



# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

## News

March 2023

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE BUDGET WITHOUT RATE INCREASE

New and recurring challenges to build and maintain a reliable electric system occur every year. Poles have to be replaced on an ongoing basis. Outdated equipment and service vehicles must be renewed, retired, or replaced. Communications systems have to be updated. The entire system has to be maintained, so the member on the last mile of line can expect to come home to a comfortable house. The board of directors is entrusted with the responsibility to approve a budget that balances these responsibilities with the rates that members pay.

In December of 2022, Sac Osage Electric, along with other cooperatives in the state set record demands because of the extreme cold in our area. Inflation rates for 2022 have been extremely high and the Cooperative has been impacted in almost every area. In 2023, that will include the price Sac Osage Electric Cooperative pays to its power supplier. With all of these pressures and rising prices, Sac Osage is doing everything it can to hold the line on the rates members pay. **The board has passed a budget for 2023 that keeps prices stable at the same rate they have been set since 2019.**

In 2021, Sac Osage began work on an aggressive fiber build out. Through a partnership with Conexon Connect this project will mean that every Sac Osage member will have access to high-speed Internet speeds up to 2,000 Mbs.

In 2022, this project had a net positive impact on the budget. By December, a third of the project was completed, and more than 1,000 members now have fiber Internet access. This project continues into 2023.

A budget is just an estimate of income and expenses for a set period of time. The future is difficult to predict, and as we have seen prices are ever changing. Circumstances could change and the Cooperative would have to make adjustments. The Board of Directors is very glad to be able to go into the year building a strong reliable electric infrastructure and providing new opportunities coming with fiber-to-the-home internet, while keeping electric rates stable.

### CONEXON CONNECT CONTINUES GREAT PROGRESS

As mentioned above, Conexon Connect continues to complete projects as expected. Contractors continue to work daily changing poles, attaching fiber line to the poles and getting the service into the members' homes.

El Dorado Springs, Cedar Springs, and Walker are complete and ready for members to sign up for service.

Parts of Arnica is complete and Arcola is in the construction process.

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Visit us on the Web - [www.sacosage.com](http://www.sacosage.com)



Don't forget to sign up for Operational Round-up to be eligible for your name to be entered into a drawing for a cornhole board set. You can sign up on your Smarthub App or online at [sacosage.com](http://sacosage.com)

Members can check their availability status or sign up online at any time on Conexon Connect's website [www.connectsignup.com](http://www.connectsignup.com).

For more information or assistance with signing up for this internet service, you can contact Sac Osage Electric at 800-876-2701 extension 5213.

You can also find more information by following their Facebook page Connect Powered by Sac Osage.



## STORM SAFETY do you have a plan?

Safe  
Electricity.org

Spring can bring dangerous weather conditions and volatile storms with tornadoes, heavy rains, high winds, and lightning. To be prepared and stay ahead of the danger, it is important to check weather forecasts and stay up-to-date on weather conditions. One way to do so is through handheld devices and the weather resources that they provide.

“Oftentimes, spring weather conditions can change quickly,” says Richard McCracken, Safe Electricity Advisory Board member. “It’s a good idea to begin your day by checking the daily forecast so that you know how to prepare for the rest of the day and can plan to be in a safe shelter when a storm does hit.”

Digital technologies that provide instant weather alerts can help us take the necessary precautions when weather conditions take a sudden change for the worse.

One weather alert you can subscribe to is the Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA). These notifications are sent much like a text message to all subscribers’ WEA-enabled devices. The messages are authorized alerts sent from government agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Department of Homeland Security, and the National Weather Service (NWS).

The types of alerts include extreme weather warnings and local emergencies requiring evacuation or immediate action. After receiving an alert, follow the action advised by the emergency message.

Get more information from a news website or station or by turning on your weather radio. Consider having everyone in your family who has a mobile phone register for these alerts.

You can take additional precautions by installing a weather safety app so you can receive up-to-date weather information at all times. NOAA Weather Radar has continuous weather information available. It shares official NWS information on warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazards 24/7 with coverage in 96 percent of the country.

Some of the other free applications that you can download onto your mobile device include:

- The Red Cross offers an app that allows you to monitor 35 different severe weather and emergency alerts.
- The Weather Underground App is a network of personal weather stations. Users can submit their own weather observations alongside the professional forecasts.

- The Weather Channel also has an application that provides all of the information from their television station at your fingertips on your mobile device.

“In addition to keeping up-to-date on weather changes via apps and alerts, there are additional precautions that should be taken to help keep you and your family safe,” adds McCracken.

Create an emergency preparedness kit, including necessary supplies for a potential power outage. Your kit should include items such as water, food, flashlight, batteries, blankets, and a first aid kit. A full list of suggested items can be found at •Safe-Electricity.org.



Develop a family communication plan to keep in touch in case of a disaster. Select an accessible safe meeting space where you can meet up if an evacuation is called.

Most severe storms do not last more than a half hour; however, just because a storm has passed does not mean the danger is over. “Never touch downed power lines or objects that could be in contact with those lines. Just because power lines are damaged doesn’t mean that they are dead,” warns McCracken. Stay away, and instruct others to do the same. If you come across downed power lines, call 911 to have the utility notified immediately.

For more safety information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).





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# News



Pictured to the left is Linemen with Sac Osage Electric working to restore power in March of 2006 after a strong F2 tornado traveled from Virgil City through the BlackJack area.

Approximately 5900 members were without power following the storm.

At least 50 poles were down and many more needed repairs or realignment.

Many power lines were wrapped in trees or located on the ground throughout the storms path.

Several homes, farms, churches, and even an rv park was destroyed during this storm.

Photograph is courtesy of the El Dorado Springs Star Newspaper.

## SAC OSAGE ELECTRIC PRESENTS YOUTH TOUR AND CYCLE PROGRAM



On January 6th, 2023, High School Principal David Rotert and Personal Finance Teacher Ashley Rogers, of the El Dorado Springs R-2 School District, made arrangements for Sac Osage Electric employee Chance Cyr to present Youth Tour and CYCLE information to junior class.

Chance presented a PowerPoint presentation to approximately 75 students describing the application process and the benefits of attending the Youth Tour and CYCLE Program.

He also made arrangements with the El Dorado Springs Christian School Principal Kelly Bryson and Math Teacher Jill Ash to provide the same presentation to the sophomore and junior class on January 10th, 2023. There, he shared the information with approximately 10 students.

The Youth Tour and CYCLE Program is a great opportunity for students to win a free trip to Jefferson City or Washington D.C. Any student that is in the junior class of a high school in our 9-county service area is eligible to

apply. The deadline for applications is March 10th, 2023.

The final judging of the contest will take place on March 16, 2023.



# ***Endless Possibilities at Your Fingertips!***

Connect, powered by Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, will allow you to connect like never before with reliable, fiber-fast internet.

## ***Fiber internet will allow you to:***

- Video chat with friends and family.
- Stream all your favorite shows and movies.
- Utilize online education tools and platforms.
- Simplify your workday with no lags or buffering.
- And more!

## ***Ready for Future-Proof Internet?***

Check availability at  
[ConexonConnect.com](http://ConexonConnect.com),  
call us at 1-844-542-6663,  
or scan our QR code!

