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WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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Great Bend, KS 67530

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

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

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

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310 Broadway, P.O. Box 490
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FROM THE MANAGER

Empowering the Next Generation

Committed to Young Adult Member Engagement

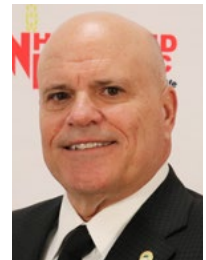
As the CEO/general manager of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC), I recognize the vital importance of engaging young adult members in our cooperative's journey toward a sustainable future. In today's dynamic landscape, member expectations and communication preferences are evolving rapidly, presenting electric cooperatives with both challenges and opportunities.

At WEC, we understand that adapting our products, services, practices and culture is crucial to meeting these changing expectations, along with achieving our **MISSION: DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE.** We have

embraced this challenge wholeheartedly, dedicating ourselves to enhancing member satisfaction through innovative programs and services.

We have introduced new events specifically tailored to young adult members and their families. These events not only provide opportunities for networking and community building but also ensure that our cooperative remains relevant and responsive to the needs of future generations.

In addition to these member-focused efforts, WEC takes pride in



Bruce W. Mueller

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OPEN MEETING NOTICE

TO DISCUSS ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION RATES

The Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees will meet on **AUG. 20, 2024, AT 9 A.M. CDT** at the Wheatland Electric office, 2005 W. Fulton, Garden City, Kansas.

During the meeting, the WEC Board of Trustees and management will discuss and vote on proposed electric vehicle rates available to commercial charging stations, either for retail station service for the purpose of resale to end-use customers, or for direct sale by WEC to end-use customers. The portion of the meeting where rates are discussed and voted on is open to all members. See more information on Page 12D. Wheatland members are advised that any member has a right to receive customer information and request that the Kansas Corporation Commission review the rate changes pursuant to K.S.A. 66-104d(g).

BUILDING A STRONGER *Cooperative* Community

As member expectations and preferences change at a rapid pace, co-ops are challenged with evolving products, services, practices and culture to the shifting landscape — a challenge Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) has put an immense focus on.

Community engagement and connection are more important than ever, and WEC strives to find innovative ways to foster relationships with members. With a keen eye on the future, WEC meets its members where they are and actively engages young adult members in meaningful ways.

Through initiatives like our annual Chamber After Hours and partnership with local baseball teams like the Great Bend Bat Cats and Garden City Wind, WEC is committed to building strong community ties and ensuring a vibrant future for cooperative energy.

The cornerstone of WEC's outreach efforts lies in understanding the diverse needs and preferences of its members, particularly the younger demographic. Recognizing the importance of networking and community involvement, WEC hosts an annual Chamber After Hours event, creating an informal platform for members to connect, share ideas and forge meaningful relationships. By collaborating with local chambers of commerce, WEC strengthens its ties within the community and provides a valuable networking opportunity for young adults interested in becoming more involved in local business and leadership roles.



TOP LEFT: WEC handed out sunglasses, Koozies and Frisbees at the GC Wind game during our Power Play on June 27, 2024.

CENTER LEFT: Kids pose with Power Play shades and Cram the Van slap bracelets at the GC Wind baseball game.

BOTTOM LEFT: More than 300 members attended the Great Bend Chamber Business After Hours on June 19 at Dry Lake Brewing to “Tropic Like It’s Hot!”

WEC's strategic partnership with local baseball teams meets members where they are — both physically and culturally. Hosting members and families at these sporting events creates a relaxed, enjoyable environment for social interaction and supports community activities. These events are fun for members and provide WEC representatives the opportunity to engage in casual conversations, understand members' concerns, and foster a sense of belonging within the cooperative.

Communication and outreach are key factors driving WEC's success in engaging young adult members. By leveraging social media and community events, WEC ensures that its messages resonate with a younger demographic. Using social media allows WEC to effectively communicate its initiatives, events and the value of cooperative membership to a broader audience.

Young adult member engagement is crucial for the vitality and sustainability of our cooperative. These emerging members represent the future of co-ops, and their active involvement ensures that cooperative principles continue to thrive.

WEC is not just a provider of energy — we are a catalyst for community engagement, collaboration and progress. Through these initiatives, WEC commits to meeting members where they are and fostering meaningful connections with young adults. By embracing modern communication channels and a proactive approach to community outreach, WEC ensures that its cooperative spirit continues to thrive, empowering members of all ages to shape a brighter tomorrow together.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Our Chamber Business After Hours brings together young adult members in the Great Bend community.

Brittney Dirks, consumer services representative, applies a temporary tattoo during the GC Wind Power Play.

Attendees at our Power Play with the Great Bend Bat Cats enjoyed hot dogs and hamburgers fresh off the grill.

Children of WEC employees line up to throw the first pitch at our Power Play in Great Bend on July 11.

Frisbees were given away at our WEC Power Plays on June 27 in Garden City and July 11 in Great Bend.



Check Out ChooseEV®

A FREE Digital Toolkit!

At Wheatland Electric we're proud to **DELIVER ENERGY FOR LIFE**. That means providing essential services that are safe, reliable and competitively priced to enhance the lives of our cooperative members.

As electric vehicles, or EVs, have become more and more popular, we're also **DRIVING ENERGY FOR LIFE** ... for your pocketbook and our planet!

Purchasing an EV is a little different than purchasing a gas-powered vehicle. It is important to understand key elements, such as vehicle range per charge and how tax credits work. Since 2022, we've partnered with ChooseEV to provide members like you with the digital tools necessary to make smart and informed decisions about EVs.

These tools are available on our website — www.weci.net/electric-vehicle — using your smartphone or any internet-connected device!

ChooseEV guides you through the following steps when you are considering a new EV for yourself, your family or your business:

- ▶ Find out if an EV is right for you.
- ▶ Choose an EV model.
- ▶ Find rebates, tax credits, incentives and discounts.
- ▶ Test drive and purchase your new EV.
- ▶ Install a Level 2 240V charging system.

Our digital tool kit will help you navigate each of these steps and boasts the latest and most up-to-date market information about EV models, tax incentives and charging systems that are available to consumers across the country right now.

As both the vehicle industry and consumer behaviors shift, we're ready for great things on the road ahead! The EV industry is gaining momentum as prices drop and driving ranges expand. As these trends continue, we'll be ready to help our cooperative members "fuel up" and steer forward as we **DRIVE ENERGY FOR LIFE!**

NEW EV TARIFF UNDER CONSIDERATION

Trustees consider tariff at Aug. 20 open meeting in Garden City

Trustees of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., will consider a new tariff, better known as an electric rate, for commercial electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.

The tariff is designed to cater to a growing demand for EV infrastructure across WEC's southwest and central Kansas service territory and offers options for both retail station service and direct sales to end-use customers at WEC's charging stations, located currently at office locations in Garden City, Great Bend and Harper.

For retail station service, proposed rates are structured as follows:

- ▶ **LEVEL 2 CHARGER:** \$43.40 service charge plus \$0.0566 per kilowatt-hour (kWh.)
 - ▶ \$10.43 Non-Coincidental Peak (NCP) kilowatt (kW) demand or part of.
- ▶ **LEVEL 3 CHARGER:** \$75.11 service charge plus \$0.0867 per kWh.
 - ▶ \$10.94 NCP kW demand or part of.

For direct sales by WEC to end-use customers using our charging equipment:

- ▶ **LEVEL 2 CHARGER:** \$0.1091 per kWh.
- ▶ **LEVEL 3 CHARGER:** \$0.1690 per kWh.

Members of the cooperative are encouraged to attend an open meeting scheduled **AUG. 20, 2024**, at the WEC office in Garden City (2005 W. Fulton St.) for input on the matter. See our Open Meeting Notice on Page 12A. As an experimental initiative, these proposed rates and services are subject to change.

According to proposed tariff rules, WEC reserves the right to adjust offerings and availability with a 60-day notice to existing customers. This flexibility ensures that WEC can adapt to meet evolving community needs and technological advancements in the EV sector.

For more information or questions, contact your local WEC office or drop us a line at memberservices@weci.net today.



6th Annual
CO-OPS CARE
Charity Golf Tournament
Hosted by



Save the date!
SEPT. 6, 2024

*Golf Club at Southwind
Garden City*

**8 A.M. REGISTRATION
9 A.M. SHOTGUN START**

**SCAN OUR QR CODE FOR
SPONSORSHIP & REGISTRATION INFO!**



WWW.WECI.NET/COOPS-CARE
QUESTIONS?
620-847-4563
ACONINE@WECI.NET



**ALL PROCEEDS POWER OUR
LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES!**

Member Satisfaction at Wheatland Electric Remains Among Highest in Nation

ACSI® score of '90' achieved

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) recently completed a member-wide customer satisfaction survey in which members scored WEC as one of the highest rated utilities in the nation.

Both paper and online survey responses were sent to the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®), a company that measures customer satisfaction across multiple industries throughout the entire United States.

For 2024, **WEC RECEIVED AN ACSI SCORE OF 90 OUT OF A MAXIMUM SCORE OF 100**, the second highest score the cooperative has received to date. This places WEC in the top five scores of electric co-ops surveyed this year, according to Touchstone Energy, a network of nearly 900 electric cooperatives nationwide.

"Receiving an ACSI in the 90s for the second consecutive year is truly exciting for us," said Bruce W. Mueller, CEO/general manager. "For several years, we've dedicated ourselves to enhancing member satisfaction through multiple programs and services including our capital credits program, new events for young adult members and families, backing community projects through our Sharing Success Fund, and supporting local food banks

"We're here for our members, and their positive feedback is energizing!"

BRUCE W. MUELLER, CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

through Cram the Van each fall. We're here for our members, and their positive feedback is energizing!"

Members at WEC's 2024 annual meeting, held on April 24, 2024, across eight meeting locations in southwest and central Kansas, were asked to complete the survey, with the option of remaining anonymous prior to submission. Nearly 230 written responses were collected and submitted to ACSI, as well as just over 150 additional online responses through our website.

WEC's score is higher than all 2024 investor-owned utility scores and municipal utility scores. It places WEC 16 points higher than the average investor-owned utility score of 74, as well as 15 points higher than the municipal utilities score of 75, per the industry ratings in the 2024 ACSI Utility Sector Report. It is also 12 points higher than the cooperative industry average of 78. For more information, please visit www.theacsi.org.

Thanks to your feedback, we've achieved a member satisfaction score of **90 out of 100** from the American Customer Satisfaction Index®!

Thank you for your part in helping us achieve one of the highest scores in the nation!




Utility Type	Score
Wheatland Electric	90
Municipal Utilities	75
Investor-Owned Utilities	74

Empowering the Next Generation

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our community support initiatives. Through our Sharing Success Fund, we actively back local projects that enhance the quality of life across our service territory. Moreover, our annual Cram the Van campaign supports local food banks, reflecting our cooperative's deep-rooted commitment to the **SEVENTH COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE: CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY.**

I am pleased to share that our efforts have yielded significant results. This year, for the second consecutive year, WEC achieved a score of 90 or higher, placing us in one of the top five scores in the nation. This achievement underscores our dedication to delivering exceptional service and exceeding member expectations. (Read more on Page 12F.)

Looking ahead, WEC remains steadfast in our commitment to

“By continuously adapting to the evolving needs of our members, particularly young adults, we aim to not only meet but exceed their expectations.”

innovation, sustainability and member engagement. By continuously adapting to the evolving needs of our members, particularly young adults, we aim to not only meet but exceed expectations. Together, we are shaping a brighter, more sustainable future for our cooperative and the communities we proudly serve.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.

CEO/GENERAL MANAGER REELECTED TO NCSC SEAT

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. **GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO BRUCE W. MUELLER** has been reelected to the board of directors with the National Cooperative Services Corporation (NCSC), which provides specialized financial services to electric cooperatives across the nation.



Bruce W. Mueller

Mueller, who first joined WEC in his current role in 2012, will remain on the 10-member national board. He was first elected to the NCSC board in 2021 by cooperative leaders from across the country. Mueller will continue to represent NCSC District 4, an expansive region encompassing the states of Kansas, Nebraska, Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming during his three-year term.

The WEC CEO was one of five reelected directors to the NCSC board, in addition to three newcomers, during the 43rd annual membership meeting of NCSC, held June 17 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

NCSC has helped cooperatives, including WEC, expand their services to meet community needs and save more than a billion dollars in financing costs through tax-advantaged financings.

The organization's board of directors provides the knowledge, leadership and commitment necessary to establish effective policies and goals and sets the organization's corporate policies, identify strategic initiatives, and approve financing services. For more information about NCSC, visit www.ncsc.coop.

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Always stop for school buses loading or unloading children. Watch out for school crossing guards and obey their signals. Remember to slow down when approaching a school zone. Young children can be impulsive and less able to accurately judge vehicle speeds and distances. Older children may be distracted by phones or social media. Have a safe school year!

LABOR Day Office Closing

In observance of Labor Day, our office will be closed on **MONDAY, SEPT. 2.**



POWER the PANTRY 50K in 2024

Fall is just around the corner, which means it's almost time to Cram the Van.

In 2023, members helped us **POWER THE PANTRY** and raised a record-shattering \$90,785 in monetary and canned donations for a dozen local food banks during our 10th season of Cram the Van.

This year, we're again **COMMITTING \$50,000** to our local food banks to kick-off our annual campaign and working to **DOUBLE OUR DOLLARS** through multiple initiatives: our annual charity golf tournament, our Great Bend Schools Competition, online fundraising for our food banks, and help from members like you!

We started Cram the Van in 2014, when our cooperative — employees, volunteers and co-op members alike — pitched in to cram our **BIG RED VAN** with food donations for the communities we serve. Over 10 seasons, we've collected a staggering **159 TONS (OR 317,693 POUNDS) OF FOOD** donations! In reality, we've played only a minor role in facilitating the response from our cooperative members, who want to help their neighbors in need.

CRAM THE VAN remains an essential part of our commitment to **CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY**, our Seventh Cooperative Principle. As our campaign

and community support have grown bigger and better each year, our goal continues to be to maximize the fiscal impact we make through the funds we donate to our food drive.

While we no longer travel in our big, red van and host in-person events across our southwest and central Kansas service territory. The funds donated to double our \$50,000 commitment will directly impact the 12 food banks serving our southwest and central Kansas service territory.

We can't do it without our members — our local food banks rely on **YOUR SUPPORT** to feed our communities, too.

Visit our website or scan the code at right to make a donation to your local food bank — you could WIN and do some good at the same time! Every dollar you donate goes directly to food banks and helps us **POWER THE PANTRY** in 2024!

Together, WE can make a difference!



**DONATE
NOW
AND YOU COULD
WIN!**

Scan here
to learn
more!

