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WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# NEWS

## WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**Josh Young**

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Trustee

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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

### Wheatland Gives Back \$1.25 Million to Members

#### CAPITAL CREDITS RETURN

As the year comes to a close, Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) is excited to announce the board of trustees voted to retire a total of **\$1.25 MILLION IN CAPITAL CREDITS**. These funds represent margins allocated **FROM THE YEARS 1990, 1991 AND 2023**. Eligible members will receive checks by mail, with a minimum payout of \$25. It is important to note that this distribution does not impact our 2024 margins, as the credits being returned were allocated in previous years, allowing us to continue operating with financial responsibility and stability.

Of this year's \$1.25 million payout, \$250,000 comes from Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, our wholesale power supplier. WEC is a distribution cooperative and a member of Sunflower, a generation and transmission cooperative.

#### POWER THE PANTRY

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thanks for the generosity our members have shown recently. Our Power

the Pantry campaign has been a tremendous success! Thanks to your contributions, by Thanksgiving we delivered donations to a dozen food banks across our service territory, providing critical support to those in need. Stay tuned as we are excited to share the final donation totals in January's issue of *Kansas Country Living*.



Bruce W. Mueller

#### HAPPY HOLIDAYS

As we wrap up this year, I would like to wish each of you a warm and joyful holiday season. You will see a special Merry Christmas and Happy New Year greeting from our dedicated employees and board of trustees. Our offices will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1.

Thank you for your continued trust and support in WEC, and may you and your family have a merry Christmas and happy new year!

**UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.**

### OPEN MEETING NOTICE

#### TO DISCUSS RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM RIDER

The Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees will meet on **DEC. 17, 2024, AT 1 P.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 community solar rates available to residential members participating in WEC's community solar program. The portion of the meeting where rates are discussed and voted on is open to all members. 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).

# Happy Holidays

From our Wheatland Electric Cooperative family to yours, we hope you have a blessed and delightful holiday season.





**All WEC offices will be closed for the holidays  
on Dec. 24, Dec. 25, and Jan. 1.**



**District 5** — *Garden City*



**District 6** — *Great Bend*



**District 7** — *Harper*



**Water Division** — *Garden City*



**Executive Team**



**Board of Trustees**



# POWER *the* PANTRY

*in 2024*



**TOP:** Samantha Garcia, member services and key accounts manager (far left) exchanges a meal for a donation to the local food bank at Landmark National Bank on Oct. 18.

**BOTTOM:** Tashauna Graves (right), assistant bank manager at Landmark National Bank, presents Dean Lang, Great Bend, with a Chiefs swag bag for his food bank donation. All donors at the bank were entered to win.

**RIGHT:** Caitlin Moser, member services coordinator (far right) and Samantha Garcia, member services and key accounts manager, serve meals to members outside Landmark National Bank.



At the start of this year's **CRAM THE VAN** campaign we set our sights high. WEC not only committed **\$50,000** to a dozen local food banks that power the communities we serve, but also worked to **DOUBLE THE IMPACT!**

How? Through our annual Co-ops Care Charity Golf Tournament, contributions from community partners and local businesses like Tyson Fresh Meats, an online fundraising campaign, a friendly school competition in Great Bend sponsored by Gifting Forward, and individual donations from members like you from across our entire service territory!



To **POWER THE PANTRY** in 2024, our goal was to raise \$100,000 for our food banks, and we've worked hard over the last few months through these efforts to reach that summit — all for the betterment of the communities we serve.

Our annual charity golf tournament on Sept. 16 raised \$20,000 in net proceeds and our online and in-office donation collections garnered more than \$6,500 from individual donors across southwest and central Kansas. In exchange for every \$20 donation we received for our food banks, we entered these individual donors into a drawing to win four Chiefs vs. Broncos tickets for a Nov. 10 game at Arrowhead Stadium. Our lucky winner was **KATHY JONAS** from Hoisington who made a donation to the Community Food Bank of Barton County — congrats Kathy!

As of this magazine's press time in mid-November, our WEC staff was busy counting both the cash and can donations from this year's Great Bend School Competition. For the second year in a row, our focus has been to collect monetary donations to better serve the pantries, which act as a safety net in our local communities. Each food bank will receive their share of this year's campaign dollars ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday, and we're excited to share with you our donation totals and deliveries (and outcome of our goal!) in January's issue of *Kansas Country Living*.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us **POWER THE PANTRY** in 2024! And don't forget — you can follow us on social media or visit our website for more timely updates!



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# WEC Hosts Member Engagement Event in Scott City

Wheatland Electric hosted a member engagement meeting with cooperative members, community leaders, and other local stakeholders to share news and updates at the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center in Scott City.

Members of WEC's executive staff covered a few topics at the Nov. 4 meeting, including efforts to protect members' personal data and Community Solar, a cooperative program available to residential co-op members since the start of this year.

Bruce W. Mueller, CEO/general manager, expressed gratitude to the small but intimate crowd of about 40 for their active participation.

"Your involvement strengthens our cooperative and ensures that we continue to meet your needs," he said, emphasizing the importance of ongoing member engagement.

Jevin Kasselmann, director information technology, shared insights with audience members into WEC's robust cybersecurity efforts. Sharing real-world case studies from electric



Lynn Freese (right), WEC District 1 trustee, and his wife, Lori, enjoy a charcuterie table at the member engagement meeting on Nov. 4.

cooperatives nationwide, Kasselmann underscored WEC's commitment to member data protection, reassuring members in attendance that their privacy and security remain a top priority.

During the meeting, WEC trustees in attendance also visited with guests to ask questions and receive feedback on ongoing WEC projects and services.

Member engagement meetings are held annually on an invitation-only basis. These interactions allow members to voice their thoughts and concerns directly with cooperative staff and trustees, strengthening our connections with the communities we serve. Meeting locations rotate from our west to our east districts. For more information or questions, contact [memberservices@weci.net](mailto:memberservices@weci.net).



About 40 members attended the member engagement meeting in Scott City, held at the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center.

## SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, during the holiday season, there is an average of around 160 decorating related injuries — **DAILY!** Half of those injuries are associated with falls. Follow the 1-to-4 rule for extension ladders — for every four feet the ladder rises, move the base out one foot from the structure. Three points of contact is a must. Never use the closest piece of furniture as an elevation tool because stability will become a problem.





WE'RE RETIRING  
**\$1.25 million**  
IN CAPITAL CREDITS IN 2024!

**YOUR HOLIDAYS JUST GOT BRIGHTER!**

*Because your electric cooperative operates at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated to co-op members like you in the form of capital credits. When economically feasible, trustees determine how and when to retire (pay out) capital credits.*

*This December, eligible co-op members from 1990, 1991 and 2023 will receive their retirement in the form of a check by mail for amounts totaling \$25 or more.*

**QUESTIONS?**

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICE TODAY.



— YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR —

# Holiday Open House

*Stop by to enjoy a slice of pie and enter to win a festive Christmas-themed giveaway at every office location. We can't wait to share some holiday cheer with you!*

**Tuesday, Dec. 3 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m. local time**

Scott City Warehouse Meeting Room-101 S. Main St  
Leoti-101 W. F St.  
Tribune-310 Broadway  
Syracuse-206 N. Main



Garden City-2005 W. Fulton  
Great Bend-200 10th St.  
Harper-906 Central








# O Christmas Tree CONTEST

Celebrate the holiday season by entering our **O Christmas Tree** contest! Share your festive Christmas tree and compete for a chance to win in one of three categories!

## 🌲 Contest Categories

1. **Most Creative Tree:** Show us your unique and unconventional approach to decorating!
2. **Best Traditional Tree:** Share a tree that embodies the classic Christmas spirit.
3. **Kid's Choice:** A category that celebrates creativity through the eyes of our youngest members.

## 🌲 Eligibility and Guidelines

1. Open to all ages.
2. **Multiple entries are allowed**, so feel free to showcase different designs or themes. You may submit your entries as photos or videos.
3. Entries must be submitted by email to [contests@weci.net](mailto:contests@weci.net) or via Facebook Messenger to our official Facebook account. 

## 🌲 Deadline

All entries must be received by **Sunday, Dec 15.**

For complete contest rules visit [www.weci.net/enter-our-o-christmas-tree-contest](http://www.weci.net/enter-our-o-christmas-tree-contest) or scan the qr code!

