

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Colton Chase
- ▶ Kurt Deaton
- ▶ Merl Rexford
- ▶ Majorie Sparks
- ▶ Steven Cobb
- ▶ Barbaa Cummins

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Why We Love Serving Our Members

February may be the shortest month, but it's packed with special observances like Presidents Day, Black History Month and Valentine's Day, in addition to a host of unofficial "national" days you've probably never heard of like "National Tater Tot Day." But they all have something in common. They were created to draw attention to a particular issue or theme.

Valentine's Day may seem like an observance originally created by a greeting card company, but over time, it's become a widely celebrated day generating millions of dollars spent on flowers, candy and of course, greeting cards professing our love. But Valentine's Day isn't just for the lovebirds. It's also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers and other special people in our lives know we care about them — with or without a store-bought greeting card.

With that in mind, we've created the top five reasons why we love serving you, the members of CMS Electric.

1 We love serving our members because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist. Our purpose is to provide you with reliable, responsible and safe electricity. Simply put, CMS Electric exists to serve you. That's why we were formed in 1948 — to bring power to our local area when for-profit utilities would not.

2 You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to give back. A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. With your assistance, we're able to help the most vulnerable members of our community through food and toy drives and programs that help local families pay their energy bills when times are tough.

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Willie Wirehand Ornament Winners

Thank you to the members who participated in our annual Willie Wirehand ornament giveaway! Winners include:

- ▶ **GLORIA MCKINNEY**
- ▶ **SHARON SUE STOCKTON**
- ▶ **NORMAN DYE**
- ▶ **SHERMAN OVERBAY**
- ▶ **SHARLYN JACKSON**





6 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

2022 CMS Scholarships Available

The CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., scholarships are six \$1,000 scholarships awarded annually to eligible applicants.

Purpose

To support development of effective leaders through educational opportunities.

Objective

To provide financial assistance to make it possible 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 Scholarship shall be considered on the above criteria 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, school extracurricular activities and community activities.

How to Apply

Students who wish to apply should contact the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. office, or a CMS board trustee from within the district in which they reside to obtain application forms, or print

form from the CMS website, www.cmselectric.com. Completed applications must be postmarked and/or returned to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., **BY FEB. 10, 2022.**

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 Kirk A. Thompson, CMS General Manager, at 620-873-2184 or 800-794-2353.

Selection Procedure

Selection is made by the scholarship committee of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. 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 the 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 person continues to meet all criteria.

CMS Board of Trustees Positions Open for Election

The Board of Trustees of the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. announce the following trustee's terms will expire in 2022 and their positions are open for election.

- ▶ **DISTRICT 1, POSITION B RON OLIVER**
- ▶ **DISTRICT 2, POSITION B MICHAEL JOHNSON**
- ▶ **DISTRICT 3, POSITION B JOE MURPHY** (not planning to seek re-election at this time)

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. Completed petitions are due to the CMS office by April 5, 2022.

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



Ron Oliver



Michael Johnson



Joe Murphy

Why We Love Serving Our Members

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3 Members of our co-op also serve on the board of directors. They provide guidance for setting co-op priorities and helping make big decisions. Because our board members live in the area, they're able to serve as the pulse of the larger community and identify immediate and long-term needs. The broader co-op membership provides helpful input through their vote on director elections and by weighing in on co-op and community issues.

4 You help us get it right. CMS Electric members are great about keeping us in the know. We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball; our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, and your support as we work through storms means so much

to our employees. We also appreciate your feedback on co-op programs and services. Your opinions are critical for the co-op's success, and we thank you for that.

5 You and other CMS Electric members make up the community we serve — and for us, it's all about community. Our employees live and work here too and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help our area thrive. It's also why we invest in economic development, and why you'll see our employees volunteering at local schools and other charitable and community endeavors.

As a co-op, our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community and look after its long-term interests. We love serving our members and our local community, and just like you, want to see it continue to thrive.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

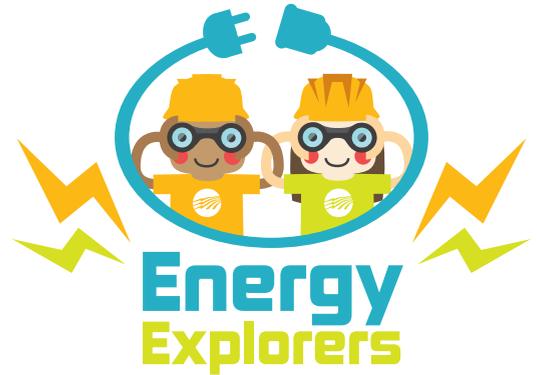
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer, or at any USDA office, 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 to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Happy Valentine's Day

FROM OUR CO-OP FAMILY TO YOURS!

ENERGY CONSERVATION BINGO

Cross off a square for each energy conservation task you complete. Share this with your friends and family to see who can get a “BINGO” first!



B	I	N	G	O
Turn water off while brushing your teeth	Use a reusable bag	Pick up trash	Turn off lights when you leave a room	Walk somewhere instead of riding in a car
Unplug unused phone chargers	Collect items to recycle	Use a smart power strip	Carpool with friends	Reuse a water bottle
Take a 5-minute shower	Use solar lights outdoors	FREE	Unplug unused phone chargers	Use a reusable bag
Carpool with friends	Pick up trash	Turn off lights when you leave a room	Take a 5-minute shower	Collect items to recycle
Reuse a water bottle	Use a smart power strip	Turn water off while brushing your teeth	Walk somewhere instead of riding in a car	Use solar lights outdoors

