



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

CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Trustee

Don Nighswonger
Trustee

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Trustee

Keith Randall
Trustee

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Trustee

Trustee Positions Open for Election

The Board of Trustees of the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. announces the following trustee's terms will expire in 2020 and their positions are open for election.

► **District 1, Position A**
ROCK ORMISTON II

► **District 2, Position A**
JAMES W. MCKINNEY

► **District 3, Position A**
DON NIGHSWONGER

The board also announces that members wishing to serve on the CMS Board of Trustees shall be nominated by presenting a petition to the cooperative office with the signatures of 15



Rock Ormiston II



James W. McKinney



Don Nighswonger

valid members within the district they are to represent.

Blank petitions are available at the cooperative office in Meade, or call and one will be mailed to you. If you are needing additional information, please call CMS at 800-794-2353.

Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- David Hall
- Kathleen Rogneby
- Zane Kay
- Tyler Reimer
- Mark Gerrald
- Mary Russell

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Holiday Office Closing

Happy New Year from your electric co-op. We will be closed on Friday, Jan. 1, and will re-open on Monday, Jan. 4.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load). **Source:** www.nrel.gov



feeling chilled?

HEAT YOUR SPACE SAFELY

Remember these safety tips when using a space heater this season.



Place on a flat, level surface



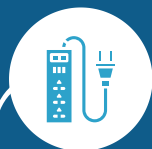
Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away



Make sure the cord is not frayed or cracked



Plug it directly into the outlet



Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which can overheat



Follow all instructions and use models endorsed by a reputable testing lab



Do not use around small children or pets



Do not use a heater with a damaged plug or prongs

DEADLINE EXTENDED! Enter to Win a Willie Wiredhand Holiday Ornament

The 2020 Willie Wiredhand Commemorative Holiday Ornaments have arrived! CMS will hold a drawing for **FIVE ORNAMENTS**.

To be eligible for the drawing, please complete and return the entry form to the CMS office in Meade, either in person or mail to:

CMS Electric Cooperative Inc.
P.O. Box 790
Meade, KS 67864

Entries must be received by **5 P.M. ON JAN. 16, 2021**. Winners will receive the ornament in the mail.

Willie Wiredhand Ornament Drawing

Clip and return to
CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.,
P.O. Box 790, Meade, KS 67864,
by 5 p.m. on Jan. 16, 2021.



Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Time to Ditch Your Old Space Heater

If you can't remember when you purchased your space heater, it might be time to replace it. Just as the flip phones of yesteryear have progressed into today's modern cell phone, portable space heaters have come a long way too. Most of today's models have built-in safety features, such as non-exposed coils and sensors that detect overheating or touch, as well as an automatic shut-off feature in case it gets tipped over.

Regardless of whether your space heater is fresh out of the box or several years old, it should be used safely. Most home heating fire deaths (86%) involve using one, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). In fact, heating equipment is the second-leading cause of U.S. home fires, right behind cooking.

Along with using a unit that is in good working order, be sure to keep clothing, papers, rugs and other flammable items at least 3 feet away from a space heater. More than half of the heating-related home fires start when items are too close to the heat source, according to the

NFPA, including upholstered furniture, clothing, mattresses or bedding.

Safe Electricity and CMS Electric recommend these additional space heater safety tips:

- ▶ Read all instructions and only use as recommended.
- ▶ Do not leave a space heater unattended.
- ▶ Plug it directly into an outlet; most power strips and extension cords are not equipped to handle the energy spikes caused by a space heater cycling on and off.
- ▶ Unplug any other item from the outlet you are using; also try to use a dedicated circuit to avoid overload.
- ▶ Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- ▶ Turn them off before you leave the room or go to sleep.
- ▶ Do not use a heater in disrepair or with a frayed cord or damaged plug.
- ▶ Place them on flat, level surfaces and never place on furniture, counters or carpet, which can overheat.

Use a space heater with care.

For additional safety tips, visit SafeElectricity.org.



SCHOLARSHIP 6 OPPORTUNITIES

CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. awards six \$1,000 scholarships annually to eligible applicants. Apply by Feb. 10, 2021.

Purpose

To support development of effective leaders through educational opportunities.

Objective

To provide financial assistance 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 scholarships shall be considered based upon scholastic and extracurricular achievements 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, extracurricular school activities and community engagement.

How to Apply

Interested applicants may contact the CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. office or a CMS board trustee from within the district in which they reside to obtain an application form or print an application form from the CMS website, www.cmselectric.com.

Completed applications must be postmarked and/or returned to CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. **by Feb. 10, 2021.**

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 CMS General Manager Kirk A. Thompson at 620-873-2184 or 800-794-2353.

Selection Procedure

Selections are made by CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Scholarship Committee. 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 individual continues to meet all criteria.

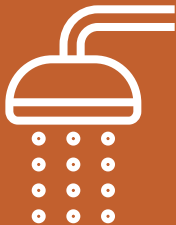
2021 ENERGY EFFICIENCY CALENDAR

There are so many ways you can save energy! Saving energy helps reduce your family's monthly bills — and it helps our environment. Change your energy use habits by following the monthly tips below. Keep this calendar on your refrigerator to remind family members to be energy efficient throughout the year.



JANUARY

Take short showers instead of baths.



FEBRUARY

Instead of turning up the heat, put on an extra layer of clothing or stay cozy under a blanket.

MARCH

Turn off lights when you leave a room.



APRIL

Ask an adult to help you plant a tree to shade your home in the summer.

MAY

Decorate your backyard or porch with solar-powered lights.

JUNE

Turn off ceiling fans when you leave the room.



JULY

Dry heavy linens outside on a clothesline instead of using the dryer.

AUGUST

Ask an adult to help you schedule a reminder to change the HVAC filter every 60-90 days.

SEPTEMBER

Turn off running water while brushing your teeth.



OCTOBER

Unplug energy vampires, like chargers, gaming consoles and cable/satellite boxes.

NOVEMBER

Remind family members to use cold water when washing clothes.



DECEMBER

Decorate your home with energy-saving LED holiday lights.