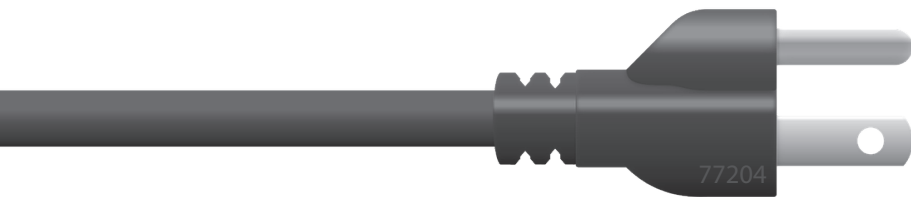




the COOPERATOR

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



Plugged into safety

Kay Electric makes safety a priority in May—and every month

At Kay Electric Cooperative, we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, our members, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.


According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

To us at KEC, safety is more than a catchphrase. That's why, every three years, we go through a Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program evaluation. RESAP is a national safety program in partnership with our statewide and cooperative safety

leaders. It gives us the framework for continuous improvement of our safety performance and culture. In 2021, we passed with flying colors.

You'll also see us hosting safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year, to demonstrate the dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution students on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

Contact KEC for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or upcoming community event. 

Plug into safety at home

Replace frayed cords. Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

Avoid overloading circuits. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle—by having too many devices running on one circuit.

Label circuit breakers. This enables easy shut-off should an emergency arise.

Use extension cords properly. Reduce potential fire hazards: never plug an extension cord into another extension cord; don't exceed the wattage of the cord; avoid using extension cords as permanent solutions.

Play safe. Make sure kids are aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.



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.

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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.

ELECTION RESULTS



Members elect trustees for Districts 7, 8 and 9

Congratulations to KEC's newest trustee, Bart Cardwell (above, left). Cardwell won the District 7 run-off election on April 8. Members in Districts 8 and 9 also re-elected incumbent trustees, Dr. Tim Blanton (center) and Verl Brorsen (right), respectively, during district meetings in February. Thank you trustees for your service to KEC! 



Kay Electric celebrates Lineworker Appreciation

At Kay Electric, we recognize that it takes the entire team—from member services and admin staff to dispatchers and engineers—to keep the power flowing to our members. However, once a year, during National Lineworker Appreciation Month, we set aside a day to recognize the efforts of our lineworkers and tree crew members. If you happen to see one of these hard-working employees, please join us in thanking them for their service!



WINNING ESSAYS

Local students recognized for stand-out essays

Congratulations our 2022 student essay contest winners!

This year's junior competition brought in 50 essays. First place went to Audra Boyer, Garber High School; second place went to homeschooled Emily Newland from Medford. Both students received a \$2,500 scholarship. Third place went to Heidi Hembree, Tonkawa High School; fourth place went to Annalaura Vogt, Blackwell High School. These students received a \$2,000 scholarship. Katherine Blubaugh,

Medford; Conner Sneath, Frontier; Zachary Hancock, Medford; and April Cody, Medford, received cash prizes.

Fifty-eight students entered the eighth-grade contest. The top six essay writers, winning a Chromebook, were Kennan Sharp and Alivia Frickenschmidt, Garber Middle School; Makenzie Moore and Addyson Harmon, Tonkawa Middle School; Maycie Brandt, Newkirk Middle School; and Adylyn Hammons, Medford Middle School. 🏆

Pictured (left photo, from left) are junior essay contest winners are Emily Newland, Conner Sneath, Annalaura Vogt, Audra Boyer, Heidi Hembree, Zachary Hancock, April Cody and Katherine Blubaugh. Eighth-grade essay contest winners are (right photo, from left) Kennan Sharp, Makenzie Moore, Addyson Harmon, Maycie Brandt, Alivia Frickenschmidt and Adylyn Hammons.



Board trustee retires after decades of service

On April 1, KEC celebrated District 7 trustee Kent McAninch. McAninch retired after serving on the Kay Electric board for 36 years. Pictured above is McAninch with wife, Judy. Pictured (top right) is KEC CEO Jason Boesch and McAninch. Pictured (bottom right) is McAninch with board president Max Hohmann. Thank you Kent for everything you have done for Kay Electric and our members over the years! 🏆

TRUSTEE RETIREMENT



GOOD COOKIN'

Instant Pot Hot Apple Pie Oatmeal

- 1 cup steel cut oats
- 1 ½ cups milk
- 1 ½ cups water
- ¼ cup dried fruit (raisins, Craisins, etc.)
- 3 apples peeled, cored and diced
- 1 ½ teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger

Add all ingredients to an Instant Pot and stir.
Cook on manual, high pressure, for 4 minutes.
Let the Instant Pot naturally release when done.



The next K-UP grant application deadline is July 4, 2022. Download a grant application and see guidelines at www.kayelectric.coop/content/foundation.

Contact KEC's Cyndi Mitchell at 580-363-1260 with questions.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

DOUG WORLEY

DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

Doug Worley has worked as an engineer in the electric cooperative industry for more than 35 years. He spent the first 8 ½ years of his career at Alfalfa Electric, before starting at Kay Electric in 1994. Doug grew up watching his dad model hard work for him. He also learned to serve others at a young age by helping his grandpa mow lawns for widows in their neighborhood. However, he says his faith in Jesus has been the most important influence in his life. Over the years, Doug has been part of improving the KEC's infrastructure to create a more reliable and efficient system. "I am thankful for getting to work at an electric cooperative and helping to provide this service to our members," he says. Doug and his wife, Nancy, live in Blackwell. They have three adult sons and three grandkids. In his spare time, Doug enjoys a variety of outdoor activities: hiking, biking, hunting, fishing—and of course time with grandkids. Thank you, Doug, for your service!



DREAM VACATION SPOTS:
ALASKA, IRELAND, ISRAEL



ENJOYS TIME OUTDOORS
AND WITH GRANDKIDS

\$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.

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