



# the **COOPERATOR**

**AUGUST 2023** | For the members of Kay Electric Cooperative  
A supplement to Oklahoma Living



Above: Kay Electric 2023 Youth Tour delegates Christian Widener, Jacob Boesch and Carlene Johnson pose in front of the White House.



## The trip of a lifetime

Students represent Kay Electric on Youth Tour 2023

**S**ince Youth Tour was founded in 1964, rural electric cooperatives have been sending students to Washington, D.C., each year—on what many students describe as the trip of a lifetime.

This year, three students represented Kay Electric at Youth Tour: Christian Widener, Jacob Boesch and Carlene Johnson. They joined more than 2,000 student leaders, representing cooper-

atives across the U.S., at the nation's capital.

During the weeklong trip, June 16-22, delegates had the opportunity to tour national monuments, museums and historical sites. They also met with Oklahoma legislators and learned about what it means to be an actively involved citizen.

Learn more about Youth Tour:  
[www.kayelectric.coop/essay-contest](http://www.kayelectric.coop/essay-contest). 

Watch the  
**Highlights Reel**

View this video to hear highlights of Youth Tour 2023 from each Kay Electric delegate.



**Scan to  
watch**



## OUR MISSION

Founded in 1937, Kay Electric Cooperative remains focused on our primary mission: to provide safe, affordable and reliable power for our member-owners. Today, our service territory includes 2,269 miles of line and more than 5,900 meters located in Kay, Grant, Noble, Osage and Garfield counties.

## CONTACT US

Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
580-363-1260 | 800-535-1079  
300 W. Doolin Ave. | PO Box 607  
Blackwell, OK 74631  
[www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop)

## REPORT AN OUTAGE

Call 800-535-1079 or use Kay Electric's SmartHub at [www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop) or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Max Hohmann, President | Dist. 4  
Verl Brorsen, Vice President | Dist. 9  
Ron Shoffner, Secretary/Treasurer | Dist. 3  
Jake Olsen | Dist. 1  
Chad Otto | Dist. 2  
Mike Lebeda | Dist. 5  
Brady Hostetler | Dist. 6  
Bart Cardwell | Dist. 7  
Dr. Tim Blanton | Dist. 8  
Jason Boesch | General Manager/CEO

## EASY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL


- Pay online using SmartHub at [www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop) or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.
- Pay over the phone: 800-535-1079.
- Pay in person at Kay Electric or use our 24-hour payment drop box located at 300 W. Doolin Ave. in Blackwell.
- Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account or major credit card. Sign up for auto-pay online at [www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop).

# Supporting local schools

Co-op tax dollars contribute more than \$1.2 million to education

**T**hough electric cooperatives are not-for-profit businesses, it does not mean they are tax exempt. In fact, in 2022, electric cooperative gross receipts tax provided \$1,202,563.29 to 16 area school districts.

The way co-ops are taxed is different than for-profit businesses. According to Oklahoma statutes, in lieu of ad valorem tax, electric cooperatives in Oklahoma pay a 2% gross receipts tax on revenue at both the wholesale and retail levels. 95% percent of the money collected from co-op members goes directly to local schools. The remaining 5% is retained by the Oklahoma Tax Commission to cover administrative costs associated with collecting and distributing the money.

Gross receipts tax disbursements are determined by the number of miles of co-op power line within a school district. More than 2,200 miles of Kay Electric power lines are located within 16 local school districts. The chart below shows tax disbursements to local schools in 2022 from Kay Electric and our power supplier, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative. 

## 2022 TAXES PAID TO LOCAL SCHOOLS

School District	KEC Tax	WFEC Tax	Total
Billings	\$77,405.67	\$20,608.17	\$98,013.84
Blackwell	\$54,750.36	\$28,390.55	\$83,140.91
Covington-Douglas	\$9,062.13	\$173.91	\$9,236.04
Deer Creek-Lamont	\$95,529.93	\$10,869.27	\$106,399.20
Frontier	\$41,534.75	\$0	\$41,534.75
Garber	\$23,032.91	\$0	\$23,032.91
Kildare	\$57,771.06	\$8,695.42	\$66,466.48
Medford	\$73,252.20	\$0	\$73,252.20
Newkirk	\$135,554.33	\$69,215.60	\$204,769.93
Peckham	\$43,422.70	\$40,781.52	\$84,204.22
Perry	\$31,339.86	\$50,129.10	\$81,468.96
Ponca City	\$40,024.40	\$17,477.80	\$57,502.20
Pond Creek-Hunter	\$39,269.22	\$15,216.98	\$54,486.20
Shidler	\$63,434.89	\$63,389.65	\$126,824.54
Tonkawa	\$70,231.49	\$18,608.21	\$88,839.70
Woodland	\$0	\$3,391.22	\$3,391.22
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$855,615.89</b>	<b>\$346,947.40</b>	<b>\$1,202,563.29</b>



# LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS



**a**

In June, Cooperative Principle #6, Cooperation Among Cooperatives, was in full swing at Kay Electric. The co-op sent a five-man crew to assist Indian Electric with power restoration efforts after a multi-day outage that began on June 18. Thank you Mark Miller, Brady Burtner, Cody Johnson, Tyler Barrows and Matt McConnell for your hard work!

**b**

On May 31, the Kaw Nation presented James Burnett with a Pendleton serape blanket, upon his retirement from Kay Electric. "Over the years we have worked closely with James. Because of the close relationship we had with James, we wanted to recognize and honor him for being such a good friend to us," Ken Bellmard, president of Kaw Gaming Inc., says.

**c**

Tom Gleason was selected to be part of the 2023 Energy Trails volunteer team. Along with seven other volunteers from across the state, Gleason will travel to Guatemala in August to wire homes and farming structures in the north-central part of the country. This project will impact approximately 1,200 farmers and their families. Congratulations, Tom!

**d**

On June 16, Kay Electric employees participated in the Dearing House Child Advocacy Center's 9th annual Fish Fry for the Small Fry fundraiser in Ponca City. Thank you to Heather Shepard, Chad Shepard, J.D. Soulek, Sherry Lessert, Grace Vargas, Chris Prince, Angie Price, Kris Spencer, Jace Whitehead, Desiree Masterson-Whitehead and Fran Fast (not pictured).

## GOOD COOKIN'



### One Pot Salsa Chicken

#### Ingredients:

1½ to 2 pounds chicken breasts  
1 package taco seasoning mix  
1 jar Sixth Day Snacks Salsa  
½ cup chicken broth  
1 lime, halved  
¼ cup Scissortail Farms cilantro, chopped

#### Instructions:

Rub taco seasoning on chicken breasts, and place in slow cooker. Pour chicken broth in bottom of slow cooker. Top chicken with salsa. Add the juice of half a squeezed lime. Cover and cook on low, 8 hours. Shred chicken. Add chicken back to salsa-broth mixture, stirring to combine. Add cilantro and more lime juice. Serve or refrigerate up to 4 days.

#### ⚠️ PEAK ALERT REMINDER ⚠️

This year's summer peak runs from June 20 to September 9. When KEC's power supplier calls a peak day, members are encouraged to reduce consumption, especially from 3 to 7 p.m. Kay will communicate peak alerts via our website, Facebook page, text message, email and local radio stations. 98103



### EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## CHAD SHEPARD

STAKING TECHNICIAN

Chad Shepard is a long-time Kay Electric employee who started at the co-op in 1996. He began on the tree crew, working in the role for two years, followed by 10 years as a lineman and the last 15 as a staking technician. When asked what he likes most about working at Kay Electric he answers, "The good people I get to work with and meeting with our members." Chad was born in Blackwell and lives there still with his wife, Heather and four sons: Brock, 26, Simeon, 23, Worthy, 21 and Luke, 18. He says his sons are the accomplishment he is most proud of and that his parents are his inspiration, "They always provided, and always help out in any way they can." Chad adds, "I thank Jesus for all the blessings he has given me throughout my life, and for taking my place on the cross so my sins can be forgiven." Thank you, Chad, for your service!



LIKES TO  
GARDEN



DREAM VACATION:  
IRELAND AND SCOTLAND



ENJOYS  
HISTORY

## \$25

is hiding in this issue!

If you spot your account number hidden in these pages, please contact Kay Electric to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill. If no account numbers are claimed, the prize money will carry over to the next month for a maximum bill credit of \$50. Call 800-535-1079 or email [contact@kayelectric.coop](mailto:contact@kayelectric.coop) to claim your prize.

## FOLLOW US!



for community highlights, contests, outage restoration updates and more

Pay your bill, report outages, view your usage, all via SmartHub. Access SmartHub through [www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop) or download the smart-phone or tablet app.

