



**DSO ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

DSO
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

HEADLINER

BOARD

Ken Hedberg
Marquette, President
David Mueller
Tampa, Vice President
Sheila Hummel
Hope, Secretary
Dean Allison
Delphos, Director
Kenneth Berry
Minneapolis, Director

David Butler
Junction City, Director
James Christopher
Falun, Director
Mike Richards
Solomon, Director
Bruce Spare
Assaria, Director

STAFF

Timothy J. Power
CEO

Marla Marshall
CFO

Tracy Turner
Operations Manager

Derrick Rutherford
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



facebook.com/DSOElectricCooperative



@DSOElectricCoop

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Bylaws and Director Elections

Director petitions due by Feb. 9

I first want to thank those of you who cast your votes regarding the revisions to the bylaws. The revisions were approved by a majority of the voting members. The biggest change is the elimination of the at-large director position, which will take effect in April 2024.

Director elections will be held in April and the nomination process is currently underway. Please consider the following positions that will be up for election this year:

- ▶ **WEST DISTRICT, POSITION 1**
- ▶ **CENTRAL DISTRICT, POSITION 1**
- ▶ **EAST DISTRICT, POSITION 1**

Lee Tafanelli, CEO of Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., recently shared this quote with me from a speech Teddy Roosevelt delivered and I pass it along to you as food for thought and possibly inspiration to throw your hat into the arena.

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

A position on the DSO Board of Directors offers many educational and travel opportunities. I urge you to consider this worthy endeavor.



Ken Hedberg
Board President

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HOW *Electricity* GETS TO YOU



STEP 1 | Generation

Electricity is generated from various sources.



STEP 2 | Step-Up Transformer

Voltage is increased to push the electricity over long distances.



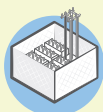
STEP 3 | Transmission Power Lines

Lines carry electricity over long distances.



STEP 4 | Transmission Substation

Voltage is lowered so electricity can travel across the local system.



STEP 5 | Distribution Substation

Voltage is lowered further for safe distribution.



STEP 6 | Distribution Power Lines

Electricity travels across these lines in your community.



STEP 7 | Final Stop

A transformer reduces voltage a final time, and electricity is sent to your home.



Notice of Director Elections

DSO is accepting nominations for three seats on the board

DSO's coverage area is divided into three districts. Individuals who wish to run for a director's seat need to be active members of the cooperative and bona fide residents of the district they wish to represent.

Positions up for election this year include the following (current directors are shown):

- ▶ **WEST DISTRICT, POSITION 1**
KEN HEDBERG (*intends to run again*)
- ▶ **CENTRAL DISTRICT, POSITION 1**
OPEN
- ▶ **EAST DISTRICT, POSITION 1**

DAVID BUTLER (*intends to run again*)
Ballots will include those nominated by petition for the board and will be mailed to all members of the cooperative on or about March 1, 2024, and must be returned by 4:30 p.m. on March 29, 2024.

Election results will be announced in the May issue of *Kansas Country Living* magazine and can be found on DSO's website the first week of April.

DSO's bylaws are available at the

cooperative office in Solomon or online at www.dsoelectric.com.

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

DEC. 11, 2023	Petition forms became available at DSO's office in Solomon and on the DSO website.
FEB. 9, 2024	Completed petition, affirmation of director qualification, and brief bio must be filed at the DSO Solomon office by 4:30 p.m.
MARCH 1, 2024	Director election ballots will be mailed to the members.
MARCH 29, 2024	Ballots must be received at the DSO Solomon office by 4:30 p.m.
APRIL 5, 2024	Election results will be announced.

NOTICE OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Potential candidates must submit a completed petition packet signed by at least 15 members who are residents of the cooperative. Signed petitions must be filed in the DSO cooperative office in Solomon **BY 4:30 P.M. ON FEB. 9, 2024**. In addition to regular pen and paper signatures, members can sign online petitions at www.dsoelectric.com/form/petition.

For questions, please contact Derrick Rutherford at 800-376-3533, email derrick.rutherford@dsoelectric.com, or mail Derrick at P.O. Box 286, Solomon, Kansas 67480.

4 REASONS TO VOTE IN CO-OP TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

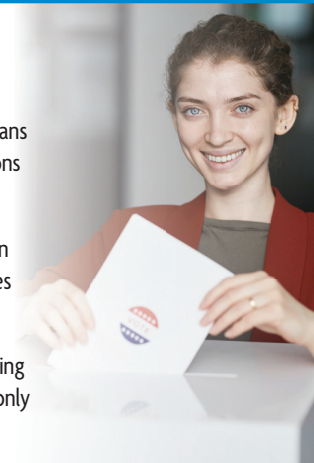
Electric co-ops are led by the members they serve, which means you have a say in who governs our co-op. Here are four reasons why you should participate in trustee elections.

1 As a member of the co-op, your input matters.

2 Trustees represent you on important energy-related issues.

3 Trustees' decisions can impact electricity rates and future projects.

4 With convenient voting options available, it only takes a minute.



Winter Prep? Think Safety First.

BY PAT MELGARES, K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION NEWS SERVICE

K-State climatologist says knowing weather forecasts can help reduce risk during winter weather

If there's a buzzword for winter that Chip Redmond subscribes to, it would certainly be safety.

As a climatologist and manager of the Kansas Mesonet at Kansas State University, Redmond understands the many risks of winter weather.

"The most obvious may be the cold," Redmond said. "It's definitely a time to start pulling out the warmer stuff; the thermals, the overalls ... we really need to become conscious about how many layers we put on in anticipation that the weather can change pretty rapidly this time of year."

Morning temperatures, he said, can be quite chilly, but temperatures in the Midwest and other parts of the country often can warm nicely in the afternoon, before cooling again at sunset. Layering helps to protect during daily weather variations, Redmond said.

He also suggests a warm hat or stocking cap; mittens or gloves; and footwear that provides warmth and traction.

"There is usually an increase in slides or falling accidents this time of year when we get snow," he said. "I suggest minimizing your outside time during slippery periods, or at least have the proper footwear and avoid areas where ice might build up. Sometimes it's easier to walk on grass than the sidewalk."

Redmond offers additional safety tips as winter weather approaches.

REMOVING SNOW

"As much as I don't want to admit it, I'm not as young as I was yesterday," Redmond said. "It takes a toll when we put our bodies under the stress of shoveling snow, especially wet, heavy snow that can be very physically demanding. That has been a leading cause of injuries and even death due to heart attacks. Be vigilant in what your body is capable of."

Redmond suggests asking friends, family and neighbors for help; removing snow in a way that doesn't require picking it up and throwing it; or using a snowblower.

WINTER TRAVEL

"Travel can be a challenge any time of year, but it becomes much more of a challenge in winter because conditions change quickly over short distances," Redmond said.

He advises travelers to always check weather forecasts for their current location, their destination — and points in between.

"There are some apps available that will give you weather by the road [you're traveling]," said Redmond, who suggests the U.S. government website, www.weather.gov, for reliable, up-to-date forecasts across the country.

In Kansas, the Kansas Department of Transportation maintains a website, www.kandrive.org, that includes forecasts, road conditions, live cameras, road closures, and more.

Redmond said if a car's tires are worn, get new ones put on immediately. And, he says, keep a winter preparedness kit in the car that includes such items as blankets, flashlight, cellphone charger, water, radio, dry food and other items to help you weather the elements in case of a breakdown.

When storms are imminent, "don't travel," he said. "Make the smart decision to not go out there."

STAY OFF FROZEN WATERWAYS

"A lot of people in Kansas think that frozen ponds are pretty and they're fun to walk on," Redmond said. "But there's very rarely ever a pond or a lake that's truly safe to walk on. To support a person's weight, you need a lot of ice. To keep that ice frozen, we rarely see those weather conditions align because we still get warmer temperatures in the winter, and enough sun to melt the ice during the afternoon."

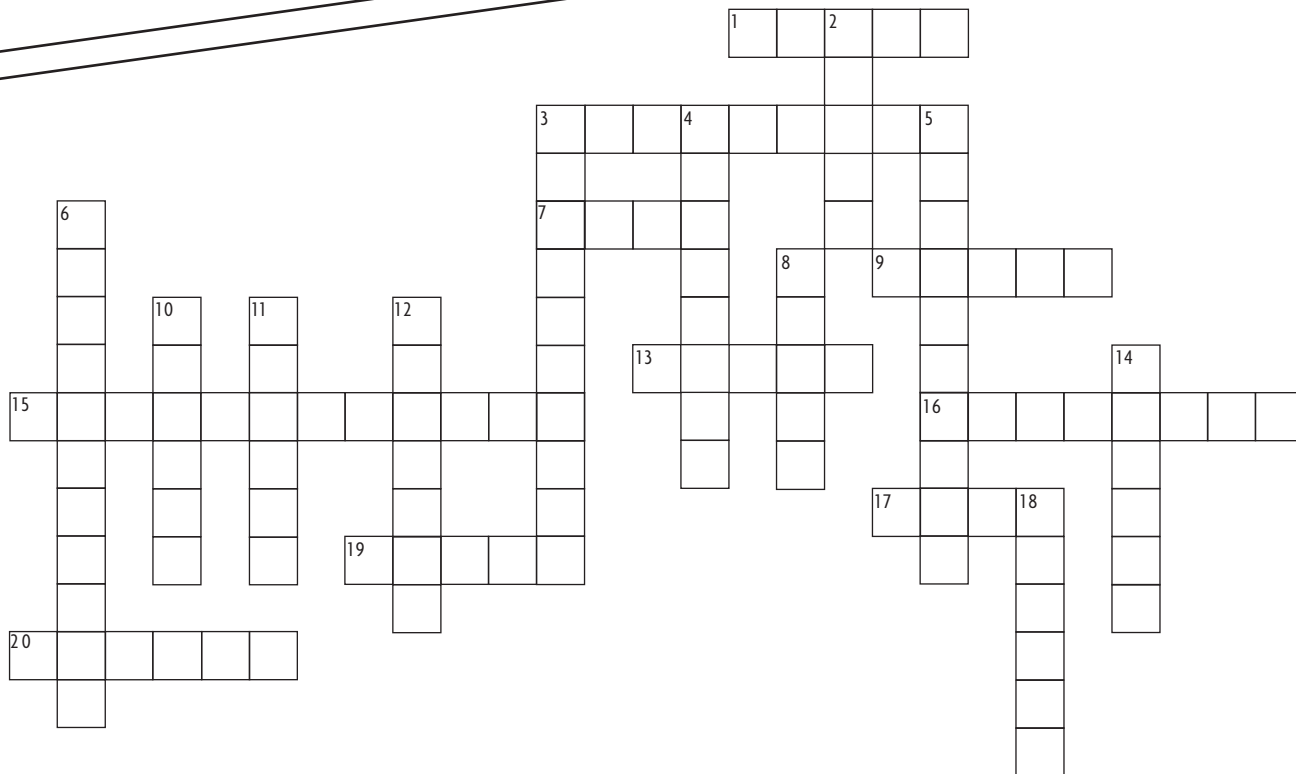
Redmond spoke in depth about winter preparedness and safety on the weekly radio program, Sound Living, produced by K-State Research and Extension. Listen to the full program online at www.soundlivingpodcast.net.



Be Energy Wise!



Read the efficiency tips and find the missing words to solve the crossword puzzle!



Across

- ▶ 1. Purchase a dishwasher that saves _____ and energy.
- ▶ 3. Select efficient home office _____ and electronics.
- ▶ 7. Install ceiling _____ to reduce air conditioning costs.
- ▶ 9. Purchase a clothes _____ with a moisture sensor.
- ▶ 13. _____ between window/door frames and walls.
- ▶ 15. Install a _____ thermostat.
- ▶ 16. Use _____ for light or heat whenever practical.
- ▶ 17. Launder clothes in cold or _____ water.
- ▶ 19. Fix _____ faucets.
- ▶ 20. Turn off electronics and _____ chargers when not in use.

Down

- ▶ 2. Plant _____ to shelter your home from the elements.
- ▶ 3. Upgrade to a high-_____ furnace/air conditioner or heat pump.
- ▶ 4. _____ your attic, exterior walls, basement and crawl spaces.
- ▶ 5. Adjust your _____ when leaving home for an extended time.
- ▶ 6. Completely convert to a compact and other _____ lightbulbs.
- ▶ 8. _____ load dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers.
- ▶ 10. Set the water heaters to no _____ than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ▶ 11. Use window blinds or _____ to keep out cold or heat.
- ▶ 12. Purchase an insulating _____ for the hot water heaters.
- ▶ 14. Turn off _____ when you leave the room.
- ▶ 18. Install _____ sensors, dimmers and timers for indoor and outdoor lighting.

ACROSS: 1. water, 3. equipment, 7. fans, 9. dryer, 13. caulk, 15. programmable, 16. sunlight, 17. warm, 19. leaky, 20. unplugged
DOWN: 2. trees, 3. efficiency, 4. insulate, 5. thermostat, 6. fluorescent, 7. fully, 10. shades, 11. higher, 12. blanket, 14. lights, 18. motion

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.COM