

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.

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President

**Robert Converse**  
Vice-President

**Gene Huston**  
Secretary

**David Engelman**  
Treasurer

**Tom Ayers**  
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**Randal Bunnel**  
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**Larry Felts**  
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**Nick Frankenbery**  
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**Robert Harkrader**  
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**David Kunkel**  
Trustee

**Warren Schmidt**  
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**Sandy Smith**  
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**Dennis Svanes**  
General Manager/CEO

**Mark Doebele**  
Assistant General Manager/COO

**Dennis Duft**  
Manager of Operations

**Roger Cole**  
CFO

**Ken Caudell**  
Manager of Member and Corporate Services

## FROM THE MANAGER

### It's Co-op Month

October is National Co-op Month. Co-op Month has been celebrated annually in October across the United States for more than half a century. It is a time for cooperative businesses to reflect on their shared principles and to educate others about the value of belonging to a cooperative.

In a normal year, perhaps we would have a cooperative open house or a football tailgate party to celebrate with you, our consumer-members. However, 2020 is anything but normal. At the risk of sounding like a broken record: due to the coronavirus pandemic, we will not host our usual in-person events for Co-op Month. However, we can still celebrate the cooperative spirit while maintaining a safe social distance!

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Seven Cooperative Principles being adopted as part of the cooperative identity for cooperative businesses worldwide. The importance of these principles continues to endure for 4 Rivers Electric and other

cooperatives across the world.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member's Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

The sixth principle — Cooperation Among Cooperatives — is vital to cooperative families. As a part of a cooperative, we collaborate with fellow cooperatives across the state and nation — both electric cooperatives and other types of cooperative organizations — sharing information and lending a helping hand when needed. We also work with other cooperatives as business partners. Our software company, insurance company, lending banks,

**Continued on page 16B ►**



**Dennis Svanes**



## Electric Co-ops are Economic Engines in Their Communities

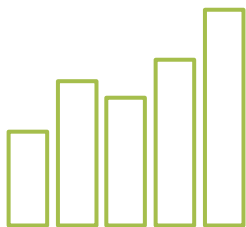
In 2017, electric co-ops supported  
**611,600 American jobs**

**68,200** electric co-op jobs

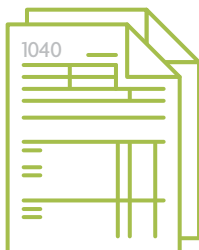
**97,600** contractor jobs

**170,900** supplier jobs

**274,900** consumer spending jobs



contributed **\$88.4 billion**  
to the U.S. GDP annually



generated more than  
**\$22 billion** in federal,  
state and local taxes



invested **\$12 billion**  
annually in local economies

SOURCE: THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, FTI CONSULTING, MARCH 2019

## It's Co-op Month Continued from page 16A ▶

after-hours dispatching, power supplier and even the company from which we buy 4 Rivers merchandise are all cooperatives — and the list goes on.

I am excited to announce that 4 Rivers is partnering with a cooperative-owned subsidiary to install and run two 1-megawatt solar facilities. One solar field is to be located next to 4 Rivers' office near Fredonia; the other facility will be located next to 4 Rivers' Americus substation. The actual solar facilities will be owned by the subsidiary. 4 Rivers' upfront costs will be to interconnect the facilities into our grid — building a short span of power lines, transformers and protection devices. We will then purchase the energy produced by the facilities.

Our goal is to have the solar fields in place by June 1, 2021. Purchasing energy from these facilities will allow our cooperative to control some of our long-term power costs and pass

those savings to you, our consumer-members. Small solar facilities typically do not have a financial benefit to those who install them when calculating the costs associated with installing and maintaining the facilities.

In fact, installing a household solar facility will typically cost more than buying electricity from an electric utility and create an increase in costs to other electric consumers. (Study of Consequential Issues Materially Affecting Kansas Electric Rates, AECOM).

Large, utility-scale solar fields do make fiscal sense because of economies of scale.

As plans develop, we will share more details on the solar projects. When completed, we plan to hold an open house for the facilities. I am very excited about these projects that add further diversification to our power mix while reducing costs to our membership for years to come.

## Photo Contest for Co-op Month

To celebrate Co-op Month we are having a photo contest to highlight 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative's beautiful service territory. Please submit a photo showing the beauty and history of our service territory and local communities. Winners will have a chance to be featured in the December issue of *Kansas Country Living* magazine. Prizes will be awarded to the top three submissions.

To submit photos please send to: [shannon.nordstedt@4riverselectric.com](mailto:shannon.nordstedt@4riverselectric.com)

### The following requirements need to be met to qualify:

- ▶ Must be a member of 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative.
- ▶ Include name, address and contact information.
- ▶ Photos must be taken in 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative territory, please list the general location.
- ▶ Must be copyright owned by the individual person entering the image.
- ▶ Photos may include one of our employees at work, but please do not capture individual residents.

### Prizes to be awarded for:

- ▶ **FIRST PLACE:** \$75 bill credit
- ▶ **SECOND PLACE:** \$50 bill credit
- ▶ **THIRD PLACE:** \$25 bill credit

Photos must be received no later than Oct. 30, 2020. By participating you agree to give 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative permission to use your photos.



# Co-ops Vote: Cast Your Vote November 3

Kansas' electric cooperatives' top priority is providing consumer-members with safe, reliable and affordable energy. But this job requires more than stringing and maintaining power lines. It requires political engagement. That may seem far removed from our core mission, but it's absolutely essential to the services cooperatives provide.

That's why electric co-ops in Kansas and across the country are participating in Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan program that encourages all cooperative members to participate in national, state and local elections. The program also aims to educate political candidates and elected officials about the important role electric cooperatives play in their local communities.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service organization representing the nation's electric co-ops, launched Co-ops Vote in 2016. Co-ops Vote started as a national get-out-the-vote initiative that helped drive rural voter turnout.

As co-ops, the civic virtue of voting is in our DNA. We show concern for community — one of the seven cooperative principles — through participation in our democracy.

Co-ops have another advantage. Elected officials and decision-makers across the political spectrum trust us because of the work the electric cooperative family has put into political engagement. When we all get involved, we can make things happen politically and in our local communities.

In July, 4 Rivers Electric was pleased to host Representative Mark Schreiber of Emporia and Representative Mark Samsel of Wellsville as a part of the Co-ops Vote initiative to get to know candidates and educate them about issues important to rural electric cooperatives and our members.

## Rural communities depend on co-op voters.

- ✓ Learn about the issues.
- ✓ Talk to your family and friends.
- ✓ Cast your vote.

Election Day is Nov. 3, 2020

Be an active participant in our democracy.  
Be a co-op voter. | [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop)

We know Election Day may look a little different this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that's why we're encouraging all co-op members to stay engaged and informed of any changes to polling locations or absentee and mail-in balloting procedures. In Kansas, voter registration deadline is Tuesday, Oct. 13; if registering by mail it must be postmarked by Oct. 13. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is Tuesday, Oct. 27; the deadline to return completed ballot is Friday, Nov. 6 (date of postmark). Don't wait — mail in your registration and ballots early as the pandemic has created delays in mail delivery.

Voting is central to American democracy. We hope you will commit to casting your ballot on Nov. 3. To learn more about the upcoming elections and access resources that can help you stay informed, visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop).

## Scam Alert! *Tips for Identifying Fraudulent Calls*

Every day, millions of people who have lost their jobs are making difficult choices about how to pay their bills. As the coronavirus continues to spread, scammers are taking advantage of people's heightened economic anxiety. One such ploy includes posing as representatives from utility companies to dupe people out of their cash and personal information by convincing them their utilities will be shut off if they don't pay.

If you get a call from someone claiming to be from 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, here are some things you can do:

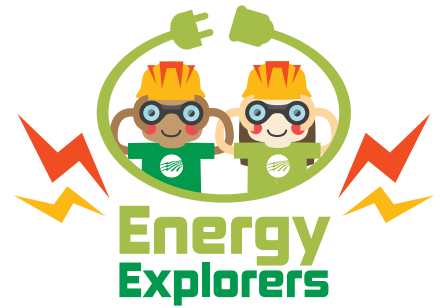
- ▶ Don't trust the caller ID. Phone numbers can be spoofed to look like a familiar or safe caller.
- ▶ Never provide personal information over the phone, unless you are the one who initiated the call, or you are 100% certain you are speaking with a 4 Rivers staff member.
- ▶ If you receive a suspicious phone call, hang up, and call us directly at 620-364-2116.



# CO-OP MONTH FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Did you know October is National Co-op Month?

Complete the fill-in-the-blank activity below to learn about a few ways co-ops are unique! Use the word bank if you need help.



1. Co-ops and their members work together toward a common \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Co-ops are \_\_\_\_\_ organizations, so they understand the communities they serve.
3. All co-ops operate according to the same set of seven cooperative \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Concern for \_\_\_\_\_ is the seventh cooperative principle.
5. Co-ops don't have customers; we have \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Co-ops are \_\_\_\_\_ by the members they serve.

## WORD BANK

LED  
LOCAL

GOAL  
PRINCIPLES

MEMBERS  
COMMUNITY

Answer Key: 1) goal 2) local 3) principles 4) community 5) members 6) led