

Northern District
2731 Milo Terr.
Lebo, KS 66856

Southern District
9346 Jewell Rd.
Fredonia, KS 66736

Payment Center
2501 W. 18th Ave., Ste. B
Emporia, KS 66801

4 RIVERS

Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

CURRENTS

4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Board of Trustees

Michael Springer
President

Robert Converse
Vice-President

Gene Huston
Secretary

David Engelman
Treasurer

Tom Ayers
Trustee

Randal Bunnel
Trustee

Larry Felts
Trustee

Nick Frankenbery
Trustee

Robert Harkrader
Trustee

Stacy Heins
Trustee

David Kunkel
Trustee

Warren Schmidt
Trustee

Sandy Smith
Trustee

Carol Wehmeyer
Trustee

Staff

Dennis Svanes
General Manager/CEO

Mark Doebele
Assistant General Manager/COO

Dennis Duft
Manager of Operations

Roger Cole
CFO

Ken Caudell
Manager of Member and Corporate Services

Official Notice of Annual Meeting

The 2020 Annual Meeting of the members of 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held at Burlington High School, 830 Cross St., Burlington, Kansas, on Saturday, March 21, 2020. Registration will open at 9:30 a.m., and the meeting will commence at 10:30 a.m. There will be a luncheon following the meeting.

Annual meetings are an important part of 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative and give you, the members, the opportunity to participate in making cooperative decisions. We will be considering the Cooperative Bylaws, and those members in attendance will vote on their approval.

Agenda

1. Registration of Attendance
2. Call to Order by the Board President
3. Consideration of Bylaws
4. Vote on Approval of Bylaws
5. Cooperative Reports
6. Guest Speaker
7. Other Business
8. Attendance Prizes
9. Adjournment

GENE HUSTON, SECRETARY
4 RIVERS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

You Have a Voice at YOUR

CO-OP

— attend annual meeting to use it.

JOIN US SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Burlington High School

830 Cross Street in Burlington

Your electric cooperative exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, but they do more than that. Mark your calendar to attend the annual meeting.



CONNECT

ENGAGE

ELECT

FROM THE MANAGER

Attend Our **FIRST** Annual Meeting



Dennis Svanes

“I am excited for our very first annual meeting of 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc. on March 21.”

I am excited for our first annual meeting of 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc. on March 21 at Burlington High School. Cleve Reasoner, CEO of Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation, will be our guest speaker.

We will NOT be having an election for the board at this meeting. However, there is an action item for the members to consider — approval of the Cooperative Bylaws.

Bylaws are the rules of a cooperative. They establish the requirements for membership, rules of meetings of the members, eligibility and process to run for the board of trustees, the duties of the board, voting processes, meetings of the board of trustees, the officers of the board and many other items. The bylaws may not be very exciting to some, but they are extremely important. The board of trustees has worked diligently to put together a good, solid document for the membership to consider.

Typically, in the annual meeting report, I would be writing about how the cooperative fared this past year. Since there is no past year for 4 Rivers, I want to look forward. We are working to be as transparent as possible to you, our members. To that end, the meetings of the board are open for members to attend. Our website, 4riverselectric.com, is a work in progress, which we continually update to stay relevant for our members. The board policies are posted there along with other information pertinent to the operation of your cooperative.

Read Bylaw Revisions Online
www.4riverselectric.com



com, is a work in progress, which we continually update to stay relevant for our members. The board policies are posted there along with other information pertinent to the operation of your cooperative.

For consideration at this year’s annual meeting, we have posted the draft bylaws for you to review on our website. Additionally, we use our Facebook page, @4RiversElectricCooperativeInc, and Twitter account, @4riverselectric, to push information to our members and associates, and I encourage you to follow us there.

We continue to look for more efficiencies in how we operate. This is an ongoing process made better by the ingenuity of the employees. The employees of 4 Rivers Electric have been an amazing group — willing to put in long hours to make the consolidation happen, get the lights back on after a storm and do whatever is needed to serve the membership.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING MANY OF YOU ON MARCH 21.

FOLLOW

4 RIVERS ONLINE

4 RIVERS Electric Cooperative
www.4riverselectric.com

@4riverselectric

@4RiversElectricCooperativeInc

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Join us on March 21



Michael Springer

“We are excited to move forward in 2020 together as 4 Rivers Electric, always striving to better serve our members and community.”

On behalf of the trustees and employees of 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, I would like to invite you to the inaugural annual meeting of your new cooperative on Saturday, March 21, at Burlington High School. Please join us for lunch following the meeting. We are excited to see the members of 4 Rivers Electric gather for this occasion and exercise the second cooperative principle — democratic member control—by voting on the Cooperative Bylaws.

To say we've had a busy year would be an understatement. The 4 Rivers staff of 45 employees has worked diligently to consolidate processes and streamline procedures bringing together our systems to safely and efficiently serve the membership.

Last year, we collectively delivered approximately 166 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity to over 7,000 members at nearly 13,000 meters in 16 counties in south-central and southeast Kansas.

In May, we hired a new General Manager/CEO, Dennis Svanes, to oversee the consolidation and manage 4 Rivers Electric. Dennis has been working closely with the trustees and staff to construct cooperative policies and the bylaws of the cooperative that will best meet the needs of our membership going forward. He assisted with bringing our union employees into a new contract under 4 Rivers and coordinating personnel to operate efficiently after consolidation.

Last summer, the boards of Lyon-Coffey and

Radiant started holding our monthly meetings together in order to make joint decisions moving forward. We have selected officers for our consolidated board, along with designees to represent 4 Rivers on the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) and Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) boards. Trustee Tom Ayers is our KEPCo board representative, and Trustee David Kunkel will serve as our KEC representative.

Our auditors completed the 2019 audits for both Lyon-Coffey and Radiant, so we can close the books on the two separate cooperatives. We appreciate the hard work and many hours the staff put in to make sure our records were complete and accurate to conclude this process as effectively as possible.

We had a couple of long-time employees retire this year who I'd like to recognize: **LEAH TINDLE**, who served as the administrative manager for Radiant Electric, and **MARVIN BURNS**, a serviceman for Lyon-Coffey Electric. We appreciate the dedication shown by these individuals serving the members of our cooperatives for so many years and wish them well in their new life chapters.

We are excited to move forward in 2020 together as 4 Rivers Electric, always striving to better serve our members and community. I hope you can join us at the first annual meeting of 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative on March 21, as we come together to conduct cooperative business and enjoy some food and fellowship.

RSVP for the Annual Meeting

Return the enclosed postcard found between Pages 8-9 and 24-25 of this month's *Kansas Country Living*.

Bring the small ticket with you to the annual meeting on March 21 to register for door prizes.

<p>4 RIVERS Electric Cooperative REGISTRATION CARD & DRAWING TICKET</p> <p>NAME _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____</p> <p>PHONE _____</p> <p>EMAIL _____</p> <p>BRING THIS TICKET WITH YOU TO THE ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 21, 2020.</p>	<p>4 RIVERS Electric Cooperative LUNCH RESERVATIONS REGISTRATION 9:30 A.M. MEETING 10:30 A.M. LUNCH TO FOLLOW Join us at your annual meeting. Fill out and return this card to our office. DO NOT SEND WITH YOUR ELECTRIC BILL. Please indicate number of attendees for lunch on March 21:</p> <p>RSVP BY RETURNING THIS FORM, CALLING 620-364-2116 OR GOING TO WWW.4RIVERSELECTRIC.COM.</p>	<p>2020 ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 21, 2020 BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL 830 CROSS ST., BURLINGTON, KS 66839</p>
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A Downed Line Always Means Danger

If you see a downed power line after a bad storm or at an accident scene, NEVER get out to help or go near the downed line. Always assume a downed power line is energized and deadly. This also applies to any electrical equipment, including pad-mounted transformers (green boxes), other utility cabinets or fenced substations.

If you are involved in an accident with a downed line or other utility equipment — whether in a car, tractor, or any other type of vehicle or equipment — do not get out. If you exit the vehicle and walk away, you could be electrocuted.



Instead, call 911 and wait for the utility to arrive to cut the power.

If you must leave a vehicle due to smoke or fire, make a solid jump out with your feet together and without touching the car or truck, and then hop with both feet at the same time — DO NOT WALK — at least 30 feet from the vehicle. Hopping helps prevent two different voltages of electricity from entering your body at the same time, which can cause shock and electrocution.

For more safety tips, follow us on Facebook.

Remember to Use Caution When Burning

Each spring, across 4 Rivers Electric's service territory, members prepare to burn pasture for the upcoming spring grass season. When burning, please be cautious around electrical poles and equipment.

Burning or even scorching a pole may compromise the integrity of the structure. Power poles are treated with

a protective coating that prevents moisture from entering the core of the pole and causing deterioration. If a pole is scorched or blackened, the protective coating is damaged. Though it may appear as just a discoloration or slight burn, this is, in fact, damage to the pole. This will significantly shorten the life of a power pole. This pole may then become a hazard and could cause an outage.

Planning before burning can also prevent unwanted costs to the member. It is much cheaper to prevent a pole from catching fire than to pay for a new pole. Members will be held liable for the replacement cost of pole(s) and/or equipment due to fire damage. This cost varies depending on the structure of the pole and equipment but can cost several thousands of dollars in repair work.

It only takes a little extra effort to prevent pole damage and help control costs for you and your cooperative. The burning of pastures and ditches does not have to result in the burning/scorching of power poles. Before

Planning before burning can also prevent unwanted costs to the member. It is much cheaper to prevent a pole from catching fire than to pay for a new pole.

burning, check to see if there are power poles in the area. Clear any vegetation/weeds within 4 feet of the base of the pole and wet the base of the pole with water before beginning to burn.

If the fire does get away from you and a pole becomes engulfed in flames, immediately call the fire department and 4 Rivers. Do not spray water close to the conductors! Water may cause a short circuit, and you and/or firefighters could be in the path of the current and serious injury or death may result.

Not reporting the damage may cause a serious accident to happen later. A pole that has been burned through is likely to fall over. This can leave the energized lines about a foot off the ground. If a person comes into contact with the line, they most likely will be seriously burned or even killed. Your careful consideration could save lives.



Before burning, check the property for electrical equipment and power poles to avoid damage and potential outages.