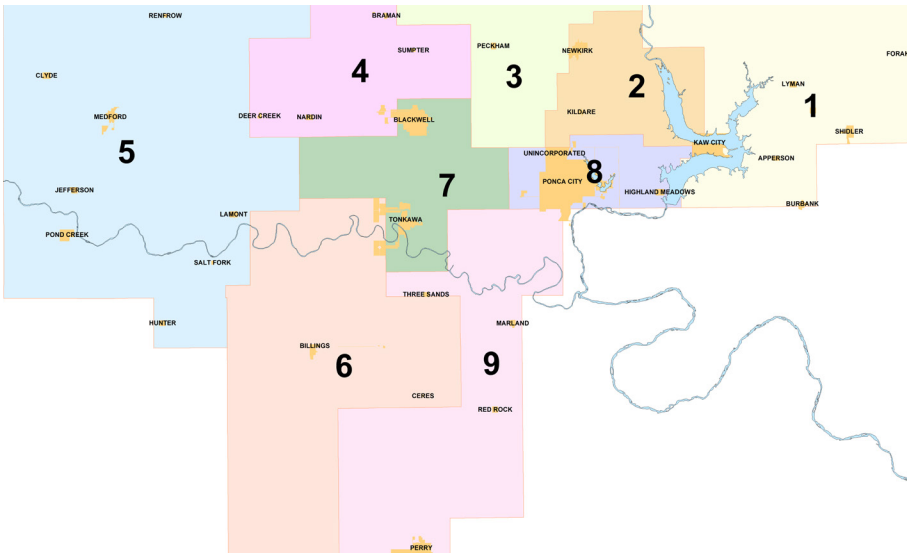




the COOPERATOR

JANUARY 2025 | For the members of Kay Electric Cooperative
A supplement to Oklahoma Living



KEC's nine board districts

February is District Meeting Month


Districts 7, 8 and 9 to hold meetings in 2025

If you live in Kay Electric District 7, 8 or 9, it's time for your district meeting. Kay Electric holds a meeting for each district every three years to allow members an opportunity to nominate candidates for the Kay Electric Cooperative board of trustees.

The following individuals currently represent these districts: Bart Cardwell, District 7; Tim Blanton, District 8; and Verl Brorsen, District 9.

District meetings are scheduled on the dates shown to the right. If you live in one of these districts, you will receive an official meeting notice in the mail.

District meetings offer members the opportunity to visit with Kay Electric trustees and staff in a relaxed setting where questions are always welcome. Members who attend also come away with a better understanding of Kay Electric's priorities for the coming year, and learn about the issues that could affect their electric co-op.

If you're interested in running for trustee, please call us at 800-535-1079 to learn about the procedures for nominations and elections. They are also listed in the Kay Electric bylaws, Section 4.02: kayelectric.coop/district-meetings-director-elections. 

Save the date! KEC 2025 District Meetings

District 7

Monday, Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m.
Kay Electric Cooperative
Kay Room
Blackwell, OK

District 8

Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m.
Carolyn Renfrow Event Center
Ponca City, OK

District 9

Thursday, Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m.
Noble County Fairgrounds
Women's Building
Perry, OK



Co-op Principle #2 Democratic Member Control

District meetings are one of the prime ways KEC's consumer-owners are able to actively participate in setting policies and making decisions for the cooperative—*your* cooperative! 953800



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

REPORT AN OUTAGE

Call 800-535-1079 or report via SmartHub at 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 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.

WINTER SAFETY



Five ways to safeguard your home this winter


As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there's a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles and electrical items, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months.

Here are five ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season.

- 1 Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month and give them a good dusting to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt and debris.
- 2 Inspect electrical cords. Before using any corded items, double check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items. Use models that include an auto shut-off feature and overheat protection. Space heaters can take a toll on your energy bills. Use them efficiently (to heat smaller spaces) and safely. Never plug a space heater into a power strip. Speaking of power strips...
- 3 Avoid overloading electrical outlets

and power strips. When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.

- 4 Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency. There's nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote buildup becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning also improves air flow and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors.
- 5 Practice safety in the kitchen. Never leave food cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces and be mindful of where you place flammable items like dish towels and pizza boxes.

KEC wants you to stay safe during the winter season. Visit kayelectric.coop/safety for more safety information. 

Kay Electric shines in communications contest

Kay Electric is proud to announce that our Director of Communications, Desiree Masterson-Whitehead, earned two recognitions in the recent Achieving MarCom Power awards ceremony at the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives. The honors included:

- ✓ **Award of Excellence for Best Small Publication**
- ✓ **Honorable Mention for Best Annual Report**

We value delivering high-quality communications to our members and always welcome your feedback!



LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

Avoid Energy Scams

Never make a utility bill payment to anyone calling you on the phone, coming to your door, texting you or emailing you. Call Kay Electric directly at 800-535-1079 if you have a question about payment or billing information. Know your bill payment options—online, via the SmartHub app, by phone, automatic bank draft, by mail or in person.

Source: *Utilities United Against Scams*




Save the Date

Kay Electric Cooperative's Drive-Thru Annual Meeting is set for April 4, 2025. We hope you'll plan to join us!

Kay Electric earns an ACSI® 2024 Customer Satisfaction Award

Kay Electric is honored to have earned a 2024 Customer Satisfaction Award* from the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®) based on our member survey results. Members were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with us, how well we lived up to their expectations, and how well we measured up to their ideal co-op experience. While these were not the only questions in the survey, we included these specifically because they are the core components of the proprietary ACSI methodology.

KEC's ACSI score substantially outperforms the industry average score earned by publicly measured utilities reported in the 2024 ACSI Energy Utility Study. This award is a testament to our ongoing efforts to provide the best possible member experience.

The 2024 Customer Satisfaction Award affirms that KEC's hard work has been noticed by its members. KEC is grateful for its members and will continue to strive for excellence through constant dedication to improvement. 



*Award criteria are determined by the ACSI® and are based on customers rating their satisfaction in a survey independent of the syndicated ACSI Energy Utility Study. For more about the ACSI, visit www.theacsi.org/badges. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.

GOOD COOKIN'

Chocolate Chip Cookie Pie

Yields 1 pie

Ingredients

- 1 uncooked pie crust, rolled into a 12-inch circle
- 30-ounce package chocolate chip cookie dough
- ¼ cup dulce de leche (canned caramel)

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 325°F. Place pie crust in 9-inch pie plate and crimp edges as desired. Press half of the cookie dough over the bottom of the pie crust. Spread dulce de leche over top of the dough. Form remaining cookie dough into a round disc the size of the pie plate and place over the dulce de leche layer. Top with extra chocolate chips, if desired. Place the pie plate on a baking sheet and bake 35 to 40 minutes, or until the top is crisp and the center is cooked. Remove from oven and let cool on a wire rack. Serve warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream and a drizzle of hot fudge or caramel, if desired.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Taking steps to help your home heating system run more efficiently can reduce energy use and lower your winter bills. Check to see if any air vents around your home are blocked by furniture, curtains or other items. Obstructed vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and can increase pressure in the ductwork, causing cracks and leaks to form. If necessary, consider purchasing a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture or other obstructions.

Source: energystar.gov

**LAST
CHANCE!**

If you're an eighth-grader or high school junior, you still have time to apply for Kay Electric's 2025 student contests! To apply, visit www.kayelectric.coop/youth. **Application deadline is Jan. 10 at 5 p.m.**

\$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 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 or download the smartphone or tablet app.

