



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
 P.O. Box 790, 509 E. Carthage, Meade, KS 67864
 620-873-2184 or 800-794-2353
www.cmselectric.com

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

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Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Rusty Allen
- ▶ Viola Alviidrez
- ▶ Clovis Bell
- ▶ Paul Briscoe
- ▶ Chester Baker
- ▶ Kelly Bender

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Get Involved!

Join us at the Annual Meeting

One of our favorite events is coming up soon, when CMS Electric will host its annual meeting for you, the members we proudly serve. We always look forward to this event because it's a great opportunity to talk with our members and hear what's on their minds.

We hope you'll join us for the annual meeting. We thank you in advance for attending the annual meeting and getting involved because your participation means so much to us.

During the annual meeting, we'll share a few brief business updates and we're going to have a lot of fun too! We'll also have tasty food and prizes.

Spending time with you and hearing your take on our community's energy future is so important to us. In fact,

it's essential because everything we do is shaped by the members of our community. As you know, the energy industry is in the midst of massive change. Consumer needs and changing technology impact nearly every aspect of how we manage and deliver energy to local homes, schools and businesses.

As we navigate major changes in the coming years, we need to hear from you and your neighbors to inform our planning as we strive to meet the long-term needs of all CMS Electric members.

YOU HAVE A SAY.

You may be wondering if your opinion really makes a difference, and yes, it does! Gaining guidance and perspective from our members and board helps set priorities for the

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Did you know insulating your electric water heater could reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%? This could save you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs.

Insulating your electric water heater is an easy, inexpensive project that can improve energy efficiency and save you money each month. The Department of Energy rates this project level as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own.

SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV





SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

2023 CMS Scholarships Available

The CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., awards six \$1,000 scholarships annually to eligible applicants.

Purpose

To support development of effective leaders through educational opportunities.

Objective

To provide financial assistance to make it possible for six high school graduates based upon scholastic and extracurricular achievements to continue their education.

Scholarship Eligibility

Current high school seniors whose parents/guardians are members of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. are eligible to apply for these scholarships. Each applicant must intend to enroll as a full-time student in an accredited university or college, including junior, community, vocational or technical college. All applicants for the CMS Electric Scholarship shall be considered on the criteria below without regard to race, age, color, religion, gender, national origin or existence of physical handicap.

Scholarship Criteria

Scholarship merit is based on three categories: scholastic achievement, school extracurricular activities and community activities.

How to Apply

Students wishing to apply should contact the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. office, or a CMS Board Trustee from within the district in which they reside to obtain application forms, or print the form from the CMS website, www.cmselectric.com. Completed applications must be postmarked and/

or **RETURNED TO CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., BY FEB. 10, 2023.**

MAIL APPLICATIONS TO:

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. BOX 790

MEADE, KS 67864

Questions about the scholarship program should be directed to Kirk A. Thompson, CMS general manager, at 620-873-2184 or 800-794-2353.

Selection Procedure

Selection is made by the scholarship committee of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. Applicants must be willing to be interviewed by the committee, if necessary. Decisions made by this committee shall be final.

Runners-up will be selected in the event the recipient forfeits rights to the scholarship.

Payment of Scholarships

The scholarship recipients shall provide proof of college enrollment satisfactory to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. The cooperative will then pay the institution. Should the recipient withdraw from college, payment of scholarship monies shall cease and reimbursement of unused monies shall be made to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Conditions

In the event the scholarship recipient receives financial assistance from other sources, which would constitute a full scholarship, the recipient shall notify CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. and relinquish rights to the scholarship. The money shall then be awarded to the runner-up, provided that person continues to meet all criteria.

Get Involved! *Continued from page 12A* ▶

co-op and guide future decisions. At our annual meeting, we raise issues for voting consideration by the general membership (that's everyone who pays for electric service from CMS Electric). Annual meeting is also a time for members to vote on the co-op's board of directors.

Our board of directors is comprised of nine members who live and work right here in our local service area, so they are in the best position to know where community investments are most needed. And by the way, we hope you'll consider running for the board in the future — we're always looking for folks who care about our community who would be willing to serve.

Your electric bill is an investment in our community.

This local input means those closest to the community know its needs and priorities and help direct where the co-op's dollars are spent. Every year, we invest funds to make updates to our local system, which

helps maintain reliability and grid resilience. Think of it this way: Every time you pay your electric bill, you're investing in your community because the money we take in stays here in the local community. By making these investments in our local system, we can ensure you have reliable power for everyday life.

Most consumers likely don't equate active involvement with their electric company with helping their community. But CMS Electric is not an ordinary utility company. We're a co-op, and our business model is meant to serve the members and the community in which we operate.

Our core purpose and mission are to provide safe, reliable and affordable power. But as a co-op, we're also motivated by service to our community, rather than profits. We hope you'll exercise the benefits of your co-op membership and join us for the annual meeting. We look forward to seeing you!

New Year New Savings

Visit our website to learn how you can save energy and money.



Common Causes of Home Electrical Fires



An average of **346,800** home fires occur every year, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Electrical issues (either failure or malfunction) account for 46,700 of those fires.

Common Causes

Incorrectly installed wiring; overloaded circuits or extension cords; defective or improper plugs, switches or outlets; and misuse or poor maintenance of lighting are common causes.

Warning Signs

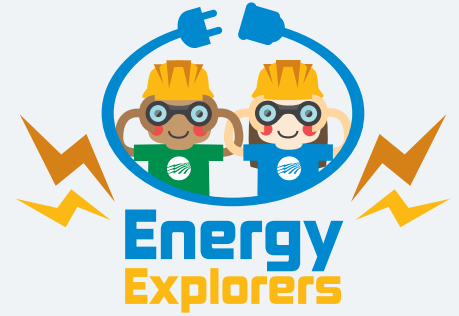
Signs that indicate possible wiring or electrical problems include flickering or dimming lights; discolored cords, outlets or switch plates; switches or outlets that are hot to the touch or emit an odor; and recurring blown fuses and tripped circuit breakers.

Prevention

Hire a qualified electrician to examine and repair electrical issues in your home. Do not take on do-it-yourself electrical projects if you are not qualified.

PLEDGE TO SAVE ENERGY

It's a new year, and that means it's time to think about how you'll make a positive impact in 2023! You can help the planet by saving energy at home and at school. Take the pledge to save energy this year by completing the form below. Post it on your refrigerator or at school to remind others about easy ways to save energy and costs while helping our environment.



I Pledge to Save Energy



Name: _____

I pledge to do my part to save energy and help our planet.
Every day, I'll do the following to save energy at home
and/or at school.

My Daily Energy-Saving Plan:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Need some ideas to help you get started?

Here are a few easy ways you can save energy every day.

- ▶ Turn off all lights when you leave a room.
- ▶ Unplug phone and other device chargers when they're not being used.
- ▶ Turn off running water while brushing your teeth.
- ▶ Remind family members to wash clothes in cold water.
- ▶ Turn off ceiling fans when you leave a room.