



An Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

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

Rooted in Principles, Driven by Members

As a cooperative, Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) remains steadfast to our **MISSION: DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE**, and our commitment to the **SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES**, which serve as the foundation for how we conduct business, serve our communities, and put our members first. They include:

- ▶ Voluntary and Open Membership
- ▶ Democratic Member Control
- ▶ Members' Economic Participation
- ▶ Autonomy and Independence
- ▶ Education, Training and Information
- ▶ Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- ▶ Concern for Community

This year, as we embrace the theme of our **2025 ANNUAL MEETING — “TRUE NORTH: OUR COMMITMENT, YOUR COOPERATIVE”** — we celebrate the unwavering values that guide us: service, innovation and concern for our community. These values are the compass that direct us forward, ensuring that every decision we make strengthens our cooperative and the communities we serve.

At the heart of democratic member control lies the power of the membership to shape their future. This is especially vital in rural areas, where active participation in governance is a cornerstone of success. One key aspect of this democratic structure is the election of our WEC Board of Trustees — a process that thrives on the engagement of our cooperative members.

Last year's introduction of mail-in

voting exemplifies our commitment to service and innovation. By making the voting process more inclusive, WEC saw a **193% INCREASE** in voter participation in 2024 compared to the year prior. This initiative ensures that every member, regardless of geographic location, can take part in shaping our cooperative's future.

Voting for trustees is more than a civic duty — it's an investment in WEC's future. Trustees oversee financial health, set strategic goals, and uphold community values. Member participation ensures accountability, transparency and alignment with shared interests.

In addition to participating in the trustee election process, mark your calendar for our 2025 annual meeting, which will be held on **APRIL 23** at the **SCOTT COMMUNITY BUILDING, 600 FAIRGROUND ROAD, IN SCOTT CITY**, as well as seven additional remote meeting locations: **LEOTI, TRIBUNE, SYRACUSE, GARDEN CITY, GREAT BEND, HARPER, and CALDWELL** (see Page 12E for more information).

Join us to **LEARN, VOICE, CONNECT** and **WIN** and be part of something bigger — a cooperative driven by shared values, innovation and commitment to members like you.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.



Bruce W. Mueller

TRUE NORTH

2025 ANNUAL MEETING

OUR Commitment YOUR Cooperative

JOIN US **APRIL 23**

to celebrate the unwavering values that guide us — service, innovation and concern for community — as we chart our course forward, together!

Registration 11 A.M. CT

Attending Wheatland Electric's annual meeting is not an obligation; it's an opportunity to actively engage in the democratic governance of your electric cooperative — and help shape our bright future!

Luncheon 11:30 A.M. CT

Mark your calendar for **APRIL 23** for our **2025 ANNUAL MEETING** in Scott City, livestreamed to seven locations: Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Great Bend, Harper and Caldwell.

Business Meeting Noon CT

From any location, co-op members like you will be able to **LEARN, VOICE, CONNECT** and **WIN** amazing door prizes, including our **GRAND-PRIZE GIVEAWAY!**

LEARN: CHARTING THE COURSE

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

Our co-op was built on **SERVICE, INNOVATION AND CONCERN FOR**

COMMUNITY, and this year's meeting will highlight how these values guide us forward.

Just as a compass keeps travelers on course, our **TRUE NORTH** — members like you — guides every decision we make. We'll share vital updates on our cooperative's financial health, operational performance, and strategic initiatives that impact you and your community.

We're committed to powering connections — through energy, programs, partnerships and projects that support our members. Like the stars forming constellations in the night sky, each of these connections plays a crucial role in guiding and shaping our cooperative's journey forward. Your engagement helps shape that journey ahead.

VOICE: NAVIGATING TOGETHER

Does your voice matter? Absolutely! As a valued member of Wheatland Electric, your input helps guide the direction of our cooperative. At the annual meeting, you can vote for bylaw changes,

Just like the NORTH STAR that guides explorers through uncertain terrain — our commitment to you is unwavering.

ask questions, share concerns, and provide feedback directly to our leadership team from any of our eight meeting locations.

When the **STARS ALIGN**, we move forward together. Our governance is built on **DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL**, which means you have a say in how your cooperative is run.

Your participation — whether through in-person discussions or by casting your mail-in vote — ensures that our trustees remain accountable and responsive to the needs of our communities.

Our board members — elected by members like you — live in and care about the same communities you do. Learn more about our trustee elections and mail-in voting process on Page 12D, and be sure to attend the April 23 meeting to witness the results firsthand and let your voice be heard on bylaw changes.

Your voice is a guiding light, helping us navigate the future together. When members engage, we gain valuable insights that keep our cooperative strong and responsive — always aligned with the needs of those we serve!

This is our commitment, and this is your cooperative — together, we can reach for the stars!

CONNECT: STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES

This year's annual meeting is all about the **TRUE CONNECTIONS** that guide and sustain us, much like the map of a well-charted course.

At its core, your cooperative is about **PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE**. This gathering is a chance to meet fellow co-op members, engage with our leadership team and board of trustees, and connect with local business leaders, government officials, and other community stakeholders who share a common interest in shaping the future of our cooperative.

These connections are like **CONSTELLATIONS** — each individual and relationship forming a larger picture that guides us toward a brighter future. With rapid changes in the energy industry, we need your input now more than ever. Together, we innovate, we adapt, and we shape a brighter future!

Whether you're a longtime member or new

to the co-op, we invite you to be part of this shared journey. Every interaction, every conversation, every decision we make together strengthens our collective path forward. This is our **COMMITMENT** to you — and our strength lies in your engagement!

WIN: CELEBRATING THE SHARED JOURNEY

One of the best reasons to attend? The incredible prizes!

Enjoy a delicious catered lunch at all meeting locations and enter to win fantastic door prizes, from smart tech gifts to a sizable credit on your next electric bill.

Plus, every attending member household will receive a **SPECIAL GIFT** reflecting this year's theme — **"TRUE NORTH"** — as a token of our appreciation.

For this year's **GRAND-PRIZE GIVEAWAY**, we're celebrating what truly guides us— our incredible members, our **TRUE NORTH**. One lucky winner will take home a Dyson Purifier Hot+Cool Gen1, bringing year-round comfort and clarity to their space. Just as the North Star shines steady in the night sky, our members light the way for everything we do.

SEE YOU ON APRIL 23!

Wherever you choose to attend, we appreciate **YOUR COMMITMENT** to shaping our future.

Active participation in your cooperative isn't just about electricity — it's about building a stronger community. Unlike traditional utility companies, we are member-driven, motivated by service rather than profit. Your presence at the annual meeting is an investment in the future of our cooperative and the communities we serve.

By joining us on April 23, you'll have the opportunity to **LEARN, VOICE, CONNECT, WIN** and be part of something bigger — a cooperative powered by shared values, innovative solutions, and a steadfast commitment to members like you.

Just like the **NORTH STAR** that guides explorers through uncertain terrain — our commitment to you is unwavering. Let's chart our course forward, together! Hope to see you on April 23!

TRUSTEE BALLOTS WILL BE MAILED MARCH 24

Members of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., will receive ballots by mail later this month to vote for three board seats up for election.

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 on April 23, 2025, according to cooperative bylaws.

Members are encouraged to complete and return their ballots in a timely fashion through postal mail via postage-paid business reply envelopes which will also be provided. **BALLOTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT WEC OFFICES.**

WEC is governed by a 10-member board of trustees elected by the cooperative's membership, and voting is crucial for co-op members like you.

Trustees play a significant role in setting the policies, strategic direction, and making financial decisions. Through your votes, trustees shape the co-op's priorities and initiatives, influencing everything from rates and services to community engagement and sustainability efforts.

By participating in trustee elections, members can help determine the direction of the cooperative and ensure that it aligns with your values and needs.

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 jmcvay@weci.net for more information.

▶ 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 jmcvay@weci.net.

COMMUNITY SOLAR

A PROGRAM BROUGHT TO YOU BY



A Simple Choice with Big Impact

Community solar is more than an energy choice — it's a meaningful way to make a positive impact on both the environment and your community. By harnessing the power of the sun, you are helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare the electric infrastructure to support local economic growth.

Programs like WEC's **COMMUNITY SOLAR** program are critical to improving grid resiliency. By incorporating diverse energy sources, these programs create a stronger, more reliable system that can better withstand extreme weather, economic growth and increased energy demands. Utilizing mixed fuel sources helps ensure a more secure and



dependable energy infrastructure for all members.

Federal and state regulations are increasingly prioritizing renewable energy to meet bold sustainability goals. Joining WEC's community solar program allows you to be part of the solution. By supporting these initiatives, you're helping to build a reliable energy future that benefits everyone.

Choosing community solar is a simple but powerful way to take action for the environment and strengthen the energy resilience of your community. Together, we can create a more diverse and secure energy future for generations to come.

SIGN UP NOW

and receive **A SOLAR ADJUSTMENT*** on your electric bill!

- ▶ All the benefits of rooftop solar — with none of the headaches!
- ▶ Home ownership is not required. Renters can participate, too. In fact, **MOST RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS WHO PAY AN ELECTRIC BILL CAN PARTICIPATE!**
- ▶ No change to your electric service.
- ▶ No long-term commitment.

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

Scan the QR code for more or visit www.weci.net/community-solar today!

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE



*EACH SHARE IS EQUIVALENT TO 125 KWH (OR TWO SOLAR PANELS) AND YOUR ADJUSTMENT IS BASED ON YOUR SHARE'S MONTHLY EARNINGS IN THE ENERGY MARKET.

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

RECENT Leadership CHANGES



Julie Stoss

JULIE STOSS, former consumer services supervisor, has been promoted to director of consumer services as of January, following the retirement of **PAM BRUNGARDT**.

Stoss was first hired as a consumer services representative in 2016 and was promoted to her former supervisory role in 2017.

Brungardt, who began her career with WEC in December 2006, served the members of WEC for over 18 years in both accounting and consumer services roles.

“Pam’s done a tremendous job during her service to WEC, and she’s been instrumental in developing new policies, processes, procedures and practices that have saved the cooperative hundreds of thousands of dollars in bad debt write-offs,” said Bruce W. Mueller, CEO/general manager. “She’s worked tirelessly over the years to train employees on the WEC tariffs and proper setup for member rate applications. She has earned the admiration and respect from the members, employees, trustees and peers who have worked with her over her career.”

Additionally, **AMANDA MARTINEZ** has also been promoted to manager of consumer services. Martinez started at WEC in 2014 as a consumer services representative and previously served as consumer services supervisor prior to her new role.

After 34 years of service, WEC also celebrated the retirement of **WALT LOVINS** from District 1: Scott City, as of Jan. 3.

Lovins, who began his career at WEC in 1990, formerly served as a journeyman lineman, foreman, and area wide supervisor, a position he started in 2017.

According to Mueller, “Walt’s served

with dedication and led his team to deliver world class service to our membership.”

With Lovins’ departure, WEC underwent an organizational restructure, and named **KELLEY BURCH**, formerly area wide supervisor for District 2: Leoti, as the new area wide supervisor for both Districts 1 and 2.

Burch was first hired as a groundman in 1990, promoted to journeyman lineman in 1993, and has served in his supervisory role since 2001.

CHRIS HUBER has also retired as WEC’s District 6: Great Bend manager, as of Feb. 3.

Huber, whose career at the cooperative began in 2007 with WEC’s acquisition of Aquila, is retiring from a 39-plus year career in the energy industry. He has led his team with dedication, following multiple company transitions over the decades. This experience included stints with Centel and UtiliCorp, too.

“Under Chris’ leadership, his team has delivered exceptional service to our membership,” Mueller added. “We wish him well in this new chapter of his life!”

DAX WALK, formerly a foreman in Great Bend, has been promoted to Huber’s position. Walk began his career at WEC in 1995 and has worked as a journeyman lineman in Tribune prior to Great Bend.



Chris Huber



Dax Walk



Pam Brungardt



Amanda Martinez



Walt Lovins



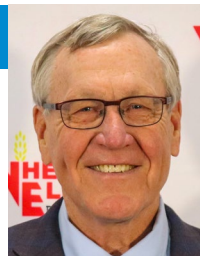
Kelley Burch

CAMPBELL RETIRES FROM BOARD

WES CAMPBELL, District 5 trustee, will retire from the WEC Board of Trustees, effective April 23.

Campbell, a lifelong Finney County resident, who represents a district comprising of his home county, eastern Kearny County, and Gray County, will not be seeking reelection to the board of trustees.

Campbell grew up on a farm near Friend (located between Garden City and Scott City)



Wes Campbell

A new director of consumer services and several district managers have been promoted in the wake of retirements by long-standing employees who have made significant contributions to the cooperative over many decades of service.

and is a longtime farmer, rancher, and owner of a Finney County cattle grow yard.

He was first appointed to fill a vacated position on the board in 1997 and has served continuously since, including as president and vice president. In recent years, he has served as president of the Sunflower Electric Power Corporation Board of Directors, WEC's generation and transmission power supplier.

Campbell firmly believes in the member-owned and controlled electric cooperative business model and its seven guiding principles. He says serving as a trustee has been a grand opportunity to shape policies ensuring cost-effective and reliable power to the region, provide effective use of capital and resources, and strengthen local communities.

According to Mueller, Campbell's leadership and service to WEC over many decades has been instrumental to the cooperative's current financial strength.

"Wes' dedication to the cooperative model and its core principles has left a lasting impact on WEC and its members," Mueller said. "We will miss his leadership and loyalty to our cooperative."

Campbell's position will be filled by a new trustee, elected by cooperative members through WEC's mail-in voting process (see Page 12D for more information).

trends in the industry, and prepare them to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives now and in the future.

The BLC program is the second part of the director education program, consisting of a series of courses focusing in greater depth on specific industry and governance issues. These include issues such as risk management, power supply, parliamentary procedure, technology and policy development.

Board director education is offered in three parts, taken in progression from fundamental to advanced-level coursework, according to the NRECA.

DONECKER EARNS CCC

SHAJIA DONECKER, multimedia specialist, has completed an intensive program widely recognized as the premier certification for professionals in the electric cooperative communication field from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.



Shajia Donecker

The Certified Cooperative Communicator (CCC) is a cohort-based blended learning program, coordinated by NRECA in partnership with UW-Madison.

The program provides training in various aspects of cooperative communication, including strategic planning, public relations, marketing, crisis communication, social media management, and more.

In addition to receiving over 110 hours of instruction, CCC graduates build strong, long-lasting relationships that they will carry with them throughout their careers. As part of the program's requirements, Donecker, a dedicated member of WEC's communication team, developed a strategic communication plan for WEC's member services division.

WEC is proud to foster a culture of professional development that encourages employees to pursue opportunities that enhance their skills and expertise. Donecker's achievement underscores WEC's commitment to delivering effective and transparent communication to its members.

SULLIVAN AND YOUNG EARN BOARD LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE

JOHN SULLIVAN, District 6 trustee, and **JOSH YOUNG**, District 2 trustee, have both received The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Board Leadership Certificate (BLC).

NRECA's training programs are designed to help electric cooperative trustees, at every stage of their service, understand their roles and responsibilities, stay up-to-date on the key issues and



WEC Board President Mark Arnold (left) presents John Sullivan (above right) and Josh Young (below right) with their BLC certificates.



Apply for LIEAP by March 31

Wheatland Electric receives requests for assistance with member electricity bills throughout the year. The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded program that helps eligible households pay a portion of their home energy costs by providing a one-time per year benefit.

THE 2025 LIEAP APPLICATION PERIOD ENDS MARCH 31, 2025, AT 5 P.M. To qualify, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- ▶ An adult living at the address must be personally responsible for paying the heating costs incurred at the current residence, payable either to the landlord or the fuel vendor.
- ▶ Applicants must demonstrate a recent history of payments toward purchases of the primary heating energy.
- ▶ The combined gross income (before deductions) of all persons living at the address may not exceed 150% of the federal poverty level according to the guidelines listed in the table.

For more information and to apply, visit WWW.DCF.KS.GOV, select the **SERVICES** tab at the top, then scroll down and click on **ENERGY ASSISTANCE (LIEAP)**.

2025 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES	
Persons Living at Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$1,882.50
2	\$2,555
3	\$3,227.50
4	\$3,900
5	\$4,572.50
6	\$5,245
7	\$5,917.50
8	\$6,590
+1	\$672.50 for each additional person

COLD WEATHER ACCOMMODATION

ENDS MARCH 15

As spring draws near once again, Wheatland Electric would like to remind co-op members that the COLD WEATHER ACCOMMODATION for residential members ends MARCH 15.

For more information, please visit WWW.WECI.NET/COLD-WEATHER-RULE. If your service is disconnected for non-pay, please review our rules and regulations by visiting WWW.WECI.NET/RULES-REGULATIONS

Ride + Drive

100% ELECTRIC POWERED BY YOUR CO-OP

Stay tuned for more summer events!

COME DISCOVER THE POWER OF DRIVING ELECTRIC!

04.03.25 SCOTT CITY Sunflower Electric ElectroRally *Spencer Flight & Education Center 300 S Mesquite Rd | 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.*

04.23.25 SCOTT CITY 2025 Annual Meeting *Scott Community Bldg. | 600 Fairground Road 10:30-11:30 A.M. & 1:30-2:30 P.M.*

Check out our FREE digital EV toolkit! www.weci.net/electric-vehicle