

# K.C. ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2020

## K.C. ELECTRIC STAFF

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**Our mission** is to provide our members with safe, reliable service at the lowest cost, while maintaining an environmentally responsible, accountable and sustainable operation now and in the future.

## NEW DIRECTION

BY DAVID CHURCHWELL  
GENERAL MANAGER

After months of analysis, our power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, recently announced a plan to significantly cut their carbon emissions, increase renewables and reduce costs.

Tri-State's Responsible Energy Plan entails closures of their Escalante Station near Prewitt, New Mexico, by the end of 2020, and Craig Station and Colowyo Mine in northwestern Colorado by 2030. When fully implemented, this plan will help Tri-State to meet a greenhouse gas reduction bill passed in 2019 by the Colorado legislature.

Colorado House Bill 19-1261 calls for statewide goals to reduce 2025 greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26%, 2030 greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% and 2050 greenhouse gas emissions by at least 90%, all relative to the levels of statewide greenhouse gas emissions that existed in 2005.

With these closures come opportunities for Tri-State to expand its current renewable portfolio, which includes hydropower, solar and wind generation. Tri-State's newest renewable projects, all of which will be built by 2024, include:

- Crossing Trails Wind Farm, a 104-megawatt (MW) project located south of Seibert
- Niyol Wind, a 200-MW project located in northeastern Colorado
- Spanish Peaks Solar and Spanish Peaks II Solar, a 140-MW project located in southeastern Colorado
- Coyote Gulch Solar, a 120-MW project located in southwestern Colorado
- Dolores Canyon Solar, a 110-MW project located in southwestern Colorado
- Axial Basin Solar, a 145-MW project located in northwestern Colorado
- Escalante Solar, a 200-MW project located in New Mexico

This radical transition will fundamentally change the way Tri-State generates power. But, you can be assured that, as a cooperative itself, it will never change its goal of providing reliable, affordable and responsible power to all of its members including K.C. Electric, which in turn delivers that power to you.



DAVID CHURCHWELL



# 2020 K.C. Electric Association NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Nominations are Due Soon

## CHEYENNE COUNTY, KIT CARSON COUNTY AND LINCOLN COUNTY

Three directors will be elected to the K.C. Electric Association Board of Directors during this year's regular election: one from Cheyenne County and two from Kit Carson County. Directors' terms expiring are Robert Bledsoe from Cheyenne County, Kevin Penny from Kit Carson County and Dan Mills from Kit Carson County.

K.C. will also hold a special election to fill the vacant Lincoln County district director position. The person selected by the membership at the annual meeting will serve the unexpired remaining term for the director he or she is replacing and then will be subject to the regular election process.

To be nominated, a person must be a member of K.C. Electric and a bona fide resident within the director's district for which he or she is nominated.

### THE TIMETABLE FOR NOMINATIONS

Official nominating petitions shall be issued by the association not earlier than 90 days prior to the meeting at which the election is to be held. Petitions must be signed by at least 15 members — not more than one member in a joint membership — of the association and returned to the association for filing with the board no less than 45 days prior to the election. Qualified candidates can pick up official nominating petitions at the Hugo or Stratton office. **Official nominating petitions will be issued on March 6, 2020, and must arrive at the Hugo office by April 20, 2020.**

Circulators of the petition should attempt to verify accuracy of the name and address of each signer and must require that the signature take place in the presence of the circulator. The circulator should sign the affidavit at the bottom of the petition and have the affidavit notarized before submitting the petition to K.C. Electric. Please print the name as it appears on the electric bill. If you are a spouse of a member and not listed on the electric bill, please indicate by printing your name as well as signing the petition. If your listing is a business and the name on the bill is a business, please print the name of the business, then print your name and sign the petition.

Candidates should turn in a short biographical sketch to Member Services Manager George Ehlers, who is located at the Hugo office, with the petition.

**Directors will be elected at the annual meeting, June 4, 2020, in Cheyenne Wells, Colorado.**



These individuals are your  
2020 election committee:

Archie Cloud  
19375 County Road 24  
Kit Carson, CO 80825  
719-962-3236  
719-349-0212 (cell)

Troy McCue  
221 Pine  
Arriba, CO 80804  
719-768-3493

Tom Bredehoft  
220 E. 5th Street  
Flagler, CO 80815  
719-349-0345 (cell)

George Ehlers  
PO Box 815  
Hugo, CO 80821  
719-740-5002 (cell)

Jeff Cure  
PO Box 370  
Burlington, CO 80807  
719-346-7080

## Director Position Vacancy

Marvin Thaller recently resigned from the K.C. Board of Directors because he moved out of Lincoln County.

Marvin was a longtime employee of K.C. and served on the board for over 12 years. Marvin brought a lot of experience and common sense to the table during his time serving the K.C. membership and will be sorely missed. The K.C. Board of Directors decided to fill the vacancy through a special election to be held in conjunction with the regular election of directors at the 2020 annual meeting, which will be held in Cheyenne Wells on June 4. The person selected by the membership at the 2020 annual meeting will serve Marvin's unexpired remaining term and then will be subject to the regular election process. Marvin was re-elected to his director position during the 2019 annual meeting and that term will expire in 2022.

## Claim Your Savings

Each month, consumer-members have a chance to claim a \$20 credit on their next electric bill.

All you must do is find your account number, call the Hugo office at 719-743-2431 and ask for your credit. The account numbers are listed below. How simple is that?

You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine (check the date on the front cover).

**Tim Litzenberger, Arriba — 206900002**

**Mark Galli, Cheyenne Wells — 411950000**

**Dave Wall, Kit Carson — 1110680002**  
**Monroe Mitchek, Cheyenne Wells — 444900005**

In January, two consumer-members called to claim their savings: Withers Land Co., Hugo; and Steve Pfeifer, Cheyenne Wells.

# Security Tips for Connected Devices

BY ABBY BERRY

Today's market offers a plethora of new gadgets and devices that claim to make our homes smarter, safer and more efficient. But as with any new smart technology, consumers should take extra precautions to ensure these devices are secure.

Internet-connected cameras offer significant convenience to the way we monitor the security of our homes, our children and even our furry family members. With the simple swipe of a smartphone, homeowners can instantly keep a watchful eye from afar. But in recent months, some consumers found themselves in scary situations when hackers tapped into internet-connected security cameras in their homes. This enabled the hackers to view and speak to the people, including children, inside the homes.

As connected devices become increasingly popular, it's important that we know how to secure our digital lives. The U.S. Department of Commerce offers the following tips for protecting smart devices:

- Get creative with passwords. Change your device's factory security settings from the default password. This is one of the most important steps to take in the protection of internet-connected devices. Consider creating the longest password or pass phrase permissible and use familiar phrases you'll remember, like the lyrics to your favorite song.
- Keep tabs on your apps. Most connected devices are supported by a smartphone application. Your smartphone could be filled with apps running in the background or using default permissions you never realized you approved, gathering personal information without your knowledge while also putting your identity and privacy at risk. Check your app permissions and say "no" to privilege requests that don't make sense.
- Secure your network. Properly secure the wireless network you use for internet-connected devices. Consider placing these devices on a separate and dedicated network.
- Connect and protect. Whether it's your computer, smartphone, game console, camera or other connected devices, the best defense is to stay on top of things by updating to the latest security software, web browser and operating system. If you have the option to enable automatic updates to defend against the latest risks, turn it on.

Convenient, connected devices are here to stay, but, unfortunately, so are hackers. Nonetheless, taking extra steps to safeguard your network and devices can keep your digital life as secure as possible.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



▲ As connected devices, such as home monitoring cameras, become increasingly popular, it's important that we know how to secure our digital lives.

# K.C. Electric to Send Stephany Rother to Attend Youth Leadership Camp July 11-16, 2020

Stephany Rother is a junior attending Weskan High School. Her parents are Mike and Amy Rother of Arapahoe and they are members of K.C. Electric Association.

## About Leadership Camp at Glen Eden near Steamboat Springs

Students, ambassadors and camp counselors (150 strong) meet in Steamboat Springs for a fun-filled week learning about electric cooperatives. Students stay at the Glen Eden Resort located in Clark, Colorado, which is 24 miles north of Steamboat Springs near Steamboat Lake.

Students are chosen and sponsored by rural electric cooperatives from all over Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming and Oklahoma. The camp is designed to provide a better understanding of cooperatives, legislative processes, energy prices, power



▲ Stephany Rother

generation and the rural electric cooperative program. The camp also concentrates on developing leadership skills to handle the challenges of the future.

Attendees form a cooperative and elect a board of directors. They are involved in co-op activities, serving on one of the camp activity committees. This provides an excellent learning experience. Field trips include a tour of the Trapper Coal Mine, the Craig Station power plant, the top of Mount Werner, Steamboat Springs and a raft trip on the Colorado River. Various committees are responsible for planning a hot springs swimming party, a dance, a banquet and other evening entertainment.

Although much of camp is dedicated to learning, fun is also on the agenda. Participants have the opportunity to participate in activities like beach volleyball, swimming, tennis and dancing.

“Camp is an excellent learning experience.”



March 2020

## Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

**Placing hot food in the refrigerator makes the appliance work harder than necessary, using more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the refrigerator.**

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## A DOWNED LINE ALWAYS MEANS DANGER

If you see a downed power line after a bad storm or at an accident scene, never get out to help or go near the downed line. Always assume a downed power line is energized and deadly. This also applies to any electrical equipment, including pad-mounted transformers (aka green boxes) or other utility cabinets or fenced substations.



If you are involved in an accident or snarl with a downed line or other utility equipment — whether in a car, tractor or any other type of vehicle or equipment — do not get out. If you exit the vehicle and walk away, you could be electrocuted. Instead, call 911 and wait for the utility to arrive to cut the power.

If you must leave a vehicle due to smoke or fire, make a solid jump out with your feet together and without touching the car or truck, and then hop away making sure both feet land at the same time — do not walk — at least 30 feet to safety. If you hop, you are less likely to enter two different voltages of electricity at the same time, which causes shock and electrocution.

For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).