



the **COOPERATOR**

JANUARY 2023 | For the members of Kay Electric Cooperative
A supplement to Oklahoma Living



**APPLY BY
JANUARY 13!**



Scan for
application
form

Student essay contest now open!

Eighth-graders and high school juniors apply by Jan. 13

Each summer, several local students have the opportunity to participate in life-changing experiences, sponsored by Kay Electric.

Kay Electric is giving two high school juniors the opportunity to win an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., as part of the NRECA Youth Tour; two trips to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, for Leadership Camp; and four cash prizes.

Applicants must write a 500-600 word essay on a question related to electric vehicles. (See the application for details.)


KEC is also sponsoring six local

eighth-graders to attend Youth Power Energy Camp in Hinton, Oklahoma, May 30-June 2. Students will experience the exciting world of rural electricity, watch safety demonstrations, climb a pole, enjoy outdoor summer fun and make new friends! Applicants must write a 300-word essay on an EV-related topic. (See the application for details.)

Essays will be judged by an independent panel on command of subject, strength of ideas, style and grammar. Junior students who submit the top eight essays will attend an interview on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, followed by a celebra-

tion banquet. KEC will notify the top six eighth-graders and reward them with a trip to Energy Camp.

All applicants must attend a school within Kay Electric's service territory, but do not have to be KEC members. Home-schooled students are eligible to apply.

The deadline for both contests is Friday, January 13, 2023, at 5 p.m. Visit www.kayelectric.coop/essay-contest for an application form. Contact Cyndi Mitchell at 800-535-1079 or email cmitchell@kayelectric.coop with any questions. 



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 2,400 miles of line and more than 5,800 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. | PO Box 607
Blackwell, OK 74631
www.kayelectric.coop

REPORT AN OUTAGE

Call 800-535-1079 or use Kay Electric's SmartHub at www.kayelectric.coop or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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EASY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

- Pay online using SmartHub at www.kayelectric.coop or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.
- Pay over the phone: 800-535-1079.
- Pay in person at Kay Electric or use our 24-hour payment drop box located at 300 W. Doolin Ave. in Blackwell.
- Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account or major credit card. Sign up for auto-pay online at www.kayelectric.coop.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Cybersecurity preparedness

By Jason Boesch, CEO


As your electric provider, part of offering excellent service is keeping that service secure and reliable. Security means regularly inspecting and repairing equipment to prevent wear and tear. It means upgrading our equipment to withstand storms and severe weather. And it means working together with co-ops across the country to pool resources, share knowledge and develop technology that can help us protect against cybersecurity threats. We can't stop a storm or predict every possible disruption, but as a co-op we do everything in our power to keep the lights on and our members protected.

As we see technology advancing, so does the risk of a cyberattack. Most of the electric grid today relies on computers. Bad actors from across the globe are daily making attempts to hack networks everywhere. Any successful attack could be very harmful in terms of time, money, safety and security. That is why we stay continually on alert to strengthen our network against growing threats. Working with other co-ops in our industry helps to develop a multi-layered system that equips us to detect, prevent and respond swiftly to potential cyberattacks. For example, our cybersecurity firm protects other electric cooperatives in Oklahoma, sharing best practices, and shares the latest issues all of us might need to manage. So, if that moment were to come, we'd be ready.

Kay Electric focuses on our firewalls, software, equipment, training and keeping your account information secure with the lights on. Our cybersecurity vendor provides support to us in the



things we do. They also focus on the latest, most concerning threats worldwide, and lock down any issues that may come our way.

As a Key Electric member, one thing you can do is keep an eye out for scams, notify us if you see something or an odd actor, and keep your passwords strong and protected with anything that touches the Kay Electric network such as SmartHub. Cybersecurity is a big job, but one we can handle better all working together! 

Protect your account


We are proactive about cybersecurity, and we encourage our members to safeguard themselves as well. Here are a few ways to help keep your data safe:

- ✓ Use long passwords with a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, plus numbers and special characters.
- ✓ Use different passwords for each account, and change your password frequently.
- ✓ Consider using a password manager. 8004
- ✓ Don't click on links in emails from unknown senders.
- ✓ Report suspected scams to Kay Electric immediately.

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS



Pole inspections in progress!

KEC will be inspecting poles in the Kaw City area, north to the state line, and east of Kaw City, until late February 2023. If you see this pickup or UTV in these areas, please know we are just inspecting poles. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the KEC office at 800-535-1079. 




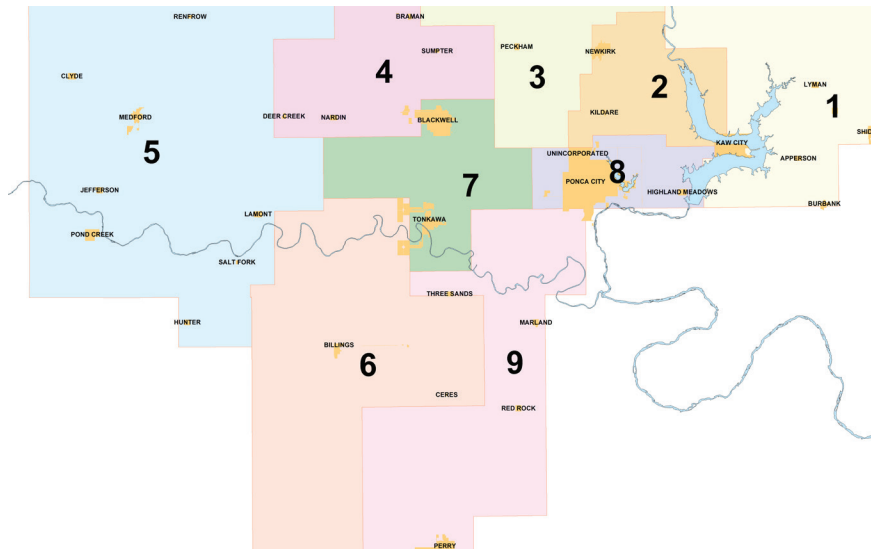
Have you visited our new website?

www.kayelectric.coop



Brorsen earns Director Gold credential

Verl Brorsen (above left), vice president of the Kay Electric Cooperative board of directors, earned his Director Gold credential. Board President Max Hohmann (above right) presents his certificate. The Director Gold credential recognizes a board director's ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability. Congratulations, Verl! 



Save the date for 2023 District Meetings

Attention members in Districts, 1, 2 and 3: Please save the date for your District Meeting in February. See the map above to identify your board district.

District 1 Meeting - February 20, 2023

District 2 Meeting - February 21, 2023

District 3 Meeting - February 23, 2023

More information will follow in the February edition of the Cooperator newsletter.

GOOD COOKIN'



Crockpot BBQ Pulled Chicken

Serves 8

Ingredients:

- 3 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 1 ½ teaspoons chili powder
- 1 ½ teaspoons smoked paprika
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper, optional
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- ¼ cup grated onion
- 1 ½ cups BBQ sauce
- 2 tablespoons steak sauce, such as A1

Instructions:

Place chicken in 5-7 quart slow cooker. In a small bowl, whisk together chili powder, paprika, garlic powder, cayenne pepper, salt and pepper. Pour spice mixture over chicken and add grated onion. Toss well to evenly coat chicken with spices. Pour ¾ cup BBQ sauce over the chicken. Cover and cook on low for 4-6 hours, until chicken shreds easily and registers 165°F in the center. Transfer chicken to a cutting board, reserve liquid from the slow cooker. Skim fat from the liquid and discard the fat. Shred chicken with two forks. Return chicken to slow cooker. Heat remaining ¾ cup BBQ sauce with steak sauce in a microwave safe bowl in the microwave until warm. Pour ¾ cup of the reserved liquid and the BBQ sauce mixture over the chicken, then toss to evenly coat. Serve on a bun.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



NATHAN MAYER

ACCOUNTANT

Nathan Mayer serves as Kay Electric's accountant, a position he has held for seven months. He enjoys working with all of the co-op's departments through this role. Nathan was raised in the Blackwell area. He says he is grateful for the work ethic he learned, growing up on the Mayer family farm. Nathan attended OSU and has been an accountant for 11 years. He has a son, Layne, and a daughter, Peyton. In his spare time, Nathan enjoys open water diving and serving in his church, Immanuel Baptist. Thank you, Nathan, for your service!



CERTIFIED OPEN
WATER DIVER



VOLUNTEERS AT
HIS CHURCH



DREAM VACATION:
SWITZERLAND

Images: courtesy flaticon

\$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

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