

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

FROM THE MANAGER

Board Elections to be Held in 2022



Dennis Svanes

A key principle of being a cooperative is democratic member control. In a few short months, 4 Rivers will hold our annual meeting of members. Starting Dec. 1, petitions will be available for any qualified member wishing to run for the board of trustees. Qualified candidates need a petition for nomination signed by at least 20 qualified members who reside in their district.

Districts with upcoming 2022 elections are N2 currently held by **DAVID KUNKEL**, N3 held by **STACY HEINS**, and S2 held by **CAROL WEHMEYER**.

Trustee candidates must be a qualified member as defined by the cooperative's bylaws, Article IV, Section 3 (bylaws available at 4riverselectric.com). A member must be a person in good standing who has lived in the district for three or more years with their primary residence being served by 4 Rivers. The member cannot serve 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 the last three years.

A petition for elections lowers the barriers so that more members may be on the ballot. An incumbent must undergo the same process needed to get on the ballot.

Petitioning for nomination lowers barriers so that more members may be on the ballot. An incumbent must undergo the same petition process to get on the ballot.

For more information about becoming a trustee, see our December issue.

Candidate packets will be available at 4riverselectric.com and in our offices

DEC. 1.

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



WE'RE HIRING

JOIN OUR
CO-OP TEAM!**LINEMAN, LEBO OFFICE**

At 4 Rivers Electric, we don't aim to just employ people — we make them a part of our cooperative family serving beautiful territory across 16 counties in eastern-central and southeast Kansas. We employ approximately 42 people with competitive wages and excellent medical and retirement benefits at three different offices.

Currently, 4 Rivers is seeking a lineman, based out of our Lebo office. Duties include, but are not limited to, maintenance and construction of overhead and underground distribution and sub-transmission facilities. After-hours and on-call duty are required. This position requires heavy lifting, pole climbing and other strenuous activity. Qualified applicants must possess a valid Class A CDL license. This position requires a person with leadership characteristics and a strong work ethic who is willing to learn and works well in a team environment while completing some tasks individually.

This is a full-time position. 4 Rivers offers a very competitive benefit package that includes a retirement program, 401(k) and insurance. To be considered for this position, please submit a resume to: 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc., 2731 Milo Terrace, Lebo, KS 66856 or email to lindsey.audiss@4riverselectric.com.

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

SEND RESUME TO:

4 RIVERS ELECTRIC
2731 MILO TERRACE
LEBO, KS 66856

LINDSEY.AUDISS@4RIVERSELECTRIC.COM

Cold Weather Accommodation

Effective Nov. 1 through March 15

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 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.



HAPPY 
Thanksgiving

Our office will be closed
Thursday, Nov. 25, and
Friday, Nov. 26, for Thanksgiving.

*We hope you have a safe
and happy holiday.*

Discuss Electrical Safety With Kids

Often, when the topic of electronics and children comes up, the conversation centers around pros and cons of screen time or maybe trading tips on the best educational apps. However, an often-overlooked topic is how to talk to your children about the potential safety hazards associated with electronics, sources of electricity and their environment in general. As soon as children can walk, parents and caregivers should discuss with them how to be safe around electricity, both inside the home and when playing outdoors.

4 Rivers Electric Cooperative recommends sharing these outdoor safety tips with children of all ages:

- ▶ Do not touch or go near a sagging or downed power line. Instead, tell an adult to call the electric utility to report it.
- ▶ Never climb trees near power lines.
- ▶ Fly kites, model airplanes, remote-control flying toys and drones in large, open areas, such as parks or fields, far away from power lines. If any of these items (or any item or object) gets caught in a power line, never try to retrieve it. Tell an adult to call the electric utility for help.
- ▶ Never fly kites or other toys when a thunderstorm may be approaching.
- ▶ Never climb a utility pole or tower. The electricity carried through this equipment could kill you.
- ▶ Never go into an electric substation for any reason. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can kill you. Never rescue a pet or retrieve a ball or toy that goes inside the fenced area surrounding a substation. Tell an adult to call the electric utility instead.
- ▶ Always stay away from outdoor electrical equipment marked “keep out,” “high voltage” or “danger.”
- ▶ Do not play, sit or climb on a padmount transformer, a.k.a. green box. Note to adults: While green boxes are typically safe to be around, it is better to leave this equipment alone just in case a box has become unlocked or vandalized, or the contents or box have become damaged in some way — by a roadside accident or unwelcomed varmints or ants. Please call us to report an unlocked cabinet or any signs of damage.



4 Rivers crew members give a power line safety demonstration to students at Wilson County Old Iron Days.

Additionally, share the following indoor safety tips with children:

- ▶ Do not play with electrical cords or plugs.
- ▶ Younger children should ask an adult before plugging in or unplugging something. In addition, never pull or tug on cords. Instead, gently pull the plug out of the wall by grasping the plug, not the cord.
- ▶ Do not touch or use cords that appear damaged.
- ▶ Keep cords away from heat and water.
- ▶ Never stick fingers, tongues, toys or other body parts or objects into electrical outlets or light sockets.
- ▶ Never sleep with phones, tablets or other electronics in the bed or under a pillow. The electronic device can overheat or experience a short in the charging cable, causing bedding to catch on fire, burns to the skin or electric shock.
- ▶ Never play with electronic toys or gadgets in the bathtub or other water.
- ▶ Never touch appliances, switches, outlets, sockets, cords or plugs with wet hands or while standing in water. Parents should keep towels near bathroom and kitchen sinks so little hands can be dried right after they are washed.

Many electrical injuries and fires can be prevented. It is never too early or too late to start talking about electrical safety with your children and loved ones. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

A Matter of Principles – Co-op Principles! Part II

For many, this time of year brings reflection on things for which we are thankful. Topping our gratitude list is our wonderful community. We at 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative are fortunate to live in the same place where we work, making our ties to this community even stronger. You may recall last month, we touched on the first three Cooperative Principles, so this month, let's review the remaining four principles.

Autonomy and Independence

The fourth principal, Autonomy and Independence, means that the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the values and needs of our local community. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local members it serves.



AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Education and Training

The fifth principle, Education and Training, focuses on enhancing the



EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

knowledge of co-op employees and board members, which enables them to contribute to the development of the cooperative.

By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual professional and personal growth, but to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our members and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you receive this magazine every month, so we can share the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperation Among Cooperatives is the sixth principle and fosters the way co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of co-ops, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle in action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages.



COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts. Of course, we extend the same help to them when they are in need. I can't think of a better example of cooperation among cooperatives.

In addition, because we are part of the national electric co-op network, we can connect and collaborate with other electric co-ops to tackle industry-related challenges, like cybersecurity and an everchanging energy landscape.

Concern for Community

The seventh principle, Concern for Community, is essential to who we are as co-ops. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism, or donations to local causes, we invest in this community because it's our home too.

Co-ops bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op. On behalf of everyone at 4 Rivers, we are thankful for your membership and hope you have a wonderful holiday season.



CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Not all electric vehicles are created equal. Here are the four main types of electric vehicles.



Hybrid Electric Vehicles



HEVs have been on the market the longest and include a small battery pack that is not charged by plugging it in, but rather by the internal combustion engine or the braking process. HEVs are not powered solely by batteries at any given time.

Plug-In Hybrid



Plug-in hybrid EVs run on both battery power and gasoline and have much smaller battery packs than BEVs. The all-battery range in these vehicles is typically between 5-30 miles, and then the internal combustion engine is responsible for miles beyond that. Plug-in hybrids reduce emissions for short trips around town.

Battery Electric Vehicles



BEVs do not rely on any gasoline to run and have zero tailpipe emissions. BEV operators plug their vehicles in at home or a charging station. BEVs generate electricity from braking and use this as a secondary energy source.

Range Extender Hybrid EVs



REHs function the same way as plug-ins, but they have higher battery ranges due to design differences. Some can drive more than 50 miles on a single charge.