

K.C. ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2023

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.

ARE YOU READY TO SERVE?

BY DAVID CHURCHWELL GENERAL MANAGER



DAVID CHURCHWELL

In one of the most notable inaugural speeches ever given, John F. Kennedy spoke his famous words, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” His inspiring words urged Americans to take actions that benefited the greater good. In essence, Kennedy was saying our country thrives when we all contribute our talents to the common good.

On a smaller scale, I think the same can be said about our co-op, specifically with regard to our board members. K.C. Electric Association’s board members are community-minded individuals with a variety of skill sets. Our board is made up of individuals who come from all walks of life. We rely on their many talents to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. Our directors live and work right here in the co-op’s service area, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community because they provide their perspective on important community issues.

We recognize it takes many people with different skills to create a well-rounded board that can represent the full spectrum of our community. That’s why when we’re seeking new directors, we want folks with diverse perspectives, experience, expertise, and views. We’re seeking local members of our community who can apply their unique talents to benefit all our friends and neighbors. But above all else, we’re looking for folks who love our community and want to see it thrive now and in the future.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SERVE ON THE BOARD?

Serving on K.C. Electric’s board means you’re making a difference locally, using your individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the co-op that in turn benefit the larger community. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the board,

whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves. On a granular level, K.C. Electric board members typically provide input on and guidance regarding these issues:

- Budgets
- Rates
- K.C. Electric’s goals and direction
- The co-op’s community and charitable contributions
- Capital investments and upgrades in equipment and technology

The energy industry is undergoing a major transition. Technology advancements and increased legislative mandates for more renewable energy are driving change. K.C. Electric is facing big decisions, and board members have an opportunity to help chart a course for our future. To serve the community best, we need input from a wide range of people who represent the broad spectrum of views within our community.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

During our annual meeting in June, three directors will be elected to the K.C. Electric Association Board of Directors: one from Cheyenne County and two from Kit Carson County. 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/she is nominated. Official nominating petitions can be picked up at the Hugo or Stratton office beginning March 3 and must be returned to the Hugo or Stratton office by April 2.

While you don’t need to be an expert in electricity or business to run, you do need to have a passion for the community and a willingness to actively serve and learn. We’re looking for individuals who can represent the full gamut of the members we serve. Our board meets on a regular basis, and we offer

specialized training opportunities to help board members make informed decisions. Board members gain a deeper understanding of the electric utility industry, the cooperative business model and local economic development efforts.

Ultimately, our board is the community pulse for the co-op and helps keep us on the right track. We love our community and want to help it thrive. If you share the same commitment and want to contribute to the greater good in a tangible way, I hope you'll consider running for a board position.

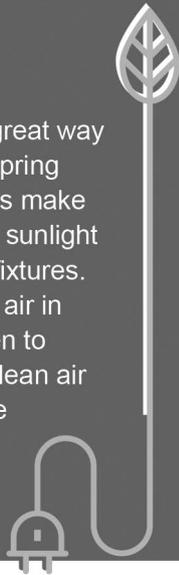
To learn more about K.C. Electric's director election process and 2023 details, please visit our website at www.kcelectric.coop.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures. Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers, and they enhance overall health and productivity.

Source: energy.gov



2023 K.C. Electric Board NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE SOON

Cheyenne County, Kit Carson County and Lincoln County

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

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/she is nominated.

These individuals are your 2023 election committee.

Archie Cloud P.O. Box 51 Kit Carson, CO 80825 719-349-0212	Troy McCue 221 Pine Arriba, CO 80804 719-768-3493	Tim Pautler 20587 CR 33 Stratton, CO 80836 Cell 719-349-1424
George Ehlers PO Box 815 Hugo, CO 80821 Cell 719-740-5002	Jeff Cure PO Box 370 Burlington, CO 80807 719-346-7080	

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 60 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 3, 2023 and must arrive at the Hugo or Stratton office by April 2, 2023.

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 located in the Hugo office, with the petition.

Directors are elected at the Annual Meeting, June 1, 2023, at Stratton, Colorado.



Claim Your Savings

Each month, K.C. Electric 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).

- **Amber Eby, Hugo — 627210003**
- **Christine Archer, Seibert — 811100012**
- **Pat Price, Arriba — 209250000**
- **Kirby Powell, Burlington — 1115660000**

In January, three consumer-members called to claim their savings: Andrew Worden, Burlington; Shirley Ciskowski, Hugo; and Grant Dykstra, Seibert.

Play it Safe When Using Portable Generators

BY ABBY BERRY



⚠ Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips. Photo Source: Honda

Storm season is here, which means greater potential for power outages. If you're planning to use a portable generator in the event of an outage, K.C. Electric Association reminds you to play it safe.

With proper use and maintenance, portable generators can provide great convenience during a power outage. However, when generators are used incorrectly, they can be extremely hazardous. In a 2022 report, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated that 85 U.S. consumers die every year from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by gas-line-powered portable generators.

Here are 10 things to keep in mind when using a portable generator:

- **DO:** Install backup carbon monoxide alarms.
- **DO:** Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.
- **DO:** Position generators at least 25 feet outside the home, away from doors, windows and vents that can allow carbon monoxide to enter the home.
- **DO:** Ensure that your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground fault circuit interrupter to prevent electric shock injuries.
- **DO:** Use three-pronged extension cords that are rated to handle the load of the generator. Inspect extension cords for cuts, frays or other damage before use.
- **DON'T** operate a generator inside your home or in an enclosed (or partially enclosed) space. Generators produce high levels of carbon monoxide, which can be deadly.
- **DON'T** open indoor windows or doors while the generator is running outdoors.
- **DON'T** rely on generators as a full-time source of power. They should be used only temporarily or in emergency situations to power essential equipment or appliances.
- **DON'T** overload generators. They should only be used to power essential

equipment. Make sure your generator can handle the load of the items you plan to power.

- **DON'T** connect generators directly into household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can back-feed along power lines and electrocute utility lineworkers making repairs.

While generators provide convenience during power outages, they can quickly become hazardous — even deadly — if improperly operated. Before you use a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.

If you have questions about proper use of portable generators, we're here to help. Give us a call at 719-743-2431.

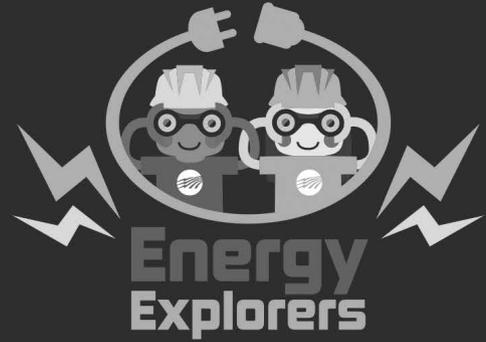
Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.



REMINDER

If you experience an outage or electrical emergency anytime day or night, contact K.C. Electric Association by calling the Hugo office at 719-743-2431 or the Stratton office at 719-348-5318. **DO NOT** report outages or electrical emergencies via email. K.C. cannot monitor that information effectively, especially after hours. The only way to ensure we know you have an outage or electrical emergency is to phone it in.

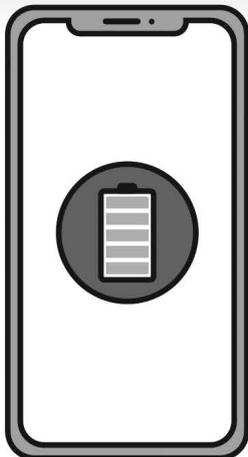
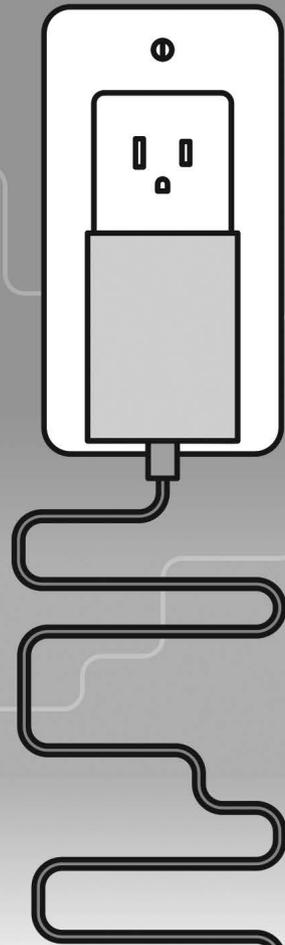
ELECTRONICS EFFICIENCY WORD SEARCH



Did you know there are ways you can reduce your electronics energy use?

Read the energy-saving tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.

B J C M G S N A M O R S W U L
 R A F O D V T L L P D I O S W
 E B T E M V C E U X S Y W D G
 C B P T D P O W E R S T R I P
 H Y G M E T U A U Y H Z P U Z
 A R P Q E R U T L R N Z N U Y
 R F I H L V I C E Q V P C E S
 G T D F F W K E M R L B N H O
 E B H W C F Q W S U K Y N Z M
 A Q I L I F K N G L O I K B A
 B S R E G R A H C E N O H P C
 L N O Y O V I M A I V I R X T
 E V S U A I L K O L U Y N F C
 Y H V K S L F G T R I P B T G
 P O W E R M A N A G E M E N T



- Use a **power strip** with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.
- For devices that require **batteries**, use **rechargeable** ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.
- **Unplug** electronic products that consume energy even when they're not in use, like **phone chargers**.
- Use the sleep or **power management** mode on your **computer** to save on energy costs.

