

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

Larry Felts
Treasurer

Tom Ayers
Trustee

Randall Bunnel
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

Roger Cole
CFO

Ken Caudell
Manager of Member and Corporate Services

FROM THE MANAGER

Candidate Packets Available

Nominations due Dec. 30 at 4 p.m.



Dennis Svanes

Candidate packets for 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees are available online and in our offices for those interested in appearing

on the ballot for one of the three districts with 2022 elections: **N2 (DAVID KUNKEL**, incumbent), **N3 (STACY HEINS**, incumbent), and **S2 (CAROL WEHMEYER**, incumbent). Your district of membership is printed at the top of your electric bill below your name and account number.

A member who wishes to run for the board must be a qualified member

as defined by our bylaws, Article IV, Section 3 (visit 4riverselectric.com to view our bylaws). A member must be a person in good standing who has lived in the district for three years with their primary residence being served by 4 Rivers. The member cannot be in a competitive business to the cooperative, a direct family member of an employee or trustee, or have been an employee of the cooperative in the past three years. For the petition, a minimum of 20 signatures are required from members who live in the district. Eligible candidates may request a membership list for their district.

With all of that, what does it mean to be on the cooperative's board of trustees? The trustees are fiduciaries

Continued on page 16D ►

Budget Billing Update

Members enrolled in budget billing will receive their updated budget amounts this month. The adjusted amount was 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.



Qualifications for 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 inter-connected 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 "E" 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 "E" above.

Trustee Elections to be Held in 2022

Candidates to be Nominated by Petitions – Due by Dec. 30 at 4 p.m.

As we approach our third year of consolidation, the cooperative shall hold an 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. There are two positions in the north districts and one position in the south districts holding elections this year. Your district of membership can be found at the top of your 4 Rivers monthly bill; please reach out to our office if you have any questions on your district of membership.

IN THE NORTH DISTRICTS, the terms of trustees **DAVID KUNKEL** (District N2) and **STACY HEINS** (District N3) are expiring in 2022.

IN THE SOUTH DISTRICTS, the term of trustee **CAROL WEHMEYER** (District S2) is expiring in 2022.

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 4 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 30.

For members interested in running for the board, candidate packets are available at 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 the respective members in the districts for which an election is taking place. 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 28.

You Have a Voice at YOUR

CO-OP

make plans to attend the

2ND ANNUAL
4 RIVERS ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE
MEETING OF
THE MEMBERS

JOIN US MARCH 28, 2022

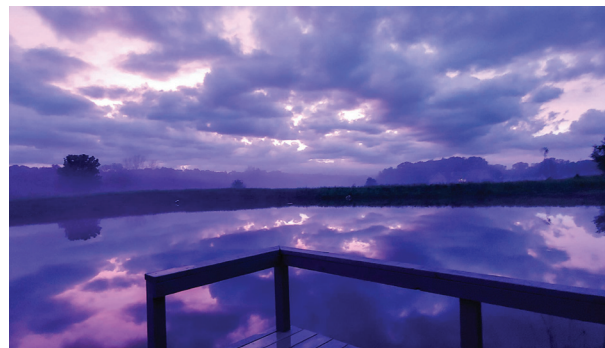
MEMORIAL HALL, INDEPENDENCE

410 N. PENNSYLVANIA AVE.

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! We received many great entries highlighting our beautiful service territory. Our winning submissions received a bill credit. We are truly grateful to live and work in beautiful Kansas!

- ▶ **1ST PLACE:** Wind Storm vs Wind Turbines by **MICHAEL HOAG** from Waverly. \$100 bill credit.
- ▶ **2ND PLACE:** Autumn Days by **JOSIE ALEXANDER** from Ottawa. \$75 bill credit.
- ▶ **3RD PLACE:** Kansas Lights by **BOBBYE MALEY** from Independence. \$50 bill credit.



Enjoy the amazing beauty found in 4 Rivers territory in a few more of our photo contest submissions.

Candidate Packets Available Continued from page 16A ▶

fundamentally responsible “to prudently represent the interests of the members as a group in directing and overseeing the business and affairs of the cooperative within the law.” A fiduciary is someone legally responsible for representing the interests of a group. In an electric cooperative, this means the board is responsible for guiding how the cooperative’s money and assets are used to fulfill the cooperative’s mission while protecting the cooperative and the interests of its members.

Trustees are also advocates and must represent the members’ interests as they develop policies that guide the cooperative’s operation.

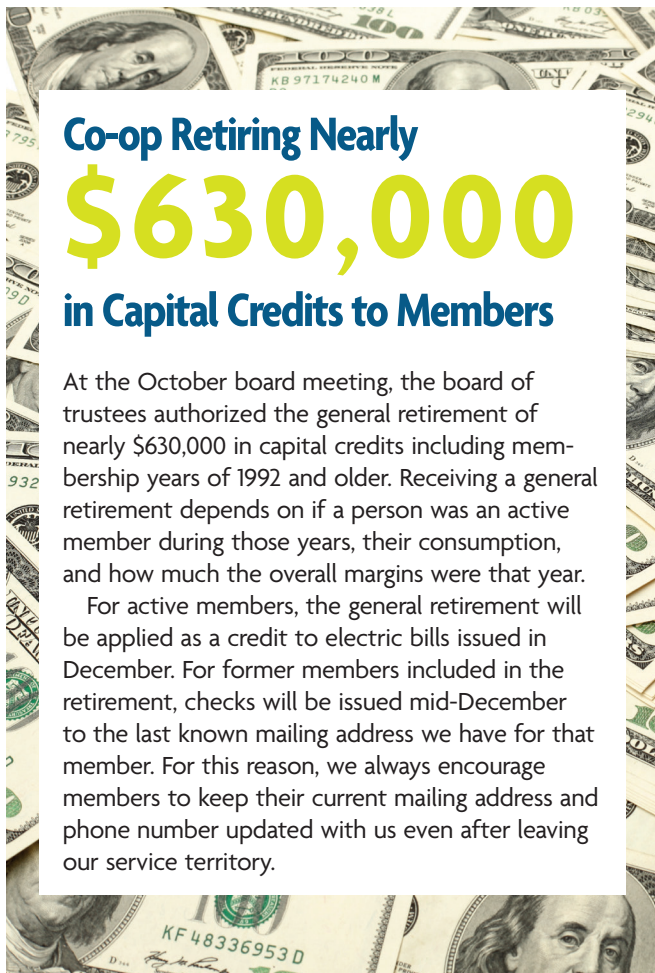
The board is also the regulatory body of the cooperative, ensuring that 4 Rivers meets the standards required of a utility providing an essential public service. In general, these requirements are to provide reasonably adequate

and dependable electric service to all consumers within the cooperative territory with fair and nondiscriminatory rates, terms and conditions.

These are challenging duties a trustee must perform on behalf of the members. To do the best for the membership, we provide diverse training through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), our national trade organization. These courses cover topics like risk management, ethics and governance, rate strategies, board roles and financial decision making.

If you are interested in serving the membership as a trustee of 4 Rivers, download the candidate packet and petition at 4riverselectric.com. I am available to discuss any questions or concerns on this or any other matter.

As we get into the holiday season, please remember the reason for the season.



Co-op Retiring Nearly **\$630,000** in Capital Credits to Members

At the October board meeting, the board of trustees authorized the general retirement of nearly \$630,000 in capital credits including membership years of 1992 and older. Receiving a general retirement depends on if a person was an active member during those years, their consumption, and how much the overall margins were that year.

For active members, the general retirement will be applied as a credit to electric bills issued in December. For former members included in the retirement, checks will be issued mid-December to the last known mailing address we have for that member. For this reason, we always encourage members to keep their current mailing address and phone number updated with us even after leaving our service territory.

Welcome New Employee: Dylan Pankaskie



Dylan Pankaskie

We welcome new employee **DYLAN PANKASKIE** who joined 4 Rivers Nov. 1 as warehouse materials handler. Dylan is no stranger to the co-op. He has maintained the co-op’s material inventory since 2018 as an employee of our material supplier. Dylan and his wife, Renee, reside in Gridley with their daughter, Gentry, 2. Welcome to the 4 Rivers team, Dylan!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holiday season? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet — even when they’re not in use.

