

# The CIRCUIT



\*\*\* Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 75 Years

January 2016

## November Ice Storm

During the recent ice storm that started November 28th, Ark Valley experienced several outages attributed to the weather which covered a large area over our system. During the initial damage we had all Ark Valley crews working to restore power. We also called in additional support from Butler Rural Electric to help with the downed poles. Power was restored in short order to most of the members, but we still had issues when the ice started to shed off of the lines. This included several power provider outages on Westar's transmission line that caused wide spread outages that were quickly resolved. In total, Ark Valley's damages consisted of 7 primary poles and 6 meter poles along with several cross arms. The majority of the damage and outages were due to members' trees loaded with ice. We would like to take this opportunity to remind members to please keep your trees trimmed back from lines to minimize these issues.

## Drawing Winner

**SCOTT POTUCEK** is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

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

## Happy New Year!



Ark Valley Electric would like to wish everyone a joyous and prosperous new year!

# 2016



## Colt Sutton Announced as Winner of Trip/Scholarship Contest

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative would like to congratulate Colt Sutton, winner of the 2016 Youth Tour Trip & Scholarship Contest.

Colt will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to use in attending the college of his choice and a trip to Steamboat Springs, CO. Colt is the son of Ryan and Angela Sutton of Inman. If you would like to hear the winning essay, Colt will be presenting his essay to the membership during the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Members.



Colt Sutton

This coming July, Colt will have the opportunity to join up with nearly 100 winners during the Annual Electric Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp held in Steamboat Springs. This trip is part of a four-state Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp sponsored by rural electric cooperatives in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming. Contest winners will learn about electrification, cooperatives, energy challenges, safety, and interpersonal communications.



Drew Krehbiel

Krehbiel of Kingman.

Ark Valley sponsors a trip for one student each year during the scholarship contest. For more information, call 620-662-6661.

Ark Valley would like to thank all of the applicants for their time and efforts put into the 2016 Youth Competition.



Sarah Bergkamp

The second place winner of the competition was Sarah Bergkamp, daughter of Tim and Mary Jo Bergkamp of Pretty Prairie. Sarah will receive a \$500 scholarship to use in attending the college of her choice.

The other finalist, who should also be commended and was encouraged to compete again next year, was Drew Krehbiel. Drew is the son of Corey and Leslie

## Save The Date For Annual Meeting

### April 19, 2016

- Vote for Board Members
- Learn about your Cooperative
- Enjoy a night out with your neighbors
- Win prizes donated by Vendors

April 2016						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



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

(620) 662-6661  
www.arkvalley.com

# Nominations Committee

The By-Laws of your Cooperative provide that the Board of Trustees shall appoint a Committee on Nominations.

In keeping with this provision, the Board has appointed the following members to the 2016 Committee:

**Doug Bigler**  
22401 Avery Road  
Langdon, KS 67583

**Brian Webster**  
212 E. Greenfield Road  
Hutchinson, KS 67501

**Bret Dunn**  
19904 W. Red Rock Road  
Abbyville, KS 67510

**Mike Bruch**  
19201 West Maple Grove Road  
Kingman, KS 67068

**Waldo Froese**  
1222 Buckskin Road  
Inman, KS 67546

**Randy Goering**  
22806 S. Mohawk Road  
Pretty Prairie, KS 67570

**Rodney Hurst**  
1319 N. Jordan Springs Road  
Plevna, KS 67568

Budd Fountain and Joe Seiwert will be up for re-election as of the date of the next Annual Meeting of Members on April 19, 2016. The Committee on Nominations met on Tuesday, December 29, 2016, for the purpose of making nominations for Trustees to fill these vacancies. The Committee will post a list of such nominations in the office of your Cooperative. Additional information concerning each candidate will be published in the Annual Report, which each member will receive prior to the Annual Meeting.

Other nominations may be made by a signed petition of 15 or more members, not less than 15 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Such nominations shall also be posted in the Cooperative Office. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Trustees consists of seven members. The present board members are: Steve Schweizer, Plevna: President; Keith McNickle, Stafford: Vice-President; Dan Schnurr, Sterling: Secretary; Joseph Seiwert, Pretty Prairie: Treasurer; Budd Fountain, Langdon; Larry Froese, Inman; and Judy Kinsler, Kingman.

An Annual Meeting of Members shall be held each year in Hutchinson, Kansas, usually between March 15th and April 15th, unless the Board of Trustees shall designate by resolution some other city, place, date, and/or time.

The Board resolved to host the next Annual Meeting of Members on April 19, 2016, at the North Sunflower Building on the State Fair Grounds in Hutchinson, Kansas.

## Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of December on December 28, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Property taxes for Ark Valley were set to increase 14.5% system-wide. This increase would have cost the Cooperative an extra \$100,000. The Board made a decision earlier in the year to appeal the property tax assessment, and the decision paid off. A settlement was reached between the Cooperative and the Property Valuation Division that lowered the increased assessment by 7%, which will reduce Ark Valley's property tax bill by approximately \$51,500.

The Board made preparations for the Annual Meeting. A combination door prize, consisting of a stainless steel ice cream scoop and a pair of industrial scissors, was selected to be handed out at the meeting. Additionally, members of the 2016 Nominating Committee were appointed. The committee will meet twice before the Annual Meeting to nominate individuals willing to run for the two positions of trustee up for election.

The 2015 CPA Audit was presented to the Board by the CPA firm of Dreyer and Kelso, P.C., PA. The audit consisted of an unmodified audit opinion that found the Cooperative to be following all generally accepted accounting principles and to be financially sound.



## 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](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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).