

P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124
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www.ninnescah.com



NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

Ninnescah Rural Electric Co-op, Inc.

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Teresa Miller
General Manager

Robert Lamatsch
Manager of Operations

Sarah Ezell
Manager of HR/Accounting

In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, please call 800-828-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MEETING

85th
ANNUAL

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

at the Pratt Municipal Building

- ▶ Registration at 5 p.m.
- ▶ Dinner at 6 p.m.
- ▶ Meeting to follow.

Don't Miss This Year's Events!

- ▶ Announcement of trustees and scholarship winners.
- ▶ Co-op reports.
- ▶ Door prizes.

Ballot Mailing

Your ballot will be mailed with your annual meeting information. Please mail it back or drop it by our office.

Join us
for a **FREE**
dinner!



Chainsaw Safety

- STATISTICS -

36,000 people each year are treated in hospital ERs for chainsaw-related injuries.

36% of chainsaw accidents result in injuries to the legs and knees.



The average chainsaw injury requires **110 stitches**.



The two most common places for injuries are the **front left thigh** and the **back of the left hand**.



One in five chainsaw injuries is from kickback.



Kickback is the single greatest cause of injury to **chainsaw users**.



Medical costs for chainsaw injuries amount to around **\$350 million** per year.

SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- INJURIES -



Head Injuries
3,418



Upper Body Area
2,141



Arm and Hand Area
17,994



Leg Area
16,348

SOURCE: U.S. PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Property Taxes for 2022

The Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., Pratt, paid a total of \$597,820.42 in ad valorem property taxes in 2022.

Through payment of property taxes, rural electric cooperatives share the cost of the state's educational system, highways and city and county facilities such as roads, libraries, parks and hospitals.

Paying our share of taxes is one of the many ways Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative and nearly 1,000 other rural electric cooperatives — now serving more than 26 million people throughout the United States — help build a stronger, more prosperous America. In addition to the ad valorem property taxes, we pay approximately the same amount in other taxes.

Ninnescah Rural Electric provides electricity to 4,281 services.

| County | Tax Paid |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Barber | \$ 43,285.42 |
| Comanche | \$ 893.60 |
| Edwards | \$ 70,241.16 |
| Harper | \$ 20,506.12 |
| Kingman | \$ 30,903.80 |
| Kiowa | \$ 79,231.50 |
| Pawnee | \$ 1,569.34 |
| Pratt | \$ 270,495.82 |
| Reno | \$ 13,141.26 |
| Stafford | \$ 67,552.40 |
| Totals | \$ 597,820.42 |

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee of Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative met on Friday, Feb. 3, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. at the cooperative office on N.E. 20th Street in Pratt, Kansas.

The following members of the nominating committee were present: **TERAH LAMBERT, KEN W. LEWTON, STEVE MOORE, MARVIN JANTZ, WILBUR WOOD** and **MORGAN J. TRINKLE** this being all the members of the nominating committee, with the exceptions of Jay Derley, Jack Deviney and Jon M. McClure who were unable to attend.

Lewton was selected as the chairman of the nominating committee, Lambert was selected as secretary and Trinkle was selected as inspector of elections.

Danny Lynch of Johnston, Eisenhower, Eisenhower & Lynch, general counsel for the cooperative, reviewed with the nominating committee the qualifications and eligibility requirements for election as a trustee as set forth in the bylaws of the cooperative. Based upon the information available and the bylaws of the cooperative, the nominating committee determined if each potential nominee was eligible for election.

The following individuals were nominated to serve three-year terms on the Ninnescah Board of Trustees: **LORI R. JONES**, Medicine Lodge; **EDWIN D. LENKNER**, Coats and **KENNETH E. UNRUH**, Lewis. An election to select three trustees from these nominees will be held by mail in ballot and the results will be announced at the **NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023.**



Lori R. Jones



Edwin D. Lenkner



Kenneth E. Unruh

Get Your Home Ready for Spring

After months spent largely indoors while harsh elements battered your home's exterior, many homeowners are throwing open the windows and embracing spring's arrival. This checklist can help you create a comfortable home setting for enjoying the warmer months.

CHECK GUTTERS. During the colder months, debris can accumulate in the gutters, which can be problematic when spring rains arrive. Clogged gutters prevent water from flowing efficiently away from the roof and house. When they're backed up, they can cause water damage in a short amount of time. Faulty guttering can also cause slow leaks that lead to damage you may not discover until major repair work is needed. Properly functioning gutters are clear of debris, flow freely and are securely attached to the home.

INSPECT THE ROOF. Your roof takes a real beating in all kinds of weather conditions. Making it a common practice to carefully inspect the roof with the change of seasons can help you identify potential problems while they're still in early stages, before a big storm hits and major damage occurs. Some roof issues can be addressed with simple repairs you can do yourself while others may require a professional. A roofing expert can help you determine whether any trouble areas can be patched or if a more complete restoration is in order.

REPLACE THE DRYER VENT. Upgrading your dryer vent is an opportunity to conserve energy and prevent flammable lint build-up in your dryers. One option

for updating the exhaust system is a paintable version of InoVate's Prime DryerWallVent. Engineered for both vent replacement and new construction, the vent includes features such as a gravity-assist damper, integrated magnets and a drip edge to provide extra protection from the elements as well as pests. A large, clean opening and lightweight angled damper promote exceptional airflow efficiency.

SERVICE AIR CONDITIONING UNITS. Your heating and cooling system works hard to keep your indoor climate comfortable when extreme temperatures make the outdoors unbearable. That's why it's important to have your systems serviced by a professional, and spring is a smart time to do so before they're hard at work throughout the warmer months. Service can correct problems and ensure everything is operating efficiently, which can lead to money savings as well.

REPAIR WINDOW SCREENS. Throughout the winter, your home's window screens can accumulate a layer of dirt and grime that isn't just unsightly; it blows indoors when you open the windows to welcome a fresh breeze. What's more, if your screens have rips and tears, pesky bugs and other critters can make their way into your home more easily. Cleaning and repairing your screens can make your home more secure and help protect your indoor air quality.

Find more information to help get your home ready for spring at DryerWallVent.com.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures. Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers, and they enhance overall health and productivity.

SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV



Welcome New Members

Joyce Bell – Isabel

Austin Tompkinson &/or Emily Yoder – Harper

C & J Farming Operation Inc – Larned

David G White – Greensburg

Joyce Stamy – Sawyer

Hannah &/or Cade Lonker – Pratt

Brehm Bros LTD – Pratt

3B Farms LLC – Sawyer



KEEP KIDS SAFE AROUND **TREES** AND **POWER LINES**

When kids head outdoors to play, they may be climbing trees. Be sure to scope out the area first to ensure the treetops do not have power lines running through or near them.

Children may reach up to grab a line or accidentally come too close to it when they are playing or sitting high up in a tree.

Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, contact could happen once weight is added to the branch.

Teach kids to fly kites, drones and remote control planes or toys in open areas free from power lines.

If a toy or other object lands in a substation, please call your electric utility to retrieve the item. Never approach the fence or try to enter the area.

Take time to teach children and teens how to respect and identify potential electrical hazards.



Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

Only Certified Workers Can Trim Trees Near Power Lines

Can anyone trim trees near power lines? The answer is no. Tree trimmers certified in utility clearance are the only individuals legally allowed to trim within 20 feet of power lines.

OSHA requires this training because electricity is a serious and widespread hazard to tree workers. According to the Tree Care Industry Association, electricity is the leading cause of death in the tree care industry, causing about 15% of all industry fatalities. Tree care industry workers do not have to directly contact a power line to be electrocuted; about half of all electrocution fatalities are the result of indirect contact.

Qualified line-clearance trimmers must be specially trained in how to safely work in proximity to energized lines. They must understand how an electrical grid functions, the effects of tree growth patterns and tree damage and how to implement directional pruning, as required by the American National Standard for Arboricultural Operations' safety standards.

According to OSHA, the duties of line-clearance certified tree trimmers typically include the following:

- ▶ Undergoing annual evaluations by licensed professionals to ensure continuous adherence to industry best practices.
- ▶ Requesting job briefings from employers and other crew members before starting a job or when environmental conditions change.

- ▶ Properly wearing approved personal protective equipment, including fall protection equipment when needed.
 - ▶ Complying with material handling and mechanical equipment requirements.
 - ▶ Working with a second line-clearance tree trimmer within voice range.
 - ▶ Determining the voltages of lines before work begins or assuming that the line is operating at the highest possible voltage if it is not possible to determine voltage.
 - ▶ Ensuring body parts and any ladders, platforms or aerial devices being used remain outside the minimum approach distance from any energized equipment.
 - ▶ Using only insulated tools and equipment to remove branches and limbs that are in contact with, or are within the minimum approach distance of, energized lines or equipment.
 - ▶ Determining if weather conditions are no longer safe to work in, such as the presence of high winds, ice, thunder or lightning that would make the work hazardous.
 - ▶ Beginning work on storm restoration efforts in the aftermath of a storm if they have been trained in the special hazards involved with this type of work.
- Please contact your electric cooperative if you have any questions about line-clearance tree trimmers or tree trimming near power lines.

SAFETY TIP

Do not trim trees/branches within 20 feet of a power line or pole. Only certified line-clearance tree trimmers are authorized to trim near power lines.

