




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
 1100 SW Auburn Rd, Topeka, KS 66615
 785-478-3444
 www.kve.coop



**KAW VALLEY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

LightTalk

**Kaw Valley Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Jerry Manning—General Manager

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Legal Counsel

**Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month**

If you only want to heat or supplement inadequate heating in one room, small space heaters can be less expensive to use than your central heating system.



FROM THE MANAGER

Kaw Valley Sponsors Three All-Expense Paid Trips for Juniors



Jerry Manning

This month, Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative begins the search for future leaders who will represent the membership with the same dedication and commitment

as our staff here in Topeka.

If you know a student who is enrolled in their junior year in high school and whose parents are members of Kaw Valley we have several opportunities for travel and leadership.

Each year in June, Kaw Valley sponsors two lucky students who are given the chance to travel to Washington, D.C., for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. They will join 1,700 cooperative student representatives from across the country, tour and meet with elected officials.

Kaw Valley has added an opportunity this year for one student member

to attend the Cooperative Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO, in July. At camp, students will experience the cooperative model first-hand, while being a part of this award-winning experience.

Students awarded these trips return home with a deeper understanding and skillset of what it takes to be a leader, and as a result, they put these skills to use right here in our local communities. We are thrilled to be able to offer these opportunities to our students, as those who have attended these trips in the past have repeatedly returned and shared that this experience was a life changing one, and has helped them grow into successful professionals.

As always, if you have any questions about the alliance, consolidation vote, or your electric service, we encourage you to engage and ask questions. You can contact us by email at info@kve.coop, by phone at 800-794-2011, or online at www.kve.coop.

Kaw Valley Welcomes Moody to Line Crew

JORDAN MOODY has recently been hired as an apprentice lineman by Kaw Valley Electric.

Moody is completing his Electric Power and Distribution Program with Manhattan Area Technical College, and was an intern with Bluestem Electric Cooperative in Wamego. Welcome to Kaw Valley!



Jordan Moody

Kaw Valley Trustee Election Process Begins

Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative is governed by a Board of Trustees elected by you, our member-owners. KVEC has a service territory that is divided into nine districts, with each district having one member on the Board of Trustees. Each year, three Trustee positions become open after their three-year term expires.

The following Trustees terms expire as of the KVEC Annual Meeting on April 19, 2016.

- ▶ District 3 – **ROBERT L. SAGE**
- ▶ District 6 – **LARRY BUTEL**
- ▶ District 9 – **ROBERT LYNCH**

The process for being nominated to the Board of Trustees is beginning. The Trustees whose terms are expiring can either be nominated for re-election or they can choose to withdraw their name for consideration.

At the same time, other KVEC members who may be interested in serving on the Board of Trustees can be nominated for the election to the Board of Trustees.

Nine cooperative members are appointed

to serve on the nominating committee, and their duty is to select and nominate qualified candidates to be placed on the ballot. This committee will review the names that have been submitted and will then present a slate of nominees to be presented to the membership at the KVEC Annual Meeting for



In 2016, terms for trustees from Districts 3, 6, and 9 will expire. To submit your name for nomination, please complete and return the form below by Jan. 22.

election.

If you are interested in seeking a position on the Board of Trustees, contact the nominating committee member in your district. You may also submit your name by filling out the Trustee Application below and submit it no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, January 22.

Questions regarding the nomination and election process can be directed to KVEC assistant manager, Kevin Gregg 785-478-3444.

2015 Nominating Committee

District 3

▶ **CANDACE BLYTHE**, Maple Hill
785-256-6721

District 6

▶ **MIKE MUSICK**, Overbrook
785-665-7480

District 9

▶ **CHALMERS SMITH**, Tecumseh
785-379-5665

Kaw Valley Board of Trustees Application

Return to KVEC (PO Box 750640, Topeka, KS 66675) no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, January 22, 2016.

I, the undersigned, a member of KVEC, hereby applies as a nominee for Trustee of KVEC from District _____ and requests that my name be considered by the Nominating Committee to be placed on the ballot for the next election during the KVEC Annual Meeting on April 19, 2016.

- ▶ I certify that my account is current and that I am member in good standing with KVEC.
- ▶ I certify that I am a resident of District _____ and am receiving electricity from KVEC.
- ▶ I certify that I am not in a competing business with KVEC.

If elected Trustee, I agree to abide by the Board Code of Ethics, Board Policies, and the articles of incorporation and bylaws of KVEC.

Signature _____

Date _____

What Makes a Good Trustee?

The Kaw Valley Board of Trustees provides a connection between our membership and community at large. You may ask if you have what it takes to serve on our board.

We seek those who have a sincere interest in preserving the strength of KVEC's operations and maintaining a productive relationship with our members. We look for our Trustees to maintain open lines of communication with the districts they serve.

In addition, Trustees work together to ensure equitable treatment to all members across the system, as well as strive to be knowledgeable about trends and circumstances that may affect the members and communities that KVEC serves.

Potential trustees must:

- ▶ Be a KVEC member
- ▶ Have a bona fide residence in the district with an opening

Potential trustees cannot:

- ▶ Be employed by or financially interested in an enterprise selling electric energy or services
- ▶ Be employed by or financially interested in a business that sells services or supplies to KVEC
- ▶ Be a current KVEC employee or have been an employee within the past three years
- ▶ Be a close relative of a current KVEC trustee or employee
- ▶ Have entered a plea of guilty or no contest or have been judged as guilty of a felony crime

The time commitment for a KVEC Board Member averages eight hours per month. Some months will be less, and some may need more time depending on issues, decisions, and activities. Questions regarding serving on the Board of Trustees can be directed to KVEC assistant manager, Kevin Gregg at 785-478-3444.

Opportunity is Knocking

BY ROB SAGE, DISTRICT 3 TRUSTEE

When you see an opportunity that makes sense, you pay attention, you start asking questions. You start aligning pieces, and you examine how everything fits together in order to be successful.

The proposed consolidation of Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative and Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative is one of those opportunities. Let me tell you first-hand that trustees from both cooperatives, management from both cooperatives, and third-party consultants have done their due diligence on behalf of the memberships to determine if this consolidation is an opportunity that makes sense – an opportunity that fits.

What we have coming in April is an excellent opportunity.

We have the chance to save our members \$18 million over the next 10 years. We have the chance to expand our resources, and offer even more benefits to our members. We have a chance to join a cooperative that also puts member satisfaction and customer service as priority No. 1.



Rob Sage

In order to maintain our standard of service our field staff, linemen and customer service will not change. Rest assured, our members will remain our top priority. We will continue to provide you with first-class customer service because that is important

to both cooperatives.

There will be some minor changes to the day-to-day management of the cooperative, but those changes won't be noticeable to our membership. In fact, both cooperatives have already begun the transition of working more efficiently, combining best practices, and establishing and identifying ways to save our members money.

I'm proud to support the consolidation of these cooperatives by voting "yes" in April because it means a better, more secure future for our members. That's something we can all get behind.

ROB SAGE is a second generation trustee on the Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees representing District 3 for the past 12 years residing in Maple Hill.

Vote YES



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Consolidate for stable rates

www.voteyesApril19.com

Stay Aware & Stay Prepared for Winter Weather

As we approach the winter weather season, it is important to remember to be prepared. Winter weather can cause hazardous travel conditions, downed power lines, and extended power outages.

Stay aware. Stay prepared. Know the difference between watches and warnings:

- ▶ A winter storm watch means stormy conditions, including heavy snow, freezing rain, or sleet are likely within the next few days. You should be aware that this means adverse conditions could begin within 12 to 48 hours.
- ▶ A winter storm warning means conditions can become adverse within the next 24 hours. Those in the range of the warning should be aware of impending conditions and consider altering plans to travel.
- ▶ A blizzard warning means an affected area should seek refuge immediately due to high levels of snow, strong winds, and near-zero visibility to those traveling.

Do you have an emergency preparedness kit for winter weather? Your family should be aware of the kit's location and contents.



2016 Youth Tour Contest Application – *Deadline: February 15, 2016*

If you are a high school junior and your parents or guardians are Kaw Valley Electric members, you are eligible to apply.

Kaw Valley Electric will send two students to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 9-16, 2016, and one student to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat

Scan these Codes to Get More Information

Washington, D.C.



Steamboat Springs, CO



Springs, CO, July 16-22, 2016.

When you mail in the application below, you will be sent an official packet.

Applicants will complete a quiz and personal interview at the Kaw Valley offices on Sunday, March 6, 2016. For more information, contact Sarah Farlee at sarah.farlee@ljec.coop or call 913-796-6111.

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

High School: _____

Email Address: _____

**Please provide an address that is checked often, as materials and requests will be emailed to the provided address.*

I hereby grant permission for the above named applicant to enter the 2016 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative.

Signature of parent/guardian *(must be an Kaw Valley Electric member residing in the coverage territory)*

Return application request to:
 Kaw Valley Electric
 Attn: Sarah Farlee
 PO Box 750640, Topeka, KS 66675

This form is a request for an official application packet. You will be notified of application process when form is received.