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WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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FROM THE MANAGER

Putting Members First



Bruce W. Mueller

At Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) we talk a lot about Concern for Community — it's the **SEVENTH COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE** and

one we take to heart every single day. For years, we've worked hard to power your homes and businesses and truly be part of the communities we serve.

From returning **CAPITAL CREDITS** to our members, to launching fun, family-friendly events and backing community projects through our **SHARING SUCCESS FUND**, everything we do is about giving back and staying connected. Each fall, our **POWER THE PANTRY** campaign helps stock the shelves at local food banks, thanks to your generosity and support. It's not just about electricity — it's about making life better together.

These initiatives shape our identity as your local electric cooperative and show how the Seventh Cooperative Principle drives our mission of **DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE**. When we put people first, we're building something bigger than power lines —

we're building trust, connection and a stronger future for all.

And your feedback tells us we're on the right track. We're proud to share that we just received our highest **AMERICAN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION INDEX (ACSI)** score to date — 92! That number reflects how you feel about the service we provide, and we couldn't be more grateful. When you know we're here, listening and responding, that builds trust — and that's something we never take for granted. (Want to dig deeper into the results? Read more about our ACSI score on Page 12F.)

We continue to place a strong emphasis on engaging with our younger members through our **YOUNG ADULT MEMBER ENGAGEMENT** initiatives. This year, we're thrilled to host events like Chamber After Hours and community baseball games with the Garden City Wind and Great Bend Bat Cats. These gatherings give us the chance to connect with the next generation of cooperative members, share the cooperative story, and highlight all the benefits that come with being part of WEC.

We're proud to be part of your community, and we're always looking for ways to serve you better.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.

Empowering MEMBERS, Energizing COMMUNITIES

At Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., the work we do to support and uplift our members is driven by principle — specifically, the **SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES.**

Of these seven, the last, but not least, is **CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY,**

which calls us to “work for the sustainable development of our communities through policies supported by our membership.”

It not only shapes our identity; it drives our mission: **DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE.**

At WEC, we serve our communities by providing essential services, funding local causes, investing in our youth, promoting education and workforce training, supporting economic development and growth, and carrying out community service projects that help our neighbors in need.

Why? Because we call this place home, too. Our employees live, work, and raise their families alongside members like you, and trustees (elected by members like you) are our neighbors who care deeply about the future we all share together. This personal connection drives us to do more than deliver energy — it drives us to **EMPOWER** each other and **ENERGIZE** the places we call home!

POWERING THE PANTRY

In recent years, we transformed our long-standing food drive, Cram the Van, into **POWER THE PANTRY.**

Each year, this cooperative-wide service project ensures shelves are stocked before the holiday season across a dozen local food banks in our southwest and central Kansas service territory.

By revitalizing our fundraising efforts online, through local, friendly school competitions, and via our annual charity golf tournament, we’ve

Line crew members in Harper install a solar light for Project RA22’s Resilient Warrior on July 2, 2024.



expanded our impact and helped more families through tough times.

To kick off our campaign last fall, we committed \$50,000 to local food banks and then set our sights on **DOUBLING OUR IMPACT** to reach \$100,000.

Thanks to the generosity of our membership, we achieved that goal. We raised **\$110,287** (\$1 = 1 pound of food) with 76% of our donation reflecting cash donations!

The greatest reward was seeing the **COMPASSION AND GENEROSITY** of our cooperative family, supporting fellow members in need with hope and stability.

SHARING OUR SUCCESS

Our **SHARING SUCCESS FUND** is another way we're deeply connected to the communities we serve.

Made possible through contributions from WEC and CoBank, one of our cooperative lending partners, this program provides \$1,000 grants to up to 20 nonprofits and community-based projects annually.

With CoBank's \$10,000 matching contributions in years past, we've been able to make **\$195,000** available since 2012. These funds support local fire departments, senior centers, public and private schools, healthcare facilities and hospitals, youth programs, libraries and other local projects.

With CoBank's \$15,000 matching contribution this year, we're scheduled to distribute **\$30,000** in 2025!

Through Sharing Success, we **COLLABORATE** with local organizations, demonstrating compassion and embodying our seventh and most important cooperative principle.

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

Understanding Kansas' unpredictable weather, WEC launched an automatic standby **GENERATOR PROGRAM** in partnership with Generac®, designed specifically with our members in mind.

With affordable financing and installation by trusted local electricians, this program delivers reliable, accessible backup power with the personalized service our cooperative is known for.

In addition, as **ELECTRIC VEHICLE** adoption grows, WEC is empowering members with convenient, cost-effective charging

Continued on page 12D ►

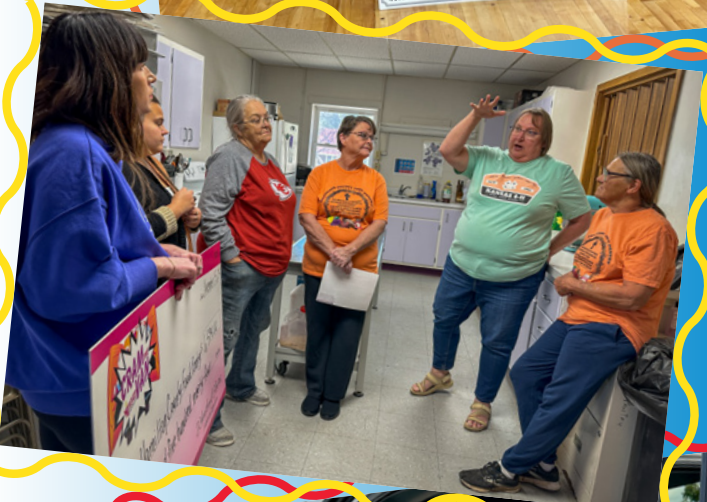
FROM TOP:

Thanks to Tyson Fresh Meats, WEC delivered \$17,500 worth of honey ham deli meat to area food banks during our 2024 Power the Pantry campaign.

Jefferson Elementary School PTO and students receive a \$1,000 WEC Sharing Success grant on Feb. 26 to help purchase new equipment for the school's aging playground.

Staff and volunteers at the Hamilton County Food Pantry discuss challenges to fulfill local hunger needs with Alli Conine (left), WEC director of member services and corporate communications.

Students from Little Panthers Preschool in Great Bend checked out the all-electric Ford F-150 Lightning during a touch-a-truck event on May 5.



Empowering MEMBERS, Energizing COMMUNITIES

Continued from page 12C ►

solutions. Financing options for Level 2 home chargers make EV ownership easier, while public ChargePoint® stations that we installed in Garden City, Great Bend and Harper strengthen our region's EV infrastructure.

Lastly, through the addition of two all-electric fleet vehicles and hands-on local **RIDE+DRIVE** events, we prioritize education and help members confidently embrace new technology.

Beyond supplying power, WEC partners with local electricians to offer trusted energy advice and quality **ELECTRICIAN SERVICES** tailored to members' needs. This member-driven approach reinforces our **COMMITMENT** to community investment.

By blending innovation with cooperative values, we're dedicated to engaging and empowering members today, while preparing to meet your future energy needs!

EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH

At WEC, we're deeply committed to investing in the next generation of leaders. Each summer, we fund all-expenses-paid leadership experiences for high school juniors through the **ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR** to Washington, D.C., and the **COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP** near Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

These unique opportunities educate students about the cooperative difference and inspire them to actively contribute to their communities while building lasting friendships with peers from across the country.

Beyond leadership development, we also support higher education

By empowering our members and energizing our communities we are continuing to fulfill our mission of Delivering Energy for Life!

by awarding at least 14 \$1,000 academic scholarships every spring to graduating seniors.

By investing in higher education, we're here to help open doors to new opportunities, encourage achievement, and help strengthen the future of our youth, their families and the communities we proudly serve.

POWERING YOUR LIFE

When power goes out, our lineworkers are there, working around the clock to restore service safely and quickly. But at WEC, our commitment extends far beyond your electric meter.

That's because we empower our members every day through the programs and initiatives we've already mentioned and by supporting local youth sports teams, providing bottled water at community events, assisting stranded motorists, and so much more. These actions reflect our dedication to energizing the communities we call home.

Our vision is clear: to improve the quality of life for our members. Together, we're building stronger connections, fostering trust, and lighting the way toward a more vibrant future for all.

By empowering our members and energizing our communities, we are continuing to fulfill our mission of Delivering Energy for Life!

FROM TOP:

Sophia Wedel (right), a junior from Wichita County High School, poses with her counselor, Sara Brown, after learning she will represent WEC at this year's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

WEC consumer services representatives Crystal Lampe (left) and Karly Keller hand out Halloween candy to trick-or-treaters in Syracuse on Oct. 31, 2024.

Jason Crockett, staking technician, and Parker Fleming, journeyman lineman, engage with second graders during Big Truck Day on May 2 in Holcomb.

Dakota Zecha, journeyman lineman, assists a young girl with linemen protective sleeves during a touch-a-truck event on May 5 in Great Bend.



Powering Relationships

ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

As member expectations rapidly evolve, Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) is committed to adapting our services, culture, and outreach to meet changing needs — especially those of younger members!

Community engagement is one of our top priorities, and we actively seek innovative ways to connect with members across the communities we serve.

That's why we host an annual **CHAMBER AFTER HOURS** event, providing a relaxed setting for members, especially young adults, to network, share ideas, and build relationships. Collaborations with our local chambers strengthen our community ties and promote leadership development and community buy in from some of our younger adult members.

Additionally, we partner with local baseball teams like the **GREAT BEND BAT CATS** and **GARDEN CITY WIND** each summer to engage members in enjoyable, family-friendly environments. These events foster casual conversations, help address any member concerns and build a strong sense of both cooperative and community belonging.

Leveraging social media and community events, we're working to ensure our messages resonate with younger demographics and effectively communicate the value of cooperative membership and involvement.

That's part of the reason we believe we've received such positive feedback from our members in recent years, including **AMERICAN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION INDEX®** scores of 90 or above for the past three years!

We recognize that engaging our young adult members and families is essential for our shared future. These members represent the next generation of leadership and help ensure cooperative principles endure.

WEC goes beyond providing energy — we act as a catalyst for community connection and progress. By meeting members where they are and embracing modern communication, we're here to foster meaningful relationships that empower all members to shape a brighter future together — for all of us!



Members Score Wheatland '92' out of 100 with Nationally Recognized ACSI®

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 the third consecutive year, WEC has achieved an ACSI® score of 90 or higher, marking another milestone with a score of 92 for 2025, matching our highest score to date. This places WEC in the top 5% of electric co-ops surveyed this year, according to Touchstone Energy, a network of nearly 900 electric cooperatives nationwide.

"Achieving an ACSI® score of 92 for the second time is a remarkable milestone," said Bruce W. Mueller, CEO/general manager. "For years, we've committed ourselves to boosting member satisfaction through a variety of programs — like our capital credits program, new events tailored

for young adults and families, backing community projects with our Sharing Success Fund, and supporting local food banks every fall through Power the Pantry. Our members' positive feedback truly energizes us and reinforces why we're here — to serve and empower our cooperative community."

Members at WEC's 2025 Annual Meeting, held on April 23, 2025, across eight meeting locations in southwest and central Kansas, were asked to complete the survey, with the option of remaining anonymous prior to submission. Over 250 written responses were collected and submitted to ACSI®, as well as nearly 100 additional online responses through our website.

WEC's score exceeds all 2025 investor-owned and municipal utility scores, ranking 18 points higher than the investor-owned average (74), 17 points above municipal utilities (75), and 16 points above the cooperative average (76), according to the 2025 ACSI® Utility Study. Learn more at www.theacsi.org.

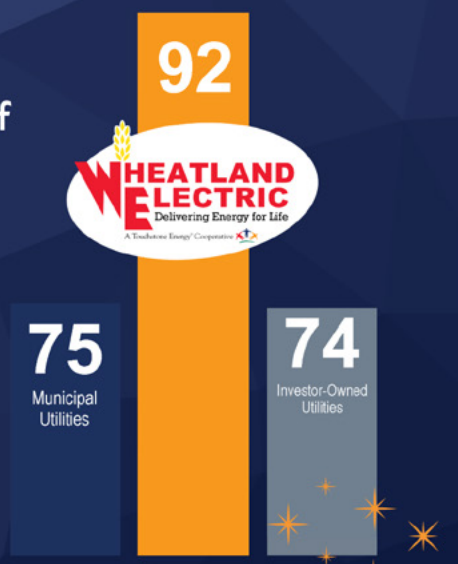


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BRUCE W. MUELLER, CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

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

Thank you
for helping us earn our highest score to
date — ranking in the nation's top 5%!



CONGRATS
TO OUR MEMBER

NORMA BRAINARD

PIERCEVILLE, KS
WINNER OF
A \$250
PREPAID CARD!

YOUR FEEDBACK POWERS CHANGE.



Thank you to all our members who shared your experience in person or online during our survey feedback campaign!

HAPPY
4TH OF JULY
INDEPENDENCE DAY

Our offices will be closed on July 4 for the holiday.

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Situational awareness, in the most basic definition, is being aware of your surroundings and the activities going on around you. With more and more distractions in our everyday lives, it is important to have situational awareness. Whether you are driving down the road, at work, on vacation or even at the mall you need to be aware of what is happening around you. This will allow you to take the necessary actions to avoid potential dangers.

POWER PLAY
Thursday, July 10
GARDEN CITY WIND

FIRST 200 PEOPLE:
FREE HAMBURGERS & HOTDOGS!
CLINT LIGHTNER FIELD | GAME STARTS AT 6:30 P.M. CDT

First 50 people get in free! | Serving at 6 p.m.

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC
Delivering Energy for Life
POWER PLAY



7th Annual
CO-OPS CARE
Charity Golf Tournament

Hosted by



Save the
DATE!

All proceeds power our local food pantries!

SEPT. 26, 2025
GOLF CLUB AT SOUTHWIND



**SPONSORSHIPS
AVAILABLE AND
REGISTRATION OPENS
AUG. 1! TEAMS FILL UP
FAST, SO DON'T WAIT.**

WWW.WECI.NET/COOPS-CARE FOR MORE INFO!

Garden City

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

QUESTIONS?

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