



Celebrating *75 years* of
Our Shared Cooperative History

Feel the **POWER**

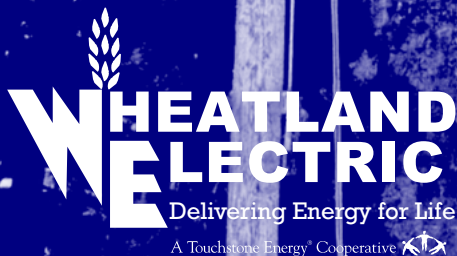
April 26, 2023

Join us for a very special

ANNUAL MEETING

*Scott Community Building
600 Fairground Road, Scott City, Kansas*

*Join us in Scott City or a
remote location near you*



**Caldwell | Garden City | Great Bend
Harper | Leoti | Syracuse | Tribune**

1946

APRIL 29, 1949 | Frank C. Arthur is selected as WEC's first general manager.

JULY 1949 | Trustees vote to change WEC's headquarters from Leoti to Scott City.

FEB. 1951 | A new generation facility in Scott City is named the Jess Taylor Plant; its modern design and equipment help reduce electricity costs.

1955

AUG. 12, 1957 | WEC joins five sister co-ops to form Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, which serves western Kansas and lowers wholesale power costs.

JULY 15, 1959 | WEC purchases the physical assets of Southwest Kansas Power, Inc., a subsidiary of the Garden City Irrigation and Power Company, for just over \$3.2 million.

1962 | Peak demand is 33,050 kW servicing 6,611 members: 4,896 residential and farming operations, 299 irrigation systems, 1,399 business or commercial services, and 17 others.

1970

1972 | Lewis E. Mitchell was appointed as the third general manager.

1974 | Peak demand on the WEC system is 80,095 kW servicing 9,517 members: 6,405 residential and farming operations, 665 irrigation systems, 2,439 business or commercial services, and 10 others.

1983 | At 35 years old, WEC includes 2,570 miles of distribution lines, 16 major substations with wholesale electric power supplied by Sunflower Electric Power Corp.

1990

JAN. 1990 | Neil K. Norman was appointed as the fourth general manager of WEC; he was previously a WEC system engineer.

2000

JAN. 1, 2000 | WEC becomes a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, joining a national network of electric cooperatives across 45 states.

2002 | WEC establishes Wheatland Broadband to build a fixed-based, wireless network to serve as our communications backbone and offers internet service to rural western Kansans.

APRIL 1, 2007 | WEC joins forces with fellow distribution co-ops in western Kansas to form Mid-Kansas Electric Co-op and complete the purchase of territory in central Kansas formerly owned and operated by Aquila, Inc., for a base price of \$255 million. The addition brings Great Bend and several communities across Kingman, Harper, Sedgwick, and Sumner counties into our service territory.

FALL 2014 | WEC hosts its very first Cram the Van food drive, collecting 6,615 pounds of food for local food banks.

2014 | WEC begins a competitive selection process to sponsor local high school juniors for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

2015 | WEC is recognized nationally as the recipient of an NRECA Spotlight in Excellence Gold Award in the "Best Event" category for our inaugural Cram the Van food drive in 2014.

2020

MARCH 30, 2021 | WEC dedicates a new 115/15 kV substation in Finney County to Phillip Shelley, a former director of operations who made key contributions to the cooperative.

2023

OCT. 25, 2023 | WEC celebrates its 75th anniversary of our REA charter.

NOV. 11, 1946 | First official meeting in Leoti where nine visionary residents meet to explore forming a co-op.

OCT. 25, 1948 | WEC receives its official charter from the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).

FEB. 15, 1949 | The First Annual Meeting of WEC is held in Tribune.

1950

FEB. 15, 1950 | The Second Annual Meeting of WEC is held in Scott City. An additional 2,246 members join the nine original founders to strengthen the co-op.

JAN. 1, 1955 | William A. Dobson hired as second general manager to replace Mr. Arthur after his resignation.

OCT. 1957 | New headquarters are completed in Scott City; WEC now serves 4,389 members on 1,414 miles of line.

1960

JULY 1960 | The WEC system includes a total of 30,000 kW of generating capacity installed in six plants, 2,013 miles of distribution lines serving 6,400 customers, and 174 miles of transmission line.

SEPT. 29, 1970 | WEC breaks ground on a new 94 MW natural gas-powered plant west of Garden City. The \$14 million facility is operated under a contract with Sunflower. Former Kansas Gov. Robert Docking attended the groundbreaking and said this project "mean(s) so much to the future progress of our state."

1980

1980-1981 | The Iowa Beef Processors plant near Holcomb (known as Tyson Fresh Meats today) is completed and becomes a contributing factor in WEC load growth.

AUG. 6, 1983 | Holcomb Station, a 296 MW coal-fired plant in Finney County, is brought online to provide a stable and economical source of power for the western Kansas region.

MAY 15-16, 1995 | Two back-to-back tornadoes cause significant damage and power outages across Finney and surrounding counties.

2000 | In response to water quality issues in the region, plans for a reverse osmosis treatment plant and formation of the Wheatland Water division began. Today, it provides over 2.5 billion gallons of treated water each year through its sophisticated RO treatment facility and other water-related infrastructure.

DEC. 28-31, 2006 | An ice storm with up to 6 inches of freezing rain hammers southwest Kansas, causing significant and widespread damage to utility infrastructure. Nearly 10,000 power poles across the region are taken down by the weight of the ice, and nearly 60,000 residents are without power at the height of the crisis.

2010

FEB. 1, 2012 | Bruce W. Mueller hired as cooperative's fifth general manager.

DEC. 1, 2012 | WEC partners with CoBank to launch our Sharing Success Fund, through which local community-based organizations can apply for grants. CoBank matches annual contributions by WEC and the funds are managed by Scott Community Foundation. Over \$125,000 has been distributed across our service territory to date.

2015

2015 | WEC begins awarding up to \$14,000 in scholarships annually to graduating seniors across 13 high schools on our distribution lines and one at-large recipient.

2022

JAN. 1, 2022 | WEC sells its broadband division to S&T Communications, which shares our mission to broaden fiber connectivity across the region.

FALL 2022 | WEC hosts its ninth season of Cram the Van and collects a record-breaking 54,599 pounds of food through our "WE Think Big!" campaign.



Feel the POWER

A Look Back Through 75 Years of Our Shared Cooperative History

For a complete historical timeline, view this year's annual report.



MEMBER TICKET



Tear off this portion and bring to your meeting location to enter our drawing! Ten \$75 bill credits will be given away. Winners will be announced on our website and social media!

Enter to win a \$75 Bill Credit

*Win a \$75
Bill Credit*

**We're giving
away 10
\$75 bill credits
to celebrate
our 75th
anniversary!**

Join us for our
**ANNUAL
MEETING**

in Scott City or a remote location near you

DISTRICT 2 | LEOTI

Wheatland Electric Warehouse, 103 West F

DISTRICT 3 | TRIBUNE

Wheatland Electric Warehouse, 310 Broadway Ave.

DISTRICT 4 | SYRACUSE

VFW Building, 609 N. Main St.

DISTRICT 5 | GARDEN CITY

Wheatland Electric Office, 2005 W. Fulton

DISTRICT 6 | GREAT BEND

Wheatland Electric Office, 200 10th St.

DISTRICT 7 | HARPER

Westview Lodge & Apartments, 1300 N. Westview

DISTRICT 7 | CALDWELL

Caldwell Community Building, 119 E. First St.

Registration

10:30 A.M. CT

Luncheon

11:30 A.M. CT

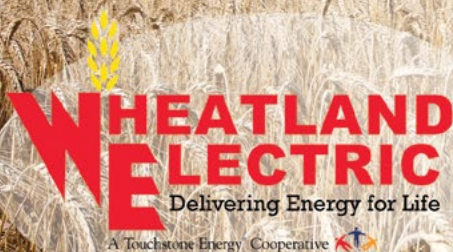
Business Meeting


12 P.M. CT

at all locations



Feel the
POWER
April 26, 2023



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

Feel the Power at Our Annual Meeting on April 26

I'd like to cordially invite you to Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s 2023 Annual Meeting on April 26, 2023, at the Scott Community Building, 600 Fairground Road, in Scott City, Kansas, or at one of our remote meeting locations: Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Great Bend, Harper and Caldwell.

We look forward to visiting with you, the membership, and enjoying good fellowship. Members can attend, nominate, vote and win some great door prizes from all our meeting locations. We will also take the opportunity to share our accomplishments from the past year and our plans for the upcoming year and beyond.

This year — 2023 — marks a very special year for us, which is why your participation and involvement this April are so much more meaningful.

That's because we're celebrating 75 years since the inception of our cooperative at our April meeting.

Nine visionary western Kansans took matters into their own hands to bring reliable and affordable electricity to our region — electricity to light our homes, water our farmlands, and transform us into the economically thriving region we call home today.

It was on Oct. 25, 1948, that WEC received its official charter from the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), which was signed into

law in 1936 at the height of America's Great Depression.

This transformative program under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal was designed to bring electricity to rural America, at a time when nearly 90% of the country lacked electricity. Stringing wires across sparsely populated farmlands was simply cost prohibitive at the time.

Today, three-quarters of a century later, it's clear to see how the visionary leadership and hard work of a few locals has continued to power our landscape over the decades — and why our cooperative continues to be a powerful source of service, compassion and innovation for the communities we serve today.

The Power to Attend

Not only will we be sharing cooperative news and updates at our annual



Bruce W. Mueller

Continued on page 12B ►



Feel the POWER

Feel the Power at Our Annual Meeting on April 26 *Continued from page 12A ►*

Today, three-quarters of a century later, it's clear to see how the visionary leadership and hard work of a few locals has continued to power our landscape over the decades ...

meeting in April, we'll also announce and present 14 winners with \$1,000 scholarships through our scholarship program. The scholarship recipients are the children of WEC members.

We'll also be recognizing our four recipients (and two alternates) for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

In addition, the annual meeting is the opportunity for you to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of WEC, by voting for the upcoming board of trustees.

That's because WEC is not owned by far away investors. It's run by a democratically elected board of trustees, a board given the privilege to serve because of your vote. Our trustees are members of your community, and they're concerned with the issues you face every day because they face them, too.

The Power to Vote

You may be wondering if your opinion really makes a difference. Yes, it does!

The original founders of WEC intended for all members who joined the cooperative to have a say in how the organization is run, in the best interest of our membership at large.

In fact, Voluntary and Open Membership, Democratic Member Control, and Members' Economic Participation — just a few of our cooperative's guiding principles — have held true since our earliest days, when our original trustees drafted our very first bylaws.

As a voting member, you have the power to nominate any candidate from the floor of the annual meeting from any meeting location. That candidate then serves as a "write-in" candidate at the meeting.

In addition to the nomination and trustee selection process, we also raise other issues for voting consideration by the general membership. At this year's annual meeting members will vote on proposed bylaw changes affecting multiple sections of the bylaws.

Gaining guidance and perspective from members like you helps us set priorities for the co-op and guide future decisions, and these voting powers are something that our original founders intended every co-op member to hold and exercise.

In fact, our original "membership certificate" from 1948 explicitly expresses the following decree: "Each member of the cooperative, or in the case of a joint membership, the holders thereof jointly, or either of them, but not both, shall be entitled to one vote, and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at all meetings of the members of the cooperative."

Back then, to join the cooperative and gain electric service, members completed a signed membership certificate and also paid a \$5 fee, which would be used toward the infrastructure and development of electric service in the region.

Today, it takes a lot more than \$5 per member to make updates to our local system and maintain reliability and grid resilience so that we can ensure you have reliable power for everyday life. Though many things have changed over 75 years, one thing

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Nationwide, nearly 59,000 wildfires burned more than 71 million acres in 2021, the National Centers for Environmental Information reports. Being aware of your vehicle's capability to cause a wildfire can help prevent these events. When pulling off the road, remain on hard surfaces. Avoid dry grass that could contact your vehicle's hot exhaust system or catalytic converter.

has not: as a co-op member you have a say in how your co-op is run, and we invite you to **EXERCISE THAT POWER ON APRIL 26.**

The Power of Our Present

From our humble grassroots, we've grown into an organization today that serves over 21,000 homes and businesses across 17 Kansas and Colorado counties, via 4,600-plus miles of distribution lines.

Delivering energy around the clock and across a service territory that spans 330 miles — from Towner, Colorado, to Caldwell, Kansas — is no easy feat.

Despite the many storms — both literal and figurative — we've always stayed true to our vision: to **"PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES THAT ARE SAFE, RELIABLE AND COMPETITIVELY PRICED TO ENHANCE THE LIVES OF OUR MEMBERS."**

We do that in many ways, not only by meeting your energy needs but also by serving our communities with care and compassion.

For example, nearly 10 years ago, our cooperative started a small project we called Cram the Van. Our goal was to raise as many donations as possible for our local food banks.

That service project has steadily grown into a powerful initiative over the years, collecting 54,599 pounds of food in 2022 for a dozen food banks and bringing our combined nine-year total to 226,908 pounds, just over 113 tons!

Today, Cram the Van is just one of the many ways we give back, and we look forward to sharing our plans to continue this campaign later this month at our annual meeting.

While it's difficult to quantify all our community-focused initiatives — from local sponsorships to youth scholarships — I encourage you to attend our annual meeting to learn more about our achievements from 2022.

For those unable to attend in April, we'll also be debuting a very special edition of our 2022 Annual Report later this month, which will be made available to the public at all our office locations and online.

This special report will include historical details from the past 75 years of our shared cooperative history and provide a snapshot of how we've impacted the communities we serve in the last calendar year. Not to mention, we'll also be sharing our plans and goals regarding how we aim to charge forward in powerful and innovative ways in the years ahead.

The Power of Working Together

In addition to our primary meeting location in Scott City, for the fifth consecutive year we'll be hosting **CONCURRENT ANNUAL MEETINGS** in all the communities we have area offices or service locations: Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Great Bend, Harper and Caldwell.

A full list of meeting address locations is available on the back cover of this month's magazine and our website. As always, members are encouraged to contact their local WEC office with any questions.

Lunch will be provided at each location, concurrent annual meetings included, and co-op members like you can attend, nominate and/or vote, take home a special 75th anniversary gift, or win a door prize (if selected), from all our meeting locations.

As the fifth CEO and general manager to serve our cooperative, I often take a holistic view of our day-to-day operations. And though many leaders measure success by what you can see, it's often the unseen that is the true measure.

Behind the scenes of our cooperative is a powerful system at play and team of professionals at work. These professionals work tirelessly to make sure when you flip that switch, the power is yours — instantly.

I'm humbled and proud to lead an organization that has always stayed true to its mission:

DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE.

I hope you are able to attend our annual meeting this year in Scott City or at any of the locations and **EXERCISE YOUR POWER** as a WEC member.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.





Official Notice of Annual Meeting for Wheatland Members

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the members of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at the Scott Community Building, 600 Fairground Road in Scott City, Kansas, or at one of our remote meeting locations: Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Great Bend, Harper and Caldwell.

Registration opens at 10:30 a.m. CDT, and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. CDT at all locations. The business meeting will convene at noon. The following matters will be addressed:

- ▶ Reports of officers, trustees, committees and employees.
- ▶ Election of trustees of the cooperative.
- ▶ Bylaw revision referendum.
- ▶ Any other business which may come before the meeting.
- ▶ Adjournment.

The 2023 nominating committee consisted of the following members:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ▶ District 1 – ED CUPP | ▶ District 5 – JASON DOUGHERTY |
| ▶ District 2 – MILAN REIMER | ▶ District 6 – LANE MOORE |
| ▶ District 3 – DALE WETZEL | ▶ District 7 – TROY DIERKING |
| ▶ District 4 – PAT RILEY | |

The following trustees have been nominated by the nominating committee for the position of trustee:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ▶ DISTRICT 1
KATIE EISENHOUR
1106 Myrtle, Scott City, KS | ▶ DISTRICT 4
STACEY ADDISON-HOWLAND
911 N. Norris, Syracuse, KS |
| ▶ DISTRICT 2
JOSH YOUNG
112 S. Genesse, Leoti, KS | ▶ DISTRICT 5
JOHN KLEYTEUBER
6310 E. Old Post Road,
Garden City, KS |

In addition, the following candidate has been nominated by petition as established by Wheatland bylaws:

- ▶ **DISTRICT 1**
LYNN FREESE
2061 W. Road 230, Scott City, KS

Katie Eisenhour

DISTRICT 1 | INCUMBENT

KATHLEEN (KATIE) EISENHOUR

brings expertise in economic development and the ability to listen, learn and discern complex topics to the board table. She has represented District 1 since her appointment in 2013 and is seeking election to the WEC Board of Trustees.

Her connection to WEC began in 1979, when she was selected by WEC to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Eisenhour returned the following year as a camp counselor.

Her extensive co-op background began in the mid-1980s with her 16 years at Scott Cooperative Association. She also has valuable experience as a Chamber of Commerce executive director, sales manager, grain bookkeeper and commodity trader. Eisenhour has served as the executive director for Scott County Development Committee since 2009.

In the last 10 years as a WEC trustee, Eisenhour has witnessed a lot of changes.

“The energy industry is evolving so rapidly that new technologies, solar farms, wind generation and electric vehicles are impacting the decisions we make at the board table,” she said. “I enjoy researching and implementing the best possible integrations for the betterment of our cooperative’s members.”

Eisenhour currently serves as vice president of the WEC board, alternate to the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Board of Directors, and formerly led the youth tour/scholarship committee. As a trustee, she’s earned her distinction as a Credentialed Cooperative Director in 2014 and attained her Board Leadership certificate in 2017, as well as Director Gold status in 2019 and 2022.

Eisenhour has worked diligently on the WEC board to support policy changes such as focusing on enabling the consumer service representatives to handle late payments and resolve disconnections. “By making policy improvements and empowering our people, WEC has seen a massive decline in bad debt write-offs reported to the board each month,” she said.

Eisenhour has two sons and seven grandchildren. Her favorite pastime is spending time with her family playing cards, camping and cooking.

“I have been honored to serve the members of Wheatland and of District 1 who are my coworkers, friends and neighbors,” she said. “I have taken this role seriously, am considered a very active trustee, and fully intend to serve only one more term before passing the honor to another qualified candidate. I humbly and respectfully ask for your vote on April 26.”



Lynn Freese

DISTRICT 1

LYNN FREESE of Scott City is seeking to represent District 1 on WEC's Board of Trustees.

Freese, a full-time rancher in rural Scott County, was raised on a farm in Oklahoma and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in agriculture from Oklahoma State University. Immediately following graduation in 1979, Freese moved to Scott City to begin his career at WEC as the energy conservation director, implementing efficiency, load shed and energy management programs.

During his time with WEC, Freese worked in numerous capacities including director of member services, supervising IT, broadband, and water departments. He was a Class 4 water system operator. Freese last served the cooperative as director of consumer services before retiring after 38 years in 2017, to be a full-time rancher — a family tradition and life-long passion.

As the owner of a small cow/calf operation, Freese understands the need for reliable, affordable electric power to keep the western and central Kansas economy going.

"I feel my years of experience in matters from customer service to contracts and from personnel to power supply could be helpful navigating the next several years in the energy industry," he said.

Freese has served in a number of community organizations over the years and has previously umpired Little League Baseball. In addition, he served on the Board of Directors for Finney County Rural Water District No. 1 for 10 years and served as the board's chairman for nine of those years.

With such a varied background, Freese has a rather unique perspective. "I have both served on a board of directors and reported to a board of trustees," he said. "I have had to explain the reasoning behind why we do what we do, and I've had to make tough decisions. I want to bring that experience to Wheatland's board of trustees."

With significant electric distribution experience and a thorough understanding of the industry, Freese feels he has a lot to contribute, plus he feels the drive to give back. "Wheatland has been good to me and my family, so serving on the board of trustees would be a way for me to give something back to the organization and its members."

Freese and his wife, Lori, have three adult children and one granddaughter. In addition to enjoying time with family and ranching, Freese is an avid fisherman and hunter.



Josh Young

DISTRICT 2 | INCUMBENT

JOSH YOUNG, a lifelong resident of western Kansas, is seeking his second term as District 2 trustee.

First elected in 2020, Young sought to expand his knowledge of electric co-ops and serve his community. Since then, he has found even more purpose. "Energy drives our society, but we don't always realize how much it impacts our day-to-day lives," he said.

Winter Storm Uri in 2021 gave Young his first board challenge. It caused historically low temperatures, stressing both electric generating capacity and grid transmission. The record-high-cost of natural gas and increased electric usage during this cold spell caused a huge spike in energy costs. "I am proud of how Wheatland communicated with its members and navigated the situation, taking a proactive approach," he said. "We learned a lot and have implemented policies to help mitigate similar situations in the future."

December 2021 brought special challenges to his own district when 100 mph winds contributed to extensive grass fires. "I appreciate the dedication of our linemen who worked through the issues and got members back on as quickly and safely as they could," he said. "Wheatland's linemen do dangerous work. I respect and appreciate all that they do."

Young serves as the board's treasurer and is WEC's alternate representative for the Sunflower Electric Power Corporation Board. He is an NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director and is currently working on his Board Leadership certificate.

"Wheatland is facing some critical issues that we will have to address when it comes to dealing with renewable energy and grid resilience," he said. "I want to continue contributing to a culture where integrity is at the forefront of what we do and bring a commonsense approach to doing the right thing every time."

Young attended Fort Hays State University and is currently a senior vice president with Security State Bank in Leoti.

Young is active in his community serving on the Wichita County USD 467 Board of Education. He has served as a member of the Wichita County Hospital Board, Park and Recreation Board and Economic Development. He has also volunteered as a coach for both youth football and basketball.

He and his wife, Courtney, have three sons. He enjoys traveling, coaching, spending time with friends and family and attending his children's sporting events.

"It has truly been a pleasure serving the members of District 2 and I look forward to the opportunity to continue my service," he said. "We have much more to accomplish, and I want to do my part to contribute to the growth and continued success of Wheatland Electric."



2023 Trustee Nominees

Continued on page 12H ►

Trustee Nominees

2023

Stacey Addison-Howland

DISTRICT 4 | INCUMBENT

STACEY ADDISON-HOWLAND, Syracuse, is seeking her third term on WEC's Board of Trustees, representing District 4. First elected in 2016, she also currently serves as the board's secretary.

Addison-Howland grew up attending electric and grain co-op meetings with her parents and grandparents. Serving her fellow co-op members on WEC's Board seemed like a natural fit.

She believes in stepping up and supporting her community through volunteering. "I have served on numerous community boards," she said. "Wheatland has a significant impact to this area. Serving on Wheatland's board was the next logical step in my commitment to serve the community."

Her goal is to be a voice for the small communities in WEC's service area and be responsive to member concerns and employee safety. "We need to be proactive and not reactive as a board," she said. "Part of that is learning the governmental and environmental impacts to the organization. But another important part is listening to our members. When necessary, I will also be a voice for our staff in the effort to maintain a culture of providing a safe and productive work environment."

Addison-Howland is open minded to change and actively seeks knowledge of current events affecting the co-op and listens to member concerns. "For me, the board is more than a one-day-a-month commitment," she said. "There are many hours of personal study. I have taken the past six years to invest in learning and consume a steady diet of electric-related articles and classes."

She understands the importance of safeguarding WEC's assets and taking advantage of opportunities that benefit the co-op. "When deciding how to vote, I always keep 'how will this affect the majority of our members' in mind."

Addison-Howland earned her bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State University. She previously taught high school business classes and worked in banking as a loan review officer and on the internal audit team. She has been an agent for the Farmers Union Midwest Agency in Syracuse for nearly 18 years, serving Hamilton County and the surrounding area. She also serves as secretary for the Hamilton County Chamber of Commerce. She and her husband, Mike, have two daughters.

Since joining Wheatland's board, Addison-Howland has completed the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director certification and has earned both her Board Leadership Certificate and Director Gold Certificate.

"I hope members will continue to support me with their vote this April as I do take my duty to serve seriously."



John Kleysteuber

DISTRICT 5 | INCUMBENT

JOHN KLEYTEUBER, a Garden City local who represents District 5, is seeking election to the WEC Board of Trustees.

Kleysteuber has been a WEC trustee since 2016 and saw serving on the board as an opportunity to represent his district and be a voice for his hometown area.

As a fourth-generation farmer and rancher, Kleysteuber has a personal understanding of the importance of reliable energy, fair rates, and being an active voice in policy discussions. Having a business that is dependent on the services that WEC provides, he was drawn to being a larger part of such an essential organization.

Kleysteuber brings a strong voice for agriculture, extensive knowledge of water rights, and a deep love and connection for the district that he represents to the board.

Since his addition to the board, Kleysteuber has completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director training and will continue his training if elected to another term.

Growing up in Garden City, Kleysteuber attended Garden City High School, Garden City Community College, and received his bachelor's degree in agribusiness from Kansas State University.

After college, he moved back to Garden City where he joined his family's fourth-generation irrigated farm and ranch in Finney County.

Kleysteuber and his wife, Marisa, have two sons, Cooper and Colin. Cooper serves in the U.S. Navy and Colin is a senior at Garden City High School with intent to attend Oklahoma State University and specialize in agribusiness. He also plans to come back to the family operation like his father did.

District 5 is home to the family. As Kleysteuber's sons grow up, he hopes to be able to dedicate even more time toward serving on the WEC board and giving back to his community.



2022 *Financial Statements*

Operating Statement

AS OF DEC. 31, 2022 (AUDITED)

INCOME:

Electric Revenues	103,878,629
Water Revenues	3,023,557
Interest Income	2,586,891
*Capital Credits from Other Cooperatives	4,267,201
Non-Operating Income (Other)	385,651
TOTAL INCOME	114,141,929

EXPENSES:

Purchased Power/Cost of Sales	62,807,728
Operations & Maintenance	8,833,429
Administrative & General	11,051,662
Depreciation	11,607,225
Total Interest	8,047,755
Taxes	4,408,065
Other	46,556
TOTAL EXPENSES	106,802,420

TOTAL MARGINS 7,339,509

(*) Of this amount \$3,572,537 is a non-cash allocation of margins from Sunflower Electric Power Corporation for the year of 2022. This amount will be available to be paid out to members at such time when Sunflower makes cash distributions to WEC for that year.

Property Taxes Paid

Finney	1,126,157	Kingman	97,757
Barton	438,057	Gray	51,852
Harper	329,992	Reno	3,776
Sumner	236,879	Wallace	2,239
Scott	228,148	Logan	1,749
Hamilton	228,148	Sedgwick	1,384
Kearny	218,379	Haskell	-
Greeley	216,490	Seward	-
Wichita	179,775	Lane	-
TOTAL		3,360,782	

Balance Sheet

AS OF DEC. 31, 2022 (AUDITED)

ASSETS:

Cash & Short-Term Investments	1,494,829
Memberships and Other Investments	94,613,779
Notes Receivable	2,792,661
Accounts Receivable	15,481,399
Materials and Supplies	4,711,215
Other Current and Accrued Assets	706,256
Deferred Charges	505,944
Plant Assets (All Operations)	388,030,432
Accumulated Depreciation	(115,378,598)
TOTAL ASSETS	392,957,917

LIABILITIES:

Principal Owed on Long-Term Debt	189,115,149
Interest Payable on Long-Term Debt (in 2023)	692,140
Notes Payable	36,840,541
Accounts Payable	5,832,387
Property Taxes Payable (due in 2023)	1,640,665
Consumer Deposits	1,441,315
Other Liabilities/Deferred Credits	11,075,032
TOTAL LIABILITIES	246,637,229

EQUITIES:

2022 Operating Margin	99,766
2022 Non-Operating Margin	7,239,743
Prior Years Margins	138,763,718
Other Equities	217,461
TOTAL EQUITY	146,320,688
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	392,957,917

WEC will pay a total of \$3,360,782 in property taxes for 2022. These amounts were assessed against assets such as electric lines, poles, buildings, trucks and water-related equipment owned by WEC. As a not-for-profit cooperative, WEC is exempt from income tax.

Proposed Bylaw Revisions

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) Board of Trustees have proposed the following amendments to the cooperative's bylaws. These proposed changes will be voted upon by the membership as part of the 2023 annual meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 2023. WEC encourages you to review the proposed changes affecting multiple sections of the bylaws. The foundation to any successful cooperative is member trust and transparency in decision-making. If you have questions regarding the proposed bylaw changes, please email memberservices@weci.net.

You are hereby notified, pursuant to K.S.A. 17-4608 and Article 12 of the bylaws, that the following proposed amendments to the bylaws are being submitted to a vote of the membership at the annual meeting, April 26, 2023. The sections of the bylaws in which changes are proposed follow this notice.

Proposed changes are in bold, red print.

THE WHEATLAND ELECTRIC BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECOMMENDS THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. A "yes" vote is a vote in favor of the proposed changes. A "no" vote is a vote against the proposed changes. A complete version of the bylaws can be found at www.weci.net.

Article 3 – MEETING OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1. ANNUAL MEETING. [NO CHANGE]

SECTION 2. SPECIAL MEETING [NO CHANGE]

SECTION 3. NOTICE OF MEMBER MEETINGS.

Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and, in case of a special meeting or an annual meeting at which business requiring special notice is to be transacted, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called shall be delivered not less than ten days, nor more than **thirty five** days before the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the Secretary, or upon a default in duty by the Secretary, by the persons calling the meeting, to each member. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, addressed to the member at his address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative, with postage thereupon paid. The failure of any member to receive notice of an annual or special meeting of the members shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at any such meeting.

SECTION 4. QUOROM. [NO CHANGE]

SECTION 5. VOTING.

Each member shall be entitled to only

one vote, **whether by mail ballot for the election of trustees or in-person**, upon each matter submitted to a vote of the members. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon, except as otherwise provided by law, the articles of incorporation or these bylaws.

SECTION 6. PROXIES.

A member may vote by proxy, **except for the election of trustees**, executed in writing by the member. Such proxy shall be filed with the Secretary before or at the time of the meeting. No proxy shall be valid after sixty days from the date of its execution. No proxy shall be valid unless it shall designate the particular meeting at which it is to be voted and no proxy shall be voted at any meeting other than the one so designated or for adjournment of such meeting. A member may give his proxy only to another member or to an adult relative living in the same home with such a member, and no person may hold more than one proxy at any meeting. The presence of a member at a meeting shall revoke a proxy theretofore executed by him and such member shall be entitled to vote at such meeting in the same manner and with the same effect as if he had not executed a proxy. The minutes of each meeting shall contain a list of the members represented by proxy and of their respective proxies.

SECTION 7. ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The order of business at the annual meeting of members and, so far as

possible, at all other meetings of the members, shall be essentially as follows:

1. Report on the number of members present in person in order to determine the existence of a quorum.
2. Report on the number of members represented by proxy and the names of their respective proxies.
3. Reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of the due publication or mailing thereof, or the waiver or waivers of notice of the meeting, as the case may be.
4. Reading of unapproved minutes of previous meetings of the members and the taking of necessary action thereon.
5. Presentation and consideration of reports of officers, trustees and committees.
6. **Announcement of the election of trustees.**
7. Unfinished business.
8. New business.
9. Adjournment.

ARTICLE 4 – TRUSTEES

SECTION 1. GENERAL POWERS.

The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a board of no more than twelve trustees which shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law, the articles of incorporation or these bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members. At least one but no more than two trustees shall be elected from each district.

The board of trustees shall have the power to make, adopt and enforce such policies

not inconsistent with law, the articles of incorporation of the Cooperative or these bylaws as it may deem advisable for the nomination, qualification, and election of trustees, and for the management, administration and regulation of the business of the Cooperative.

SECTION 2. ELECTION AND TENURE OF OFFICE.

Trustees shall be elected by **mail ballot prior to each annual meeting** of the members and shall be elected for a three-year term **beginning on the date of the next annual meeting of the members**. Members of the board of trustees shall not serve more than six, three-year terms beginning from and after adoption of this bylaw by the membership at an annual meeting. Trustees shall be elected by a plurality vote of those members **casting mail ballots and tabulated as set forth in written Cooperative policy established by the board of trustees. The results of trustee elections will be announced at a properly convened annual meeting of the members.**

At least 25 days prior to the annual meeting, the Secretary shall mail a ballot to each member. At a minimum the ballot must have the name of each nominee, the date upon which the ballot must be received by the Cooperative for tabulation and the district for which the nominee is seeking election. All mail ballots will be tabulated for the purpose of the election of trustees if received by the Cooperative at least five (5) days prior to the date of the annual meeting. If an election of trustees shall not be held on the day designated herein for the annual meeting, or any adjournment thereof, a special meeting of the members shall be held for the purpose of electing trustees within reasonable time thereafter **using the mail ballot format.**

SECTION 3. QUALIFICATIONS.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who:

1. Is not a member and taking electric service in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative; or

2. Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures, or supplies to the members of the Cooperative.
3. Has a close family member that is an employee of the Cooperative. A close family member means a spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandchild, grandparent, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew and the same for in-law and "step" relationships.

4. Does not meet all qualification requirements as set forth in Cooperative policy adopted by the board of trustees.

Upon establishment of the fact that a trustee is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, its board of trustees shall remove such trustee from office.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of trustees.

Nothing contained in this section shall prohibit the board of trustees from establishing additional qualifications for trustees by Cooperative policy.

SECTION 4. NOMINATIONS AND DISTRICTS.

It shall be the duty of the board of trustees to appoint, not less than **forty five (45) days nor more than seventy five (75) days** before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five nor more than eleven members who shall be selected from different districts served or to be served by the Cooperative so as to **ensure** equitable representation. No member of the board of trustees may serve on such a committee. To **ensure** equitable representation on the committee, the division of territory served or to be served by the Cooperative shall be as follows, to-wit:

[LISTS AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION OF EACH DISTRICT, 1-7]

Each district shall have annexed to it any area, next to and having its largest mass contiguous to such district for which the Cooperative shall have heretofore, or may hereafter, receive certificate of convenience and necessity issued by the Kansas State Corporation Commission.

The committee on nominations, in selecting members for nomination to trustee positions, shall **ensure** geographic representation by conforming to the following:

There shall be not less than one member and no more than two members nominated for any election to the board of trustees by the committee on nominations from any one of the aforesaid districts, and each member nominated must be a resident of said district for which he or she is nominated. The committee, abiding by the aforesaid districting and nominations as to districts, shall notify the Secretary of all nominations no later than forty-five (45) days before the meeting and also post the names and addresses of each nominee at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty days before the meeting a list of the nominations for trustees.

Any twenty-five (25) or more members acting together may make and serve on the Secretary other nominations by petition if received not less than forty-five days (45) prior to the annual meeting. The Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place as the list of nominees by the committee is posted. The Secretary will also ensure that the name, address, and district of all nominees will be provided in the notice to the members required under Article 3. Section 3 of these bylaws.

SECTION 5. REMOVAL OF TRUSTEES BY MEMBERS. [NO CHANGE]

SECTION 6. VACANCIES. [NO CHANGE]

SECTION 7. COMPENSATION. [NO CHANGE]

5

Things You Need to Know About Charging EVs

Learn more about EVs and charging using our FREE ChooseEV digital toolkit! Visit www.weci.net/electric-vehicle to get started or scan our QR code!



WEC hosts two public EV charging stations at our offices in Great Bend and Garden City, putting southwest and central Kansas on the national EV map. These Level 2 charging stations are open to the public 24/7, and drivers can “fuel up” using the ChargePoint app. In 2022, in their first full year of use, the stations hosted 254 sessions by 164 unique drivers!

Electric vehicles (EV) are not only good for the planet — they’re also good for your pocketbook.

They offer a number of benefits, including lower cost of ownership and reduced carbon emissions. Add to that the convenience of “fueling up” at home. EV drivers can take advantage of low residential electric rates and charge their cars from the comfort of their own garages.

It’s not surprising that more than 80% of electric vehicle drivers charge their cars at home: residential charging is convenient and inexpensive. There are a variety of options available for setting up a charging station in your garage or driveway. If you’re considering buying an EV, this is what you need to know about charging your car at home.

1 FUELING UP IS INCREDIBLY AFFORDABLE.

Charging your EV at home allows you to take advantage of low residential electric rates. It’s like always finding the cheapest gas station in town — in your own garage! Fully charging an electric vehicle costs about the same as running a central air conditioner for six hours, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

2 YOU DON’T NECESSARILY NEED A CHARGING STATION.

If you’re considering buying an electric car, you’re probably making plans to charge it in your garage. But you don’t need to install a special outlet or elaborate equipment. Most EVs come with a Level 1 charging cord that plugs into a standard, 120-volt household outlet. For maximum safety, use or install an outlet on a dedicated circuit that doesn’t supply other appliances or lights.



DYK?! While gas prices have averaged around \$3 per gallon in recent years, the cost of an eGallon (the cost of driving your electric vehicle the same distance as a gallon of gas) is closer to \$1.11/gallon in Kansas, according to the U.S. Dept. of Energy. This means it costs significantly less to fuel up an electric car and get where you need to go! We even offer a \$250 rebate for battery electric vehicles or a \$150 rebate for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles!

3 CHARGE EVEN FASTER WITH LEVEL 2. A

Level 1 charger only provides 2 to 5 miles of range per hour of charging. You can charge your car much faster by installing a 240-volt, Level 2 charger, which provides 10 to 60 miles of range per hour. Although your home probably has 240-volt service for a clothes dryer or electric range, you’ll need a dedicated circuit for your EV charger. Don’t install it yourself; hire a licensed electrician. Level 2 charging stations cost anywhere from \$500 to \$2,000 before incentives.

4 THERE ARE MANY CHARGING OPTIONS AVAILABLE.

As EV use increases in popularity, the number of products and services available to support electric cars is also growing. There’s a wide variety of Level 2 charging equipment on the market, including models with display screens and smartphone apps. Although EV charging stations are usually installed in garages, there are also outdoor-rated charging stations that can be installed in driveways.

5 HOME CHARGERS ARE SAFE.

Charging your EV is just as safe as using other large appliances. EV connectors contain a communications port, allowing your vehicle to communicate with the charging station and cut off the power flow when it’s not needed. Otherwise, just keep the charging cord in a safe place so it doesn’t get damaged.

Join us for our ANNUAL MEETING

in Scott City or a remote location near you

DISTRICT 2 | LEOTI

Wheatland Electric Warehouse, 103 West F

DISTRICT 3 | TRIBUNE

Wheatland Electric Warehouse, 310 Broadway Ave.

DISTRICT 4 | SYRACUSE

VFW Building, 609 N. Main St.

DISTRICT 5 | GARDEN CITY

Wheatland Electric Office, 2005 W. Fulton

DISTRICT 6 | GREAT BEND

Wheatland Electric Office, 200 10th St.

DISTRICT 7 | HARPER

Westview Lodge & Apartments, 1300 N. Westview

DISTRICT 7 | CALDWELL

Caldwell Community Building, 119 E. First St.

Registration

10:30 A.M. CT

Luncheon

11:30 A.M. CT

Business Meeting

12 P.M. CT

at all locations

Feel the
POWER
April 26, 2023



GOOD FRIDAY

All Wheatland offices will be
closed on Friday, April 7, in
observance of Good Friday.

Ride+Drive

100% ELECTRIC
100% POWERED BY
YOUR CO-OP



COME DISCOVER THE POWER OF DRIVING ELECTRIC!



04.06.23 SCOTT CITY

Sunflower Electric ElectroRally

Spencer Flight & Education Center
300 S Mesquite Rd | 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



04.22.23 GREAT BEND

Earth Day Celebration

Great Bend Zoo
2123 Main St. | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.



04.26.23 SCOTT CITY

2023 Annual Meeting

Scott Community Bldg. | 600 Fairground Road
10:30-11:30 a.m. & 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Thank You, Lineworkers!

Not all heroes wear capes. Ours wear hard hats!

Our lineworkers are the heart of WEC. Their top priority is ensuring we have reliable electricity for every part of our lives.

That's why on National Lineworker Appreciation Day — April 10, 2023 — we take the opportunity to thank these individuals for the work they do. In fact, every year on this date, we show our appreciation with a special gift to every one of our lineworkers for their valiant efforts!

Lineworkers often work in hazardous conditions and away from their families. In 2014, the

National Rural Electric Cooperative (NRECA) Board voted to adopt a resolution recognizing the second Monday of each April as National Lineworker Appreciation Day.

To recognize our heroes in hardhats, we'll be sharing our reasons to honor these brave individuals on social media all month long — you can join the conversation, too, using #ThankALineworker and tagging us on Facebook or Twitter!

In the meantime, check out what our lineworkers have to say about what drew them to this profession — and what keeps them going day after day!



“As a veteran leaving the military, I was looking for a job that would provide stability for my family and also give me an

opportunity to serve my community. The most rewarding part of my job is providing light to the darkness in our members' lives.”

**JAMES SWANSON, JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN,
DISTRICT 6 (GREAT BEND)**



“I knew some guys who worked for the power company back home, and it seemed like a rewarding and inspiring job, so I pursued it. ... It's rewarding to know how many people out there really appreciate the job that we do and how we do it. After you get their lights back on, they appreciate it even more.”

WADE GRUMBEIN, AREA WIDE SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 7 (HARPER)



“For me the most rewarding thing is probably when we have outages after a storm. We're tired, we've put in a lot of hours, so we usually go to the gas station or to a restaurant to eat, and seeing all the members who are appreciative of all the hard work we've put in means a lot.”

DEREK CALLAWAY, JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN, DISTRICT 7 (CALDWELL)



“The best part of the job is getting the lights back on, but I think even more than that it's learning how to use equipment proficiently and knowing the processes to be able to get the job done — quickly and safely.”

BRAD THYNE, LINE FOREMAN, DISTRICT 5 (FINNEY COUNTY)



“Getting to work outside everyday and use my hands drew me to this line of work. Seeing the satisfaction of people when we get the power turned back on is the most rewarding part.”

RILEY WAGGONER, JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN, DISTRICT 3 (TRIBUNE)