



CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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CMS Board of Trustees Positions Open for Election

The Board of Trustees of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. announces the following trustee's terms will expire in 2021 and their positions are open for election.

► **District 1, Position A**
ROCK ORMISTON II

► **District 2, Position A**
JAMES W. MCKINNEY

► **District 3, Position A**
DON NIGHSWONGER



Rock Ormiston II



James W. McKinney



Don Nighswonger

The board also announces that members wishing to serve on the board of trustees shall be nominated by presenting a petition to the cooperative office with the signatures of 15 valid members within the district they are to represent. Blank petitions are available at the cooperative office in Meade, or call and one will be mailed to you.

If you need additional information, please call CMS at 800-794-2353.

Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- Erick Aguirre
- Mary Amerin
- Aaron Andrews
- Delores Beebe
- Cole Batman
- Carol Burns

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

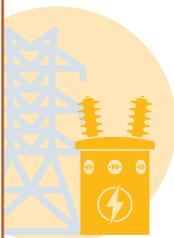
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Happy Valentine's Day

ONCE THE POWER IS OUT HOW IS IT SAFELY RESTORED?

When conditions are favorable for a storm, severe weather can take down power lines or disrupt your electric service in several ways. Please know that when the power goes out, we are doing all we can to safely and efficiently restore power. Here are a couple of steps we take in the assessment and restoration process:



STEP 1: ASSESS THE DAMAGE

We assess the damage to utility equipment and power lines across the service area.

STEP 2: ADDRESS SAFETY RISKS

We address immediate safety risks, including downed power lines.



STEP 3: RESTORE ESSENTIAL SERVICES

We ensure that public health and safety facilities are operational.

STEP 4: PRIORITIZE REPAIRS

We repair (usually in this order): transmission towers and lines, substations, distribution lines, and then service lines and properties.



Behind the Scenes During a Power Outage?

Here in the U.S., we are fortunate to have an advanced power grid in place. Power transmission and distribution is reliable in our country, and we are proud to deliver the electricity you depend on each day. Excluding outage times attributed to major weather or other catastrophic events, electricity consumers in our country typically experience only about two hours of total power interruptions per year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. When outages due to major events are taken into consideration, the EIA reports the total outage time at six hours a year.

What happens on our end when your power goes out? We swing into action in a safe and efficient manner to ensure your power is restored. How long that takes depends on several factors: the extent of the storm's destruction, the number of outages, and how long it takes for our work crews to safely access the storm-damaged areas. We are careful to follow standard restoration

procedures to ensure safety and to get the job done right by:

- ▶ Assessing damage to utility equipment.
- ▶ Addressing immediate safety risks, including downed power lines.
- ▶ Ensuring essential public health and safety facilities are operational.
- ▶ Prioritizing repairs that will restore power to the greatest number of people first.
- ▶ Evaluating power plants for damage and restore them to working order.
- ▶ Repairing transmission lines that carry power to large areas.
- ▶ Assessing and repairing (in this order) substations, distribution lines, and service lines to properties.

Thank you for your patience during power outages. Know that in the event of an outage, we are working hard to restore power as safely and efficiently as possible, day and night.

For more information about preparing for outages or storms, or about electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Staying Safe During an Outage

We work hard to provide the most reliable service possible. Rest assured, if the power is out, we are on it!

STAY SAFE UNTIL POWER IS RESTORED.

- ▶ Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines, which could be live and deadly.
- ▶ If you come across a downed line, immediately call 911 to report it.
- ▶ Never enter a flooded room; the water could be energized.
- ▶ If you are standing in water, do not turn on/off power or flip a switch.

The length of time it takes to restore your power depends on several factors, including:



Extent of the storm's destruction



Severity of utility equipment damage



Number and extent of outages



Accessibility to damaged equipment.

PREPARE FOR A STORM BY GATHERING THESE ITEMS:

- ▶ Bottles of water
- ▶ Non-perishable food
- ▶ Portable phone charger
- ▶ Prescriptions
- ▶ Battery-powered radio
- ▶ Extra batteries
- ▶ Pet supplies
- ▶ Blankets and warm clothing
- ▶ First-aid kit
- ▶ Hand sanitizer



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. awards six \$1,000 scholarships annually to eligible applicants. Apply by Feb. 10, 2021.

Purpose

To support development of effective leaders through educational opportunities.

Objective

To provide financial assistance for six high school graduates — based upon scholastic and extracurricular achievements — to continue their education.

Scholarship Eligibility

Current high school seniors whose parents/guardians are members of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

Each applicant must intend to enroll as a full-time student in an accredited university or college, including junior, community, vocational or technical college. All applicants for the CMS Electric scholarships shall be considered based upon scholastic and extracurricular achievements without regard to race, age, color, religion, gender, national origin or existence of physical handicap.

Scholarship Criteria

Scholarship merit is based on three categories: scholastic achievement, extracurricular school activities and community engagement.

How to Apply

Interested applicants may contact the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. office or a CMS board trustee from within the district in which they reside to obtain an application form or print an application form from the CMS website, www.cmselectric.com.

Completed applications must be postmarked and/or returned to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. **by Feb. 10, 2021.**

Mail applications to: Scholarship Committee, CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 790, Meade, KS 67864.

Questions about the scholarship program should be directed to CMS General Manager Kirk A. Thompson at 620-873-2184 or 800-794-2353.

Selection Procedure

Selections are made by CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Scholarship Committee. Applicants must be willing to be interviewed by the committee if necessary. Decisions made by this committee shall be final. Runners-up will be selected in the event a recipient forfeits rights to the scholarship.

Payment of Scholarships

The scholarship recipients shall provide proof of college enrollment satisfactory to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The cooperative will then pay the institution. Should the recipient withdraw from college, payment of scholarship monies shall cease and reimbursement of unused monies shall be made to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Conditions

In the event the scholarship recipient receives financial assistance from other sources, which would constitute a full scholarship, the recipient shall notify CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. and relinquish rights to the scholarship. The money shall then be awarded to the runner-up, provided that individual continues to meet all criteria.

WINTER ENERGY-SAVINGS WORD SEARCH

This winter, you can pitch in at home to help save energy! Read the energy-saving tips below, then find and circle the **orange** bolded words in the puzzle.



M	U	S	F	A	K	S	E	R	U	A	Z	T	H	H
B	E	T	M	I	V	L	R	J	C	K	M	T	J	L
B	M	H	F	R	R	H	Q	E	Q	M	S	K	V	W
T	D	G	G	F	W	E	D	G	G	U	N	M	J	L
K	V	I	K	I	B	L	P	X	N	R	V	L	T	Z
V	Y	L	X	L	W	K	S	L	H	Y	A	S	L	P
S	P	N	P	T	K	Q	I	F	A	E	Z	H	H	K
N	J	C	I	E	T	G	V	O	S	C	P	S	C	W
Z	K	M	C	R	H	A	N	U	O	V	E	R	Y	O
G	N	I	H	T	O	L	C	R	U	S	D	M	A	F
G	I	Z	C	I	F	J	B	P	I	N	L	G	F	P
H	M	J	W	O	V	D	B	L	Y	V	I	E	J	V
B	C	Q	K	I	N	W	L	I	N	E	N	B	N	T
H	N	E	W	X	V	R	I	D	V	C	B	B	T	G
C	U	J	M	Q	S	C	Y	M	P	Q	D	Q	K	T

WORD BANK

- ▶ Open curtains and blinds during the day to allow **sunlight** in to warm your home.
- ▶ Instead of turning up the thermostat, add more layers of **clothing** to keep your body warm.
- ▶ If you have a **fireplace**, ask an adult to close the flue when a fire is not burning.
- ▶ Unplug **chargers** when they're not in use. They consume energy even when they're not charging phones and other devices.
- ▶ Ask an adult to check the **air filter** for your home's heating and cooling system. Filters should be replaced regularly to help the system run more efficiently.
- ▶ Always turn off **lights** when you leave a room.

