

# The CIRCUIT



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

November 2015

## Enter To Win!!!

As a member, you are an important part of our operations – we are here to serve you. And we would like to hear from you. Please take a moment to complete the 10 question survey on our website at [www.arkvalley.com](http://www.arkvalley.com) by November 30th. Be sure to have your account number handy (found on your bill) in order to have a chance to win one of four \$25 energy bill credits. Only one entry per member is allowed, and the drawing will be held December 1, 2015. For those without internet access, please contact the office for a paper survey to complete.



Ark Valley Electric would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and also remind members that the office will be closed on November 26th & 27th.

If you need to report an outage, please call 1-888-297-9212.

## Pay-By-Phone

*Ark Valley's Pay-By-Phone  
Quick Reference Guide*

**(844) 262-2443**

### MAIN MENU

1. To make a payment
2. To inquire on your account
3. To update phone number
4. To create or update PIN
9. To repeat this menu

We highly recommend that you choose to save your payment information for faster service. PIN numbers are required for bank account payments only.

## How EPA Regulations Affect You

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released regulations to limit carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions at power plants that will lead to more expensive electricity. The Clean Power Plan (CPP) calls for a 32 percent reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 nationwide. However, the final rule requires Kansas to make a 44 percent reduction.

States have until September 2016 to submit an initial implementation plan detailing how they will meet the reduction. The final implementation plan is due by September 2018. Interim reductions must be met beginning in 2022 and full compliance is required by 2030.

The aggressive 15 year timeframe will cause a transition from coal generation to alternative energy sources. The transition could mean coal plants may have to shut down prematurely or undergo massive upgrades with large capital expenditures to meet compliance.

With such drastic emissions reductions required, it is certain that the changes will be significant. The concern for Ark Valley and other cooperatives is that the CPP's reduction of greenhouse gas goals will impact the cost and reliability of electricity, which, unfortunately, will come at the expense of our members.

We want you to know that Ark Valley will do everything we can to mitigate the impacts of the rule, and there won't be any changes immediately.

## Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of September on September 28, 2015 at 7:30 pm.

The retirement of capital credits was discussed and approved at the meeting. Capital Credits represent a member's portion of the net margin earned by the Cooperative. The amount of capital credits allocated to a member is based upon their usage. Currently, Ark Valley is on a 20-year rotation system on retiring outstanding capital credit balances. To conform with the Board's policy, and to follow best practices for electric cooperatives, the Trustees decided to retire 20% of the unpaid cooperative capital credit allocations from last year, 20% of the 2001 capital credit balances, and all of the remaining capital credit balances from 1994. The amount retired totals approximately \$670,000.00 and will be paid out in approximately 4,700 checks to members and former Cooperative members.

In January of 2014, the Board held a rate hearing to adjust the irrigation tariff. After doing so, both the Cooperative and irrigators were able to save money. Ark Valley saved money by reducing the irrigation load during peak demand times, and irrigators saved money by receiving a much lower non-peak demand charge per kilowatt-hour. With currently scheduled technology upgrades, Ark Valley staff believes the irrigation rate could be changed further to benefit both irrigators and the Cooperative.

In order to further explore the possibility of altering the irrigation rate, the Board decided to hold a rate hearing on January 18, 2016. Notice will be mailed out to all Cooperative members closer to the time of the rate hearing and will list the time and location.



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

(620) 662-6661  
[www.arkvalley.com](http://www.arkvalley.com)

# Cold Weather Rule Starts

(1). The provisions of the Cold Weather Rule (CWR) establishes the disconnection procedures for any Residential Customer of the Cooperative throughout the cold weather period, which extends from November 15 through March 15.



(2). A Cooperative will not disconnect a Customer's service between November 15 and March 15 when the local Hutchinson News Weather Page forecasts the temperature will drop below 32 degrees within the following 24-hour period unless:

- (a). It is at the Customer's request;
- (b). The service is abandoned;
- (c). A dangerous condition exists on the Customer's premises;

(d). The Customer violates any rule of the Cooperative which adversely affects the safety of the Customer or other persons, or the physical integrity of the Cooperative's delivery system; or

(e). The Customer causes or permits unauthorized interference with, or diversion or use of (meter bypass), electric service situated or delivered on or about the Customer's premises. In any of these situations, the Cooperative may disconnect the service immediately. Services disconnected under (c), (d), or (e) above may be restored as soon as possible after the physical problems as defined in (c), (d) and (e) above have been corrected.

(3). Responsibilities of the Cooperative.

The Cooperative will:

Send one written notice mailed first class at least five (5) days prior to termination of service. A Customer may not be disconnected until a 24-hour forecast above the activating temperature is predicted by the Hutchinson News Weather Page.

On the day of disconnection, the Cooperative must receive a 24-hour forecast above the activating temperature from the Hutchinson News Weather Page. If the temperature is then forecast to be below the activating temperature, the disconnection may not be carried out and the Cooperative must wait for another 24-hour forecast above the activating temperature, but will not be required to repeat procedures prior to disconnection.

The Cooperative will, in the five (5) day written notice, also inform the Customer that disconnection can be avoided by bringing the Customer's electric bill current.

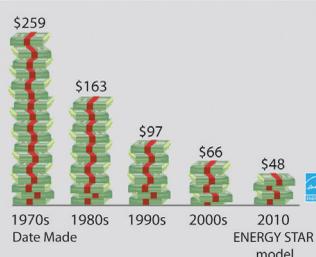
## Drawing Winner

**BRAD WINDHOLZ** is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

Brad, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by November 30, 2015 & give us the account number from your electric bill.

### The Cost of Cool Food

If your fridge dates from the 1980s, you could save more than \$100 each year by replacing it with an ENERGY STAR qualified model. Compare the average annual electricity costs for refrigerators manufactured in the following years:



## Veterans Day is November 11th

Ark Valley would like to take the time to thank all the military veterans for their service.

# ATTENTION High School Juniors & Seniors

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative is offering two scholarships and one all-expense-paid trip to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp for qualified juniors or seniors.

### You Could Win:

- ▶ **First Place:** A \$1,000 College Scholarship and an all-expense-paid trip to Steamboat Springs, CO.
- ▶ **Second Place:** A \$500 Scholarship.

**Eligibility:** The student's parent(s) must be a member of Ark Valley Electric and either a junior or senior in high school to apply. Ark Valley members may nominate students that they know are eligible.

**To Apply:** Submit an application and a written copy of a 5-10 minute speech on the present and future value of the electric cooperative to its members and community. **Essays are due by December 1, 2015.** Finalists will be asked to present their speech to a panel of Board Members and Co-op staff.

**For More Information:** Contact Misty Merideth, Youth Tour Coordinator, at (620)-662-6661 before November 25, 2015.



Parker Maloney attends 2014 Youth Leadership Camp

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).