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620-364-2116 or 800-748-7395

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Lebo, KS 66856

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Fredonia, KS 66736

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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.

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



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## FROM THE MANAGER

# Serving and Caring – Happy New Year!

When the calendar turns to a new year, I reflect on the achievements and challenges faced during the previous year and look forward to the new. Inflation, supply chain issues and fuel prices were the most direct challenges for 4 Rivers in 2022, as with most of our members.

The supply chain issue is a common topic in the media, but what does it mean to us? It means our members who need new or upgraded services may have to wait. New underground projects are set back due to delays receiving underground primary cable. Projects requiring odd or large size transformers are delayed due to long lead times for those transformers. We've updated plans to change out poles as the pole supply has also been affected, and we've adjusted inspections schedules to ensure continued safety. We are still waiting for a digger truck we ordered in mid-2020. In Spring 2022, we placed orders for trucks to be delivered in 2026.

The takeaway message to our members: if you need a new or upgraded service, please communicate with us as soon as possible.

Fuel prices and inflation unfortunately are self-evident. Prices for everything we buy have been going up at rates I haven't seen since grade school. Some of the necessary materials we use to build and maintain lines have been increasing at rates far exceeding stated inflationary rates.

With all the challenges, I am still very optimistic about the upcoming year. We

are moving forward living by our mission statement — **SERVING AND**

**CARING.** Serving our members; serving our communities; serving our employees. Caring for the membership; caring for our communities; caring for our employees.

Some of the near-term items for 2023 include consolidation of our tariffs with a rate hearing in February. More information will be in next month's publication, but as I have mentioned before, the proposed tariffs are revenue-neutral for residential and large commercial services.

We also have the election across the three consolidated districts, which reduces the size of our board of trustees. Our current board has 13 trustees. Two positions will be eliminated with the 2023 election and two more in 2024 to bring us to a total of nine trustees to govern our cooperative.

Trustee election ballots will be mailed to members later this month including information on the nominated candidates in your district. Ballot envelopes must be completed and returned to the Lebo office or be postmarked by Feb. 20 to be counted. Election winners will be announced at our annual meeting of members on March 27 at the Anderson Building in Emporia.

I wish all of you a very happy and blessed new year.



Dennis Svanes

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

## TELL YOUR HIGH SCHOOLER IT'S TIME TO APPLY FOR THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE  
**YOUTH  
TOUR**  
**BUILDS**  
JUNE 15-22, 2023  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SPONSORED BY  
YOUR LOCAL  
ELECTRIC  
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LEADERSHIP

COOPERATIVE  
YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP  
**BUILDS**  
JULY 14-20, 2023  
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

MEMORIES

COMMUNITY

## Students Invited to Apply for 2023 Leadership Opportunities

4 Rivers Electric's strong tradition of promoting youth leadership continues with two leadership opportunities this summer. The co-op will send two high school juniors on an all-expenses-paid trip to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and two high school juniors to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

We are excited to bring our youth back to the capital! During the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, June 15-22, 2023, students will travel to Washington, D.C., explore monuments and museums, meet with members of Congress, and make lifelong friends with students from across the country. This trip of a lifetime provides leadership lessons from our nation's history and the cooperative spirit that built our nation.

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp will be July 14-20, 2023, near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. High school

students from electric cooperative communities in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming participate in this leadership camp. Together, they will create a candy cooperative, hear from dynamic speakers, and raft down the Colorado River.

If you know of a student with strong leadership potential who is ready for new experiences, would like to network with other student leaders, and is willing to learn more about themselves and their communities, encourage them to apply for these incredible leadership opportunities. Any high school junior living in 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative territory whose parent or guardian is a 4 Rivers member is eligible.

Contest applications are available online at [www.4riverselectric.com](http://www.4riverselectric.com) and are due Feb. 10, so sign-up today! Four winners and two alternates will be selected. Visit us online for more information or contact April Engstrom (ext 306) or Brian Sumner (ext 396) at 620-364-2116.



Each year, campers go rafting during Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.



Students visit many of D.C.'s most prominent monuments and memorials on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.



# LIEAP Benefits – Do You Qualify?

Application period  
opens this month

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded program that helps keep families safe and healthy by assisting eligible households with a portion of their home energy costs by providing a once per year benefit.

The 2023 LIEAP application period opens Jan. 3, and applications must be received online or in a Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) office **BY 5 P.M., MARCH 30, 2023**, to be considered for eligibility.

Benefit levels vary according to household income, number of persons living at the address, type of dwelling, and type of heating fuel. To qualify, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- ▶ An adult living at the address must be personally responsible for paying the heating costs incurred at the current residence, payable either to the landlord or the fuel vendor.
- ▶ Applicants must demonstrate a recent history of payments toward purchase of the primary heating energy.
- ▶ The combined gross income (before deductions) of all persons living at the address may not exceed 150% of the federal poverty level according to the guidelines listed at right.



LIEAP helps keep our members safe and healthy by assisting with home energy costs. Application deadline is March 30.

## 2023 Income Eligibility Guidelines

Persons Living at Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income	Persons Living at Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$1,699	7	\$5,239
2	\$2,289	8	\$5,829
3	\$2,879	9	\$6,419
4	\$3,469	10	\$7,009
5	\$4,059	11	\$7,599
6	\$4,649	12	\$8,189
+1	\$590 for each additional person		

For more information about the application process or to request an application, call 800-432-0043 or visit [www.dcf.ks.gov](http://www.dcf.ks.gov).



Landon Thomas

## Welcome to Our New Employee!

On Nov. 28, 4 Rivers welcomed **LONDON THOMAS** as an accountant based in our Lebo office. Landon grew up in the Neosho Rapids/Hartford area and is an Emporia State University graduate. He lives in Lebo with his fiancée, Hayley, and 2-year-old son, Beau. Welcome to the 4 Rivers team, Landon!

# 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our offices will  
be closed for  
the holiday on  
**JAN. 2, 2023.**  
Have a safe and  
Happy New Year!

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [www.usda.gov/oascr](http://www.usda.gov/oascr) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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## 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:

- ▶ it is at the member's request;
- ▶ the service is abandoned;
- ▶ a dangerous condition exists on the member's premises;
- ▶ 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;
- ▶ 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;
- ▶ the member misrepresents his or her identity for the purpose of obtaining or retaining electric service; or
- ▶ 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 (2) days after a disconnection notice 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 cured the insufficient payment 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.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Did you know insulating your electric water heater could reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%? This could save you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs.

Insulating your electric water heater is an easy, inexpensive project that can improve energy efficiency and save you money each month. The Department of Energy rates this project level as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own.

Visit [energy.gov](http://energy.gov) for project tips and additional considerations. **SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV**

