



cve@caneyvalley.com

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THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Voice

CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP, INC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Steve Clark
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Ollenborger**
Secretary/Treasurer

Barry Speer
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Danny Banks
Trustee

Steve Warburton
Trustee

Mike Bellar
Trustee

CONTACT US

401 Lawrence, P.O. Box 308
Cedar Vale, KS 67024
620-758-2262
Fax: 620-758-2926
cve@caneyvalley.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

POWER COST ADJUSTMENT

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for May is \$0.00268/kilowatt-hour. This amounts to an additional \$2.68 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours. The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase (or decrease) in power costs (over and above 7¢/kWh) charged to us by our wholesale power suppliers. The PCA varies each month depending on the wholesale costs and is a flow-through on your electric bill.

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Thank You For Attending

It was very gratifying to see the large turnout for the co-op's annual meeting on March 19. We value your interest, support and participation in the cooperative's operations.

Attending the annual meeting enables you to be a part of the core principles guiding the cooperative's governance by casting your vote for board trustees and any specific questions or proposals that may be considered.

By attending, you were able to visit with board members and employees regarding any matters about which you have questions, concerns or suggestions.

Reports on the cooperative's operations were presented by Board President Chris Kelly and me. A summary of the meeting can be found on Page 12B.

ALLEN A. ZADOROZNY,
GENERAL MANAGER

HOME IGNITION ZONE CHECKLIST

Follow these simple steps from roof to foundation to reduce wildfire risk.

- ▶ Clear leaves, pine needles and debris from roofs, gutters, decks and patios.
- ▶ Keep lawns watered and maintained so it's less likely to catch fire.
- ▶ Replace or repair loose or missing shingles and roof tiles.
- ▶ Install 1/8-inch metal mesh screening on vents for your attic, roof and eaves.
- ▶ Repair damaged or loose window screens and replace broken windows.
- ▶ Repair or maintain siding, trim and exterior joints so embers cannot lodge in gaps.
- ▶ Seal gaps and openings around the foundation and where utilities enter the home.
- ▶ Keep lawnmowers, oil or gas cans, propane tanks and wood piles at least 30 feet from your home.
- ▶ Install a metal gate or section if a wooden fence attaches to the house.
- ▶ Remove anything stored under decks or porches, and screen openings to prevent debris buildup.
- ▶ Remove flammable objects like lawn furniture.
- ▶ Swap mulch for gravel or stone near the home.



SOURCES: NFPA, SMOKEYBEAR.COM/HOME-SAFETY, WWW.SAFEELLECTRICITY.ORG

Annual Meeting 2026

Caney Valley Electric held its 78th Annual Meeting Thursday, March 19, 2026, at the Cedar Vale school gymnasium. About 450 members and guests were served a pulled pork meal by the Cedar Vale Lions Club.

The proposed bylaw amendment to Article III: Trustees: Section 3, Nominations was presented. This amendment will authorize the board of trustees to appoint the nominating committee earlier. The proposal is to change the current 90 days to 120 days so it would read as follows: *It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to appoint, not less than thirty (30) days nor more than one hundred twenty (120) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members, who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation to the area served or to be served by the Cooperative.*

Barry Speer was reelected to District I. Mike Bellar and Danny Banks were elected to the board of trustees in Districts II and III, respectively.

Trustee Steve Clark spoke to the audience about pasture burning and the importance of protecting electric poles. The average cost to replace a pole is \$1,200. He asked that all members be aware of the poles on their property when burning pastures. Taking time to trim around poles will help lower the risk of a pole catching fire. Members are welcome to contact the office if they need assistance with trimming. He stated that we are “all in this together” and working together will help keep costs lower.

In his annual manager’s report, Manager Zadorozny described the 2025 operations as adequate. Caney Valley Electric did meet all the financial standards. He explained that in February 2026, Caney Valley Electric billed approximately 5,000 meters, which is down from the 5,400 average billed meters in

2016. The drop in billed meters and related sales revenue, matched against inflated operations expenses, is a challenge for Caney Valley Electric. The cooperative’s 1,725 miles of primary distribution line must be maintained and meet standards of reliability and quality of service regardless of significantly fewer meters served. He expressed that the board and staff work hard to keep the operational costs as low as possible. One question from the audience was asked about capacity limits near Wayside. Montana Johnson, line superintendent, explained that there were no capacity limits and suggested to contact our office with additional questions. Manager Zadorozny encouraged all members to call or stop by the office to visit with him about any concerns they may have.

Special guests present included Doug Blex, state representative from District 12; as well as Shawn Geil, executive director technical energy services, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative; and Marc Champlin, instructor of Loss Control, Safety and Compliance, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Blex complimented the vital role electric cooperatives play in the state’s economy. He expressed his appreciation for the wonderful job the board does. He informed members that they have been granted a 30-day pause on the new 345 line that is going to run through our service area. Geil explained KEPCo’s role with the rural cooperatives and the increasing cost of wholesale power. He explained that the cost to deliver power continues to rise and challenge the ability to provide stable power rates. He thanked Dan Hubert for his years of service on the KEPCo board.



Special guests were Doug Blex (left), State Representative from District 12, as well as Shawn Geil (right), executive director technical energy services, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative.



Champlin explained that one of KEC’s safety goals is to shift the culture from safety being a “have to do” to a “want to do.” He mentioned Caney Valley’s mission statement states “to safely ... provide reliable energy, and other services.” His goal as a safety and compliance instructor is to get every lineman home safely.

Seven scholarship winners for the 2026-2027 school year were announced as follows:

- **AIDEN CAMPBELL** — Cedar Vale High School
- **JAYLON HARRIS** — Cedar Vale High School
- **JAMES BRAUN** — Central High School
- **JACOB DARBRO** — Sedan High School
- **BRIAN HERT** — Sedan High School
- **PEYTON MORRIS** — Sedan High School
- **BAYLEE HOGAN** — Sedan High School

Each student will receive \$1,000 to help with tuition and related expenses.

DARYL CARL METCALF, West Elk High School, was in attendance and will represent the co-op at the 2026 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs. An additional camp selection, **BRAILEE BLAKEMORE**, Sedan High School, was unable to attend.

All employees were introduced, and then several service awards were given, including **BRIAN SMYLIE**, for 25 years, and **DEBORAH WALL**, 45 years.

Numerous door prizes were given away during the meeting. Special thanks go to Border States, KEPCo, and KSI Engineering for donating several of the prizes. Lisa Wilhite won the grand prize of a 65-inch ONN TV and Margaret Hogan won a 55-inch ONN TV.



Approximately 450 members and guests attended the Caney Valley Electric 78th Annual Meeting on March 19.

How to Protect Your Home From a Wildfire

Wildfires move fast, but research shows that most homes don't ignite from an unstoppable wall of flames. They ignite from embers — tiny burning pieces of wood or vegetation that can travel over a mile in the wind and land on or near your home. The good news? There are steps you can take to help your home withstand nearby flames.

The most important area to focus on is your Home Ignition Zone — your house and its 200-foot perimeter. Think of it in three layers: closest, middle and outer. Let's walk through what to do in each.

THE IMMEDIATE ZONE (0-5 FEET FROM YOUR HOME)

This is the most important zone.

Start here. Your goal: create a clean, non-combustible buffer.

- ▶ Clear leaves, pine needles, and debris from roofs and gutters.
- ▶ Repair missing or loose shingles and roof tiles.
- ▶ Screen vents with 1/8-inch metal mesh to block embers.
- ▶ Repair damaged window screens and replace broken windows.
- ▶ Remove mulch, firewood, plants, leaves and anything that can burn from around the house.
- ▶ Don't store anything under decks or porches; screen openings to prevent debris buildup.
- ▶ Keep the 5 feet closest to buildings, structures, and decks clear of

HOME HARDENING CHECKLIST

Small upgrades can make a big difference when embers fly.

ROOF AND VENTS:

- ☐ Choose a Class A fire-rated roof (e.g., metal, composite shingles, tile or concrete).
- ☐ Cover attic and roof vents with 1/8-inch metal mesh.

SIDING AND WINDOWS:

- ☐ Use fire-resistant materials like brick, fiber-cement, stucco or treated wood.
- ☐ Install dual-pane tempered glass windows to resist cracking from heat.

flammable materials. Swap mulch for gravel or crushed stone.

THE INTERMEDIATE ZONE (5-30 FEET)

This is your landscaping safety zone.

The goal is to slow and reduce fire.

- ▶ Keep grass trimmed to 4 inches or shorter.
- ▶ Trim limbs off tree trunks to at least 10 feet above the ground.
- ▶ Space tree canopies at least 18 feet apart (more if on a slope).
- ▶ Make sure mature trees are 10-20 feet away from the home.
- ▶ Remove shrubs and low branches below trees to prevent fire from climbing.
- ▶ Clear plants and grass around propane tanks.
- ▶ Create fuel breaks with walkways, gravel paths, patios or driveways.

THE EXTENDED ZONE (30-200 FEET)

The goal here is to interrupt the fire's

path and keep flames small and on the ground.

- ▶ Remove piles of leaves, fallen branches and dead plants.
- ▶ Remove small conifer trees growing between larger mature trees.
- ▶ Clear vegetation around sheds and outbuildings.
- ▶ Leave at least 12 feet between canopy tops for trees 30 to 60 feet from the home.*
- ▶ Leave at least 6 feet between canopy tops for trees 60 to 100 feet from the home.*

ACCESS AND EMERGENCY PREP

When every minute counts, make it easy to get help.

- ▶ Clearly mark your home address with numbers visible from the road.
- ▶ Know two ways out of your neighborhood.
- ▶ Have a predetermined meeting place.
- ▶ Make a wildfire evacuation plan; include your pets and livestock.
- ▶ Leave early if you feel unsafe — don't wait to be told.

You don't need to fireproof your entire property to make a difference. The small details closest to your home could determine whether it withstands a wildfire. One weekend of cleanup and some thoughtful upgrades can dramatically shift the odds in your favor and bring peace of mind for seasons to come.

*DISTANCES SUGGESTED ARE BASED ON NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA) GUIDELINES. HOWEVER, THE SPACING REQUIRED COULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER DUE TO SLOPE, TREE SPECIES AND OTHER SITE-SPECIFIC CONDITIONS.

SOURCES: NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA), SMOKEYBEAR.COM

WILDFIRE GO BAG *Checklist*

- ☐ Cellphone & Charger
- ☐ Clothing & Toiletries
- ☐ Face Masks
- ☐ First Aid
- ☐ Flashlight & Batteries
- ☐ Food & Water
- ☐ Important Documents & Photos
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Pet Essentials



Annual Right-of-Way Herbicide Spraying

As part of the cooperative's ongoing program to control harmful vegetation near our power lines, we have contracted with Apex ROW, of Marshall, AR, to apply herbicide along our rights-of-way in 2026. Lines off our Grenola substation are scheduled to be covered over the next few months. This includes parts of Elk County, including rural areas around Grenola, Moline and Howard.

Apex's three to four five-man crews will be applying low-volume foliar grass-friendly mix spray herbicide directly to small trees, saplings, and harmful regrowth that has occurred since the lines were cleared by tree cutting. They will be using the minimum amount of herbicide judged to be effective and will be targeting specific plants that pose a hazard to the electric system. You should expect to see their pickup and/or crews walking with spray equipment working along the rights-of-way under Caney Valley's electric lines.

Caney Valley Electric will be sending out letters to known landowners or members where we propose to treat our rights-of-way. Please, if you have any questions or concerns, or if you do not want us to spray on your property, contact us so we can designate it as "Do Not Spray" for our contractor's crews. The letter may be the only notice you receive before we start.

Trees continue to pose the greatest physical obstacle to providing economical and reliable electric power to the consumers on Caney Valley's system. The problems caused by trees and the costs of controlling them are borne by all of our members collectively. We appreciate your support of the cooperative's efforts to reduce tree-related problems in a fair and cost-effective manner. If you have any questions about our spraying or line clearing activities, please call us at 1-800-310-8911 or 1-620-758-2262.

MONTANA JOHNSON,
LINE SUPERINTENDENT

OUTAGES FOR MARCH 2026

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Below are the larger outages that occurred.

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
3/1	South of Niotaze	44	2 hrs	Trees
3/4	East of Grenola	10	2 hrs 15 mins	Animals
3/4	North of Maple City	6	2 hrs 5 mins	Transformer (Fuse)
3/7	South of Elk Falls	1	1 day 19 hrs 55 mins	Transformer (Fuse)
3/8	South of Sedan	893	2 hrs	Substation Equipment
3/10	West of Dexter	7	1 hr 50 mins	OCR (Line Breaker Reset)
3/15	Peru	56	1 hr 35 mins	Broken Jumper/Hotline Clamp
3/15	East Circuit CQ Sub	167	2 hrs 30 mins	Substation Equipment
3/15	North Circuit CQ Sub	360	20 mins	Other
3/20	East of Sedan	1	2 days 22 hrs 20 mins	Sectionalizing Line Fuse
3/21	North of Peru	4	2 days 6 hrs	Other
3/21	North of Moline	1	3 days 23 hrs 45 mins	Transformer (Failure-Burn Out)
3/21	East of Dexter	1	1 day 18 hrs 25 mins	Transformer (Failure-Burn Out)
3/22	South of Oak Valley	10	1 hr 40 mins	Trees
3/23	Tisdale MP	26	1 hr 30 mins	Scheduled
3/27	South of Grenola	42	1 hr 30 mins	Other
3/27	Loop Feed North 1/2 Sedan	744	2 hrs	Poles

Nondiscrimination STATEMENT

The Caney Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. is a recipient of federal financial assistance from Rural Development, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint-filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Dept of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

FEBRUARY 2026 OPERATING STATISTICS

For Month Ending	Feb. 2025	Feb. 2026	For Month Ending	Feb. 2025	Feb. 2026	For Month Ending	Feb. 2025	Feb. 2026
Meters Billed	5,189	5,093	Total Revenue	\$ 926,655	\$ 611,496	Other Expenses	\$ 200	\$ 2,351
kWh Purchased	5,872,766	4,755,387	Purchased Power	\$ 456,821	\$ 392,042	Operating Margins	\$ 101,189	\$ (143,921)
Cost Per kWh Purchased	0.07763	0.08244	Operating Expenses	\$ 246,346	\$ 239,922	Non-Operating Margins	\$ 2,812	\$ 10,643
kWh Sold	6,270,664	6,075,131	Depreciation Expenses	\$ 77,637	\$ 79,570	Total Working Margins	\$ 104,001	\$ (133,279)
			Interest Expenses	\$ 44,462	\$ 41,533	Margins Year-to-Date	\$ (52,232)	\$ (124,245)