



# the COOPERATOR

**DECEMBER 2024** | For the members of Kay Electric Cooperative  
A supplement to Oklahoma Living




## Giving Back is the Co-op Way

At Kay Electric, we're powered by more than electricity—we're driven by values. The Seven Cooperative Principles are the foundation of every choice we make. During the holiday season, the seventh principle, Concern for Community reminds us of the joy of giving back.

We're proud to carry this spirit forward all year, supporting neighbors and organizations in meaningful ways. From volunteering at the Oklahoma Special Olympics and hosting blood drives to providing electrical safety programs for students and sponsoring youth scholarships, we're committed to making a positive impact. We also extend our reach globally by contributing to electrification projects through the Oklahoma Energy Trails Foundation.

Our members play a vital role in giving back as well. Through the K-UP

program, members can round up their energy bills to the next dollar, with the spare change going directly to those in need within our community. In 2024, the K-UP Foundation donated over \$21,000 to local organizations that support basic needs for children, youth, and seniors, volunteer fire departments, and more.

As we celebrate the holiday season, let's remember that every act of kindness—big or small—helps build a stronger, more connected community. At Kay Electric, we're proud that Concern for Community guides us in all we do. Together with our members, we're committed to supporting the people and programs that make our community a better place. As 2024 comes to a close, consider lending a hand, joining a cause, or simply spreading goodwill. In giving back, we all make a lasting impact—one that resonates well beyond the holiday season. 



### K-UP Grants support local communities

In 2024, the K-UP Foundation awarded more than \$21,000 in grant funds to area organizations. Fourth quarter grant winners included:

- Billings Fire & Rescue** - \$2,441
- River Road Fire Dept.** - \$2,425
- Dearing House, Inc.** - \$1,500

### K-UP Foundation Financials Nov. 1, 2023 – Oct. 31, 2024

**Income:**  
Balance Forward - \$39,655  
Member Contributions - \$27,065  
Donations Received - \$359  
Interest - \$208

**Expenses:**  
Grants & Expenses - \$21,314  
**Balance:** \$45,974

First-quarter grant applications are due January 6, 2025. Applications are available at [www.kayelectric.coop/k](http://www.kayelectric.coop/k).



## 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 2,263 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.  
Blackwell, OK 74631  
[www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop)

## REPORT AN OUTAGE

Call 800-535-1079 or report via SmartHub at [www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop) or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

## EASY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

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

# MANAGER'S MESSAGE

## Reliable Power for Today—and Tomorrow

By CEO Jason Boesch

Ring in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. For me, as the General Manager of Kay Electric Cooperative, it's a time to reflect on where we are and where we're going. At the heart of this reflection, I think about ways we can better serve you, the members of the cooperative.

Our team at Kay Electric is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering—and empowering—our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

So, how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across the communities we serve. You may not realize it, but Kay Electric doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our energy provider, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, and from there, we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community. 1677201

We're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power that's available to our members whenever they need it.

In addition to managing a reliable energy




mix, Kay Electric is using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times.

Advanced metering technology, also known as AMI, enables two-way communication between the co-op and consumers. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps Kay Electric save money with real-time data, and ultimately improves power reliability for our entire community.

Proactive tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. Scheduled trimming keeps power lines clear from overgrown limbs that are likely to fall. And as technology advancements become more accessible, we anticipate using advanced mapping software to better maintain the environment while providing more reliable service.

One of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops in Oklahoma and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

As we turn our focus to 2025, Kay Electric will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve—for today and tomorrow. 



# LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS



## Apply Now for 2025 Student Contests!

The deadline to apply for Kay Electric's 2025 student contests is quickly approaching! Don't miss your chance to take part in unforgettable experiences designed for eighth-graders and high school juniors.

**Eighth-Graders:** Four winners will attend Energy Camp in Hinton for a hands-on adventure.

**High School Juniors:** Two students will head to Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado,

while another two will join the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Four runners-up will also receive cash prizes.

Don't miss out—apply today at [www.kayelectric.coop/youth](http://www.kayelectric.coop/youth). Students attending school within KEC's service area, including home-schooled students, are eligible—no co-op membership required.

Questions? Contact Desiree Master-son-Whitehead at 580-363-1260 or email [dwhitehead@kayelectric.coop](mailto:dwhitehead@kayelectric.coop). 📧

Apply at [www.kayelectric.coop/youth](http://www.kayelectric.coop/youth) by Jan. 10, 2025.

MERRY  
*Christmas*

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



Kay Electric will be closed Dec. 24 and 25, 2024 and Jan. 1, 2025.



## This Christmas, give the gift of uninterrupted power!

Kay Electric works hard to keep the lights on, but when power goes out, a whole home backup generator can help protect you. We offer Generac automatic standby generators, and we can cover the entire install process from start to finish. A variety of sizes are available. For more information, call KEC at 580-363-1260 or visit [www.kayelectric.coop/generators](http://www.kayelectric.coop/generators).

## GOOD COOKIN'

### Cherry Cheesecake Dip

Yields 12 Servings

#### Ingredients

- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 1 cup Greek yogurt
- 1/2 cup condensed milk
- 10 ounces whipped topping
- 21-ounce can cherry pie filling

#### Instructions

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until softened. Mix in yogurt and sweetened condensed milk until combined. Fold in whipped topping just until combined. Spread into a dish. Top with cherry pie filling. Chill until ready to serve. Serve with graham crackers, vanilla wafers, pretzels, or other desired dippers.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products. This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.

*Source: energystar.gov*

## Co-opreneur Day Empowers Young Entrepreneurs

On Oct. 15, KEC Director of Communications Desiree Masterson-Whitehead (right) and Marketing Intern Madison Quillin (left) participated in Co-opreneur Day at the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives in Oklahoma City.

During the event, seventh and eighth-grade students designed a co-op business to solve a community need, developed a business plan and presented it to a panel of judges. Co-opreneur Day helped students build skills in business development, STEM, leadership and entrepreneurship.



# \$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

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