



April 2013

RURAL MISSOURI

# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

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# News

## Attention Members in Districts 1, 2 & 3.

The term of the director who represents your district will expire on June 11, 2013, the date of the 2013 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.

### 2013 Annual Meeting

June 11, 2013, has been set as the date for the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Members of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, Inc. On the date of the meeting the three-year terms of Tim Minehardt, George (Tony) Underwood and Don Levi 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 1, 2 and 3 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.

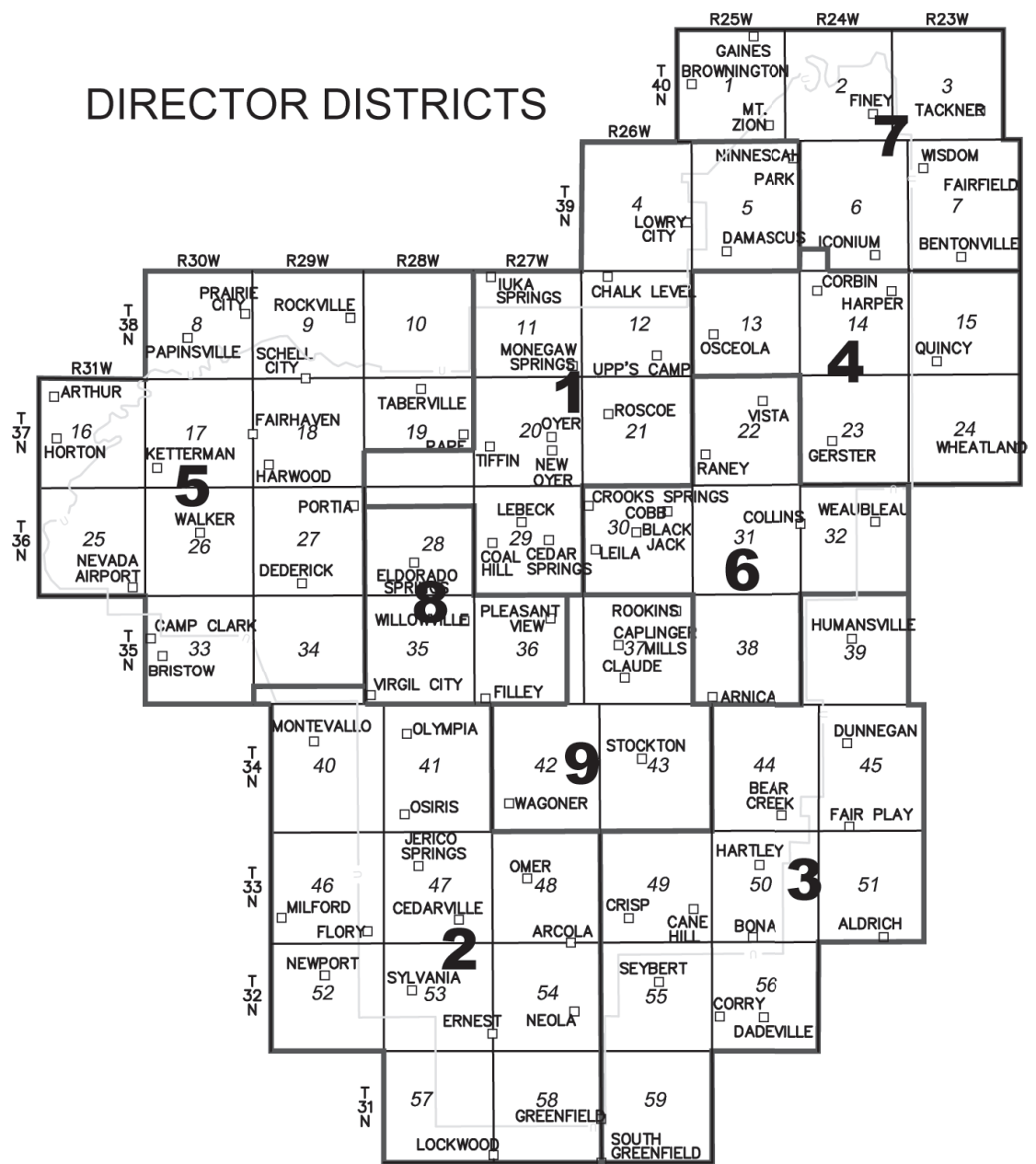
Sections from the Bylaws of the Cooperative pertaining to the Annual Meeting appear on the inside cover of this issue. Please read those sections for more information about the Annual Meeting and the nomination and election process. Complete copies of the Bylaws are available at the office of the Cooperative.

This year only members in districts 1, 2 and 3 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.

### DIRECTOR DISTRICTS



### Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

#### District 1

Tim Minehardt represents members in District 1. Mr. Minehardt plans to seek re-election in his district at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

#### District 2

George (Tony) Underwood represents members in District 2. Mr. Underwood plans to seek re-election in his district at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

#### District 3

Don Levi represents members in District 3. Mr. Levi plans to seek re-election in his district at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

# 2013 Annual Meeting Tuesday, June 11

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the Members of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held Tuesday, June 11, 2013. 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 by a coin toss or tosses.



## HOME COMFORT

# Harness the sunshine

*Get the facts and learn your options before installing a solar water heater*

**Dear Jim:** We have two teenage daughters who take long showers, so our water-heating costs are high. Does using solar water heating make sense? What are my solar options, and is there a system I can make myself? — Alan H.



by Jim Dulley

**D**ear Alan: For a typical family of four, water heating can account for about 20 percent of annual utility bills. If you have two daughters taking long showers, yours may be somewhat higher, but don't expect a solar water-heating system to cut your costs to zero. A target savings of 50 percent often provides a good economic payback.

Before you consider using solar or any other efficient water-heating methods, install low-flow showerheads with shut-off tickle (lathering) valves — and have a talk with your family about taking shorter showers.

The two basic types of solar water heating systems are "active" and "passive." Active systems require a storage tank, electric pumps and controls to function. Sometimes, 12-volt pumps can be powered by a photovoltaic solar panel located near the solar water-heating collectors on the roof.

In cold climates, the system has to include some type of antifreeze and heat exchanger so it does not freeze at night during winter. Other systems that circulate the actual potable water through the collector need a draining system to empty the collectors at night during winter.

Passive water-heating systems rely on the natural upward flow of less-dense warm water to move the water through the solar collector.

In these systems, the warm water storage tank is located above the solar collector — usually on the roof or in the attic — so there are some structural considerations with these types of devices. These systems are less expensive than more sophisticated active systems, but they tend to be less efficient, especially during cold weather.

There are many types of solar collector designs. The best one for your house depends on your climate, your hot water requirements and your budget. They can be as simple as black copper tubes in an insulated box with a glass top to ones with vacuum tubes, concentrating reflectors and heat pipe technology. Discuss these options with your solar contractor.

Unless you're an accomplished craftsman, I suggest you build a passive solar water heater. Trying to build an active system — with collectors on the roof, plumbing, control systems and storage tanks — is beyond the skill level of most homeowners. I am a design mechanical engineer, and I don't think I could build a system myself from scratch. If you do decide to go with an active system, in general, use a system with an OG-300 rating from the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation ([www.solar-rating.org](http://www.solar-rating.org)). A knowledgeable, qualified



Whether you invest in a complex vacuum solar water heating system, such as seen above, or a simple, do-it-yourself kit, do your homework and learn about solar water heating and the energy savings that can be achieved.

installer is important, too. Look for contractors with certification by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners ([www.nabcep.org](http://www.nabcep.org)). And check the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency ([www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org)) for local incentives on installing a solar water-heating system, in addition to the federal tax credit. Just remember to review specific program requirements regarding system types, sizing, certifications, installers and the like to make sure your system qualifies.

Otherwise, try building a passive "batch" system, which is a preheater for your existing water heater, with the simplest design called a "breadbox." It uses a horizontal metal water tank inside a box with a clear top. The sun shines through to heat the water. Another slightly more efficient option uses a tall box tilted at an angle to face the sun. This allows the warmer water to be drawn first from the top of the tank.

You can buy a stainless steel water tank spe-



This do-it-yourself solar water heating kit uses a batch design to preheat incoming cold water.

cially designed for this application with inlet and outlet water fittings. If you can find an old water heater that's not leaky, strip off the metal skin and insulation to use the inner tank. Paint it flat black to absorb more of the sun's heat.

It does help to insulate the solid sides and bottom of the box, especially if you plan to use it most of the year. Very heavy insulation is not needed because the tank will not get extremely warm, especially if you are using hot water throughout the day. One-inch-thick foil-faced rigid foam sheets should be fine. Attach them so they reflect the sun's heat toward the tank.

Install water valves and plumbing so the solar tank can be drained and bypassed during cold weather. Install heavy insulation around any exposed pipes and bury as much as possible underground.

The following companies offer solar kits and components:

- Alternative Energy Store, 877-211-8192, [www.altestore.com](http://www.altestore.com);
- Build It Solar, [www.builditsolar.com](http://www.builditsolar.com); and
- Solar Components, 603-668-8186, [www.solar-components.com](http://www.solar-components.com).

Learn more by searching "solar water heaters" on the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Saver website, [www.energy.gov/energysaver](http://www.energy.gov/energysaver). For a directory of installers and a calculator to estimate the performance of solar water heaters and photovoltaic systems, visit [www.find-solar.org](http://www.find-solar.org).

Have an energy-efficiency question for Jim? E-mail him at [contact@dulley.com](mailto:contact@dulley.com) or write to: James Dulley, Rural Missouri, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244. Visit [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com) to read past articles on energy efficiency.



## Be Prepared for Severe Storms

The months of April through July represent the most active months for severe storms, lightning strikes, and tornadoes. Molly Hall, Safe Electricity Executive Director, wants to remind everyone of a few tips to stay safe before, during and after severe storms.

"You never know when a storm may hit, creating potential electrical hazards for your family," Hall said. "The best solution is to be prepared ahead of time. This checklist will help keep your family safe year round."

### Before the storm:

Assemble a kit of essentials, like battery-operated flashlights and radios. Keep a list of emergency phone numbers that includes the electric utility. Be prepared for the possibility of a prolonged outage due to power line and electric equipment damage.

Fill spare containers with water for washing, and keep a supply of bottled drinking water on hand. Maintain a supply of non-perishable food items, along with a hand opener for canned food.

During an outage, switch off lights and appliances to prevent overloading circuits and damaging appliances when power is restored. Leave one lamp or switch on as a signal for when your power returns.

Be sure to tune into your local weather station if you suspect severe weather is brewing. Understand the National Weather Service warning classification system. A tornado or severe storm watch means that conditions are favorable for those weather conditions forming. A warning means that dangerous weather conditions are developing and imminent.

Consider having Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) professionally installed or purchasing a portable GFCI. GFCIs can cut off power if there is a problem and are recommended for outdoor outlets and areas of the home that are prone to water exposure such as basements, bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms, etc.

Lightning can travel up to ten miles away from a storm, so seek shelter as soon as you hear thunder.

### After the storm:

When venturing outside after a severe storm, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Assume that any dangling wires you encounter are electrical, and treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.

If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or electric utility. Also when driving, be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings, and treat road intersections with traffic signals as a four-way stop before proceeding with caution.

Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off. Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.

**Please let us know if you're on oxygen or have any other medical necessity.**



Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.

Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks. Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service. It may be necessary to repair or replace electrical appliances or tools that have been in contact with water. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out.

When using a generator, follow all manufacturers' recommendations to avoid tragedy. Keep the generator dry and never plug it into a wall outlet or directly into the home's wiring. This could inadvertently energize the utility lines and injure yourself or others working to restore power.

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

