



KAW VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

LightTalk

Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Jerry Manning—General Manager

Board of Trustees

Dallas Caster *Auburn*
President

Rob Sage *Dover*
Vice-President

Robert Lynch *Berryton*
Secretary

Larry Butel *Overbrook*
Treasurer

Gene "Pete" Allen *Valencia*
Trustee

Bill Conley *Delia*
Trustee

Don Montgomery *Burlingame*
Trustee

Mark Wulfkuhle *Clinton*
Trustee

Lloyd Wulfkuhle *Stull*
Trustee

Gregory Lee
Legal Counsel

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Save energy and money by lowering your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees. This will also slow mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Transitioning Toward the Future

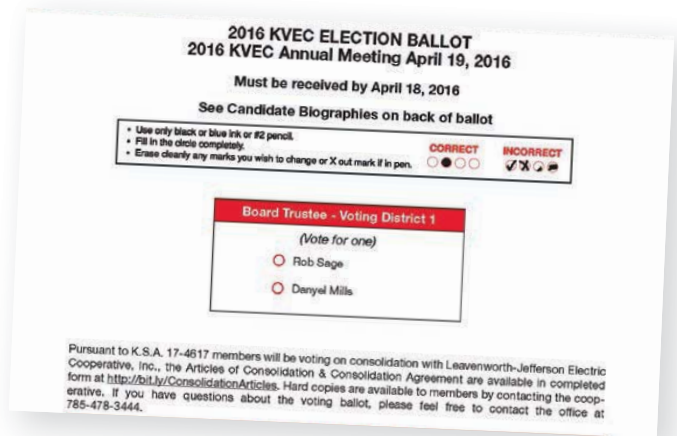
On April, 19, Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting will be held at the Kaw Valley office at 1100 SW Auburn Road, Topeka. Members who attend the annual meeting will receive a \$10 credit on their electric bill. There will also be a chance to win great door prizes. Registration and meal will begin at 5 p.m., followed by the business meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Board Election and Consolidation

Kaw Valley is divided into nine districts and three voting districts. Each year, three of our nine districts elect a board member.

During the Annual Meeting, three board members will be elected. Members will also vote on the Articles of Consolidation and Consolidation Agreement (with Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative).

We are governed by the poli-



Members can cast their votes at the Annual Meeting or on the mail-in ballot, similar to this one, prior to the meeting.

cies set by our Board, who are also cooperative members. Our board provides a vital connection with our membership and the community at large. Beginning March 28, candidate information and ballots will be mailed to each member.

How can I Vote?

As a member, you have one vote,

Continued on page 16-B ▶

Gechter Joins Kaw Valley Electric

DAVID GECHTER has joined Kaw Valley as a journeyman lineman.

Gechter attended Manhattan Area Technical College and graduated from the Electric Power and Distribution program in 2006. He completed his lineman apprenticeship in 2010.



David Gechter

Official Notice of Annual Meeting

To the attention of all members of Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., organized and existing under and by virtue of Chapter 17, Article 46, of the laws and the State of Kansas.

You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 19th day of April 2016, the Annual Meeting of said Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., referred to above, will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative office building, 1100 SW Auburn Rd., Topeka, Shawnee, County Kansas, to take action upon the following matters:

- ▶ The report of officers, trustees and committees.
- ▶ The election of three trustees of the cooperative.
- ▶ The election of the Articles of Consolidation.
- ▶ The election of the Consolidation Agreement.
- ▶ All other business which may come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

Transitioning Toward the Future Continued from page 16-A ▶

and it is important to make your voice heard! We understand not every member can attend the Annual Meeting, but we want to make sure you have the opportunity to participate in the election.

Please participate in the election using one of the following options:

- ▶ Vote at the Annual Meeting
- ▶ Vote by mail
- ▶ Vote by proxy (see form below)

Vote at the Annual Meeting

Attend Kaw Valley's Annual Meeting on April 19, at the Kaw Valley office in Topeka. Members will be issued a ballot at registration. Registration and the meal will begin at 5 p.m. The business meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m.

Vote by Mail

Beginning March 28, ballots and voting instructions will be mailed to Kaw Valley members. Follow the instructions to complete your ballot and use the prepaid envelope to return your ballot. To ensure your vote is

counted, your completed ballot must be mailed no later than April 13.

If you are unable to mail your ballot by April 13, please bring it with you and cast your vote at the Annual Meeting.

Vote by Proxy

If you are unable to cast your vote at the Annual Meeting or by mail, you can vote by proxy. Complete the proxy form below. After completion, give the proxy form to a Kaw Valley member or an adult relative living at your residence, and they can cast your vote on your behalf at the Annual Meeting.

We hope you will join us at this year's Annual Meeting. There will be information covered regarding last year's business and the business moving forward. It's an exciting time at Kaw Valley!

If you have any questions about the Annual Meeting and/or the voting process, please contact us at 785-478-3444.

Unable to Attend the Annual Meeting? Cast Your Vote by Proxy

If you are unable to attend this year's Annual Meeting, but would like to cast your vote in matters coming before the membership, please complete the proxy form below.

The proxy form must be completed in its entirety and given to another Kaw Valley member or to an adult

relative living in the same household to present at the Annual Meeting.

Please keep in mind that each Kaw Valley member may only hold one proxy and one vote is allowed per membership.

Kaw Valley Proxy Voting Form

I, _____, being a member of Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., an association, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Kansas, do hereby appoint _____ to vote in my stead upon the following propositions:

- ▶ The reports of officers, Trustees and committees.
- ▶ The election of three Trustees of the cooperative.
- ▶ All other business which may come before the meeting or any adjournment of adjournments thereof.

At the Annual Business Meeting of members of said cooperative to be held at the Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative office building at 6:30 p.m. on April 19, 2016, or any adjournment thereof, with full power of substitution shall be limited to persons who are also members of said cooperative or as provided in the bylaws of the cooperative.

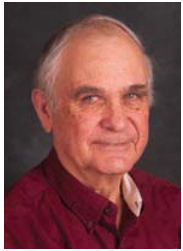
Witnessed my hand this _____ day of _____, 2016.

Signature of Witness

Signature of Kaw Valley Member

BOARD PERSPECTIVE

Seven Cooperative Principles BY DALLAS CASTER, BOARD PRESIDENT



Dallas Caster

As Kaw Valley Electric's Annual Meeting approaches, all members have received information concerning a proposed consolidation with Leavenworth-

Jefferson Electric Cooperative. I don't want to repeat a lot of the information and reasons why I will vote yes; instead, I want to review some of the positive attributes of the cooperative business model.

There are over 29,000 co-ops in the United States—about 900 of them are electric co-ops. The seven principles by which electric co-ops operate dates back to Rochdale, England. In 1844, the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers established the seven Rochdale principals, which are the basis for how co-ops today operate.

▶ **Co-ops are voluntary organizations.**

Co-ops are open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.

▶ **Democratic member control.** Each member has one vote to elect their director to represent them on a board of directors.

▶ **Membership economic participation.** Capital above that which is required for the operating stability of the co-op returns to the membership in the form of capital credits.

▶ **Autonomy and independence.** Co-ops are autonomous self-help organizations controlled by their members.

▶ **Education, training and information.** Management, employees and elected representatives are provided with educational opportunities to better serve the co-op membership.

▶ **Cooperation among co-ops.** Kaw

Valley and LJEC are cooperating through an alliance now but are looking forward to a consolidation of their efforts to provide more efficient services to the members. Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. is a state-wide co-op of the Kansas electric co-ops. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is a national organization of electric co-ops. These co-ops work with each other to make all co-ops more efficient for the good of their members.

▶ **Concern for community.** Kaw Valley and LJEC have programs specifically for youth, and they support many local volunteer organizations that provide various types of aid.

Now that we've had our history lesson, I want to express my appreciation to the management and staff of both co-ops for the time and effort they have put forth to bringing about the success of the alliance and their diligence in working toward the successful consolidation of the two co-ops.

I would also like to thank the

governance committee composed of three trustees from each co-op. This group of six leads and guides the vision through efforts to begin combining operations. Their visionary goal has always had our members as the priority.

The monetary benefits of the consolidation will be significant over the coming years. As I have reminded my district, your rates will not decrease; however, they will remain stable for the next three to five years. I will confidently vote "yes" on April 19 to support the consolidation. I hope you all join me.

I feel privileged to represent the members in the Auburn area for the last 27 years, and I want to thank the Board of Directors at Kaw Valley for their trust in allowing me to be your board president for the past several years.

Thank you to all of the members for being patient with my perhaps longer than necessary history lesson. I hope to see you all at the Kaw Valley office on April 19 for the 2016 Annual Meeting.

DALLAS CASTER, BOARD PRESIDENT

Vote YES



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Consolidate for stable rates

www.voteyesApril19.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kaw Valley's Audit Summary BY LARRY BUTEL



Larry Butel

As Treasurer of Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative, it is my responsibility to oversee all funds, securities and financial activity of the cooperative.

The Board of Trustees commissioned the services of Kevin S. Kelso, CPA, P.C., P.A., Mission, to make a full and complete audit of the accounts, books and financial condition of the cooperative.

The audit covered the

cooperative's 2015 fiscal year, which began on the first day of January and ended on December 31. The audit examined the cooperative's accounting records and procedures to verify that they are accurate and in compliance with accepted standards. The auditors also examined the cooperative's system of internal control including segregation of functional responsibilities, system of authorizations and procedures that provide control over the assets and liabilities.

Comparative balance sheets for 2014 and 2015, together with a five-year comparative operating statement, will be available in the annual meeting booklet for your information and review.

In conclusion, I am pleased to report that 2015 was another successful year for the cooperative. Kaw Valley continues to maintain a strong and viable financial position.

**LARRY BUTEL, KAW VALLEY
TREASURER**

#ThankALineman
Lineman Appreciation Day
April 11, 2016

LVEC
Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Property Taxes for 2015			
County	First Half Due 12/20/15	Second Half Due 5/10/16	Total
Douglas	\$55,189.63	\$55,189.63	\$110,379.36
Jackson	\$27,070.02	\$27,070.02	54,140.04
Osage	\$69,923.20	\$69,916.40	\$139,839.60
Pottawatomie	\$1,015.26	\$1,005.53	\$2,020.79
Shawnee	\$177,821.37	\$177,819.32	\$355,640.69
Wabaunsee	\$19,642.31	19,642.31	\$39,284.62
Totals	\$350,661.79	\$350,643.21	\$701,305.10

Important Annual Meeting Notices

Items Up for Vote

Kaw Valley Electric members will vote on April 19 for three district trustees, as well as the Articles of Consolidation and the Consolidation Agreement.

If you have any questions about the slate of nominees or the voting ballot you can contact Assistant Manager Kevin Gregg at 785-478-3444.

Documents regarding the Consolidation Agreement can be found at <http://bit.ly/ConsolidationArticles>.

Billing Credit

Attend and register for the Annual Meeting to receive a \$10 bill credit.

Annual Meeting Program

To increase efficiency, accuracy and control costs, Kaw Valley Electric has updated to Survey and Ballot Systems, a third-party voting option, for the trustee elections and the consolidation vote.

The annual meeting book will not be mailed out to each member as it has been in the past. Instead, members can access the book in complete form at www.kve.coop. Members can access and print the book at any time. If you are unable to access the book online, call the office at 785-478-3444.