



**DSO ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

DSO
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

HEADLINER

Board

Brian Lang
Solomon, President

James Christopher
Falun, Director

Ken Hedberg
Marquette, Vice President

Dane Clark
Gypsum, Director

David Mueller
Tampa, Secretary

Sheila Hummel
Hope, Director

Dean Allison
Delphos, Director

Bruce Spare
Assaria, Director

David Butler
Junction City, Director

Staff

Timothy J. Power
CEO

Judy Barten
CFO

Mike Olberding
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](https://www.facebook.com/DSOElectricCooperative)

 @DSOElectricCoop

FROM THE CEO

Hindsight is 2020

BY TIMOTHY J. POWER, CEO

Last month, I looked back at the infamous 2020. Now, I want to give you a preview of some of the things DSO will be working on in 2021.

Tree Trimming

Just like last year, tree trimming will be a big part of what we do in 2021. It's amazing how fast some of the trees and brush grow! We have a lot of trimming planned for this year.

New Metering System

The past couple years our linemen have been installing our new metering system. They finished the project in 2020, but now need to address the various issues they discovered when installing the new meters, such as loose connections and hot sockets. This preventative maintenance is vital in keeping outages to a minimum.

Solar Projects

In 2020, we entered into a 25-year agreement with a company called Today's Solar to purchase power from two 1 MW solar farms in our service territory. Our contract with our main power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), allows us to use or purchase a small amount of power from renewable sources. These two solar projects, which will be located on DSO-owned land near Lindsborg and Junction City, are set to be operational by June 1, 2021.

The projects benefit DSO and its members by providing a price for electricity that is lower than what we pay to KEPCo. While that is helpful, the biggest savings will be recognized in the peak reduction benefit. By not buying 2 MW of power from KEPCo during the summer peak times, we will save over

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load). **SOURCE: WWW.NREL.GOV**



feeling chilled?

HEAT YOUR SPACE SAFELY

Remember these safety tips when using a space heater this season.



Place on a flat, level surface



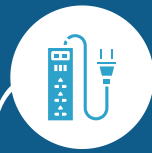
Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away



Make sure the cord is not frayed or cracked



Plug it directly into the outlet



Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which can overheat



Follow all instructions and use models endorsed by a reputable testing lab



Do not use around small children or pets



Do not use a heater with a damaged plug or prongs

Hindsight is 2020

Continued from page 16A ▶

\$300,000 per year on our power costs. Savings like this are crucial in helping us keep your electric rates from rising.

Safety Demonstrations

Last year, we planned for a dozen or so safety demonstrations, but the pandemic caused cancellations everywhere. We are hoping for better luck this year. Our linemen provide these demonstrations for schools, firemen, law enforcement, and agricultural groups. If you would like to schedule an event or need more information, please give us a call.

Education Program

Similar to the safety demonstrations, the pandemic put our education program on hold in 2020. We are hoping to implement this program in 2021. The program is essentially a career day at our office for high school seniors. The plan is to have the students spend time in various departments, such as human resources, accounting, member services, and mapping, and learn how our business operates. The program will educate the students on the great variety of work done at an electric cooperative. It may also help them consider the type of career work they want to explore in their futures. Stay tuned for more information on this program in the months ahead.

Time to Ditch Your Old Space Heater

If you can't remember when you purchased your space heater, it might be time to replace it. Just as the flip phones of yesteryear have progressed into today's modern cell phones, portable space heaters have come a long way too. Most of today's models have built-in safety features, such as non-exposed coils and sensors that detect overheating or touch, as well as an automatic shut-off feature in case it gets tipped over.

Regardless of whether your space heater is fresh out of the box or several years old, it should be used safely. Most home heating fire deaths (86%) involve using one, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Heating equipment is the second-leading cause of U.S. home fires, right behind cooking.

Along with using a unit that is in good working order, be sure to keep clothing, papers, rugs, and other flammable items at least 3 feet away from a space heater. More than half of the heating-related home fires start when items are too close to

the heat source, according to the NFPA, including upholstered furniture, clothing, mattresses, or bedding.

Safe Electricity and DSO Electric recommend these additional space heater safety tips:

- ▶ Read all instructions and only use as recommended.
- ▶ Do not leave a space heater unattended.
- ▶ Plug it directly into an outlet; most power strips and extension cords are not equipped to handle the energy spikes caused by a space heater cycling on and off.
- ▶ Unplug any other item from the outlet you are using; also try to use a dedicated circuit to avoid overload.
- ▶ Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- ▶ Turn them off before you leave the room or go to sleep.
- ▶ Do not use a heater in disrepair or with a frayed cord or damaged plug.
- ▶ Place them on flat, level surfaces and never place them on furniture, counters, or carpet, which can overheat.



Notice of Board of Directors Elections

DSO Electric Cooperative is accepting nominations for five seats on the DSO Board of Directors.

Positions up for election this year (the current directors are shown below the district) are:

▶ **Central District, Position 1**

DANE CLARK

▶ **West District, Position 1**

KEN HEDBERG

▶ **West District, Position 3**

VACANT

▶ **East District, Position 1**

DAVID BUTLER

▶ **At Large**

DEAN ALLISON

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. Packets of information for those seeking to be director candidates for the board election are available at DSO's office in Solomon. 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 Monday, Feb. 1, 2021.

Ballots will include those nominated by petition for the board and will be



Dane Clark



Ken Hedberg



David Butler



Dean Allison

mailed to all members of the cooperative on or about March 1, 2021, and must be returned by 4:30 p.m. on March 26, 2021. Election results will be announced at the DSO annual meeting, which is **SCHEDULED TO BE HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021**, at the Webster Conference Center in Salina.

DSO's bylaws are available at the cooperative office located in Solomon or online at www.dsoelectric.com.

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

2021 Dates to REMEMBER

Feb. 1, 2021

Completed petition forms, affirmation of director qualification, and brief bio must be filed at the DSO Solomon office by 4:30 p.m.

March 1, 2021

Director election ballots will be mailed to the members.

March 26, 2021

Ballots must be received at the DSO Solomon office by 4:30 p.m.

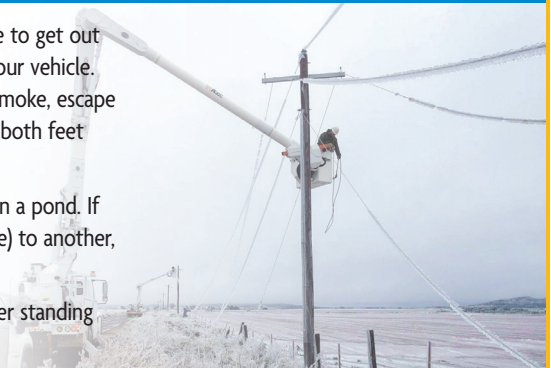
April 6, 2021

Election results will be announced at the DSO annual meeting.

STAY WHERE YOU ARE: Winter Weather Can Bring Power Lines Down

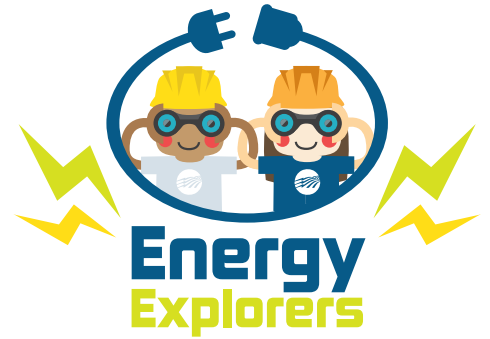
You've just been in an accident involving a downed power line. Your first instinct might be to get out and run, but that could cost you your life. In most cases, the safest place to be is inside your vehicle. Wait until electric utility workers de-energize the power. If your car is on fire or you see smoke, escape as safely as possible by jumping out without touching the vehicle and hopping away with both feet together as far as you can. Warn others not to approach the scene. You should know:

- ▶ Downed power lines are extremely dangerous and even deadly.
- ▶ Electric current can travel through the ground and anything touching the ground.
- ▶ Stray voltage spreads like ripples on a pond. If you step from one "ripple" (voltage) to another, you could be electrocuted.
- ▶ Downed lines could be hiding under standing water, ice or debris?



2021 ENERGY EFFICIENCY CALENDAR

There are so many ways you can save energy! Saving energy helps reduce your family's monthly bills — and it helps our environment. Change your energy use habits by following the monthly tips below. Keep this calendar on your refrigerator to remind family members to be energy efficient throughout the year.



JANUARY

Take short showers instead of baths.



FEBRUARY

Instead of turning up the heat, put on an extra layer of clothing or stay cozy under a blanket.

MARCH

Turn off lights when you leave a room.



APRIL

Ask an adult to help you plant a tree to shade your home in the summer.

MAY

Decorate your backyard or porch with solar-powered lights.

JUNE

Turn off ceiling fans when you leave the room.



JULY

Dry heavy linens outside on a clothesline instead of using the dryer.

AUGUST

Ask an adult to help you schedule a reminder to change the HVAC filter every 60-90 days.

SEPTEMBER

Turn off running water while brushing your teeth.



OCTOBER

Unplug energy vampires, like chargers, gaming consoles and cable/satellite boxes.

NOVEMBER

Remind family members to use cold water when washing clothes.



DECEMBER

Decorate your home with energy-saving LED holiday lights.