



## LEADERSHIP

# Stay Informed: Attend Your KEC District Meeting

### Districts 4, 5 and 6 meetings scheduled this month

**B**ecause you belong to an electric cooperative, you're able to choose who makes the decisions that affect your electric service. You do this by voting for trustees to represent you on the Kay Electric Cooperative (KEC) board of trustees.

This month, co-op members in Districts 4, 5, and 6 will meet to nominate candidates to represent them on the KEC board of trustees. The following individuals currently represent these districts: Max Hohmann-Dist. 4; Mike Lebeda-Dist. 5; and Brady Hostetler-Dist. 6.

Meetings will be held on the following dates:

**District 4 • Monday, February 12**  
6:30 pm, Nardin Methodist Church

**District 5 • Tuesday, February 13**  
6:30 pm, Medford Civic Center

**District 6 • Thursday, February 15**  
6:30 pm, Billings Community Center

If you live in one of these districts, you will receive an official meeting notice in the mail.

District meetings provide an excellent opportunity for you to meet your trustee, ask questions, and learn about the issues that affect your electric rates.



Max Hohmann  
District 4



Mike Lebeda  
District 5

Any member may run for the position of cooperative trustee, however, candidates must meet certain qualifications to serve. Trustee qualifications are listed in the Kay Electric bylaws, Section 4.02.



Brady Hostetler  
District 6

Pick up a copy of your bylaws at Kay Electric or call your cooperative at **800-535-1079**. To view a map of Kay Electric voting districts, please visit [www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop)

## LIVING by our PRINCIPLES: Democratic Member Control

*Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members—those who buy the goods or use the services of the cooperative—who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.*

Kay Electric Cooperative  
300 W Doolin Ave • PO Box 607  
Blackwell, OK 74631

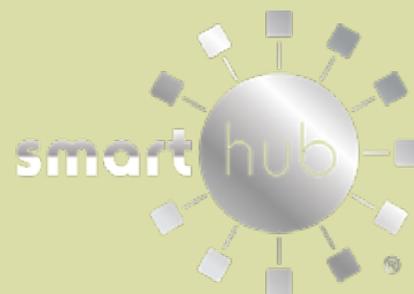
Tele: (580) 363-1260  
Toll Free: **(800) 535-1079**

[www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop)



### Convenient Bill Paying Options

-  Pay online using our secure site at [www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop)
-  Pay via telephone during office hours by using a major credit card at **800-535-1079**
-  Pay in person at KEC or use our 24-hour payment drop box in Blackwell



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- District 1.....Jake Olsen
- District 2.....Chad Otto
- District 3.....Ron Shoffner
- District 4.....Max Hohmann
- District 5.....Mike Lebeda
- District 6.....Brady Hostetler
- District 7.....Kent McAninch
- District 8.....Dr. Tim Blanton
- District 9.....Verl Brorsen

General Manager/CEO  
Tim Rodriguez

REMINDER

## Youth Tour and Energy Camp Deadlines

If you have a high school junior or an eighth grade student in your family, please remind them that there's still time to enter Kay Electric's Youth Tour or Energy Camp contest.



Youth Tour is a free, one-week tour of Washington DC for high school students. The 2018 Youth Tour is June 8-14.

YouthPower Energy Camp is a four-day camp for eighth graders located near Oklahoma's Red Rock Canyon. The camp takes place May 29 - June 1.

To be considered for either trip, students are asked to write a short essay. The essay deadline for both competitions is Friday, February 16, 2018.

Competition guidelines, essay topic and entry forms are available online at [www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop), or call Cyndi Mitchell, Kay Electric youth programs coordinator, at 800-535-1079.

HIDDEN ACCT# 1350402

## \$25 is hiding in this issue!

Please read your newsletter carefully. If you spot your account number hidden in these pages, please contact Kay Electric immediately to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill. If no account numbers are claimed, the prize money will carry over to the next month for a maximum bill credit of \$50.

**800-535-1079**  
**contact@kayelectric.coop**

# KEC Celebrates A Good Year

## Safety, new loads and strong finances in 2017

**Y**ear 2017 is over and in the books. Among your co-op's annual achievements: Kay Electric employees enjoyed a year free of serious accidents or injuries. Ensuring our employees go home safe at the end of the day is paramount to all of us.



By Tim Rodriguez, CEO

KAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

In 2017, Kay Electric scored high on the Rural Electric Safety Achievement program. RESAP grading comes around every three

years and emphasizes safety in an inherently dangerous occupation. Kay Electric also strives to keep the public safe by offering free safety demonstrations and information on electrical safety hazards.

To protect our infrastructure, Kay Electric focuses on identifying parts of our system that could be vulnerable to storm damage. In 2017, we continued system improvements by adding anchors and hardening roadway crossings. The reinforcements will ensure we are prepared for bad weather. We also encourage our members to prepare for storms by having an emergency plan in place. Preparation tips can be found online at [www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop).

As you know, Kay Electric sells and installs backup generators for added reassurance during long outages. Please contact us for more details. If an outage occurs, members can call us at 800-535-1079 or 580-363-1260, text your outage, or use our SmartHub app to let us know you are out of power.

Kay Electric picked up some new commercial accounts in 2017. Because we compete with other utilities for some commercial

loads, it is important for Kay Electric to operate efficiently by maintaining good voltages, low line loss, and avoiding redundant services throughout our system. With only two meters per mile, operating efficiently helps Kay Electric maintain stable rates. Planning is another important responsibility for your co-op. By developing and adhering to an annual work plan, we are able to concentrate on sys-

tem improvements for both current and future members.

Financially, Kay Electric finished 2017 in good condition, maintaining the strong equity position and stable financial ratios required by our lending institution. Although revenues can fluctuate due to increasing or decreasing load, we must

continue to keep our system in excellent operating condition while maintaining strong finances. Kay Electric's system load more than doubled in the last decade. This prompted us to add new substations to improve overall system reliability.

Mother Nature was good to us in 2017, however, other co-ops were not

so fortunate. Our crews assisted these co-ops in their restoration efforts. In turn, we know we can depend on them to help us when we need it. The policy of mutual aid is part of the cooperative way and one of several traits that makes us unique among utilities.

We wish you a safe and prosperous year and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming District Meetings and the 81st Annual Meeting on April 13, 2018.

■ FOR YOUR FRIDGE

## An Outage Reminder That Sticks

Kay Electric is providing members with a free write on/wipe off refrigerator magnet. The gift helps you keep your shopping list handy; it also lists the best ways to report a power outage and reminds members that Facebook should not be used to report power outages.

Outages reported using social media are not entered into Kay Electric's outage management system automatically. As a result, the response to these outage reports can be delayed.

Members who report outages via telephone, SmartHub or Kay Electric's outage texting service are ensured that their outage report has been received and will be acted upon immediately.

Kay Electric hopes the free magnet will help the message stick with members: *Don't use Facebook to report outages!*

Please look for your refrigerator magnet to arrive in the mail this month, courtesy of Kay Electric.



## POWER OUTAGE? No Problem.

A permanently installed Generac home backup generator protects your home automatically, delivering power directly to your home's electrical system when it senses a power outage. Safe. Reliable. Easy. Install a Generac and ride out the next storm in comfort!

Please call Kay Electric today for more information or to schedule a free on-site evaluation.

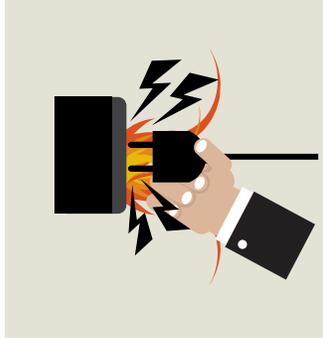
**800-535-1079**  
**www.kayelectric.coop**





# 5 Warning Signs of an electrical malfunction

Electrical problems are more than annoying: When they indicate an underlying problem with your home wiring or appliances, they can be extremely dangerous. Please take measures to locate and correct problems if you notice any of the following warning signs:



- 1. Flickering lights.** If an electrical circuit in your house is overloaded, it could cause the lights to dim or flicker. This usually happens when you have too many energy-intensive appliances or fixtures wired to the same circuit. For example, your lights might flicker when your washing machine is running—if the two are on the same circuit. The solution: Ask a licensed electrician to move the lights to a different circuit or installed a dedicated line for the washing machine.
- 2. Bad smells.** It's not unusual for a new appliance to smell a little bit bad the first time or two you use it. But if outlets, your breaker box or other appliances emit a foul odor, that could signal a problem with the wiring. Unplug anything that doesn't smell right, and call an electrician.
- 3. Sparks.** An appliance that sends off a spark could be damaged. Sparks from a breaker panel or fuse box could signal something more serious. Get a qualified electrician to your house as soon as possible.
- 4. Tripped breakers.** More than the occasional tripped breaker isn't normal, and it's probably not safe. Circuit breakers that trip signal you that you've got a circuit overloaded. If the same appliances—like a hair dryer or a vacuum cleaner—trips the circuit every time, chances are that the appliance is the culprit. But if the same outlet trips the circuit no matter what you plug into it, it's likely an overload. This is a job for a professional.
- 5. A buzz.** Electric appliances should not buzz. They shouldn't make any sounds. When they do, you might have a problem with an outlet or some wiring. An electrician can solve the problem.

For questions about electrical safety or to schedule a free safety demonstration for your classroom or organization, please call your co-op at **800-535-1079**, or visit us online at **www.kayelectric.coop**.

## Rhubarb Crunch

Contributed by Edith Hunt, Ponca City.

### INGREDIENTS

2 cups cut rhubarb  
6 T. flour  
¼ cups rolled oats  
¾ cups sugar  
¼ cup brown sugar  
¼ cup butter  
Grated orange rind

### DIRECTIONS

Place cut rhubarb and grated orange rind in baking dish.

Mix remaining ingredients until crumbly. Pour over rhubarb.

Bake in at 320°F. for 40 minutes.

Serve with cool whip or ice cream.

HIDDEN ACCT# 10701

## Why call when you can text or report your power outage online?

To **text your outage**, sign up for outage texting at **www.kayelectric.coop** or call **800-535-1079**.

To **report an outage using the SmartHub app**, click on the Service Status icon and then click Report an Outage. (Remember to leave a call back number or other important details.) To receive a notice when your outage is restored, click Alerts and Notices and choose text, email or phone notification.

If you need assistance in setting up outage texting or using the SmartHub app, please call us at **800-535-1079**.

