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620-872-5885 | www.weci.net

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark Arnold

President

Josh Young

Vice President

Stacey Addison-Howland

Secretary

John Kleysteuber

Treasurer

Wes Campbell

Trustee

Lynn Freese

Trustee

Dustin Stansbury

Trustee

John Sullivan

Trustee

Kevin White

Trustee

DISTRICT OFFICES

Garden City — 620-275-0261

2005 W. Fulton, P.O. Box 973
Garden City, KS 67846

Great Bend — 620-793-4223

200 10th St., P.O. Box 1446
Great Bend, KS 67530

Harper — 620-896-7090

906 Central, P.O. Box 247
Harper, KS 67058

Leoti — 620-375-2632

101 W. F St., P.O. Box 966
Leoti, KS 67861

Scott City-Main — 620-872-5885

101 S. Main St., P.O. Box 230
Scott City, KS 67871

Syracuse — 620-384-5171

206 N. Main, P.O. Box 1010
Syracuse, KS 67878

Tribune — 620-376-4231

310 Broadway, P.O. Box 490
Tribune, KS 67879

FROM THE MANAGER

Our True North: Members Like You

Join Us for Our Annual Meeting on April 23

I'd like to personally invite you to Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s (WEC) 2025 **ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 23** at the **SCOTT COMMUNITY BUILDING, 600 FAIRGROUND ROAD, SCOTT CITY, KANSAS**, or at one of our remote meeting locations: **LEOTI, TRIBUNE, SYRACUSE, GARDEN CITY, GREAT BEND, HARPER AND CALDWELL.**

► **REGISTRATION:** 11 a.m. CDT

► **LUNCHEON:** 11:30 a.m. CDT

► **BUSINESS MEETING:** Noon CDT

Our annual meeting is more than just a gathering — it's an opportunity for you to connect with fellow co-op members, meet cooperative staff and leadership, and hear directly from our board of trustees.

Just as a compass helps travelers stay on course, our **TRUE NORTH** — our members — guide every decision we make. That's why this year's theme is especially meaningful, and why we

hope you'll join us to **LEARN, VOICE, CONNECT AND WIN** in Scott City or a remote location near you.

LEARN

As a **MEMBER-OWNER**, your involvement ensures that we continue to steer in the right direction — aligned with your needs, priorities and expectations.

At this year's meeting, we'll share important news and updates, celebrate 14 scholarship recipients — each receiving \$1,000 — and recognize four student delegates selected for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Colorado.

VOICE

WEC operates on the principle of



Bruce W. Mueller

Continued on page 12H ►

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

The National Safety Council recommends every family have an emergency plan in place in the event of a natural disaster or other catastrophic event. Spring is a great time to review that plan with family members. Have a home and car emergency kit. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) says an emergency kit should include 1 gallon of water per day for each person, at least a three-day supply of food, flashlight and batteries, first-aid kit, filter mask, plastic sheeting and duct tape and medicines.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2025 nominating committee consisted of the following members:

► **DISTRICT 1**

ED CUPP

1305 Antelope
Scott City, KS 67871
620-874-1222

► **DISTRICT 2**

MILAN REIMER

1294 W. County Road P
Leoti, KS 67861
620-874-5078

► **DISTRICT 3**

DALE WETZEL

P.O. Box 331
Tribune, KS 67879
620-376-4792

► **DISTRICT 4**

PATRICK RILEY

P.O. Box 925
Syracuse, KS 67878
620-384-4032

► **DISTRICT 5**

BOB HARRINGTON

P.O. Box 2681
Garden City, KS 67846
620-260-6373

► **DISTRICT 6**

LANE MOORE

4600 Quail Creek Drive
Great Bend, KS 67530
316-209-0322

► **DISTRICT 7**

TROY DIERKING

P.O. Box 46
Caldwell, KS 67022
620-845-2634 or 620-845-0736

Bylaws Article 4 Section 4 the Nomination Committee must meet between Feb. 8 and March 10, 2025. This year's meeting was held Feb. 27, 2025.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Annual Meeting for Wheatland Members

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Members of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at the Scott Community Building, 600 Fairground Road in Scott City, Kansas.

Registration opens at 11 a.m. CDT, and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. CDT. The business meeting will convene at noon CDT. The following matters will be addressed:

- Reports of officers, trustees, committees and employees.
- Election results announced.
- Bylaw revision referendum.
- Any other business which may come before the meeting.
- Adjournment.

The 2025 nominating committee consisted of the following members: District 1, Ed Cupp; District 2, Milan Reimer; District 3, Dale Wetzel; District 4, Patrick Riley; District 5, Bob Harrington; District 6, Lane Moore; and District 7, Troy Dierking.

The following trustees have been nominated by the nominating committee for the position of trustee:

DISTRICT 5

► **JEFF CLARKE**

1502 Grandview Drive E.
Garden City, Kansas

► **JASON DOUGHERTY**

111 Cambridge Court
Garden City, Kansas

DISTRICT 6

► **MARIBETH BENKER**

3310 17th St.
Great Bend, Kansas

DISTRICT 7

► **WILLIAM "WOODY" BARNES**

719 S. Market St.
Caldwell, Kansas

► **DUSTIN STANSBURY**

995 N. State Road 2
Harper, Kansas

**STACEY ADDISON-HOWLAND,
SECRETARY**

FINANCIAL Statements

Operating Statement AS OF DEC. 31, 2024 (AUDITED)

INCOME:	
Electric Revenues	96,991,874
Water Revenues	3,669,849
Interest Income	257,722
Capital Credits from Other Cooperatives*	3,190,061
Non-Operating Income (Other)	(4,339)
TOTAL INCOME	104,105,167

EXPENSES:	
Purchased Power/Cost of Sales	47,890,837
Operations & Maintenance	8,177,893
Administrative & General	9,811,899
Depreciation	12,876,704
Total Interest	10,347,162
Taxes	3,327,571
Other	259,489
TOTAL EXPENSES	92,691,555

TOTAL MARGINS 11,413,612

* Of this amount \$2,956,706 is a non-cash allocation of margins from Sunflower Electric Power Corporation for the year of 2024. **NOTE:** Included in revenues was \$2 million in deferred revenue recognized from a lawsuit with the City of Garden City for future lost revenue.

Balance Sheet AS OF DEC. 31, 2024 (AUDITED)

ASSETS:	
Cash & Short-Term Investments	1,127,835
Memberships and Other Investments	92,818,027
Notes Receivable	1,528,711
Accounts Receivable	10,964,882
Materials and Supplies	5,548,352
Other Current and Accrued Assets	902,905
Deferred Charges	469,378
Plant Assets (All Operations)	421,940,425
Accumulated Depreciation	(126,390,057)
TOTAL ASSETS	408,910,458

LIABILITIES:	
Principal Owed on Long-Term Debt	195,589,753
Interest Payable on Long-Term Debt (in 2025)	945,765
Notes Payable	38,142,000
Accounts Payable	4,995,140
Property Taxes Payable (due in 2025)	1,824,518
Consumer Deposits	1,480,491
Other Liabilities/Deferred Credits	6,622,806
TOTAL LIABILITIES	249,600,473

EQUITIES:	
2024 Operating Margin	7,962,826
2024 Non-Operating Margin	3,450,785
Prior Years Margins	146,609,114
Other Equities	1,287,260
TOTAL EQUITY	159,309,985
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	408,910,458

Property Taxes Paid

Finney	1,102,789	Hamilton	234,664	Reno	3,601
Barton	380,247	Scott	221,723	Wallace	2,376
Harper	312,212	Wichita	191,352	Sedgwick	1,842
Sumner	229,161	Kingman	95,089	Logan	1,712
Kearny	256,365	Gray	46,930	Cheyenne	815
Greeley	240,895	Kiowa	5,740	Prowers	58
TOTAL 3,327,571					

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

will pay a total of \$3,327,571 in property taxes for 2024. These amounts were assessed against assets such as electric lines, poles, buildings, trucks and water-related equipment owned by WEC. As a not-for-profit cooperative, WEC is exempt from income tax. At left is a listing of property taxes assessed by county for 2024.

Meet Your TRUSTEE Nominees

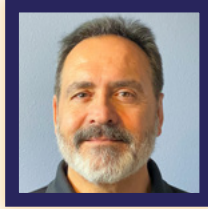
For the second consecutive year, trustee elections are by mail-in ballot. Ballots were mailed March 24 and must be received **NO LATER THAN APRIL 18** using the postage-paid envelope provided. Members are encouraged to return their ballots as soon as possible.

BALLOTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT WEC OFFICES.

Scan to learn more about mail-in voting or visit www.weci.net.



DISTRICT 5 FINNEY, EASTERN HALF OF KEARNY AND GRAY COUNTIES



JEFF CLARKE, a native of Jetmore, Kansas, has resided in Garden City since 1982, following his graduation from Fort Hays State University.

Recently retired, Jeff practiced as a certified public accountant (CPA) for over 41 years, first at Birney and Company, followed by Keller and Miller, CPAs.

Over the years, Jeff has served on several community and church committees, including Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Knights of Columbus, United Way of Finney County, Education Commission, Pastoral Council and Finance Commission, all of St. Dominic Catholic Church. Currently he stays active serving on the Finney County Humane Society, as well as the LiveWell Finney County Health Coalition. He also serves on the St. Catherine Hospital Development Foundation and as a Trustee for the SDSI Foundation, Inc. Jeff and his wife of 40 years, Marjie, love to travel and be with friends. They especially enjoy being with their three adult children and three grandchildren.

When he was approached to possibly serving on the WEC Board of Trustees he was intrigued. Jeff has always enjoyed a challenge, and he knew this would definitely be an interesting adventure. He has always told people that his job as a CPA was based on his desire to help people. Whether it was with their tax return, financial statement preparation, or the many other management advisory services, it was all about helping people. As he looks at this community opportunity, he sees the same thing. The cooperative is all about people helping people. He sees this as an opportunity to connect with local business leaders, government officials, and other community stakeholders. All with a goal to help shape the future of our community.



JASON DOUGHERTY has deep roots in Kansas, growing up on his family's farm in Syracuse as one of six children. From an early age, he

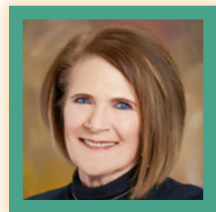
developed a strong work ethic and a passion for aviation, earning his student pilot's certificate at just 16. His dedication to service led him to the U.S. Army, where he proudly served during Operation Desert Storm. Now, at 52, Jason lives in Garden City, Kansas, with his wife, Jennifer, their four children, and a grandson who keeps life full of joy.

A graduate of Kansas State University with a degree in surveying, Jason built his career as an entrepreneur. In 2008, he and Jennifer started a small business together, which has since grown into a thriving company employing more than 25 full-time staff and several part-time workers. Today, he owns and operates multiple businesses, including Legacy Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and Dog Days Resort, where three of his four children work alongside him.

Jason's commitment to his community goes beyond business. He is actively involved in his church as a teacher and coach and has participated in mission work locally and abroad, including Kansas, Guatemala, India, Nepal, China and Germany. He also supports various charitable initiatives in southwest Kansas, always looking for ways to give back.

With a lifelong dedication to service, hard work and integrity, Jason is ready to bring his experience and values to the WEC Board of Trustees. He looks forward to the opportunity to serve and ensure a strong future for the co-op and the communities it supports.

DISTRICT 6 GREAT BEND



MARIBETH BENKER has lived in Great Bend much of her life, moving from a Reno County family farm, when her family purchased the John Deere

farm equipment dealership in 1966. She began working at the dealership after high school and continued through the next 15 years; managing the office and bookkeeping and being involved in all financial aspects of the business.

In the 1990s she and her late husband started an irrigation service and sales business, where she handled the bookkeeping and managed the financial aspects of the business. Over the years she has given the stock to her heirs but still acts as secretary/treasurer of the corporation and assists with the financial aspects of the business when needed.

Currently she is employed at Watkins Calcara, Chtd. holding the position as a civil litigation paralegal. During her 30-year career with the firm, she has been involved in the litigation of numerous types of cases, including employment law, discrimination, wrongful death, eminent domain, contracts and personal injury. Included in those cases, were those representing WEC and other electric cooperatives.

Being involved in some aspect of farming most of her life, she believes she can relate to and understand the many concerns of the district's rural based membership. Additionally, being involved in the financial aspect of a large farm equipment dealership and owning a small farm-related business, affords her knowledge of the agricultural business base of WEC's service territory.

Working as a paralegal on electric cooperative cases has given her insight into the dynamics of the electric cooperatives, service territories, service rights, annexations, supply grids and electric suppliers. This has strengthened her belief in the necessity of a strong electric cooperative that will provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, as the energy industry faces rapid and demanding changes.

DISTRICT 7 HARPER, KINGMAN, SUMNER AND SEDGWICK COUNTIES



WILLIAM "WOODY" BARNES, his wife, Lori, and their two sons, moved to Caldwell, Kansas, in 2005 to live in rural Kansas, surrounded

by family. They founded Fall Creek Builders, Inc., and have served the region since.

Woody was born on cooperative lines in Sedan, Kansas. He earned a degree in Construction Science & Management from Kansas State University in 1988, spending 10 years in Commercial & Industrial Construction and eight years managing a residential building company.

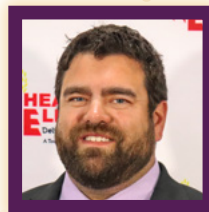
While in Caldwell, Woody served on the hospital board, school advisory committees, his church council, and, from June 2008 until April 2022, was a WEC trustee. The last five years of Woody's tenure, he served as Board President and a delegate to the Sunflower Electric Power Corporation Board.

While a trustee, Woody completed 40-plus educational courses totaling 240-plus hours of NRECA training. He was one of the first to obtain Director Gold credential and served as an expert panelist at national level meetings, on topics regarding CEO search and selection and board governance and compensation.

The inspiration for seeking re-election comes from his belief and understanding of the cooperative system and how imperative it is to have a strong mix of expertise and understanding for trustees to serve the members as effectively as possible.

"During my tenure as a trustee the board and management team worked diligently together to improve the financial stability and operational efficiency of WEC: CEO search and selection, reorganization of our subsidiaries, strategic planning and implementation, restructuring of safety program, better financial management. However, in the last three years, the board will have lost four trustees and 67 years of experience," states Barnes.

If reelected, he will apply his knowledge and experience with the board, staff and membership, for WEC's continued growth, and support for all communities served.



DUSTIN STANSBURY was elected to the WEC Board of Trustees during the 2022 Annual Meeting, after his nomination from the floor was

overwhelmingly supported by an unprecedented turnout of supportive WEC members. Dustin is a firm believer in the power of the members to elect their representation, and he is dedicated to making certain the board of trustees is aware of its actions on individual consumers.

Dustin comes from a rural background through his childhood spent on his grandfather's farm. He brings a "working man's" perspective and the experience of a successful business entrepreneur to the WEC board. He has worked for Northern Pipeline, where he was awarded eight awards for safety. He left Northern Pipeline for an opportunity with Vermeer, where he became the lead salesman in his western Kansas territory, giving him the opportunity to understand the challenges of living in western Kansas in which people have less access to modern conveniences that are often taken for granted in the eastern half of the state. In 2014, Dustin established his business, DLS Underground, which also takes him all over Kansas and Oklahoma to install underground utilities and upgrade underground infrastructures in rural communities.

During his first term as trustee, Dustin earned the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate in 2023, the Board Leadership certificate, and the Director Gold credential, which is the highest certification achievement awarded by NRECA.

While representing rural Kansans on the WEC Board of Trustees, Dustin is a member of the Harper County Fair Board, the Harper County Zoning Board, and belongs to Knights of Columbus. He and his family live in rural Harper County. They enjoy time at the lake with family and friends, supporting local and Kansas sports teams, and coaching their daughters' teams.

Proposed Bylaw Revisions

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) Board of Trustees has proposed the following amendments to the cooperative's bylaws. These proposed changes will be voted upon by the membership as part of the **2025 ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 23, 2025**. WEC encourages you to review the proposed changes affecting multiple sections of the bylaws. The foundation to any successful cooperative is member trust and transparency in decision-making. If you have questions regarding the proposed bylaw changes, please email memberservices@weci.net.

You are hereby notified, pursuant to K.S.A. 17-4608 and Article 12 of the

bylaws, that the following proposed amendments to the bylaws are being submitted to a vote of the membership at the annual meeting, April 23, 2025. Proposed changes are **outlined in red below**.

THE WEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECOMMENDS ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS OF WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. A "yes" vote is a vote in favor of the proposed changes. A "no" vote is a vote against the proposed changes. A complete version of WEC's current bylaws can be found at www.weci.net/co-opbylaws.

WEC TRUSTEES' BALLOT PROPOSAL 1

The Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees recommends the following bylaw changes regarding the a) qualifications to be a trustee, b) the notice requirement of new business at an annual meeting, and c) mail-in ballots for the election of trustees of approved nominees. All proposed changes are in red font letters.

"COOLING OFF" PERIOD FOR FORMER EMPLOYEES FOR THE ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

ARTICLE 4, SECTION 3.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who:

1. Is not a member and taking electric service in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative; or
2. Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures, or supplies to the members of the Cooperative.
3. Has a close family member that is an employee of the Cooperative. A close family member means a spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandchild, grandparent, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew and the same for in-law and "step" relationships.
4. **Was an employee of the Cooperative within three (3) years of being appointed or being elected as a Trustee of the Cooperative.**
5. Does not meet all qualification requirements as set forth in Cooperative policy adopted by the board of trustees.

ADDING NEW BUSINESS TO AN ANNUAL MEETING WITHOUT PROPER NOTICE

ARTICLE 3 SECTION 7: SECTION 7. ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The order of business at the annual meeting of members and, so far as possible, at all other meetings of the members, shall be essentially as follows:

1. Report on the number of members present in person in order to determine the existence of a quorum.
2. Report on the number of members represented by proxy and the names of their respective proxies.
3. Reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of the due publication or mailing thereof, or the waiver or waivers of notice of the meeting, as the case may be.

4. Reading of unapproved minutes of previous meetings of the members and the taking of necessary action thereon.
5. Presentation and consideration of reports of officers, trustees and committees.
6. Announcement of the election of trustees.
7. Unfinished business.
8. New business. **Provided that any new business that would change or add a bylaw or a written policy of the board of trustees must be in full written text and provided as part of the notice of the meeting. Further, any new business items from the members must be requested in writing and served on the secretary of the Cooperative at least 45 days before the annual meeting of the members.**
9. Adjournment.

NO WRITE-IN TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

ARTICLE 4 SECTION 2 ELECTION AND TENURE OF OFFICE. SECTION 2. ELECTION AND TENURE OF OFFICE.

Trustees shall be elected by mail ballot prior to each annual meeting of the members and shall be elected for a three-year term beginning on the date of the next annual meeting of the members. Members of the board of trustees shall not serve more than six, three-year terms beginning from and after adoption of this bylaw by the membership at an annual meeting. Trustees shall be elected by a plurality vote of those members casting mail ballots and tabulated as set forth in written Cooperative policy established by the board of trustees. The results of trustee elections will be announced at a properly convened annual meeting of the members. **Only nominations by the committee on nominations and nominations by petition, as set forth in these bylaws, will be counted for the election of trustees.**

WEC TRUSTEES' BALLOT PROPOSAL 2

The Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees recommends the following bylaw change regarding the qualifications to be a member.

To remove all references in Wheatland's Bylaws to "telecommunications service," or the like, in the Wheatland Bylaws, for purposes of membership and patronage capital, now that Wheatland no longer provides Broadband Telecommunication service.

Members should reference Table of Contents; Art. 1 Section 2; Article 1, Section 1, Section 2, and Section 3; and Article 7 Section 2, in the current Wheatland Bylaws found at www.weci.net.

2025 ANNUAL MEETING

TRUE NORTH

OUR COMMITMENT, YOUR COOPERATIVE

Join us in Scott City,
or at one of our remote locations below,
to celebrate the unwavering values
that guide us

**Service, Innovation and
Concern for Community**

as we chart our course
forward, together!

**April
23**

SCOTT COMMUNITY BUILDING
600 FAIRGROUND ROAD
SCOTT CITY, KANSAS

Registration
11 A.M. CT

Luncheon
11:30 A.M. CT

Business Meeting
Noon CT

DISTRICT 2

Leoti
Wheatland
Electric Warehouse
103 West

DISTRICT 3

Tribune
Wheatland
Electric Warehouse
310 Broadway Ave.

DISTRICT 6

Great Bend
Wheatland Electric Office
200 10th St.

DISTRICT 4

Syracuse
VFW Building
609 N. Main St.

DISTRICT 7

Caldwell
Caldwell
Community Building
119 E. First St.

DISTRICT 5

Garden City
Wheatland Electric Office
2005 W. Fulton

DISTRICT 7

Harper
Westview Lodge &
Apartments
1300 N. Westview



Our True North: Members Like You

Continued from page 12A ▶

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL, meaning you have a **VOICE** in how your cooperative is run.

Your **VOTE** is your voice, and we strongly encourage all members to return their mail-in ballots (mailed March 24) and participate in this year's trustee election for three board seats.

This is the second year members are voting for trustees solely by mail. Ballots **MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 18**, five days prior to this year's annual meeting date. **BALLOTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT WEC OFFICES.**

Members will also have the opportunity to **VOTE** on proposed bylaw changes (see Page 12F for details).

CONNECT

In addition to our primary meeting location in Scott City, we're hosting **CONCURRENT ANNUAL MEETINGS** for

the seventh year in a row in **LEOTI, TRIBUNE, SYRACUSE, GARDEN CITY, GREAT BEND, HARPER AND CALDWELL.**

A full list of meeting locations is available on Page 12G and our website. As always, members with questions are encouraged to reach out to your local WEC office.

Lunch will be provided at every location, including remote locations, and co-op members like you can **WIN** door prizes (if selected), including our **GRAND-PRIZE GIVEAWAY!**

Your participation helps us keep our cooperative strong and responsive — always focused on serving you and helping us fulfill our mission of **DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE.** I hope you will plan to attend our meeting in Scott City or a remote meeting location near you.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.



Starting April 14, view our special message to our lineworkers and join us on social media to show your appreciation for our heroes in hardhats.



Scan me to view our special message!

facebook.com/WheatlandElectric
instagram.com/wheatlandelectric
x.com/WheatlandElect1