

# The CIRCUIT

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



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

May 2015

## Members Elect Two Trustees at the 76th Annual Meeting



The 76th Annual Meeting of The Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2015, at the north Sunflower Building on the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson.

There were 284 members that registered, and 4 registered by proxy. About 597 people attended the dinner meeting, which was catered by Ray's Countryside Catering, Inc., of Colwich.

**JUDY KINSLER**, of Kingman, and **STEVE SCHWEIZER**, of Plevna, were re-elected to three-year terms on the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees.

After the Annual Meeting, a drawing was held for door prizes. All members attending the meeting received an Ark Valley magnetic LED work light.

**Top:** Members listen to presentations during the 2015 meeting.

**Right:** Melinda Thomas, Senior Billing Clerk, and Sierra, daughter of Operations Director Jim Sherry, deliver a 40" LED TV to Bret Dunn, of Abbyville. The TV was donated by Royer Brothers Tree Service.

**Bottom-Left:** Water Pump of Kanopolis and Kanopolis Water Well Assn were winners of an Ark Valley device charger, Coca-Cola jigsaw puzzle, and Ark Valley hat.

**Bottom-Right:** Greta Snell, of Kingman, received help carrying her 3-Crock Round Slow Cooker.



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# April Storm Caused Area-Wide Outages

The month of April greeted us with a large storm that caused unexpected damage across several counties. The storm hit the area late Thursday, April 2nd, and created outages for thousands of members through Sunday, April 5th.

Ark Valley received mutual aid assistance from three other cooperatives in Kansas. 34 additional linemen arrived on Friday, April 3rd, to help get power restored as quickly as possible. Everyone joined together and worked long



hours through the weekend, having all of the initial outages restored by Sunday, April 5th. For some, this meant sacrificing family time on Easter Sunday.

The line crews initially replaced 170 damaged poles from the storm. 22 additional broken poles were replaced as they were discovered the following two weeks. Ark Valley appreciates the patience and understanding of the members that were without power for extended periods.

## Co-op Connection Benefit Cards

Ark Valley members will no longer be able to receive pharmacy and other discounts through the Co-op Connection Card beginning in June. The Connection Cards were a benefit through the Cooperative's membership with Touchstone Energy, which is no longer active.

We are looking for other discount card options at this time that our members could take advantage of. If you would like more information please contact our office.

## Payment Stubs

We are implementing a new remittance system to help save time and money processing payments. Please remember to include bill stubs with your payments to help the process run more efficiently.

## Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of March on March 30, 2015.

Operations Manager, Jim Sherry, updated the Board on the Whooping Crane Corridor near Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Given the whooping crane's low flight pattern, the U.S. Department of Fish and Game is now requiring all electric utility lines to be marked within the corridor with a reflective device that attaches to the distribution line. A grant has been established that pays for 85% of the cost of marking the lines with the remaining 15% being paid for by the Cooperative. All of the line required to be marked has been divided into three stages, with the more important areas being replaced first.

Sherry presented financial estimates detailing the cost of purchasing and installing the reflective units on the first stage of line. The first stage includes 15.5 miles of mostly single-phase distribution line with three miles of three-phase line. The total estimated cost of completing the federal government mandated project would be \$70,879.84. Ark Valley would have to cover \$10,631.98 of the cost with the remaining 85% of the project, or \$60,247.86, being assessed to the U.S. Department of Fish and Game grant fund.

Congratulations to all of our graduates on a job well done! Good luck in your future endeavors!



## Holiday Office Closing

In observance of Memorial Day, the Ark Valley Electric office will be closed on Monday, May 25th.

**Have a safe holiday!**

## Drawing Winner

**COLE NEVILLE** is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

Cole, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by May 29, 2015 & give us the account number from your electric bill.

### Electrical Safety Calendar

Use this handy calendar to help keep your home safe. For more tips, visit [esfi.org](http://esfi.org).

#### JANUARY

- Check and replace furnace filters

#### FEBRUARY

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

#### MARCH

- Replace smoke and carbon monoxide alarm batteries if not done in last 12 months

#### APRIL

- Check and replace furnace filters

#### MAY

- Clean air conditioners or schedule annual inspection
- Vacuum refrigerator coils

#### JUNE

- Dust light fixtures/lamps
- Schedule annual inspection of gas-powered dryer

#### JULY

- Check and replace air conditioning filters

#### AUGUST

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

#### SEPTEMBER

- Schedule annual furnace cleaning and inspection

#### OCTOBER

- Check and replace furnace filters

#### NOVEMBER

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

#### DECEMBER

- Dust light fixtures/lamps

ESFI recommends hiring a licensed, qualified home electrical inspector if: Your home is more than 40 years old; your home had a major addition or renovation or major new appliance added in the last 10 years; and/or you are the new owner of a previously owned home.

Every month you should:

#### 1. Inspect all electrical and appliance cords for damage

Whether you have a receptacle-type or circuit breaker-type ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), pushing the TEST button should turn off power to the circuit. To restore power, press the RESET button. To test arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) push the TEST button. The breaker handle should go to the middle or off position. To reset, move the breaker handle to the OFF position and then to the ON position.



#### 3. Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

Push the TEST button or use other procedures recommended by the manufacturer. Smoke alarm batteries should be changed at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps" or "beeps" to indicate low batteries, change them right away. Replace all smoke alarms at least every 10 years.



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).