

# The CIRCUIT

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



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

March 2016

## Notice of Annual Meeting of the Members

The Seventy-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Membership will be held Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at the north Sunflower Building (State Fair Grounds) in Hutchinson, Kansas. Ray's Countryside Catering will begin serving dinner at 6:30 p.m.



President Schweizer addresses Members at 2015 Annual Mtg.

As a consumer-owner, you're invited to air your views, discuss things with your fellow members, and vote for Directors to serve on the Co-op Board. Annual Meeting is an opportunity to learn about your Cooperative while enjoying a night out with your neighbors.

Budd Fountain (Langdon), Joe Seiwert (Pretty Prairie), and Craig Bennett (Alden) are the 2016 nominees. Fountain has served on the Ark Valley Board since 1997, with a one-year break. Seiwert has served on the Ark Valley Board since 2007, and is the current Treasurer. This year, members will be voting for two Trustees to serve for the next three years.

A pair of Ark Valley utility scissors and an ice cream scoop will be given to each member that attends. There will also be numerous items donated by Ark Valley vendors that will be drawn as door prizes. Make sure to set aside the date. We hope to see you there!



Members listen to presentations during 2015 Annual Meeting

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter and Joyous Spring!



Check Out Our  
New Website!

[www.arkvalley.com](http://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 February on February 29, 2016.

2015 proved to be Ark Valley's third highest grossing year. Staff compared the final income figures from 2015 to 2014, which yielded record income for the Cooperative, and showed receipts lagged in 2015 by approximately \$666,000.

The Board allocated \$1.7 million in margins to Cooperative members for 2015. The margins are credited to each Ark Valley account, based on each customer's individual usage, in the form of capital credits. The capital credits will be paid out to the members in future years. Currently, Ark Valley has a 20-year rotation on paying capital credits.

After the Nominating Committee met and selected four candidates to run for two trustee positions at the April Annual Meeting, one of the candidates, Diana Wendell, asked to be removed as a candidate. To accommodate her request, the committee met again and reconsidered its previous action. Accordingly, only three candidates will compete for the two trustee positions: Joe Seiwert, Budd Fountain, and Craig Bennett.

Lastly, the Board reviewed a customer survey from 1998 that showed the average monthly electric bill of an Ark Valley member was \$142. Today, 18 years later, the average bill for a Cooperative member on a residential, single-phase rate is only \$146.81.



Ark Valley Electric Cooperative  
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(620) 662-6661  
[www.arkvalley.com](http://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.

Kaenel, Jack	Knipp, Beverly	Loder, Fancy L	McNaul, Phil
Kahnert, Mike	Knott, Ron L	Logan, Mark	McNutt, Rick
Keehner, William	Koehn, Alfred	Luedders, Charles G	McReynolds, Rebecca
Keller, Darren	Koehn, Clinton	Maclaren, Vencette	Meier, Julie D
Kelsey, Dan	Kornelson, Herman K	Macy, Michael	Meier, Ryon
Keltch, Tom	Lawrence, George	Manta Petroleum	Merritt, Robert
Kennard, Roger	Lawrence, Larry E	Manuel, Bill	Milbrandt, Joe
Kienzle, Kevin	Lawson, David	McBurney, T H	Miller, Cody L
Kilgus, Ocie	Lentz, Dennis	McCubbin, Keith	Miller, Mike
King, Rebecca	Levinson, Mark M	McElhaney, David	Miller, Sheri
Klassen, Gary	Lewis, Karren L	McNaughton, Brian	Nelson, Chad

## New Meters to Help Us Better Serve You

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative will be installing new, automated meters over the next few months beginning in mid-April to increase the efficiency and reliability of our electric system. Improving the efficiency of both operations and electricity delivery will help us keep down costs for members.

What is the biggest change? With the new automated meters, Ark Valley will be able to read meters remotely from the cooperative office. Remote meter reading will save us time, labor and money. In fact, we expect meters to pay for themselves within ten years.

Members' kilowatt hour rates will not change. Your first bill following the installation will show two readings: one from the old meter and one from the new meter.

In addition to reducing operational costs, the new meters, which can receive and send information to the cooperative, will help improve the reliability of our system. The new technology allows us to detect problems more quickly and to locate outages more precisely. In some cases, we will be able to fix the problem before members know their power has been out.

The meters, which provide hourly information about power use, will help consumer members understand when they are using electricity. With this information, Ark Valley customer service representatives will be in a better position to help members with billing inquiries.

Members can find more information about the meters on the Meter Information page on the website, [arkvalley.com](http://arkvalley.com).

By taking advantage of new technologies, it is one more way that Ark Valley is looking out for its members.

## Drawing Winner

**KURT HORSCH** is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

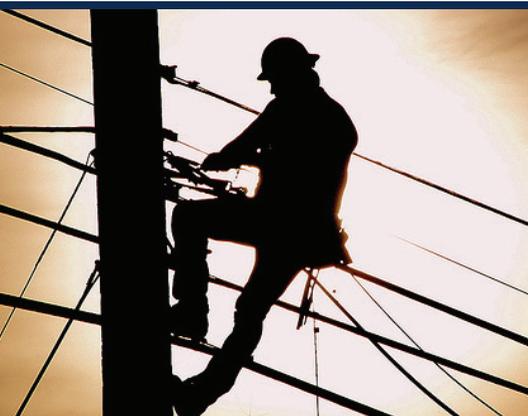
Kurt, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by March 31, 2016 & give us the account number from your electric bill.

## REMINDER

### *Cold Weather Rule Ends*

The Cold Weather Rule ends on March 15th. Be sure to have your bills caught up prior to that date.

Please also be aware that prior to March 15th, the Cooperative can disconnect service for non-payment if the local Hutchinson News Weather Page forecasts the temperature will not drop below 32 degrees within the following 24-hour period (see the notice posted in the November 2015 newsletter for allowed circumstances, available at [arkvalley.com](http://arkvalley.com)).



## 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).