

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

4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

CURRENTS

4 RIVERS

Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Board of Trustees

Michael Springer

President

Robert Harkrader

Vice President

Gene Huston

Secretary

Larry Felts

Treasurer

Tom Ayers

Trustee

Randall Bunnel

Trustee

Robert Converse

Trustee

Loren Dickens

Trustee

Nick Frankenbery

Trustee

Stacy Heins

Trustee

David Kunkel

Trustee

Warren Schmidt

Trustee

Sandy Smith

Trustee

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



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4RiversElectricCooperativeInc

FROM THE MANAGER

Candidate Packets Available

Nominations due Dec. 30



Dennis Svanes

Candidate packets for the 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees are now available for those interested in appearing on the ballot for the cooperative's 2023

election, our first election with the new consolidated board districts in place. As we begin downsizing the board of trustees from the original 14 trustees, each trustee will serve until their current three-year term concludes and their position is up for election.

The shifting district boundaries cause some trustees to share a common voting

district and election year, meaning they vie for the same trustee position should they choose to run for the board again. Eventually, there will be three trustees in each district for a total of nine trustees representing our consumer-members on the cooperative governing board. After the 2023 election concludes, the board size will be reduced to 11 trustees.

Each of our districts has a board position up for election in 2023; incumbents are:

- ▶ District 1 – **ROBERT CONVERSE**
- ▶ District 2 – **RANDY BUNNEL** and **ROBERT HARKRADER**
- ▶ District 3 – **TOM AYERS** and **SANDY SMITH**

Members, you can find your district

Continued on page 12D ▶

You Have a Voice at YOUR

CO-OP

Make plans to attend the
3rd Annual 4 Rivers Electric
Cooperative Meeting of the Members

ANDERSON BUILDING, 2700 US-50

LYON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, EMPORIA



JOIN US
MARCH 27, 2023

PHOTO ABOVE "AUTUMNAL EQUINOX SUNSET" WAS TAKEN BY MEMBER MICHAEL HOAG OF WAVERLY. THE PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS THE BEAUTY OF OUR COOPERATIVE TERRITORY.

Notice of Trustee Elections in 2023

Candidates to be nominated by petitions — due by Dec. 30

The cooperative shall hold a 2023 election of trustees to serve three-year terms on 4 Rivers Electric's governing board.

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 2023 election as we commence the first year of consolidated districts. 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

Trustee Board Positions Available for Nomination

District 1

▶ **ROBERT CONVERSE**, incumbent

District 2

▶ **RANDY BUNNEL**, incumbent

▶ **ROBERT HARKRADER**, incumbent

District 3

▶ **TOM AYERS**, incumbent

▶ **SANDY SMITH**, incumbent

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 4 P.M., FRIDAY, DEC. 30, 2022.**

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 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, 2023.

The results will be announced at the Annual Meeting of Members to be held March 27, 2023, at the Lyon County Fairgrounds Anderson Building, 2700 US-50, Emporia.

Qualifications Necessary to Serve as Trustee

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee of the cooperative who:

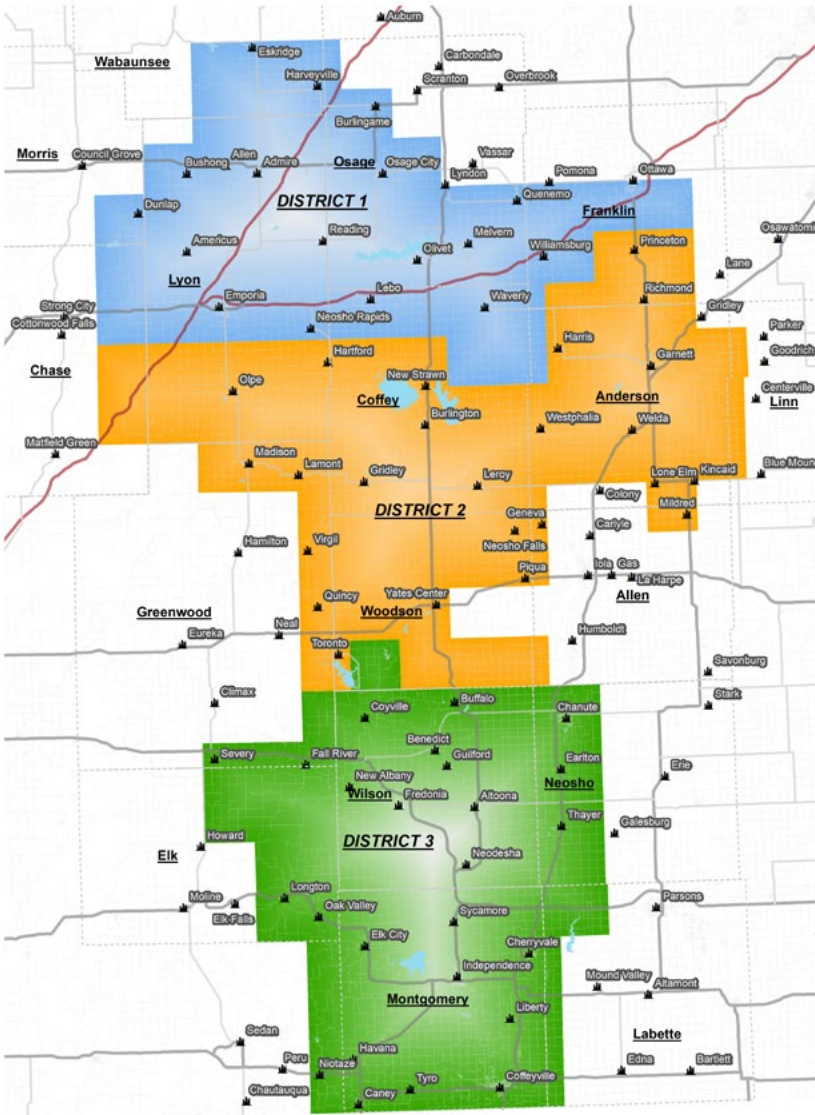
- ▶ **A.** Is not a member, or is a member who is not in good standing pursuant to the provisions for members as set forth in Article I of the bylaws;
- ▶ **B.** Is not an individual (natural person) who is a member;
- ▶ **C.** Is in any way employed or financially interested in a competing enterprise 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 interconnected 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 3-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.

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**.

Co-op Retires Nearly **\$734,000** in Capital Credits to Members

At the October board meeting, 4 Rivers trustees authorized the general retirement of **\$733,870 INCLUDING THE MEMBERSHIP YEARS OF 1992-1994**. 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 mailing address and phone number updated with us even after leaving our service territory.

Budget Billing Update

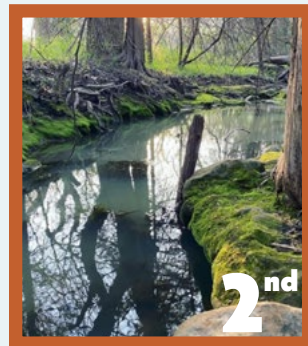
Members enrolled in budget billing will receive their updated budget amounts this month. The adjusted budget amounts were noted on the bills issued in November. If you are interested in signing up for budget billing, give one of our member service representatives a call at 620-364-2116.



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 – POWER POLE AT SUNSET**
by **BRENDAN COULTER** from Fall River.
- ▶ **2ND PLACE – MOSSY ROCKS**
by **HEAVEN (TYLER) SCHOONOVER** from Fredonia.
- ▶ **3RD PLACE – TREE IN SILO**
by **MARIA (BRYAN) WILSON** from Gridley.



Candidate Packets Available Continued from page 12A ▶

of membership near the top of your electric bill. If you have any questions about which district you are in, please call us at 620-364-2116.

A member who wishes to run for the board must be a qualified member as defined by the bylaws in article IV, section 3 (bylaws available on our website and in our offices). Basically, a member must be a person in good standing who has lived in the district for three years with their primary residence being served by 4 Rivers. The member cannot be in a business competitive to the cooperative, a direct family member of an employee or trustee, or have been an employee of the cooperative in the past three years. The petition requirements are that a minimum of twenty signatures are needed from members who live in the district. Eligible candidates may request a membership list for their district.

With all of that, what does it mean

to be on the cooperative's board of trustees? The trustees are fiduciaries fundamentally responsible "to prudently represent the interests of the members as a group in directing and overseeing the business and affairs of the cooperative within the law." A fiduciary is someone legally responsible for representing the interests of a group. In an electric cooperative, this means the board is responsible for guiding how the cooperative's assets are used to fulfill the cooperative's mission while protecting the interests of the cooperative and its members.

Trustees are also advocates and must represent the members' interests and concerns as they develop policies that guide the cooperative's operation.

The board is also the regulatory body of the cooperative, ensuring that 4 Rivers meets the standards required of a utility providing an essential public service. In general, these requirements are to

provide dependable electric service to all consumers within the cooperative territory with fair and non-discriminatory rates, terms and conditions.

These are challenging duties a trustee must perform on behalf of the members. To do the best for the membership, we provide diverse training through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), our national trade organization. These courses cover topics like risk management, ethics and governance, rate strategies, board roles and financial decision making.

If you are interested in serving the membership as a trustee of 4 Rivers, please go to our website and download the candidate packet with information on nomination by petition. I am available to discuss any questions or concerns on this or any other matter.

As 2022 draws to a close, I wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday season.