

K.C. ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2022

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.

PRIORITIZE SAFETY YEAR-ROUND

BY DAVID CHURCHWELL GENERAL MANAGER



DAVID CHURCHWELL

At K.C. Electric Association, we know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the consumer-members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives, but we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As general manager, it's my responsibility to make sure co-op employees have the tools, training, and equipment to work safely. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all members of our community safe. That's why you'll see K.C. Electric hosting safety demonstrations for fire departments, EMTs, and community events and schools throughout the year to demonstrate the dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution students on the dangers of playing near electrical equipment and warn against overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools and appliances, I want to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips.

Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard. Power cords can become damaged

or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them as they could cause a shock when handled.

Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can only cope only with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle — by having too many devices running on one circuit.

Label circuit breakers to understand the circuits in your home. Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.

Use extension cords properly. Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you “daisy chain” them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

Contact us for additional electrical safety tips or if you want us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or upcoming community event.

CAPITAL CREDITS: WE NEED YOUR HELP

One of the many things that sets K.C. Electric Association apart from an investor-owned utility is the fact that members are owners and therefore are entitled to a capital credit refund if financial conditions are favorable.

K.C. Electric is currently trying to locate consumer-members who have unclaimed capital credits. In many cases, refunds were returned because of insufficient or incorrect addresses.

Please look through the following list of consumer-members who have unclaimed capital credits. If you can help us locate anyone on this list, please contact Kristie Salvador at the Hugo office during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at 719-743-2431 or 800-700-3123.

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|--|------------------------------------|
| Adams, Donald and/or
Adams, Gloria | Keisel, Robert
King, Gregory |
| Arnold, Jennifer | Kinsley, Lorraine |
| Baessler, John | Kirk Cooperative Association |
| Barr, Paul | Krentz, Chad D. |
| Baugh, Robyn | Leach, Albert |
| Blasi, Charles | Liles, Dorothy D. |
| Bogart, Berton and Bogart, Deloris | Linton, Bobby and Linton, Lory |
| Bopenhagen, Beth | Lopez, Vidtorio |
| Bostic, Janice | Lyons, Michael T. |
| Bowser, Robert and/or
Bowser, Gala | Mariano, Crystal |
| BP Pipeline North America Inc. | Merritt, Billy |
| Brandt, J. B. | Miller, David L. |
| Brown, Leroy and Brown, Peg | Morgan, Ricky |
| Castle Advisors Mountain States | Murray, J. R. |
| Cebulski, John and Cebulski,
Carmen | Nelson, MaryAnne |
| Cosner, Amy | Otto, Debrarose |
| Cox, Tammy | Peterson, Lance |
| Davidson, Gary and/or
Davidson, Holly | Pettyjohn, Thomas A. |
| Dickey's Auto Parts | Phagan, Chris |
| Dyer, Joe | Phagan, Jeannie |
| Dykstra, Sherry | Pittman, Steve and/or Dorsey, Toni |
| Eisenach, Toby | Quintana, Mike |
| Emerson, Eric and/or
Emerson, Holly | R.H. Diekman Estate |
| Engelbrecht, Dawn and/or
Howard, Tim | Reese, Carl |
| Ferris, Dennis | Reves, Annmarie |
| Flos, Lee Ann | Ridder, Cindy |
| Fritz, Carol | Robertson, Chris |
| Gillum, Trey or Gillum, Carlan | Rochelle, Stacy |
| Griffin, Virginia | Rose, David |
| Guagnano, John | Roser-Isenbart, Sheryl |
| Haley, Milton | Sack, Richard |
| Hanson, Carl N. | Sargent, Herbert F. |
| Hart, Mary E. | Schaal, Vivian |
| Hicks, Karen L. | Shaw, Tiffany |
| Hobson, Thelma | Smith, Ronald G. |
| Hoffman, Ronald | Sommer, Charles or Sommer, Paula |
| Hollenbaugh, Rosella | Soto, Monica |
| Hollowell Bros. | Specht, Betty |
| Homm, Robert and/or
Homm, Debra | Springer, Dusty |
| Ivey, Brad and/or Ivey, Michelle | Spurlin, Eric |
| James, Robert | Stevens, Catherine Sue |
| Jenkins, Nicole | Sutton, Debra |
| Jones, Dean | Taylor, Deborah |
| | Taylor, Justin |
| | Thompson, Sid |
| | Tibbetts, Tamra |
| | Uhland, Gerald |
| | Ukena, Tracy |

Farm Safety 2022



▲ George Ehlers, K.C. Electric Association member services manager, teaches kids in Cheyenne Wells how to stay safe around electricity on the farm.



Commercial LED rebate for Arriba-Flagler School District. K.C. Electric Association Manager of Member Services George Ehlers (left) presents a rebate check to Superintendent John Weigel.



LED rebate for Genoa-Hugo School District. K.C. Electric Association Manager of Member Services George Ehlers (left) presents a rebate check to Superintendent Terry Weber and Principal Shari Humphrey.

K.C. Electric Offers Rebates

K.C. Electric Association offers residential and commercial rebates for energy-efficiency projects and upgrades. Recently, the co-op presented rebate checks to two school districts that upgraded their building lighting to LED bulbs. Do you have an energy-efficiency project? Call K.C. Electric first to see if there is a rebate available.



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).

- Colton Osborn, Cheyenne Wells — 425800005
- Justin Colglazier, Burlington — 1118500000
- Peter Kroeker, Arapahoe — 1116910001
- Matthew Mulch, Burlington — 1118530001

In April, four consumer-members called to claim their savings: Handi's, Stratton; David Lacey, Arriba; Doyle Adolf, Bethune; and Jill Chambers, Stratton.



Be Wary of Wet Surfaces

Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it is raining or the ground is wet.

Q & A WITH THE BOARD: KEVIN C. PENNY



Kevin Penny,
President, Board
of Directors — Kit
Carson County.
This is the ninth of a
series that will run
here in Colorado

Country Life and is one way for consumer-members to become familiar with their K.C. Electric Board of Directors.

1. Tell us about yourself and your family and its history in our community.

My great grandfather, Orion Penny, moved to Burlington in 1916, where he would start buying land as well as running a mortuary, hardware store, car and International dealership. There are still windmills he sold around the area — they have “Penny Bros” stamped on the legs. Orion died at an early age and my father, Gene, took over as manager of the operation called the Penny Ranch. My wife, Jeana, and I moved back to Burlington after graduating from college. Then I began working full time on the Penny Ranch. We raised our children, Noelle, Abbey and Cameron in Burlington. My son is now the fourth generation of the farm and feeding legacy.

2. Why did you decide to run for a K.C. director position 42 years ago?

It was the spring of 1981 and, as a senior in college, I was home during spring break and attended a K.C. Electric member meeting that week. Concerns about a proposed rate increase had been presented at the meeting. I learned at that point one needs to be careful on how much interest to show. Before the meeting was over, Bill Hornung had me agreeing to run for a director position as a write-in candidate at the annual meeting. Less than a month after my college graduation, I was elected as a director at the annual meeting held in Hugo.

3. What strengths have you brought to the K.C. Electric Board of Directors.

I hope one of my strengths I have brought to the K.C. board is the realization that K.C.

Electric is needed for our area, so do not screw it up. I have tried to interject conservative values that necessitated change when needed but did not have to make changes if things were not broken. I believe that I have been able to listen to consumer-members, staff and other directors with an open mind and have learned to build positive relationships around K.C. Electric.

4. What are the major challenges you believe K.C. will face in the future?

Specific major challenges that K.C. Electric faces deal with the issue that, unlike the distribution cooperatives in the Front Range, we are not growing and may be reducing the amount of electrical load that we sell because of wells going out of production in the South Fork Focus Zone. As a reminder, the SFFZ was established by a state resolution with Kansas and Nebraska as an area that needs to reduce 10,000 irrigated acres by 2024 and an additional 15,000 acres by 2029, to be in compliance with the Republican River Compact resolution.

5. What are your thoughts on the status of the electric industry in Colorado?

Unfortunately, the status of the electric industry and specifically the cooperative model of the electric industry in Colorado is very unsettled right now. There are several co-ops that belong to Tri-State Generation and Transmission that wish to leave totally or reduce to a partial requirement contract with the G&T association.

6. What industry changes do you believe will affect the electric industry in the next 10 years?

With Colorado going to carbon-free generation soon and with renewables being the chosen method of generation, we will soon need to be a part of a regional transmission organization to administer the transmission grid on a regional basis as we will not have firm power generation to count on.

7. What do you feel you would like to accomplish as a director for K.C. Electric Association? Short term? Long term?

As a director for K.C. Electric, I want K.C.

Electric to be a part of the conversations and decisions that are being made at all levels and the major changes that are happening in our industry. This would include changes that are happening at Tri-State G&T either internally, or at the state or federal level. Long-term for K.C., it will always be my goal to provide our consumer-members with safe, reliable service at the lowest cost while maintaining an environmentally-responsible, accountable and sustainable operation.

8. What is the greatest concern you have for the electric industry and how it will impact eastern Colorado?

Currently, with the course our state is on, reliable power is my greatest concern, but not just limited to eastern Colorado. I believe by having this on our radar, we are hopefully able to mitigate this problem as we go forward by keeping some fuel-fired generation facilities and also being a part of a regional transmission organization, to exchange power on a regional basis.

**Notice of Annual Meeting
of Members of
K.C. Electric Association
June 2, 2022**

In accordance with the order of the Board of Directors, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the regular 2022 Annual Meeting of the members of K.C. ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION will be held in Kit Carson, Colorado, at the Kit Carson High School on Thursday, June 2, 2022. Registration will commence at 6 p.m. and the meeting will commence at 6:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Saving Time, for the following purposes:

1. The presentation of reports covering the previous fiscal year.
2. The election of directors.
3. All other business which may properly come before a regular Annual Meeting of the members of K.C. Electric Association.