

The CIRCUIT

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



*** Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for over 85 Years

May 2024

Ark Valley Electric's 85th Annual Meeting



The 85th Annual Meeting of The Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. was held on Tuesday, April 16, at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson.

There were 234 registered members, and 5 registered by proxy. About 489 people

attended the dinner meeting, which was catered by Fence Post Catering of Harper.

PEGGY BURGESS of Arlington and **KEITH MCNICKLE** of Stafford were elected to a three-year term on the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees.

All members attending the meeting received an Ark Valley Electric multi-directional LED garage light and afterward a drawing was held for door prizes. If you were not able to attend and would like an LED garage light, they can be purchased for \$10, while supplies last. All money received will benefit Ark Valley Electric's scholarship fund.



Peggy Burgess



Keith McNickle

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 25, 2024.

Trustee Larry Froese serves as Ark Valley's representative on the Kansas Electric Power Cooperative Board of Directors. KEPCo is Ark Valley's electric provider.



Froese gave the Board an update on power generation, including at the coal generation power plant Iatan 2 and the nuclear generation power plant Wolf Creek. Iatan 2 has not been generating as much power as it was originally planned to do, because of milder weather, the low cost of natural gas, and significant wind production throughout the month. The facility has increased its coal reserve. He also informed the Board that Wolf Creek was scheduled to be down for regularly scheduled maintenance this spring.

Jim Sherry, Operations Manager, reported to the Board about poles being broken and outages being caused by a recent windstorm. He also reported on the diesel peaking generator at the Arlington substation being serviced so it could perform this summer, the testing of all the irrigation load control devices connected to Ark Valley's system, and the construction work plan being on schedule.



Judy Kinsler

The Board members then wished Trustee Judy Kinsler the best of luck, as her tenure on the Board of Trustees had come to an end. Kinsler had served on the Ark Valley Board of Trustees for four consecutive three-year terms, which is the maximum allowed under the bylaws. After she is off the Board of Trustees for a year, she would be eligible to run for the position of Trustee again.



Top Left: Jackie Holmberg gives General Manager's Report.
Top Right : Kassie Regehr presents winning essay.
Bottom Left: John Engelland of Sterling, winner of a soundbar donated by Royer Brothers Tree Service.
Bottom Right: Michael Bruch of Kingman, winner of a TV donated by Royer Brothers Tree Service.
Below: Members of the 85th Annual Meeting.



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How to Save Money This Summer

There have been several columns printed in the monthly newsletter to help explain the impact and reason for the rate changes that went into effect in October. To recap, the rate changes won't collect any additional revenue overall, but the new rates were designed to charge members in the most equitable way possible and reflect the cost of providing service more accurately. Also, the re-design of the rate structure better aligns with how power costs are incurred and addresses the pricing inadequacies that occur during the summer peak period when the cost of power is the highest.

The previous newsletters covered various billing component changes that have already been implemented with the winter rates, but the focus of this article is on how you can save money on your electric bill this summer. The energy charge for the single phase and water source heat pump rates was reduced significantly to less than \$.08/kWh year-round. Members will get the benefit of paying a much lower energy rate for 97% of the time throughout the entire year but will be charged a much higher rate (\$.34252 and \$.31822, respectively) during the summer peak period when our cost to supply electricity is the most expensive. Beginning June 1st and through the end of September, a time-of-use rate will be implemented Monday through Friday between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. – excluding Independence Day and Labor Day.

While it might not always be the most convenient, you can save money on your electric bill this summer by minimizing your use of electricity during weekdays for the three-hour peak period. Outside of that three-hour window is the best time to do those more energy-intensive tasks when the energy rate is the cheapest. Some electricity use is going to be unavoidable, whether it's your refrigerator keeping your food cool or the air-conditioner cooling your home. But peak hours are a good time to avoid doing tasks that can wait, because it will cost you extra during this time. The simplest thing we recommend is to be mindful of the times when you operate your dishwasher, oven, washing machine, and clothes dryer. And, if you have a swimming pool, hot tub, or sprinkler system, make sure not to run them during peak times.

When rate options were being considered, it was important that the new cost structure still gave individual members control over their bill by providing them an opportunity to save money by managing energy use. With the time-of-use component, the savings will now be recognized through the energy charge, where previously it was with the demand charge. Now demand is billed at a consistent rate throughout the year for the highest recorded demand each month.

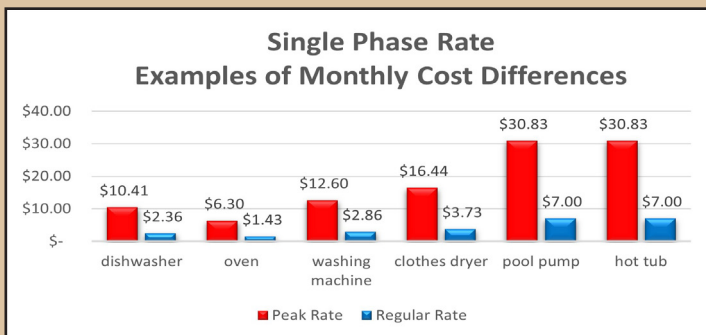


Table Assumptions for Shifting Energy Use from Peak Rate to Regular Rate

- Dishwasher: 14 loads per month
- Oven: 8 hours of baking
- Washing Machine and Clothes Dryer: 4 loads per week
- Pool Pump (2 hp): 3 hours each peak period
- Hot Tub Electric Heater (1500 W): 3 hours each peak period

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 27th. Have a fun and safe Holiday!



Drawing Winner

ROBERT SWEET is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

Robert, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by May 31, 2024 & give us the account number from your electric bill.



Happy Mother's day to all the Mother's who work tirelessly to nurture, support, and love their children every day. Mother's Day is a special occasion to celebrate the incredible women who shape our lives with their warmth and care. It is a time to honor the sacrifices they make and the unconditional love they give. So here's to all the moms out there, you are truly appreciated and cherished. Happy Mother's Day!

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.