

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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Sarah Ezell
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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 4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MEETING

86th
ANNUAL

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024
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

If required, 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!**

Need New Lawn Equipment? Consider Going Electric.

BENEFITS OF GOING ELECTRIC

If it is time to replace yard equipment, going electric has many benefits.

If you are considering buying a battery-powered mower or a corded or battery-powered trimmer, edger or leaf blower, there are more options available now than in recent years, and improvements have been made to run times, features, quality and service life.

ADVANTAGES INCLUDE:

- ▶ **GOING GREEN:** Electric devices do not emit byproducts that damage the environment.
- ▶ **NO ODOR:** There are no emissions, which means no exhaust odor.
- ▶ **MORE FREE TIME:** There is no need to buy and change the oil, spark plugs and air filters.
- ▶ **LESS NOISE:** Electric yard tools and mowers can be quieter than gas-powered ones.
- ▶ **EASE OF USE:** Simply plug in or charge to use. Some brands offer battery continuity between devices.
- ▶ **LESS WEIGHT:** Corded electric devices are often lighter than gas-powered equipment.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

Clearing the Path to Reliability

Trees are majestic, beautiful and good for the soul. And, we know our members depend on us to deliver reliable power to their homes and businesses. That's why Ninnescah Electric strives to balance maintaining the beautiful surroundings we all cherish with ensuring reliable electricity. You might not realize it, but there are several benefits to regular tree trimming.

RELIABILITY

Keeping power lines clear of overgrown vegetation improves service reliability. After all, we've seen the whims of Mother Nature during severe weather events with fallen tree limbs taking down power lines and utility poles. While many factors can impact power disruptions, about half of all outages can be attributed to overgrown vegetation. This is why you sometimes see Ninnescah Electric crews or contractors out in the community trimming trees near power lines. Our trimming crews have been trained and certified based on the latest industry standards.

In fact, all U.S. electric utilities are required to trim trees that grow too close to power lines. Scheduled trimming throughout the year keeps lines clear from overgrown or dead limbs that are likely to fall, and we are better able to prepare for severe weather events.

Plus, it's more cost-effective to undertake preventative maintenance than it is to make repairs after the fact. Inspections of power lines and vegetation allow us to reduce labor and equipment costs while bolstering reliability.

SAFETY

Working near power lines can be dangerous, and we care about your safety and that of our lineworkers. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose a grave danger to families. If children can reach

those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor such as a tree.

Any tree or branch that falls across a power line creates a potentially dangerous situation. A proactive approach lessens the chances of fallen trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

AFFORDABILITY

As a co-op, Ninnescah Electric always strives to keep costs down for our members. If trees and other vegetation are left unchecked, they can become overgrown and expensive to correct. A strategic vegetation management program helps keep costs down for everyone.

When it comes to vegetation management, there are ways you can help too. When planting new trees, make sure they're planted a safe distance from overhead power lines. Medium-height trees (40 feet or smaller) should be planted at least 25 feet from power lines. Taller trees (over 40 feet) should be planted at least 50 feet from power lines. You can also practice safe planting near pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 feet from the transformer door and 4 feet from the sides. If your neighborhood has underground lines, remember to contact 811 before you begin any project that requires digging.

Additionally, if you spot an overgrown tree or branch that's dangerously close to overhead lines, please let us know by contacting us at 620-672-5538.

We have deep roots in our community, and we love our beautiful surroundings. It takes a balanced approach, and our vegetation management program is a crucial tool in ensuring service reliability.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee of Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative met on Friday, Feb. 2, 2024, 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, Jack Deviney, Jon M. McClure and Morgan J. Trinkle. Nominating Committee members Jay Derley and Wilbur Wood 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, Eisenhauer, Eisenhauer & Lynch, general counsel for the cooperative, reviewed with the

Nominating Committee 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: **MICHAEL E. CHRISTIE**, Stafford; **RYAN M. LUNT**, Pratt; **MARC T. RUNDELL**, Preston; and **BRUCE E. WARREN**, Attica. 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 19, 2024.**

PROPERTY TAXES FOR 2023

The Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., Pratt, paid a total of \$617,299.19 in ad valorem property taxes in 2023.

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 over 900 other rural electric cooperatives — now serving more than 42 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 4,268 services.

County	Tax Paid
Barber	\$ 41,849.16
Comanche	\$ 948.56
Edwards	\$ 73,141.60
Harper	\$ 20,484.96
Kingman	\$ 32,482.66
Kiowa	\$ 81,321.10
Pawnee	\$ 1,595.35
Pratt	\$ 283,650.44
Reno	\$ 12,865.16
Stafford	\$ 68,960.20
Totals	\$ 617,299.19



ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening to ensure it's clean. Use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening. If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.

SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Red Hills Energy LLC – *Medicine Lodge*

Todd A &/or Cynthia B Soety – *Lee, FL*

Matthew B &/or Jennifer Flannery – *Woodward, OK*

Glenn R &/or Diane L Wright – *Cunningham*

Jeffery H &/or Brandie K May – *Mobile, AL*

Lora L Kilgore-Norquest &/or Jason Norquest – *Thorntown, IN*

Cynthia Rice Revoc Trust – *Great Bend*

Tracy Freeman – *Kinsley*

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.

A Balanced Team for Reliability

The winningest basketball teams in history are ones that are consistent and have players with varying abilities. Some are better at shooting three-pointers, some are best at defense. Having a balanced mix of skills makes the team a powerhouse on the court. The way to keep electricity reliable is a bit like that too.

The power team first requires a foundation of consistent sources that can be put in the game any time they're needed. Having enough "always available" fuel sources like natural gas and coal can ensure consistent power generation.

Just like a team needs different players for different situations, our power grid requires multiple sources to keep the grid running. Relying solely on one player to win every game is not an effective strategy — if they get injured, you'll likely lose. Similarly, using a single fuel source for electricity generation poses a significant risk to energy reliability. Natural disasters, geopolitical tensions or unforeseen disruptions can severely impact the supply chain of a particular fuel. A diverse mix of energy sources acts as a safeguard, ensuring that the grid remains operational even in the face of unexpected challenges.

A diverse energy mix also enhances grid flexibility by accommodating the intermittent nature of renewable energy sources like solar and wind. Think of solar power like a team's inconsistent three-point shooter. It's awesome when the sun

is shining bright, but what if it's nighttime or a cloudy day? That's where the other players, like wind, hydro, nuclear, natural gas and coal can step up and keep the team scoring.

Diverse fuel sources contribute to the stability and reliability of the electric grid. The different sources have varying characteristics, including generation patterns, responsiveness and storage capabilities. This diversity allows for a more balanced and resilient energy system that can adapt to fluctuating demand and unforeseen circumstances. Having a mix of these energy sources is like having a team with different skills to handle various situations and scenarios.

A diverse set of energy sources is essential, but that's not the only thing we need to have reliable electricity — or a winning team. Basketball teams are always trying out new plays or training rookies to create a versatile lineup. Similarly, electric cooperatives are constantly innovating to maintain reliability for tomorrow. But creating new ways to make our power sources more efficient and reliable takes time, money and advances in technology that aren't necessarily ready yet.

As we continue to work on the innovations of tomorrow, the key to keeping our electricity reliable right now is ensuring a diverse "team" of fuels. Each one brings something special to the table, and together, they make sure we have the power we need, whenever we need it.

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