



**DS&O ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

# HEADLINER

## Board

<b>James Christopher</b> Falun, President	<b>Dane Clark</b> Gypsum, Trustee
<b>Brian Lang</b> Solomon, Vice President	<b>Sheila Hummel</b> Hope, Trustee
<b>Ken Hedberg</b> Marquette, Secretary	<b>David Mueller</b> Tampa, Trustee
<b>Dean Allison</b> Delphos, Trustee	<b>Ron Seyfert</b> Ada, Trustee
<b>David Butler</b> Junction City, Trustee	<b>Bruce Spare</b> Assaria, Trustee

## Staff

<b>Timothy J. Power</b> CEO	<b>Judy Barten</b> CFO
<b>Mike Olberding</b> Operations Manager	<b>Derrick Rutherford</b> Communications Manager

## Office Hours

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday  
Open over the lunch hour

## Payment Locations

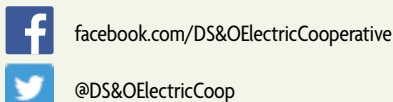
**CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK IN  
WALMART SUPERCENTER**  
521 E. Chestnut St., Junction City, KS 66441

**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



## FROM THE MANAGER

# 2020 Preview

As we embark on a new year, I want to let you know about our main points of focus in 2020.

### Tree Trimming

Tree trimming to maintain clean right of ways for our lines is something we do year-round, but most of it occurs in the spring and fall. That being the case, it often gets delayed, due to wet weather and muddy roads. We hit it hard in the fall of 2019 and expect to do the same in the spring and fall of 2020.

### New Metering System

We started replacing our old metering system in late 2018 and plan to finish in 2020. The new meters provide us with very useful information and pinpoint potential issues before they cause outages.

### Safety Demonstrations

Each year our linemen provide about a dozen high-voltage safety demonstrations and plan to do the same in 2020. We present for schools, firemen, law enforcement and agricultural groups. If you would like to schedule an event or need more information, please call us.

### Cost of Service Study

Every few years we have a consultant

perform a cost of service study. This study does just what it says, it determines what it costs us to provide electricity to each of our rate classes. That information is helpful in determining whether we need to adjust electricity rates.

It's been five years since our last cost of service study was completed, so we will have one completed in 2020. We will let you know the results of the study sometime in 2020.

### KEPCo Rates

Our electricity supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, is considering restructuring how it charges electricity to its member co-ops. This is something we have strongly encouraged and view positively. Depending on the specifics, KEPCo, DS&O, and all our members could see more opportunities to save on our electric bills. We will keep you informed as this moves forward.

### Education Program

This year we plan to offer a program for high school seniors to visit our office for a career day. We hope such a program will show students the variety of work offered at an electric cooperative and help them consider such work in the future. Stay tuned for more information on this program.

## DS&O Gives \$350,000 Back to Members

Each year DS&O's board of directors determines the portion of allocated capital credits to retire, while ensuring DS&O maintains its financial stability and meets lender requirements. At the October 2019 board meeting, the board approved the retirement of \$350,000 in capital credits.

Checks for the retirement were mailed at the end of December. If you did not receive a check, then please look at your Dec. 5 DS&O bill to see if it was credited to your account. Please know that DS&O has a minimum check limit of \$20. If your capital credit retirement this year was less than \$20, then DS&O will hold this retirement and add it to your future retirements until the \$20 minimum is met. If you sign up for a bill credit, then you will not have to wait to receive your capital credit retirement, as there is no minimum for bill credits.

To date, DS&O has returned a total of \$8.5 million to its members.

If you would like future retirements applied to your bill as a credit or have any questions about capital credits, please call us at 800-376-3533 during regular business hours.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss by up to 10%.

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



# Three DIY Efficiency Projects to Tackle This Year

A new year brings new opportunities to save energy — and money. You may think energy efficiency upgrades require a great deal of time and expense, but that's not always the case.

If you're interested in making your home more efficient but don't want to break the bank, there are several do-it-yourself projects you can tackle to increase energy savings. Let's take a look at three inexpensive efficiency upgrades that can help you save energy throughout the year.

#### Trim Dryer Vent

- ▶ Level of difficulty: easy
- ▶ Supplies needed: tin snips, gloves, measuring tape and masking tape
- ▶ Estimated Cost: about \$25 depending on the supplies you already have

If your dryer vent hose is too long, your dryer is working harder than it has to, using more energy than necessary. The vent hose should be long enough for you to pull the dryer out a couple of feet from the wall, but the shape of the hose should form a line — it should not have a lot of slack, with twists and curves. A shorter, unobstructed vent hose increases the efficiency of your dryer, dries clothing faster and reduces lint buildup, which can create potential fire hazards.

Simply measure, mark and trim the hose to the desired length, then reattach the hose to your dryer and exterior vent. If you're unsure about the hose length, check out YouTube.com for a quick video tutorial.

#### Seal Air Leaks

- ▶ Level of difficulty: moderate
- ▶ Supplies needed: caulk and caulk gun, weather stripping, gloves, putty knife, paper towels
- ▶ Estimated Cost: \$25-\$50 depending on the materials you purchase

Sealing air leaks in your home can help you save 10%-20% on heating and cooling bills. Apply caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing to seal in conditioned air. You should also weatherstrip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Types of caulking and weatherstripping materials vary but ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need.

#### Insulate Attic Stairs Opening

- ▶ Level of difficulty: moderate
- ▶ Supplies needed (if you build the box yourself): rigid foam board, faced blanket insulation, tape for foam board, measuring tape, utility knife, caulk and caulk gun, plywood
- ▶ Estimated Cost: \$50-\$100

A properly insulated attic is one of the best ways to optimize energy savings and comfort in your home, but many homeowners don't consider insulating the attic stairs, or the opening to your attic space. Even a well-insulated attic can leak air through the stair opening, but luckily, there's an easy fix.

An insulated cover box can seal and insulate the attic stairs opening. You can build your own insulated cover box or purchase a pre-built box or kit from a local home improvement store like Home Depot or Lowe's for about \$60. If you decide to build your own, check out these step-by-step instructions from the Department of Energy: <https://bit.ly/36YNCYQ>. It should also be noted, if your attic opening is located in a garage you do not heat and cool, this upgrade will not be as effective.

Saving energy doesn't have to be hard. With a little time and effort, you can maximize energy savings and increase the comfort of your home.



# Notice of Board of Directors Elections

DS&O Electric Cooperative is accepting nominations for three seats on the DS&O board of directors.

Positions up for election this year (the current director is listed below the district) are:

► **Central District**

**BRUCE SPARE**

► **West District**

**RON SEYFERT**

► **East District**

**DAVID MUELLER**

DS&O's coverage area is divided into three districts. Individuals who wish to run for a director's seat need to be active members of the cooperative and bona fide residents of the district they wish to represent. Information packets for those seeking to be candidates for the board are available at the DS&O office in Solomon. Potential candidates and existing directors up for reelection must submit a completed petition, signed by at least 15 members who are residents of the cooperative. Signed



Bruce Spare



Ron Seyfert



David Mueller

petitions must be filed in DS&O's office in Solomon by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7, 2020.

Ballots will include those nominated by petition for the board and will be mailed to all members of the cooperative on or about March 13, 2020, and must be returned by 4:30 p.m. on March 31, 2020. Election results will be announced at the DS&O annual meeting, which will be held **TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020**.

Election paperwork and copies of the DS&O bylaws are available at the cooperative office located in Solomon or online at [www.dsоеlectric.com](http://www.dsоеlectric.com).

For questions, please contact Derrick Rutherford at 800-376-3533, email at [drutherford@dsоеlectric.com](mailto:drutherford@dsоеlectric.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 286, Solomon, Kansas 67480.

## 2020 Dates to REMEMBER

► **FEB. 7, 2020**

Completed petition, affirmation of director qualification, photo and brief bio must be filed at the DS&O Solomon office by 4:30 p.m.

► **MARCH 13, 2020**

Director election ballots will be mailed to the members.

► **MARCH 31, 2020**

Ballots must be received at the DS&O Solomon office by 4:30 p.m.

► **APRIL 14, 2020**

Election results will be announced at the DS&O annual meeting.

## Why is My Power Out?

When power goes out, we are working hard to restore it. We hate it when the power goes out just as much as you do. When there is an outage, we work hard to resume service as quickly and safely as possible.

Many times, the reasons for outages are beyond our control. Here are the main reasons the power goes out:

- **STORMS** — Conditions brought on by storms such as high winds, ice and lightning can interrupt service. Lightning itself does not impact outages as much as people think, but it can strike trees and cause branches or even whole trees to fall on distribution lines. Lightning can cause a problem, however, if it strikes substation equipment, such as a large transformer. Strong high winds and ice that accumulates on lines can also impact distribution.
- **TREES AND VEGETATION** — Branches, limbs or trunks can fall on lines and vegetation (such as vines) can grow around poles, lines or other equipment. Ice and wind can make matters worse. This is why

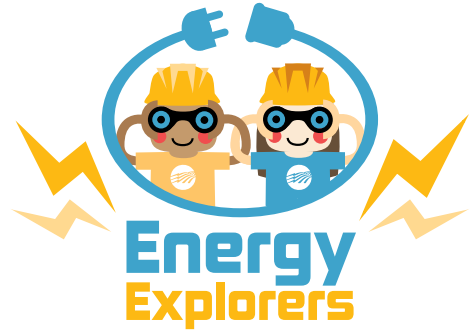
we continuously work to keep rights of way near power lines and equipment clear.

- **ANIMALS** — It is estimated that 11% of all outages are caused by our furry friend the squirrel. They love to chew on the weatherproof coating around lines. Other critters like turkeys, snakes and seagulls can interfere with service too.
- **ACCIDENTS** — Cars, trucks and farm equipment that collide with a utility pole can cause an outage.
- **PUBLIC DAMAGE** — Unsafe digging, equipment or line damage, vandalism or theft can all cause interruptions in the energy chain.
- **OVERLOAD** — This happens where demand spikes, such as when too many air conditioners run on a hot summer day, causing blackouts or brownouts.
- **EQUIPMENT ISSUES** — We maintain and inspect all of our lines and equipment regularly; however, sometimes equipment malfunctions and we address those problems as soon as they happen.

# ENERGY SAVINGS WORD SEARCH

Did you know there are many ways you can help save energy in your home?

Read the energy efficiency tips below and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.



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

- Turn off **lights** any time you leave a room.
- Keep the **refrigerator** door closed to save energy.
- Wash **clothing** in cold water to reduce the load on your **water heater**.
- Unplug items that consume **electricity** even when they're not in use, like cell phone **chargers** and coffee makers. These are known as "phantom load" **electronics**.
- Take **showers** instead of baths – showers require less **water** use.