

The CIRCUIT

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



*** Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 75 Years

May 2016



Ark Valley Electric's 77th Annual Meeting

The 77th Annual Meeting of The Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at the north Sunflower Building on the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson.

There were 270 members that registered, and 4 registered by proxy. About 575 people attended the dinner meeting, which was catered by Ray's Countryside Catering, Inc., of Colwich.

BUDD FOUNTAIN, of Langdon, and **JOE**

SEIWERT, of Pretty Prairie, 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 Ark Valley Electric utility scissors and ice cream scoop.



Top Left: Members register and receive door prizes at 2016 meeting.

Top Right: Ark Valley Lineman, Ryan Walton, delivers a 43" LED TV to Shawn Heinly, of Little River. The TV was donated by Royer Brothers Tree Service.

Left: Pastor Alden Dick gives Invocation as President Schweizer looks on.

Bottom: Members listen to President Steve Schweizer present during the Annual Meeting.



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Electrical Safety Tips

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and Ark Valley Electric is raising awareness about potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety. Here is a list of 7 tips provided by Electrical Safety Foundation International and Occupational Safety and Health Administration to help keep your home and families safe:

1. Understand your home's electrical system. Make a map showing which fuse or circuit breaker controls each switch, light or outlet.

2. Use correct bulb wattage in fixtures. Light bulbs with wattages that are too high for the light fixture can overheat the fixture and start a fire.

3. Heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed by a qualified, licensed electrician.

4. Do not place extension cords in high traffic areas, under carpets, or across walkways, where they pose a potential tripping hazard.

5. Assume that all overhead wires are energized at lethal voltages. Never assume that a wire is safe to touch even if it is down or appears to be insulated.

6. If an overhead power line falls across your vehicle while you are driving, stay inside the vehicle and continue to drive away from the line. If the engine stalls, do not leave your vehicle. Call or ask someone to call the local electric utility company and emergency services.

7. Never use a frayed or damaged extension cord. Damaged cords may have exposed wires that can be a fire and shock hazard.



Holiday Office Closing

In observance of Memorial Day, the Ark Valley Electric office will be closed on Monday, May 30th.

Have a safe holiday!

Drawing Winner

RICHARD N. WINTAMUTE is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

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

Board Meeting Highlights

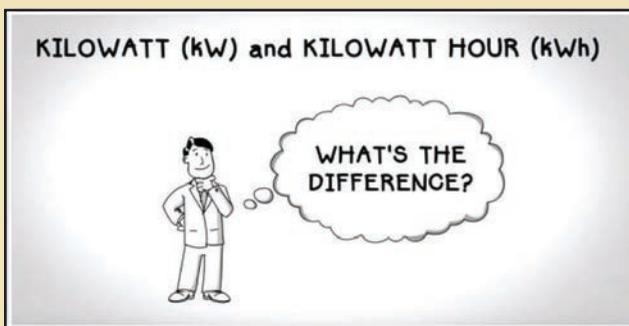
The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of April on April 25, 2016.

Staff and Trustees reflected on the 2016 Annual Meeting of Members, which was held on April 19th, and considered it to be a success. Approximately 575 people were in attendance, and many members complimented the meal, which was catered by Ray's Country Catering. The State Fair provided several dates to Ark Valley for next year's Annual Meeting. The Board agreed it would be held on April 11, 2017 again at the Sunflower North Building on the Kansas State Fairgrounds.

Ark Valley will begin spraying saplings underneath the Cooperative's distribution line throughout the service territory on May 1st. Prior to spraying in an area, the Cooperative will send a letter to the landowner announcing when they will spray. The Cooperative works with members to make sure sensitive crops are not harmed by our spraying practices. Staff is always willing to discuss the spray program with members and address their concerns. Overall, the program has been a great success. Since implementing the spray program several years ago, the Cooperative has significantly cut the amount it spends on tree trimming and removal, as well as limited the number of power outages and interruptions caused by limbs contacting power lines.

What's The Difference?

Do you know the difference between Kilowatt (kW) and Kilowatt Hour (kWh)? Go to www.arkvalley.com to see a short video explaining the difference.



Happy Mother's Day

Happy Mother's Day from everyone at Ark Valley Electric. We hope your day was filled with many special blessings!



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.