


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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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
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Scott City, KS 67871
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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

Your Vote is Your Voice



Bruce W. Mueller

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC), is once again proud to be named a 5-Star Co-op by Co-ops Vote, a non-partisan project of America's

Electric Cooperatives!

WEC was designated this national accolade thanks to our civic-minded engagement over the past two years, including hosting and engaging local elected officials at our WEC offices, promoting voting, and encouraging voter registration.

We're celebrating this national accolade with every single one of our sister electric cooperatives across Kansas, just one of three states across the country to boast this distinction!

Democratic member control is one of our Seven Cooperative Principles. As a member-owned cooperative, trustees

are elected by co-op members like you and accountable to you, too.

You have a voice, not only in your government, but also in your democratically controlled cooperative. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

The Power is Yours

On behalf of WEC, I'd like to personally invite you to join us on April 26, 2023, at the Scott Community Building, 600 Fairground Road, for our 2023 WEC Annual Meeting **CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!** Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. CT.

This is another opportunity for you to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of WEC, voting for the **UPCOMING BOARD OF TRUSTEES**.

WEC is not owned by far away investors. We're run by a democratically **ELECTED BOARD OF TRUSTEES**, which is given the privilege to serve because

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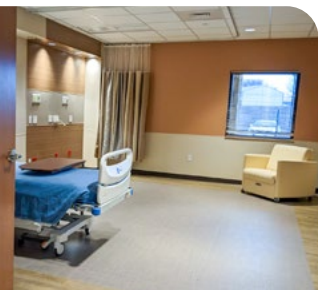


SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

A safe working distance depends on the voltage of the power lines. Always maintain a distance of at least 10 feet from the overhead lines and more than 10 feet if the voltage to ground is over 50 kilovolts (50,000 volts). The higher the voltage, the greater the distance that is needed between the lines and the workers.



Wheatland Pledges \$15,000 to the Caldwell Area Hospital and Health Foundation



The Board of Trustees at Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., has voted to pledge \$15,000 over the next five years to the **CALDWELL AREA HOSPITAL AND HEALTH FOUNDATION (CAHHF)**, to be used toward its Next Century Campaign, which provides life-saving services to those in need of medical intervention in the region.

A new hospital — the Caldwell Regional Medical Center (CRMC) — is now located just outside the eastern edge of Caldwell in Sumner County and officially opened Jan. 30, 2023. The single regional location integrates both the new hospital and former rural health clinic.

In addition to promoting the long-term health of Caldwell and the surrounding communities, the new facilities will increase jobs, bolster the local economy, attract new community members, and provide direct access to healthcare and emergency services for the entire region.

The purpose of the CAHHF Next Century Campaign is to secure equipment, modern technology and improved facilities by helping to finance the development of a diagnostic services center featuring leading-edge sonography, CT and X-ray imaging systems; an open, modern space specifically designed for physical therapy, occupational therapy, and rehabilitative services;



Mark Arnold, board chair (far left) and Dustin Stansbury, trustee (far right) present the Caldwell Area Hospital and Health Foundation with a \$15,000 pledge over the next five years for its Next Century Campaign.

a state-of-the-art emergency and critical care facility with an ambulatory bay and trauma and triage areas; an expansive clinical services center with multiple exam offices, special procedural rooms and nursing station; an innovative pain management center offering medication infusions and draw labs as well as endoscopy services; and a cafeteria and kitchen to help ensure optimal health and well-being for patients, employees and caregivers.

Wheatland Electric is proud to support community-driven initiatives that improve the health and well-being of our co-op members.

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Your Vote is Your Voice Continued from page 12A ▶

of your vote. Our trustees are members of your community, and they are concerned with the issues you face every day because they face them, too.

I encourage you to read more about why your attendance at this year's annual meeting is important for you as a member and the cooperative on Pages 12D-12G.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR ONE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SEATS up for election, the process is outlined below. Please contact Jim McVay, WEC's general counsel, at 620-793-4223 if you have any questions.

▶ **NOMINATION BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.** The board of trustees appoints a nomination committee made up of one member from each of our seven districts. You can contact WEC to get the contact information for your fellow member who represents your district on the nominating committee or contact Jim McVay, WEC's General Counsel, at 620-793-4223, before March 16 if you are interested in being nominated.

▶ **NOMINATION BY A PETITION OF MEMBERS.** Fifteen members, or more, of WEC can nominate any member as a trustee candidate. Nominations by petition must be sent to Wheatland at least 40 days before the annual meeting. However, if your petition doesn't make it in time, the petitioned nominee will be presented as a candidate at

the annual meeting and considered a nomination from the floor. The candidate would then be a "write-in candidate" at the meeting.

▶ **NOMINATION FROM THE FLOOR.** Any member can make a nomination from the floor at the annual meeting to present a member as a trustee candidate. For the fifth consecutive year, we'll be hosting **CONCURRENT ANNUAL MEETINGS** at: Great Bend, Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Harper and Caldwell. (See a full list of meeting address locations on Page 12G). Members in attendance at **ANY LOCATION** will be able to:

- ▶ **ATTEND**
- ▶ **NOMINATE**
- ▶ **VOTE**
- ▶ **WIN A DOOR PRIZE (IF SELECTED)**

Lunch will be provided at every location. Mark your calendar for our **2023 ANNUAL MEETING, WHICH WILL BE HELD APRIL 26, 2023**, in Scott City, registration beginning at 10:30 a.m. CT, and exercise your rights as a member of your cooperative. When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.

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.

Feel the POWER

Help Us Celebrate

75 Years
of Shared Cooperative History
April 26

This year — **2023** — is a special year for Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC).

That's because in **1948**, 75 years ago, **NINE WESTERN KANSAS RESIDENTS** took matters into their own hands and formed an electric cooperative, with a powerful vision to provide affordable and reliable energy to our rural farms and homes.

These pioneering individuals were tired of being left behind by big for-profit power companies that were not interested in making the investment to connect rural America to the national electric grid.

In 1950, thanks to loans made available through the **RURAL ELECTRIC ADMINISTRATION (REA)** and their own grit and determination, these founders who served as the first trustees of our grassroots cooperative welcomed an additional 2,246 members to WEC.

Their hard work and perseverance in our earliest years lives on through **THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY** and shapes us into the powerful organization we are today, one that serves over 20,000 members, and delivers energy over 4,600 miles of power lines across 13 Kansas and three Colorado counties.

Attend

We cordially invite you to learn more about our powerful beginnings during our **2023 ANNUAL MEETING, WHICH WILL BE HELD APRIL 26, 2023, IN SCOTT CITY**, and will be livestreamed in seven additional remote locations: Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Great Bend, Harper and Caldwell.

As a WEC member, which is anyone who pays WEC for electric service, you are encouraged to **ATTEND** the meeting location most convenient to you, from where you will have the opportunity to **NOMINATE, VOTE AND WIN** some amazing door prizes!

As a **MEMBER-OWNED** organization proudly serving individuals, small businesses, farms and industrial partners, we look forward to this event and encourage participation because it's an opportunity for us to visit directly with you and hear what's on your mind.

Spending time with you and hearing your take on our community's energy future is important to us. In fact, it's essential because everything we do is shaped by you.



Left: Neil Norman, former general manager at Wheatland Electric, speaks to a crowd during a past annual meeting gathering in the late 2000s. Right: Garden City line crews work on repairs in rural Finney County in March 2020.

The energy industry is in the midst of massive change, and consumer needs and changing technology impact nearly every aspect of how we manage and deliver energy.

As we navigate these major changes in the years ahead, we need to hear from you and your neighbors to guide and inform our planning as we strive to meet the long-term needs of the communities we serve.

Nominate

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, our bylaws also allow for **NOMINATION BY A PETITION**: 15 members, or more, can nominate any member as a candidate for trustee. These nominations by petition must be sent to Wheatland at least 40 days before the annual meeting in order for the candidate to appear on the ballot during the April gathering.

Vote

In addition to the nomination and trustee selection process, we also raise other issues for voting consideration by the general membership.

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 this 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



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Feel the POWER

Continued from page 12E ▶

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.**

Win

One last (and best!) reason to attend your annual meeting —**YOU COULD WIN BIG!**

In addition to enjoying a catered lunch at all of our meeting locations, members in attendance will have the opportunity to win one of several dozen door prizes, which can range from small electric appliances, smart tech gifts, or possibly even a big credit on your next electric bill!

In fact, every member household in attendance will go home with a special member gift.

But best of all, for our grand prize giveaway this year, we'll be giving away a red, retro Galanz fridge to one lucky co-op member from one of our meeting locations. The 12

cubic foot top-freezer refrigerator has the look and feel of the fabulous old days with the appeal of a modern-day appliance — the best of the past and our present, just like our celebration this April!

Whether you attend in Scott City or one of our remote locations, we thank you in advance for getting involved because your participation means so much to us.

Most people don't equate active involvement with their electric company with helping their community, but we're no ordinary utility company. We're a co-op.

Our core vision is to provide essential services that are safe, reliable, and competitively priced to enhance the lives of our members. We're also motivated by service to our community, rather than profits. This allows us to fulfill our mission of **DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE.** We hope you'll exercise the benefits of your co-op membership and join us for the annual meeting on April 26.

We look forward to feeling the power of our **PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE WITH YOU!**

POWER YOUR LIFE

Make power outages a thing of the past with a Generac® home standby generator.



CALL US TODAY.

We'll get you the peace of mind you deserve.
Special financing & installation options available!

Feel the **POWER**



Celebrating *75 Years* of
Our Shared Cooperative History

Join us for a very special **ANNUAL MEETING**

at the Scott Community Building
600 Fairground Road, Scott City, Kansas

April 26, 2023

Registration

10:30 A.M. CT

Luncheon

11:30 A.M. CT

Business Meeting

12 P.M. CT

at all locations

Or at one of our remote locations:

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.



SHARING SUCCESS
UPDATE



We're **EXCITED** to report that we've exhausted all grant funds for this year!

That means we are **NO LONGER** accepting applications until the new grant cycle begins **June 1, 2023!**



Visit <https://www.weci.net/sharing-success-program> for more information!

COLD WEATHER ACCOMMODATION ENDS MARCH 15

As spring draws near once again, Wheatland would like to remind members that the Cold Weather Accommodation for residential members ends March 15.

For more information, please visit www.weci.net. If your service is disconnected for non-pay, please review Wheatland's rules and regulations, found on our website under the 'My Cooperative' tab.

With Wheatland Electric's Prepay Power program,
YOU HAVE THE POWER!

YOU HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY
Add funds as needed - daily, weekly, or monthly - over the phone, on the SmarHub app, or in person.

YOU HAVE THE ACCESS
See your daily usage and up-to-date account balance.

YOU HAVE THE CONTROL
Prepay Power puts you in control to pay as you go.

**NO DEPOSIT.
NO LATE FEES.
NO DUE DATES.**

PREPAY POWER

SIGN UP TODAY!