

*Kansas*  
**COUNTRY**Living



# *Annual Report* 2024

**BLUESTEM ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING**

*March 24, 2025*

**REGISTRATION 6 P.M. | MEETING 7 P.M.**

**BLUESTEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WAREHOUSE IN WAMEGO**



# REPORT CONTENTS

C2, 12A-D | Executive Report

12A | Listing of Trustees

12B-C | Financial Reports

C3 | 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

C4 | Proxy Form & Registration Ticket

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The Annual Meeting of the Members of the Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc., Wamego, Kansas, will be held **MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025, AT 7 P.M.** at the Bluestem Electric Cooperative Warehouse in Wamego to take action on the following matters:

- ▶ Determine the existence of a quorum.
- ▶ Proof of the timely publication or mailing of the notice of meeting.
- ▶ Review and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting of the members.
- ▶ Reports of officers, trustees, management and committees.

All other business that may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Registration begins at the Bluestem Electric Cooperative Warehouse at 6 p.m. with refreshments served from 6:15-7 p.m. Your board of trustees urges each member of the cooperative to attend the annual meeting.

**BRUCE MEYER, SECRETARY**

## EXECUTIVE REPORT

# 2024 Year in Review

On behalf of the Bluestem Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees we would like to thank you for your support and understanding throughout 2024. Change has been a major theme for your cooperative this past year, with the new advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) meter deployment, new rate structure and a CEO search taking a tremendous amount of energy and time. Your board of trustees is looking forward to the 2025 annual meeting and hope you will be able to join us for an informative and enjoyable evening.

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO FILL OUT YOUR PROXY CARD ON THE BACK COVER AND GIVE IT TO ANOTHER MEMBER WITHIN YOUR DISTRICT WHO IS ATTENDING.** This will ensure your voice can still be heard. All members are allowed to be the proxy for up to three others within their respective district. Proxy votes will be eligible for a \$20 bill credit, the same as members who attend in-person.

### BUSINESS PLAN

Planning for the future is an important part of the board's responsibilities. Developing strategy and setting direction for the management team allows the trustees and management staff to focus on your electrical requirements in a safe and reliable method. The Bluestem board of trustees, along with management, continue to follow these five strategic goals.

- 1 Enhance the cooperative's culture of safety, maintaining it as Bluestem's No. 1 priority.
- 2 Maintain financial strength using long-term financial forecasting: continued implementation of the equity management plan focused on balancing capital credits retirements, plant investments, rates and equity.
- 3 Engage current and emerging technology as appropriate that improves efficiency of operation and



**Mark Diederich**  
Board President



**Michael Leitch**  
CEO

provides opportunities to better serve the members.

**4** Create and execute an internal and external communication plan.

**5** Maintain reliable electric service to members using standard operating procedures and monitoring material availability and lead times.

### COOPERATIVE MODEL ADVANTAGE — CAPITAL CREDITS

In the cooperative business model, any year-end margins recognized are allocated back to the cooperative membership as capital credits. The amount of capital credits varies for each member and is dependent upon the amount of participation a member has with the cooperative. With electric cooperatives, a member's annual electric usage compared to the total electric usage by all the members determines the level of the capital credits.

Capital credits are held until such a time the cooperative can refund a portion or all to the members without negatively impacting the cooperative's financial condition. Bluestem has routinely, under board policy, made discounted "special capital credits retirements" to estates as well as one-time opportunities to members with medical disabilities and/or dissolution of membership. "General capital credits retirements," in which members receive a portion of their capital credits are also provided for under board policy with different criteria established before refunding these capital credits.

*Continued on page 12A ►*



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
1000 South Wind Dr., P.O. Box 5  
Wamego, KS 66547  
800-558-1580

[www.bluestemelectric.com](http://www.bluestemelectric.com)

# Bluestem NEWS

## BLUESTEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Mark Diederich**  
President

**Donald Classen**  
Vice President

**Bruce Meyer**  
Secretary

**Amanda Gnad**  
Treasurer

**Patricia Bloomdahl**  
Trustee

**Gary Buss**  
Trustee

**Brent McKeeman**  
Trustee

**Steven Ohlde**  
Trustee

**Stephen J. O'Shea**  
Trustee

**Matthew Rezac**  
Trustee

**Richard Ridder**  
Trustee

### MANAGEMENT STAFF

**Michael Leitch**  
CEO

**Trisha Bradley**  
Manager of Accounting and Finance

**Jerod Chaffee**  
Manager of Line Operations

**Benjiman C. Easterberg**  
Manager of AMI and Mapping/OMS

**Kevin Heptig**  
Manager of Member Services

### CONTACT US

Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5, Wamego, KS 66547  
800-558-1580

## EXECUTIVE REPORT 2024 Year in Review *Continued from page C2* ▶

### FINANCIALS

Bluestem ended the year with a margin of \$669,178. Of that margin, \$251,843 reflects the operating margin with the balance of \$417,335 being comprised of interest income, capital credits allocations from our power supplier and other cooperative organizations conducting business with Bluestem, and other non-operating income.

Economic and inflationary pressures put stress on financial performance and financial ratio covenants, resulting in a rate increase in 2024. The treasurer's report can be found on Pages 12B and 12C of this annual meeting notice.

### CONSTRUCTION WORK PLAN

Our 2023-2026 four-year construction work plan (CWP) was finalized and approved in December 2022, and is on pace as we enter 2025. A CWP is developed every four to six years to identify and outline the projects and construction work that needs to be completed over the next few years. The projects and construction work included in the CWP are designed to meet the members' needs going forward, as well as improve the system's reliability.

Included in the four-year work plan are the projections of the number of new services expected, as well as plans to rebuild and reconductor various lines throughout the entire Bluestem system. The work plan also incorporates the replacement throughout the entire service territory of a considerable number of poles nearing the end of their useful service life.

### SERVICE AVAILABILITY IN 2024

Bluestem's members enjoyed consistent power 99.94% of 2024. This in large part is thanks to our linemen's efforts in keeping the system operating effectively and keeping tree branches trimmed consistently.

This reliability of service was tested during the recent winter snowstorm Blair on Jan. 4-5, 2025. Bluestem had minimal storm damage and power outages. Only two poles were lost during the storm, and both were from auto accidents. This reliability of service during a blizzard is a testament to the hard work of the line crews and the benefits that recent upgrades to the Bluestem system have made.

### SOLAR ENERGY FARMS

Bluestem partnered with Today's Power, LLC to install two utility-sized solar farms on our distribution system. A 1-megawatt (MW) solar farm has been installed on our St. George substation and a 750-kilowatt solar farm has been installed on the Leonardville substation. Both solar farms were commissioned and brought online in June 2022.

All kilowatt-hours (kWh) produced from these solar farms will be used by Bluestem members only. Through the year end of 2024 they produced a total of 3,977,356 kWh for the benefit of all members.

It is anticipated that both solar farms, on average, will produce a total of 4,272,000 kWh per year, saving the Bluestem membership more than \$200,000 annually in reduced power costs.

*Continued on page 12B* ▶



**CHANGES — RATE CHANGES, RULES AND REGULATIONS**

There were two special member meetings held in 2024. The first on Aug. 14 addressed the proposed change to a three-part rate structure (customer charge, demand charge and energy charge). Moving from the two-part rate to a three-part rate should produce a more fair and equitable energy bill for all members of Bluestem by factoring in an individual demand charge for each member. Also, the three-part rate matches up with how Bluestem is billed from our power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (KEPCo.) After member questions and discussion, the Bluestem board approved the new rate structure.

As we continue forward with this new rate structure, please reach out if there are questions about the demand charge and how you can manage it. The **SMARTHUB APP**  is a very good tool for this.

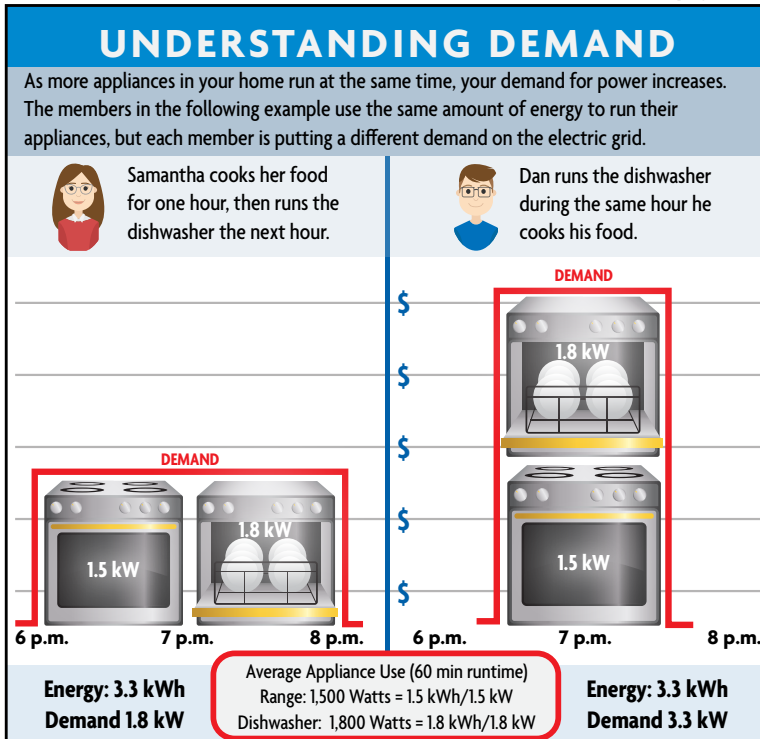
The second special meeting took place on Dec. 16 and addressed proposed changes to Bluestem’s rules and regulations. They had not been addressed for a number of years and the bulk of the changes were updating the language and adjusting fees for certain services to more closely match the cost incurred by Bluestem to provide those services. After member questions and discussion, the Bluestem board approved the new rules and regulations.

**TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICE**

We continue to encourage our members to set up an **AUTOMATIC BANK DRAFT (ACH)** for their monthly payments. We have found the U.S. Postal Service to be, at times, unpredictable. This has led to unneeded stress for members who have received a disconnect notice, even though they have mailed their payment. Utilizing ACH and automatically drafting your payment will give you peace of mind that your bill is paid on time.

With the new rate structure, we have received a number of calls from

*Continued on page 12D* ▶



**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Balance Sheet AS OF DEC. 31, 2024**

**ASSETS — WHAT WE OWN**

<b>Utility Plant</b>	
Electric Plant	\$68,403,042
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	\$17,357,682
Net Utility Plant	\$51,045,360
<b>Investments</b>	\$8,046,030
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash & Short-Term Investments	\$2,655,864
Accounts Receivable (Net)	\$1,747,842
Materials	\$288,913
Prepayments	\$155,835
Other Current Assets	\$10,939
Total Current Assets	\$4,859,393
<b>Deferred Debits</b>	\$734,243
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$64,685,026</b>

**LIABILITIES — WHAT WE OWE**

<b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>	
Liabilities to RUS and FFB	\$27,696,681
Other Long-Term Liabilities	\$7,431,102
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$35,127,783
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$1,021,081
Accrued Expenses	\$641,595
Consumer Deposits	\$209,686
Current Maturities of Long-Term Liabilities	\$2,001,447
Total Current Liabilities	\$3,873,809
<b>Deferred Credits</b>	\$152,815

**NET WORTH — MEMBERS' EQUITY**

<b>Patronage Capital &amp; Equities</b>	
Memberships	\$127,360
Patronage Capital	\$23,971,709
Other Equities	\$1,431,550
Total Patronage Capital & Equities	\$25,530,619

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$64,685,026**

**Property Taxes Paid**

County	2024	2023
Clay	\$207,666	\$151,248
Cloud	\$3,060	\$3,190
Dickinson	\$598	\$601
Geary	\$6,941	\$7,153
Jackson	\$9,136	\$9,291
Marshall	\$8,635	\$8,538
Ottawa	\$1,354	\$1,328
Pottawatomie	\$190,118	\$193,297
Riley	\$66,060	\$68,457
Wabaunsee	\$53,618	\$54,858
Washington	\$67,090	\$73,551
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$614,276</b>	<b>\$571,512</b>

## Statement of Operations

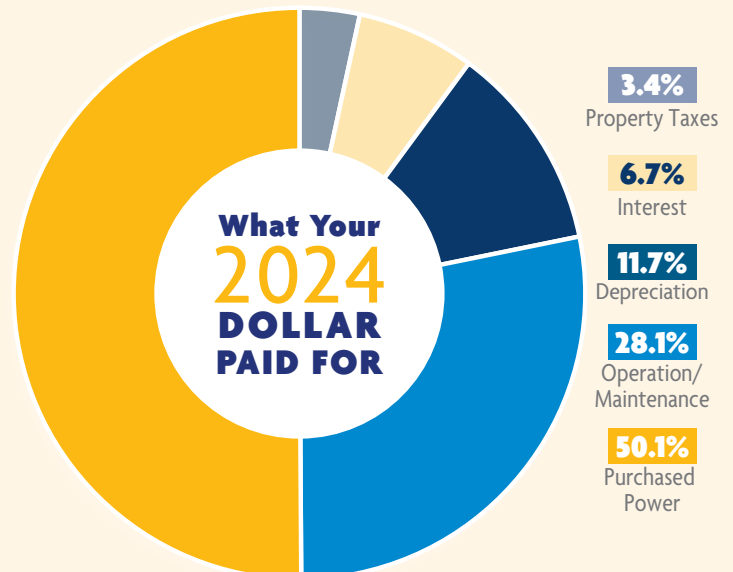
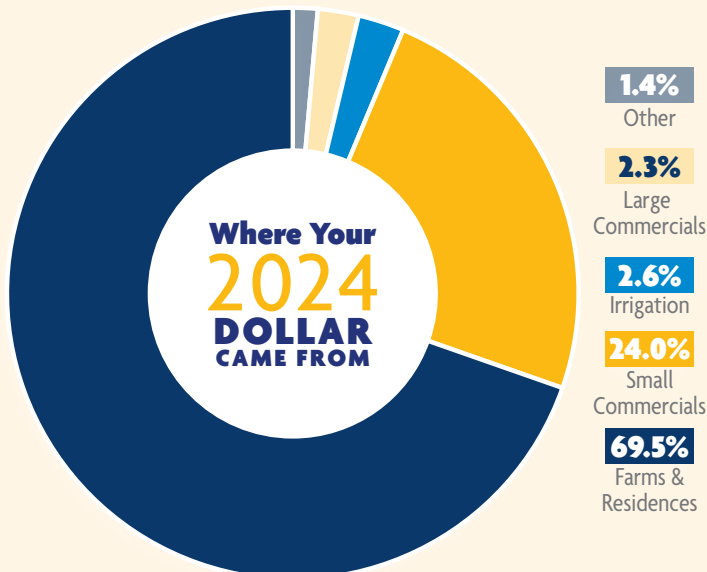
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 2024

	2024	2023	INCREASE (DECREASE)
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>			
Electric Energy Revenue	\$18,417,763	\$18,328,323	\$89,440
Miscellaneous Electric Revenue	\$169,168	\$150,302	\$18,866
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$18,586,931</b>	<b>\$18,478,625</b>	<b>\$108,306</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Cost of Power Purchased & Generated	\$9,188,775	\$8,968,308	\$220,467
Transmission Expense	\$3,054	\$2,900	\$154
Distribution Expense	\$2,967,651	\$2,774,880	\$192,771
Consumer Accounts Expense	\$436,327	\$400,213	\$36,114
Other Consumer Expenses	\$189,162	\$181,363	\$7,799
Administrative and General Expense	\$1,550,689	\$1,422,902	\$127,787
Property Taxes	\$614,276	\$571,512	\$42,764
Depreciation Expense	\$2,147,593	\$1,977,588	\$170,005
Other Operating Expenses	\$11,879	\$12,690	(\$811)
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$17,109,407</b>	<b>\$16,312,357</b>	<b>\$797,050</b>
Electric Operating Margin	\$1,477,524	\$2,166,268	(\$688,744)
Less: Interest on Long-Term & Other Debt	\$1,225,681	\$1,226,515	(\$834)
<b>Operating Margin</b>	<b>\$251,843</b>	<b>\$939,753</b>	<b>(\$687,910)</b>
<b>NON-OPERATING MARGINS</b>			
G&T and Other Capital Credits	\$105,956	\$195,009	(\$89,053)
Interest Revenue	\$147,197	\$437,034	(\$289,837)
Other Revenue	\$164,182	\$135,944	\$28,238
<b>Total Non-Operating Margins</b>	<b>\$417,335</b>	<b>\$767,987</b>	<b>(\$350,652)</b>
<b>NET MARGIN</b>	<b>\$669,178</b>	<b>\$1,707,740</b>	<b>(\$1,038,562)</b>

## Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 2024

		\$669,178
<b>NET MARGINS</b>		
Adjustments to reconcile net margins to net cash provided by Operating Activities:		
Depreciation & Amortization Less Salvage	\$1,427,986	
Changes in Equity	(\$114,988)	
Decrease (Increase) in:		
Accounts Receivable (Net)	(\$345,534)	
Materials	\$41,673	
Prepayments & Deferred Debits	\$204,031	
Other Current Assets	\$73,649	
Increase (Decrease) in:		
Accounts Payable & Consumer Deposits	(\$206,386)	
Other Current & Accrued Liabilities & Deferred Credits	\$256,900	
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>\$1,337,331</b>	
<b>Net Cash from Operating Activities</b>	<b>\$2,006,509</b>	
Investments in Associated Organizations & Other		
Distribution Construction	(\$3,531,420)	
Plant & Equipment Purchases (Net)	(\$1,920,290)	
<b>Net Cash from Investing Activities</b>	<b>(\$5,529,290)</b>	
Principal Payments		
Capital Leases	(\$97,471)	
Borrowings of Long-Term Debt	\$2,160,000	
<b>Net Cash from Financing Activities</b>	<b>\$699,216</b>	
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>(\$2,823,565)</b>	
<b>Beginning Balance: Cash &amp; ST Investments</b>	<b>\$5,479,429</b>	
<b>ENDING BALANCE: CASH &amp; CASH &amp; ST INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>\$2,655,864</b>	



## OUR STAFF

**Michael Leitch**  
CEO

**Kevin Heptig**  
Manager of Member Services

**Jerod Chaffee**  
Manager of Line Operations

**Ben Easterberg**  
Manager of AMI & Mapping/OMS

**Trisha Bradley**  
Manager of Accounting and Finance

**Mary Schomaker**  
IT & Communication Specialist

**Audra Talsma**  
Human Resources & Accounting Specialist

**Glenda Larkins**  
MSR / Accounting Specialist/Work Orders

**Jennifer Soeken**  
MSR / Billing Specialist

**Deann Breault**  
Member Services Representative

**Kristal Brewer**  
MSR / Accounting Specialist/AP

**Thad Donnelly**  
Assistant Manager of Line Operations

**Courtney Grater**  
Assistant Manager of Line Operations

**Travis Blackwood**  
Line Operations Foreman

**Aaron Massie**  
Line Operations Foreman

**Ben Matthews, III**  
Line Operations Foreman

**Josh Wiedmer**  
Line Operations Foreman

**Shelton Allen**  
Journeyman Lineman

**Luke Brazzle**  
Journeyman Lineman

**Baylee Easterberg**  
Journeyman Lineman

**Derek Francis**  
Journeyman Lineman

**Kyle Hooten**  
Journeyman Lineman

**Josh Laffin**  
Journeyman Lineman

**Logan Singular**  
Journeyman Lineman

**Kevin Swenson**  
Journeyman Lineman


**Tim Wolf**  
Journeyman Lineman

**Josh Boyd**  
Apprentice Lineman

**Brady Brummett**  
Apprentice Lineman

**Blake Fredrick**  
Apprentice Lineman

**Kaden Parrack**  
Apprentice Lineman

members regarding the demand charge and asking how they can manage that portion of their bill. We highly recommend you download the **SMARTHUB APP**  on your phone. This is a great tool for monitoring usage so that you can make decisions about when you run appliances that use a higher amount of electricity, thus lowering your demand and reducing your monthly bill.

### GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Bluestem continues to monitor federal and state regulations affecting the operation of rural electric systems. On the federal level, we continue to monitor the status of new regulations placed on the utility industry and their anticipated impact. On the state level, new studies are being monitored closely by our Kansas Electric Cooperatives (KEC) Government Relations staff. Our concern is how new regulations and/or laws will affect our members and their cost of electricity. Be assured as regulations and laws are discussed at the state house, our team is participating in the discussions for the protection of all cooperative members across the state.

### COOPERATIVE MODEL ADVANTAGE — POWER SUPPLIER MARGIN STABILIZATION ADJUSTMENT (MSA)

Our power supplier, KEPCo, is a generation and transmission cooperative that provides wholesale power services to 16 electric cooperatives in the eastern two-thirds of Kansas. Bluestem purchases wholesale power from KEPCo to meet the energy needs of our members. The cost of wholesale power is approximately one-half of the total cost of providing electric service to Bluestem members.

As one of the 16 member-owners of KEPCo, Bluestem has a voice in the planning and development of the future power supply arrangements and the financial goals of the organization. One financial decision made at KEPCo, through member input, was the establishment of a Margin Stabilization Adjustment (MSA) rider implemented in December 2011 and modified in 2015. The MSA rider allows KEPCo to reduce its margins by year-end by providing credits to its member-owners while maintaining certain required financial ratios.

Since 2011, KEPCo has provided Bluestem with a cumulative reduction in power costs

of \$9.795 million through the MSA. In 2024, the KEPCo MSA credits to Bluestem totaled \$725,175. This return of dollars to Bluestem, and to each member, is possible because of our cooperative ownership model.

### POWER SUPPLY DIVERSIFICATION

Future power supply is critical to our future success. Over the years, KEPCo has been successful in securing reliable, economic power supply options for its members. These options include baseload generation with an ownership participation in the Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station, hydropower from the area federal power marketing agencies in the west and southwest, peaking generation facilities with the ownership of a 20 MW diesel generating station in southeast Kansas, and securing of ongoing wholesale power supply contracts with several electric utilities in the region.

Wind is included in the generation resources used by Evergy to meet some of KEPCo's electric power requirements under the terms of the wholesale power supply contract between the two organizations.

In 2010, KEPCo partnered with four other utilities in the latan 2 coal-fired generating plant, which produces 850 MW. This plant is one of the cleanest and most efficient coal plants in the world.

In early 2017, construction of a 1 MW solar array was completed and added to KEPCo's power supply mix. KEPCo estimated that the non-greenhouse-gas-emitting resources (nuclear, hydro, wind and solar) comprised 66.9% of KEPCo's energy in 2024. KEPCo's current diverse mix of generating resources and plans for future supply provide a hedge against commodity price fluctuations and regulatory changes.

### BLUESTEM'S MISSION

On behalf of the Bluestem board and management staff, we would like to thank the members for your continued support of Bluestem. We would also like to say thank you to our Bluestem employees. They are on the job every day focused on supporting our co-op's mission: **Safe ⚡ Reliable ⚡ Energy.**

### 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting is a terrific opportunity for all Bluestem Electric Cooperative members to learn more about the cooperative and visit Bluestem employees, trustees and fellow members. We hope to see you at the 2025 annual meeting; however, we do understand if you decide not to attend and instead send your proxy card with a friend.



## MINUTES FROM MARCH 25, 2024

# 26th Annual Meeting of Members

President Mark Diederich called the 26th Annual Meeting of the Members of Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc., to order at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 25, 2024, at the Clay Center United Methodist Church Family Life Center located at 921 Fifth Street in Clay Center, Kansas. Mr. Herb Mugler, Clay Center United Methodist Church visitation assistant, gave the invocation.

President Diederich then called upon General Manager Michael Morton for introductions of special guests and announcements. General Manager Morton then requested the members of Bluestem Electric Cooperative remember, in a moment of silence, the cooperative leaders and members of the armed forces who passed away during the past year. General Manager Morton then introduced special guests who were in attendance.

Secretary Bruce Meyer read the notice of the meeting and the secretary's report of mailing, which was mailed on Feb. 23, 2024, being 10 days prior to the meeting and in accordance with the bylaws. Mr. Meyer then reported the total membership of Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc. was 5,514, and 107 members were present at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Meyer noted this represented 1.94% of the total membership, which constituted a quorum for the transaction of business (the actual listing of members in attendance is maintained at the cooperative office).

The minutes of the 25th Annual Meeting of Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc. held on March 27, 2023, were printed in the annual meeting notice booklet. President Diederich asked if the members wanted the minutes read or approved as printed and mailed. It was then moved and seconded that the minutes of the Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc. 25th Annual Meeting held on March 27, 2023, be approved as printed and mailed in the annual meeting notice booklet.

Motion carried.

President Diederich gave the president's report and noted the treasurer's report printed in the annual meeting information (on Pages 12B and 12C), which was mailed to each member prior to the annual meeting as part of the March 2024 *Kansas Country Living* magazine.

President Diederich then called upon General Manager Morton to present the general manager's report. Preceding the general manager's report, General Manager Morton recognized this year's Bluestem scholarship recipients and introduced the trustees and attorneys, their spouses, and recognized employees celebrating work anniversaries. General Manager Morton then introduced Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., CEO Lee Tafanelli who addressed the members regarding the concern for future reliable energy and other statewide issues.

General Manager Morton then asked for any questions from the membership.

Following the questions from the membership, President Diederich asked if there was any old business. There was no old business. There was no new business to be acted upon in accordance with the bylaws; he further asked if there was any new business to be discussed. There was no new business to be discussed.

President Diederich then declared the 26th Annual Meeting of Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc. adjourned.

General Manager Morton announced the prize winners whose names were drawn during the president and general manager reports, and it was noted that all members in attendance would receive a \$20 energy bill credit. Members and guests also enjoyed ice cream, cobbler, coffee and tea at the 2024 annual meeting.

**BRUCE MEYER, SECRETARY**

## WHY METER DISCONNECTION SHOULD BE LEFT TO PROFESSIONALS

For safety and compliance, it is crucial to have a Bluestem employee or licensed electrician pull (remove) an electric meter. These professionals are equipped with the knowledge and tools to handle live electrical systems safely, reducing the risk of electrocution, equipment damage, or fire. Unauthorized meter disconnection violates Bluestem's rules and regulations, pose serious hazards, and potentially disrupt service to other customers. Relying on qualified personnel ensures the work is done safely, accurately and in accordance with local codes and utility guidelines. **IF AN ELECTRICIAN IS PULLING (REMOVING) YOUR ELECTRIC METER, PLEASE CALL BLUESTEM FIRST AT 800-558-1580.**

## Keep Your ACH & Automatic Payment Information Current

If you are signed up for automatic bank draft or recurring credit/debit card payments for your Bluestem Electric account(s), please update your information if you change bank accounts or get new credit/debit cards. This will ensure that your account will be paid on time and you will avoid any penalty charges.



## Proxy Notice

If you are not able to attend the annual meeting, you may appoint a proxy to vote for you. Your proxy must be a member of your district. A member may not be the proxy for more than three other members.

If you want to appoint a proxy, please fill out the form below and give it to the member you appoint as your proxy. Your proxy must sign the certification at the bottom of the form.

Your proxy will sign you in at the registration table at the annual meeting. Staff personnel will collect and file the proxy.

### PROXY

I, the undersigned, a member of Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc., hereby appoint

(name of proxy) as my agent and attorney-in-fact to vote as my proxy at the annual meeting to be held **MARCH 24, 2025, AT 7 P.M.** at the Bluestem Electric Cooperative Warehouse in Wamego on questions that may come before the meeting as I would be entitled to vote if personally present.

PRINTED NAME OF MEMBER

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

DATE

### CERTIFICATION BY PROXY

I, the undersigned, have been appointed as a proxy by the member named above. I certify that I am a member in the same district as the member named above and that I am not the proxy for more than a total of three members.

PRINTED NAME OF PROXY

SIGNATURE OF PROXY

DATE

## YOUR BLUESTEM PAYMENT OPTIONS

Bluestem Electric has six convenient payment options for our members. All members receive a standard monthly bill for their electrical use. Bills are due and payable upon receipt. We realize one method of payment does not fit every Bluestem member's needs, so we have several payment options available for your convenience. All our payment options are free.

### AUTO PAYMENT/BANK DRAFT



Members have the option to have payments automatically withdrawn from their bank accounts or credit/debit cards. Sign up through our online bill pay system or visit the office. Auto payments are drawn automatically each month on the due date of the bill.

### SMARTHUB/ONLINE BILL PAY



Online bill pay is also available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Click the "Pay Online" button on Bluestem Electric's website or follow [bluestemelectric.smarthub.coop/login.html](https://bluestemelectric.smarthub.coop/login.html). Members can also download the "SmartHub" app from the Apple or Android marketplaces on any mobile device.

### BLUESTEM ELECTRIC OFFICE



You may pay by check, cash or credit/debit card at our office in Wamego. Our office is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, except for select holidays.

### PREPAID



Bluestem Electric has a prepaid option where you pay for electricity as you go, in advance. When your account becomes low, an email or text is sent to advise you to add more money to your account, much like putting fuel in your car. The meter is your "electricity tank gauge" and you will no longer receive a paper bill.

### MAIL\*



Bluestem Electric's monthly bill comes with a return envelope you can use to mail your check back to us at P.O. Box 33, Wamego, KS 66547. *\*Please allow additional time if using the Postal Service. Payments must be received in our office on or before the due date. We DO NOT use the mailing post date for the payment date.*

### NIGHT DEPOSIT BOX



A night deposit box is located at our office in Wamego. Payments dropped off after 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday will be posted the next business day. Please pay inside to avoid broken payment arrangements or disconnection.

Bluestem Electric also has budget billing for members who prefer to pay the same amount each month. Payments are set at your monthly average, making it easy to budget. An accurate 12-month history of your use at your current residence is helpful in determining payments. If you are interested, please call 800-558-1580 to see if you qualify.