

www.4riverselectric.com  
620-364-2116 or 800-748-7395

**Northern District**  
2731 Milo Terr.  
Lebo, KS 66856

**Southern District**  
9346 Jewell Road  
Fredonia, KS 66736

**Payment Center**  
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

**Larry Felts**  
President

**Stacy Heins**  
Vice-President

**Warren Schmidt**  
Secretary

**Loren Dickens**  
Treasurer

**Tom Ayers**  
Trustee

**Randall Bunnel**  
Trustee

**Robert Converse**  
Trustee

**Nick Frankenbery**  
Trustee

**Gene Huston**  
Trustee

**David Kunkel**  
Trustee

**Michael Springer**  
Trustee

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



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## FROM THE MANAGER

# 2024 Board of Trustees Election; Nominations Due Dec. 28

In October, I wrote about the Seven Cooperative Principles. This month, I'm focusing on the second principle — **DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL** — in action here at 4 Rivers. On Dec. 1, petitions will be available to get on the ballot to serve on the Board of Trustees of 4 Rivers Electric. After this election, the size of the board will be reduced from 11 members to nine.

Incumbents this year are: District 1, **GENE HUSTON**; District 2, **WARREN SCHMIDT**; and District 3, **LARRY FELTS, MICHAEL SPRINGER** and **NICK FRANKENBERY**.

To be eligible to run for the board, you must be a qualified member as defined by the cooperative bylaws. This

means that you must be a person in good standing who has lived in the district for three years with your primary residence being served by 4 Rivers Electric. You also cannot be in a competitive business to the cooperative, a direct family member of an employee or trustee of the cooperative or have been an employee of the cooperative within three years.

To be listed on the ballot, you will need to collect a minimum of 20 signatures from members in your district. Eligible candidates can request a membership list for their district.



Dennis Svanes

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## Co-op Retires Nearly \$755,000 in Capital Credits to Members

At the September board meeting, 4 Rivers trustees authorized the general retirement of **\$754,689 INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP YEARS 1994-1995**. Capital credit retirements are disbursed to members active during those years based on their consumption and overall annual margins.

For active members, the general retirement is applied as a credit to electric bills issued in December.

For former members included in the retirement, checks are issued mid-December to the last known mailing address. For this reason, we encourage members to keep us updated of their mailing address and phone number after leaving our service territory.

PHOTO ABOVE, "CO-OP SUNSET," WAS TAKEN BY MEMBER BRENDAN COULTER OF FALL RIVER. THE PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS THE BEAUTY OF OUR COOPERATIVE TERRITORY.

# Trustee Elections to Be Held in 2024

## Candidates Nominated by Petition – Due Dec. 28

The cooperative shall hold a 2024 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 2024 election during this second year of consolidated districts. 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.

### Petition Requirements

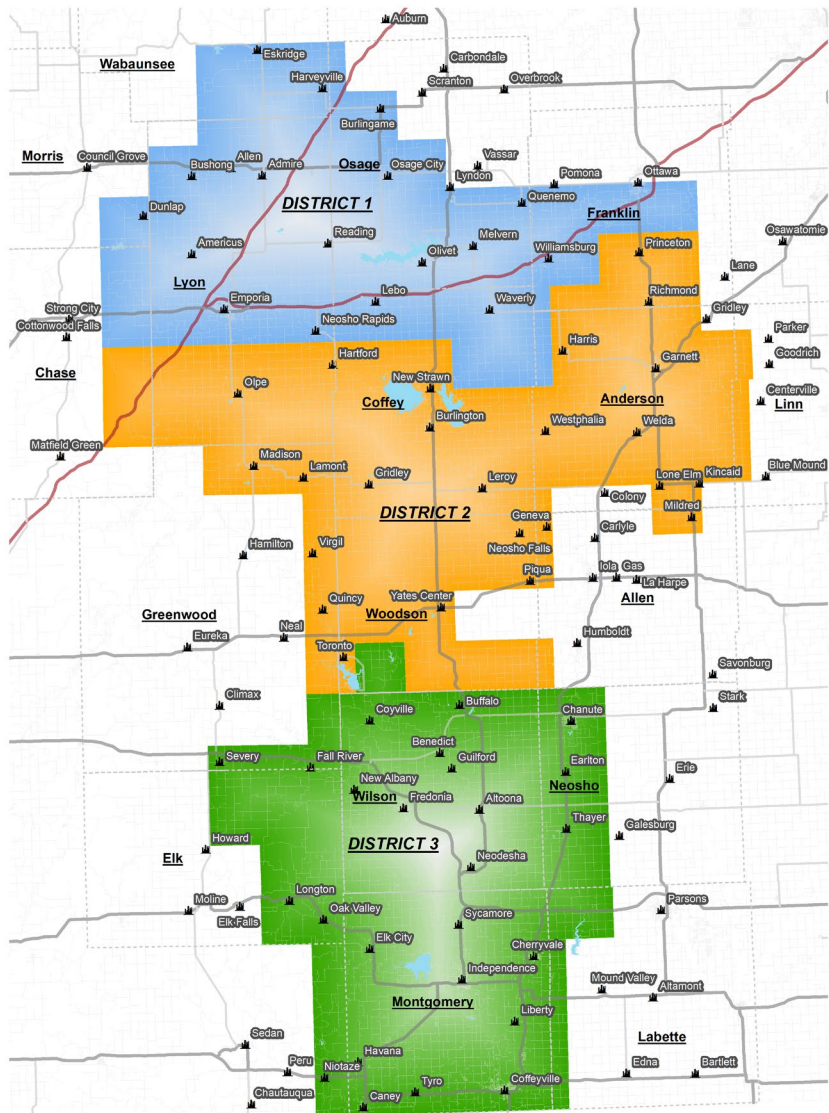
To be placed on the ballot, a petition containing the signatures of at least 20 members of the cooperative who live in the district for which the election is being held, approving the nomination of the individual member to be placed on the ballot, must be delivered to the 4 Rivers office at either Lebo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

**BY 5 P.M. ON THURSDAY, DEC. 28.**

Candidate packets are available at [www.4riverselectric.com](http://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 on March 25, 2024, at the Fredonia Jr/Sr High School, 916 Robinson St., in Fredonia.

## 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	District 2	District 3
	▶ <b>GENE HUSTON</b> , incumbent	▶ <b>WARREN SCHMIDT</b> , incumbent	▶ <b>LARRY FELTS</b> , incumbent
			▶ <b>NICK FRANKENBERY</b> , incumbent
			▶ <b>MICHAEL SPRINGER</b> , incumbent

# Board of Trustees Election Process; Nominations Due Dec. 28

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## What Does It Mean to Be on the Board of Trustees?

Trustees are fiduciaries, which means that they are legally responsible for representing the interests of the cooperative and its members. They are responsible for guiding how the cooperative's money and assets are used to fulfill the cooperative's mission; and they must do so in a way that best protects the cooperative and the interests of all its members.

Trustees must also represent the members' interests and concerns as they develop policies that guide the cooperative's operation.

Finally, the trustees comprise the regulatory board of the cooperative. They must ensure that 4 Rivers meets the standards that are required of a utility that provides an essential public service. This means providing

reasonably adequate and dependable electric service to all consumers within the cooperative's territory at fair and non-discriminatory rates, terms and conditions.

## Training and Support for Trustees

These duties are challenging, but 4 Rivers provides diverse training through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, our national trade organization. These courses cover topics like risk management, ethics and governance, rate strategies, board roles, financial decision making, cybersecurity, and many more.

If you are interested in serving the membership as a trustee of 4 Rivers, please go to our website and download the information packet and petition. I am available to discuss any questions or concerns on this or any other matter.

## SAVE THE DATE Annual Meeting of Members

Join us at the **4TH ANNUAL 4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEETING OF MEMBERS** scheduled on March 25, 2024, at Fredonia Jr/Sr High School, 916 Robinson in Fredonia.

## 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 member service representatives a call at 620-364-2116.

# Qualifications Necessary to Serve as Trustee

## 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.

## October's Co-op Month Photo Contest Winners Announced

Thank you to all of our members who participated in our photo contest for Co-op Month! We love seeing and sharing these beautiful scenes highlighting our cooperative territory. The top three contest winners received a \$100, \$75 and \$50 bill credit for their submissions. We are truly grateful to live and work in beautiful Kansas!

- ▶ **1ST PLACE – HEREFORDS ON THE HILL**  
by Kim (Justin) Stithem  
from Fredonia.
- ▶ **2ND PLACE – GOLDEN HORIZON**  
by Nancy Timmons from Fredonia.
- ▶ **3RD PLACE – SUPER MOONRISE**  
by Michael Hoag from Waverly.



## Cold Weather Accommodation

As provided in the Cooperative's Rules and Regulations, the provisions of the Cold Weather Accommodation allow a qualifying residential member the opportunity to retain electric service throughout the cold weather period, which extends from Nov. 15 through March 15.

The cooperative will not disconnect a member's service between Nov. 15 and March 15 when the local National Weather Service office forecasts the temperature will drop below 35 degrees Fahrenheit within the following 24-hour period unless:

- ▶ **A.** It is at the member's request;
- ▶ **B.** The service is abandoned;
- ▶ **C.** A dangerous condition exists on the member's premises;
- ▶ **D.** The member violates any rule of the cooperative which adversely affects the safety of the member or other persons, or the physical integrity of the cooperative's delivery system;
- ▶ **E.** The member causes or permits unauthorized interference with, or tampering of as defined in Section 3-A-4-c of the Rules and Regulations, the electric service situated or delivered on or about the member's premises;
- ▶ **F.** The member misrepresents his or her identity for the purpose of obtaining or retaining electric service; or
- ▶ **G.** The member tenders an insufficient funds check as the initial payment or an installment payment under an arrearage payment plan and does not cure the insufficient payment, including the returned check charge during the 10-day period after a disconnection notice is sent to the member.

Under (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) above, the cooperative may disconnect the service immediately. Under (f) above, the cooperative may disconnect the service two days after a disconnection is provided to the member of record or 10 days after a disconnection notice is sent, whichever is quicker. Under (g) above, the cooperative may disconnect the service 10 days after a disconnection notice is provided if that member has not paid the insufficient amount during that 10-day period.

The day prior to disconnection, the cooperative may make at least one telephone call attempt with the member of record or make one attempt at a personal contact with the member of record on the day prior to termination of service.

Prepay Power Program participants are not eligible for Cold Weather Accommodation; however, members can work with the cooperative to stay connected with reasonable payment arrangements if needed.