



**DSO ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

DSO
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

HEADLINER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Mueller Tampa, President	James Christopher Falun, Director
Sheila Hummel Hope, Vice President	Randy Cooper Gypsum, Director
Bruce Spare Assaria, Secretary	Ken Hedberg Marquette, Director
Kenneth Berry Minneapolis, Director	Mike Richards Solomon, Director
David Butler Junction City, Director	

STAFF

Timothy J. Power CEO	Marla Marshall CFO
Tracy Turner Operations Manager	Derrick Rutherford Communications Manager

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday

PAYMENT LOCATIONS


**CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK IN
WALMART SUPERCENTER**
521 E. Chestnut St., Junction City, KS 66441
FARMERS STATE BANK
447 Harrison, Lindsborg, KS 67456

OUTAGE INFORMATION

**IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE, CALL
800-376-3533.** After-hours calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

FIND OUT MORE

 facebook.com/DSOElectricCooperative

 @DSOElectricCoop

OPERATIONS REPORT

Wildfire Mitigation

BY TRACY TURNER, OPERATIONS MANAGER

Lately there has been a lot of discussion and news coverage on wildfires, especially in the western United States. Due to extremely dry conditions, these fires cover a large area in a short amount of time and the mountainous terrain makes fighting fires very difficult. We don't have the mountains or the extremely dry conditions in central Kansas (thanks to the big January snows), but spring winds and dry conditions will be here before you know it. This will increase the fire dangers across the fields and pastures.

For many years DSO has worked hard to replace older poles and conductor to "harden" the system, making it better able to withstand high winds and other potentially damaging conditions. We are continuing this practice, replacing an average of 20 to 25 miles of poles and conductor per year.

In addition, we are starting work on a wildfire mitigation project, which includes replacing our hydraulic reclosers with electronic reclosers. The new electronic reclosers react much faster than the hydraulic ones in de-energizing the lines in case of a fault situation. We will also have the capability to remotely turn off power during times of high fire danger or other emergency situations.

We all know the kind of crazy winds and storms we can face and how the weather can change when you least expect it. Hardening our system and installing the electronic reclosers will help DSO prepare our system when those strong winds and storms hit. As always DSO will be working to stay ahead of these events and to limit damage and power outages for our members.

DID YOU KNOW DSO PAYS OVER \$1 MILLION

IN PROPERTY TAX? HERE'S A BREAKDOWN BY COUNTY:

COUNTY	TOTAL	COUNTY	TOTAL
Clay	\$225	Marion	\$10,161
Cloud	\$23,939	McPherson	\$101,361
Dickinson	\$536,229	Morris	\$1,522
Ellsworth	\$814	Ottawa	\$156,288
Geary	\$66,836	Saline	\$143,016
GRAND TOTAL \$1,040,391			

GET TO KNOW THE 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

Below are the 2025 DSO Board of Directors candidates. Ballots will be mailed on March 3. Please mark and return the enclosed ballot by **4 P.M. ON MARCH 28, 2025**. Election results will be posted to our website in early April and published in the May edition of *Kansas Country Living* magazine. Please feel free to contact DSO's office or any of your district directors with your questions.

BYLAWS SECTION 3.05 VOTING — *If the number of qualified candidates nominated by petition for election as a director in each district is less than or equal to the number of vacancies in each district, then the election of directors shall automatically be dispensed with and the nominees shall be deemed elected.*

EAST DISTRICT POSITION 2



My name is **KARLA DURRANT**. I reside in Milford, Kansas, with my husband, Steve. I have four children and 10 grandchildren. We enjoy fishing, gardening and being involved in the community.

I have been a member of DSO for over six years.

I retired from Victory Electric Cooperative (in southwest Kansas) with 32 years of service. My work history at Victory included billing supervisor/rates and 16 years as chief financial officer. I was involved in the finance of the Aquila territory, work plans, budgets, rate studies, and was responsible for all finances of the cooperative.

My knowledge of cooperative principles and operations would be a benefit for a position on the board of directors for DSO.

I appreciate the consideration to be on the ballot.

Thank You,
Karla Durrant

SHEILA HUMMEL resides on a farm northeast of Hope. She has been married to her husband, Roger, for 36 years. They have four married children and four grandchildren. Sheila has been a member of DSO her entire life.

Sheila currently works as a substitute teacher and handles bookkeeping for the family farm. She has proudly served as an East District board representative for the past six years and seeks another term to continue her service. Sheila's knowledge of the DSO Electric Cooperative and electric cooperatives in general has grown significantly, yet she remains committed to continuous learning.

She actively participates in training sessions to enhance her capabilities as a director and recently earned her Credentialed Cooperative Director certification. Sheila is also working toward her Board Leadership Certificate, which she aims to complete by the end of the year.

In her role as vice president of the DSO board, Sheila serves on both the executive and policy, and bylaw committees. Additionally, she is an alternate delegate on the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Board of Directors, contributing to the communications, and loss control, safety and compliance committees. Sheila is dedicated to serving the membership and is always open to questions and discussions with fellow members.

CENTRAL DISTRICT POSITION 2



MIKE RICHARDS is a retired electric foreman from Solomon with over 40 years of work experience. He strives to maintain a courteous and positive attitude and advocates for others by seeking out opportunities to improve the community.

He graduated from Solomon High School in 1978, attended classes at Hutchinson Community College and completed the Manhattan Vo-Tech Lineman program in 1979.

He worked as a lineman for Ark Valley Electric for six years and then transitioned to a foreman role at Westar (now called Evergy) for 34 years. He has built lines, ran outages and traveled to restore power during natural disasters.

He has served on the Little River City Council and was a member of Lion's Club. He was also a USD 444 school board member for 14 years.

WEST DISTRICT POSITION 2



JIM CHRISTOPHER and his wife, Lisa, live in rural Falun. They have three grown children and four grandchildren.

A lifelong Saline County resident, Christopher is a farmer/stockman. After graduating from North Park College in Chicago, he served in the U.S. Air Force from 1971 to 1976.

He is completing his fourth term on the DSO board and is the DSO representative to Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc (KEC). He is secretary on the KEC executive committee and also serves on the legislative and communications committees. He has completed National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Credential Co-op Director and Board Leadership programs, achieving Director Gold status.

Christopher has served on various boards in the community and his church. He is currently a Falun Township trustee and on the board of Evangelical Covenant Church in Lindsborg.

10 Tips to Go Green for St. Patrick's Day

1 REPLACE YOUR HVAC FILTER.

When was the last time you replaced your filter? If you can't remember, there's a good chance it is time to replace it. Generally, these need to be replaced every three months, but factors such as having pets, climate and age of your system can cause this to vary.

2 INSTALL A SMART THERMOSTAT.

A smart thermostat can add convenience, generate savings and help you go greener. You can set it to adjust your home's temperature depending on your schedule, and many thermostats can detect when no one is home and automatically reduce use. Incentives and deals are often offered by utilities — be sure to check with yours.

3 ANALYZE YOUR ENERGY BILL.

Review past bills to better understand your energy consumption patterns. Understanding these patterns can help you decide when to run appliances, whether to pursue energy efficiency upgrades and how to start reducing your usage.

4 CUT ENERGY USE DURING PEAK HOURS.

In the springtime, the peak hours for electricity tend to be in the evenings. Consider going out to a park, restaurant or theater during this time to lower your electricity usage.

5 UPGRADE TO ENERGY-EFFICIENT APPLIANCES.

Look for appliances that are Energy Star-certified. These appliances use 10% to 15% less energy and water than standard models, according to www.energy.gov.

6 LOOK FOR ENERGY SAVINGS REBATE PROGRAMS FOR SOLAR,

BATTERY STORAGE OR ELECTRIC

VEHICLES. This could be your year to go electric or solar! Many utilities and government programs offer rebates and incentives to help make these technologies more accessible.

7 CONSIDER GOING GEOTHERMAL FOR YOUR HEATING AND

COOLING NEEDS. Geothermal systems are literally powered by the Earth. These systems heat and cool your home using a piping system, referred to as a loop. Water circulates in this loop to exchange heat between your home, the ground source heat pump and the earth. There can be significant start-up costs, so see what incentives are offered in your area. There are also collective buying programs to help reduce initial costs through competitive bulk pricing.

8 ASSESS YOUR HOME'S SOLAR POTENTIAL.

How much of your roof is suitable for solar panels? What energy savings could you receive? Find answers to these questions to discover if this is your time to go solar. Search for solar calculators, check with your electric co-op and reach out to vetted companies for assessments and quotes.

9 SIGN UP FOR COMMUNITY SOLAR.

If you can't install solar panels because you rent, don't have a sunny roof or if it's too expensive, you could benefit from community solar programs. Several Kansas co-ops offer community solar programs for their members. Members can sign up for solar shares and benefit from the renewable energy program. Check with your co-op to learn if community solar is available in your area.

10 LEARN ABOUT RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATES

(RECS). If you're interested in sourcing your energy from renewable sources, consider purchasing RECs. These are tradable, non-tangible commodities that represent 1 megawatt-hour of electricity that was generated from a renewable energy source and then put into the power system. When you purchase RECs, you are supporting the production of renewable energy. Check with your electric-co-op to see if it has an RECs program.

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BRING UNIQUE VALUE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

Electric cooperatives stand out from other types of businesses because we are built and led by the communities we serve. As independent, not-for-profit electric utilities, we are owned and governed by our local members — not by outside shareholders or investors. That is a powerful differentiator.

Here are a few ways electric co-ops like DSO bring unique value to the local communities they serve:

► WE PUT PEOPLE BEFORE PROFITS.

Co-ops are not-for-profit and provide at-cost electric service. Any excess revenue is returned to our consumer-members in the form of capital credits, typically as a bill credit or check.

► COMMUNITY COMES FIRST.

We live and work here too, and we care deeply about our local communities. That's why we engage in development and revitalization projects, sponsor local students for scholarships and youth programs.

► AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE POWER IS OUR PRIORITY.

DSO purchases electricity from Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), our wholesale energy partner. KEPCo is a generation and transmission cooperative formed by a group of electric co-ops in our region. This cooperative business structure allows us to pool local resources and provide electricity at a lower cost than if we purchased it from outside sources.

DSO is working to power a brighter future through innovation that meets tomorrow's energy needs.

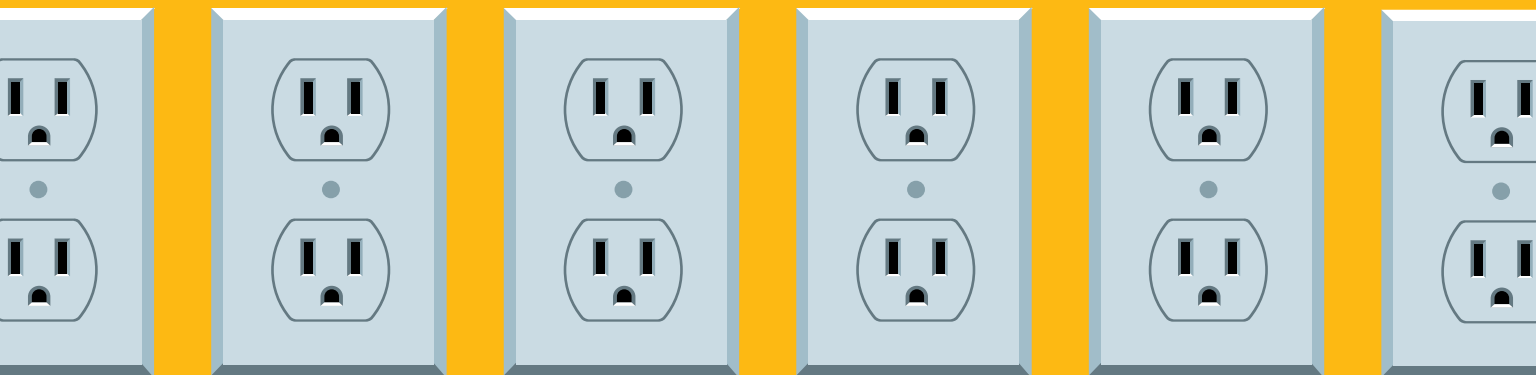
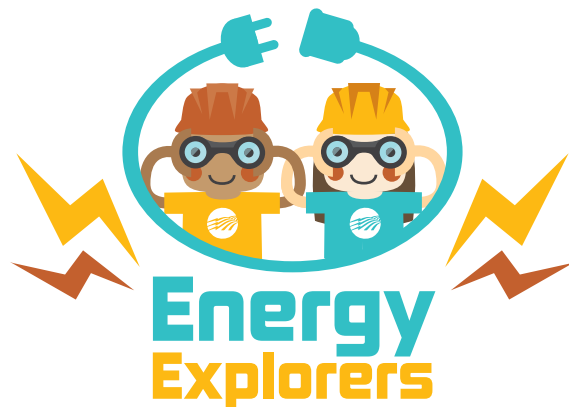
Reliable, affordable electricity is more important than ever before, and our focus will continue to be in the best interest of the local communities we serve. To learn more about DSO, visit www.dsoelectric.com.

ELECTRONICS EFFICIENCY

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

You can help save energy at home by using electronic devices more efficiently. Read the energy-saving tips below and fill in the blanks with the correct word that completes the efficiency tip.

Psst! Check your work in the answer key below.



1. Use a(n) _____ with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.

A. power strip

B. extension cord

C. remote control

2. For devices that require _____, use rechargeable ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.

A. power cords

B. lights

C. batteries

3. Unplug electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like _____.

A. lamps

B. ceiling fans

C. phone chargers

4. Use the sleep or power management mode on your _____ to save on energy costs.

A. computer

B. refrigerator

C. oven

Answer Key
1. A 2. C 3. C 4. A