



April 2016

RURAL MISSOURI

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

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News

Attention Members in Districts 1, 2 & 3

The term of the director who represents your district will expire on June 14, 2016, the date of the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Members of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative. If you are a member of district 1, 2 or 3, a Nominating Petition is inserted inside this issue. Use the petition if you would like to nominate a candidate for director from your district.

2016 Annual Meeting

June 14, 2016, has been set as the date for the Annual Meeting of the Members of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, Inc. On the date of the meeting the three-year terms of Tim Minehardt, George (Tony) Underwood and Don Levi will expire.

According to the Bylaws of the Cooperative, a Nominating Petition is to be mailed to each member who resides in a district in which a vacancy will exist on the date of the Annual Meeting. Therefore, members in districts 1, 2 and 3 will find a Nominating Petition inserted in this issue of Rural Missouri. The petition includes instructions for nominating a qualified member as a candidate for a position on the Board of Directors.

Sections from the Bylaws of the Cooperative pertaining to the Annual Meeting appear on the inside cover of this issue. Please read those sections for more information about the Annual Meeting and the nomination and election process. Complete copies of the Bylaws are available at the office of the Cooperative.

This year only members in districts 1, 2 and 3 are eligible to receive a ballot for the director election and of those three districts, only members in districts with more than one nominee will receive ballots. If you have a question about which district you live in, please refer to your electric bill. Your district number appears in a box labeled "Board District".

This year's Annual Meeting will be held at the Cooperative's headquarters facility located at 4815 E. Highway 54, El Dorado Springs, Missouri (two miles east of El Dorado Springs on Highway 54). Member registration will begin at 5 p.m. and close at 6:30 p.m.

The business Meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. This year the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting will be published in the June Rural Missouri issue and will include Ballots as required by the Bylaws.

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

District 1

Tim Minehardt represents members in District 1. Mr. Minehardt plans to seek re-election in his district at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

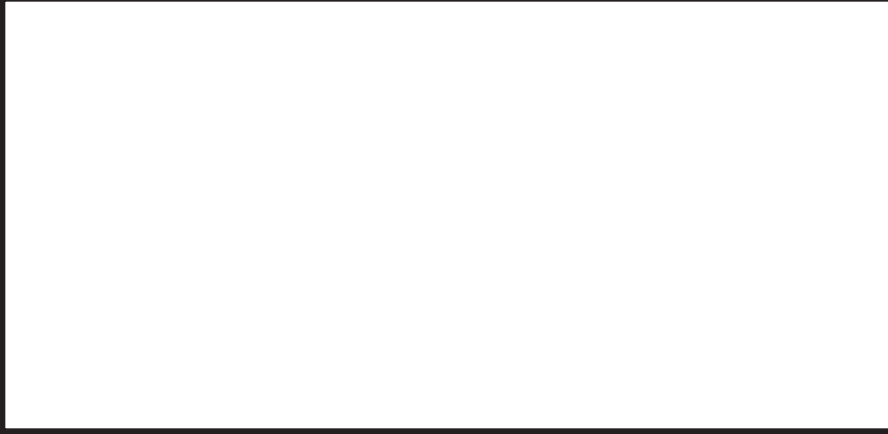
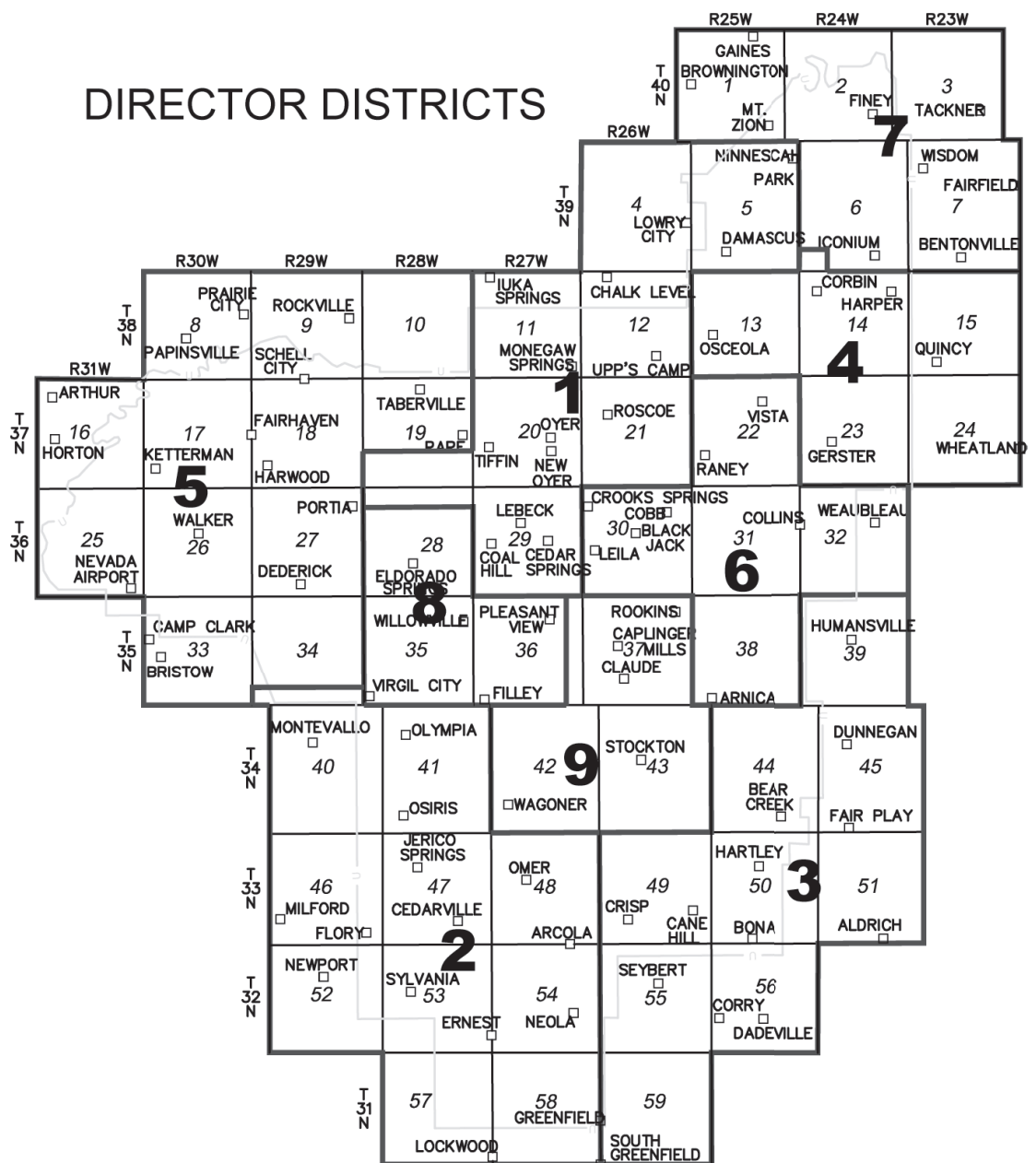
District 2

George (Tony) Underwood represents members in District 2. Mr. Underwood plans to seek re-election in his district at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

District 3

Don Levi represents members in District 3. Mr. Levi plans to seek re-election in his district at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

DIRECTOR DISTRICTS



2016 Annual Meeting Tuesday, June 14

The 2016 Annual Meeting of the Members of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held Tuesday, June 14, 2016. The following sections from Articles I, III, and IV of the Bylaws explain the requirements for membership and the election process.

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIPS

SECTION 1. Requirements for Membership.

Any person, entity, firm, association, corporation, or body politic or subdivision thereof will become a member in SAC OSAGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (Hereinafter called the "Cooperative") by:

- a. filing a written application for membership therein;
- b. actually purchasing from the Cooperative electric energy as hereinafter specified; or, in the case of a small power producer or co-generator being interconnected with the Cooperative's line system;
- c. agreeing to comply with and be bound by the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the Cooperative and any rules and regulations adopted by the board, and
- d. paying the membership fee hereinafter specified;

No person, entity, firm, association, corporation or body politic or subdivision thereof may hold more than one membership in the Cooperative, and no membership in the Cooperative shall be transferable, except as provided in the bylaws. No person, entity, firm, association, corporation or body politic or subdivision thereof holding membership in the Cooperative shall have more than one vote on any matter properly coming before the membership at any annual or special meeting thereof, irrespective of the number of services or connections that member may have.

ARTICLE III - MEETING OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1. Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the members shall be held on such day after the first of June and prior to the first day of October of each year as shall be fixed by the Board beginning with the year 1951 at such place in the County of Cedar, State of Missouri, as shall be designated by the Board. The annual meeting shall be held for the purpose of electing directors, passing upon reports for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Board to make adequate plans and preparations for the annual meeting. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.

SECTION 5. Ballot.

A ballot if required shall be mailed to each member with the notice of meeting. The ballot so mailed shall constitute the sole and only official ballot to be cast by a member pursuant to Section 7 of this Article or in person at the meeting in accordance with Section 6 of this Article. In the event a member fails to receive a ballot or loses or misplaces his ballot, he may make and deliver a sworn affidavit to that effect and shall be issued another ballot, provided however, the affidavit must be delivered to the office of the Cooperative no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the membership meeting. No additional ballots shall be issued after twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

The ballot may be in two (2) parts and shall be printed or mimeographed. The first part of the ballot shall list the candidates, if there are two (2) or more, standing for election to the office of director from that member's district who have been nominated by nominating petition as provided in Section 4 of Article IV. The names of the candidates shall be arranged by district in the order the nominating petitions were received by the Cooperative.

The second part of the Ballot shall list the propositions, if any, requiring special notice and any other proposition which, in the discretion of the Board, should be put to a vote of the membership.

SECTION 6. Voting.

Each member shall be entitled to only one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members in accordance with Section 1 of Article 1. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon in person or by mail, except as otherwise provided by law, the articles of incorporation or these bylaws. All voting for directors, removal of directors or bylaws amendments shall be by secret ballot, provided however, the board may adopt a reasonable method of controlling the validity of any ballot.

If a membership is held in the name of the husband individually or the wife individually then only the husband or the wife, as the case may be, may cast the vote represented by the membership. If a membership is held in the name of a husband and wife jointly, then either the husband or wife, but not both, may cast the vote represented by the membership.

SECTION 7. Mail Voting.

Any member may cast his, her, or its vote by mail or by delivery of his ballot to the office of the Cooperative upon any proposition submitted to a vote at any annual meeting of the members except a vote at an annual meeting for the removal and replacement of a director(s) pursuant to Article IV, Section 6. Such member voting by mail shall enclose the ballot in a sealed, stamped envelope addressed to Inspectors of Election, c/o the Cooperative at the principal office of the Cooperative, deposit same in the United States mail with sufficient postage to insure delivery. All ballots received up to the hour of convening the member meeting shall be held and delivered unopened to the inspectors of election, who shall open, verify and count such ballots at the time other ballots are counted.

ARTICLE IV - DIRECTORS

SECTION 2. Election and Tenure of Office.

The persons serving as directors on the day of the adoption of this amendment shall compose the Board of Directors until the first annual meeting following the adoption of the amendment of this article to be submitted to the membership on June 8, 1976, or until their successors have been elected and shall have qualified. Beginning with the annual meeting held in the year 1977, the directors of the Cooperative shall be divided into nine districts numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. The terms of office of the directors of Districts 1, 2 and 3 shall be for a term of three (3) years and they shall be elected at the annual meeting in 1977 and shall expire at the annual meeting in 1980; the terms of office of the directors serving in Districts 4, 5 and 6 shall be for a term of three (3) years and they shall be elected at the annual meeting in 1978 and shall expire at the annual meeting in 1981. The terms of office of the directors of Districts 7, 8 and 9 shall be for a term of three (3) years and they shall be elected at the annual meeting in 1979 and shall expire at the annual meeting held in the year 1982. At each annual meeting after the annual meeting held in 1979, three directors shall be elected by ballot for a term of three years, such directors to be elected from the districts served by those directors whose terms are expiring, or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have been qualified for a three year term in the order and sequence above set forth as to the nine numbered districts.

If an election of directors shall not be held on the date designated herein for the annual meeting or any adjournment thereof, the Board of Directors shall cause the election to be held at a special meeting of the members or as soon thereafter as practical.

No member of the Board of Directors shall serve more than five (5) consecutive terms. This limitation shall apply upon completion of a current director's term and any director who has served five (5) consecutive terms shall not be eligible for reelection for a period of three (3) years. Any member appointed or elected to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors who serves at least one-half of a term of office shall be considered to have served a term in that office.

SECTION 4. Nomination and voting.

Not later than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting it shall be the duty of the Secretary to prepare or cause to be prepared and mailed to each member residing in the districts in which vacancies will exist at the annual meeting a form of nominating petition. The nominating petition shall inform the members that a vacancy will exist in their district at the annual meeting, the name of that incumbent and whether the incumbent intends to seek reelection. Within twenty days following the mailing of the nominating petitions any qualified member may be nominated as a candidate for election to the office of director in any district in which the candidate resides and a vacancy will exist at the forthcoming annual meeting. The nominating petition shall state the date upon which the nominating process will close, which date shall be the twentieth day following the mailing of nominating petitions to the members.

A qualified member shall be nominated when a petition naming that member is timely delivered to the office of the Cooperative signed by fifteen (15) members residing in the district in which the vacancy will exist. No member shall sign more than one nominating petition. In the event two (2) or more petitions contain the signature or signatures of members who have signed petitions previously submitted to the Cooperative, the signature shall not be counted on any petition after the first petition bearing the same signature has been submitted.

Following closure of the nominating process, no further nominations shall be received, and in those districts in which two (2) or more persons have been nominated it shall be the duty of the Secretary to prepare and mail or cause to be prepared and mailed along with the notice of meeting as described in Article III, Section 3, the official ballot as described in Article III, Section 5. The ballot may be mailed, in accordance with Article III, Section 7, or voted in person at the membership meeting in accordance with Article III, Section 6. Only those members residing in districts in which vacancies on the board will exist at the annual meeting shall be mailed part one of the ballot. Part two of the ballot, if there shall be a part two, shall be mailed to all members. If only one (1) person is nominated for the position of director in any district, ballots shall not be mailed and the person nominated shall be deemed elected at the annual meeting of the members. Any director elected without opposition shall commence serving immediately after the election results are announced at the annual meeting of the members.

Each properly nominated candidate shall be entitled to submit to the Cooperative a biographical sketch and position paper which shall be included with the notice of meeting. The biographical sketch and position paper shall not exceed five hundred (500) words in length. The Cooperative shall be entitled to delete from the materials submitted by a candidate any statements which may be deemed obscene or defamatory of any other candidate. The Cooperative shall have absolute discretion in determining whether the statement contains obscenities or defamation.

Each member of the Cooperative voting by mail or in person shall be entitled to vote only for one candidate residing in the same district as that member. No member shall be entitled to vote in any district election in which the member does not reside. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes cast by mail and in person shall be elected to the board representing the district in which he resides even though such candidate may not receive the majority of votes cast for candidates from that district. Ties between two or more candidates shall be resolved by a coin toss or tosses.

Say what???

What you can learn from a home energy audit?

Dear Pat: I keep hearing about home energy audits. How do they work, and will they save me money? — Lorena C.

Dear Lorena: You are smart to be thinking about a home energy audit. Spending a few hundred dollars now can save you thousands of dollars over time.

A home energy audit is a detailed assessment of your home that can give you a roadmap for future energy-related investments. An energy audit can meet different needs:

- What efficiency investments will be most effective in reducing your energy bills?
- Are areas of your home sometimes too hot or too cold? An energy audit can identify problem areas and solutions.
- Are you considering a new furnace or air conditioner. An energy audit will help you “right-size” these systems and identify complementary measures that will help these large investments work most efficiently.
- Are you considering selling your home? An energy audit can document your home’s efficiency to help improve its resale value.

Online audit tools can give you a basic understanding of how your home compares to similar ones. However, qualified and professional home energy auditors can use their experience and high-tech tools to provide a thorough report of your home’s challenges and opportunities. A professional energy audit can range from a quick, visual walk-through of the home to a more comprehensive, more informative — but more expensive — assessment.

Energy audits require an examination of the building envelope (attic, floor and exterior walls) and the energy systems in the home, such as the water heater, air conditioner and furnace. Follow the auditor during the inspection, and ask questions so you can understand where the problems are, what you can address yourself and where you may need further professional help. The auditor may analyze your recent energy bills to determine what your energy is used for and if use has recently changed. Finally, the auditor will ask about the energy use behaviors for those who live in the home. For example, is someone home all day, or does everyone leave for work and school? Ford Tupper, an energy auditor with the electric cooperatives of South Carolina noted, “The residents’ habits can make a big impact on the energy bill and can also be the hardest to change. If you go from being a household with two working adults to one with a new baby and an adult home most of the day, your energy use is going to go up.”

An auditor may do some or all of the following tests:

- Blower door test — Windows are often the suspected cause for air leaks in the home, but there are usually larger and less obvious sources; a blower door test measures how airtight your home is and identifies where the air leaks are.
- Duct blaster — Ducts move the warm and cool air around your home; duct testing can measure whether your ducts are leaking.
- Thermographic imaging — Seth Rosser, an energy adviser at United Cooperative Services in Texas shared, “Identifying where more insulation is needed is a key component in our energy audits. Too little insulation will make a member use more energy than needed. Adding more can provide a quick return on investment.” Thermographic imaging is one way to identify where more insulation is needed. Infrared images will show “cold” spots in the home.
- Health and safety testing — Energy auditors also are trained to spot safety problems, such as a missing smoke detector or an appliance that could cause carbon monoxide issues. Some auditors can also test your home for radon.

Following the assessment of your home, the auditor will analyze the information and make recommendations on what systems could be upgraded or behavior changes you can make to reduce energy use and improve comfort. If you take action based on your auditor’s recommendations, you could lower your energy bill five percent to thirty percent, and perhaps even more!

Your local electric cooperative may be able to help you get started with your energy audit. Be sure whoever you hire is willing to answer questions, and plan to be home during the audit — it is a great opportunity to learn what makes your home tick and how you can make it even better.

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Amy Wheelless of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on ensuring quality energy efficiency work, please visit www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips or email Pat Keegan at energytips@collaborativeefficiency.com.



photo courtesy of the United Cooperative Services

Above: Infrared imaging technology can help auditors identify where more insulation is needed. **Below:** During your home energy audit, accompany the auditor and ask any questions you may have.



photo courtesy of the Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation

Have questions about your home’s energy efficiency? Contact your local electric cooperative for more energy-saving tips.



David Spencer Retires after 35 years



There's always a smile on his face and a laugh after he speaks. David Spencer retired from Sac Osage Electric Cooperative in January after 35 dedicated years of service. He was a Senior Service Lineman for the Osceola service territory during that time. He is an outstanding employee and the type of guy who took care of the system and the members.

"There was a lot of work and a lot of learning that went on at the Cooperative over the years along with having fun with his co-workers. They could work hard and still have fun doing it," David said. He enjoyed his work enough to do it long after most of us had called it a day. Crew Foreman, Rodger Culbertson stated that "he never said no to a call in the middle of the night." Culbertson also stated that "he was a dedicated and an excellent worker."

During his retirement he is going to enjoy spending time with his grand kids, family, hunting, fishing and relaxing at home. His many years of experience will be greatly missed by the Cooperative, but we are glad to see him with the time to enjoy life at a slower pace and do the things he truly loves.



Youth Tour and CYCLE Approved!

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative's Board gave approval to send two students to Washington, D.C. for the Youth Tour and two students to Jefferson City to attend the CYCLE conference.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Now that spring is here, you can use ceiling fans to cool off for less. Ceiling fans use no more electricity than a standard light bulb. However, be sure to turn fans off when you leave — they only cool people, not rooms. Also be sure you change the switch so that it turns counter-clockwise in the summer.

Just a friendly reminder that May is catch-up month for those members on Budget Billing.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In accordance with Federal Law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Jim Davis, General Manager of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, Inc. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.