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PRAIRIE LAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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POWER LINE ISSUES

Call 800-577-3323 to report outages and other power line issues.

POWER
to make life better

Prairie Land Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held April 9, 2024, at the Prairie Land headquarters in Norton.

A brisket lunch prepared by Pete's BBQ in Smith Center was served to 256 members and guests by Prairie Land employees and members of the Kansas Association for Youth (KAY) from Norton Community High School.

Entertainment was provided by Cowboy Poet Ron Wilson. He composed two unique poems specifically for the occasion (see Page 12D).

Prairie Land Board President Mike Rogers chaired the meeting and called it to order at 12:45 p.m. He recognized special guests in attendance, introduced the members of the board of trustees for each district, and then called on John McClymont, attorney for Prairie Land, to give the results of the 2024 trustee election. **ERIC WITMER** was reelected to District 2; **ROBERT PAXSON** was reelected to District 3; **OTTO LEVIN** was reelected to District 4; and



Cowboy Poet Ron Wilson (left) got a witty answer to his request from District 110 Representative Ken Rahjes.

WILLIAM PETERSON was reelected to District 5.

Rogers introduced our guest speaker, Al Tamimi, senior vice president and chief operations officer of transmission for Sunflower Electric Power Corporation.

CEO Kirk Girard gave the annual report. The report included comments

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Al Tamimi, senior vice president and chief operations officer of transmission for Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, discussed electric grid reliability and transmission cost allocation.

CHANGE YOUR HABITS

To Save Money on Your Energy Bill

Whether looking for free or low-cost ways to save energy or planning a major purchase that will help pay for itself due to energy savings, check out these energy bill money savers.

NO COST

- ▶ Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- ▶ Program your thermostat.
- ▶ Use sunlight for heat in the winter.
- ▶ Fully load dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers.
- ▶ Use window coverings to keep out cold.
- ▶ Turn off electronics when not in use.

LOW COST

- ▶ Use smart strips that turn off power to unused items.
- ▶ Service your HVAC system regularly and change filters as often as recommended.
- ▶ Purchase an insulating blanket made for water heaters.
- ▶ Find and fill air leaks in your home.
- ▶ Caulk between window/door frames and walls.
- ▶ Install a smart thermostat.

MAJOR PURCHASES

- ▶ Upgrade to a high-efficiency HVAC system.
- ▶ Purchase energy-efficient appliances.
- ▶ Insulate attics, exterior walls, basements and crawl spaces.
- ▶ Purchase a clothes dryer with a moisture sensor.
- ▶ Purchase a water-saving dishwasher or washing machine.
- ▶ Replace old windows with energy-efficient versions.



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Prairie Land Annual Meeting Continued from page 12A ▶



Congratulations to our door prize winners, some of whom are gathered around the prize table.

on Prairie Land's financial status and company highlights for 2023.

There being no further business, it was moved, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Deborah Anderson, communications specialist, and Kenzie Griffiths, member services assistant, conducted the drawings for door prizes. Winners were: **MARGARET WETTER** of Norton, Stihl battery-powered leaf blower; **DOROTHY SHIMEK** of Jennings, Ninja Foodi Possible Cooker; **GERALD MCATEE** of Jewell, Stihl trimmer/edger; **KEN RUDA** of Atwood, Cuisinart indoor griddle; **ROBERT WYATT** of Norton, Roomba robot vacuum donated by Sunflower Electric Power Corporation; **JAMES KELLEY** of Phillipsburg, Stihl gas-powered leaf blower donated by Solida Tree Service; **GERALD GOLBEK** of Norton, \$100 bill credit; **STEVE SCHISSLER** of Herndon and **TOSHA KATS** of Norton, \$50 bill credits.



Our lineworkers enjoy shuttling members from the far reaches of the parking lot to the entrance.



In the May magazine, we incorrectly identified Brandon Blue's children. Brandon and his wife, Saige, are pictured above with their three children: Ayden, 14; Bowen, 5; and Zona, 2.

Congratulations to Our Employees' Graduates



NORTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL LeAnne Beikman (left) with her dad, Crew Foreman Gary Beikman.



CONCORDIA HIGH SCHOOL: Maddox Frey (left), with his dad, Concordia Area Supervisor Vonley Frey.



LAKESIDE HIGH SCHOOL: Downs Maintenance Journeyman Ryan Goheen (left) with his son, Kaden Goheen.



DECATUR COMMUNITY JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL: Taylor Ketterl (left) with her dad, Oberlin Maintenance Foreman Spencer Ketterl.



ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL: Dawson Rose (left), with his dad, St. Francis Journeyman Lineworker David Rose.

Working on the Line

Before starting any job, lineworkers complete a “tailgate” meeting to discuss potential hazards, emergency response procedures, task assignments and required protective equipment.



From left: Crew Foreman Chance Bieker, Maintenance Journeyman Ryan Goheen, Area Supervisor Vonley Frey and Journeyman Lineworker Ryan Barnes have a tailgate discussion before a safety demonstration in Downs on April 22.

Words From the Poet Lariat BY RON WILSON

Find more of Wilson's work at www.ronscowboypoetry.com.



Trustee Sandra Benoit (left) with Cowboy Poet Ron Wilson.

“POWER TO MAKE LIFE BETTER”

We thank all those who make Prairie Land Electric go,
Such as the lineworkers who make sure the electricity will flow.
From clerks doing billings and handling a board election
To the Board of Trustees who will give this group direction.

And the backbone of this group, as we should always remember,
Is found in all of you, each customer and member.

Most folks live in the cities now, with houses crammed together.
It's easy to get them power. They don't care about the weather.
But out here in the country, people live some miles apart.
It takes more to provide service, and your co-op takes service to heart.

We thank electric co-ops all across the nation,
For all that you have done to make this rural transformation.
In northwest Kansas, Prairie Land has been a pacesetter
In working hard, providing Power to Make Life Better.

Providing safe, reliable electricity is all part of their design.
So we give thanks for all of you in the Prairie Land Electric line.

LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

SECOND MONDAY IN APRIL

Modern families have come to count on safe, reliable power,
Which we assume will always be there, every minute and every hour.
But what we take for granted doesn't magically appear:
It takes hard work and quite a team to assure that power's here.

And out there every day to assure that power's flowing,
Are the lineworkers who work so hard to keep the electricity going.
And then there comes that time when a major storm hits,
And causes power outages that give the people fits.

I feel for those lineworkers who get the phone call first,
To go out and fix the problem when the weather is the worst.
They may be called out at any time of day or hour.
Thank God they have training and know-how to deal with these
issues of power.

So I want to join in giving our lineworkers appreciation
For their role in helping all of us enjoy electrification.
To keep the power flowing, in times of wind, ice, storm, or shine,
The lineworkers are truly the folks on the front line.

SHARE IN THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF SOLAR POWER WITHOUT THE COST OF INSTALLING ROOFTOP PANELS

- ☀️ OPEN TO ELIGIBLE RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS
- ☀️ AVAILABLE TO OWNERS AND RENTERS
- ☀️ AN AFFORDABLE ALTERNATIVE TO OWNING AND MAINTAINING A SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM
- ☀️ NO ROOF DAMAGE
- ☀️ SIMPLE SIGN-UP AND BILLING
- ☀️ NO LARGE, UPFRONT INVESTMENT
- ☀️ EASY WAY TO SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY

We're removing barriers to solar energy

COMING SOON!

Solar Made Easy!

Prairie Land Electric Cooperative **COMMUNITY SOLAR**



Shares are limited to no more than the average of your previous 12-month electric use. If your 12-month average = 1,000 kWh, then a max of 8 shares is allowed.

CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE:



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