

WHEATLAND  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# NEWS



## Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Bruce Mueller—General Manager

### Board of Trustees

**William Barnes**

President

**Wes Campbell**

Vice President

**Dan Bonine**

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Trustee

**Katie Eisenhour**

Trustee

**Bob Hiss**

Trustee

**John Kleysteuber**

Trustee

**Mike Thon**

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

# Empowering the Membership



Bruce Mueller

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values. These principles are a key reason that America's electric cooperatives—including Wheatland Electric Cooperative—operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of their members first. The seven cooperative principles are:

1. **Voluntary and Open Membership**
2. **Democratic Member Control**
3. **Members' Economic Participation**
4. **Autonomy and Independence**
5. **Education, Training and Information**
6. **Cooperation among Cooperatives**
7. **Concern for Community**

For Wheatland to accomplish principle number 5, Education, Training and Information, we need to engage in meaningful dialogue and provide the membership with useful information.

Today, it is imperative that we do more to keep our members engaged, and to the greatest extent possible, involved in our efforts to serve them better and to advocate on their behalf.

In 2014, in order for Wheatland to

accomplish this objective, we formed **MEMBER ENGAGEMENT TEAMS** made up of Wheatland members. Wheatland will be conducting a **MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MEETING** again this year on Sept. 12 in Great Bend. The Wheatland Electric Board of Trustees has decided to hold one meeting this year instead of three as in previous years. Going forward, we will alternate meetings east to west each year. As in the past, the Wheatland Board of Trustees will be asking members to participate in the annual **MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS** in September.

The primary objectives of the meetings will be to:

- ▶ **Help** the Wheatland Board of Trustees and management better understand the feelings of the members relating to the community, the co-op, and its members.
- ▶ **Serve** as a sounding-board for the evaluation of ongoing programs, policies and initiatives and for the development of new programs, policies and initiatives.
- ▶ **Foster** a higher degree of understanding with the membership for their cooperative and the cooperative business model.
- ▶ **Enable** the co-op to be totally member-oriented and responsive to the expectations and needs of the membership.

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# Putting Value in Your Wallet

THE CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD

Co-op Connections® Card



No sign-up, no paperwork and no fees, just great local savings!  
[www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop)

Wheatland Electric Cooperative's commitment to you goes beyond providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. We're always looking for ways to provide value to our members and the communities we serve. The Co-op Connections Card earns you both local and national discounts. It is **FREE** to Wheatland Electric members and is a money-saving tool we're proud to offer.

## Health Savings

If you've ever checked out the Co-op Connections Card, then you know there are a lot of great local and national deals. But did you know that your Co-op Connections Card also provides health savings? One of the largest opportunities for savings is the Prescription Discount Feature. Since Wheatland Electric started participating in the Co-op Connections Card program in 2012, our members have saved \$20,700!

Using your Co-op Connections Card to access Healthy Savings discounts is easy and free. One card can be used for the entire family. To find more on how to use the card for Healthy Savings discounts, where to find participating providers visit [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop) and choose the Healthy Savings tab at the top of the page.

## Travel and Entertainment

In addition to pharmacy savings, be sure to check out the Co-op Connections Travel Center for nationwide deals on rooms at Baymont, Best Western, Days Inn, Wyndham, Ramada and many more hotels; and on rental cars from Budget, Avis, Enterprise or Hertz.

Want to do some sightseeing? You can save on admission tickets to the Georgia Aquarium, Silverwood Theme

Park in Idaho, Legoland in Florida or any of the Six Flags parks. Visit Ticket Monster to find offers on tickets to sporting events, concerts, movies, live theater, and theme parks nationwide.

## Gifts

Need a gift for that special someone? There are deals on everything from flowers (1-800-Flowers.com, ProFlowers), to something personalized (red envelope) to jewelry (Gemological), to wine (Waterbrook). And, for that person who is hard to buy for, save on gift cards at Giftcards.com!

## Partner Deals

There are also savings included with your card in the form of Partner Deals. The Cash Back Mall and Coupons.com offers you savings on things you use every day. Cash Back Mall lets you earn cash back on purchases from more than 3,000 online merchants—just download the Shopping Assistant for your browser or get the free mobile app. Coupons.com offers hundreds of printable grocery coupons, discounts on top brands and promotional codes for online shopping.

## Local Purchases

Don't forget the great local deals on everything from coffee to clothing to candles. Make sure to check out all of the available deals at [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop)!

If your business would like to participate in the Co-op Connections Card Program, please contact us at [connectionscard@weci.net](mailto:connectionscard@weci.net). Still need a Connections Card? Contact your local office for more information on how to start saving now with the Connections Card!

# Find Local Savings Using Your Co-op Connections Card

## **A440 Musical Instruments, Great Bend**

15% off accessories

## **AJ Graphics, Garden City**

10% off all products

## **Becker Tire & Treading, Inc., Great Bend**

\$25 off a set of new tires

## **Cornerstone Interiors, Great Bend**

Robert Rothchild Farm-Buy any sauce or dip and get a sample flavor FREE

## **D'Mario's Pizza, Harper**

Large pizza for medium charge

## **Dairy Queen, Scott City**

Buy One Orange Julius, Get One FREE

## **EZ Tan, Great Bend**

\$10 off any tanning package

## **First National Bank, Scott City**

10% off any purchase of \$50 or more

## **Gifts, Etc., Scott City**

\$5 off a Trapp Candle (limit one per visit)

## **Great Bend Coffee, Great Bend**

½ off coffee drinks from 2-3 p.m.  
Monday-Friday

## **Hairport, Harper**

Buy 4 products get 1 FREE

## **Hairport, Harper**

25% off haircut for new clients

## **Hamilton County Museum, Syracuse**

FREE Admission

## **High Call Outfitters, Great Bend**

Denim-Buy One Get One Half-off

## **Key Office, Garden City**

For every \$100 spent, Key will donate \$5 to the PEAR Program

## **Lifeteam, Newton**

30% off a Lifeteam Membership

## **Maria's Mexican Grill, Great Bend**

Buy one lunch entrée and get a FREE non-alcoholic beverage

## **Midwest Appliance Service, Great Bend**

5% off parts and labor

## **Northrup Theatre, Syracuse**

\$1 off medium or large special (tub of popcorn and two drinks)

## **Nostalgia Nook, Caldwell**

10% off select items on Saturdays

## **Office Products, Inc., Great Bend**

Copiers and printers over \$500, 90 days no interest. Subject to finance charges after.

## **Paper Graphics Inc., Garden City**

\$25 off graphic design services

## **Perks, Great Bend**

20% off specialty drinks on Saturdays

## **Pizza Hut, Scott City**

Large pizza for medium charge

## **Playa Azul, Great Bend**

Buy one lunch entrée and get a FREE non-alcoholic beverage

## **Renewal by Anderson, Great Bend**

FREE installation

## **Revcom Electronics, Scott City**

Buy two packs of batteries, get one FREE

## **Revolt Technology Group LLC, Garden City**

10% discount on networking, security and computer services

## **Superior Car Care Center, Syracuse**

FREE alignment check

## **Suzy B's Flowers & More, Scott City**

\$1 off a pound of any bulk Jelly Belly Jelly Beans

## **Tate's, Scott City**

Buy one get one half off cheeseburger (excludes specialty burgers)

## **The Broiler Restaurant & Club, Scott City**

2 (1/4 lb.) Rack of Ribs Baskets for \$8.95 on Thursday Nights

## **The Country Store, Scott City**

20% off Lasered Pictures through Christmas

## **The Green Haus, Scott City**

Buy three geraniums get one FREE

## **The Red Barn Family Restaurant, Caldwell**

Buy a dinner special and get a 2nd for ½ off or \$2 off any large pizza

## **The Taylor House, Scott City**

15% off Flavored Espresso Drinks 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Monday-Friday

## **The YMCA of Southwest Kansas, Garden City**

Joining fee waved for new members

## **TNT Renovations, Inc, Great Bend**

\$10 off any service or \$20 off any service over \$200

## **Yours Truly, Great Bend**

25% off on regularly priced item

# Healthy Savings Program with Co-op Connections Card

## **Prescription Discount Feature**

► Receive 10 to 85% discount on prescription drugs at over 60,000 national and regional pharmacy chain stores including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and many more.

## **Connect Hearing**

► Receive 35 to 60% discount on hearing aids at over 2,000 locations.

## **Chiropractic**

► Receive a 30 to 50% discount at over 3,000 participating chiropractors nationwide.

## **Humana Dental Access**

► Receive 20 to 40% discount on most dental services, including orthodontics, periodontics and endodontics.

## **One Call Medical – Imaging/MRI & CT Scans/Lab**

► Average savings of 40 to 75% on MRI and CT scans at over 2,900 radiology centers. Members also receive discounts off usual charges for blood tests and all other lab testing.

## **Coast to Coast Vision**

► Receive 20 to 60% discount on eyewear at over 12,000 participating providers nationwide. They also offer savings on mail order contacts, ophthalmology and laser surgery.

## Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

### Heather Rufenacht

Member Services Coordinator  
5 years in Scott City



Heather Rufenacht

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

My husband, Ross, and I have two beautiful girls: Jordan, 7, and Skylar, 3. Ross has three kids from a previous marriage: Brittany, 24, Tyrel, 22, and Taylor, 21. We also have three spoiled kitties and a couple horses.

#### WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

Scott City

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

Read, do crafts and play with my girls

#### WHAT SPORT OR TEAM IS YOUR FAVORITE?

KU Basketball—Rock Chalk!

#### WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE VACATION?

Our honeymoon. The Bahamas are amazing!

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

I was certified in high angle rescue (our final was on the side of a granite cliff in Colorado), and I can also do forward and reverse 180s and sliding 90s in a car.

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

My Dad. He's incredibly hard-working, loyal and loving. My Mom has MS, and he is basically her sole caregiver. He demonstrates his faith in God and love for his family every day.

## SAFETY Tip of the Month

Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) for electrical devices used outside to help prevent electrocutions and electric shock injuries. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.

## Empowering the Membership *Continued from page 16-A*

A list of topics currently slated for discussion at the upcoming **MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MEETING** are as follows:

- ▶ **Capital Credits** – The Wheatland Board of Trustees has decided to retire capital credits in 2017. The history, definition, process and procedures for capital credits retirement will be discussed.
- ▶ **Reliability of Service** – Wheatland continues to focus on improving system reliability for its members.

The current plan of action to accomplish this goal will be discussed.

- ▶ **Service Territory Protection** – We will discuss the current annexation statute for municipalities annexing electric cooperative service territory.

We hope you will participate in this important member activity if asked. We would like to walk away with actionable items to implement to better serve the membership.

*Until next time, take care.*

## School Bus Safety for Your Kids

For millions of students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus. Unfortunately, many children are injured and several are killed each year in school bus incidents.

Although drivers of all vehicles are required to stop for a school bus when it is stopped to load or unload passengers, children should not rely on them to do so. The National Safety Council encourages parents to teach their children these rules for getting on and off the school bus.

### Getting on the school bus

- ▶ When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic.
- ▶ Do not stray into streets, alleys or private property.
- ▶ Line up away from the street or road as the school bus approaches.
- ▶ Wait until the bus has stopped and the door opens before stepping onto the roadway.
- ▶ Use the hand rail when stepping onto the bus.

### Getting off the school bus

- ▶ If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least 10



Remember to wait for the bus away from traffic.

feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road until you can turn around and see the driver.

- ▶ Make sure the driver can see you.
- ▶ Wait for a signal from the driver before beginning to cross.
- ▶ When the driver signals, walk across the road, keeping an eye out for sudden traffic changes.
- ▶ Do not cross the center line of the road until the driver has signaled that it is safe for you to begin walking.
- ▶ Stay away from the wheels of the bus at all times.

### Crossing the street

- ▶ Children should always stop at the curb or the edge of the road and look left, then right, and then left again before crossing. They should continue looking in this manner until they are safely across the street.

# Join Us for Wheatland's Annual Cram the Van

Don't look now but September is just around the bend. And September is synonymous with the start of Cram the Van season here at Wheatland. This year marks our 4th annual Cram the Van food drive, and we can't wait to hit the road to visit you in your communities.

We're working on a few new events this year including a week-long collection in Great Bend challenging all the area schools in a food-drive competition. The top three schools that collect the most pounds per student will take home a total of \$1,000 in prize money. This great new event is sponsored by **HISS-SHERMAN WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP**.

Last year's fall finale was once again a big hit. We had hayrack rides, marshmallow roasting, pumpkin seed spitting, pumpkin decorating and more. If you haven't made it to one of our fall finale events yet, be sure and mark your calendar this year for Oct. 28 at the Wheatland Broadband building in Scott City.

Long before we get to Scott City on the 28th, we'll have 10 more stops to make in communities across our service territory. Watch for the big red van at an event in your community.

See the schedule below for a list of events and dates we are already planning:

- ▶ **TBD** – **Z98 WOMEN'S FAIR**, Garden City
- ▶ **Sept. 22** – **HEARTLAND FOODS**, Scott City
- ▶ **Sept. 25** – **DOWNTOWN LEOTI**, Leoti
- ▶ **Oct. 14** – **BULLSEYE BBQ**, Harper
- ▶ **Oct. 26** – **CALDWELL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAME**, Caldwell
- ▶ **Oct. 28** – **CRAM THE VAN FINALE**, Wheatland Broadband in Scott City

We will be adding more events to the schedule, so be sure to check Wheatland's website ([www.weci.net/](http://www.weci.net/)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/WheatlandElectric](http://www.facebook.com/WheatlandElectric)) for updates.

We appreciate everyone who's helped us collect more than **11.5 tons of food** over the past three years. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events over the next couple of months as we work together to feed hungry people across Kansas. See you soon, and thanks for helping us Cram the Van!



Wheatland employee Kelley Burch and his wife Amy help Cram the Van at an event in Leoti last year.



Our fall finale includes a food slide where kids can slide their donations right into the van.

## Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

### Stephanie Fontenot

(pronounced Font é no)

Billing Specialist

Started June 1 in Garden City



Stephanie Fontenot

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.**

Married to Jimi, ASE master and Honda master technician at Western Motor. One son, Logan, age 26.

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?**

Leoti

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

Enjoy camping, spending time with extended family and quilting.

**WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE VACATION?**

All girls trip to Puerto Vallarta and Vegas with the hubby.

**IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPER POWER –WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?**

Healing power. There is too much hurt in this world.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK OR MOVIE AND WHY?**

Grease, love the music, the story, totally entertaining.

**IF YOU COULD BE ANY ANIMAL, WHAT WOULD YOU BE AND WHY?**

A sloth, because who doesn't love a sloth?

## Correction Notice

In the June issue of *Kansas Country Living* "Get to Know Your Co-op Staff," Chris Huber's work location was listed as Garden City. The correct location is Great Bend. We apologize for the error.

## Offices Closed on Sept. 4



In observance of Labor Day, Wheatland's offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 4. We wish you a safe and happy Labor Day!

PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

# HVAC



rebate program

## 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)

## Check Out a New Way to Curb Your Energy Usage

### Borrow a Kill-A-Watt at Your Local Library Today!



The Kill-A-Watt™ EZ is an electricity monitoring device designed to easily measure how much electricity is being used by your plug-in appliances at home or work.

Find out how much money you would save in your electricity bills by turning them off and being smarter in your home energy management.

The Kill-A-Watt EZ is now available for checkout at your local library.

You must have a valid library card to borrow a Kill-A-Watt through this program.

# GO AHEAD, GET THE LARGE POPCORN.



Co-op Connections® Card



Because Co-op Connections® helps you save big and enjoy more.

The One Card That Does It All®.

[www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop)

# A DAY in the LIFE

BY SHAWN POWELSON



**Corbin Spellman**  
Staking Engineer  
2 years in Garden City

I met **CORBIN SPELLMAN** at our Garden City office and got right to work peppering him with questions. How long have you worked for Wheatland? What's your position called, officially? What do you do here? What

brought you to Wheatland? What did you used to do? Corbin answered, before coming to Wheatland he had spent 10 plus years in law enforcement. I thought, perhaps, I should ask less questions and ask them a little more nicely. But, as it turns out, I had nothing to fear. If he was a mean cop, I never would have guessed after our day together.

"When I was in law enforcement, I didn't always get to meet people on the best terms. Working at Wheatland, my interactions with our members are on much better terms." As a staking engineer, Corbin is often one of the first contacts a member has with Wheatland. If a member requests new service or a change to their service, that requires Wheatland to build or modify line, that goes through staking.

New service requests often require easement or right of way acquisition. In addition, once the amount of new load is calculated, it must be determined if the existing infrastructure is adequate. Will a bigger transformer be needed? Do we need to add any other equipment? All part of the staking process.

To assess the situation and help answer these questions, Corbin uses a software program that lays out the area where the work is to be performed. The program displays a map of existing infrastructure and allows Corbin to click and drag to add new pole and line placement necessary to complete the service request. As he worked on a current project, Corbin described how the program calculated what existing infrastructure would be retired and anything new that was required.

I could see the program was a big help to Corbin in his work but it certainly didn't do it all for him. As he continued working with the program, he explained other aspects of his job and the staking process. "Everything starts and ends with the work order," he said. "Nothing gets done without a work order and no job is complete until the work order is closed."

He went on to explain the work order process. Once he had the project "staked", complete with the list of recommended materials needed, it was then sent to the warehouse. The warehouse then pulls the list of recommended materials in preparation of the line crew beginning the project. After the construction process is finished, the line crew foreman notes any deviation from the recommended list of materials and returns any unused material to the warehouse. The staking department then reconciles the original work order. As he finished explaining the work order process he added that when they break ground for any construction project he has to notify Dig Safe.

Although we spent the day in his office working with staking software and on other projects, on any given day Corbin might be out in the field meeting with a member to discuss their project, flagging locations where work is to be performed or verifying easements. All of which, keeps his job interesting.

As we finished our time together, we talked about his family and what he likes to do for fun. He's been married for 14 years and has three kids: a 14-year-old daughter and two sons, 11 and 3. Corbin loves the outdoors and enjoys hunting and fishing. He added, "If I had the chance, I'd probably disappear into the woods where no one could find me for a few weeks." (I'm certain he could pull that off!) As we wrapped up for the day, I asked what he likes most about his job. "The people, both within the company and out. Getting out and getting to meet the members and working with them is great." Thanks for sharing your day with me, Corbin. See you in the woods!

**SHAWN POWELSON, Manager of Member Services and Corporate Communications**