




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
101 Main, P.O. Box 230, Scott City, KS 67871
620-872-5885
www.weci.net

WHEATLAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Wheatland Electric Co-op Inc.

Board of Trustees

Mark Arnold
President
Katie Eisenhour
Vice President
Josh Young
Treasurer
Stacey Addison-Howland
Secretary
Wes Campbell
Trustee
Bob Hiss
Trustee
John Kleysteuber
Trustee
Dustin Stansbury
Trustee
John Sullivan
Trustee
Mike Thon
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

Thankful for Our Co-op's Bright Past, Present and Future



Bruce W. Mueller

November is the start of the giving season. It's a time when we gather around our tables with friends, family and full hearts to consider all that we are thankful for in

our personal and professional lives.

Personally, I'm thankful for my family and to be a part of Wheatland Electric Cooperative (WEC), serving our membership. I am thankful for our dedicated and hardworking employees and how our organization serves as a vibrant force in the local economy.

Our mission is to **DELIVER ENERGY FOR LIFE**, which we do by providing services that are safe, reliable and competitively priced to enhance the lives of our members.

Returning Capital Credits

Because we operate the cooperative at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of **CAPITAL CREDITS**.

This year, I'm very excited to share with you that we'll be retiring a total of **\$2.25 MILLION IN CAPITAL CREDITS** to eligible WEC members. The last five years of capital credit payouts have been approximately \$1 million annually.

Continued on page 12D ►



THANKFUL FOR OUR *Shared Success*



CALDWELL — WEC Member Services and Key Accounts Manager Mary Hoisington (center in blue) presents a \$1,000 Sharing Success grant to the Caldwell Art Brigade represented by (from left) Karen Shellhammer, Emily Weber, Mary Hetherington, Jill Kuehny, Trish Wessman, Kathy Risley, Allie Futhey and Brooke Kuehny. Grant funds will be used toward a community mural on the firehouse west wall.



GREAT BEND — WEC Member Services and Key Accounts Manager Mary Hoisington (right) presents a \$1,000 Sharing Success grant to Angela Chill, representing the Central Kansas Dream Center. Grant funds will be used to purchase items needed to support the organization's mission and the people they serve.



CALDWELL — Mary Hoisington (center), WEC member services and key accounts manager, presents a \$1,000 Sharing Success grant to the Caldwell Volunteer Fire Department represented by (back row from left) Kenneth Smith, Ken Whaley, Trevor Stevenson, Chief Scott York, (front row from left) Michael Smith, Cooper Bristol and Joe Struble. Grant funds will be used to help outfit firemen with updated equipment.



CONWAY SPRINGS — WEC Member Services and Key Accounts Manager Mary Hoisington (third from left) presents a \$1,000 Sharing Success grant to the Conway Springs Development Foundation represented by (from left) Tamara Salisbury, Brandon Salisbury, Jessica Gerlach, Michelle Leidy-Franklin and Amber Harrington. Grant funds will be used to upgrade the interior and exterior lighting at the foundation building.

Our Sharing Success Fund makes a difference in our communities



GREAT BEND — Great Bend Alive receives \$1,000 Sharing Success grant presented by WEC Member Services and Key Accounts Manager Mary Hoisington (third from left) Pictured from left are: Dena Hiss, Allene Owen, Sara Hayden, Jessica Milsap and Ryan Fairchild. Grant funds will be used to help fund the community mural project at Great Bend Alive Plaza.



CONWAY SPRINGS — WEC Member Services and Key Accounts Manager Mary Hoisington (right) presents a \$1,000 Sharing Success grant to Clay Murphy, USD 356 superintendent. Grant funds will be used for the Support OWLS Project.



GREAT BEND — Mary Hoisington (left), WEC member services and key accounts manager, presents a \$1,000 Sharing Success grant to the Kansas Children's Service League-Healthy Families represented by (from left) Jillian Martin, Connie Cale, Vicki Richardson and Mary Dumler. Grant funds will be used to purchase needed safety and wellness supplies for at risk children.



SCOTT CITY — From left: Sara McClure, member services and key accounts manager for WEC, presents a \$1,000 Sharing Success grant to Stepping Up, Inc. Board Treasurer Linda Tilton and Program Director Chad Ramsey. The funds were used to purchase trash cans and LED lighting to update the exterior of the facility.

Thankful for Our Co-op's Bright Past, Present and Future

Continued from page 12A ►

The Wheatland Board of Trustees voted in September to retire (or pay out) this year's credits based on the 2021 financial year, a calendar year filled with many bold moves and positive milestones.

This includes, but is not limited to, the sale of our broadband division to S&T Communications and the completion of the Garden City Asset Purchase Agreement, which finalized the contract and sale of multiple aging substations in Finney County.

These funds will be returned to members who made economic contributions to our cooperative during 1989, 1990 and 2021.

Trustees considered the impact this year's retirement would have on the financial strength of the cooperative, and decided it was an economically feasible decision that does not compromise our cooperative's fiscal condition — present or future.

In addition to WEC's **\$2 MILLION** retirement, an additional \$250,000 in capital credits comes from Sunflower Electric Power Corp., our power supplier. WEC is a distribution cooperative and a member of Sunflower Electric, which is a generation and transmission cooperative.

WEC trustees approved adding these funds to this year's capital credits retirement, bringing the total to **\$2.25 MILLION** as mentioned earlier.

WEC members will receive

a percentage of capital credits retirements reflecting their contribution of capital to, and ownership of, the cooperative during those years.

What that means is that the amount you will receive depends on how much electricity you used in the payout years and how long you have been a WEC member.

This year, eligible members from 1989, 1990 and 2021 (who have accumulated at least \$25 in capital credits) will receive their funds in the form of a check. Those members who have accumulated less than \$25 will not receive a check, but will not lose their retirement. Instead, this year's retirement will be rolled over into a future retirement.

While 1989 and 1990 may seem like a long time ago, those funds helped WEC reduce the amount of money needed to borrow from outside lenders to build, maintain and expand a reliable electric distribution system.

These payout years were selected because trustees wanted to make sure previous and long-standing members received capital credits alongside our newest members (2021).

Harvest Day Returns Dec. 6

I'm happy to share that we are bringing back our **CAPITAL CREDITS HARVEST DAY** on Dec. 6, 2022.

We invite you to join us at any of our seven WEC district offices on this

date for refreshments and to pick up your check. WEC will mail all members checks who are unable to attend the Capital Credits Harvest Day event.

As a reminder, inactive members or persons not currently purchasing their electricity from WEC, but who were distribution members during the years of the capital credits retirements will be receiving a check in the mail for their capital credits (if the amount is \$25 or more).

It is very important that WEC has the current mailing address of all inactive members to ensure the delivery of the capital credits checks. To confirm or update your mailing address, please call WEC at 800-762-0436.

Thank you for being a WEC member — without you, our cooperative would not be what we are today.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING from all of us here at WEC, and a friendly reminder that we will be closed **NOV. 11 TO CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY.**

Thank you to all those in and outside of our membership who have served in our armed forces. **WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE.**

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Pay attention to blind spots, perform a walk-around and use a spotter when needed. The National Safety Council reports that one out of every four vehicle accidents is because of poor backing techniques. Know the clearance for your vehicle and park in an easy to exit space whenever possible.



COLD WEATHER ACCOMMODATION

BEGINS NOV. 15

As of March 1, 2016, Wheatland Electric has adopted the following cold weather accommodation policy for residential members. All delinquent accounts are subject to disconnection when temperatures exceed 35 F for a 48-hour period between Nov. 15 and March 15, unless a member requests a cold weather accommodation.

In order for a member to retain electric service when temperatures are above 35 F during the cold weather period, they must comply with the following provisions:

- Inform us of their inability to pay their account in full
- Complete and sign a Cold Weather Accommodation agreement
- Pay any outstanding billed deposit in full
- Pay half of each current bill during the cold weather period
- Past due balances (including the bill due Nov. 5) must be paid in full at the inception of the cold weather period
- Apply for federal, state or local funds for which the member may be eligible
- Agree to make an arrearage payment plan or sign up for our Prepay Power program at the conclusion of the cold weather period

Members who do not adhere to their accommodation agreement are not eligible for payment arrangements at the conclusion of the cold weather period. The entire outstanding balance, applicable fees and additional deposit, if applicable, are due and payable prior to reconnection if service is disconnected.

Giving Goodness



A CHARITY CHALLENGE ON FACEBOOK!

How to Play

Starting Monday, Oct. 24, nominate a local non-profit for the chance to win a \$1,000 Sharing Success grant!

How to Win

One of our "final four" will win this tournament of charities by rallying their Facebook fans!

**FOLLOW
US ON
FACEBOOK TO
PARTICIPATE!**



OUR CO-OP Cares

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

As our kick-off event to Cram the Van, we held our **FOURTH ANNUAL CO-OPS CARE CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT** on Sept. 16, 2022, at the Golf Club at Southwind.

For the second year, 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 **FOR** a great cause!

We're excited to report that thanks to our golfers, sponsors, employees and volunteers, our fourth annual charity tournament raised over a whopping \$20,000 in proceeds!

One hundred percent of these dollars will be added to our proceeds from this year's Cram the Van in-person events and online donation campaign and distributed to the one dozen food banks that supply a safety net across our expansive southwest and central Kansas service territory.

A special shoutout goes to this year's **GIGAWATT SPONSORS**, including **SUNFLOWER ELECTRIC POWER CORP.** and **TYSON FRESH MEATS**, which each contributed \$2,500 to this year's charity tournament.

These partners, dozens more sponsors, and our many golfers helped raise this year's record-breaking donations. 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 like ours care!

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





WEC employees (from left) Barbara Kirk, human resources director; Julie Stoss, consumer services supervisor; and Jason Crockett, accountant; volunteer at the charity golf tournament.



Alli Conine, director of member services and corporate communications, leads the planning and coordination of each Cram the Van season including our annual charity golf tournament.



FORE a great cause! The annual charity tournament raised over a whopping \$20,000 in proceeds!



The tournament is our kick-off event for our Cram the Van food drive! Winners of this year's tournament received Cram the Van branded clip-on speakers.



Tournament participants play during our Cram the Van kickoff event at the Golf Club at Southwind on Sept. 16, 2022.



Co-op employees make our annual food drive a success. Pictured from left: Heather Rufenacht, member services coordinator; Alli Conine, director of member services and corporate communications; Mary Hoisington, member services and key accounts manager; Julie Stoss, consumer services supervisor; Stephanie Fontenot, senior billing specialist; and Jason Crockett, accountant.

2022 CAPITAL CREDITS WE'RE RETIRING \$2.25 MILLION

...and you get the credit!

Because your cooperative operates at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated to members in the form of capital credits.

When economically feasible, trustees determine how and when to retire (pay out) capital credits.

Eligible co-op members from 1989, 1990 & 2021 will receive their retirement in the form of a check for amounts totaling \$25 or more.

CAPITAL CREDITS HARVEST DAY

TUESDAY, DEC. 6, 2022

Join us for your slice of the pie!

To celebrate your economic participation (one of our guiding co-op principles) and our largest capital credits payout in history, we'll be serving up complimentary pie and other refreshments at each of our seven district offices between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Dec. 6. All co-op members are invited, and those eligible can pick up their capital credits check. See you there!

