

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.

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Sandy Smith

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



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FROM THE MANAGER

Proposed Changes Bring Cooperative Tariffs Together

I have written many times about the Seven Cooperative Principles. The third co-op principle — Members' Economic Participation — means that members of 4 Rivers contribute equally to, and democratically control, the financial capital of the cooperative. As a not-for-profit organization, any excess margins are returned to the co-op consumer-members through the capital credits retirement process. These margins are allocated as capital credits each year after our audit concludes.

In December, many of you received a credit on your 4 Rivers bill for the retirement of the capital credits. The co-op's board of trustees authorized the retirement for "first-in, first-out" — retiring the oldest capital credits

first. **THIS YEAR, 4 RIVERS RETIRED NEARLY \$734,000 FOR THE MEMBERSHIP YEARS OF 1992-1994.**

Another board responsibility is making sure 4 Rivers' rates match the co-op's revenues to costs in an accurate and fair manner based on the costs to serve each rate class. The board of trustees had a cost-of-service study performed to gather information on the cost to serve each rate class based on load and service characteristics. The next step after a cost-of-service study is setting appropriate rates that assign cost responsibility to each class fairly and equitably.



Dennis Svanes

Continued on page 12B ▶

Official Notice of Rate Meeting

The Board of Trustees of 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc., will discuss and vote upon a rate change proposal at their upcoming board meeting. If approved, the proposed rates are effective April 1, 2023. This meeting is open to the membership and will be held Monday, Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the cooperative's Lebo office located at 2731 Milo Terrace, Lebo.

Members have the right under K.S.A. 66-104d(g) to request Kansas Corporation Commission review of any rate change. Any member with questions may contact the 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative office during business hours at 620-364-2116.

PHOTO ABOVE, "CO-OP SUNSET," WAS TAKEN BY MEMBER BRENDAN COULTER OF FALL RIVER. THE PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS THE BEAUTY OF OUR COOPERATIVE TERRITORY.

Proposed Changes Bring Co-op Tariffs Together Continued from page 12A ▶

At the Feb. 20 board meeting, the board will consider proposed changes to 4 Rivers' rate tariffs. If approved, the new rates would be effective April 1, 2023. This change will bring our membership together under a common set of tariffs, instead of calculating two sets of member bills based on the former Lyon-Coffey Electric and Radiant Electric rates.

Rates and tariffs are not exactly exciting topics, but very important to the health of the electric cooperative. The proposed rates are revenue neutral changes for non-commercial (residential) and general service large (large commercial). This means that the cooperative will collect approximately the same amount of money through the year from those rate classes without a revenue increase. In those rate classes, some members will pay more, some will pay less, and some will pay the same. Though the monthly customer charge will increase, the energy charge per kilowatt will decrease for many, though some will see a small increase.

At the Feb. 20 board meeting, the board will consider proposed changes to 4 Rivers' rate tariffs. If approved, the new rates would be effective April 1, 2023.

These changes will more accurately reflect the cooperative's cost to serve each rate class, as we align our rates to a single set of tariffs. The objective is, and will always be, to collect revenue fairly and equitably, so we can provide safe, reliable electricity to our members.

If you would like more information about the proposed tariffs, call us at 620-364-2116. You are welcome to attend the rate hearing on Feb. 20 at our Lebo office — located just south of the BETO junction interchange. You are a valued member-owner of the cooperative.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGES

Rate Class	Customer Charge	Energy Charge		Additional Charge
NON-COMMERCIAL SERVICE (NC)	\$45.00	First 1,000 kWh \$0.1241	Over 1,000 kWh \$0.1141	\$1.00/kVA of transformer capacity in excess of 15 kVA
GENERAL SERVICE SMALL (GSS)	\$55.00	\$0.1285		\$1.00/kVA of transformer capacity in excess of 15 kVA
GENERAL SERVICE LARGE (GSL) GSL Primary Voltage Discount: 3%	\$100.00	\$0.0844		Demand Charge: \$12.50/kW
OUTDOOR LIGHTING SERVICE (OLS)	Metered Light Monthly	Unmetered Light Monthly		Unmetered lights will be billed the monthly charge plus power cost adjustment applied to the following kWh usage/month.
< 100-Watt Standard LED	\$5.25	\$9.35		31 kWh
< 100-Watt Cobra LED		\$12.20		31 kWh
100 to 200-Watt Cobra LED		\$18.90		61 kWh
100-Watt High Pressure Sodium (closed)	\$4.30	\$8.95		35 kWh
150-Watt High Pressure Sodium (closed)	\$4.85			
250-Watt High Pressure Sodium (closed)		\$16.65		87 kWh
175-Watt Mercury Vapor (closed)	\$4.35	\$12.50		61 kWh
250-Watt Mercury Vapor (closed)	\$5.00			

WHOLESALE POWER COST ADJUSTMENT: The kilowatt-hour (kWh) charge for the above rates include an embedded wholesale power cost of 7.7373 cents (\$0.077373) per kWh used. These charges are increased or decreased per kWh based on the cooperative's total average wholesale power bill for the same billing period. The wholesale power cost adjustment (PCA) is assessed when the wholesale power cost exceeds or is less than 7.7373 cents (\$0.077373) per kWh.

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

Let Your Voice Be Heard

Vote in trustee elections by Feb. 20



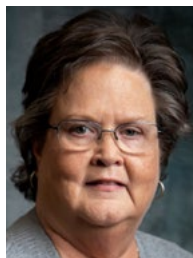
Tom Ayers



Randall Bunnell



Robert Converse



Sandra Smith

One member, one vote. Democratic Member Control is so important to cooperative function that it is one of the Seven Cooperative Principles. You can exercise your cooperative member influence by voting in the current election of trustees.

Ballots were mailed in January to members of all three cooperative districts. Ballots can be completed and returned in the enclosed envelopes, which must be postmarked or delivered to our Lebo office **NO LATER THAN FEB. 20**. We will announce the winners at our annual meeting March 27 in Emporia.

To appear on the ballot as a candidate, eligible members submitted a petition for nomination in December with signatures from at least 20 members in their district.

District 1 candidate **ROBERT CONVERSE** of Harveyville; and District 2 candidate **RANDALL BUNNEL** of Welda; are both incumbents and had no one else submit a petition for nomination in their districts. District 3 has two candidates, both incumbents, vying for the position — **TOM AYERS** of Altoona and **SANDRA SMITH** of Fredonia.

Take part in the election process of your cooperative board and vote!

Welcome to Our New Employee!



Adam Shaw

On Dec. 12, 2022, 4 Rivers welcomed **ADAM SHAW** as an apprentice lineman based in our Lebo office.

Shaw attended line school at Pratt Community College and lives near Emporia. Welcome to the 4 Rivers team, Adam!

Apply for 2023 Leadership Opportunities

4 Rivers Electric will send two high school juniors on an all-expenses-paid trip to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and two high school juniors to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour students will travel to Washington, D.C., June 15-22, 2023. Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp students will visit Steamboat Springs, Colorado, July 14-20, 2023.

Any high school junior living in 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative territory whose parent or guardian is a 4 Rivers member is eligible.

CONTEST APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.4RIVERSELECTRIC.COM AND ARE DUE FEB. 10, so sign-up today! Four winners and two alternates will be selected. Visit us online for more information or contact April Engstrom (ext 306) or Brian Sumner (ext 396) at 620-364-2116.

LIEAP Benefits — Do You Qualify?

Application period ends March 31

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded program that helps keep families safe and healthy by assisting eligible households with a portion of their home energy costs by providing a once per year benefit.

The 2023 LIEAP application period is open. Applications must be received online or in a Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) office **BY 5 P.M., MARCH 31, 2023**, to be considered for eligibility.

For more information about the application process or to request an application, call 800-432-0043 or visit www.dcf.ks.gov.

2023 Income Eligibility Guidelines

Persons Living at Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income	Persons Living at Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$1,699	7	\$5,239
2	\$2,289	8	\$5,829
3	\$2,879	9	\$6,419
4	\$3,469	10	\$7,009
5	\$4,059	11	\$7,599
6	\$4,649	12	\$8,189
+1	\$590 for each additional person		

LIEAP helps keep our members safe and healthy by assisting with home energy costs. Application deadline is March 31.

Be Prepared:

5 Tips to Make Your Home More Secure

These days, soaking in daily news can make the world feel like a scary place. We use home security systems, smart doorbells and smart locks; all help protect our homes. At the other end of the spectrum, our close-knit communities can feel safe, which can lead to complacency. Many of us can recall growing up in a home where the doors were never locked, and it felt like everybody knew everybody.

In either case, assessing your home's overall security (or lack thereof) is a good idea. Here are five safety tips to help make your home more secure:

1 ASSESS ENTRY POINTS. Take a tour of the outside of your home and think like a burglar. Consider which windows and doors would be easy to break or climb through. Then, look through the windows and see if expensive items are on display. Make sure each window and door can lock and draw curtains or close blinds when you are not home.

2 LOCK SECOND-FLOOR WINDOWS AND DOORS. "Second-story men" are burglars who prefer to break into a home on an upper story because they know that most homeowners do not tend to lock upstairs windows and doors (e.g., the door off a deck). Be sure to lock them before you leave. In addition, lock up any ladders you keep outside.

3 LOCK THE DOOR TO THE GARAGE. Although it is easy to lock when you are inside your house but a pain to unlock when returning home, always lock the door between your garage and your home. Many people do not lock this door when they are away since the garage door is shut. However, a garage door is relatively easy to open. Home invaders can simply pry it open or use a factory-setting opener.

4 UPDATE YOUR GARAGE CODE. Change your garage code at random intervals instead of on a predictable schedule, such as when the clock changes due to daylight saving time. (Moving the clock up or back an hour is a great time to check the batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms, however.)

5 DO NOT FORGET SLIDING DOORS. A bar inserted at the base of a sliding door is an inexpensive safeguard. This ensures that sliding glass windows cannot be opened or jimmied without breaking the glass. This will frustrate invaders and the sound of breaking glass can buy you time to call for help.

Taking the time to think like a burglar and checking your home's entry points can help keep you and your family safe.