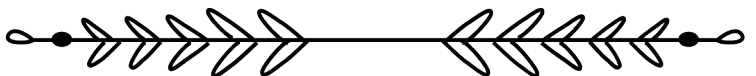
Becky, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by March 29, 2024 & give us the account number from your electric bill.



In Memory of Bob Hall

We would like to share our condolences expressed to the Hall family in honor of Bob Hall, who passed away on February 7th, 2024.

Bob retired from Ark Valley in 2015 after 33 years, with his last 18 years serving as General Manager.



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 email at program.intake@usda.gov.