



**FREESTATE ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

# The Outlet

## FreeState Electric Cooperative, Inc.

### Board of Trustees

**Larry Butel**  
Overbrook

**Mark Gratny**  
Leavenworth

**Dallas Caster**  
Auburn

**Don Montgomery**  
Burlingame

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**Jeanine Murphy**  
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**Rob Sage**  
Maple Hill

**Ralph Phillips**  
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**Matthew Turecek**  
Valley Falls

**Mark Wulfkuhle**  
Berryton

**Harlan Hunt**  
Meriden

### Staff

**Steve Foss**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Christopher Parr**  
Assistant General Manager

**Randy Richards**  
Assistant General Manager

### District Offices

**McLouth Office**  
P.O. Box 70  
McLouth, KS 66054-0070

**Topeka Office**  
1100 SW Auburn Rd  
Topeka, KS 66615

**Office Hours:**  
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

## Tip of the Month

Get a programmable thermostat. You can save up to 10 percent a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for eight hours a day, according to Energy.gov

## FROM THE CEO

### Attending Annual Meeting is Important



**Steve Foss**

You have heard us talk about engagement and the cooperative difference for quite some time because it is a critical part of what makes

FreeState unique.

Did you know by attending the annual meeting you can connect with those who provide your power, as well as neighbors and friends? It's a chance to surround yourself with like-minded people and we shouldn't take that opportunity for granted.

FreeState Electric Cooperative will hold its annual meeting on **TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019, AT PERRY-LECOMPTON HIGH SCHOOL.**

You might not think attending the meeting is important. I'm sure you've told yourself that you don't have time, or it doesn't matter that you are there, or even the most popular response, "Everything is fine. You don't need me there."

I'm here to tell you that yes, everything is running smoothly, but we do need you there and we want to see you in Perry. We want to see you there because this is your cooperative. Every time you pay your bill you invest in your electric service. Your dollars are used for

improvement projects that impact the reliability, safety and affordability of your service. The benefit of being a co-op consumer-member is that you can have a say in how your co-op runs because we work for you.

The annual meeting gives you the chance to gain insight into the financial security of the co-op and see how we operate. You can ask questions and talk directly to the board of trustees and the staff who make sure you have power when you need it. It's your prerogative to give your opinion, and don't forget you have the right to vote for your representation in the board room.

FreeState has you in mind as we plan the annual meeting. It is designed to take care of business, but also provide a sense of community and empowerment. If you are a veteran of attending these meetings I encourage you to invite your neighbor who may not have participated before. There will be free hamburgers and hot dogs and door prizes.

We understand if you can't make it, so we will offer live feed of the meeting on our Facebook page. You can watch and follow from wherever you are thanks to Facebook Live. We hope to see you in Perry on April 23.

**AS ALWAYS, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONTACT US AT 800-794-1989 OR CUSTOMERSERVICE@FREESTATE.COOP.**

## 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

# Voting Information

Trustee Candidate Profiles and How to Cast Your Vote Starting April 2

Join us at the annual meeting of FreeState Electric Cooperative on April 23, 2019, at Perry-Lecompton High School. Members attending will receive a \$10 bill credit. There will also be a chance to win great door prizes. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the co-op will be serving hamburgers and hot dogs. The business meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

## At-Large Trustee Election

On Feb. 5, 2019, members of the FreeState nominating committee, appointed by the board of trustees, met to present candidates for election to the FreeState board. The candidates listed are to be presented to the membership for consideration at the upcoming annual meeting on April 23.

During the annual meeting, two board members will be elected. FreeState members will vote by an at-large system. Members can vote for any of the nominees in any district.

The 2019 trustee positions up for election are as follows:

### East District, Position 1

- ▶ HARLAN HUNT (INCUMBENT)
- ▶ MICHAEL MCNARY

### West District, Position 1

- ▶ MARK WULFKUHLE (INCUMBENT)
- ▶ UNOPPOSED

The board of trustees elected to eliminate two positions due to a retirement and the fulfillment of a term. This will make nine trustees total moving forward. This number is now aligned with the national recommendation for a cooperative of comparative size. FreeState's trustees considered recommendations and best practices before a decision was finalized.

FreeState is governed by the policies set by our board, all of whom are FreeState cooperative members. Our board provides a vital connection with our membership and the community at large.

## How Can I Vote?

We understand not every member can attend the annual meeting, but we want to make sure you can participate in the election.

Each FreeState member gets only one vote and every member has three voting options available.

- ▶ Vote by mail
- ▶ Vote at the annual meeting
- ▶ Vote by proxy

## Vote by Mail

Ballots will be mailed beginning April 2, 2019, and will need to be returned to FreeState by April 19 to ensure they are counted. It is simple to vote by mail. Simply complete the ballot using the instructions listed and return as directed in the postage paid envelope provided.

Please return the ballot using the postage paid envelope. Do not bring ballots to the office.

## Vote at the Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2019, at Perry-Lecompton High School Theater. Members will be issued a ballot when they register if they have not voted by mail prior to the meeting.

## Vote by Proxy

If you cannot attend the annual meeting and you forget to mail your ballot in time, you can vote by proxy. Complete the proxy form online at [www.freestate.coop/annualmeeting](http://www.freestate.coop/annualmeeting) and give it to another FreeState member or adult relative in the same home and they can cast the vote for you.

Candidate biographical information is printed on the next page. It will also be included with mailed ballots. For more information, visit [WWW.FREESTATE.COOP/ANNUALMEETING](http://WWW.FREESTATE.COOP/ANNUALMEETING).

# 2019 Trustee Election: Candidate Profiles

## EAST DISTRICT



**Harlan Hunt (I)**  
Meriden

**HARLAN HUNT** has been a trustee for the past 19 years and

a member for more than 40. Hunt retired after 37 years at Goodyear.

Hunt enjoys meeting members face-to-face, as well as the opportunity to learn more about the industry and how to better serve the membership. Being involved in decision-making that helps cooperative members is something Hunt has enjoyed while serving.

He would like to continue working to keep the cooperative financially viable with stable rates.

“We have an opportunity to provide rate stability,” said Hunt. “We are also continually looking at ways we can improve and continue our member satisfaction by keeping customer service a priority.

“We do all of this by making sound decisions based on facts, best practices and comparative recommendations.”

Hunt is Director Gold Certified by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, completing the education requirements for Credentialed Co-op Director and Board Leadership credentials. He has also served on the board of FreeState’s power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo).

## EAST DISTRICT



**Michael McNary**  
Meriden

**MICHAEL MCNARY** has been a FreeState member for 20

years and a Farmers Insurance agent for the past 22 years.

As a business professional and former employee of Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (1990 to 1997), McNary understands the importance of safe and reliable electric service to rural areas and communities.

McNary wants to help the cooperative in its continued efforts to improve technology and education and says that being available to all members to listen and work together is crucial to solving problems and addressing challenges.

“By working together, the cooperative will be stronger and continue to be successful for years to come,” said McNary.

He is a past Meriden City Council member and now serves as the chairperson for the Meadowlark Extension District of Jefferson, Jackson and Nemaha counties. He also serves on the 4-H Program Development Council.

McNary is vice president of Vawter, Vauter and Vaughter Family Association, and is a member of Knights of Columbus at St. Aloysius Catholic Church assisting with fundraising and community activities.

## WEST DISTRICT



**Mark Wulfkuhle (I)**  
Berryton

**MARK WULFKUHLE** has been a cooperative

member since 1980 and a trustee for the past 10 years.

Wulfkuhle has completed management, analysis and strategic think programs, as well as the Premier Governance Series for Farm Credit Services. He also earned Credentialed Cooperative Director status through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

A Berryton native and area farmer and rancher, Wulfkuhle knows the members he serves.

“As a member of the cooperative, the decisions I help make impact not only my neighbors, but my own family,” said Wulfkuhle. “This is why the board of trustees is diligent and considers options and best practices. We want the decisions we make to make sense.”

Wulfkuhle is involved in many organizations. He is a Douglas County 4-H leader, and serves in leadership positions for Frontier Farm Credit, Kansas Farm Bureau, Farm Credit Services of America, Douglas County Farm Bureau, Douglas County Livestock Association, Douglas County Planning Commission and Lawrence Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Development.

2019 ANNUAL MEETING

# Event

Frequently asked questions about the annual meeting

# Information

FreeState Electric Cooperative bylaws state that the cooperative shall hold an annual meeting of members. The 2019 meeting will be held at Perry-Lecompton High School in Perry on Tuesday, April 23. Below is information that can be helpful for attending the 2019 annual meeting in Perry.

**What information do I need to bring to register?**

You will provide your service address to the member service representative at the registration table when you arrive to verify your account.

**Can I change my address or do other business at the annual meeting?**

FreeState's member service representatives at the registration table may be able to answer quick questions, but if you require assistance you will be asked to put your name and phone number or address on a card and a representative will follow up with you the next day. Allowing us to contact you the next day keeps our registration line flowing and everyone can get registered quickly.

**Where do I enter the building?**

There are two entrances: at the north and south ends of the school. The doors are adjacent to the north and south parking lots. Please park in those areas and do not park in front of the school. A registration table will be located inside each entrance.

**What's for supper?**

Each person will receive a complimentary hamburger or hot dog meal with chips, cookies and a bottle of water.

**Do I have to attend to win a prize?**

Yes. If you are not present to claim your prize, we will draw another name.

**Will there be exhibits or other information?**

Yes! Our energy use coordinator and engineering staff will be on hand to discuss our member programs like rebates and how energy efficiency can

help save you money. They will also be able to answer questions about solar and other renewable energy.

**During the voting period of the meeting, can I request a ballot for another person?**

Not unless you have a completed and signed proxy form in hand.

**Can my spouse and I both vote?**

No. Only one vote cast per member household or business. Your name should appear on your family's account to be eligible to vote.

**What is proxy voting and how does it work?**

Proxy voting allows any member who cannot attend the annual meeting to designate another person to vote in his or her place. On the proxy, members can assign their vote to an individual. Proxies are counted together with registrations made at the annual meeting to ensure at least a quorum is present in person or represented by proxy. To vote by proxy, complete the proxy form and send it to the annual meeting with the individual assigned to vote on your behalf. Proxies must be hand-delivered to the annual meeting.

**If I vote by mail can I still attend the meeting?**

Yes. You will not receive another ballot, but you will have access to the meeting, the bill credit and meal, and door prizes.

## 2019 Annual Meeting

APRIL 23 AT PERRY-LECOMPTON HIGH

April 2019

S	M	T	W	U	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	29	30				

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. with a free meal of hamburgers and hot dogs.

Members and their family will receive meal tickets at

registration. A door prize ticket will also be given upon registration. A \$10 bill credit will be issued to one account of the member in attendance as our gift for attending.

The business meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and will include the election of two trustees.

For more information and to access the annual report visit [WWW.FREESTATE.COOP/ANNUALMEETING](http://WWW.FREESTATE.COOP/ANNUALMEETING).



# ASK Matt

Energy Use Coordinator **MATT LAMBERT** will answer questions about energy efficiency, renewables, co-op programs, and everything in between. Email Matt your question at [askmatt@freestate.coop](mailto:askmatt@freestate.coop).

**Dear Matt,**  
**I look forward to the spring and fall utility bills every year. Some years I don't see as significant of a decrease as others. Why is that?**

The quick answer is weather and the related energy usage. Forty to 50 percent of a home's energy usage is considered **WEATHER LOAD**. Everything else in our home (refrigerators, freezer, lights, electronics and different appliances) is considered **BASE LOAD**.

Another way to think of your home's base load is what is on all the time regardless of the weather outside. So, in the summer and winter when extra items are running (like air conditioners, heaters or space heaters) your energy bills go up, and in the spring and fall energy bills have a tendency to go down because we don't typically run extra things. We estimate that as much as 40 to 50 percent of your monthly bills are determined by the weather load.

The weather really does drive savings. Some months you can save quite a bit when the weather is considered mild. But, if we get a brutal winter or summer, the savings just won't be there unless you are diligent in practicing energy savings. Some days at the front of a billing cycle with brutal weather can differ from days at the tail end of the cycle that were milder.

For example in April when you get your bill for March usage think about what the temperature was at the begin-

ning of March. You can even view historical temperatures on several weather websites.

However, my favorite resource is **SMARTHUB**. It is actually a co-op resource and free for all of our members. You can access SmartHub at [www.freestate.coop](http://www.freestate.coop) or the mobile app.

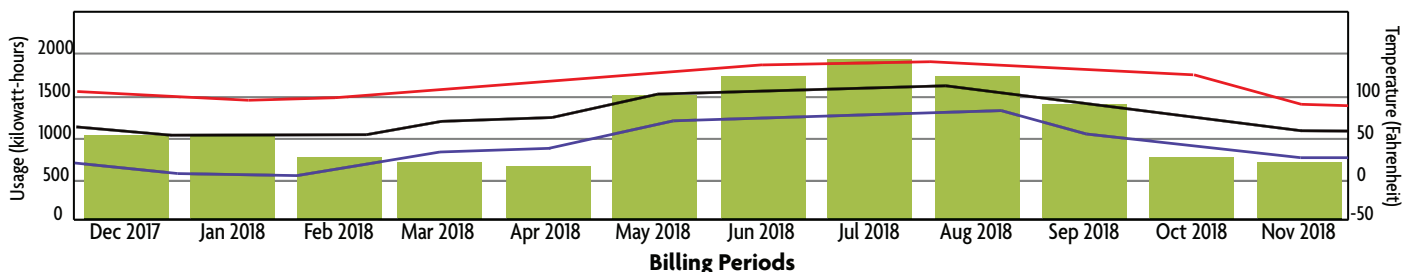
SmartHub allows you to view your usage by month or by day, including viewing a whole year of usage or comparing individual months. You can also add weather information to usage data (see below) in the chart settings menu. The weather line for average temperature as well as highs and lows will show how it affects your usage (weather load). I encourage you to start utilizing SmartHub to understand your home's energy usage patterns and how weather can make an impact.

The graph below was created using the SmartHub desktop application. Using the desktop will also allow members to utilize interactive features that will give more specific data. For example, on the interactive desktop hovering over points along the lines on the graph will pull up additional information like average temperature for the month.

The household shown in the graph does not utilize electric heat in the winter. You can see that winter months are below the blue (cold) line because this graph is only tracking electric energy consumption. However, we do see the increase in the summer months due to air conditioning.

SmartHub is a valuable FREE tool you can use to determine patterns and identify trends in usage.

## Monthly Usage December 2017 to November 2018



## 2019 YOUTH PROGRAMS

# Students Selected

## Four Selected to Represent FreeState this Summer

FreeState Electric Cooperative is sponsoring four local high school students to participate in the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

Winners were selected based on their application and essay on the topic of the cooperative difference.

“Students are scored in three areas,” said **SARAH FARLEE**, FreeState’s youth program coordinator. “We look at their student profile (much like a resume), an essay, and an in-person interview.”

“Schools in our area should be proud of the young people they are sending our way,” Farlee added. “The caliber of students is phenomenal.”

Tonganoxie High School juniors **JAKE EDHOLM** and **PAYTON LYNN** will be traveling to Washington, D.C., in June to experience the annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The trip allows students to get an up-close view of government in action, visit national memorials and meet students from across the country and the state.

During Youth Tour, students will join 1,800 youth from across the nation in Washington, D.C. They will see the monuments and other attractions, as well as visit Capitol Hill to learn more about how our government works.

**ELIZABETH FUNK** and **KATIE KUGLIN**, juniors at McLouth

High School will head west this summer to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in July. The camp focuses on developing leadership skills while campers learn about the cooperative business model and how it functions. In Colorado, Funk and Kuglin will meet students from Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming, in addition to other students from across Kansas. Campers will form a mock “candy cooperative,” learn about leadership and the co-op industry.

“Without our board’s commitment to giving opportunities to young members, we couldn’t provide these incredible opportunities,” said Farlee. “It just proves that the cooperative difference is something FreeState is very proud of.”

Each year, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp are coordinated by Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC), the statewide service organization for rural electric cooperatives in Kansas.

Formed in 1941 and headquartered in Topeka, KEC represents the interests of and provides needed services and programs to the electric cooperatives that serve Kansas.

Today, KEC serves 29 distribution cooperatives and three generation and transmission cooperatives providing electricity to over 200,000 Kansas households and approximately 80 percent of Kansas.



**Katie Kuglin**

**KATIE KUGLIN** will be a senior at McLouth High School. She is the daughter of Troy and Jenny Kuglin. Katie is very involved at school and volunteers at the Kansas City Zoo where she helps educate about animals and habitat conservation. Katie will represent FreeState at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. An excerpt from her essay on the cooperative difference is below.

*Becoming a member-owner of the FreeState Electric Cooperative is like becoming part of an athletic team. Members are not in competition with each other, but rather working together toward a mutually beneficial goal. Success is built together, and the rewards are shared with the members. FreeState Electric is not about turning a profit. It’s about benefiting its members and making the community a better place.*

*Commercial electric providers are looking to turn maximum profit. FreeState Electric is a non-profit organization, which means that electric power is provided to FreeState’s members for the cost of providing the service (Co-op, Stronger Together). In the event of FreeState making more than was necessary to provide electricity,*

*they return it to the members in the form of capital credits. Because commercial electric providers are seeking ways to make more money, they often hesitate to extend their services into rural areas.*

*These companies make more profit from homes and businesses in cities and towns, so they stay within more populated areas. FreeState and cooperatives like it were created to support the people who live out of town and in the country. The co-op is focused on the service of their members and is dedicated to providing electricity to all people, regardless of convenience.*

*FreeState Electric has more in mind than making money. The co-op strives to help its members by creating a complete community and member-focused organization. Like an athletic team, FreeState members work together to accomplish goals and achieve success.*



**Jake Edholm**

**JAKE EDHOLM** will be a senior at Tonganoxie High School. He is the son of Dan and Ginger Edholm. Jake is very involved at school. He is an avid biker and runner and also enjoys reading classic novels and cooking healthy. Edholm will represent FreeState in Washington, D.C. in June. An excerpt from Jake's essay on the topic of explaining the co-op difference.

*With commercial utility companies, it's hard to feel wanted. However, with electric cooperatives, members feel valued, and their voices heard because of the democratic process that these cooperatives follow.*

*Rural communities are able to better themselves because new voices and ideas are brought to the table. Because electric cooperatives are member-owned and operated, democratic processes allow them a vote in annual cooperative board elections of which elected directors are nominated from among the members.*

*Members maintain equal status and work together for the good of the community. Being a member of a cooperative means that you have the ability to vote on issues, and voice concerns or ideas.*

*So why are cooperatives different? The answer seems clear. They provide the necessary services people need when the commercial utility companies won't. Being a member would be one of the greatest titles a person could have because it means that you're part of something that wants to help people instead of taking their money. If I were to explain being a cooperative member to a neighbor or a member of the community, I would talk about all of the great things that they do, and how being a member means that you are just as integral to it as the next person. When it comes down to it, electric cooperatives will do the right thing for anyone because it isn't as much about the money as it is about providing a service that every person is entitled to.*



**Elizabeth Funk**

**ELIZABETH FUNK** will be a senior at McLouth High School. She is the daughter of Jason and Christine Funk. Elizabeth is involved at school and takes particular interest in math and science-based curriculum. She will represent FreeState at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. Below is an excerpt from Elizabeth's essay on the "cooperative difference."

*There is one kind of business model that is made to benefit both the business and the consumer. This business model is called a cooperative. They are different because they empower the people that buy their goods or services.*

*Every customer has the opportunity to become a member-owner and vote on important issues concerned with the business. Each member-owner has a vote, to choose how their money is used. Cooperatives allow their consumers to play a role in the business, and every individual should take advantage of the opportunity.*

*Without the concept of the cooperative, rural America would not be what it is today. Where there are fewer people, there are less profitable markets. Businesses shy away from known low-profit areas, leaving local communities without modern day conveniences that more populated areas have the benefit of experiencing. Cooperatives often provide quality goods and services to the people that otherwise would not have had access to them. It is amazing in today's world that a business can remain viable and profitable, while still maintaining the value of consumer service and satisfaction.*

*Through cooperatives, member-owners have the power to work with others to improve the quality of life in their communities. Consumers are supported and given a voice in the business that they give their money to. Everyone's thoughts and opinions should be taken into consideration in a business that wants to benefit and care for its consumers.*



**Payton Lynn**

**PAYTON LYNN** will be a senior at Tonganoxie High School. She is the daughter of Scott and Brandi Lynn. Payton is very involved at school. She is passionate about art and enjoys bringing her creativity to all aspects of life. Payton will represent FreeState at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. An excerpt from Payton's essay on the cooperative difference is below.

*What many people do not realize is the amount of power they have as a member-owner in an electric co-op. The ability to be member-owned is something that is unique to electric cooperatives and provides a plethora of benefits as opposed to corporate owned companies.*

*Rather than a traditional company that focuses on making money, electric co-ops give back to its members. With this in mind, it is easy to see the positives of these democratically run companies. However, it may come as a shock that, across the nation, electric co-ops struggle with member participation, simply because many people are not aware of the power they hold. Actually, Matt Grimley of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance writes that over seventy percent of electric cooperatives nationwide had voter turnouts of less than ten percent in 2016. This unfortunate statistic is why it is so important that members become attuned to the power they hold, and take advantage of their membership abilities. Democracy is a cornerstone on which America has been built, but active participation in that democracy is the only way for it to continue to thrive; the same is true for electric co-ops. There are many reasons to get involved in the world of one's cooperative, and it is vital that each and every member do so.*

*With electricity being such an important part of today's society, every person should be educated on where they get it, and also, what kind of an influence they can have because the answers might be more surprising than originally expected.*

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

FreeState Electric Cooperative, Inc., is not subject to the jurisdiction, regulation, supervision and control of the Kansas Corporation Commission, except as specified in K.S.A. 66-104d(f).

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

## Official Notice of Annual Meeting

To the attention of all members of FreeState 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 23rd day of April 2019, the annual meeting of said FreeState Electric Cooperative, Inc., referred to above, will be held at 7 p.m. at Perry-Lecompton High School's theater, 404

Lecompton Rd., Perry, in Jefferson

County Kansas, to take action on the following matters:

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

April 2019						
S	M	T	W	U	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	29	30				

## When the lights go out. So do they.



### Lineworker Appreciation Day

April 8, 2019

#ThankALineworker