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WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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FROM THE MANAGER

October is Co-op Month

As we celebrate National Cooperative Month this October, it's a great time to reflect on the cooperative principles that guide Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., and how these principles translate into meaningful programs for our members and communities.

At WEC, we place a strong emphasis on engaging with our younger members through our Young Adult Member Engagement initiatives. This year, we were thrilled to host events like Chamber After Hours and community baseball games with the Garden City Wind and Great Bend Bat Cats. These gatherings allowed us to connect with the next generation of cooperative members, sharing the cooperative story and the many benefits that come with membership.

Our commitment to supporting education also remains strong. Each year, we offer scholarships to deserving students in our service area, empowering them to pursue higher education and achieve their goals. Additionally, we're proud to participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp programs, giving high school students the opportunity to explore leadership and the cooperative business model and build lifelong connections.

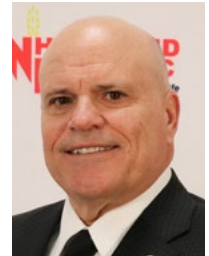
WEC also embraces innovation and sustainability, and our Ride & Drive events have been a great way to introduce members to electric

vehicles (EVs). This year, we expanded our efforts by introducing a new initiative, Dine & Drive, which brought together members for an engaging and informative event in Great Bend to test drive EVs, learn about their benefits and explore our renewable energy park, all while enjoying a hot-off-the-grill meal.

Another way WEC gives back is through our Sharing Success Fund, which enables us to support local nonprofits and charitable causes. This fund allows us to make meaningful contributions to the communities we serve, strengthening the cooperative spirit of working together for the greater good.

National Cooperative Month is a reminder of how cooperatives, including WEC, empower our members, promote sustainable growth, and make a lasting impact. We look forward to fulfilling our mission of **DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE** and serving you with the same commitment and cooperative values we've had since 1948.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.



Bruce W. Mueller

7 CO-OP PRINCIPLES

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

Thank you to
our sponsors!



GIGAWATT \$3,000



MEGAWATT \$2,000



KILOWATT \$1,000



Pro Enterprises, L.L.C.



FO



From left: WEC employees Elias Rodriguez, lineman apprentice; Lupe Carrasco, apprentice meter technician; and Jason Crockett, staking technician; volunteered at the tournament.



This year's tournament participants received a cooler swag bag.



Members of the Stanion Wholesale Electric Co. team pose with Wheatland's Ford F-150 Lightning.

RE *a great cause!*

Annual golf tournament raises \$20,000 for Cram the Van

As our kick-off event to Cram the Van, we held our **SIXTH ANNUAL CO-OPS CARE CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT** on Sept. 6, 2024, at the Golf Club at Southwind.

For the fourth year in a row, we boasted a full tournament of players for our four-man scramble. Our annual event is a tremendous day filled with both food and fun — all FORE a great cause!

Thanks to our golfers, sponsors, employees and volunteers, our sixth annual charity tournament raised more than \$20,000!

Cram the Van, now in its 11th consecutive year, is our annual food drive and our way to give back to the communities we serve. Our fundraising campaign benefits a dozen local food banks that power our communities across our southwest and central Kansas service territory.

This year, we're here to **POWER THE PANTRY** by providing a \$50,000 donation to our food banks! This is the second year we've committed this level of funding to our food banks, with a goal to raise \$100,000 through donations collected at our offices, business partnerships and an online fundraising campaign. One hundred percent of this year's golf tournament proceeds go toward our goal!

A special shoutout to this year's **GIGAWATT SPONSORS**, including **SUNFLOWER ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION, PIONEER ELECTRIC**

Continued on page 12D ►



The Techline, Inc. team sponsored and participated in the tournament including (from left) Ryan Ragsdale; Bruce W. Mueller, WEC CEO/general manager; Allan Kunze; and Stephen Fowler.



WEC employees (from left) Samantha Garcia and Mary Hoisington, member services and key accounts managers, and Caitlin Moser, member services coordinator, were on hand to distribute cooler bags filled with golf swag to our players.

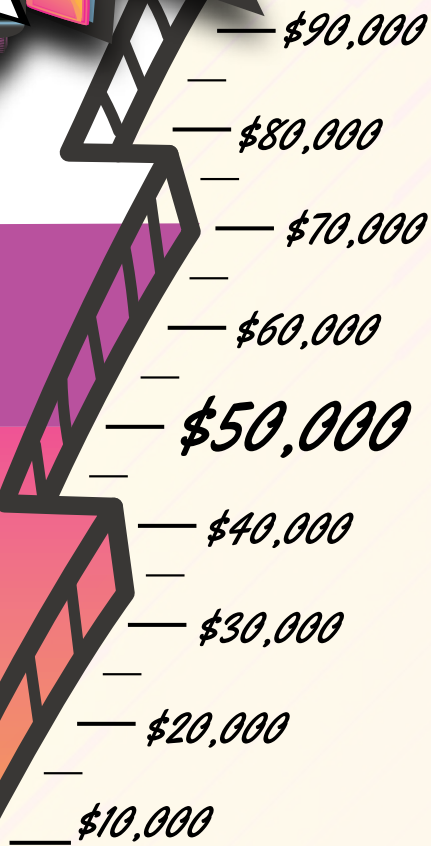


Nolan Numrich, assistant general manager at Western Cooperative Electric, tees off.



your impact so far!

WE pledge



DONATE NOW AND YOU COULD WIN CHIEFS TICKETS!

See Page 12H for more info!

FORE

a great cause!

Continued from page 12C ▶



Fifty tournament players won a variety of door prizes.

COOPERATIVE, TECHLINE, and WESCO, which each contributed \$3,000 to the event.

These partners, dozens more sponsors, and our many golfers helped raise this year's donation total. We know we could not have accomplished this feat without everyone involved, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping us show how and why co-ops care!

Stay tuned as we share more food and cash donation totals in the months ahead as we wrap up our 11th consecutive season of Cram the Van. Read *Kansas Country Living*, check our website, or follow us on social media to stay up to date!



Forty-two teams participated in the tournament on Sept. 6 including (from left) Kelli and Matt Scheeter, and Mikey and Traci Goddard.

Recent Events at WEC

CONINE GRADUATES FROM MIP

ALLI CONINE, director of member services and corporate communications, completed an intensive program in electric utility management with the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program (MIP) is a series of workshops offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in conjunction with the university. The program guides participants through all facets of the electric utility industry, including the many changes occurring around the nation.

Conine is one of only a few electric management staff to graduate from MIP this year and joins three additional members of WEC's executive staff with this credential.

MIP participants undergo three 10-day sessions designed to challenge and educate in new, innovative management techniques. Participants leave with a better understanding of what consumers want and how to ensure they get it.

The program also covers the unique principles governing electric cooperatives and analyzes other business ventures to enhance the core organization.

Only electric cooperative CEOs and top-level management participate in the program — allowing greater emphasis of study on management and leadership challenges and the aspects of consumer-ownership that cooperatives enjoy. Participants focus on member value as part of day-to-day decision making.

STANSBURY EARNS DIRECTOR GOLD

DUSTIN STANSBURY, District 7 trustee, earned a Director Gold Credential, the highest level of board leadership education available from NRECA. Stansbury joins two additional members of the WEC Board of Trustees (Mark Arnold from District 7 and Stacey Addison-Howland from District 4) in earning this credential.

Director education is offered in three parts, taken in progression from fundamental to advanced-level coursework. The Director Gold credential recognizes trustees and other board directors who are committed to continuing their education beyond the Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certificates, and who desire a tangible credential that demonstrates their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability, according to NRECA.

HISS RETIRES

BOB HISS, District 6, has resigned from the WEC Board of Trustees, effective Sept. 30.

Hiss was first elected in 2008 shortly after the Aquila acquisition that brought Great Bend into WEC's service territory. He has spent decades in the financial investment and management industry.

"It has been a rewarding 15 years for me to serve and a



Alli Conine (left), WEC's director of member services and corporate communications, receives a plaque recognizing her completion of the Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program from **Gary Pfann**, director of staffing and education at NRECA.



WEC Board President Mark Arnold (left) presents **WEC Trustee Dustin Stansbury** with his Director Gold Credential from NRECA.

privilege that I will always remember," Hiss said. "The dedication and quality of the WEC management team along with the employees and trustees is something to be proud of. I want to thank everyone for the support and friendship over the years."

Bruce W. Mueller, CEO/general manager, said Hiss will be missed.

"(Hiss) has been an excellent trustee over the last 12.5 years that I have had the privilege to lead the WEC team," Mueller added.

The WEC Board may consider a temporary appointment to replace Hiss until the election is held at WEC's Annual Meeting in April 2025.



Bob Hiss

MEMBER Programs

AVERAGE MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN

Now there's a better way to budget! Level out your payments on a 12-month rolling average.

WECI.NET/AMP

BANK DRAFT APPLICATION

Sign up for automatic drafts from your bank account to pay your electric bills each month without hassle.

CAPITAL CREDITS

Members earn capital credits based on their electric use. Because we operate the cooperative at cost, excess operating margins are allocated, retired and returned to members.

COLD WEATHER ASSISTANCE

Members may request accommodations Nov. 15-March 15 for payment arrangements to prevent service disconnect.

**WECI.NET/
COLD-WEATHER-RULE**

COMMUNITY SOLAR

Members can subscribe to community solar shares, support green energy, and receive an adjustment for the revenue generated by their shares.

**WECI.NET/
COMMUNITY-SOLAR**

CRAM THE VAN

Members can easily support their local food bank by making a reoccurring donation added to their monthly bill.

Coming Soon!

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS

Charge your EV at our Garden City, Great Bend or Harper office. Contact us regarding our at-home charger installation, financing and EV rebate programs.

ELECTRICIAN SERVICES

Looking for an electrician? We work with local partners to coordinate electrician services for our members and offer financing for larger projects.

INVOICE BILLING

Consolidate multiple electric services into one invoice billing, making the process of paying all your services easy!

PREPAY POWER

Manage your budget by making smaller, more frequent payments. No deposit, late fees, due date or monthly statements. You choose when and how much electricity to purchase.

REBATES

Are you considering replacing home equipment? Rebates are available for select home projects.

WECI.NET/REBATES

SCHOLARSHIPS

As part of our commitment to the leaders of tomorrow, each year we provide 14 high school seniors in our service territory with \$1,000 college scholarships.

**WECI.NET/
SCHOLARSHIP-PROGRAM**



75+ YEARS
since receiving our REA charter



\$9.81 MILLION
returned to our
membership in capital credits



159 TONS
of food donated
through Cram the Van since 2014



GENERAC GENERATORS

We work with local partners to provide our members with an installation and financing program for backup generators.

SHARING SUCCESS GRANTS

Since 2012, Wheatland Electric has given thousands of dollars to numerous community-based organizations within our service territory.

SMARTHUB

Manage your account from your computer or mobile device with SmartHub. View your usage data and account information anytime, anywhere!

YOUTH PROGRAMS

We invest in future leaders by selecting high school juniors to represent Wheatland at leadership camps in Washington, D.C., and Steamboat Springs, Colorado.



\$145K
in Sharing Success grants awarded to local community organizations



\$114K
in scholarships awarded to area high school students since 2015




4,625 MILES
of electric distribution line



21,600+
member-owners

WIN 4 TICKETS TO SEE THE



CHIEFS VS BRONCOS

NOV. 10, 2024

FOR EVERY \$20 YOU DONATE TO YOUR
LOCAL FOOD BANK, YOU'LL BE ENTERED TO WIN!

DONATE BY
OCT. 23
TO ENTER



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
WWW.WECL.NET/CRAM-VAN-FOOD-DRIVE

