

www.4riverselectric.com
620-364-2116

Lebo Headquarters
2731 Milo Terr.
Lebo, KS 66856

Fredonia Office
9346 Jewell Road
Fredonia, KS 66736

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

4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

CURRENTS

4 RIVERS

Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Serving and Caring

Larry Felts
President

Stacy Heins
Vice-President

Warren Schmidt
Secretary

Loren Dickens
Treasurer

Tom Ayers
Trustee

Randall Bunnel
Trustee

Robert Converse
Trustee

Gene Huston
Trustee

David Kunkel
Trustee

4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



4RiversElectricCooperativeInc

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

People Powered: Petitions for Board Nomination Due in December

As we enter the holiday season, I find myself reflecting on what makes 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative truly special. It's not just the power lines, the infrastructure, or even the technology — it's the people. It's you, our members, who continue to remind me that a cooperative is more than a utility. It's a community built on shared values, mutual respect and a genuine commitment to looking out for one another.

This month marks an important point in our cooperative's annual cycle, as members have the opportunity to submit petitions to run for a seat on the board of trustees. Serving on the board is a meaningful way to contribute; however, not every member automatically qualifies to be a candidate. To be placed on the

ballot for the 2026 election, a member must meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the cooperative's bylaws. The qualifications include being a member in good standing, living in the district they wish to represent for at least three years while receiving electric service there, not being employed by or having immediate family employed by the cooperative, and not having a conflict of interest with a competing enterprise or energy sales. Review the bylaws' complete list of trustee qualifications at www.4riverselectric.com or in the trustee candidate packet. If eligible, a member must have a petition for



Dennis Svanes

Continued on page 12C ►

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 25, and Thursday, Jan. 1, to celebrate the holidays.

As always, our on-call team is available 24/7 for outages and other emergencies. Payments can be made with SmartHub or by calling our interactive payment response at 620-364-2116. Wishing our members and friends a safe and happy holiday season!

PHOTO ABOVE SHOWCASES A PASTORAL BARNYARD IN WILSON COUNTY, PHOTOGRAPHED BY CO-OP MEMBER KIRA FRANKENBERY OF RURAL FREDONIA.

Official Notice of Trustee Elections to be Held in 2026

Candidates to be Nominated by Petitions – Due by 5 p.m. Dec. 30

The cooperative shall hold a 2026 election of trustees to serve three-year terms on 4 Rivers Electric's governing board.

The election of trustees shall be by district, and only qualified candidates nominated by petition shall appear on the ballot. Each of the three board districts has one position included in the 2026 election. Your district of membership can be found at the top of your 4 Rivers monthly bill; contact our office if you have a question about your membership district.

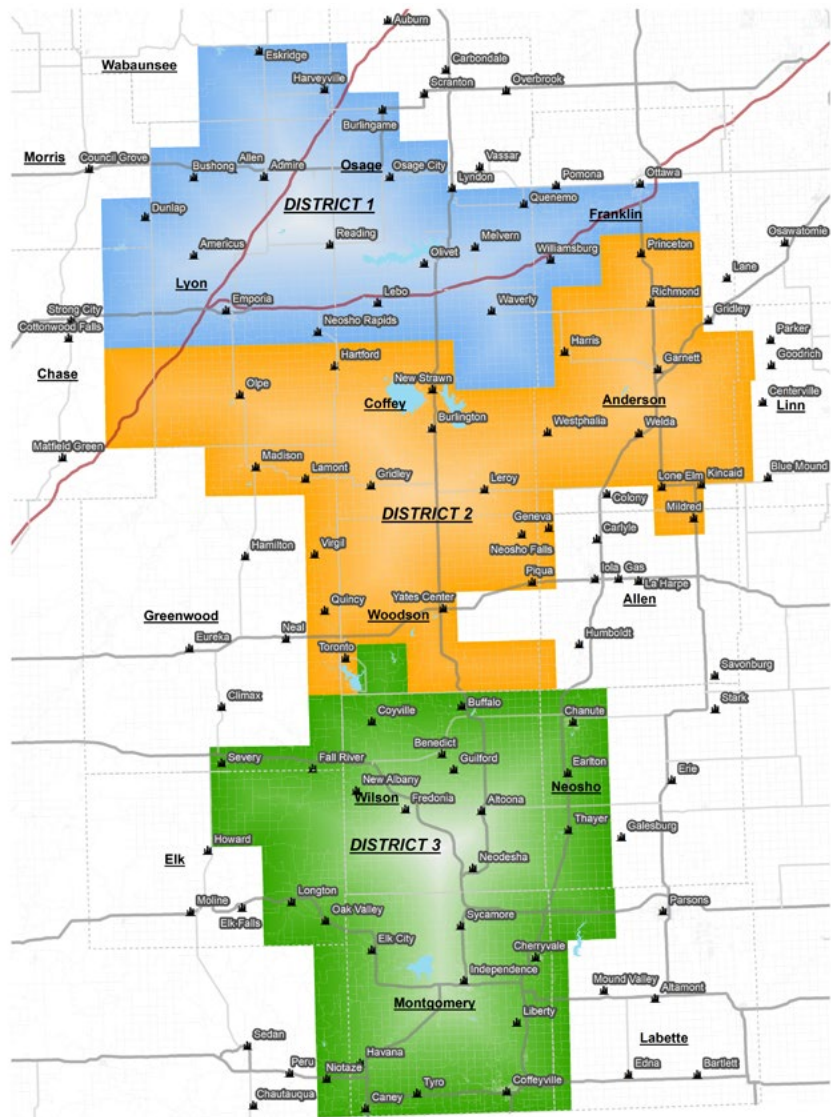
PETITION REQUIREMENTS

To be placed on the ballot, a petition containing the signatures of at least 20 members of the cooperative who live in the district for which the election is being held, approving the nomination of the individual member to be placed on the ballot, must be delivered to the 4 Rivers office at either Lebo or Fredonia by **5 P.M., TUESDAY, DEC. 30.**

For members interested in running for the board, candidate packets are available at www.4riverselectric.com or can be picked up in any of our offices. Packets include more information on trustee duties, along with the petition form for collecting member signatures.

In January, ballots will be mailed to members in each of the districts. Only the names of the nominees for such district shall be on the ballot. Returned and completed ballots must be postmarked or received at the Lebo office on or before Feb. 20. The results will be announced at the annual meeting of members to be held March 23 at the Lyon County Fairgrounds, Anderson Building, 2700 W. Highway 50, Emporia.

4 RIVERS BOARD DISTRICT MAP



DISTRICT 1 – Shall include Townships 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 South, from Range 9 East of the Sixth Principal Meridian (PM), through Range 20 East of the Sixth PM that are **COLORED IN BLUE.**

DISTRICT 2 – Shall include Townships 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 South, from Range 9 East of the Sixth PM, through Range 21 East of the Sixth PM that are **COLORED IN ORANGE.**

DISTRICT 3 – Shall include Townships 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35 South, from Range 11 East of the Sixth PM, through Range 18 East of the Sixth PM that are **COLORED IN GREEN.**

TRUSTEE BOARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR NOMINATION

DISTRICT 1, POSITION 1

ROBERT CONVERSE, incumbent

DISTRICT 2, POSITION 1

RANDALL BUNNEL, incumbent

DISTRICT 3, POSITION 1

TOM AYERS, incumbent
not seeking reelection

People Powered: Petitions for Board Nomination Due in December *Continued from page 12A*

nomination completed and signed by at least 20 members from their district and returned to our Lebo or Fredonia office by 5 p.m., Dec. 30.

Our board is made up of members just like you — neighbors, friends and familiar faces who care about the well-being of our rural communities. Serving isn't about titles; it's about stewardship and ensuring that the decisions made today keep 4 Rivers strong, reliable and member-focused for years to come. Whether you choose to run or simply take part in the voting process this spring, your involvement keeps the cooperative model alive and meaningful.

As 2025 comes to a close, I want to personally thank you for your trust and support. Every time you attend a meeting, call with a question, offer feedback, or simply wave to one of our crews out on the road — you remind us why we do what we do. It's an honor to serve you.

From my family to yours, I wish you a safe, warm and joy-filled holiday season. Thank you for being part of the 4 Rivers Electric family and for allowing us the privilege of powering your homes, farms and businesses.

**UNTIL NEXT MONTH,
DENNIS SVANES**

QUALIFICATIONS FOR TRUSTEE CANDIDACY

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee of the cooperative who:

A. Is not a member, or is a member who is not in good standing pursuant to the provisions for members as set forth in Article I of the Bylaws;

B. Is not an individual (natural person) who is a member;

C. Is in any way employed or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business that sells electric energy, items, materials, or products that can be used to create electric energy, or supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures, services, or supplies to the members of the cooperative (this specifically does not include a member who installs renewable energy electric generation individually on his or her own property and is interconnected with the cooperative's transmission lines);

D. Has equipment connected to cooperative equipment and has an agreement through which electricity is sold to the cooperative;

E. Is not a resident of the district they would otherwise represent (for purposes of

this section, "resident" means that they have lived in the district for a minimum of at least three years prior to the election, and that their address during said three-year time-period in Kansas within the district is such person's primary address and has been for such three-year period, and that such person is receiving electricity from the cooperative at this residence);

F. Is a current employee of the cooperative, or a member of the family of a current employee of the cooperative (for purposes of this section, "member of the family" shall mean a spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, stepson or daughter, or any lineal descendant of a current employee);

G. Has been an employee of the cooperative within three years prior to the election, or is a member of the family of a person who has been an employee of the cooperative within three years prior to the election as "member of the family" is defined in section "F" above; or

H. Is a member of the family of a current trustee (incumbent) who is not up for election, as "member of the family" is defined in section "F" above.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES?

Trustees are fiduciaries, meaning they are legally and ethically responsible for representing the interests of the cooperative and its members. They help guide how 4 Rivers' resources are used to fulfill its mission, always protecting the cooperative's integrity and the collective interests of all members.

Trustees also serve as the voice of the membership, bringing members' concerns and perspectives into the policies that shape how the cooperative operates.

As the cooperative's regulatory body, trustees ensure that 4 Rivers meets the standards required of a utility providing an essential public service — delivering reliable, affordable electricity to all members under fair, non-discriminatory rates and conditions.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Serving as a trustee is a meaningful commitment. 4 Rivers supports its board through ongoing education from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, covering topics like governance, ethics, rate strategies, risk management, finance and cybersecurity — ensuring trustees are well-equipped to guide your cooperative's future.

SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Make plans to join us at the Sixth Annual 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative Meeting of Members scheduled for March 23, 2026, at Lyon County Fairgrounds, Anderson Building, 2700 W. Highway 50, Emporia.

Budget Billing UPDATE

Members enrolled in budget billing will receive their updated budget amounts this month. The adjusted budget amounts were noted on the bills issued in November. If you are interested in signing up for budget billing, give one of our service representatives a call at 620-364-2116.

JOIN THE QUEST TO FEED HUNGRY KIDS

For many Kansas children, weekends mean more than a break from school — they mean an empty stomach. The Kansas Food Bank's Food 4 Kids backpack program helps change that reality by sending home nutritious, ready-to-eat food with students who might otherwise go hungry.

4 Rivers Electric proudly partners with the Kansas Food Bank (KFB) through Quarter Quest, our charitable program that helps fund weekend food packets for children across our service territory. Every Friday, KFB delivers packets to more than a dozen local schools, serving hundreds of children identified as “weekend chronically hungry.” For many, the food they receive in their backpacks may be the only meals they can count on until Monday.

WHY THE NEED IS GROWING

Today, with families facing higher grocery prices and fewer options for assistance, many households are stretched thinner than ever.

The Quarter Quest program helps fill the gap by funding the backpack program, helping children return to school Monday ready to focus and learn.

SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT

Thanks to the generosity of 4 Rivers members, Quarter Quest donations have provided thousands of weekend meals for area kids. As the need rises, your quarters truly make a difference.

If every member gave just 25 cents a month, together we could fund hundreds more food packets each year for children here in our communities.

HOW TO JOIN THE QUEST

- ▶ Round up your bill through the SmartHub app or by checking “YES” on your monthly payment.
- ▶ Choose your amount: You can make a one-time or recurring donation. Every bit helps!
- ▶ Call us at 620-364-2116, and we'll gladly add your donation to your next statement.

TOGETHER, WE FEED HOPE

One school nurse shared, “Healthy students learn better, and this program helps keep students healthy.”

When we each give a little, together we do a lot. By joining Quarter Quest, you're not only filling backpacks — you're filling hearts, futures and communities.

The most essential school supply is food — and every quarter counts.

OCTOBER'S CO-OP MONTH PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS Announced

Thank you to all our members who participated in our photo contest for Co-op Month! Highlighting beautiful scenes from our cooperative territory is always a pleasure. Our winning submissions received a bill credit. We are truly grateful to live and work in beautiful Kansas!

▶ **1ST PLACE:** Majestic Morning
by **KAREN (SCOTT) COLSTROM**,
Osage City, \$100 bill credit

▶ **2ND PLACE:** Monarch Migration
by **LARRY HOLMAN**,
Chanute, \$75 bill credit

▶ **3RD PLACE:** Autumn River
by **NANCY NOVOTNY**,
Thayer, \$50 bill credit



CO-OP TO RETURN CAPITAL CREDITS TO MEMBERS

At their August board meeting, 4 Rivers' Board of Trustees approved the general retirement of \$988,000 in capital credits, representing membership years 1996-1997.

Each year, your cooperative strives to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity. When the cooperative earns more revenue than it spends, the extra funds are allocated to members as capital contributions. These contributions are kept and used to support long-term projects that benefit the co-op.

The board of trustees reviews the co-op's financial health annually to decide how much of these past contributions can be returned to members. This process, called capital credits retirement, is one of the benefits of being part of a cooperative. It reflects the principle of Member Economic Participation, one of the seven core cooperative principles.

Current members will see their share of the retirement as a credit on their December electric bills. Checks will be mailed in mid-December to former members who are eligible for this retirement.

Because these retirements often happen many years after service was provided, we encourage all members to keep mailing addresses and contact information up-to-date even after moving outside 4 Rivers territory. This helps ensure prior members receive capital credits for any applicable general retirements in the future.

Capital credits are a reminder that being part of a cooperative means you are more than just a customer, you are a valued member-owner helping shape the future of your electric cooperative.