



**DSO ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**DSO**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# HEADLINER

## Board

<b>Brian Lang</b> Solomon, President	<b>James Christopher</b> Falun, Director
<b>Ken Hedberg</b> Marquette, Vice President	<b>Dane Clark</b> Gypsum, Director
<b>David Mueller</b> Tampa, Secretary	<b>Sheila Hummel</b> Hope, Director
<b>Dean Allison</b> Delphos, Director	<b>Bruce Spare</b> Assaria, Director
<b>David Butler</b> Junction City, Director	

## Staff

<b>Timothy J. Power</b> CEO	<b>Marla Marshall</b> CFO
<b>Mike Olberding</b> Operations Manager	<b>Derrick Rutherford</b> Communications Manager

## Office Hours

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday  
Open over the lunch hour

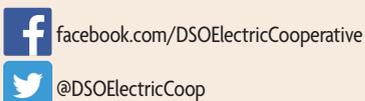
## Payment Locations

**CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK IN  
WALMART SUPERCENTER**  
521 E. Chestnut St., Junction City, KS 66441  
**FARMERS STATE BANK**  
447 Harrison, Lindsborg, KS 67456

## Outage Information

**IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE, CALL  
800-376-3533.** After-hours calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

## Find Out More



## On the Line

BY MIKE OLBERDING, OPERATIONS MANAGER

On Dec. 15, 2021, we experienced a heck of a windstorm. The first thing I would like to say is thanks for being such great members! I have worked for two other electric cooperatives in my career, and the membership here is second to none. Most of our members understood the magnitude of this storm and were very patient when they were out of power. DSO linemen were fixing damage that whole day and night. In many cases, we made temporary repairs to broken poles as safely as possible during the storm. At one point, DSO had 12 substations or metering points that were off due to damage on Eversgy's transmission line. With everything Eversgy was dealing with on its system and the number of outages it had, we were thankful Eversgy was able to fix the line fairly quickly. The next day, Dec. 16, the weather was decent, and our linemen were able to get most of the system back up.

We did something different than we normally do to prepare for the predicted winds. The linemen put 60% of the distribution lines on "one shot" the morning of Dec. 15. This means the oil circuit reclosers (OCRs) were put on the quickest operation. Instead of "blinking" four times before shutting off power, the OCRs were set to shut off power on the first instance of a line fault. Normally, when a tree branch hits a power line, the OCR "blinks" and you notice it at your house or business. If the branch doesn't fall off the line in the next second, then it "blinks" again, and so on until it shuts off power on the fourth "blink." With the OCR on "one shot," once the branch contacts the wire, the OCR immediately shuts off power and the line is dead before it hits the ground. We set our OCRs to "one shot" to help protect our members from wildfires, as a live wire hitting a very dry ground could have been di-

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## ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest. A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can greatly impact the efficiency of your system.



# Get to Know the 2022 Board of Directors Candidates

**BYLAWS SECTION 3.05 VOTING** — If the number of qualified candidates nominated by petition for election as a Director in each district or at-large is less than or equal to the number of vacancies in each district or at-large, then the election of Directors shall automatically be dispensed with and the nominees shall be deemed elected.

## EAST DISTRICT POSITION 2



**SHEILA HUMMEL**

lives northeast of Hope on the family farm with her husband. They have been married for 33 years and have four children. They also have two grandsons, and their family is the joy of their lives.

She is a Dickinson County native and graduated from Kansas State University in 1988. Her parents were members of DSO, and she appreciates the value and importance of cooperative membership. She has worked in banking and in the school system, and currently works at Mutual Aid Agency, north of Abilene, as the business coordinator.

Hummel says she has enjoyed the last three years of representing the West District on the DSO board. She says it has been a learning experience and she still has a lot more to learn. She would very much like to continue to represent DSO members on the board of directors.

## CENTRAL DISTRICT POSITION 2



**BRIAN LANG**

has served on the DSO board for 15 years and is board president. He is DSO's alternate trustee to Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and a member of the National Rural Electric Co-op Assoc. Resolutions Committee.

He lives southeast of Solomon with wife Annette. He has an agricultural engineering degree from Kansas State University. He is a licensed professional engineer and member of the American Society of Agriculture and Biological Engineers, the Assoc. of State Dam Safety Officials, Dickinson Co. Farm Bureau, and K-State Alumni Assoc.. Retired from federal government, he still does some consulting work and is a contracting officer for Doyle Creek and Middle Creek watershed districts.

"Keeping rates reasonable while delivering electric power safely and reliably to our members is the biggest challenge," he says. "This helps our members improve their quality of life and possibly bring new members to the area."



**MIKE RICHARDS**

is an electric foreman from Solomon with over 40 years of work experience. He strives to maintain a courteous and positive attitude and advocates for others by seeking out opportunities to improve the community.

He graduated from Solomon High School in 1978, attended classes at Hutchinson Community College and completed the Manhattan Vo-Tech Lineman program in 1979.

He worked as a lineman for Ark Valley Electric for six years and then transitioned to a foreman role at Westar (now called Evergy) for 34 years. He has built lines, ran outages and traveled to restore power during natural disasters.

He has served on the Little River City Council and Lion's Club. He was also a USD 444 school board member for 14 years.

## WEST DISTRICT POSITION 2



**JIM CHRISTOPHER**

and his wife, Lisa, live in rural Falun. They have three grown children and four grandchildren.

A lifelong Saline County resident, Christopher is a farmer/stockman. After graduating from North Park College in Chicago, he served in the U.S. Air Force from 1971 to 1976.

He is completing his fourth term on the DSO board and is the DSO representative to Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc (KEC). He is secretary on the KEC Executive Committee and also serves on the Legislative and Communications committees. He has completed National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Credential Co-op Director and Board Leadership programs, achieving Director Gold status.

Christopher has served on various boards in the community and his church. He is currently a Falun Township trustee and on the board of Evangelical Covenant Church in Lindsborg.

## WEST DISTRICT POSITION 3



**KENNETH BERRY**

is a lifelong resident of northwest Ottawa County where he, his wife, Tina, and their three sons (and their families) operate a grain and livestock operation and small seed business.

He thinks that stable, reliable and affordable electric power is vital to the well-being of the small communities and rural areas that DSO serves. He observes that the cooperative is facing a changing electric power landscape and would welcome an opportunity to help guide the cooperative in the implementation of new power sources and generation methods, as well as the distribution of that power as fresh needs and technologies arise.



**KERRY LINDH**

lives with his wife of 44 years, Mary Kay, on his original 1869 family homestead northwest of Marquette.

He graduated from Emporia State University and has over 40 years of experience in business. He retired from Four Seasons RV Acres of Abilene following 23 years of service in sales, finance and general management.

He is a lifetime member of Elim Lutheran Church of Marquette and a member of Marquette Lions Club. He has served as a board member and president of Riverview Estates and a board member and co-founder of the Marquette Recreation District Foundation. He currently serves on the McPherson County Fire District No. 2 board and Marquette Learning Center board as a member, vice president and co-founder.

Lindh seeks to join the DSO board to continue learning and have a positive impact on the DSO mission to serve its members.



# On the Line Continued from page 12A

sastrous. As it turned out, DSO did have several power lines lying on the ground as the windstorm went thru, but none started fires.

Before we could restore power to those lines that were shut off by the OCRs, our linemen had to drive the line circuit to make sure the line was clear of any obstacles. This took some time, as a few of these circuits have 30 to 50 miles of line on them. After a 100-mile per hour windstorm, you always think of the worst-case: power lines lying on buildings, on the ground, on top of vehicles, or across busy roads, and

poles lying in grassy pastures. There are so many things that could cause loss of life or property. Because of all these factors, getting lights back the next day took some time.

We appreciate all the outstanding members that let us know where the downed lines were, gave mile marker information, and shared photos of damage as it helps us immensely. Just remember, your safety is the most important thing. Always keep a safe distance from any downed poles or power lines and assume they are energized even if they are on the ground. Thanks.

# Cold Weather Rule Ending

With the Cold Weather Rule ending at the end of the month, this is a good time to review how DSO handles delinquent accounts. Payments for electric service that are mailed to DSO shall be deemed delinquent if the envelope is postmarked on or after the due date stated on the bill. All other forms of payment for electric service shall be deemed delinquent if payment is not received by DSO or its authorized agent on or before the due date stated on the bill. For residential members, the due date shall be the 25th day after the date of billing. For all other members, the due date shall be the 20th day after the date of billing.

When a bill becomes delinquent, a late payment fee, as specified in the schedule of fees, shall be added to the member's bill and collection efforts by DSO shall be initiated.

If the last calendar day for remittance falls on a day when DSO's office is not open to the general public, then payments in DSO's after-hours depository or received in the mail on the first business day after the due date shall be considered on time.

Prepaid accounts become delinquent immediately upon failure to maintain a credit balance. DSO may discontinue service for such delinquency immediately, with no notice to the member.

DSO will send one written notice mailed first class at least 10 days prior to termination of service.

DSO may notify, as a courtesy, members by telephone at least 24 hours before they are to be disconnected.

Some of our members may qualify for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). LIEAP is a federally funded program that helps eligible households pay a portion of their home energy cost by providing a one-time per year benefit. To learn more call 800-432-0043.

## WATCH

A watch means there is a great chance of a severe thunderstorm or tornado.

**Watch** and wait for more information while taking precautionary measures.

## WARNING

A warning means that a severe thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted or seen on radar.

The moment you get a warning, take shelter in the safest part of your home.

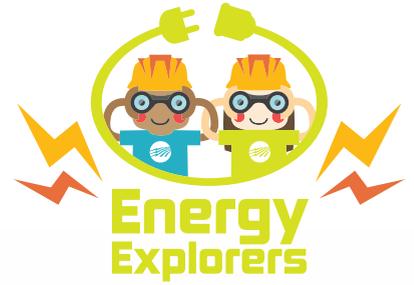


About two-thirds of DSO's energy came from non-greenhouse gas emitting resources.

# ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT WORD SEARCH

Did you know we use a variety of equipment to send electricity to your home?

Read the facts below to learn about the equipment we use, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle below.



C Y F S S B U R U X S Z P Z S  
 T U R S O E Q N S G E W S E K  
 N H Z T B V N Z E B F U S K C  
 Z N B Z R S M I K Y X U I J U  
 E J A D K X Z T L Z S E E E R  
 S G L F Y M O G I R E N C O T  
 V Z Q O W K V D C H E U K O T  
 U S C T A S W J I E O W B H E  
 S N O I T A T S B U S E O X K  
 X S R E M R O F S N A R T P C  
 E L E C T R I C M E T E R S U  
 Y B G V H U N P D L K C R R B  
 B L P T G I F N Z T S M B G E  
 U H U J Y Z L K A S L H H E C  
 Z B R I Y Q I U J M F H Z D R



- ▶ **TRANSFORMERS** look like large metal cans on top of utility poles or big green boxes on the ground. They reduce the voltage of electricity for safe use in your home.
- ▶ **POWER LINES** hang overhead or are placed underground to carry electricity from where it's generated to homes and businesses.

- ▶ Lineworkers use **BUCKET TRUCKS** to reach power lines and poles when making repairs and updates to the electrical system.
- ▶ **ELECTRIC METERS** are placed on the outside of homes to measure the amount of electricity you use.
- ▶ **SUBSTATIONS** are facilities that contain equipment to help control the flow of electricity.