

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Trustee

Trustee Positions Open for Election



CJ Skinner



Michael Johnson



Keith Randall

The Board of Trustees of the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. announces the following trustee terms will expire in 2026, and their positions are open for election.

DISTRICT 1, POSITION C

▶ CJ SKINNER

DISTRICT 2, POSITION C

▶ MICHAEL JOHNSON

NOT SEEKING REELECTION

DISTRICT 3, POSITION C

▶ KEITH RANDALL

NOT SEEKING REELECTION

The board also announces that members wishing to serve on the board of trustees shall be nominated by presenting a petition to the cooperative office with the signatures of 15 valid members within the district they are to represent. **PETITIONS ARE DUE BY APRIL 7, 2026.**

For more information, please call CMS at 800-794-2353.

LIGHTBULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Ricardo Chairez
- ▶ Veronica Chavez
- ▶ Jerry Dudley
- ▶ Rachel Eppens
- ▶ Lory Finke
- ▶ Jenna Lee Gales

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

SAVE THE DATE

CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., 80th Annual Meeting of the Members will be on Thursday, May 7, at South Central Middle School Gym in Protection, Kansas. Look for more information as the date gets closer.



Tornado Safety and Electrical Hazards

Tornadoes can strike with little warning, leaving behind downed power lines, damaged electrical equipment and dangerous debris. Preparing before a tornado — and knowing how to stay safe afterward — can help prevent electrical shock, fire and injury. Make sure your emergency plan includes electrical safety steps so you and your family are ready to act quickly and safely.

BEFORE A TORNADO:

- ▶ Prepare an emergency kit with water, battery-powered flashlight, radio, extra batteries and portable phone charger.
- ▶ Keep your electric utility's phone number handy in case you need to report an outage or downed line.
- ▶ Fully charge cell phones and backup power banks before severe weather hits so you can use them in an emergency.

DURING A TORNADO:

- ▶ Seek shelter immediately in a basement or a small, interior room with no windows, such as a bathroom or closet.
- ▶ Turn off and unplug appliances and electronics to protect them from power surges. Leave one light on so you'll know when power is restored.
- ▶ Do not stay inside a vehicle or try to outrun a tornado. Exit the vehicle and seek shelter in a sturdy building. If none are available, lie flat in a low-lying area away from the vehicle and power lines.

AFTER A TORNADO:

- ▶ Stay away from downed power lines and any-

thing they could touch, such as trees, fences or debris. Always assume they are energized.

- ▶ If you see a downed line while driving, do not exit your vehicle. Call 911 and your utility and warn others to stay away.
- ▶ Do not touch anyone who is in contact with a power line. Call 911 immediately and wait for emergency responders.
- ▶ Do not enter damaged buildings until electricity and gas are shut off by professionals. Never attempt to turn off power if you must stand in water to reach the breaker.
- ▶ Avoid flooded areas with electrical outlets, appliances, or cords, and never touch electrical equipment when wet or standing in water.
- ▶ Have all water-damaged electrical systems, appliances and devices inspected by a licensed electrician before use.

POWER OUTAGES AND GENERATOR SAFETY:

- ▶ Never use a generator indoors or in partially enclosed spaces such as garages or porches, or near open windows and doors. Place a generator at least 20 feet away from your home to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ▶ Keep the generator dry by placing it on a tarp or under a canopy and follow all manufacturer's instructions.
- ▶ Never plug a generator directly into a wall outlet. This can inadvertently energize power lines and pose a lethal risk to you, neighbors and utility workers.

Stay informed, stay alert, and share this information to help protect your family and community during severe weather events.

SAFETY TIP

If you're outside during a tornado, get to a sturdy building if possible. Never stay in a vehicle during a tornado or try to outrun it. If no shelter is nearby, lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area away from cars, trees and power lines.

Protect your head with your arms. SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG



KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE

Please keep your contact information including phone number, email address and mailing address up to date.

Keeping your information up to date helps us keep you in the know about the business and operations of your electric cooperative.

Contact our offices at 800-794-2353 if you need to update the contact information on your account.

We appreciate your help in gathering this information.



NAME



ADDRESS



EMAIL



PHONE

Spring Forward
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR
*** Sunday, March 8, 2026 ***

Happy St. Patrick's Day

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As spring arrives, take advantage of milder temperatures to save energy at home. Open windows on pleasant days to bring in fresh air instead of running your HVAC system. It's also a great time to replace dirty air filters, which helps your system run more efficiently and improves indoor air quality. As daylight increases, turn off unnecessary lights and rely on natural sunlight when possible. Small seasonal adjustments like these can reduce energy use, lower monthly bills, and help keep your home comfortable as winter transitions into spring.

SOURCE: NRECA

Happy Easter

5 Tips to GO GREEN



for St. Patrick's Day



REPLACE YOUR HVAC FILTER. These typically need replacing every three months, though factors like pets, climate and system age can affect the timing.



INSTALL A SMART THERMOSTAT. A smart thermostat offers convenience, savings

and efficiency by adjusting the temperature based on your schedule — reducing usage when no one is home.



CUT ENERGY USE DURING PEAK HOURS. In spring, peak electricity hours are usually in the evening.

Reduce usage by visiting a park, a theater or dining out.



UPGRADE TO ENERGY-EFFICIENT APPLIANCES.

Look for appliances that are Energy Star-certified, using 10% to 15% less energy and water than standard models, according to www.energy.gov.



SAVE ENERGY THROUGH REBATE PROGRAMS FOR SOLAR, BATTERY STORAGE OR ELECTRIC

VEHICLES. Check with utilities and government programs for rebates and incentives to help make these technologies more accessible.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

Help the Lineworker Spring into Action

Did you know March 20 is the first day of spring? This time of year marks new beginnings and fresh blooms, but it can also bring powerful storms that interrupt electric service.

Help the lineworker find his way through the maze to the bucket truck so he can restore power.

