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

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

FROM THE CEO

Consumer-Members Can Help Beat the Peak

Dennis Svanes

Summer is once again upon us. As your power provider, we closely monitor summer peaks, which directly affect the cost of your electricity.

Our peak season for electrical demand costs (peak capacity) runs from June 1 through Sept. 30. What can you, our consumer-members, do to help lower those peaks, which in turn will lower the power cost adjustment (PCA) on your bill? On those very hot days, reduce your electric consumption from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Turn things off prior to 3 p.m. and delay starting things until after 6 p.m. Dishwashers, washing machines and dryers are some easy household appliances to delay until after peak times have passed. Grain dryers, welders and electric motors are some common farm items that make a difference. Another way to help beat the peak on hot days is to turn up the thermostat on your air conditioner a couple degrees during those times (programmable thermostats make this easier). This also goes for anyone with an electric vehicle (EV), which should be charged during off-peak hours.

Here at 4 Rivers, we run peak generators during those summer peak days to help shave that peak demand. We also have tracking solar panels to generate at full capacity even during the late afternoon. Stationary/fixed solar panels do not capture the late afternoon sun as efficiently.

Summer brings higher usage because of air conditioning. If you want a more levelized power bill throughout the year, please contact us about whether budget billing is right for you. Switching to budget billing alleviates the peaks and valleys of usage costs throughout the year.

On a completely different topic, 4 Rivers is a not-for-profit organization. Our margins are allocated back to you, the consumer-members, as capital credits. We retire those capital credits as we are able. For those who have had loved ones pass away who were members of the cooperative, please contact us to see if those capital credits are eligible for retirement.

Please stay safe this summer and let us know if you have any questions for us.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control electronic devices, such as lighting, home office equipment and video game consoles, through a smart phone app. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy and money! **SOURCE: ENERGYSTAR.GOV**

Cooperative Board Districts Restructuring for 2023

As provided in the articles of consolidation and 4 Rivers bylaws, the voting districts of the pre-consolidated cooperatives Lyon-Coffey Electric and Radiant Electric were to remain in place for three years following their consolidation to 4 Rivers Electric in 2020.

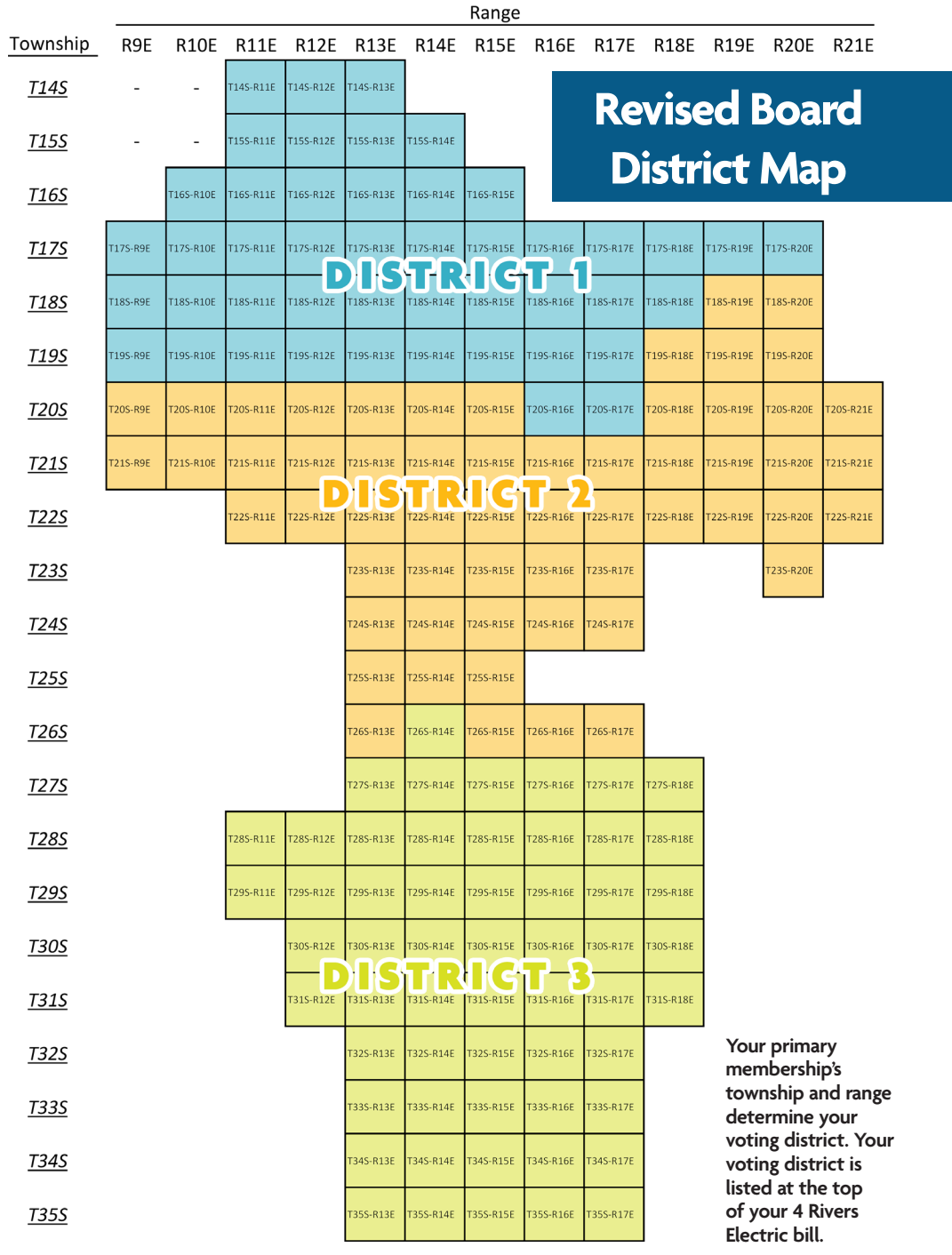
For the 2023 election and moving forward, the cooperative is to be divided into districts established by the board, who will review the districts annually for inequities (10% larger or smaller) in representation.

In June 2021, the board of trustees chose to pare the six districts down to three districts to be governed by nine trustees instead of the current 13. 4 Rivers Board Policy 113 issued March 21, 2022, established those three districts as:

- **DISTRICT 1** – Shall in include Townships 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 south, from Range 9 east of the sixth primary membership (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.**

The 13 current trustees will continue serving on the board until their current three-year term concludes and their position is up for election. The shifting boundaries cause some trustees to share a common voting district and election year, meaning they would vie for the same trustee position should they choose to run again for the board.

Beginning in June, members can find their new voting district number listed near the top of the front page of their electric bill. If you have any questions about which district you are in, please call us at 620-364-2116.



Your primary membership's township and range determine your voting district. Your voting district is listed at the top of your 4 Rivers Electric bill.

Audiss & Tindle Awarded Lineworker Scholarships

This year, brought a new opportunity for future lineworkers in our area, as 4 Rivers funded two $5,000 scholarships for electrical lineworker school. The 2022 lineworker scholarships have been awarded to **BLAKE AUDISS** and **KELLEN TINDLE.**

Audiss graduated from Yates Center High School in May and plans to attend the Electric Power and Distribution program at Manhattan Area Technical College. Audiss' goal of becoming a journeyman lineman comes with the recognition that there are "challenges and advantages that come along with the electric utility industry," and he looks forward to being on this career path.

Tindle graduated from Fredonia Jr./Sr. High School in May and plans to attend the Electrical Lineman Training program offered at Coffeyville Community College by Pratt Community College. Kellen wants to become a lineman, because he enjoys being outdoors and working hard to solve and fix problems.

"Most importantly, I want to be able to help people in my community," says Tindle.

Scholarship applicants were scored on grade point average and essay. An applicant review committee comprised of 4 Rivers consumer-members rated the essays, marked anonymously as "applicant 1, applicant 2, etc." Those scores were compiled with GPA scores, and the two highest scorers determined the scholarship recipients.

We are excited to be offering this opportunity for future lineworkers and to help cultivate this trade in our area. You never know — one of our recipients could be the person restoring your power after a summer storm someday!

Blake Audiss

Kellen Tindle

Safety Tips for Before, During and After the Storm

Storm season is in full swing. Summer storms have the potential to produce tornadoes — they can happen anytime, anywhere, and bring winds over 200 miles per hour.

In April, a video of NBC Washington chief meteorologist Doug Kammerer went viral. During a live broadcast, Kammerer called his teenage son to warn him of a tornado that was headed straight for their home. Knowing the kids were likely playing video games and not paying attention to the weather, he told them to head straight to the basement. Kammerer debated if he should call his family on-air, but he knew it was the right thing to do. Luckily, the kids made it safely through the storm.

As adults, we understand the importance of storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That's why it's so important to talk to your family and have a storm plan in place. Here are a several tips you can share with your loved ones.

Before the Storm

- Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Discuss the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Remember: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors.
- Make a storm kit. It doesn't have to be elaborate — having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items like water, non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a first-aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

During the Storm

- Pay attention to local weather alerts — either on the TV, your smartphone or weather radio — and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible, and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area, and it's time to act.
- If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows.
- If you're driving during a severe storm or tornado, do not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

After the Storm

- If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and texts to let others know you are safe or for emergencies only.
- Stay off the roads if trees, power lines or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.
- Wear appropriate gear if you're cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.

Summer is a time for many fun-filled activities, but the season can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones about storm safety so that everyone is prepared and knows exactly what to do when a storm strikes.

If You Feel a Shock, Swim Away From the Dock

"If you feel a shock, swim away from the dock," is a good thing to remember when swimming. Knowing what to do if water becomes electrified can help swimmers avoid an invisible hazard called electric shock drowning (ESD).

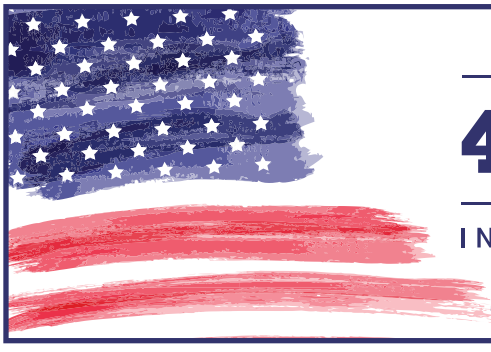
Outdated wiring and a lack of proper safety equipment on boats and docks can cause situations where electricity seeps or leaks into the water. It is a particularly dangerous hazard because it is impossible to tell by looking if water is energized. According to the Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association, between 10 and 15 milliamps, which is just 1/50 the wattage of a 60-watt lightbulb, can cause drowning. The association also reports that most ESD deaths have occurred in public and private marinas and docks.

Safe Electricity recommends that individuals do not swim around docks with electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power. If you are in the water and feel electric current, shout to let others know, try to stay upright, tuck your legs up to make yourself smaller, and swim away from anything that could be energized. Do not swim to boat or dock ladders to get out.

If you see someone who you suspect is getting shocked, do not immediately jump in to save them. Throw them a float, turn off the shore power connection or unplug shore power cords. Try to eliminate the source of electricity as quickly as possible, then call 911 for help.

Safe Electricity, along with the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers/National Electrical Contractors Association, recommends adhering to these steps to enhance water-recreation safety and accident prevention:

- All electrical installations and maintenance should be performed by a professional electrical contractor familiar with marine codes and standards and inspected at least once a year.
- Docks should have GFCI breakers on the circuits feeding electricity to the dock.
- The metal frame of docks should be bonded to connect all metal parts to the alternating current (AC) safety ground at the power source.
- Neighboring docks can also present a shock hazard. Make your neighbors aware of the need for safety inspections and maintenance. Marinas should comply with NFPA and NEC codes.
- Have your boat's electrical system checked at least once a year. Boats should also be checked when something is added to or removed from their systems.
- Boats with AC systems should have isolation transformers or equipment leakage circuit interrupter (ELCI) protection, comply with ABYC standards and be serviced by an ABYC Certified® Technician.



HAPPY

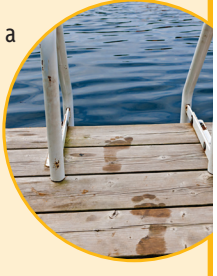
4TH OF JULY

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Our office will be closed on Monday, July 4, for the holiday.

What is Electric Shock Drowning? Know the signs of this hidden danger.

Electric shock drowning (ESD) happens when electrical current seeps into water from a nearby electrical source such as a yacht, boat or dock. It can also happen in a pool, hot tub or water park if there are any electrical issues.



To Prevent and Recognize ESD:

- Do not swim around docks with electrical service or boats that are plugged into a power source.
- If you are swimming and feel tingling or shocks, swim away from the dock or other electrical source.
  - Try to stay upright and tuck your legs up.
  - Alert others to cut the power source.
- Do not jump in to save someone you suspect is exposed to electricity in the water.

Instead:

- Eliminate the source of power.
- Throw a float.
- Call 911.
- After the power is shut off, pull the person in with the float rope. If you cannot find a pulse, start CPR.

Prevention and Maintenance

BOATS | Ensure circuits have GFCIs and check them often.
DOCKS | Have the electrical system inspected regularly by a licensed contractor.

Learning about the danger of ESD can help keep you and others safe in the water.