



**DS&O ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**HEADLINER**

**Board**

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

**Staff**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Timothy J. Power</b><br>CEO              | <b>Judy Barten</b><br>CFO                           |
| <b>Mike Olberding</b><br>Operations Manager | <b>Derrick Rutherford</b><br>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/DS&OElectricCooperative
-  @DS&OElectricCoop

**FROM THE OPERATIONS MANAGER**

**On the Line** BY MIKE OLBERDING

We have completed installation of the new meters on the Marquette, Lindsborg, Assaria, Crawford, I-135, Magnolia, Minneapolis, Bennington, and Glasco substations. We are currently changing meters in the Talmage area and we'll be moving to Solomon and Gypsum next. The new meters will help us with outages, voltage issues and readings.

Another project that operations will be working on in 2020 is cleaning up electric services that are no longer in use. I have been calling owners of those properties so we can get permission to remove the unused transformers, poles and wires. If you have a service that doesn't have an active meter, please call the office at 785-655-2011 and ask for Mike so we can discuss removing unused equipment.

DS&O crews have also been busy trimming trees. Trees in the line cause nearly 45% of the power outages on our system, as well as most of our blinks and flickering light complaints. In addition, trees can conduct electricity and create a safety hazard if limbs grow too close to the lines. Electrical arcing from the wire to a nearby branch can cause fires. Of greatest concern is the

safety risk when children climb trees near power lines.

The area closest to our power lines needs to be free from tree limbs and debris. This area is the right-of-way, which refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that the electric utility has the right and responsibility to keep clear. Clearing right-of-way involves cutting, mowing and spraying a minimum of 15 feet from all sides of a single-phase electric line and a minimum of 20 feet from a three-phase electric line. We may also use a selective herbicide to remove unwanted weeds, brush and trees from the right-of-way.

The biggest issue crews face when cutting trees is where to put the debris. So, if you need a tree cut or trimmed, thinking about where you want the debris will help us a lot.

At DS&O, our No. 1 goal is safe and reliable electricity. Always look up before you plant! Will the tree eventually grow into the line? Make sure you plan for future growth when planting.

Thanks for being "on the line" with us and feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

**Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**

Placing hot food in the refrigerator makes the appliance work harder than necessary, using more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the fridge. **Source: energy.gov**



# DON'T WADE in the water

## FLOOD FACT

In the U.S., floods kill more people each year than tornadoes, hurricanes or lightning.  
*National Severe Storms Laboratory*

## WHEN FLOODS ARE FORECAST

Have an **evacuation plan** in place for family and pets. 

Gather an **emergency kit** complete with water, food and medications. 

Before evacuating **turn off** power at the main service panel and **disconnect** electrical appliances. 

## AFTER A FLOOD

**INSIDE** Never enter a flooded basement; the water could be energized. Do not use appliances, electronics or other devices that are wet. After waters subside, have an electrician check your home.

Assume all downed power **OUTSIDE** lines are energized and could be deadly. Live, downed lines can be lurking under debris or water. When using ladders, keep a distance of 10 feet from power lines.

## FLOOD FACT

More U.S. homes are **damaged by flooding** than by any other type of natural disaster.

*Federal Emergency Management Agency*

Are you prepared?

## 2020 Board of Directors Candidates

Per bylaws section 3.05, **DAVID MUELLER** and **BRUCE SPARE** (bios shown below) are deemed elected, as there were no other members seeking the positions. It should be noted that Ron Seyfert did not seek reelection, so the west district position will remain unfilled until the next scheduled member vote for election of directors (per bylaws section 4.07).

### David Mueller, East District



David Mueller

**DAVID MUELLER** is a grain farmer and runs a cow/calf operation between Tampa and Ramona. He graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in agricultural economics. Previously, he has served on the boards of the local Rural Water District, Agri-Producers Grain Cooperative and the Marion County Planning and Zoning Commission. He currently serves as treasurer for St. John's Lutheran Church and chairman for Tampa Trail Stop, a community-owned, volunteer grocery store.

Mueller has been a director with DS&O for more than seven years and has earned the Board Leadership Certificate and Credential Cooperative Director Certificate through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association training program.

"Safe, reliable and affordable utilities are vital to our rural community," Mueller said. "As a member of DS&O, you should be proud of the commitment to safety and the quality of people working for your cooperative. The best I can do as a director is ask questions and discuss issues that concern you, my neighbors and fellow member/owners, and look for long-term solutions."

### Bruce Spare, Central District



Bruce Spare

**BRUCE SPARE** and his wife, Cheryl, live in Assaria. They are the parents of two adult children. Spare is a graduate of Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in agriculture. He is a rancher and currently manages three rural water districts in Saline County. Spare is an active member of the Lindsborg Evangelical Covenant Church. He enjoys singing in the Kansas Mennonite Men's Choir and the Smoky Valley Men's Chorus. One of his hobbies was building a sawmill, which he enjoys using to saw a variety of trees.

Spare has served as a DS&O director for the past 15 years. He earned his Board Leadership certificate and the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate administered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He has served on the board during the transition to the new headquarters and participated in hiring a new general manager. He has experience in all officer positions and has fulfilled committee responsibilities on the DS&O board.



# Cold Weather Rule Ends March 31

DS&O will begin disconnection procedures as the weather allows. 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.

Payments for electric service that are mailed to DS&O 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 DS&O 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 DS&O shall be initiated.

If the last calendar day for remittance falls on a day when DS&O's office is not open to the general public, then payments in DS&O'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. DS&O may discontinue service for such delinquency immediately, with no notice to the member.

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

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

**DS&O Electric's  
2020  
Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, April 14**

**WEBSTER CONFERENCE CENTER  
2601 N. OHIO, SALINA**

**Doors Open & Registration  
at 5:30 p.m.**

**Business Meeting  
at 6:15 p.m. – Chapel**

**Legislative & Guest Speakers  
at 6:15 p.m. – Gym**

**Social at 6:45 p.m.**

**High Voltage Demonstrations  
at 5:30 p.m. (every 30 minutes)**



**FREE MEAL**

**RSVP for DS&O Annual Meeting Meal**

**Webster Conference Center | 2601 N Ohio, Salina**

Yes, I/we plan to be there for the annual meeting meal on Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_ of people attending.  
(number)

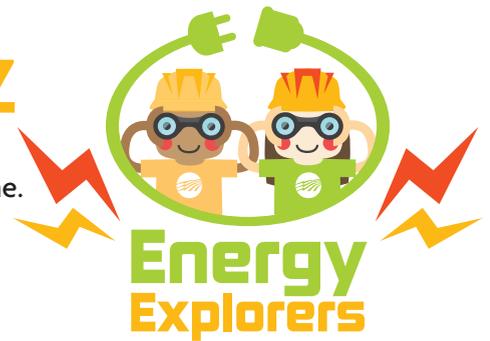
**CLIP OUT AND RETURN WITH YOUR NEXT MONTHLY PAYMENT.**

# SPRING EFFICIENCY QUIZ

Spring is just around the corner!

Take this quiz to learn how you can help save energy around your home.

Hint: Check your work in the answer key below.



1. Sealing air leaks around \_\_\_\_\_ saves energy and keeps your home comfortable.

A) doors B) windows C) both A and B

2. Unplug devices and electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use, like \_\_\_\_\_.

A) refrigerators B) cell phone chargers C) dishwashers

3. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave the room to save energy.

A) True B) False

4. LED bulbs typically use \_\_\_\_\_ less energy than incandescent light bulbs.

A) 25% B) 50% C) 75%

5. Planting \_\_\_\_\_ around your home can block unwanted heat from the sun.

A) flowers B) shade trees C) vegetables



Answer Key: 1. C 2. B 3. A 4. C 5. B