

The CIRCUIT

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



*** Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 75 Years

February 2016

Scammers Target Co-ops

Over the past few months, some Kansas electric co-ops have received calls from members reporting scams. Although we have not heard of any Ark Valley members being targeted, you should be aware of the potential threat.

The scam calls seem to follow a similar script: a member receives a call or an email from someone claiming to be from their utility and demands immediate payment of a "past due" account, threatening disconnection if not paid immediately.

The scammers often ask the member for a credit card number or instruct the member to purchase a specific type of prepaid card and send the number to the caller. Often times, the caller ID or email address appears to be from the Co-op making it seem legitimate.

Ark Valley will never contact you by personal phone call or email demanding a payment to avoid disconnection. Hopefully our members will never receive a call from a scammer, but please be aware of the warning signs to keep from falling victim to the scam.

Happy Valentine's Day

From
everyone at
Ark Valley!



Drawing Winner

STEVEN W YUST is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

Steven, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by February 29, 2016 & give us the account number from your electric bill.

Rebate Modifications

Ark Valley Electric offers rebates for the purchase and installation of electric water heaters, air source heat pumps, and ground source heat pumps. From time-to-time, Ark Valley adjusts the rebate efficiency qualifications in order to complement changes in efficiency standards established by the federal government or by Energy Star.

Effective April 16, 2015, the U.S. Department of Energy issued a new rule which increased the efficiency ratings for all types of water heaters; electric, natural gas, and propane. The efficiency rating for electric water heaters has been set at such an efficient level that Ark Valley will no longer require a minimum efficiency, or EF rating, to qualify for a rebate.

Therefore, all electric water heaters installed after April 16, 2016 shall not be required to have a minimum EF rating in order to be eligible for a rebate. There is, however, a 40 gallon minimum size requirement. The rebate amount shall remain the same, which is \$150 for a lifetime warranty electric water heater and \$100 for a non-lifetime warranty electric water heater. On-demand (tankless) water heaters will continue to not be eligible for a rebate.

In addition, effective September 15, 2015, Energy Star increased the efficiency standard (SEER) for air source heat pumps. Energy Star is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. To reflect the change in efficiency standards, effective April 16, 2016, Ark Valley will require air source heat pumps to be Energy Star certified and have a minimum SEER of 14.5 in order to receive a rebate in the amount of \$100 per ton. Air source heat pumps with a SEER of 16 will receive a rebate in the amount of \$150 per ton, and air source heat pumps with a SEER of 17 or greater will receive a rebate in the amount of \$200 per ton.

If you have any questions about the changes, please give us a call at 620-662-6661 or visit our website at www.arkvalley.com.

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of January on January 18, 2016.

The new calendar year means a new annual budget for the Ark Valley. The Board spent considerable time reviewing and adopting the 2016 Annual Budget for the Cooperative. The Annual Budget is a planning document used to project Ark Valley's monthly revenues and expenses. The anticipated operating revenue is projected to be approximately \$14.5 million, and the anticipated total cost for electrical service is projected to be nearly \$14 million. The Board and management regularly examine costs to determine if the Cooperative is running efficiently. If cost overruns occur in one area of the Cooperative's budget, or if revenues decline unexpectedly, spending is adjusted accordingly so the Cooperative remains on stable financial footing.

The Nominating Committee met and selected four candidates to run for two trustee positions at the April Annual Meeting. Those selected include Joe Seiwert, Budd Fountain, Craig Bennett, and Diane Wendell. Seiwert and Fountain currently serve on the Board of Trustees and are running for re-election.

Continued on page 2...



Ark Valley Electric Cooperative
10 East 10th Avenue, South Hutchinson, KS 67505

(620) 662-6661
www.arkvalley.com

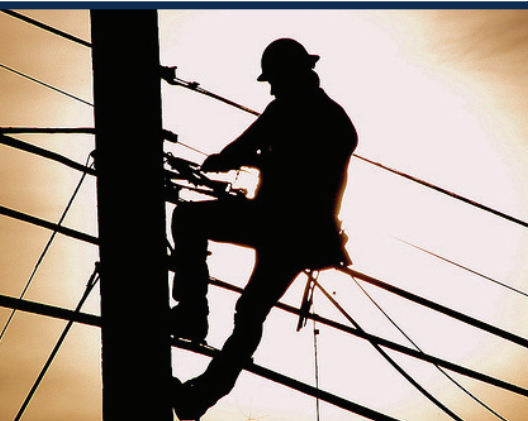
Unclaimed December 2015 Capital Credit Checks

Below is a partial list of members whose capital credit checks were returned due to improper addresses. If you are able to get in touch with these individuals or their family members, please have them call Ark Valley's office at 888-297-9212.

Adams, Chris	Cain, Dorothy	Easter, Julie M	Hall, Leo
Adamson, Neva Belle	Caldwell, Joseph K	Eidemiller, Charles B	Hamilton, Morene
AG Flight Inc	Carris, Elmer	Ellis, Micky L	Hampel, Tom
Ailey, Ray	Carson, Roger	Embarq	Harold, Jenny
Alger, Debbie	Cart, Nealene S	Emmerich, Kris	Harry Gray Oil Operations
Allen, Mildred M	Carter, Christine	Emmert, Carol	Hart, Jeremy
American Golf Corp	Castillo, Alex	Eott Energy	Heartland Wireless Comm
Arnold, Tricia	Coburn, R	Equilon Pipeline Co LLC	Heintz, Wayne
B Y Operating Inc	Cochran, Claude	Flickinger, Randy	Heinz, Loretta A
Bailey, Dustin	Cole, Dustin	Ford, Johnny	Henning, Rebecca
Baker, Mark	Concrete Products, Inc	Foster, Elaine F	Hephner, James F
Banning, Darrin	Coopriider, Donna	Freeman, Kim	Hiebert, James
Becker, Rosa M	Courtney, Robert	Frischenmeyer, Bryan	Hoffman, Cynthia
Beebe, Larry	Cox, Glenda	Frost, Richard	Holzer, Ed
Behrendt, Paul	Craig, Fred	Fry, Floyd	Holzhtuter, Ray
Bell, Lora	Crandall, Clair	Furlong, Caleigh	Hoover John Café
Belt, Farrell E	Crane, Joe	Galyon, Stacy	Horne, Delmar
Bemis, Steven R	Crisler, Roy	Geesling, Alvena	Hougham, Tim Sr.
Benson, J S	Cusenbary, Dan	Gellerman, Jerry	Humphreys, Walter
Bergsten, Barry	D'Amico, Phil	Gilliland, Jan	Hurt, Linda
Black, Steve	Daniels, Trisha	Goering, Renee Ketchum	Hutcherson, Robert L
Blackhall, Jane	Danner, Jeremy	Goertzen, Lyle	Hutchinson, Dorothy
Bliss, Berneal	Daughty, Timothy	Golay, Mike W	Impact KS Operating
Bluestem Hunting Preserve	Davis, Jacquelyn	Gold Cup Cattle Co	Irsik, Larry
Blumer, Darrel	Dawson, Rita	Goodstar Broadcasting	Jackson, Brenda
Bolton, Bill	Dean, Troy	Goodwin, Larry	Jacobs, Gary
Bookout, Daryle	Deming, Sheri	Gramkow, David	Jahelka, Michel
Bradley, Norma	Deppenbusch, Mike	Griffith, Joyce	Janzen, Matt
Brown, Harold G	Dick, Steven L	Grosse, Edith	Johnson, Julia
Bruno, Patricia L	Dierks, Phil C	Grunden, D K	Jones, Christine
Burdette, Dennis	Doman, Douglas	Hageman, Greg	Jones, Joseph C
Butler, Jason	Drake, Richard L	Halbert, Merlene	Kaenel, Jack

Meeting Highlights continued...

The Kansas Electric Cooperatives held its annual conference in Topeka between January 23th and January 26th. Ark Valley staff and Board members attended portions of the event to participate in training seminars instructed by the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association. Strategic planning issues were among the topics discussed.



Want to Become a Lineman?

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative is offering its members a \$1,000.00 SCHOLARSHIP to any graduating senior, high school graduate, or recipient of an equivalent degree (GED, etc.) that plans to enroll in a Kansas line school.

(Must be a member or have parents that are members of Ark Valley Electric to qualify.)

If interested, call (620)-662-6661 or pick up an application from your School Counselor.

Applications must be returned to Ark Valley Electric by March 15, 2016.

The Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.