

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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LIGHTBULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Kelly Koehn
- ▶ Matt Lynn
- ▶ Weston Kroth
- ▶ Jerri Leis
- ▶ Arlie Lohrding
- ▶ Betty Jo Maris

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

80th Annual Meeting

The 80th Annual Meeting of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held on May 7 in Protection. The members and guests attending the meeting enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by John Ross & Co. Signature Catering of Garden City, with 150 people being served.

CMS Board President Wes McKinney welcomed members and guests to the 80th annual meeting. He introduced the board of trustees and General Manager Kirk Thompson. Also in attendance were former Trustee Ron Oliver and former Operations Manager Rusty Blehm. Other guests were Mikey Goddard, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. director of loss control, safety and compliance, Coleen Wells, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative vice president of finance, and Representative Gary White.

Thompson introduced the scholarship winners **KENNETH GARRISON**, Liberal; **SAMUEL LYNN**, Meade; **BETH-ANY REIMER**, Meade; **ANNA DALE**, Protection; **CAMILLE DUNN**, Coldwater; and **LOGANN PATTERSON**, Protection. Thompson then presented each recipient in attendance with a certificate and gift recognizing their achievement. (Not in attendance were Kenneth Garrison and Samuel Lynn.)

Thompson recognized the firefighters



CMS Electric Cooperative Board President Wes McKinney speaks to members attending the 80th annual meeting.

in attendance who fought the Ranger Road fire that affected Clark County on Feb. 17, 2026. Thompson then reviewed the financial reports as printed in the annual report and presented the manager's report. Thompson updated the members on the idea of cooperation as the foundation of rural electric cooperatives.

CJ SKINNER was elected as trustee to represent District 1. **MERLIN MOORE** was elected to represent District 3 following the retirement of Keith Randall. No member filed for election in District 2 following the retirement of Michael Johnson.

Following the business meeting there were drawings for many door prizes, including the grand prize of the Blackstone Griddle won by **PROTECTION CO-OP**. **PAULA BRADLEY** won the \$250 energy certificate. The winner of the Kindle Fire drawing was **STETSEN BAKER**. Many other great prizes were awarded, including energy certificates for up to \$100 off the winner's CMS electric bill.

Scholarship *Winners*



JOSLYN DEWEY

Samuel Lynn



STUDIO K PHOTOS

Bethany Reimer



BECCA UNRUH PHOTO

Anna Dale



BECCA UNRUH PHOTO

Camille Dunn



BECCA UNRUH PHOTO

Logann Patterson

NOT PICTURED: KENNETH GARRISON

*Congratulations
to our
2026
Scholarship
Winners!*

Each year, CMS Electric awards six \$1,000 scholarships to students in our service territory.

DISTRICT 1

KENNETH GARRISON, Liberal, is a graduate of Hugoton High School. He is the son of Jobe and Charly Garrison. Kenneth plans to attend the Missouri Welding Institute to study welding.

DISTRICT 2

SAMUEL LYNN, Meade, is a graduate of Meade High School. He is the son of Tony and Marcy Lynn. Samuel plans to attend Pratt Community College to study electrical power technology.

BETHANY REIMER, Meade, is a graduate of Meade High School. She is the daughter of Carl and Angie Reimer. Bethany plans to attend John Brown University to study family and human services.

DISTRICT 3

ANNA DALE, Protection, is a graduate of South Central High School. She is the daughter of Kurtis and Adrienne Dale. Anna plans to attend Kansas State University to study mechanical engineering.

CAMILLE DUNN, Coldwater, is a graduate of South Central High School. She is the daughter of Jeremy and Melanie Dunn. Camille plans to attend Wichita State University to study nursing.

LOGANN PATTERSON, Protection, is a graduate of South Central High School. She is the daughter of Dwayne and Tammy Thronesbery. Logann plans to attend Fort Scott Community College to study surgical technology.



CMS scholarship winners (from left) Logann Patterson, Camille Dunn, Anna Dale and Bethany Reimer received their scholarship awards from CMS General Manager Kirk Thompson (right) during the 2026 CMS Annual Meeting.

Shift Timing, Shift Savings

As we settle into the heat of July, our homes naturally use more electricity. Air conditioners run longer, refrigerators work harder, and daily routines — from cooking dinner to doing laundry — often overlap during the warmest parts of the day. That's also when the demand for electricity across our community is at its highest.

At CMS Electric Cooperative, our top priority is delivering safe, reliable and affordable power whenever you need it. But during peak energy hours — **3-5 P.M.** — there's added pressure on the grid as homes and businesses require larger amounts of electricity, all at the same time. On the hottest days, that strain can be significant.

The good news is that small changes at home can make a meaningful difference.

Think of our electric grid like a highway system. During rush hour, traffic is heavy, congestion builds and everything slows down. But when drivers adjust their schedules, even slightly, it helps ease the bottleneck. The same principle applies to energy use.

By shifting some of your high-energy

activities to off-peak hours — like doing laundry later in the evening, running the dishwasher before you go to bed, or cooking meals earlier in the day — you're helping spread out demand. That reduces pressure on the grid during those critical peak hours.

HERE ARE A FEW SIMPLE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO LOWER ENERGY USE DURING PEAK HOURS.

Smart technology can be a valuable partner in saving energy. A programmable or smart thermostat can automatically adjust your home's temperature when demand is highest, helping you stay comfortable while using energy more efficiently. Even a small adjustment of a few degrees during peak hours can make a difference.

In the kitchen, simple swaps can help, too. Using a slow cooker, air fryer or outdoor grill instead of the oven keeps your home more comfortable and reduces the need for additional cooling during the warmer parts of the day. And when it comes to laundry, air-drying clothes or spacing out loads

can cut down on both energy use and indoor heat.

Don't overlook the power of ceiling fans, either. They can help you feel several degrees cooler, allowing you to raise your thermostat setting without sacrificing comfort.

These actions may seem small on their own, but together, they add up. When many members make mindful choices about when and how they use electricity, it helps reduce peak demand, eases strain on the grid, and supports more stable energy costs for our local communities.

That's the cooperative difference. As a member, you're not just a customer — you're part of a community working together to power our future. Every effort you make contributes to a stronger, more resilient system.

This summer, CMS Electric encourages you to take a closer look at your daily routines. A few simple shifts can go a long way in keeping your home comfortable, your energy use efficient, and our grid running smoothly — no matter how high the temperatures climb.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During warm months, a smart thermostat can help keep your home comfortable while reducing cooling costs. Smart thermostats learn your routine and automatically raise the temperature when you're away and cool things down before you return. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher while you're away or asleep can lead to significant savings. Many smart thermostats provide reports and tips, helping you fine-tune your energy use and stay cool while keeping your electric bill in check. SOURCE: NRECA



SAFETY TIP

Keep TVs, lamps and other heat-producing items away from your thermostat. They can affect the temperature reading and cause your cooling system to run longer than needed.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG



4TH OF JULY

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Our office will be closed on Friday, July 3, for the holiday and will reopen Monday, July 6.

Fill-in-the-Blank: Fireworks Safety Tips

Holidays like the Fourth of July and other celebrations can be fun times with great memories. But everyone should practice safety near fireworks. Read the safety tips below, then fill in the blanks with the correct answer in the word bank.



1 The best way to stay safe is to never use fireworks at home. Instead, attend a public _____ and leave fireworks to the pros.

2 Watch fireworks from a _____ of 500 feet away from where they are launched.

3 Never touch or pick up pieces of fireworks or duds as they may still be _____ or could explode at any time.

4 Remember, _____ are not toys and can reach 2,000 degrees F. Use glow sticks instead.

5 Think about _____ when fireworks are nearby. It's best to leave them indoors to reduce the risk of them running away or being injured.

WORD BANK

Sparklers
Ignited
Pets
Display
Minimum

ANSWER KEY: 1. Display 2. Minimum 3. Ignited 4. Sparklers 5. Pets