

A MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

2023 Annual Meeting & Election

At Kootenai Electric Cooperative (KEC), your voice matters. For 85 years, we've been owned and governed by those we serve. Your participation in our Annual Meeting and vote in our board election is your voice in our cooperative. Join us for KEC's 85th Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 20, 2023, in the Jacklin Building at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds in Coeur d'Alene. Members attending the meeting will learn about the cooperative and the business environment in which it operates. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the business meeting starts at approximately 9 a.m.



Doug Elliott

Each member household attending the Annual Meeting will have a chance to win many prizes, including a \$300 KEC bill credit. Members must be present to win. Breakfast and coffee will be served. If you plan to attend, please RSVP for breakfast in one of the following ways (please only RSVP once per membership):

- Scan the QR code to the right
- Visit www.kec.com/RSVP
- Call 208.292.3298

SCAN TO RSVP



Director Elections

Starting in mid-April, watch your email and mailbox for details about our board election. This is your chance to elect those who will represent you and your interests on our board of directors. Board of director districts 3 and 4 are up for election in 2023. Elected directors serve three-year terms. Visit www.kec.com to review board candidate bios and speech videos. For your convenience, you can vote by mail ballot, online or via SmartHub.

If you plan to vote online, please do so by May 1, 2023. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by May 1, 2023, to be counted. The results will be announced at the Annual Meeting, online and in our newsletter. **Please note: in-person voting will not be available at the Annual Meeting.**

Election Prizes

Members who cast their votes online and have a KEC SmartHub account will be entered into a drawing for a \$300 KEC bill credit. Visit www.kec.com to learn how you can register as a SmartHub user. Those voting by mail or online without a SmartHub account will be entered into a drawing for one of three \$100 KEC bill credits.

I encourage you to take the time to vote. Should you have any questions about the candidates, please contact us at kec@kec.com or 208.765.1200.



OPERATION ROUND UP® GRANTS AWARDED TO OUR COMMUNITY

In February 2023, the Kootenai Electric Trust Board awarded Operation Round Up® grants to the following organizations:

- \$2,500 to Camp Fire Inland Northwest to purchase and install four water heaters for camping units at Camp Sweyolakan on Lake Coeur d'Alene.
- \$2,500 to the North Idaho Fair Foundation for the Farm to Table event for area fifth grade students to learn where their food comes from.
- \$2,500 to Fernan Elementary to bring World Music Drumming teachers to their school for a month-long World Music Drumming camp.
- \$2,500 to Trinity Group Homes to help cover the cost of gardening supplies, livestock, and life skills classes and programs for their residents with mental illness.
- \$2,500 to Boy Scout Troop 222 to help purchase a trailer and shed to store their camping gear.
- \$1,000 to the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce for their scholarship program.



Grant applications are available at www.kec.com and the next quarterly deadline is April 21, 2023.

Members who choose not to contribute to Operation Round Up®, or who would like to begin contributing, may simply “opt-out” or “opt-in” on their bill/in SmartHub or contact KEC by phone, letter or email.

Seeking Trust Board Members

Two Kootenai Electric Trust Board positions will be open this year due to term limits. The Trust Board is made up of KEC members who serve on a voluntary basis. They receive and evaluate all grant requests and scholarship applications and determine how funds will be distributed. If you're interested in being considered, please fill out the form at www.kec.com/operation-round-upr.

We Need Your Help!

Your participation matters and benefits the many non-profit organizations that support our members and community. Currently, less than 40% of accounts participate in Operation Round Up®. Members may “opt-out” or “opt-in” to the program in one of the following ways:

- On your billing statement.
- By logging in to SmartHub.
- By contacting KEC by phone, letter or email.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.





April is National Safe Digging Month.

SERVICE AVAILABILITY CHARGE 101

We occasionally receive questions from members about the Service Availability Charge (SAC). It's important to us that members understand why we have it. Consider this: ensuring our members receive reliable and dependable power requires rights-of-way to be maintained, poles and power lines to be serviced and equipment to be repaired following an outage. The cooperative incurs these costs regardless of the amount of energy a member uses. These are fixed costs.

Other costs, like purchasing or producing power, are dependent on how much energy a member uses. Most residential members live in their homes all year and use an average of 1,100 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month. Some members own seasonal homes that are occupied for only a few months of the year and use far less energy over the year. As an electric cooperative, we must keep our rates fair and not discriminate between the two. By setting our SAC closer to the actual fixed cost of providing services, our energy rates do not have to make up the difference. If this weren't the case, those who live in their homes year around would end up paying more than their fair share of fixed costs through a higher than necessary energy charge. The cost of the infrastructure needed to serve our members remains the same regardless of the amount of power a member uses.

Learn more by watching the informational video at www.kec.com.

Dig Smart. Dig Safe.



Before you dig, call 811 or visit www.call811.com to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.

Digging without calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm you and those around you, and potentially result in fines and repair costs. Calling 811 gets utility-owned underground lines marked for free and helps prevent undesired consequences.

NEWS BRIEFS

KEC BOARD MEETINGS

Members are welcome to attend monthly board meetings. Meeting dates vary—please call Constance Felten at 208.292.3211 for details.

WIN A \$50 ENERGY CREDIT

Below are 10 KEC account numbers. If you find yours contact us at 208.765.1200 to receive a \$50 bill credit.

1315348, 1856992, 1858460, 1392276, 1281083,
1419894, 1856080, 1831548, 1832708, 1755680





CELEBRATE

the Power Behind Your Power.

Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 18, 2023

Get your bills electronically with **Paperless Billing**

Forget the hassle of mail and take some of the load off our mail carriers! Receive your KEC bill electronically with paperless billing. Electronic notifications make a positive impact on the environment by minimizing the use of paper, printing and postage.

Visit www.kec.com/paperless-billing to learn how to sign up.

