



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

WHEATLAND
 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

A Day in the Life

Wayne Parks

BY BETH LOONEY,
 ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

*Wayne Parks
 Syracuse Journeyman Lineman
 6 Years at Wheatland*

Parks (left) and fellow journeyman lineman Joe Thomeczek operate the digger truck.

It was the morning of February 25, cold, and just days after eight-inches of snow. I rolled into Syracuse to spend my day working with Journeyman Lineman, Wayne Parks. My first impression of Wayne was that I was going to be working with Grizzly Adams. But within five minutes, Wayne's affable attitude and warm smile assured me I was in good hands. We started our work by climbing into an enormous digger truck to go to the job site. Wayne indicated it was the biggest vehicle in the Wheatland fleet. Likely so, as it felt like I was climbing a mountain to get into it. When we arrived at a remote stretch of the Santa Fe Trail, Wayne indicated that we were going to lean a few old poles and set a few new poles as part of a larger project—rebuilding an entire stretch of line. Under the careful guidance of Line Foreman, Gary Fair, Wayne operated the digger, which is on a giant boom lift attached to the monster vehicle. After the first “lean and set,” we got back in the truck to try to go to the next one, but we were stuck! The snowmelt made for muddy fields. It took some work, but the crew finally got us out. At the next pole, I pitched in and helped shovel some dirt to backfill the new pole set. They even let me plumb the pole to ensure it was standing straight. Now that I was not just watching, I feel like part of the crew. We continued our work until lunch time. On the way back to the shop, Wayne drove me

the length of the rebuild job. I took the opportunity to ask him some questions. Wayne is 26 years old and has lived in Syracuse his whole life. He is married to Leslie and has three step-children. When I asked him some typical interview questions about his hopes and dreams, he was a bit bashful about sharing his personal life. This is in sharp contrast to what the other linemen in Syracuse said about him, which is that he's a talker. I did learn though that he likes to ride motorcycles and other motorsports (“man toys” as he calls them). His favorite thing about working for Wheatland is the people. He said that the folks he works with in Syracuse really care about each other and make a great team. His favorite work is building line, his least favorite work is routine maintenance. Despite an aversion to paperwork, his ultimate career goal is to be a Line Foreman. At the conclusion of my day with Wayne, we sat down to enjoy lunch. As I was enjoying our meal, I realized how cohesively this group of individuals work on this line crew. In inclement weather and dangerous conditions, these guys keep the lights on. I always appreciated their work, and now that I know them, I appreciate them, too.

Lineman Appreciation Day is April 13
 On Monday, April 13, 2015, Wheatland Electric will be joining cooperatives from across the nation in recognizing the men and women who keep the lights on. We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the work they perform around the clock and in particular the more than 70-plus linemen at Wheatland Electric for their service to Wheatland and our members. Please join us by taking a moment to personally thank a lineman for the work they do. Please use #ThankALineman in your social media posts to show support for the men and women who make our lives easier every day.

Life On The Line

- Hardhat**
Critical thinking
- Eye protection**
Clear vision
- Able body**
24/7 work ethic
- Arc flash clothing**
Protects a big heart
- Tool belt**
Weighs 50 pounds
- Special gloves**
For skilled hands
- Pole safety strap**
Ascending new heights
- Safety boots**
For the toughest treks
- Pole climbers**
Gaffs and straps for solid footing aloft

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Bruce Mueller—General Manager

Board of Trustees

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Wes Campbell
President | Woody Barnes
Trustee |
| Dave Lowe
Vice President | Vic Case
Trustee |
| Patrick Riley
Secretary | Katie Eisenhour
Trustee |
| Dan Bonine
Treasurer | Bob Hiss
Trustee |
| Ron Davis
President Emeritus | Lawrence Houston
Trustee |
| Charles Ayers
Trustee | Roe Johnson
Trustee |

District Offices

- | | |
|--|---|
| Garden City
2005 W Fulton
P.O. Box 973
Garden City, KS 67846
620-275-0261 | Scott City-Main
101 Main Street
P.O. Box 230
Scott City, KS 67871
620-872-5885 |
| Great Bend
2300 Broadway
P.O. Box 1446
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-793-4223 | Syracuse
206 1/2 N Main
P.O. Box 1010
Syracuse, KS 67878
620-384-5171 |
| Harper
302 W. 6th
P.O. Box 247
Harper, KS 67058
620-896-7090 | Tribune
310 Broadway
P.O. Box 490
Tribune, KS 67879
620-376-4231 |
| Leoti
N Hwy 25
P.O. Box 966
Leoti, KS 67861
620-375-2632 | |

FROM THE MANAGER

It's Annual Meeting Time!

I'd like to cordially invite you to Wheatland Electric Cooperative's 67th Annual Meeting on April 15, 2015, at the Fair Building in Syracuse.

We look forward to visiting with you, the membership, and enjoying good fellowship. We also will take the opportunity to show you what Wheatland has accomplished in the past year, and what we are planning in the future.

Wheatland will present \$1,000 scholarships to the winners of our newly-created scholarship program. The scholarship recipients will be the children of Wheatland Electric members. We will also announce the two winners of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., and the winner of the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO.

As I mentioned in last month's article, the Annual Meeting is the opportunity for you to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of Wheatland Electric, by voting for the upcoming board of trustees.

Wheatland Electric is not owned by far away investors. It's run by a democratically elected board of trustees, a board who is given the privilege to serve

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



Bruce Mueller

So, make it a point to attend Wheatland Electric Annual Meeting and exercise your right as a member of the cooperative and vote. Lunch will be provided along with an attendance prize and the chance to win great door prizes. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Before I close, Monday, April 13, is National Linemen Appreciation Day. Wheatland linemen are incredibly talented and dedicated. They risk their lives every day so we can all enjoy the benefits and conveniences that electricity brings to our daily lives. I want to say thank you to each and every one of our linemen, thank you for your hard work and dedication to keeping the lights on and it's an honor and a pleasure to be able to lead you.

Until next time, take care.

Operating Statement
for year ended 12/31/2014 (Unaudited)

Revenues	
Electric Revenues	101,347,232
Total Operating Revenue	101,347,232
Expenses	
Cost of Power	66,163,100
Operations & Maintenance	11,251,703
Administrative & General	5,428,017
Depreciation	7,773,802
Total Interest	4,764,159
Taxes	4,095,770
Other	172,263
Total Expenses	99,648,814
Operating Margins	1,698,418
Non-Operating Items	
Interest Income	817,874
Loss from Subsidiaries (1)	(726,496)
Other Capital Credits	625,578
Margins Without Sunflower Capital Credits	2,415,374
Sunflower Capital Credits (2)	12,268,860
Total Margins	14,684,234

(1) Water and Broadband operations. (2) This amount is Wheatland's share of 2014 earnings of Sunflower Electric Power Corp. This allocation is not in cash and will be available to Wheatland's members only at such time as it is paid out by Sunflower.

Wheatland Electric Balance Sheet
as of December 31, 2014 (Unaudited)

Assets	
Electric Plant	246,104,476
Non-Electric Assets	61,954,835
Less: Depreciation	(85,788,499)
Net Plant	222,270,812
Investments	70,558,328
Cash & Short-Term Investments	1,764,665
Receivables	32,170,985
Materials & Supplies	3,337,053
Prepayments & Other	3,900,231
Other Current Assets & Deferred	8,800,342
Total Assets	342,802,416
Liabilities	
Long-Term Debt	195,283,557
Lease Obligation	12,375,000
Total Long-term Liabilities	207,658,557
Payables	37,014,072
Other Liabilities	8,408,615
Short Term Liabilities	45,422,687
Equities	
Patronage Capital	88,748,220
Other Capital	972,952
Total Equities	89,721,172
Total Liabilities and Equity	342,802,416

Official Notice of Annual Meeting for Wheatland Members

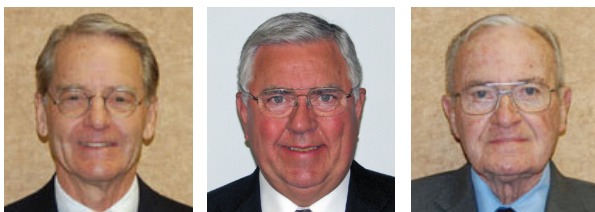
The 67th annual meeting of the members of Wheatland Electric will be held Wednesday, April 15, at the Fair Building at 806 S Main in Syracuse, KS.

A lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. MDT. The business meeting will convene at 12:30 p.m. The following matters will be addressed:

- ▶ Reports of officers, trustees, committees and employees.
- ▶ Voting on proposed bylaws amendment(s)
- ▶ Election of trustees of the cooperative
- ▶ Any other business which may come before the meeting
- ▶ Adjournment

The 2015 nominating committee consisted of the following members: District 1, Ed Cupp; District 2, Milan Reimer; District 3, Dale Wetzel; District 4, Marvin Graber; District 5, Robert Buerkle; District 6, Clark Rusco; and District 7, Kim Miller.

The following trustees have been nominated by the nominat-



Charles Ayers Dan Bonine Ron Davis



Roe Johnson Dave Lowe

ing committee for the position of trustee:

- ▶ **District 2—CHARLES AYERS**
1335 N County Rd 13, Leoti, KS
- ▶ **District 3—ROE JOHNSON**
1848 Rd O, Tribune, KS
- ▶ **District 4—RON DAVIS**
500 N Gardner, Syracuse, KS
- ▶ **District 6—DAN BONINE**
3901 19th St, Great Bend, KS
- ▶ **District 7—DAVE LOWE**
735 W 178th St S, Caldwell, KS

Additional nominations may be made from the floor during the meeting.

Patrick D. Riley, Secretary

Operating Statistics (Electric)					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Operating Revenue (Electric) (x 1000)	\$100,341	\$106,451	\$112,834	\$119,443	\$101,347
Energy Sales (kWh) (x 1000)	1,104,384	1,139,185	1,129,923	1,125,896	839,735
Average Revenue (\$/kWh)	\$0.0909	\$0.0934	\$0.0999	\$0.1061	\$0.1207
Cost of Power (x 1000)	\$71,617	\$76,214	\$80,056	\$84,264	\$66,163
Total Purchases (kWh) (x 1000)	1,148,485	1,184,993	1,175,614	1,166,542	884,996
Average Cost of Power (\$/kWh)	\$0.0624	\$0.0643	\$0.0681	\$0.0722	\$0.0748
Other Operations & Maintenance (x 1000)	\$14,410	\$14,421	\$17,552	\$17,003	\$16,852
Total Operations & Maintenance (x 1000)	85,398	90,635	95,441	100,697	\$83,015
Gross Operating Margin (x 1000)	\$14,943	\$15,816	\$17,393	\$18,176	\$18,332
Gross Operating Margin (\$/kWh)	0.0135	0.0139	0.0154	0.0161	\$0.0218
Depreciation Expense (x 1000)	\$7,188	\$7,148	\$7,426	\$7,809	\$7,774
Property Taxes (x 1000)	\$2,779	\$3,131	\$3,322	\$3,685	\$3,452
Other Taxes (x 1000)	\$457	\$489	\$513	\$572	\$644
Interest Expense (x 1000)	\$4,504	\$3,994	\$3,662	\$3,937	\$4,764
Operating Margin (x 1000)	\$2,097	\$526	\$2,470	\$2,173	\$1,698

Wheatland to Award \$10,000 in Scholarships at Annual Meeting on April 15

Wheatland Electric will announce the winners of its inaugural scholarship program at its 67th Annual Meeting April 15, 2015, in Syracuse. The cooperative will give away \$10,000 total in scholarships. Recipients will be judged on their academic performance, school activities, career goals and a 1,000 word essay.

The Wheatland Board of Trustees voted to make one \$1,000 scholarship available to each of the high schools in Wheatland's service territory. Eligible high schools in Wheatland's territory are: Argonia, Caldwell, Chaparral, Conway Springs, Deerfield, Great Bend, Greeley County, Holcomb, Norwich, Scott County, South Haven, Syracuse and Wichita County.

The scholarship recipients will be the children of Wheatland Electric members, but everything else about their identities remains a secret for now. "Wheatland Electric was founded by nine visionary members and has a rich history," said Wes Campbell, Board President. "We're establishing this scholarship program to help develop the leaders of tomorrow and make sure Wheatland's future is just as bright as its past."

Wheatland got the word out

about its new scholarship program through the guidance offices at each high school. Approximately 30 students applied for the scholarships in all. The \$10,000 awards will go to students who plan to attend an accredited two or four-year college, technical or vocational school. Once the winners are announced, Wheatland will write checks directly to their schools of choice.

For their 1,000 word essay, Wheatland asked students to write on any subject about which you are passionate. That leaves topics pretty wide-open, but the cooperative offered additional guidance that was rather humorous: *The topic which you choose is a part of the judging criteria. For example, someone who is passionate about chewing gum will not likely get as many votes as someone who is passionate about finding a cure for cancer.*

So, what did student applicants ultimately write about? Here's a small sampling of their impressive topics:

- ▶ A career in radiology dedicated to

"It's an investment in our entire community, because hopefully these students will bring the new skills they learn in college back home to share with all of us." BRUCE MUELLER

- ▶ helping cancer patients
- ▶ How being raised on and working on a farm shaped his/her life
- ▶ Making a difference in the world by giving back
- ▶ Pursuing a career in nursing to help others every day
- ▶ A lifelong passion for horses that shaped a career choice

"This is a great opportunity for our students," said Jennifer Lehman, a guidance counselor at Syracuse High School. "College costs just keep going up and up, so every little bit counts when it comes to funding the dream of higher education. We are very fortunate that Wheatland is so supportive of education and willing to invest in our students."

The average cost of private colleges has been going up 2.2 percent a year over the last decade, according to the College Board. The cost of public universities has been going up 3.5 percent a year during that same time period.

Many electric cooperatives throughout the country have scholarship programs, a reflection of their "Concern for Community," one of the 7 "Cooperative Principles" upon which co-ops were founded.

"This money doesn't just benefit the individual students," said Wheatland General Manager Bruce Mueller. "It's an investment in our entire community, because hopefully these students will bring the new skills they learn in college back home to share with all of us."

ByLaws Amendment Regarding Election & Tenure of Office

The Wheatland Board of Trustees has recommended that the following amendment be made:

A. ARTICLE 4, TRUSTEES, SECTION 2: ELECTION AND TENURE OF OFFICE.

Trustees shall be elected by secret ballot at each annual meeting of the members, and shall be elected for a three year term. Members of the board of trustees shall not serve more than six, three year terms beginning from and after adop-

tion of this bylaw by the membership at an annual meeting. Trustees shall be elected by a plurality vote of those members casting secret ballots at a duly convened annual meeting of members. If an election of the 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 a reasonable time thereafter.

The Race is On—Get Involved in Kansas ElectroRally

Wheatland Electric is a proud supporter of the Kansas ElectroRally program. Each year Wheatland helps to sponsor ElectroRally programs from high schools in Scott City and Great Bend.



Last year, car #388 was sponsored by Wheatland Electric and represented Great Bend High School.

Through the school programs, students design and construct their own electric vehicles that are used in competitive races across the state. Students often build upon the designs of previous years, searching for that slightest adjustment that will propel them to victory.

And for these ElectroRally races, the victory is not in crossing the finish line first but rather completing the most laps in an hour. This slight twist on traditional racing produces a unique result on the track.

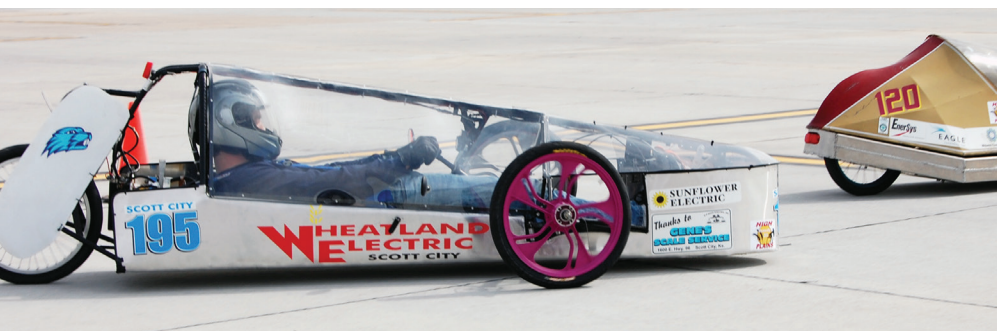
Show up to any Kansas ElectroRally race and you will be greeted by the sight of more than a dozen unique and ingeniously designed cars, doing their best to balance speed and efficiency in order to coax their battery powered cars into making it one more lap.

In addition to sponsoring the individual

programs at the high schools, Wheatland also helps to put on the Sunflower ElectroRally held each spring at the Scott City Airport. Wheatland provides a number of volunteers to help with course setup, takedown, grilling hamburgers and hot dogs for all of the race participants and whatever else is needed to help make the race a success.

This year's race will be held on Wednesday, April 22. So, mark your calendars, bring a lawn chair and plan to arrive early to witness this impressive display of inventiveness and competitive spirit.

Mark your calendars for April 22, bring a lawn chair and plan to arrive early to witness this impressive display of inventiveness and competitive spirit.



In addition to sponsoring individual teams, like Scott City's car 195, Wheatland also helps with the cost and by providing manpower to the Sunflower ElectroRally held each spring at the Scott City Airport.