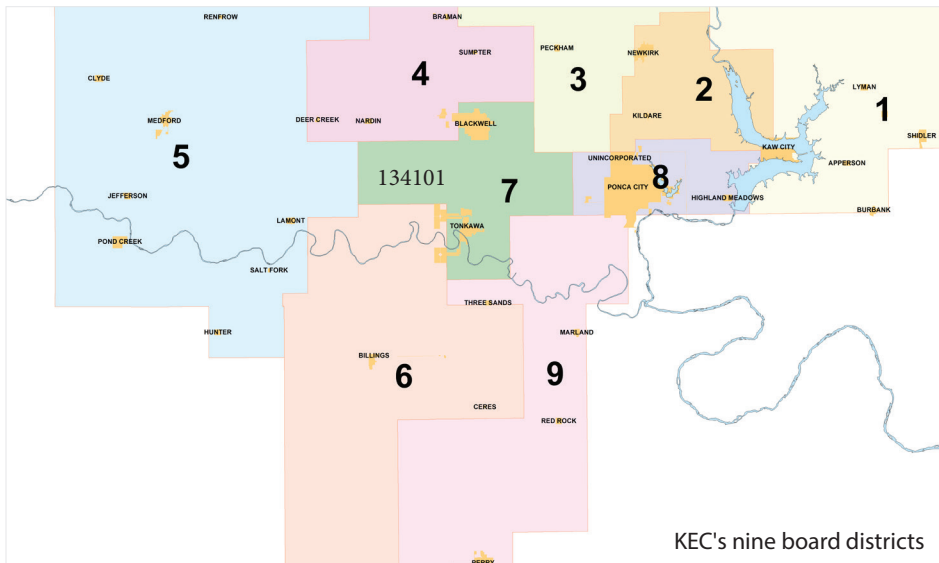




the COOPERATOR

JANUARY 2022 | For the members of Kay Electric Cooperative
A supplement to Oklahoma Living



KEC's nine board districts

February is District Meeting Month


Districts 7, 8 and 9 to hold meetings in 2022

If you live in Kay Electric District 7, 8, or 9, it's almost time for your district meeting. Kay Electric holds a meeting for each district every three years to allow members an opportunity to nominate candidates for the Kay Electric Cooperative board of trustees.

The following individuals currently represent these districts: Kent McAninch, District 7; Dr. Tim Blanton, District 8; and Verl Brorsen, District 9. McAninch will not be running for re-election.

District meetings are scheduled on the dates shown to the right. If you live in one of these districts, you will receive an official meeting notice in the mail.

District meetings offer members the opportunity to visit with Kay Electric trustees and staff in a relaxed setting where questions are always welcome. Members who attend also come away with a better understanding of Kay Electric's priorities for the coming year, and learn about the issues that could affect their electric cooperative.

If you're interested in running for trustee, please call us at 800-535-1079 to learn about the procedures for nominations and elections. They are also listed in the Kay Electric bylaws, Section 4.02. 

Save the date!

KEC 2022 District Meetings

District 7

Monday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m.
NOC Renfro Center
Tonkawa, OK

District 8

Tuesday, February 8 at 6:30 p.m.
Carolyn Renfro Event Center
445 Fairview Ave.
Ponca City, OK

District 9

Thursday, February 10 at 6:30 p.m.
Noble County Fair Grounds
Women's Building
Perry, OK



Co-op Principle #2

Democratic Member Control

District meetings are one of the prime ways KEC's consumer-owners are able to actively participate in setting policies and making decisions for the cooperative—*your* cooperative!



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

Max Hohmann, President | Dist. 4
Verl Brorsen, Vice President | Dist. 9
Ron Shoffner, Secretary/Treasurer | Dist. 3
Jake Olsen | Dist. 1
Chad Otto | Dist. 2
Mike Lebeda | Dist. 5
Brady Hostetler | Dist. 6
Kent McAninch | Dist. 7
Dr. Tim Blanton | Dist. 8

Jason Boesch | General Manager/CEO

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.




From left: KEC Director of Operations Heath Lambert poses with Matt McConnell and Payden Day as they celebrate their newly achieved journeyman lineman status during the OAEC Lineman Graduation on December 2, 2021.

Apprentices no more

Kay Electric linemen achieve journeyman status

For a lineworker, journeyman lineman status is a career milestone that signifies competence in leading the installation, maintenance, and repair of electric power systems. This year, two Kay Electric linemen, Matt McConnell and Payden Day, graduated from Northwest Lineman College and achieved journeyman status.

McConnell explains that achieving journeyman lineman is a four-year process that requires reading 10 books each year, taking tests on each one, and accumulating a total of 8,000 professional hours as an apprentice lineman. Congratulations on your achievements! 




Left: Codie Perry, receives an Above and Beyond Award at the OAEC Banquet on December 2, 2021. Not pictured, Terry Grace

Life-saving Linemen

KEC employees receive award for going beyond the call of duty

Terry Grace and Codie Perry are the recipients of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives' 2020 Above and Beyond Award. OAEC recognized Grace, Perry and two other Oklahoma linemen with this award during a ceremony on Thursday, December 2, 2021.

Grace and Perry received the recognition for assisting an elderly man after a severe car wreck in February 2020. Thanks to Grace and Perry's quick actions, the man survived. Pictured above is Codie Perry at the OAEC awards ceremony. Not pictured: Terry Grace. 

Congratulations!

To Kay Electric's communications team



Each year, the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives sponsors a communications contest for cooperatives across the state. This year, Kay Electric Cooperative took home two awards:

- ✓ Award of Excellence for Best Annual Report
- ✓ Honorable Mention for Best Photo

We strive to offer quality communications that are valuable to our membership and welcome your feedback any time.

2329700

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

HEY STUDENTS!

If you're an eighth-grader or a high school junior, you still have time to apply for Kay Electric's 2022 essay contest. You could win a scholarship, cash prize or technology. To apply, visit Kay Electric's website: www.kayelectric.coop and click on the "Essay Contest" tab.

APPLY BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 14



SCAN HERE
TO APPLY!

Last winter's Polar Vortex to have minimal impact for KEC's residential consumers


The 2021 February Storm Uri (Polar Vortex) event created unprecedented utility costs in the 14-state Southwest Power Pool region. Kay Electric's power provider Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) will begin assessing those increased costs with January 2022 billings. Those costs will be spread across the next five years so as to minimize the impact and prevent any regular monthly bill from being unreasonably excessive.

Kay Electric's portion of increased fuel cost from that event is roughly \$6 million. Utilities in the 14-state region, including Municipalities and Investor Owned Utilities such as OG&E, had mostly the same experience. However, unlike Investor Owned Utilities, where select shareholder profit is a driving factor, Kay Electric is committed to the

needs and welfare of all our members. All of you are consumer-owners at Kay Electric. Therefore Kay Electric intends to shoulder 50% of the increased cost in 2022 out of our margins. We predict the remaining 50% of increased cost will increase residential bills by 1.73%. This means a regular monthly bill of \$100 would be \$101.73.

You will see the increased cost on your bill in the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) line versus the Energy Charge line. Energy Charge reflects the amount of kWh used multiplied by rate. The PCA reflects the increases or decreases in the cooperative's cost of purchased power from our provider WFEC. The fluctuation is largely determined by changes in the cost of fuel or other materials used in the generation of energy. The PCA is also tied directly to the

number of kWh consumed during a billing period by the member.

Kay Electric will promptly share any changes to this situation should they arise and we will continue to process payment arrangements as needed. As a member-owned cooperative, Kay Electric is committed to cooperatively working our way through this event together with you. That's just how cooperatives work. 

"Kay Electric is committed to the needs and welfare of all our members...Therefore Kay Electric intends to shoulder 50% of the increased cost in 2022 out of our margins."

GOOD COOKIN'

Texas Cowboy Stew



Ingredients

- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 pounds ground beef
- 2 packages kielbasa sliced into ½ inch pieces
- 2, 14.5-ounce cans diced tomatoes, drained
- 2 14.5-ounce cans diced tomatoes with green chilies, undrained
- 2, 15-ounce cans pinto or black beans, undrained
- 15-ounce can whole kernel corn, drained
- 4 medium baking potatoes, peeled and diced
- 10-ounce package frozen mixed vegetables
- 4 cups water
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- Salt and pepper to taste

In a Dutch oven over medium heat, sauté onion and garlic over medium-low heat. Add ground beef, increase the heat and cook until there's no pink left. Add sliced sausage, tomatoes, beans, corn, potatoes and vegetables. Mix everything until well combined; add spices. Add water, bring to a boil and simmer for 1 hour.

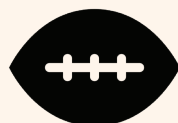


EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

MIGUEL MIRELES

TREE CREW FOREMAN

Miguel Mireles serves as tree crew foreman, at Kay Electric, a position he has held for 11 years. Miguel says he values safety and is thankful when everyone is able to go home to their family at the end of the day. He adds that he is sincerely thankful for his job at Kay Electric. Miguel was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, and currently resides in Blackwell with his family: sons Miguel Jr. and Diego and daughters Gaby and Elizabeth. He says his kids inspire him as he watches them grow and become more independent each day. In his spare time, Miguel enjoys playing music, especially the guitar. Thank you, Miguel, for your service to Kay Electric!



SOONERS
FAN



DREAM VACATION:
JERUSALEM



PLAYS FOUR
INSTRUMENTS

\$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.

