

K.C. ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

MAY 2024

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Our mission is to provide our members with safe, reliable service at the lowest cost, while maintaining an environmentally responsible, accountable and sustainable operation now and in the future.

PLAN TO ATTEND K.C. ELECTRIC'S 78TH ANNUAL MEETING

BY DAVID CHURCHWELL GENERAL MANAGER



DAVID CHURCHWELL

Once again, it's annual meeting time. On behalf of K.C. Electric Association, I want to personally invite you to join us on Thursday, June 6, at Cheyenne Wells High School for our 78th annual meeting. Registration will start at 6 p.m. and the business meeting will begin at 6:30. I look forward to gathering with you — the members of our cooperative community — to catch up, hear what you have to say, and enjoy tasty dessert and fellowship.

K.C. Electric's annual meeting is a community gathering where neighbors can meet new neighbors or catch up with old acquaintances. As our lives get busier with the "errands of life" and more interactions with each other are online, we must renew the value of face-to-face human connections. Very few organizations are uniquely positioned like K.C. Electric to bring together all members of our local communities.

While rural Americans probably do a better job of staying connected to our neighbors, it's not something we should take for granted. The simple act of smiling, saying hello, and shaking someone's hand truly lifts both people.

Our country and community face many challenges; overcoming these challenges will only happen if we come together.

This event is not only a chance to visit with members of our cooperative community, but also a great opportunity to hear about programs offered by K.C. Electric and get to know your cooperative staff. Our annual meeting makes it possible for us to

gather feedback from you by providing a forum where you can let us know how we can better serve you.

K.C. Electric's annual meeting is designed to take care of the important business of your co-op and the equally important business of building a real sense of community. All cooperatives serve both an economic and social purpose. While safe, reliable, and affordable electric power is crucial to our mission, improving the quality of life for all members is at the core of what we do every day.

K.C. Electric is not owned by faraway investors, and it is not run by an appointed Board of Directors. It is run by a democratically elected Board of Directors — a board that has the privilege of serving because of your vote.

Our directors are members of your community. They are concerned with the issues you face every day because they face them too. And don't forget that members of K.C. Electric are eligible to run for the board, including you.

If you have not been able to attend K.C.'s annual meeting in the past, I suggest you take the time to attend, learn more about your electric cooperative, and catch up with your friends and neighbors. This is a great opportunity for you to grab your kids or your grandkids and show them the value of being a member owner of an electric cooperative. Membership is ownership.

GUARD AGAINST UTILITY SERVICE SCAMS, OTHER FORMS OF FRAUD, AND IDENTITY THEFT

The world we live in today, it's necessary to pause and consider before we click, answer, or respond to someone seeking information. No industry, person, or business is off limits to scammers, who even try to con their way into the utility industry.

When it comes to power bills, scammers make threatening phone calls to consumers to demand immediate payment, or else! (Or else their service will be shut off, they threaten.) This deceiving claim is often made during the height of summer or winter, when people want to stay comfortable during the extreme heat or cold.

Don't be fooled: utilities most often send initial disconnection notices in writing to provide warning.

UTILITY SCAMS: HOW THEY GET YOU

Scammers request that immediate payment be wired, loaded on a reloadable gift card or debit card or sent using cryptocurrency (a digital money system that does not rely on banks for verification). Only scammers request this type of payment and threaten immediate service disconnection. Do not provide any information — including your utility account number — or agree to immediate payment. Instead, hang up and check with your utility by using the phone number listed on your power bill. Fake numbers and links can appear in emails and texts.

Utility bills that double the amount due may be a utility scam. Utilities are closely regulated and may not have the right to raise prices substantially. Consumers should trust their gut reaction; if it seems

like fraud, it probably is.

PROTECT PERSONAL INFO

When supplying your utility, or any business or person, with sensitive information such as a social security number, proof of address, or death certificate, do not email the information. Additionally, do not give out sensitive information to anyone who calls you. Verify the phone number and call the utility directly to discuss any matter that would involve providing personal information. In general, some companies do have password-protected, secure methods to obtain personal information via an app or portal, but always verify this before using.

AT YOUR DOOR

The famous song by Paul McCartney, titled "Let 'Em In," features the artist's welcoming plea, "Someone's knockin' at the door; Someone's ringin' the bell ... Do me a favor; Open the door and let 'em in," but that is not great advice these days.

Door-to-door scams may involve impersonators of utility workers saying the meter is broken or offering to perform other repairs or an energy audit — all at the consumer's cost. Your utility will contact you in advance, prior to arriving at your home for service or for any other reason. Do not let someone in the house without a pre-approved appointment.



Claim Your Savings

Each month, K.C. Electric members have a chance to claim a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. All you must do is find your account number, call the Hugo office at 719-743-2431, and ask for your credit. The account numbers are listed below. How simple is that?

You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine (check the date on the front cover).

Laurel Knudsen, Arapahoe — 11931xxxx

W.W. Hull, Cheyenne Wells — 118739xxxx

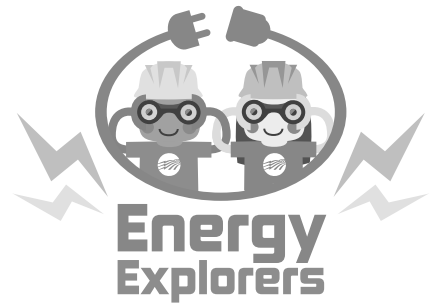
Sarah Carter, Flagler — 51550xxxx

Luanne L. Gaschler, Cheyenne Wells — 43780xxxx

In March, three members called to claim their savings: Ben Vander Werf, Arriba; John Hickey, Stratton; and John DeWitt, Hugo.



Safety Ambassador Checklist



Practicing safety near electricity can save lives! Help us spread the message of safety.

With the help of an adult, complete the checklist below then cut out the badge to show you care about electrical safety.

TASK	COMPLETED
Electrical outlets are not overloaded with multiple power strips and devices.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electrical cords are not causing a trip hazard or placed under rugs or carpet.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smoke alarms are working.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smoke alarms are installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the house.	<input type="checkbox"/>
All light switches are working properly.	<input type="checkbox"/>
SIGNATURE _____	



LOOK UP

BEFORE YOU CLIMB

Using a ladder near overhead power lines could cause electrocution. **When using a ladder:**

Keep yourself and all equipment 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

- Electricity can arc or jump if a ladder gets too close.
- A ladder could make direct contact with the line.

Use a ladder during ideal weather conditions.

- Rain can make the ground slippery.
- Wind could blow a ladder into a power line.

Do not trim trees/branches that are near power lines.

- It is dangerous to trim near overhead power lines.
- By law, only certified line clearance tree trimmers can do so.

Do not use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near overhead lines.

- All power lines can cause electrocution, including those feeding your home.
- Always follow the 10-foot distance rule when working or playing outside.

Anything that elevates you can take you too close to a power line if you are not aware of your surroundings.

Follow all safety recommendations when using a ladder. Look up before you climb.

 Safe
Electricity.org®

