



April 2012

RURAL
MISSOURI

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

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Attention Members in Districts 7, 8 & 9.

The term of the director who represents your district will expire on June 12, 2012, the date of the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Members of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, Inc. A Nominating Petition is inserted inside this issue. Use the petition if you would like to nominate a candidate for director from your district.

2012 Annual Meeting

June 12, 2012, has been set as the date for the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Members of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, Inc. On the date of the meeting the three-year terms of John (Jim) Murray, Jan Neale and Neale Johnson will expire.

According to the Bylaws of the Cooperative, a Nominating Petition is to be mailed to each member who resides in a district in which a vacancy will exist on the date of the Annual Meeting. Therefore, members in districts 7, 8 and 9 will find a Nominating Petition inserted in this issue of Rural Missouri. The petition includes instructions for nominating a qualified member as a candidate for a position on the Board of Directors.

Sections from the Bylaws of the Cooperative pertaining to the Annual Meeting appear on the inside cover of this issue. Please read those sections for more information about the Annual Meeting and the nomination and election process. Complete copies of the Bylaws are available at the office of the Cooperative or at www.sacosage.com.

This year only members in districts 7, 8 and 9 are eligible to receive a ballot for the director election and of those three districts, only members in districts with more than one nominee will receive ballots. If you have a question about which district you live in, please refer to your electric bill. Your district number appears in a box labeled "Board District".

This year's Annual Meeting will be held at the Cooperative's headquarters facility located at 4815 E. Highway 54, El Dorado Springs, Missouri (two miles east of El Dorado Springs on Highway 54). Member registration will begin at 5 p.m. and close at 6:30 p.m. The business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

This year the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting will be published in the June Rural Missouri issue and will include Ballots as required by the Bylaws.

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

District 7

John (Jim) Murray represents members in District 7. Mr. Murray plans to seek re-election for his third and final term at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

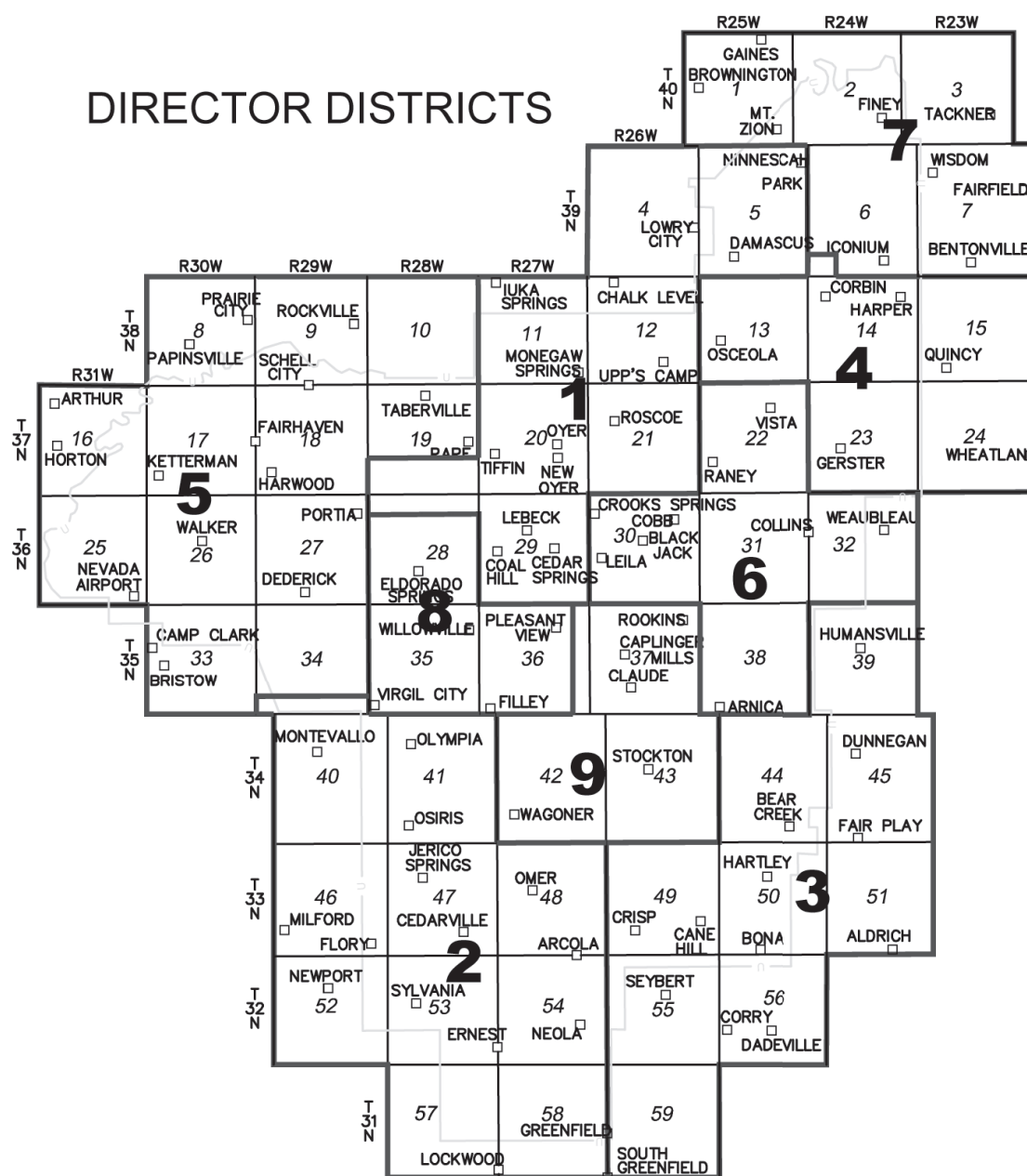
District 8

Jan Neale represents members in District 8. Mrs. Neale plans to seek re-election for her third and final term at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

District 9

Neale Johnson represents members in District 9. He was appointed on August 21, 2012 to serve the remaining term of the deceased Director, John Griffith, Mr. Johnson plans to seek election in his district at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

DIRECTOR DISTRICTS



2012 Annual Meeting Tuesday, June 12

The 2012 Annual Meeting of the Members of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held Tuesday, June 12, 2012. The following sections from Articles I, III, and IV of the Bylaws explain the requirements for membership and the election process.

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIPS **SECTION 1. Requirements for Membership.**

Any person, entity, firm, association, corporation, or body politic or subdivision thereof will become a member in SAC OSAGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (Hereinafter called the "Cooperative") by:

- a. filing a written application for membership therein;
- b. actually purchasing from the Cooperative electric energy as hereinafter specified; or, in the case of a small power producer or co-generator being inter-connected with the Cooperative's line system;
- c. agreeing to comply with and be bound by the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the Cooperative and any rules and regulations adopted by the board, and
- d. paying the membership fee hereinafter specified; No person, entity, firm, association, corporation or body politic or subdivision thereof may hold more than one membership in the Cooperative, and no membership in the Cooperative shall be transferable, except as provided in the bylaws. No person, entity, firm, association, corporation or body politic or subdivision thereof holding membership in the Cooperative shall have more than one vote on any matter properly coming before the membership at any annual or special meeting thereof, irrespective of the number of services or connections that member may have.

ARTICLE III - MEETING OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1. Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the members shall be held on such day after the first of June and prior to the first day of October of each year as shall be fixed by the Board beginning with the year 1951 at such place in the County of Cedar, State of Missouri, as shall be designated by the Board.

The annual meeting shall be held for the purpose of electing directors, passing upon reports for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Board to make adequate plans and preparations for the annual meeting. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.

SECTION 5. Ballot.

A ballot if required shall be mailed to each member with the notice of meeting.

The ballot so mailed shall constitute the sole and only official ballot to be cast by a member pursuant to Section 7 of this Article or in person at the meeting in accordance with Section 6 of this Article. In the event a member fails to receive a ballot or loses or misplaces his ballot, he may make and deliver a sworn affidavit to that effect and shall be issued

another ballot, provided however, the affidavit must be delivered to the office of the Cooperative no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the membership meeting.

No additional ballots shall be issued after twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting. The ballot may be in two (2) parts and shall be printed or mimeographed. The first part of the ballot shall list the candidates, if there are two (2) or more, standing for election to the office of director from that member's district who have been nominated by nominating petition as provided in Section 4 of Article IV.

The names of the candidates shall be arranged by district in the order the nominating petitions were received by the Cooperative. The second part of the Ballot shall list the propositions, if any, requiring special notice and any other proposition which, in the discretion of the Board, should be put to a vote of the membership.

SECTION 6. Voting.

Each member shall be entitled to only one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members in accordance with Section 1 of Article

1. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon in person or by mail, except as otherwise provided by law, the articles of incorporation or these bylaws. All voting for directors, removal of directors or bylaws amendments shall be by secret ballot, provided however, the board may adopt a reasonable method of controlling the validity of any ballot.

If a membership is held in the name of the husband individually or the wife individually then only the husband or the wife, as the case may be, may cast the vote represented by the membership. If a membership is held in the name of a husband and wife jointly, then either the husband or wife, but not both, may cast the vote represented by the membership.

SECTION 7. Mail Voting.

Any member may cast his, her, or its vote by mail or by delivery of his ballot to the office of the Cooperative upon any proposition submitted to a vote at any annual meeting of the members except a vote at an annual meeting for the removal and replacement of a director(s) pursuant to Article IV, Section 6. Such member voting by mail shall enclose the ballot in a sealed, stamped envelope addressed to Inspectors of Election, c/o the Cooperative at the principal office of the Cooperative, deposit same in the United States mail with sufficient postage to insure delivery. All ballots received up to the hour of convening the member meeting shall be held and delivered unopened to the inspectors of election, who shall open, verify and count such ballots at the time other ballots are counted.

ARTICLE IV - DIRECTORS

SECTION 2. Election and Tenure of Office.

The persons serving as directors on the day of the adoption of this amendment shall compose the Board of Directors until the first annual

meeting following the adoption of the amendment of this article to be submitted to the membership on June 8, 1976, or until their successors have been elected and shall have qualified. Beginning with the annual meeting held in the year 1977, the directors of the Cooperative shall be divided into nine districts numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

The terms of office of the directors of Districts 1, 2 and 3 shall be for a term of three (3) years and they shall be elected at the annual meeting in 1977 and shall expire at the annual meeting in 1980; the terms of office of the directors serving in Districts 4, 5 and 6 shall be for a term of three (3) years and they shall be elected at the annual meeting in 1978 and shall expire at the annual meeting in 1981. The terms of office of the directors of Districts 7, 8 and 9 shall be for a term of three (3) years and they shall be elected at the annual meeting in 1979 and shall expire at the annual meeting held in the year 1982.

At each annual meeting after the annual meeting held in 1979, three directors shall be elected by ballot for a term of three years, such directors to be elected from the districts served by those directors whose terms are expiring, or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have been qualified for a three year term in the order and sequence above set forth as to the nine numbered districts. If an election of directors shall not be held on the date designated herein for the annual meeting or any adjournment thereof, the Board of Directors shall cause the election to be held at a special meeting of the members or as soon thereafter as practical. No member of the Board of Directors shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms. This limitation shall apply upon completion of a current director's term and any director who has served three (3) consecutive terms shall not be eligible for reelection for a period of three (3) years. Any member appointed or elected to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors who serves at least one-half of a term of office shall be considered to have served a term in that office.

SECTION 4. Nomination and voting.

Not later than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting it shall be the duty of the Secretary to prepare or cause to be prepared and mailed to each member residing in the districts in which vacancies will exist at the annual meeting a form of nominating petition. The nominating petition shall inform the members that a vacancy will exist in their district at the annual meeting, the name of that incumbent and whether the incumbent intends to seek reelection.

Within twenty days following the mailing of the nominating petitions any qualified member may be nominated as a candidate for election to the office of director in any district in which the candidate resides and a vacancy will exist at the forthcoming annual meeting. The nominating petition shall state the date upon

which the nominating process will close, which date shall be the twentieth day following the mailing of nominating petitions to the members. A qualified member shall be nominated when a petition naming that member is timely delivered to the office of the Cooperative signed by fifteen (15) members residing in the district in which the vacancy will exist. No member shall sign more than one nominating petition.

In the event two (2) or more petitions contain the signature or signatures of members who have signed petitions previously submitted to the Cooperative, the signature shall not be counted on any petition after the first petition bearing the same signature has been submitted.

Following closure of the nominating process, no further nominations shall be received, and in those districts in which two (2) or more persons have been nominated it shall be the duty of the Secretary to prepare and mail or cause to be prepared and mailed along with the notice of meeting as described in Article III, Section 3, the official ballot as described in Article III, Section 5. The ballot may be mailed, in accordance with Article III, Section 7, or voted in person at the membership meeting in accordance with Article III, Section 6. Only those members residing in districts in which vacancies on the board will exist at the annual meeting shall be mailed part one of the ballot. Part two of the ballot, if there shall be a part two, shall be mailed to all members. If only one (1) person is nominated for the position of director in any district, ballots shall not be mailed and the person nominated shall be deemed elected at the annual meeting of the members. Any director elected without opposition shall commence serving immediately after the election results are announced at the annual meeting of the members. Each properly nominated candidate shall be entitled to submit to the cooperative a biographical sketch and position paper which shall be included with the notice of meeting.

The biographical sketch and position paper shall not exceed five hundred (500) words in length. The Cooperative shall be entitled to delete from the materials submitted by a candidate any statements which may be deemed obscene or defamatory of any other candidate.

The Cooperative shall have absolute discretion in determining whether the statement contains obscenities or defamation. Each member of the Cooperative voting by mail or in person shall be entitled to vote only for one candidate residing in the same district as that member. No member shall be entitled to vote in any district election in which the member does not reside. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes cast by mail and in person shall be elected to the board representing the district in which he resides even though such candidate may not receive the majority of votes cast for candidates from that district. Ties between two or more candidates shall be resolved



H O M E C O M F O R T

Do-it-yourself outdoor lighting

Low-voltage lights are a safe, efficient, easy-to-install option for decks and landscaping

Dear Jim: I need efficient outdoor lighting near my deck and landscaping. I need something simple to install, and I'm considering low-voltage lights. Are low-voltage lights efficient, and what types are best? — Ronnie S.



by Jim Dulley

Dear Ronnie: I am a fan of low-voltage residential lighting. I use it in the landscaping and gardens around my home. As you mention, the big advantage of low-voltage lighting is you can install it yourself and eliminate the professional installation expenses. There is a huge variety of styles and accessories available at nearly every home center and hardware store.

Another related advantage is your family's safety around low-voltage lighting. When you work in your landscaping and gardens as much as I do, you do not have to worry about the risk of electrocution when digging with metal garden tools. I think every avid gardener has — at least one time — accidentally cut through wire insulation while working in the garden. Because the wires on the ground carry only 12 volts, you will not be shocked if you nick one.

The energy efficiency of low-voltage lighting is fairly similar to standard line-voltage (120 volts) outdoor lighting. There may be slightly more electricity used because of transformer inefficiencies and higher current in the wiring, but it is not a significant difference for most systems. If you are interested in lighting a large area brightly, line-voltage lighting fixtures, such as low-pressure sodium, are your most efficient choice.

The newest and most energy-efficient low-voltage landscaping lighting uses super-efficient LEDs (light emitting diodes) instead of standard incandescent bulbs. This type of lighting technology is becoming more common even for standard indoor lamps.

LEDs still are considerably more expensive than other lighting alternatives, but they use less than one-fifth as much electricity as equivalent incandescent bulbs. They also last at least 10 times longer. The light from LEDs is more directional than from incandescent bulbs, so multiple LEDs often are used inside one fixture for broader lighting patterns and brightness.

Each low-voltage LED fixture may use as little as one watt of electricity compared to about 11 watts from a typical snap-in wedge-base low-voltage bulb. Some of the brighter fixtures, such as bollards, use a two-watt LED, and floodlights use three LEDs. The light quality from LEDs



photo courtesy of Kichler Lighting

LED floodlights provide white light for high-lighting specific areas in your landscaping.



photo courtesy of TimberTech

This composite deck railing has built-in, low-voltage lights under the post caps and in the balusters.

is white and pleasing.

The most difficult part of installing a low-voltage lighting system is making sure the total wattage of all the fixtures on a line does not exceed the rated output of the transformer. The maximum 12-volt output wattage will be listed on the transformer, and the instructions for the fixtures should list their individual wattages.

If you buy a prepackaged low-voltage lighting kit, it will include the proper size transformer for the number and types of lights. If you add more or assemble your own lighting kit, be careful not to exceed the transformer's output maximum or go above 300 watts. If a lighting layout requires more than 300 watts, do not connect two transformers together. Set up two separate wiring layouts to stay below 300 watts on each.

When purchasing a low-voltage system or the components to put your own system together, select a transformer with a built-in mechanical or electronic timer or photo-eye control. These are common in many kits and easy to find. With a timer, there is no chance of leaving the lights on all night and wasting electricity.

The most convenient are photo-eye controlled transformers. With a standard mechanical timer, if the power goes off temporarily, the timer motor also stops. The on/off sequence then will be incorrect and need to be reset. A photo-eye

control has many sequencing options. One of the more convenient and efficient is "on" at dusk and "off" in a set number of hours. For security, an "on" at dusk, "off" at dawn setting is a good option, but it uses more electricity.

You probably will select a variety of path, deck and floodlights to meet most of your landscape lighting needs. For much of the general lighting where the fixture is not noticeable, inexpensive plastic fixtures are adequate. For more exposed areas, decorative metal fixtures accented with stained or etched glass are available. Another attractive option is natural wood fixtures.

To edge a path, lighted plastic simulated bricks that snap together are effective. The electrical connectors are built into the bricks so you have to run wiring to only the first brick along the edge. To light a deck, several decking material manufacturers offer built-in post and baluster lights with hidden wiring.

The following companies offer low-voltage landscape lights:

- Argee Corp., 800-449-3030, www.argeecorp.com;
- Idaho Wood, 800-635-1100, www.idahowood.com;
- Kichler Lighting, 866-558-5706, www.kichlerlighting.com;
- Malibu, 888-295-7348, www.malibulights.com;
- Nightscaping, 800-544-4840, www.nightscaping.com; and
- Troy Landscape Lighting; 800-677-6811, www.troylandscapelighting.com.

Have a question for Jim? Write to: James Dulley, Rural Missouri, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.



HOW MUCH ENERGY IS IN ONE DOLLAR??

In today's economy, a single dollar doesn't seem to buy a lot. A pack of chewing gum, a fountain drink, maybe a small bag of ice or a candy bar – just not a lot. A dollar can't take us very far, either. Let's say, for example, the price of gasoline is \$3.20 a gallon and you are driving a vehicle that can travel 20 highway miles on one gallon. One dollar is about 31 percent of the cost of that gallon and 31 percent of 20 miles is six miles. One dollar will take you six miles down the road. Not too far. Sounds discouraging, but there is one thing that a dollar can buy that continues to be a great value: Electricity.

The rate paid by Sac Osage Electric members averages out to about 11 cents per kilowatt hour or kWh. Leave a traditional 100-watt incandescent light bulb on for 10 hours and it will consume 1,000 watts or 1kWh or 11 cents. At that rate, the bulb can burn for a little over 90 hours for one dollar.

An easy way to figure how much electricity a common household appliance uses is to look at the label and then determine how long the item is used. Here is a list of common household items and, using Sac Osage Electric's average rate of 11 cents per kWh, what \$1 will get you. You might be surprised.

While the wattage for different appliances may vary from the examples given, these are very typical and standard.

For \$1, you can:

Bake for over one hour using an electric oven that uses 8,000 watts.

Use a 750-watt microwave for 14 hours.

Wash dishes for 7 hours in a dishwasher using 1,300 watts.

Keep food cold for 18 hours in a 17-cu. Ft. refrigerator/freezer using 500 watts.

Brew up to 36 pots with a coffeemaker that uses 1,000 watts for 15 minutes per pot.

A clothes washer using 500 watts and a dryer using 5,500 watts will clean two loads of laundry.

Watch television for 30 hours on a 300-watt unit.

Get 30 hours on a personal computer using 200 watts coupled with a 100-watt monitor.

A lamp using a 60 watt incandescent light bulb can stay on for 151 hours, more than 6 days.

Switch the 60-watt incandescent to a 15-watt compact fluorescent light bulb and the light can shine for 604 hours – more than 25 days!

While \$1 may not sound like a lot of money in today's world, it certainly goes a long way when it comes to electricity.

Simple Savings

Stretch your energy dollar with these 12 tips:

1. Install motion sensors on your lights.
2. Replace your furnace filter as recommended by the manufacturer.
3. Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
4. Caulk around your windows, doors and baseboards.
5. Replace conventional showerheads with low-flow alternatives.
6. Install switch and outlet gaskets/foam inserts on outer walls.
7. Caulk around plumbing penetrations beneath bathrooms and kitchen sinks.
8. Add a water heater blanket if your water heater is not well-insulated.
9. Use a smart power strip for electronics.
10. Install foam pipe wrap around hot water pipes.
11. Ensure windows and doors are properly weather-stripped.
12. Caulk electrical wire penetrations at the top of interior walls.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Water and electricity use go hand in hand because heating water can account for 14 percent to 25 percent of the total energy consumed in a typical home. Save on your water and electric bill by repairing leaks, insulating hot-water pipes and efficiently using the water you need.

**Just a freindly reminder that
May is catch up month for those
members on Budget Billing.**