

**WHEATLAND  
ELECTRIC**  
Delivering Energy for Life

**WHEATLAND  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# NEWS

## Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Bruce Mueller—General Manager

### Board of Trustees

**Wes Campbell**  
President

**Patrick Riley**  
Secretary

**Woody Barnes**  
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**Charles Ayers**  
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**Katie Eisenhour**  
Trustee

**Bob Hiss**  
Trustee

**Lawrence Houston**  
Trustee

**Roe Johnson**  
Trustee

### District Offices

**Garden City**  
2005 W Fulton  
P.O. Box 973  
Garden City, KS  
67846  
620-275-0261

**Great Bend**  
2300 Broadway  
P.O. Box 1446  
Great Bend, KS  
67530  
620-793-4223

**Harper**  
906 Central  
P.O. Box 247  
Harper, KS 67058  
620-896-7090

**Leoti**  
N Hwy 25  
P.O. Box 966  
Leoti, KS 67861  
620-375-2632

**Scott City—Main**  
101 Main Street  
P.O. Box 230  
Scott City, KS  
67871  
620-872-5885

**Syracuse**  
206 1/2 N Main  
P.O. Box 1010  
Syracuse, KS  
67878  
620-384-5171

**Tribune**  
310 Broadway  
P.O. Box 490  
Tribune, KS 67879  
620-376-4231

### FROM THE MANAGER

## It's Annual Meeting Time

I'd like to cordially invite you to Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s 68th Annual Meeting on April 20, 2016, at the Greeley County 4-H Building, 905 Ingalls Ave, in Tribune, KS. We look forward to visiting with you, our members, and enjoying good fellowship. We will also take the opportunity to show you what Wheatland has accomplished in the past year, and what we are planning in the upcoming year and beyond.

Wheatland will announce and present 12 scholarships of \$1,000 to the winners of our scholarship program. The scholarship recipients are 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: 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.

Please make it a point to attend Wheatland Electric's Annual Meeting and exercise your right as a member of the cooperative to vote. Lunch will be provided for all in attendance along with an attendance prize and the chance to win great door prizes. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

Before I close, Monday, April 11, is National Lineman 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 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. It's a pleasure to be able to lead you.

**Until next time, take care.**



Bruce Mueller

The Annual Meeting is an opportunity for you to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member.

<b>Operating Statement</b> for year ended 12/31/2015 (Unaudited)	
<b>Revenues</b>	
Electric Operating Revenue	92,042,887
<b>Expenses</b>	
Cost of Power	58,544,892
Operations & Maintenance	11,457,754
Administrative & General	5,466,383
Depreciation	8,185,913
Interest	5,029,519
Taxes	3,087,049
Other	101,765
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>91,873,275</b>
<b>Operating Margins</b>	<b>169,612</b>
<b>Non-Operating Items</b>	
Interest Income	753,783
Income from Subsidiaries (1)	136,442
Other Capital Credits	706,138
Margins Without Sunflower Capital Credits	1,765,975
Sunflower Capital Credits (2)	4,184,104
<b>Total Margins</b>	<b>5,950,079</b>

(1) Water and Broadband operations. (2) This amount is Wheatland's share of 2015 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.

<b>Wheatland Electric Balance Sheet</b> as of 12/31/2015 (Unaudited)	
<b>Assets</b>	
Electric Plant	263,164,253
Non-Electric Assets	75,077,886
Less: Depreciation	(92,915,915)
<b>Net Plant</b>	<b>245,326,224</b>
Investments	81,014,083
Cash & Short-Term Investments	2,305,105
Receivables	14,080,210
Materials & Supplies	3,566,743
Prepayments & Other	118,025
Other Current Assets & Deferred	4,749,920
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>351,160,310</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Long-Term Debt	209,371,506
Payables	40,751,368
Other Liabilities	7,628,972
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>257,751,846</b>
<b>Equities</b>	
Patronage Capital	92,428,389
Other Capital	980,075
<b>Total Equities</b>	<b>93,408,464</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>351,160,310</b>

# Official Notice of Annual Meeting for Wheatland Members

The 68th Annual Meeting of the members of Wheatland Electric will be held Wednesday, April 20, at the Greeley County 4-H Building, 905 Ingalls Avenue, in Tribune.

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
- ▶ Election of trustees of the cooperative
- ▶ Any other business which may come before the meeting
- ▶ Adjournment

The 2016 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 MATT HOISINGTON**



William Barnes



Wes Campbell



Robert Hiss

▶ **District 7 KIM MILLER**

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

- ▶ **District 3 LAWRENCE HOUSTON, 711 Ingalls Street, Tribune**
- ▶ **District 5 WES CAMPBELL, 105 Diamond Hill Drive, Garden City**
- ▶ **District 6 ROBERT HISS, 2001 Broadway Avenue, Great Bend**
- ▶ **District 7 WILLIAM BARNES, 719 S Market Street, Harper**



Lawrence Houston

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

<b>Operating Statistics (Electric)</b>	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Operating Revenue (Electric) (x 1000)	\$106,451	\$112,834	\$119,443	\$101,347	\$92,043
Energy Sales (kWh) (x 1000)	1,139,185	1,129,923	1,125,896	839,735	817,838
Average Revenue (\$/kWh)	\$0.0934	\$0.0999	\$0.1061	\$0.1207	\$0.1125
Cost of Power (x 1000)	\$76,214	\$80,056	\$84,264	\$66,163	\$58,545
Total Purchases (kWh) (x 1000)	1,184,993	1,175,614	1,166,542	884,996	859,192
Average Cost of Power (\$/kWh)	\$0.0643	\$0.0681	\$0.0722	\$0.0748	\$0.0681
Other Operations & Maintenance (x 1000)	\$14,421	\$17,552	\$17,003	\$16,852	\$17,026
<b>Total Operations &amp; Maintenance (x 1000)</b>	<b>\$90,635</b>	<b>\$95,441</b>	<b>\$101,267</b>	<b>\$83,015</b>	<b>\$75,571</b>
Gross Operating Margin (x 1000)	\$15,816	\$17,393	\$18,176	\$18,332	\$16,472
Gross Operating Margin (\$/kWh)	\$0.0139	\$0.0154	\$0.0161	\$0.0218	\$0.0201
Depreciation Expense (x 1000)	\$7,148	\$7,426	\$7,809	\$7,774	\$8,186
Property Taxes (x 1000)	\$3,131	\$3,322	\$3,685	\$3,452	\$2,499
Other Taxes (x 1000)	\$489	\$513	\$572	\$644	\$588
Interest Expense (x 1000)	\$3,994	\$3,662	\$3,937	\$4,764	\$5,029
Operating Margin (x 1000)	\$526	\$2,470	\$2,173	\$1,698	\$170

# Wheatland Awards 2016 Youth Tour Winners

Wheatland Electric Cooperative awarded three youth applicants trips to Washington, D.C., and Steamboat Springs, CO.

**ERIN HALL** and **MARCOS MARTINEZ** will join 35 Kansas youth and travel to Washington, D.C., June 9-16. They will join about 1,700 other youth experiencing our country's government in action. They will visit their legislators and

sites of historical significance.

**BREANNE AKIU** will join approximately 100 youth from a four-state area participating in the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, CO, July 16-22. During their stay, the youth will become acquainted with energy challenges and tour one of the largest electrical generating plants in the Rockies.

## ERIN HALL

### 1. Where are you from and what school do you attend?

I live in Norwich, Kansas. I am a junior at Norwich High School.



Erin Hall

### 2. What is your favorite subject in school?

My favorite subject in school is English; I enjoy writing and the creative projects we are assigned.

### 3. What are your future plans?

After graduation, I plan to attend a four-year university and acquire a degree in Christian Ministries. I will then pursue a career in youth ministry as well as photography.

### 4. How did you hear about the Youth Tour program and what made you decide to apply?

The opportunity to apply for the Youth Tour program was presented to me by my school counselor, Derian Garrison, a senior here at Norwich, won the trip last year. She explained to me the amazing things she encountered along her journey in this program. Her incredible experiences are what most drove me to apply.

### 5. What are you most looking forward to on your trip?

I am looking forward to everything about this trip, but I am most excited about making new friends and connections with motivated kids from all around the country.

## MARCOS MARTINEZ

### 1. Where are you from and what school do you attend?

I am from Great Bend, and I attend Great Bend High School.



Marcos Martinez

### 2. What is your favorite subject in school?

My favorite subject is physics.

### 3. What are your future plans?

My future plans are to attend Kansas State University and major in economics.

### 4. How did you hear about the Youth Tour program and what made you decide to apply?

I heard about the Youth Tour program over the announcements on my high school intercom. My physics instructor, Mrs. Nairn, told my class that there was no risk in applying for an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., so I decided to apply.

### 5. What are you most looking forward to on your trip?

I look forward to meeting the Kansas elected officials such as Governor Brownback because I have never been in the same room with a representative of Kansas talking about current issues occurring in the state.

## BREANNE AKIU

### 1. Where are you from and what school do you attend?

I am from Viola and attend school at Conway Springs High School.



Breanne Akiu

### 2. What is your favorite subject in school?

My favorite subject is yearbook.

### 3. What are your future plans?

My future plans are to finish high school and then attend college to pursue a career in the medical profession.

### 4. How did you hear about the Youth Tour program and what made you decide to apply?

My counselor, as well as my mom, told me about the tour. I decided to apply because it looked like a fun and exciting opportunity.

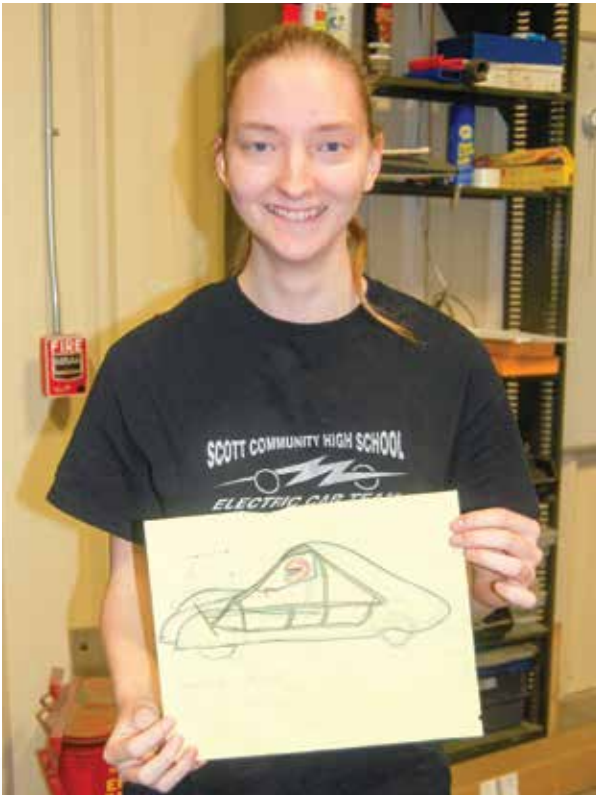
### 5. What are you most looking forward to on your trip?

I'm most looking forward to meeting new people and bettering my leadership skills.



# The Race is On

## Wheatland Sponsors ElectroRally Youth



**Top:** MacKayla Koehn displays her design for this year's electric vehicle.  
**Right:** Karlee Logan welds the final pieces on the seat brace in this year's electric car.



As part of our commitment to the communities throughout our service area, Wheatland Electric sponsors the ElectroRally program, in which teams from Scott City and Great Bend high schools build electric and solar powered cars and compete to see who can complete the most laps in an hour. Strategy is as important as speed—drive fast and do as many laps as possible or go slower to conserve battery and last the whole race.

Students from Scott Community High School are in the midst of crafting an electric car for the 2016 spring racing season. Leonel Castillo, MacKayla Koehn, Karlee Logan, Baron Strine

and Nancy Wiebe make up the Scott Community High School team.

Chuck Ellis, an art teacher and ElectroRally instructor at Scott Community High School, has been overseeing the electric car program since the late '90s. Ellis has a racing and design background, which is what interested him in the program. Much of the program's success can be attributed to his dedication.

MacKayla, head designer for this year's Electric Vehicle (EV), created a sketch for the lightweight and aerodynamic vehicle. Being the head designer was a natural fit for MacKayla; she's taken an art class from Ellis all four years of high school. When it came time to design the EV, she looked at the aerodynamics of other cars that had been successful in racing and decided which design would be best. The team's goal was to have the best designed, engineered and manufactured car.

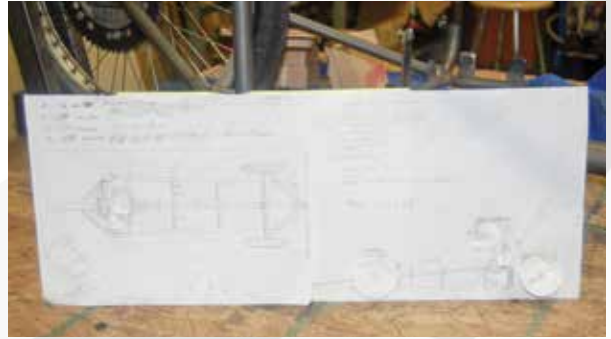
With only a few rules and guidelines, the student teams are allowed much flexibility in the design and composition of their vehicles. No more than \$2,000 can be spent on an electric car, which means parts are recycled from one year to the next and batteries last three to four racing seasons. The controller and motor in this year's car are from the second car SCHS built (many, many moons ago). Students spend time refining last year's designs as well. In this year's car, the pedals are built as one piece so they are easier to adjust. Last year,



**Top Left:** Karlee Logan, MacKayla Koehn, and Chuck Ellis work on adjusting the steering column and the foot controls so the car fits MacKayla, who will drive the electric car in the upcoming races.

**Top right:** MacKayla Koehn's sketch was drawn to scale so the team knows exactly how much product to order.

**Bottom right:** Karlee Logan uses the tube bender to bend part of the metal frame. The tube bender requires the use of a square and a lot of measuring, but in the end you really have to eye it. Both Karlee and MacKayla said (with a hint of sarcasm) that using a Hydraulic Bender is so much easier, but this one builds character.



the pedals could only be adjusted by unscrewing a bolt.

"The devil is in the details," explained Ellis. "It's also about quality control, making sure the students are doing it right the first time. They'll learn this saves us time in the long run. We try to understand the consequences of the design, hoping we don't have to come back days later and redo something," he added.

In addition to designing, procuring parts for and building their own electric car, teams are required to develop and write an ElectroRally project report. The student-prepared reports are evaluated and assigned points. Reports must be turned in, in order to compete for the championship. Most importantly the report score determines a car's starting position on race day.

Being a part of the Kansas ElectroRally program allows students to be involved in a

cross-curricular activity. Students combine the use of a welder, grinder, and tube bender from the Vocational Ag Department; design work from the Art Department; and the use of the 3D Printer in making custom parts from the Construction Technology Department.

"The program lets a variety of different students participate," said Ellis. "Students might have an interest in engineering or they might have an interest in agriculture. Either way, the experience is good and valuable for all."

Wheatland also helps organize the Sunflower ElectroRally held each spring at the Scott City Airport. Wheatland provides volunteers who help with the course setup and takedown, grill hamburgers and hotdogs for all of the race participants and whatever else is needed to help make the race a success.

Make plans to attend this year's race on Wednesday, April 27.

*Students might have an interest in engineering or they might have an interest in agriculture. Either way, the experience is good and valuable for all.*



## Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

### Lynn Freese

Dir. of Consumer Services & Water  
36 Years at Scott City



Lynn Freese

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

My wife Lori will have tolerated me for 30 years in April; daughter Lesley lives in Alva, OK; sons Logan and Lane are my basement trolls as they have not moved out as yet but are at least gainfully employed.

#### WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

Rural Covington, OK

#### WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

Livestock, hunting, fishing (a little), shooting, telling lies with family and friends.

#### IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPER POWER—WHAT WOULD IT BE?

There are so many that I would love to have! I would have to say that “mind control” would definitely come in handy with my hard-headed/stubborn children (they do not get that from me by the way).

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE?

Anything John Wayne, just because.

#### WHAT IS SOMETHING NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT YOU?

My great-grandfather made the land run into Oklahoma in the 1890's, settling on a farm my parents still own. Not long after settling there he and neighbors constructed a barn from hand-cut native stone and used lumber from the 1904 St. Louis World Fair. The barn still stands today and is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

#### WHO HAS INSPIRED YOU IN YOUR LIFE AND WHY?

My parents. They taught me to work hard, lead by example especially with your children, treat others as you want to be treated and stand up for what is right.

#### WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

Having bought a farm in the country and now living the good life.

# Thank a Lineman on April 11

On Monday, April 11, 2016, Wheatland Electric will join cooperatives from across the nation to recognize the employees 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 the co-op and our members.

Please join us by taking a moment to personally thank a lineman for the work he or she does.

Use #ThankALineman in your social media posts on April 11 to show support for our Wheatland linemen who make our lives easier every day.



Rain or shine, Wheatland Electric's linemen work around the clock to do one thing: keep the lights on! #thankalineman

## CO-OP CONNECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

# Co-op Connections Card Savings

Tate's has quickly become a new staple in Scott City, offering made-from-scratch fare and a great variety of delicious items to sample. Stop in today for a buy-one get-one half off cheeseburgers (excludes specialty burgers).

Tate's cheeseburgers are made from never frozen 100 percent USDA choice or higher ground chuck.. While you are there, enjoy Tate's house-made fries, onion rings and fried pickles!

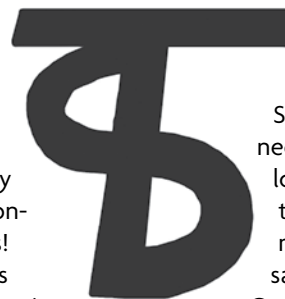
Use your Connections Card at these other local busi-

nesses for more great savings!

- ▶ Midwest Appliance Service, Great Bend
- ▶ Suzy B's, Scott City
- ▶ Office Products Incorporated, Great Bend

For a complete list of deals visit [www.connections.coop/weci](http://www.connections.coop/weci).

Still need a Co-op Connections Card? Contact your local Wheatland Cooperative office for more information on how to start saving now with the Co-op Connections Card!



## Wheatland to Grant \$12,000 in Scholarships

Wheatland Electric will announce the winners of its 2016 scholarship program at its 68th Annual Meeting on April 20 in Tribune. Wheatland will give away a total of \$12,000. Recipients were judged on their academic performance, school activities, career goals and a 1,000-word essay.

The Wheatland Board of Trustees again voted to make one \$1,000 scholarship available to each of the high schools in Wheatland's service territory for 2016. Eligible high schools are: Argonia, Caldwell, Chaparral, Conway Springs, Deerfield, Great Bend, Greeley County, Holcomb, Norwich, Scott County, South Haven, Syracuse and Wichita County.

More than 40 students applied for the scholarships. The \$1,000 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.

In addition to unveiling its

### Wheatland Annual Meeting Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Greeley County 4-H Building  
905 Ingalls Avenue, Tribune

Lunch @ 11:30 a.m. MDT

Meeting @ 12:30 p.m. MDT

*(Please note that times are Mountain Daylight Time)*

scholarship recipients, Wheatland has several other activities planned for the April 20 meeting:

- ▶ Announce winners of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.
- ▶ Vote for 2016-2017 members of the Wheatland Board of Trustees.
- ▶ Provide lunch for everyone who attends the meeting.
- ▶ Hand out gifts to every Wheatland member in attendance who also can enter a drawing for great door prizes.
- ▶ Provide members with the opportunity to ask questions, offer input and have a voice in their electric cooperative.

### Rebates Available to Upgrade Your HVAC

Save Energy,  
Save Money



Did you know that Wheatland offers rebates to residential members for the installation of energy-efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems?

Heating and cooling a house often accounts for the majority of a household's monthly energy costs. Many homeowners have a great opportunity to save energy and money by installing a more

efficient HVAC system.

Essentially, higher efficiency equates to lower monthly energy bills and improved comfort. For example, you could receive a \$410 rebate for a four-ton (48,000 BTU) heat pump.

For eligibility requirements or to download a rebate form, visit [www.weci.net](http://www.weci.net) and click on the "Energy Education" tab and then on "Rebates." You can also contact any local office.

#### Rebate Levels

BTU	Min SEER	Central A/C	Heat Pump
Up to 36,000*	13	\$200	+\$150

\*Add \$30 for each ½ ton above 3 ton (36,000 BTU)

Plug-in to  
Savings!

## Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

### Marcia Matthies

Data Entry Clerk at Scott City

28 years at Scott City

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

Married for 43 years to Craig. We have two sons, Toby and Lucas. I have one grandson, Cooper, and one granddaughter, Harper, who are truly wonderful.



Marcia Matthies

#### WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

Scott City

#### WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

Photography

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TEAM?

Scott City High School Beavers.

#### WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

My biggest accomplishment is when I can make someone happy!

#### IF YOU COULD HAVE ONE SUPER POWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Hearing—just kidding! I would like to be invisible. I could get some really great pictures if I couldn't be seen.

#### WHO HAS INSPIRED YOU IN YOUR LIFE AND WHY?

My biggest inspiration is my dad. I wish I were more like him.

## Tip of the Month

On Earth Day, April 22, give back to the environment by planting a deciduous tree near your home. Deciduous trees lose their leaves during the fall, allowing sunlight to warm your home. The extra shade during summer months will keep your home cooler and give your air conditioner a much needed break.



**Brandon Barrett**  
 Electrical Engineer  
 4 Years at Wheatland in Garden City

## A Day in the Life

# Brandon Barrett

BY SHAWN POWELSON,  
 MANAGER OF MEMBER SERVICES  
 AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

I wasn't sure what to expect while planning to meet Brandon. I've been with Wheatland for five years, and I'm embarrassed to say I wasn't sure exactly what Brandon did.

Brandon greeted me at the Garden City office and as I glanced around, I felt at ease. He had stacks of papers to match the stacks that cover my desk! Granted, his were probably important engineering papers and mine are more like useless clutter but at least we had some common ground. I tried to slyly ask him about his responsibilities without giving away the fact that I didn't know. Brandon informed me that his main duties are to assist with distribution system design and data compilation and analysis.

He told me about a few projects, which included our new advanced metering system and SCADA Substation Control and Data Acquisition deployment. His work with AMI included conducting router surveys and analyzing collection points. Brandon informed me that there were more than 600 routers he was analyzing to ensure they were functioning correctly.

For the SCADA project, he works with substation personnel to deploy a remote monitoring system. Through the use of intelligent end devices and remote terminal units, placed within the substation, the operations folks monitor key functions and processes. Brandon did a great job of explaining things in a way

I could understand them. Then he showed me a cool interface for the whole system that I thought looked like a video game. (I had to resist the urge to press a few buttons.)

After more discussion about databases, numbers and reports, I could see that Brandon enjoys his work. I got a real sense for the problem-solving aspect of his job, which is one of the basic traits of engineers. At one point, the substation supervisor stopped by and the conversation turned to secret code. I heard something about settings, and "this was at 120 and that one was at 110, and this coordinates better with that" and well, that's why I'm not an engineer. (Glad you guys got it covered!)

As we visited, I learned Brandon is getting married in July. He's been a lifelong resident of Garden City (aside from his time at Kansas State University). I learned he was in a bowling league and is a college sports fan. After noticing his Notre Dame polo, Brandon explained that he'd been accepted to Notre Dame but opted for K-State.

When I asked what he likes best about working at Wheatland, Brandon noted both the variety of projects and the culture of a rural electric co-op. I'm sure glad we have engineers to do engineering stuff at Wheatland. Thanks for sharing the day with me, Brandon!