



the **COOPERATOR**

JUNE 2024 | For the members of Kay Electric Cooperative
A supplement to Oklahoma Living

ANNUAL MEETING

PAGE 4

2024





OUR MISSION

Founded in 1937, Kay Electric Cooperative remains focused on our primary mission: to provide safe, affordable and reliable power for our member-owners. Today, our service territory includes 2,263 miles of line and more than 5,900 meters located in Kay, Grant, Noble, Osage and Garfield counties.

CONTACT US

Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
580-363-1260 | 800-535-1079
300 W. Doolin Ave. |
Blackwell, OK 74631
www.kayelectric.coop

REPORT AN OUTAGE

Call 800-535-1079 or report via SmartHub at www.kayelectric.coop or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 - Jake Olsen
District 2 - Chad Otto
District 3 - Secretary/Treasurer Ron Shoffner
District 4 - President Max Hohmann
District 5 - Mike Lebeda
District 6 - Brady Hostetler
District 7 - Bart Cardwell
District 8 - Dr. Tim Blanton
District 9 - Vice President Verl Brorsen
General Manager/CEO - Jason Boesch

EASY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

- Pay online using SmartHub at www.kayelectric.coop or download the SmartHub app.
- Pay by phone: 800-535-1079.
- Pay in person at Kay Electric or use our 24-hour payment drop box at 300 W. Doolin Ave. in Blackwell.
- Pay via automatic draft of your bank account or credit card. Sign up at www.kayelectric.coop.

EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

A legacy of service

by Desiree Masterson-Whitehead

After 25 years of employment at Kay Electric Cooperative, JD Soulek has retired as the chief operating officer.

JD has filled many roles since he was hired in 1999. JD began his career as an accountant for the cooperative and was promoted to the director of accounting in 2009. In 2014, he was promoted to officer manager/director of administrative services and four years later, in 2018, he was again promoted to chief operating officer where he has served Kay Electric ever since.

When asked about his proudest moments at Kay Electric JD said, "Any time I could work with our board and senior management for the betterment of our membership, those are where my best and proudest moments came from."

JD said he will miss his Kay Electric family and the membership greatly in retirement. "For 25 years I've had the privilege of working alongside my fellow employees and helping friendly neighbors stay in the rural areas." JD said. "I'll miss my fellow employees and the interaction with our members the most of all."

"Very few employees have been as dedicated or had as large an impact to Kay Electric as JD. He gave maximum time and effort to the cooperative where he's worked for 25 years," CEO Jason Boesch said. "Ultimate dedication to that degree has become a far less common commodity in today's workforce. JD's work ethic and knowledge of the cooperative and community is nearly irreplaceable. We all wish him the best in retirement."




JD said he looks forward to spending time with his wife, family and their six grandchildren in retirement. JD plans to spend time traveling as well as continuing to give back to his community.

JD has served on the Pioneer Tech Center Board of Education for 24 years and plans to continue serving into retirement. He also plans on continuing to volunteer his time within the Rural Water Board District 7 and volunteering within Kay County in other ways.

"I've enjoyed the avenues that have opened from working at Kay Electric which has allowed me to be involved in Kay County and plan to continue that well into retirement." JD said. "Again, helping people all over our community has always been important to me."

When asked if JD has any advice for the next generation entering the workforce, he said, "First, find your purpose and second, match that purpose with a career. That's what made going to work so easy for me," said JD. "I wanted to help people be able to stay out in the county. I found my purpose in working for Kay Electric."


JD will be missed at Kay Electric. We have all learned a great deal from his work ethic, knowledge, and unwavering dedication to Kay Electric. Thank you, JD, for all your hard work and years of service to Kay Electric. We hope you enjoy your well-deserved retirement! 

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS



Above: Kay Electric's line crew, from left: Linemen Tyler Barrows, Jason Lenon, Matt Miller, Chris Barker, Kris Perkins, Cody Johnson, Chris Young, Chris Spencer, Terry Grace, Jacob Barr and Ryan Kersey. Not pictured: Director of Operations Heath Lambert and linemen Jim Rigdon, Matt McConnell and Brady Burtner.

We appreciate our linemen!

In April, Kay Electric celebrated Lineworker Appreciation Day, an occasion to honor the hard work and dedication of our linemen, and lineworkers across the nation. "Our Kay Electric linemen can always be counted on for getting the job done professionally. Regardless of weather condition or time of night, they show up and get the power back on," CEO Jason Boesch says. "We couldn't do this without them." 



K-UP grant winners

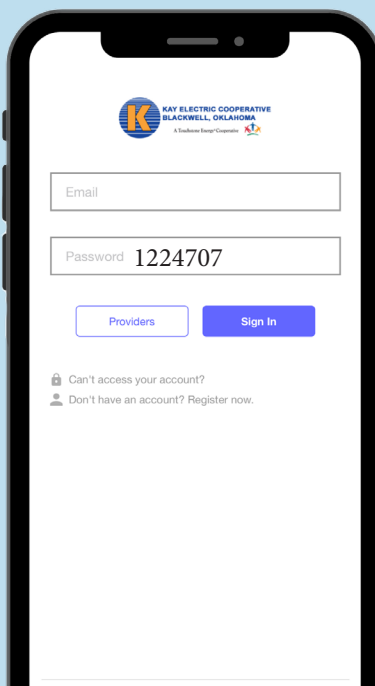
The K-UP Board met in April and awarded two grants for \$2,500 each. Congratulations to the recipients: the Top of Oklahoma Historical Museum and the Wheatheart Nutrition Project.

The next K-UP grant deadline is July 1. Visit www.kayelectric.coop/k for guidelines and a grant application.



Peak Hours

Peak energy hours may be called between June 20 and September 9, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Be sure to check our Facebook page and our website for when our power supplier calls a peak day. It's important that members limit electricity use on those days as it helps keep our rates down.



Get smart about
SAVING
with SmartHub.

Monitor your usage, see
use history and more!





Kay Electric's 2024 Annual Meeting took place on April 12 via drive-thru registration at the co-op's headquarters in Blackwell. Photos by Joel Garza and Laura Araujo



Willie Wiredhand greets annual meeting-goers with a smile and a dance.

Connecting more members

Annual meeting 2024 sets 50-year record attendance record

In 2024, more members came out for Kay Electric's annual meeting than any time in the past five decades. For the third year, annual meeting took the form of a drive-thru event at the co-op's headquarters in Blackwell. More than 1,000 members registered during this year's meeting on April 12.

Willie Wiredhand, the cooperative mascot, helped welcome members—along with Kay Electric's staff, the co-op's nine board directors and the volunteer minutemen and minutewomen. Members, many with furry companions, had the chance to experience the co-op via a drive through KEC's grounds.

First stop, a hospitality station with water and snacks. Next, members had the chance to see behind-the-scenes with a drive through the co-op yard, where they received a car coaster.

Registration took place at the final stop. Each member voted and received a cash registration gift. A total of 1,088 members attended, which was the biggest turnout since 1973 and surpassed last year's registration of 898.

To close out the evening, members were invited to watch Kay Electric's business meeting, streamed on Facebook live. Board president Max Hohmann presided over the meeting. Near the end of the virtual meeting, Minuteman and woman, Doug and Radena Eisenhauer, drew winners for 34 prize drawings and four grand prizes.

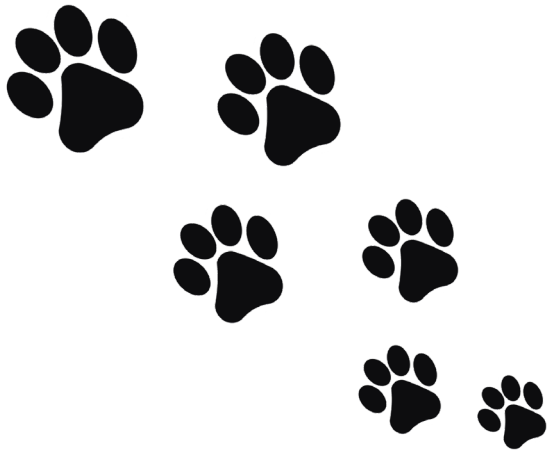
Thanks to the members, volunteers and employees who helped make KEC's 2024 annual meeting a success! 

ANNUAL MEETING





More than 1,000 Kay Electric members registered during the 2024 drive-thru annual meeting on April 12. Pictured are some of the members, board directors, volunteers and employees who participated. Also in attendance was the electric cooperative mascot, Willie Wiredhand.





The drive-thru route included a stop with snacks for members—and their furry companions.





Alissa Emery



Minutewoman/man Radena
& Doug Eisenhauer



Joel Dyer

CONGRATULATIONS, GRAND PRIZE WINNERS!

John Deere mower: Joel Dyer; **Stihl weed eater:** Andrew Marshall;
John Deere power washer: Porsha Paschal; **John Deere gator:** Alissa Emery

GOOD COOKIN'

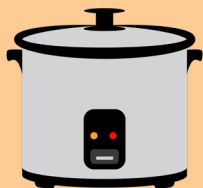
Crockpot Honey BBQ Chicken

Ingredients

- 2 pounds boneless skinless chicken breasts, trimmed of fat
- ½ yellow onion, finely chopped
- 2 cups honey barbecue sauce
- ¼ cup honey
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- ½ tablespoon olive oil

Instructions

Place the chicken breasts and chopped onions into the bottom of a slow cooker. In a medium bowl, whisk together the barbecue sauce, honey, Worcestershire sauce and olive oil. Pour over the chicken. Cover and cook for 6 hours on low or 3 hours on high. When there are 30 minutes left of cooking time, uncover and shred the chicken in the slow cooker, using 2 forks. Mix, cover and continue cooking for 30 minutes. Serve warm on buns with your favorite toppings.



Slow cooking uses less energy than a conventional electric range or oven *and* helps keep the kitchen cool during the hot months of summer.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs. Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energy.gov

\$25 is hiding in this issue!

If you spot your account number hidden in these pages, please contact Kay Electric to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill. If no account numbers are claimed, the prize money will carry over to the next month for a maximum bill credit of \$50. Call 800-535-1079 or email contact@kayelectric.coop to claim your prize.

FOLLOW US!



for community highlights, contests, outage restoration updates and more

Pay your bill, report outages, view your usage, all via SmartHub. Access SmartHub through www.kayelectric.coop or download the smart-phone or tablet app.

