



An Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

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WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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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

Celebrating Democratic Member Control

At Wheatland Electric Cooperative Inc. (WEC), we take pride in embodying the second cooperative principle: Democratic Member Control. This principle reflects the essence of what it means to be a cooperative, empowering our members to actively participate in setting policies and making decisions that shape our future.

Last year, we made history as WEC members overwhelmingly embraced a groundbreaking change: voting for trustee representation through mail-in ballots. This initiative sparked unprecedented engagement; WEC saw a 193% increase in voter engagement (from the year prior) moving to mail-in voting. A record turnout that showcased our members' dedication to shaping the future of their cooperative. This remarkable milestone underscores the strong connection between our members and the democratic principles at the heart of WEC.

At WEC, trustees are elected directly from among the membership, ensuring our leadership remains rooted in and accountable to the communities we serve.

Looking ahead, we invite you to stay

informed and engaged.

Our 2025 annual meeting will be **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025, AT THE SCOTT COMMUNITY BUILDING IN SCOTT CITY, KANSAS**. This event will be an opportunity to gather, reflect on our accomplishments, and look forward to the year ahead.



Bruce W. Mueller

Additionally, I encourage you to learn more about our trustee elections and the mail-in ballot process, detailed on Page 12B of this publication. By participating in these initiatives, you help strengthen the foundation of our cooperative and ensure that we continue to serve the needs of our members effectively.

Thank you for your active involvement and commitment to WEC. Together, we exemplify the power of cooperative principles in action. Guided by our mission of **DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE**, we remain steadfast in our dedication to serving you, our members, and the communities we serve.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.

OPEN MEETING NOTICE

TO DISCUSS PROPERTY TAX ADJUSTMENT TARIFF SCHEDULE 24-PTA

The Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees will meet on **FEB. 25, 2025, AT 9 A.M. CST** at the Wheatland Electric office, 200 10th St., Great Bend, Kansas. During the meeting, the WEC Board of Trustees and management will discuss and vote on a proposed rate change in its Property Tax Adjustment tariff Schedule 24-PTA. The change would be to align the rate retail members pay with the rates, per kWh usage, paid by wholesale customers utilizing Wheatland's sub-transmission facilities. This change is intended to ensure fairness and equity for all customers and members of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. 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).

Trustee Elections Will Be Held by Mail This March

Three board seats open for election

Members of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., will receive trustee election ballots by mail in late March.

Ballots will be mailed March 24, 2025, and must be returned by April 18, 2025, which is at least five days prior to this year's annual meeting, according to WEC's bylaws. WEC's 2025 annual meeting will be held on April 23, 2025, in Scott City, Kansas.

The primary meeting in Scott City will be livestreamed to seven additional remote meeting locations: Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Great Bend, Harper and Caldwell.

Members across our service territory are encouraged to attend any of these meeting locations to hear cooperative news and updates, enjoy a meal, ask questions, enter for door prizes, and more. For more information on this year's annual meeting, see Page 12C.

For the second year in a row, WEC's

mail-in voting will be conducted and managed by Survey and Ballot Systems, a national data solutions company based in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, as a trusted third-party provider. Trustees selected the reputable firm to ensure a transparent, effective and fair election process.

Members with questions about our mail-in voting process are encouraged to call their local WEC office or email us at memberservices@weci.net. WEC is governed by a 10-member board of trustees elected by the cooperative's membership.

One board seat in each of the following districts is up for election this year:

- ▶ **DISTRICT 5** (Finney, eastern half of Kearny, and Gray counties in Kansas)
- ▶ **DISTRICT 6** (Great Bend, Kansas)
- ▶ **DISTRICT 7** (Harper, Kingman, Sumner and Sedgwick counties in Kansas)

WEC'S BYLAWS ALLOW FOR TWO METHODS FOR TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS

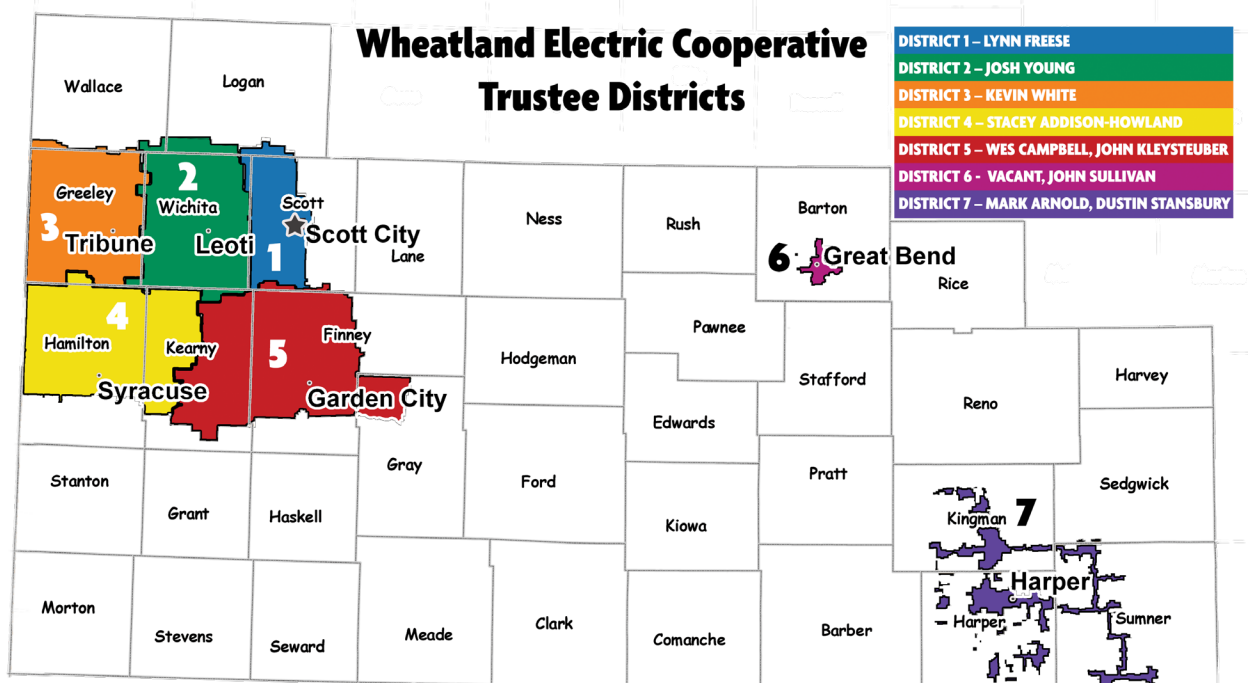
NOMINATION BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The board of trustees appoints a nominating committee made up of one member from each of our seven districts. Members should contact WEC to get the contact information for their fellow member who represents their district on the nominating committee or contact Jim McVay, WEC's general counsel, at 620-793-4223 or jmccvay@weci.net,

BY FEB. 14 if they are interested in being nominated.

NOMINATION BY A PETITION OF MEMBER

Twenty-five or more members of WEC can nominate any member as a trustee candidate. Nominations by petition must be sent to WEC **BY MARCH 10**. Members interested in running should contact Jim McVay, WEC's general counsel, at 620-793-4223 or jmccvay@weci.net, **BY FEB. 14**.



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 AM CT**

**Luncheon
11:30 AM 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

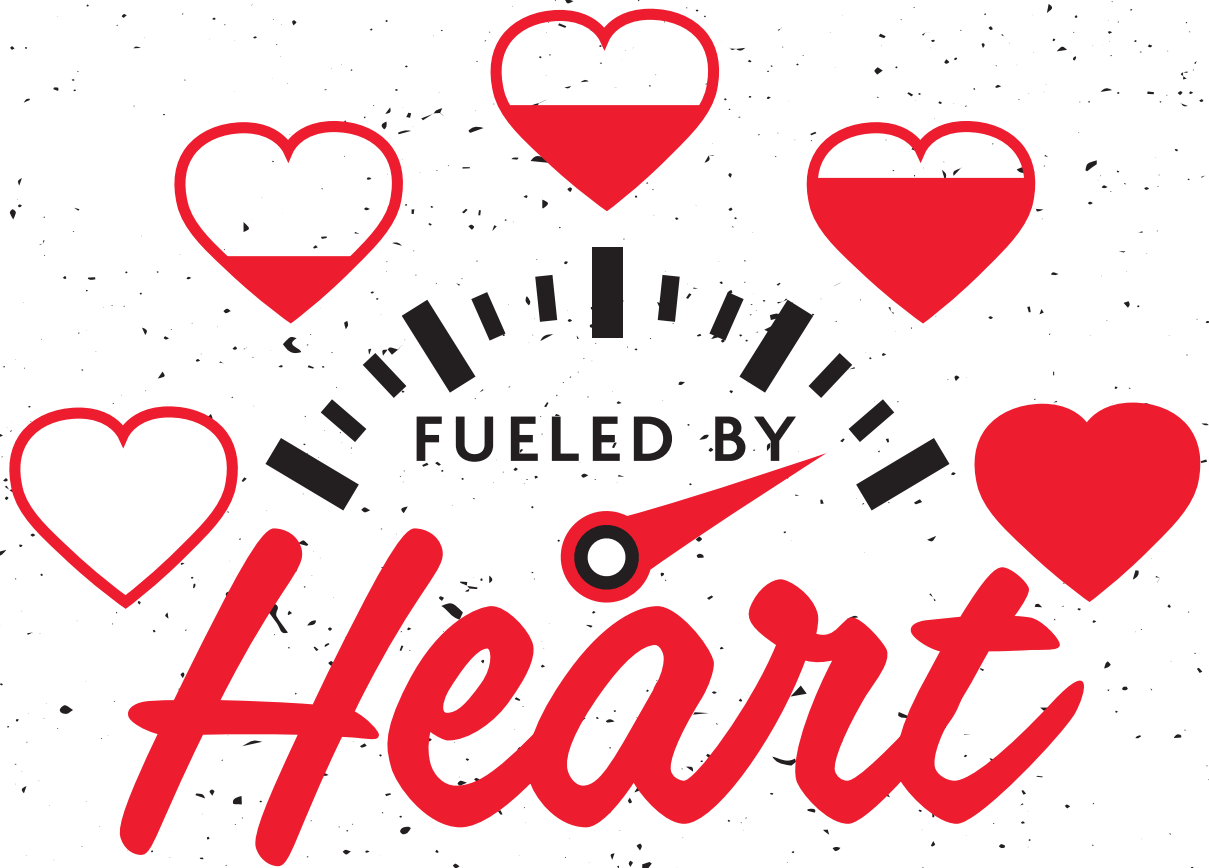
Caldwell
Caldwell
Community Building
119 E. First St.

DISTRICT 5

Garden City
Wheatland Electric Office
2005 W. Fulton

DISTRICT 7

Harper
Westview Lodge &
Apartments
1300 N. Westview



FUELED BY

Heart

Every day, Wheatland Electric Cooperative's lineworkers bring more than just expertise to their jobs — they bring heart.

These dedicated individuals don't just power our homes and businesses; they fuel the very spirit of our community with their relentless commitment and resilience.

Come rain, wind, hail, snow or scorching sun, our lineworkers rise to the challenge, ensuring safe, reliable and cost-effective energy reaches our members. Their jobs are physically demanding and often performed in harsh conditions, but their drive goes beyond duty — it's fueled by heart.

To our lineworkers: Thank you for being the heart of our cooperative — your work inspires us all!



JAVIER MARQUEZ
Journeyman Lineman, Garden City



RANDY COLEMAN
District Manager, Syracuse



CLAY SHELTON
Line Foreman, Harper



TANNER CRIST
Journeyman Lineman, Garden City



TYLER GEHRING
Serviceman, Harper



MARCUS GOEBEL
Substation Maintenance Foreman, Harper



KONNER HABIGER
Lineman Apprentice, Great Bend



BRETT MARTIN
Journeyman Lineman, Harper



TODD NEMECHEK
Line Foreman, Tribune



DILLON WILLIAMS
Lineman Apprentice, Garden City



RANDY ROGERS
Line Foreman, Scott City



HONORING COURAGE & COMMUNITY: **Parker, Shelton, West**

WHEATLAND WARRIOR

At Wheatland Electric, ensuring a positive safety culture is at the core of

everything we do. We foster this culture through rigorous training, open communication, and a shared commitment to protecting the well-being of our employees, our cooperative members, and our communities. By prioritizing safety in every decision, we aim to create an environment where everyone feels empowered to look out for one another and act with courage when it matters most.

At our annual Safety Summit held in Great Bend this past December, WEC leadership proudly introduced a new accolade — the **WHEATLAND WARRIOR AWARD** — to honor the selfless actions and unwavering courage of individuals who exemplify our guiding principle of Concern for Community and reinforce our positive safety culture. This award has been established to

recognize employees who go above and beyond, embodying courage, compassion and selflessness in moments of crisis or need.

Whether responding to emergencies on the job or in their personal lives, these individuals exemplify what it means to care for others and to live out the cooperative spirit. The term “warrior” reflects the bravery and determination required to step up and make a difference, often inspiring others to do the same.

A LIFE SAVED THROUGH SWIFT ACTION

On what began as an ordinary day at WEC’s Garden City office on June 4, 2024, **LUKE WEST’S** quick thinking and leadership turned a potential tragedy into a story of hope.

At approximately 10:15 a.m., a distress call alerted employees to an individual pinned under a vehicle in the parking lot. Without hesitation, West, director of corporate services and water, retrieved critical safety equipment, including an automated external defibrillator (AED) and a bloodborne pathogen kit, before rushing to the scene outside.

Working alongside other employees, West helped secure a jack to lift the vehicle and free the unresponsive individual. Understanding the urgency of the matter, he began administering CPR, providing lifesaving compressions and breaths while applying AED pads. As emergency personnel arrived on the scene, the individual began breathing again, thanks to the decisive actions of West, and other WEC employees who responded to the incident.

WEC employees from seven Kansas districts gathered in Great Bend for the annual Safety Summit on Dec. 18, 2024.



THE WHEATLAND WARRIOR AWARD

Honored at Annual WEC Safety Summit

Following the incident, local emergency responders commended WEC employees for their effective response, noting how rare it is to see bystanders act with such precision during high-stress situations. We believe West's bravery and leadership in this life-threatening emergency embody the very essence of a Wheatland Warrior.

HEROES ON THE BACKROADS

In June 2024, **CLAY SHELTON**, line foreman, and **ADAM PARKER**, journeyman lineman, who both serve as local volunteer firefighters, faced an unimaginable tragedy on the dirt roads of Harper County. A 23-year-old driver lost control of her vehicle, which rolled several times before ejecting her into a nearby field. As they approached the scene, Shelton and Parker immediately stopped to help.

Amid the wreckage, they discovered an even more urgent situation: a one-month-old infant trapped upside down inside the crushed vehicle. Crawling through the back window, Clay freed the infant and ensured the child's safety. The two men then turned their attention to the driver, providing assistance until emergency personnel arrived.

Though the day ended in heartbreak with the young mother's passing, we believe the actions of Shelton and Parker

exemplify the courage and compassion of Wheatland Warriors. Their decisive response and willingness to step up in the face of adversity underscore their deep commitment to their community and their cooperative.

A LEGACY OF CARE AND COURAGE

The inaugural presentation of the Wheatland Warrior award serves as a powerful reminder of the extraordinary acts of service and bravery that have taken place within our cooperative family. We believe Parker, Shelton and West have set an inspiring standard, demonstrating that our commitment to community extends far beyond the electricity we provide.

"These stories remind us of what it truly means to be a part of Wheatland Electric," said Bruce W. Mueller, CEO/general manager. "It's about looking out for one another, stepping up when it matters most, and embodying the values that make us more than just a workplace. We are a community."

As we continue to prioritize safety and service, the Wheatland Warrior award will remain a beacon of recognition for those who embody the cooperative spirit. We hope these stories inspire all of us to be warriors for safety, service and one another.



Clay Shelton (left), line foreman, and Adam Parker, journeyman lineman, accept the Wheatland Warrior award at WEC's annual Safety Summit.



Quinten Wheeler (left), director of safety and compliance, presents the Wheatland Warrior award to Luke West, director of corporate services and water, during WEC's annual Safety Summit.

TOP 10 REASONS TO SIGN UP FOR SOLAR

NO NEED FOR SOLAR PANELS. Community Solar allows you to access solar energy without the expense and maintenance associated with installing and managing your own solar panels!

FLEXIBLE PARTICIPATION. WEC offers flexibility when participating in community solar! You can participate up to 100% of your eligible shares and you can increase or decrease your number of shares once a year.

HARNESS THE POWER OF THE SUN. In return, your energy credits will reflect the performance of your subscribed number of shares, based on the amount of power generated by Johnson Corner and the market revenue from the power sold into the energy market.

IT'S EASY. There is no change to your electric service, and you'll use electricity just as you do now! The only difference is that the energy generated on your behalf at Johnson Corner will be 100% renewable energy!

NO UPFRONT COSTS OR MAINTENANCE FEES associated with participation.

ECONOMIES OF SCALE. Johnson Corner is a 20-megawatt facility and about 2,000 times larger than a typical residential rooftop solar installation. The utility-scale size of Johnson Corner provides a significantly lower price for solar energy compared to solar energy from rooftop installations because systems like ours have the advantage of economies of scale, meaning that costs decrease as the size of the system increases.

MAXIMIZE SUN EXPOSURE. The Johnson Corner solar project also has tracking motors that adjust the angle of the solar panels throughout the day to maintain maximum exposure to the sun. This provides maximum utilization of solar irradiance with no impact due to shading from trees or adjacent buildings.

TRANSFER SERVICE. If a subscriber moves to a new house within our service territory, their subscription may transfer to their new service. The subscription may need to be adjusted based upon the past year's electricity usage of their new home.

MINIMAL RISK. If the program does not provide the benefits desired by the member, they may leave the program at any time.

100% RENEWABLE. Solar power is a clean energy solution, promoting the health of the planet.

COMMUNITY SOLAR

A PROGRAM BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Wheatland Electric members can subscribe on a first-come, first-served basis to community solar! Subscription sign-ups will always see a two-month bill delay due to processing times.

Contact your local WEC office to calculate your allowed number of solar shares based on your 12-month average electric consumption.

Members interested in participating, can sign up by completing the Wheatland Community Solar Share Agreement. Shares are limited, so we encourage you to act soon! Learn more at www.weci.net/community-solar or scan our QR code now!

LEARN MORE AT WWW.WECI.NET/COMMUNITY-SOLAR



*AT THE DECEMBER OPEN MEETING, THE WHEATLAND BOARD OF TRUSTEES VOTED TO LOWER THE COMMUNITY SOLAR RATE FOR RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN WEC'S COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM.