

**WHEATLAND  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# NEWS



## Wheatland Electric Co-op Inc.

### Board of Trustees

**Mark Arnold**  
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**Katie Eisenhour**  
Vice President  
**Josh Young**  
Treasurer  
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Secretary  
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**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

# The Holiday Season is Our Giving Season



**Bruce W. Mueller**

The holiday season is finally here. For our cooperative family, the holidays are a season of giving — giving to our families, giving back to our

communities, and paying it forward to our membership at large.

At Wheatland Electric Cooperative (WEC), we're driven by a sense of mission and purpose. Our team feels a strong connection to our community and our members because this is our home, too.

These feelings were most evident as we completed our latest Cram the Van deliveries just prior to Thanksgiving, including delivery of tens of thousands of pounds of food and several

thousands of dollars to our dozen food banks across our southwest and central Kansas communities.

This would not have been possible without the effort of multiple employees, volunteers, area schools who partnered with us to hold food drive competitions, and members like you.

This year, we sought to THINK BIG, and, boy, did we have a big year — our biggest, brightest and best year yet. As we crunch the numbers and make our last deliveries, we'll share total pounds of food collected in each of our communities next month.

As we head into the holidays, it warms my heart to know that for nine consecutive years, you've shown us why Cram the Van is worth all the effort.

Thank you for helping to make our annual food drive such a successful

*Continued on page 12B ▶*



## The Holiday Season is Our Giving Season Continued from page 12A ▶

and purpose-driven campaign each and every year.

### \$2.25 Million in Capital Credits

We're once again hosting Capital Credits Harvest Day on Dec. 6, because we have a lot to celebrate this year.

This fall, WEC's Board of Trustees voted to retire, or pay out, \$2.25 million in capital credits to eligible members from 1989, 1990 and 2021, thanks to the financial strength of our cooperative.

It's the largest payout in our nearly 75-year history. That's why we want you to come celebrate with us and "enjoy your slice of pie."

Members' Economic Participation is one of our Seven Cooperative Principles. Returning excess revenues (called margins) when economically feasible is just one of the ways we honor our cooperative spirit and pay it forward.

Eligible members will be able to pick up their capital credits checks (those in the amount of \$25 or more) at their local district office between 10 a.m. and

2 p.m. CT, and all cooperative members are invited to enjoy complimentary pie and other refreshments during our harvest day.

Of our \$2.25 million, \$250,000 comes from Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, our wholesale power supplier. Sunflower Electric is a generation and transmission cooperative, and WEC is a member.

Any member (past or present) who does not pick up their check on Dec. 6 will have their check mailed to their address of record. Members who have earned less than \$25 in credits will not receive a check and will have their retirement rolled into a future payout year.

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 us at 800-762-0436.

### Season's Greetings

In this month's local pages, you will see

a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year greeting from all our WEC employees and board of trustees. We hope that you have a wonderful holiday season.

I am proud to share that many of these employees and trustees take it upon themselves every year to sponsor the holiday wish lists of children in need through Saint Francis Ministries, something we've been doing for many years.

As we reflect on this holiday season, I'm grateful for the many wonderful community partners, employees, and our cooperative family making a positive impact in the communities we serve.

I'm also reminded of how wonderful our communities are and what a big impact we can have when we work together.

I know our shared future will be bright as we carry out our mission to **DELIVER ENERGY FOR LIFE.**

Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.**



# CRAM the Van

**WE Think BIG!** We just wrapped up our ninth consecutive year of Cram the Van, our annual food drive, and we're excited to share that it's been our **BIGGEST, BRIGHTEST, and BEST** year yet! As of Thanksgiving, all our cash and can donations collected at community events, school drives, our office locations, and more have now been delivered to a dozen food banks, to stock shelves and feed hungry families ahead of this holiday season. This year we sought to **THINK BIG**, and our mission was a **SUCCESS**, thanks to the generosity of members like you and the communities we serve across our southwest and central Kansas territory. Stay tuned, as we'll be sharing donation totals and more in next month's issue of *Kansas Country Living!*

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., is bringing back its annual sponsorship of both the **Electric Cooperative Youth Tour** and **Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp** in 2023!

Current **high school juniors** are invited to apply for these **once-in-a-lifetime** trips to **Washington, D.C.**, and **Steamboat Springs, Colorado**.

**Two** students will be selected for the **trip** to our **nation's capital**, where they'll **tour** historic monuments and **build friendships** and **memories** that will last a **lifetime**.

**Two** additional students will be selected for the **leadership camp**, where they'll get a chance to **engage** with a **community** of their **peers** from Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Wyoming.

# ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR BUILDS

JUNE 15-22, 2023  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SPONSORED BY  
YOUR LOCAL  
ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE



LEADERSHIP

FDL | SMITHSONIAN | MILK  
NEWSEUM | BALTIMORE  
OTTERPOUND | ZOO | TAGGART | KOREAN  
NATIONALS STADIUM | ART  
CAPITOL HILL | WHITE HOUSE  
MT. VERNON | THEATRE  
LINCOLN | ARLINGTON CEMETERY

MEMORIES

2023



COMMUNITY



# Juniors: Apply now!

Apply online at

[WWW.WECI.NET/  
YOUTH-TOUR-PROGRAM](http://WWW.WECI.NET/YOUTH-TOUR-PROGRAM)

Only juniors (16 years of age or older) who reside in **our service territory** are eligible to apply. In addition, applicants must be a **legal dependent** of an **active co-op member** (account holder) receiving service from Wheatland Electric.

Completed applications must be submitted online by **5 p.m. CT** on **Jan. 20, 2023**.

Questions?

[MEMBERSERVICES@WECI.NET](mailto:MEMBERSERVICES@WECI.NET)

Or call your local Wheatland office today!

LEADERSHIP

COOPERATIVE  
YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

# BUILDS

JULY 14-20, 2023

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

MEMORIES

COMMUNITY

# Happy Holidays

From our Wheatland Electric Cooperative family to yours, we hope you have a blessed and delightful holiday season.



District 1 — *Scott City*



District 2 — *Leoti*



District 3 — *Tribune*



District 4 — *Syracuse*

All WEC offices will be closed for the holidays  
on Dec. 23, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.



District 5 — *Garden City*



District 6 — *Great Bend*



District 7 — *Harper*



Water Division — *Garden City*



*Executive Team*



*Board of Trustees*



# We're Retiring \$2.25 Million in Capital Credits

*Our Largest Payout in Co-op History!*

The Wheatland Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees voted to retire \$2.25 million in capital credits. It's our largest payout in our nearly 75-year history, and just one of the ways we're proud to honor our cooperative spirit! Eligible members (both past and present) who have accumulated at least \$25 in credits will receive their payout in the form of a check during our Capital Credits Harvest Day on Dec. 6.

You're invited to come enjoy your "slice of the pie" during this history-making celebration from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. CT (or 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. MT). We'll be serving complimentary pie and other refreshments (first-come, first-served) at each of our seven district office locations, and all co-op members, like you, are invited to attend!

Eligible members will also be able to pick up their capital credits check on this date. Members, current or past, who do not pick up their capital credits checks on Dec. 6 will have them mailed to their address of record following our event.

One of Wheatland Electric's Seven Cooperative Principles is Members' Economic Participation, which means members contribute equitably to and democratically control the capital of their cooperative.

Because electric cooperatives like ours operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) can be allocated to members in later years through capital credits. Trustees determine how and when to retire (pay out) capital credits when economically feasible.

Wheatland Electric has retired at least \$1 million in capital credits every year for the last five years.

This year, co-op members from 1989, 1990 and 2021 are eligible for our record-setting payout, which trustees voted on in September.

The credit amount that an individual member receives is based on the amount of electricity used (kilowatt-hours) during the payout year(s), and their duration of membership.

Eligible members who have not accumulated at least \$25 in capital credits this year will not receive a check. However, they will not lose their payout amount. Instead, their retirement amount will be rolled over into a future year's payout.

It is important that Wheatland Electric has the current mailing address of all inactive members (individuals who have received past service) to ensure the timely delivery of capital credits checks each year.

To confirm or update your mailing address, please call us at 800-762-0436.

Of this year's \$2.25 million payout, \$250,000 comes from Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, our wholesale power supplier. Wheatland Electric is a distribution cooperative and also a member of Sunflower, a generation and transmission cooperative.

# Members Receive Capital Credits Notices This Month

Wheatland Electric co-op members (account holders) who have received capital credits prior to 2022 will receive an allocation notice in the mail beginning this month.

The statements, mailed Nov. 30, detail the “allocation” or amount of capital credits (in dollars) a member has been allocated in 2020 and 2021 (combined) and the source of these credits.

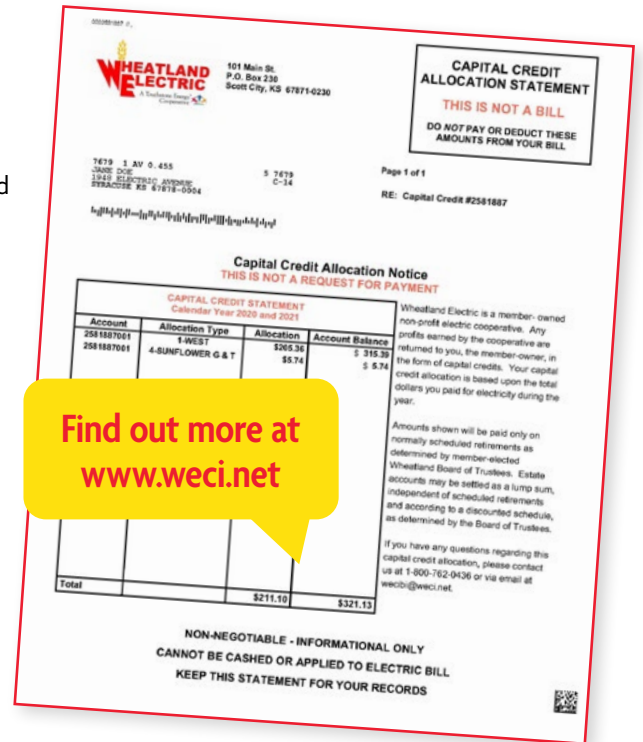
The statement will also detail the total “account balance,” the sum of a member’s capital credits allocations between 1989 and 2021.

These statements are part of a new process implemented by our cooperative to communicate clearly and directly with our members. The notice is not a bill and is not redeemable for cash.

Because your cooperative operates at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated to members in the form of capital credits. Each year, trustees determine whether or not it is economically feasible to retire (or pay out) these allocated credits.

Members with questions about their allocation notices are encouraged to contact their local Wheatland office during regular business hours.

Members can also visit our website ([weci.net/capital-credit-notice](http://weci.net/capital-credit-notice)) for a further explanation on reading their allocation notice.



The statement pictured here is a sample capital credits allocation notice.

# \$1,000

# SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduating seniors who attend one of 13 high schools on Wheatland Electric’s lines are eligible to apply. One at-large scholarship is also available for a senior who does not attend one of these schools but whose parent/legal guardian receives our electric service.

★ DEADLINE: JAN. 20, 2023

WWW.WECI.NET/  
SCHOLARSHIP-PROGRAM

APPLY NOW

## SAFETY

## TIP OF THE MONTH

Drive with increased awareness when traveling in signed wildlife areas. Crossing signs are generally placed in known wildlife movement areas and wildlife-vehicle collision hot spots. Take notice of crossing signs along your regularly traveled routes and avoid getting habituated to them.

# Holiday Lights

# CONTEST

Nov. 25 thru Dec. 16

Show us your dazzling  
outdoor display!

Submit photo  
or video:

via email to [sdonecker@weci.net](mailto:sdonecker@weci.net) or via Facebook Messenger to our official page. The decorated property must be owned or rented by the individual making the submission. We'll announce our winners on Facebook and our website by Christmas!

**3 WINNERS**  
RECEIVE BILL CREDITS!

**1st**  
**\$200**  
**2nd**  
**\$150**  
**3rd**  
**\$100**

