



**DSO ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**DSO**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# HEADLINER

## Board

<b>Brian Lang</b> Soloman, 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>Judy Barten</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

 facebook.com/DSOElectricCooperative  
 @DSOElectricCoop

## FROM THE CEO

# A Quick Review of the Wonderful 2020

BY TIMOTHY J. POWER, CEO

*“2021 can’t get here soon enough!” — Everybody*

Let’s not mince words — 2020 was a rough year. We have been through a historic time and have seen our share of challenges, but the saying of “this too shall pass” serves as a reminder that better days are ahead. Obviously, the pandemic dominated in 2020, but I wanted to touch on a few things that happened at DSO this past year.

### New Metering System

We finished replacing our metering system this year. The new metering system provides us with more timely information on outages and power quality data that we did not have before.

### Residential Peak Reduction Rate

After offering a pilot program for residential peak reduction for three years, we finally offered an official residential peak reduction electric rate. Just under 200 members signed up for

the rate this year.

With this rate, we turn off members’ power when our power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), notifies us of a peak event. In total, we only shut off power four times in 2020. In return for allowing us to turn off their power, members received a \$25 incentive for each kW saved and were not subject to the higher Red Zone rates. On average, members on this rate saw a benefit of \$120, compared to members on the regular Red Zone residential electric rate.

### Financials

Once the pandemic took hold and the governor ordered delays in disconnecting meters for nonpaying members, and the counties were instituting stay-at-home orders, there was concern about how we would be financially affected.

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FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

## 2021 Board Election Process Begins



Brian Lang

I hope you were able to enjoy the Thanksgiving season with some family and friends, while still staying safe. If you were like me, one of the things to be thankful for was the end of the elections and the constant political ads. The democratic process of voting is important, but after a while election fatigue sets in.

The democratic process is also important as a DSO member. Cooperative Principle 2 is Democratic Member Control and it states that cooperatives are organizations controlled by their members who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. This active participation is accomplished by electing directors every year as part of the DSO annual member meeting in early April.

April 2021 seems far away right now, but preparations are already starting for director elections. The board recently approved a policy to inform members which director positions are up for election and whether the current director is eligible and plans to run. In April 2021, Director Position 1 in each of the three districts is up for election, the Director At-Large Position is up for election, and the Director Position 3 in the West District is currently vacant and will be up for election to fill that vacancy. Directors must reside within the DSO territory they represent. The following information is being supplied to all members to fulfill the new policy on director positions up for election:

► **THE EAST DISTRICT** is all territory east of Highway K-15 and **DAVID BUTLER** is the current

director in Position 1. Butler is eligible for another three-year term and plans to run again.

► **THE WEST DISTRICT** is all territory west of I-135/U.S. Highway 81 and **KEN HEDBERG** is the current director in Position 1. Hedberg is eligible for another three-year term and plans to run again. Director Position 3 has been vacant since April 2020 as the previous director did not seek re-election and no other member completed the nomination process to be placed on the ballot.

► **THE CENTRAL DISTRICT** is all territory between the East and West districts and **DANE CLARK** is the current director in Position 1. Clark is eligible for another three-year term and plans to run again.

► **THE AT-LARGE POSITION** is all DSO territory and **DEAN ALLISON** is the current director in the Director At-Large Position. Allison is eligible for another three-year term and plans to run again.

All potential directors, new or current, must complete the nomination process of obtaining member signatures on a petition to be placed on the official ballot. Petition packets are available at the DSO office in Solomon and must be completed and returned by the date shown in the packets.

Remember, democratic member control only happens if members actively participate by placing their names on the ballot and voting on qualified directors. Directors are expected to attend meetings and training sessions to become knowledgeable about the industry and are compensated for their time and expenses to attend meetings and training sessions. Contact the DSO office or any current director if you have questions about the director positions.

## A Quick Review of the Wonderful 2020

*Continued from page 16A* ►

Fortunately, we were only slightly affected. We saw our commercial energy sales go down and our residential sales go up. Overall, our revenues were down for the year, but we finished in decent financial shape.

It is important to know that we avoided financial problems because you continued to pay your electric bill on time. That allowed us to pay our bills on time. I want to thank all of you for that.

### Solar

Our energy contract with KEPCo provides us with the opportunity to secure up to 5% of our energy load from a renewable energy resource, like wind or solar. We investigated this opportunity and ultimately secured a 25-year agreement to purchase 2 MW of solar power from a solar company. To accommodate the solar generating systems (each 1 MW), we secured land in the Lindsborg and Junction City

areas. The solar generating units are set to be installed in early 2021 and should be operational by June. With these two units in place, we project to save over \$300,000 annually on our power costs.

If you have questions on any of these items or anything else, please let us know. Next month, I will discuss some of the items we plan to address in 2021. Until then, please have a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at DSO!



## High School Juniors – Apply by Feb. 5

Every year we award two once-in-a-lifetime trips to two high school juniors whose parents are members of the cooperative. Contact our office today to learn more about these trips. The application deadline is **FEB. 5, 2021**.

### TOUR THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Imagine — a chance to visit our nation's capital for one week, meet with 35 other student leaders from across the state and visit with Kansas' senators and congressional representatives. The **ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR** in Washington, D.C., is jam-packed with visiting many of the major memorials, including the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial and the brand-new Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial. To see what's in store, visit <http://bit.ly/dcytvideo2015>.



During the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., students meet with our elected officials. This year's tour will be June 14-21, 2021.

### ADVENTURE IN THE ROCKIES

How big is a bald eagle? How thrilling is whitewater rafting? Can I help run a successful cooperative? Find the answer to those questions and more at the **COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP**. Enjoy nature like never before in the beautiful Colorado Rockies. Meet nearly 100 students your age from cooperative communities in Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming while creating memories to last a lifetime. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/cylcvideo>.



Each year, campers go rafting during Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, which is scheduled for July 16-22, 2021.

Set the water heater temperature to 120 degrees.

Get a water heater blanket.

Seal air leaks around windows, doors, plumbing, etc.

Turn off the lights when you leave a room.

## 20 NEW YEAR'S 21 Energy Saving

RESOLUTIONS YOU CAN AFFORD TO KEEP

Unplug electronics and chargers not in use.

Replace regular bulbs with CFL or LED lightbulbs.

Use a programmable thermostat.

Adjust your thermostat when going to bed or leaving the home.

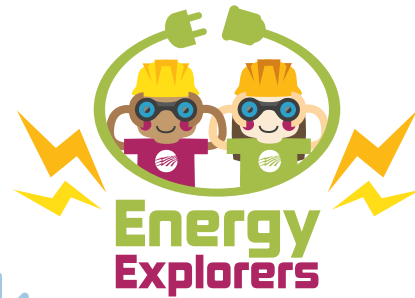
Run only full loads in the washer or dishwasher

Use a smart power strip for electronics.

THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS AND CHAPERONES IS OUR TOP PRIORITY. IF THE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR OR COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP ORGANIZERS BELIEVE THAT TRAVEL IS UNSAFE DUE TO CONCERNS WITH THE CORONAVIRUS (OR ANY OTHER ACTS OF TERRORISM, DISASTER, CIVIL DISORDER, OR CURTAILMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES), THE TRIP WILL BE CANCELED.

# WINTER WONDERLAND WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the words associated with winter in the puzzle below?  
Use the word bank to check your work.



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

## WINTER ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP:

Instead of turning up the heat in your home, grab an extra layer of clothing or get cozy under your favorite blanket!

## WORD BANK:

- snowflake
- mittens
- scarf
- snowball
- chilly
- icicles
- cocoa
- earmuffs
- fireplace
- blanket