

# THE OUTLET

The Official Member Newsletter of CORE Electric Cooperative

December 2022

WRAPPING UP 2022



## Keys to a safe holiday season

CORE wishes you safe and happy holidays! Here are some **quick, easy tips that will protect you and your loved ones** this season:

- Make sure your holiday/decorative lights – and all other bulbs – are LED. If you still have non-LED string lights, consider taking them to a local recycling company that accepts them.
- Have your heating system serviced to ensure it is operating safely and efficiently.
- Do not overload outlets and power strips with too many devices.
- For outdoor lights and other devices, use only ground fault circuit interrupted (GFCI) outlets. Stay clear of overhead lines and equipment when putting them up.
- Do not place cords under rugs or carpets, or across high-traffic areas.
- If you are not already signed up to receive outage alerts from CORE, go to [www.CORE.coop](http://www.CORE.coop) > Outage Center.

Visit [www.CORE.coop](http://www.CORE.coop) for more safety tips, and suggestions for making your home more energy-efficient this winter!

## A year of giving from your co-op

We seek to provide for the communities we serve – not just through reliable electric service, but by also partnering with local non-profits and other community organizations. This past year, **CORE donated to and partnered with hundreds of such worthwhile causes**, including:

- More than \$11,000 for parks and recreation
- \$94,000-plus for music, arts and culture
- Nearly \$70,000 for groups that provide food and shelter
- More than \$78,000 for health and wellness organizations and programs
- More than \$10,000 for military and first responder groups
- Nearly \$30,000 to programs that support seniors
- \$70,000 in grants to students pursuing higher education
- More than \$70,000 for other education and youth causes
- \$70,000 for business, commerce and economic development



## CORE linemen reach new heights at rodeo

CORE linemen were among the best at the recent International Lineman's Rodeo in Overland Park, Kansas.

We sent two teams of Journeyman Linemen – **James Johnson, Derek Oase** and **Zach Reynolds** from our Bennett district office, and **Duncan Beth, Cody Griffin** and **Matt Ledford** from our Sedalia and Woodland Park offices – and six Apprentice Linemen – **James Deckert, Steven Gorden, Kris Onda, Matthew Potter, Jared Reynolds** and **Matthew Thayne** – to compete. Journeyman Lineman **Daniel Rabern** served as an event judge. They were joined by more than 200 teams and 350 apprentices from other utilities.

The Bennett team finished in the top half of cooperative teams and 99<sup>th</sup> among all 242 utilities at the rodeo.

James Deckert also did especially well, finishing fifth overall among the rodeo's 57 cooperative apprentices and 29<sup>th</sup> among all 366 apprentices.

Congratulations to all the CORE linemen who competed!



## What to know when considering solar

A few things CORE wants members to know as they consider investing in **rooftop solar**:

- We do not require a contract with any rooftop solar vendor for solar panel installation within our service territory, nor do we require any members to obtain rooftop solar generation.
- We do not have agreements of any type with any solar providers granting either exclusive or non-exclusive business within our service territory, nor have we authorized any solar contractors to speak on our behalf.
- Some sales and installation personnel falsely blame CORE for their own company's decision to not operate within CORE's service territory. Also be wary of comments seen on social media, especially generalizations and mischaracterizations of CORE's policy regarding solar. We do not and cannot prohibit solar providers from installing their products in our service territory. We also do not have a preferred company for a rooftop solar installation.
- If your solar vendor is not familiar with CORE's policies and procedures, be sure to contact us to discuss how the installation of solar may affect your monthly bill.
- Solar vendors often operate in multiple states with varying policies on interconnections and may not be familiar with CORE's rate structure. When speaking with a rooftop solar vendor, request that any explanation of possible benefits be based specifically on CORE's rate structure.

Our application for an interconnection describes net metering and qualified facilities in detail. That application can be found at [www.CORE.coop](http://www.CORE.coop) > My Cooperative > Renewables/Solar > Generation Interconnections.

We also urge members to **contact our Engineering Services department at (303) 688-3100 before signing any agreement to purchase or lease a rooftop solar system**. Our representatives are happy to answer any questions you might have.