

www.4riverselectric.com
620-364-2116

Lebo Headquarters
2731 Milo Terr.
Lebo, KS 66856

Fredonia Office
9346 Jewell Road
Fredonia, KS 66736

Emporia Office
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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Serving and Caring

Larry Felts
President

Stacy Heins
Vice-President

Warren Schmidt
Secretary

Loren Dickens
Treasurer

Tom Ayers
Trustee

Randall Bunnell
Trustee

Robert Converse
Trustee

Gene Huston
Trustee

David Kunkel
Trustee

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

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



4RiversElectricCooperativeInc

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Your Co-op, Your Voice: Board Nominations Open in December



Dennis Svanes

At 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, there's one thing that's never changed in 87 years — this is your cooperative. That means you, not some big outside company, decide who represents you on the board of trustees. And with election season right around the corner, it's time to dust off the campaign signs (or at least the pens for nomination petitions).

This year, each of our three districts has a board seat up for election.

In District 1, **ROBERT CONVERSE** is the incumbent. In District 2, **RANDALL BUNNEL** is the incumbent. And in District 3, we have an open seat because veteran trustee **TOM AYERS** is stepping down. We are grateful to Tom for his dedicated service to our cooperative over the years.

So, if you've ever thought, "I could do that," now's your chance. Petitions for nomination will be available Dec. 1 at our offices and on our website. Just remember, you must meet the eligibility requisites per our bylaws, including being a natural person (sorry, corporations — this isn't your rodeo), being a member in good standing, having primary residence on 4 Rivers

Continued on page 12C ►

Happy Thanksgiving

From our co-op family to yours

4 Rivers offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday, and reopen Monday, Dec. 1. As always, our on-call team is available 24/7 for outages and other emergencies. Payments can be made with SmartHub or by calling our interactive payment response at 620-364-2116.

SAVE WITH 4 RIVERS REBATES ON ENERGY-EFFICIENT SYSTEMS

Thinking about upgrading your home comfort systems? When you install a qualifying electric water heater or heat pump on 4 Rivers lines, you may be eligible for a rebate that helps offset your costs.

In partnership with our power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., 4 Rivers offers rebates on new electric water heaters, air-source heat pumps, and geothermal systems. These upgrades can help reduce your long-term energy use while keeping your home comfortable year-round.

To apply, visit www.4riverselectric.com to download a rebate form, or stop by any 4 Rivers office with your proof of purchase. Terms and conditions apply.

Simple Ways to Save Energy This Winter

As temperatures drop, heating becomes one of the largest household energy expenses. A few small changes can make a noticeable difference in comfort and cost this winter.

- ▶ Set your thermostat wisely. Lowering it just 1 degree can reduce heating costs by up to 3%. For optimal comfort and efficiency, aim for 68 F when home and lower when away or sleeping.
- ▶ Seal up drafts. Check around windows, doors and outlets for air leaks. Weatherstripping or caulk can make a big difference in keeping warm air inside.
- ▶ Use the sun's warmth. Open curtains on south-facing windows during the

day to let in natural heat and close them at night to reduce heat loss.

- ▶ Check your filters. Replace or clean furnace filters monthly to help your system run more efficiently.
 - ▶ Monitor your usage. SmartHub lets you track daily and hourly energy use, helping you spot unusual patterns before they lead to higher bills. Small steps add up — and a few minutes of attention now can help keep both your home and your energy budget comfortable all season long.
- 4 Rivers Electric is here to help you save. Visit www.4riverselectric.com to explore rebate opportunities for new energy-efficient heating systems and water heaters.

STAY CONNECTED: Keep Your Information Up to Date

As the seasons change, make sure we can reach you when it matters most. Having your current phone number, email address, and mailing information on file helps 4 Rivers Electric keep you informed about outages, billing notifications, and important cooperative updates. If you have recently changed your contact information — or are not sure what is on file — it's easy to check and update it.

- ▶ **LOG IN TO SMARTHUB:** Visit www.4riverselectric.com or open the SmartHub mobile app to review your account details and make quick updates anytime.
- ▶ **GIVE US A CALL OR STOP BY:** Our team is happy to help verify or update your information. Keeping your account details current ensures you stay connected — especially during winter weather, when timely communication is most important.



Protect Your Home Before Storms Strike

Safeguard appliances and electronics from lightning and surge damage with Lightning Shield.

- ▶ Whole-home surge protection.
- ▶ \$12/month billed with your electric service.
- ▶ Installed at meter base.
- ▶ \$25,000 warranty.

Call 620-364-2116 or visit www.4riverselectric.com to sign up.



Your Co-op, Your Voice: Board Nominations Open in December

Continued from page 12A ▶

lines, and not having ties to businesses that compete with or sell electricity-related supplies to the cooperative or its members. The complete list of qualifications can be found at www.4riverselectric.com and will be published in next month's *Kansas Country Living* centerspread. Of course, you can always call us, and we'll walk you through the details.

Serving as a trustee isn't just about showing up to meetings and nodding at reports. It is an important responsibility — the trustees represent you, set cooperative policies and keep a close eye on the co-op's direction and finances. To help them succeed, our board members go through extensive training with our national organization, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). In fact, your current board has racked up almost 2,200 hours of NRECA education. That's a lot of classroom coffee. Every trustee has earned the Director Gold Certificate, which is no small feat. It takes dedication, focus and a healthy appreciation for PowerPoint slides.

The electric industry is constantly evolving, but our mission stays the same: serving our members, keeping the lights on and planning for the future. If you've ever thought about stepping up to serve, this could be your moment. And if you

have questions, don't hesitate to reach out — I'd be glad to chat. Or, if you'd rather get the scoop straight from someone who is already in the trenches, any of our current trustees would be happy to visit with you, too. Full disclosure, I didn't run this by them before writing this, so you might want to keep that little detail between us!

And finally, I'd like to give a big shoutout to Senator Mike Argabright and Representatives Brad Barrett, Doug Blex, Fred Gardner and Mark Schreiber for joining 4 Rivers at our September board meeting. We didn't make them climb any poles or fix a transformer, but they did get a deep dive into our Key Ratio Trend and Analysis Report. This report shows how 4 Rivers stacks up against other electric cooperatives in the Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) family, across Kansas, and even nationwide. Mike Lewis, regional vice president at CFC, our cooperative lending partner supporting the co-op in financing construction and infrastructure projects, walked us through the numbers. It was a great opportunity to share how we're doing and where we're headed, and we appreciate their time and interest in our cooperative's future.

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 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.

CO-OP CLASSROOM

Understanding the Power Behind Your Power



Home Lighting 101

How to make your home brighter, cozier and more energy efficient

Lighting plays an important role in how a home looks and feels, but it also affects how much energy you use. Understanding a few key principles can help you select lighting that provides comfort, efficiency and long-term savings.

WATTS VS. LUMENS

When choosing bulbs, remember that watts measure energy use — not brightness. Brightness is measured in lumens, which indicate how much light a bulb emits.

For example, a standard 60-watt incandescent bulb produces about 800 lumens. Modern LED bulbs can deliver the same brightness using only 8 to 12 watts. If you haven't already replaced older incandescent bulbs, upgrading to LEDs is one of the easiest and most effective ways to reduce energy use and maintenance costs.

COLOR TEMPERATURE AND CONSISTENCY

Bulbs also differ in color temperature, measured in Kelvin (K). Lower values (2,700 K-3,000 K) create a warm, yellowish light suited for living areas, while higher values (4,000 K-5,000 K) produce cooler, whiter light ideal for kitchens, garages or workspaces.

For uniform lighting, install bulbs of the same color temperature and brand within a room. This maintains visual consistency and avoids mismatched tones.

DIMMERS AND SWITCH PLACEMENT

Installing dimmer switches allows for adjustable lighting levels, reduces energy use, and extends bulb life. Before purchasing, confirm that your bulbs are dimmable.

Also consider switch placement — especially in hallways or staircases — to improve convenience and safety. For any electrical upgrades, use a licensed electrician to ensure proper wiring and code compliance.

FIXTURES: BALANCING FORM AND FUNCTION

Light fixtures determine how effectively light is distributed.

Ambient lighting (such as ceiling fixtures or wall sconces) provides general illumination.

Task lighting (like pendants or desk lamps) focuses light where it's needed most.



For uniform lighting, install bulbs of the same color temperature and brand within a room.

When selecting fixtures, think about both style and purpose. A decorative chandelier might suit a dining area but may not provide sufficient light for an entire room.

SMART LIGHTING: CONTROL AND EFFICIENCY

Smart bulbs and switches add flexibility and energy savings. Many allow you to adjust brightness, set schedules, or control lighting remotely via smartphone or voice assistant. Some even include motion detection or color-changing options for added comfort and efficiency.

THE TAKEAWAY: Well-planned lighting can enhance comfort, appearance, and energy performance. A few smart upgrades today — especially replacing outdated bulbs and adding controls — can brighten your home while lowering your electric use for years to come.

“When choosing bulbs, remember that watts measure energy use—not brightness. Brightness is measured in lumens, which indicate how much light a bulb emits.”