



the **COOPERATOR**

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

ANNUAL MEETING --- 2022





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
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Brady Hostetler | Dist. 6
Bart Cardwell | 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.

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You're invited to the
**Dearing House Child
Advocacy Center's 8th
Annual Fry-Day Fundraiser**

Friday, June 17
Standing Bear Park
South 4th St., Ponca City

**Teams compete for your
vote so come out and vote
for Team KEC!**

Proceeds provide essential services to child abuse victims.



Peak Alert!

Peak energy hours occur daily, June 2 to 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. 9602



Linemen Appreciation

By Jason Boesch, CEO

This spring we recognized an official day for lineman appreciation. However, one day just isn't enough for what this special group at Kay Electric does to keep the power on. They are dedicated to the job all 365 days a year—rain or shine—in all five counties of Kay Electric's territory. There's a reason being a line worker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the country. Maintaining high voltage equipment requires specialized knowledge, skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness.

Kay Electric employs 13 linemen who maintain the power lines. Their daily work might include line maintenance, repairing broken poles, installing new service or appointments with members. Each and every day is also unpredictable, as their scheduled maintenance can be interrupted at any moment by a member outage

call which always takes precedence. When a member is in the dark, our linemen jump into action. Kay Electric linemen who are on call take it very seriously, as they know electric power is a necessity of life for our members, with time of the essence.

The lineman course of progression is demanding. An apprentice spends four years studying, testing and 8,000 hours of on-the-job training before they are eligible to be a journeyman lineman. And the work goes beyond poles and wires; our linemen are information experts with tablets and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Linemen adhere to a strict set of safety standards due to the inherent dangerous nature of the job. However, there is also a significant element of judgment and common sense they must bring to resolve

problems every day. Many times, they must think outside the box to overcome obstacles and safely restore power. No two outages are identical when factoring in variables of different weather conditions, land and terrain, equipment on hand and needed, and time of day. Linemen have a special grit and something special inside to push through long days working in inclement weather of snow, ice, wind and rain.

Below is a snapshot of the Kay Electric lineman. When you see these gentlemen out in the community, I hope you'll respect their efforts as much as we do. Keeping the power on isn't easy, but they usually make it look that way. Their commitment and dedication are for 365 days a year, so let's be sure our appreciation is for 365 days as well. 🇺🇸



THANK YOU, LINEMEN!

Kay Electric's line crew, from left to right: Operations Manager Heath Lambert; Linemen Kris Perkins, Jason Lenon, Kris Spencer, Chris Young, Terry Grace, Tyler Barrows, Chris Barker, Mark Miller, Jim Rigdon, Matt McConnell, Cody Johnson, Brady Burtner and Jacob Barr.



Annual meeting is back!

Kay Electric holds first-ever drive-thru annual meeting

Annual meeting looked different this year. After having to cancel the event for the past two years, we tried a different format—a drive-thru meeting. On Friday, April 8, Blackwell police were stationed outside the co-op to help direct traffic into the KEC parking lot.

Staff and volunteers greeted Kay Electric members with the same friendly smiles you've come to expect from us over the years. Members who attended had the chance to drive through the co-op grounds.

The first stop on the drive-thru route—the snack table! Next, members (and furry companions) had the chance to see behind-the-scenes at Kay Electric with a drive through the co-op yard.

The final stop was where drive-thru voting took place. Each voting member received a \$20 registration gift. A total of 824 members attended, which is nearly double the registration of our recent annual meetings!

To close out the evening, members were invited to watch KEC's business meeting, streamed on Facebook live. Board president Max Hohmann presided over the meeting. More than 800 people watched.

At the end of the virtual meeting, Kay Electric drew winners for more than 30 prizes and three grand prizes (see Page 6 for grand prize winners).

Thanks to everyone who came out and helped make our 2022 annual meeting a success! 🙌

In the photos

Left: Minutewoman Kayla Hohmann assists with annual meeting voting.

Right: Minuteman Leon Chrz and Minutewoman Liz Chrz greet annual meeting attendees.

Below (from top left):

KEC employee Brett Lenon gives out snacks to members.

KEC employees Cody Johnson and Chris Prince greet members.

KEC employee Justin Epperly interacts with members.

KEC COO J.D. Soulek and CEO Jason Boesch greet members.

Members enjoy annual meeting.

Minutewoman Kayla Hohmann and KEC employee Matt McConnell assist with voting.





Grand Prize Winners

Congratulations to our 2022 annual meeting grand prize winners: second-place winners, Tyson and Tyler Morton (left), and grand-prize winner, Cindy Sebor (right).



What did **you** think?

Below are a few comments shared on Facebook about Annual Meeting 2022. If you have additional feedback, please contact Cyndi Mitchell at 800-535-1079 or cmitchell@kayelectric.coop.

"Loved seeing the entire 'yard' and in the building. Very neat, clean and organized!"
- Susan Rhea, Newkirk

"Was very impressed with how smooth all went!!"
- Marsha Stewart,
Ponca City

"Very organized and enjoyed seeing all the facility. Well done!!"
- Connie Morton,
Newkirk

K-UP WINNERS



K-UP board member Sue Streller (left) presents a grant check to United Community Action Outreach Worker Lou Ann Hunt (right) to help fill the food pantry at Operation Blessing.

A blessing in Noble County

K-UP Foundation awards grant to Operation Blessing

It's safe to say that Operation Blessing, based in Perry, is a blessing to the community. The organization provides necessities—food, clothing, housewares, furniture, linens, baby items, and more—to individuals and families in Noble County.

Lou Ann Hunt serves as United Community Action Outreach Worker for Noble County. In a typical month, Hunt says they serve approximately 90 families with one of their services, including assistance with rent, utilities and medical bills. At the holidays, they also provide all the ingredients for a home-cooked meal.

"People are welcome to come in and get what they need, when they need it," Hunt says. "It's a very special place."

Although Operation Blessing has designated shopping days—which they print in

the Perry newspaper—Hunt says they will never turn down a person in need.

She says the organization runs with the help of dedicated volunteers and community groups who donate hundreds of hours each month to prepare for shoppers.

Funding for Operation Blessing comes exclusively from private donations and grants, like the K-UP Foundation Grant. She says they've seen an increase in need in recent months.

"As food prices go up, people on a fixed income are really struggling," Hunt says.

The \$1,500 K-UP Grant will help to restock their food pantry.

To donate, volunteer or learn more, contact Hunt at 580-336-3313. 

The K-UP Foundation was created in 2015 and provides support to rural fire departments, civic organizations, community programs, youth groups, senior citizen centers, and local charities that often operate on a limited budget.

Kay Electric members make these grants possible. Members can choose to have their monthly bill rounded up to the nearest dollar; these funds are then dispersed to the Foundation.

Second Quarter Grant Winners

Marland's Place

\$2,159.10 for playground equipment for the children

Perry Operation Blessing

\$1,500 to stock food pantry

Kildare Fire Department

\$2,500 for new equipment

Third quarter applications are due July 5, 2022. Download a grant application and guidelines at www.kayelectric.coop/content/foundation. Contact Cyndi Mitchell at 580-363-1260 with questions.

GOOD COOKIN'

Strawberry Pretzel Dessert



Ingredients:

- 2 cups crushed pretzels
- ¾ cup butter, melted
- 3 tablespoons sugar

For the filling:

- 2 cups whipped topping
- 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup sugar

For the topping:

- 2, 3-ounce packages strawberry gelatin
- 2 cups boiling water
- 2, 16-ounce packages frozen, sweetened sliced strawberries, thawed

Instructions:

In a bowl, combine the pretzels, butter and sugar. Press into an ungreased 9-by13-inch baking dish. Bake at 350°F for 10 minutes. Cool on wire rack. For filling, in a small bowl, beat whipped topping, cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Spread over pretzel crust. Refrigerate until chilled. For topping, dissolve gelatin in boiling water in a large bowl. Stir in sweetened strawberries; chill until partially set. Carefully spoon over filling. Chill until firm, 4-6 hours. Cut into squares; if desired, serve with additional whipped topping and pretzels.

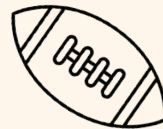


EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

KRIS PERKINS

LINEMAN

Kris Perkins started at Kay Electric in 2006. He worked on the tree crew for the first two years; for the past 14 he has worked as a lineman. He says he enjoys working with the younger linemen and teaching them job skills and safety practices. Kris lives in Blackwell with his wife, Lindsey; they have four children: Brayden, 21 (currently serving in the U.S. Air Force); Skylee, 19; Malarie, 16; and Taiven, 13. In his spare time, Kris enjoys playing golf, smoking meat and spending time with family and friends. He says his proudest accomplishment is being a husband and father. His parents and grandparents have been an inspiration in his life, "My parents taught me to work hard and be dedicated, and my grandparents taught me to love one another no matter how hard times get, and forever." Thank you for your service to Kay Electric, Kris!



FAVORITE TEAM:
OU SOONERS



LOVES TO
COOK



LOVES TO
LAUGH

\$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.

