

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



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

CURRENTS

4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES *Serving and Caring*

Larry Felts
President

Stacy Heins
Vice-President

Warren Schmidt
Secretary

Loren Dickens
Treasurer

Tom Ayers
Trustee

Randall Bunnel
Trustee

Robert Converse
Trustee

Gene Huston
Trustee

David Kunkel
Trustee

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

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FROM THE MANAGER

Trustees Approve General Retirement of Capital Credits

Petitions for nomination due Dec. 30 for trustee election

At the October board meeting, your trustees approved a general retirement of capital credits totaling \$724,186 allocated during 1995 and 1996, which will be credited on electric bills delivered in December. For those who are no longer a member of the cooperative, checks will be mailed. In addition, the board authorizes capital credits retirements for estates throughout the year, with an estimated total of nearly \$300,000 expected to be retired for estates by year-end. Your board of trustees takes its responsibility to manage equity levels very seriously. As a cooperative, 4 Rivers relies on two main funding sources: debt and

revenue from our members. Balancing these resources is one of the board's core duties.

As of Dec. 1, election packets are available on our website or at any office for qualified members who wish to run for the board of trustees. Each year, a trustee position in each of the three districts opens for election. Completed petitions, along with signed affidavits, **MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5 P.M., DEC. 30, 2024**, either at our headquarters in Lebo or at our Fredonia office. Early submission is recommended



Dennis Svanes

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CO-OP RETIRING OVER \$724,000 IN CAPITAL CREDITS TO MEMBERS

At their October board meeting, the board of trustees authorized the general retirement of \$724,186 in capital credits to include the membership years of 1995-1996. Receiving a general retirement depends on if a person was an active member during those years, their consumption, and how much the overall margins were that year.

For active members, the general retirement will be applied as a credit to electric bills issued in December. For former members included in the retirement, checks will be issued mid-December to the last known mailing address we have for that member. For this reason, we always encourage members to keep their current mailing address and phone number updated with us even after leaving our service territory.

THE HEADER PHOTO ABOVE, HIGHLIGHTING THE BEAUTY OF OUR COOPERATIVE TERRITORY, WAS TAKEN BY MEMBER KIMBERLY STITHAM OF RURAL FREDONIA.

Trustee Elections to Be Held in 2025

Candidates nominated by petition — Due Dec. 30 by 5 p.m.

The cooperative shall hold a 2025 election of trustees to serve three-year terms on 4 Rivers Electric's Board of Trustees.

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 2025 election. 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.

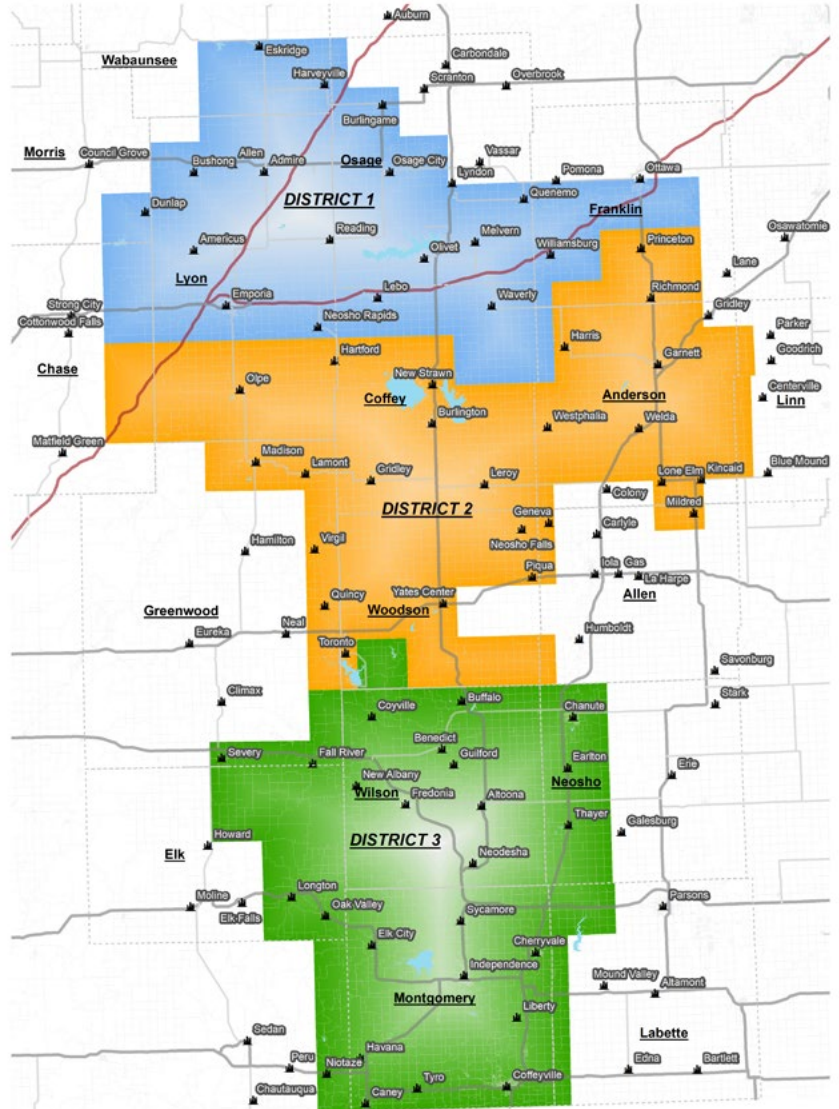
PETITION REQUIREMENTS

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., MONDAY, DEC. 30.**

For members interested in running for the board, candidate packets are available at 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, 2025.** The results will be announced at the Annual Meeting of Members to be held March 24 at the Burlington High School, 830 Cross St. in Burlington.

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, POSITION 7
DAVID KUNKEL, incumbent

DISTRICT 2, POSITION 8
STACY HEINS, incumbent

DISTRICT 3, POSITION 9
LOREN DICKENS, incumbent

Trustees Approve General Retirement of Capital Credits

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in case any issues arise. Candidates may also request a copy of the membership list for their district after signing a privacy affidavit; this list can help ensure only valid signatures are gathered on their petitions.

The process to appear on the election ballot is identical for both incumbents and challengers. Candidates must gather at least 20 valid signatures from unique members within the district they wish to represent.

To be eligible, a candidate must meet certain qualifications, which include being a member in good standing, a natural person (not a corporation), a resident within the district, and not working for or having immediate family employed by the cooperative. Additionally, candidates must not have been employed by the cooperative

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ON THE 4 RIVERS ELECTRIC 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

The trustees' 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.

within the past three years or have any conflicting business interests. Trustee qualifications and duties are outlined in our bylaws at www.4riverselectric.com.

If you have questions about running for the board, please contact me or any of the trustees.

Wishing you a safe and joyous holiday season. Merry Christmas!

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting of Members

Make plans to join us at the 5th Annual 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative Meeting of Members March 24, 2025, at Burlington High School, 830 Cross St. in Burlington.

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. For budget billing inquiries, call us at 620-364-2116.



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 — HARVEST WINDS**

by Karen (Scott) Colstrom, Osage City

▶ **2ND PLACE — SUNSET SILO**

Emily (Dustin) Brooks, Westphalia

▶ **3RD PLACE — RED BIRDS IN THE SNOW**

Jeanine (Ron) Cunningham, Independence



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.