



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

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# The Enlightener

## CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc.

### Board of Trustees

- Ron Oliver**  
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Trustee

### Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Joseph Atkins
- ▶ Kenneth Bailey
- ▶ Carl Birney
- ▶ Max Papay
- ▶ Steven Chance
- ▶ Kenneth Colter

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



### Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## CMS Board of Trustees Positions Open for Election

The Board of Trustees of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. announces the following trustee's terms will expire in 2021 and their positions are open for election.

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



Rock Ormiston II

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



James W. McKinney

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



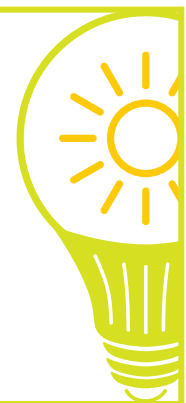
Don Nighswonger

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. Blank petitions are available at the cooperative office in Meade, or call and one will be mailed to you. If you need additional information, please call CMS at 1-800-794-2353. Petitions are **DUE BY APRIL 13, 2021**.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends a temperature setting of 35 to 38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for the freezer. Make sure the refrigerator doors are sealed airtight to maximize efficiency.

**SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV**



## Statement of Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer), or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

## Willie Wiredhand Ornament Winners

This year's Willie Wiredhand commemorative holiday ornament winners are:

**NORMAN DYE, TERRY SHINOGL, ROD BROWN, SHERMAN OVERBAY and SHARON SUE STOCKTON.**

The ornaments have been mailed to the winners. Thank you to all who entered our drawing!



## On the Farm: Handle Irrigation Equipment with Care

A central-pivot or other type of irrigation system is equipment that many farmers rely on to water crops. The systems can run on electricity or by other means such as water pressure.

CMS Electric and Safe Electricity would like to remind everyone in the agricultural industry that moving irrigation pipes can be extremely dangerous around power lines. The watering pipes can be made of aluminum, a great conductor of electricity.

CMS Electric and Safe Electricity offer these irrigation safety tips:

- ▶ Be extremely careful when assembling or moving long sections of irrigation pipes.
- ▶ Always consider your location and the length of the pipe you are holding.
- ▶ Make sure the pipe's long reach will not come near or into contact with power lines.
- ▶ If the pipe touches or comes too close to a power line, you could be electrocuted.
- ▶ Do not store, handle or assemble irrigation pipes under or near overhead power lines.
- ▶ In fact, do not store or park anything under power lines.

### Installation and Maintenance

Although farmers are usually great at fixing anything and everything, it's a good idea to have a qualified electrician install and maintain your irrigation's electricals, which must meet National Electrical Code. Hire an electrician who is experienced and well-versed in irrigation systems.

You might take for granted your irrigation electricals are working properly, but they need proper attention:

- ▶ If your electrically driven center pivot system is not working correctly, it could be deadly or hazardous.
- ▶ If electrical equipment or wiring is faulty, you could get shocked or electrocuted.
- ▶ Irrigation systems run by an electric motor must be properly grounded with copper piping.
- ▶ A system's electricals should have a fuse or some means of disconnection.
- ▶ If lightning strikes your irrigation equipment, it could mean that the system is no longer grounded.
- ▶ Always shut off and lock the master control switch before servicing the machine.
- ▶ Inspect the pump and wiring before the start of each irrigation season and consult your electrician with any concerns.

In general, talk to everyone in your family (including kids and teens) about the dangers of moving pipes. Teach irrigation safety to all staff and seasonal workers. Family members or workers might try to rearrange pipes for coverage or move them to free an animal and not realize how close they are to an overhead power line. In addition, they may try to use an electrical system that is damaged or not properly grounded.

We care about your safety. Please contact us with any concerns about electrical issues, power lines, irrigation equipment or any other safety concerns related to electricity.

MARCH 14

*Spring Forward*

REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD  
ONE HOUR ON SUNDAY, MARCH 14.

