

# The CIRCUIT



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

January 2017



## 2017

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

## Drawing Winner

**L J ALDRICH** is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

L J, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by January 31, 2017 & give us the account number from your electric bill.

## 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 2017 Committee:

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

**Doug Barr**  
15105 W. 56th  
Nickerson, KS 67561

**David Hayes**  
2850 NW 10 St.  
Kingman, KS 67068

**Waldo Froese**  
1222 Buckskin Rd.  
Inman, KS 67546

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

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

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

## Find Us On Facebook!

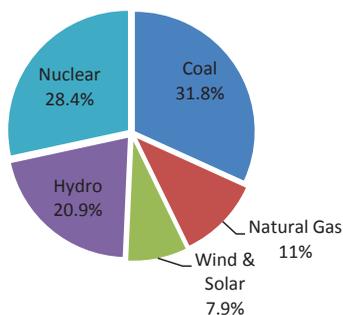


Like our page and get updates on outages and other information.

## Do You Know?

More than 57% of your electricity comes from non-carbon dioxide emission sources, including 28.8% from renewable sources.

### Ark Valley's Energy Mix



Larry Froese, Keith McNickle, and Dan Schnurr will be up for re-election as of the date of the next Annual Meeting of Members on April 11, 2017. The Committee on Nominations met on Saturday, January 7, 2017, 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 11, 2017, at the North Sunflower Building on the State Fair Grounds in Hutchinson, Kansas.



## Save The Date For The 2017 Annual Meeting

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



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

(620) 662-6661  
www.arkvalley.com

# Smart Meters and Your Cooperative

By now members should be well aware of the recent deployment of “smart meters” at Ark Valley Electric. The upgrade has many benefits to the system including the ability to bill in exact monthly increments, outage detection, troubleshooting capabilities and system security, along with access to information that will help develop the electrical system in the most cost effective and reliable way. We are already enjoying several of these benefits, such as taking care of many outages even before the members were aware there was a problem and providing members with exact billing data at a daily level.

This change has raised numerous questions about security, privacy concerns and health effects. Unfortunately, a lot of misinformation has been published over the years causing unnecessary alarm with these meters.

Let’s first look at the matter of security. AVEC protects member data in several ways and takes the security of information very seriously. Appropriate firewalls and offsite hosting services are used to provide protection for your information. Even the metering system itself has unique security designed in the software that does not allow access unless the AVEC system initiates communication.

The privacy issue has been used as a scare tactic for years. The truth of this is that AVEC can see accurate energy usage but has no ability to “see” how it is being used. In fact, AVEC can see the same information as it could previously without this new technology. The difference is that the information can now be viewed remotely instead of having to physically travel to the meter to download the data. We now have the tools to access usage at the office to help answer questions for members about high bills or voltage concerns. But just as before, we still have no idea what has used the energy and cannot communicate to any member devices.

The health concerns surrounding these meters have been a myth spread throughout the internet and has created needless worry that they can cause all sorts of health issues. Research that references actual case studies on this system shows support that it is completely safe. Truth be told, most of these meters only transmit stored data once a day for only a few seconds. In addition, the “radios” in the meter operate well below the band levels identified by the Federal Communications Commission. As a number of studies have concluded, these meters have far less of an effect on people than cell phones, cordless phones, remote controls, baby monitors and microwave ovens.

AVEC has already benefited from the recent deployment and will continue to experience many more benefits with the use of this system that will allow the cooperative to continue to operate in a safe and cost effective manner for years to come.



## Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of November on November 28, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

The Board began making preparations for the Annual Meeting of Members, which will be held at the Kansas State Fairgrounds on April 11, 2017. Each Board member submitted a name of a Cooperative member willing to serve on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will meet on December 27, 2016 and January 7, 2017 to select Ark Valley members willing to run for the position of Trustee. While doing so, the committee takes into consideration the geographic diversity of the Cooperative’s service territory into account; so all areas of the Cooperative have a local Trustee.

This upcoming year, the current terms of Keith McNickle, Dan Schnurr, and Larry Froese are up. Although each of them is eligible to run for at least an additional three-year term, the practice at Ark Valley has been to give the members attending the annual meeting a choice as to who will represent them. As such, the Nominating Committee selects at least one more person than Trustee positions there are to be filled.



## 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, 2017.

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).