




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.

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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

Thank You for Attending Our 74th Annual Meeting

I want to thank all our members who attended **WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S 74TH ANNUAL MEETING**.

This was the fourth year of holding **CONCURRENT REMOTE ANNUAL MEETINGS** across the WEC service territory, offering our cooperative membership and employees the ability to attend and participate in the annual meeting remotely.

A record turnout of 501 attendees, including special guests and other non-members, were in attendance on April 27 across our eight meeting locations. We want to thank the special guests who attended. Out of the 501 attendees, 450 were registered members and 39 members were represented by proxy.

This defines exactly what our second cooperative principle is all about: **DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL**. Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their cooperative members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Elected representatives (trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership.

During the meeting we presented videos of the **2021 FINANCIAL REPORT**

and the **2021 ANNUAL SUMMARY**, telling the 2021 WEC story. You can view the videos at weci.net/annual-meetings-reports or on our YouTube channel.

In addition, we shared our 2021 annual report with every member in attendance at this year's annual meeting, and copies are available for pickup at any of our WEC offices and downloadable online at weci.net/annual-meetings-reports. Our annual report not only covers our 2021 financial information but also highlights new services and programs we're offering to members starting in 2022. I encourage you to retrieve a copy today and direct any questions you have our way.

WEC also recognized 14 high school senior scholarship winners, who will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship to continue their education. Four high school juniors were also recognized as budding youth leaders and will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship upon high school graduation. All winners can be viewed on Page 12D-E.

During the meeting, WEC employees and trustees were also recognized for service awards ranging from five to



Bruce W. Mueller

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Record Attendance at 74th Annual Meeting

Wheatland
Electric
membership
elects new
trustee
and two
incumbents

Members of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., have elected a new trustee and two incumbents to its 10-member board during this year's 74th annual meeting, held April 27, 2022, in Scott City, and at seven remote meeting locations across southwest and central Kansas.

Members of the electric cooperative, who attended in record numbers this year, voted to elect **DUSTIN STANSBURY**, Harper, following a nomination that was made from the floor at a remote meeting site in Harper.

Harper, located in WEC's District 7 region, is part of the south central Kansas district, which includes communities across Sumner, Harper, Kingman and Sedgwick counties.

Stansbury challenged existing WEC trustee William "Woody" Barnes, Caldwell, who was nominated by WEC's nominating committee for a third three-year term of six available terms.

Barnes, was first elected to the board in 2008 when District 7 was acquired through the Aquila purchase in 2007, served as WEC trustee president and as an alternate board member for Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, the cooperative's generation and transmission power supplier.

Exactly 450 registered individuals, including 39

members represented by proxy, across WEC's eight meeting locations also elected **WES CAMPBELL**, Garden City, as their District 5 trustee, and **BOB HISS**, Great Bend, as their District 6 trustee. District 5 represents Finney County, eastern Kearny County, and a portion of Gray County. District 6 represents the City of Great Bend in Barton County.

Both Campbell and Hiss, who were nominated by the cooperative's nominating committee, faced no challengers and will begin serving their third consecutive three-year terms.

A record total of 501 attendees, including special guests and other non-members, were in attendance on April 27 across our eight meeting locations. In addition to our primary meeting location in Scott City and a remote meeting in Harper, additional remote meetings were also held in Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Great Bend and Caldwell.

Members at every location were able to ask questions, offer comments, or choose to make nominations in real time as they viewed the primary meeting location held in Scott City. In addition to voting, members in attendance enjoyed a meal at every location and took home a special gift as a thank you for their attendance.

This year's theme, "Driving Energy for Life,"



This year's annual meeting theme was "Driving Energy for Life," to reflect our new electric vehicle program and our cooperative's commitment to be future-focused.



Tristen Porter, senior, (left) and Cordell Brown, junior, (right), both from Wichita County Jr./Sr. High School, pose with their scholarship certificates and WEC trustee Josh Young, Leoti.

In addition to unveiling new services like our electric vehicle and generator programs and laying the road map for what's ahead at WEC, the meeting was an opportunity to share important news and information from this past year, putting 2021 in the rearview.

reflects our commitment to be future-focused. In addition to unveiling new services like our electric vehicle and generator programs and laying the road map for what's ahead at WEC, the meeting was an opportunity to share important news and information from this past year, putting 2021 in the rearview.

Barnes, sitting board president at the annual meeting, also recognized several WEC employees and trustees for their dedication to the cooperative, ranging from five years to 40 years of service. No new business was discussed at this year's annual meeting.

Our annual meeting summary video is available on our YouTube channel (<https://youtu.be/-XKwj2LkzXY>), where a livestream recording of the meeting is also available. In addition, our 2021 annual report can be downloaded from our website (weci.net/annual-meetings-reports), and printed copies are available at all local WEC offices.

WEC wishes to thank all members in attendance.



Woody Barnes, board president at the April 27 meeting, addresses the crowd at the Scott Community Building in Scott City.



The colors were posted and retired by military color guards, which was livestreamed to seven additional remote meeting locations.

Members with questions are free to contact their local WEC office or send their questions to memberservices@weci.net.



This year's annual meeting saw record attendance with a guest list of over 500 members and special guests across our eight meeting locations: Scott City (pictured above), Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Great Bend, Harper and Caldwell.



Heather Rufenacht (left), member services coordinator, visits with a member at this year's primary meeting location in Scott City.

18 LOCAL STUDENTS

Awarded \$1,000 Scholarships

14 high school seniors and 4 juniors will receive \$1,000 scholarships

Each year, Wheatland Electric Cooperative provides 14 scholarships for \$1,000 each to high school seniors who attend one of the 13 high schools in WEC's service territory, as well as one at-large scholarship for a student whose parent/guardian is a member of WEC but does not attend one of the schools in our service territory.

This year, WEC also awarded four \$1,000 leadership scholarships to high school juniors whose primary residence is in WEC's service territory. These scholarships were awarded in place of the 2022 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp programs. WEC plans to offer the leadership programs to high school juniors again starting next year.

A panel of the WEC Board of Trustees reviewed and selected all of the scholarship recipients.

"Wheatland Electric is committed to the leaders of tomorrow and is proud to award these scholarships to assist students in obtaining their educational goals," said Bruce W. Mueller, general manager and CEO.

Students were recognized and awarded scholarships during WEC's 74th Annual Meeting in Scott City on April 27, 2022.

To learn more about the scholarship program, Youth Tour or Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, please visit weci.net/scholarship-program or weci.net/youth-tour-program. Further questions may be addressed to Alli Conine, director of member services and corporate communications, at 620-874-4563 or aconine@weci.net.

junior SCHOLARSHIP *Winners*



CORDELL BROWN
Wichita County Jr./Sr. High School



MADELYNN GREGG
Great Bend High School



BAYLEE HUTCHESON
Garden City High School



NAYOMI OLIVAS
Great Bend High School

senior SCHOLARSHIP Winners



ALLY BRENNAMAN

Manhattan Virtual Academy (at-large)



BRODY FEIST

Great Bend High School



MORGAN HAMMOND

Holcomb High School



JUDSON HIBBS

Norwich High School



TATUM LEE

Caldwell High School



ALYSSA MARTIN

Argonia High School



MAKAYLIN ANN KUCHAR

South Haven High School



TRISTEN PORTER

Wichita County Jr./Sr. High School



LANA RODRIGUEZ

Garden City High School (at-large)



CHELSE ROSE

Scott Community High School



JESSE SMITH

Greeley County Jr./Sr. High School



GILLIAN STRUBLE

Chaparral Jr./Sr. High School



MILES STUM

Syracuse Jr./Sr. High School



IRIS WOOD

Conway Springs High School

2022

2022 Employee Service Awards

5 YEARS

Brock Brazeal
Maria Carrasco
Adam Parker
Aaron Wright
Diane Fisher
Nicole Semenko
Rosalva Godinez
*Mark Arnold
*Stacey Addison-Howland
*John Kleysteuber
*Mike Thon

10 YEARS

Heather Rufenacht
Nathan Schrock
Cody Ellis
Beth Nelson
Brandon Barrett
Bruce W. Mueller
Jordan Habiger

15 YEARS

Quinten Wheeler
Joe Thomeczek
Brad Thyne
Jake Jones
Pam Brungardt
Shawn Ryan

20 YEARS

Tuan Herrell
Tyson Ryff
Andy Pivonka

25 Years

*Wes Campbell

30 Years

Mark Kircher

35 Years

Eilene Jacobs

40 Years

Terry Rebel

*Indicates trustee

Wheatland Membership Elects Dustin Stansbury as New District 7 Trustee

DUSTIN STANSBURY, a small business owner from Harper, has been elected as a new trustee at Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. following the annual meeting on April 27, 2022.

Stansbury, a native of Argonia who graduated from Chaparral High School in Anthony, has owned and operated DLS Underground LLC, with his wife, Lindsey, since 2014.

The small business owner employs almost two dozen employees, and the company specializes in the placement of underground utilities in commercial, industrial, and residential areas, according to Stansbury.

Stansbury, a father of three, said his motivations for running for a board seat stemmed from his desire to see better representation in the western part of District 7, his home district.

"I wanted to learn more about my cooperative and bring some business (representation) to the board, based on my years of working in utility construction," he added.

District 7, which represents a region of south-central Kansas that includes communities across Sumner, Harper, Kingman and Sedgwick counties, was acquired by WEC following the 2007 Aquila purchase.

Stansbury has three daughters: Cabela, 8; Kimber, 6; and Sterling, 4. The family enjoys traveling to the lake on the weekends and attending ball games together.



Dustin Stansbury



HAPPY

★

4TH OF JULY

★★★

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Our offices will be closed on Monday, July 4, for the holiday.

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Anti-virus (AV) protection software has been the most prevalent solution to fight malicious attacks. AV software blocks malware and other malicious viruses from entering your device and compromising your data. Use anti-virus software from trusted vendors and only run one AV tool on your device.

Thank You for Attending Our 74th Annual Meeting

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40 years. All those recognized can be viewed on Page 12F.

In 2021, WEC paid out capital credits in the amount of \$1 million. This payout showed up as bill credits on the members' December 2021 electric bills. This amount was approved by the WEC Board of Trustees based on the 2020 financials. We also announced that the WEC Board has approved additional budgeted capital credits to be paid out (based on the 2021 financials).

I want to emphasize budgeted, just in case there is some unforeseen financial crisis that would inhibit our ability to pay capital credits. Barring that circumstance, WEC is planning to payout an additional \$1 million in capital credits in December 2022.

Pick up your copy of the 2021 annual report at your local WEC office or download online.



Phase 3 of Rate Adjustment Began April 1

I want to remind the membership that on April 1, 2022, the third phase of the rate adjustment approved by the WEC membership went into effect with your April electric usage. This adjustment is reflected on your May 2022 electric bills. Please visit our website

at weci.net/tariffs where you will find all three phases of the rate adjustment explained. As always, please do not hesitate to contact your local WEC office with any questions.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.

Storm Season is Upon Us

Summer is a time for many fun-filled activities, but the season can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones, especially younger children, about storm safety so that everyone is prepared and knows exactly what to do when a storm strikes. Here are some tips to share:

Before a Storm Strikes

- Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Discuss the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Long story, short: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors.
- Make a storm kit. It doesn't have to be elaborate — having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items

like water, non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a First-Aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

During the Storm

- Pay attention to local weather alerts — either on the TV, your smartphone or weather radio — and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to take action.
- If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows.

- If you're driving during a severe storm or tornado, do not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

After the Storm

- If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and texts to let others know you are safe or for emergencies only.
- Stay off the roads if trees, power lines or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.
- Wear appropriate gear if you're cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.

Phase 3 of Rate Adjustment Began April 1

On Jan. 21, 2020, a rate adjustment proposal was presented to the Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees and approved during an open meeting. This rate adjustment was based on a cost-of-service study completed by Mike Searcy of C.H. Guernsey and Associates in 2019. This rate adjustment was approved to be phased-in over a three-year period: 2020, 2021 and 2022. The third phase of the rate adjustments went into effect on April 1, 2022.

Two integral parts of the rate adjustment are the Energy Charge (per kWh) and the Service Availability Charge. The cost-of-service study found that the previous tariffs relied too heavily on the Energy Charge (per kWh) to cover many of WEC's fixed costs. Since energy usage is extremely variable, the current tariffs are designed to be more fair and more efficient. Ultimately, the Energy Charge (per kWh) was lowered, and the Service Availability Charge was raised. The Service Availability Charge is a fixed monthly charge designed to recover the costs of providing equipment, materials, labor and business overhead necessary to serve each meter, regardless of the amount of electricity consumed. These fixed costs are the same for a member using 10 kWh or 5,000 kWh.

To learn more about the rate adjustment, please visit weci.net/tariffs. You will find all three phases of the rate adjustment included in the tariff information on our website. As always, please contact your local WEC office with any questions.

Member Services Department Wins National Spotlight on Excellence Award

The member services team at Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. recently received national recognition in the 2022 Spotlight on Excellence Awards program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators (CREC) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

WEC's member services team received a Gold Award in the Best Total Communications Program category for our 2021 Cram the Van "Yes, WE Can!" food drive campaign. This year's promotional efforts — both in person and online — resulted in a total of 44,576 pounds in cash and can donations for a dozen area food banks across southwest and central Kansas.

The member services team is led by **ALLI CONINE**, director of member services and corporate communications, and also includes the following team members: **SARA MCCLURE** and **MARY HOISINGTON**, both member services and key accounts managers; **SHAJIA DONECKER**, social media specialist; and **HEATHER RUFENACHT**, member services coordinator.

Winners were recognized during the CONNECT conference in Seattle, Washington, a national conference for communications and marketing professionals.

The annual Spotlight on Excellence Awards program recognizes the best communication and marketing efforts by electric cooperatives and related organizations. Entrants competed with electric cooperatives of similar size in 18 categories with over 600 submissions made across the nation. Faculty members from the University of Missouri–Columbia and University of South Carolina, as well as noted professionals in the fields of marketing, web design and digital communications, and newspapers judged the event, which uses a finite scoring system to determine the winners.



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