



NEWS

Wheatland Electric Co-op, Inc.

Board of Trustees

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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
2300 Broadway, 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
N Hwy 25, P.O. Box 966
Leoti, KS 67861
Scott City-Main – 620-872-5885
101 Main St., P.O. Box 230
Scott City, KS 67871
Syracuse – 620-384-5171
206 1/2 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

See You at the Polls



Bruce W. Mueller

Wheatland Electric Cooperative's number one priority is providing our members with safe, reliable and competitively priced electricity. But doing this job requires a lot more than stringing and maintaining power lines throughout our service territory. It requires political engagement. That may seem far removed from our core mission, but it's absolutely essential to serving you, our members.

That's why at Wheatland Electric we're participating in a national program of America's electric cooperatives called **CO-OPS VOTE**.

Co-ops Vote encourages all co-op members to participate in national,

state and local elections while educating political candidates and elected officials about the important role played by electric cooperatives in their communities.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the service organization representing the nation's electric co-ops, launched **CO-OPS VOTE** in 2016. Co-ops Vote started as a national non-partisan get-out-the-vote initiative that helped drive rural voter turnout in the 2016 presidential election. Through this program, electric co-ops realized they had a unique advantage: As co-ops, the civic virtue of voting is in our DNA. We show **CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY**—one of the seven cooperative principles—through participation in our democracy.

Co-ops have another advantage.

Continued on page 16D ▶

Notice of Meeting of Board of Trustees to Discuss Changes to Rules & Regulations

Wheatland Electric's Board of Trustees will hold an open board meeting to discuss and vote on potential changes to Wheatland's Rules & Regulations regarding member costs and fees for service. The meeting will be held at 11 a.m., on Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2018, at the following location:

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC – GREAT BEND OFFICE
(2300 Broadway, Great Bend, KS 67530)

Any member with questions may contact the Wheatland Electric office during business hours at 620-872-5885.

October is National Co-op Month

Providing you with safe, reliable and competitively priced energy are only a few of the benefits of being a part of a co-op. We are more than energy providers—we are here to serve you, the member, in your community.

October is National Co-op Month and it's the perfect time for Wheatland Electric to show our members why it's great to be a member of a co-op. There are seven cooperative principles that set us apart from other businesses: open and voluntary membership; democratic member control; members' economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community. We operate by these principles to provide a unique business model that shows and allows our members to be a part of something bigger than just their communities.

Wheatland Electric strives to be a strong presence in its communities. One of our many community-oriented programs, the Cram the Van

food drive, allows Wheatland to help feed hungry people across its service territories. We collect non-perishable food items and deliver them to the local food banks. We are just ramping up our food drive efforts and would love to see you at one of our many events, or you can drop your donation off at any one of our local offices. You can find a schedule of our events on page 16F. Along with our Sharing Success program, youth tour trips, scholarships and safety demonstrations, you can see just how committed Wheatland Electric is to the communities we serve.

Wheatland Electric wants to make sure you know you are a valued member of this cooperative. Members have a voice in the cooperative's policies and business decisions through the elec-



Wheatland Electric and CoBank recently renewed their Sharing Success program, bringing their combined total donations to \$70,000. The Scott Community Foundation manages the Sharing Success Fund.



A Heartland Foods employee loads up the van with donations from a Cram the Van event held at Heartland Foods last fall.



A Wheatland Electric bucket truck participates in the Harper County Fair Parade. Wheatland and its employees are involved in a number of events, from parades to community feeds, barbecue cook-offs to running carnival rides, not to mention sponsoring the fairs as a whole.

tion of a board of trustees who represent the membership. Through the cooperative's annual meeting, members have an opportunity to vote on the board of trustees, exercising one of the greatest benefits of being a member of a cooperative. Wheatland is not owned by big investors but by you, the member, allowing you to take part in the business of the cooperative.

National Co-op Month allows Wheatland Electric to celebrate the cooperative difference with co-ops across the nation. Providing you with safe, reliable and competitively priced energy are only a few of the benefits of being a part of a co-op. We are more than energy providers—we are here to serve you, the member, in your community.



General Manager Bruce Mueller presents a scholarship check to Arely Yanez, Greeley County, at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary co-ops, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and co-ops at other levels are organized in democratic manner.

MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-op. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the co-op, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-op; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-op autonomy.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-op. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

See You at the Polls *Continued from page 16A* ▶

Elected officials and decision-makers across the political spectrum trust us because of the work the electric cooperative family has put into political engagement. When we all get involved, we can make things happen politically and in our local communities. A recent example is the recently passed **SUB. SENATE BILL 323** protecting the assigned service territories of Kansas electric cooperatives.

Our participation in Co-ops Vote helps to ensure that rural issues remain part of the national and state discussion—and are supported by our elected officials. But Co-ops Vote isn't just for co-ops. It's for co-op members just like you.

You can participate by **REGISTERING TO VOTE** and committing to cast your ballot on Nov. 6. If you're interested in getting more involved, just give us a call or visit www.vote.coop to learn more about the upcoming elections and access

online tools that can help you participate. We look forward to seeing you at the polls on Election Day!

Before I leave you this month, I wanted to let you know that **WHEATLAND BROADBAND** hired C. H. Guernsey (consultant) to prepare a cost-of service study that reviewed each rate plan we offer (to make sure they are recovering all associated costs). The study revealed that for us to remain on the cutting edge of technology, Wheatland Broadband needed to revise our rate plans. Beginning **NOV. 1, 2018**, new rate plans designed to fit today's internet usage will take effect. While some of the new plans will increase slightly, the **MAJORITY** will see a price **DECREASE**. Also, all the plans that increase will also see an **INCREASE IN SPEED**. Please see the new rates on the following pages.

Until next time, take care.

#ImConnected: Join Us in Celebrating Co-op Connections Day

October is National Cooperative Month and Wheatland Electric is excited to celebrate the co-op difference by offering its member-owners even more savings. National Co-op Connections Day is Friday, Oct. 5, 2018, and is sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. This year, members can "Go Beyond the Card: to save in their communities, while on the go and online.

Wheatland Electric invites program participants to use the "Power of Three" to save money on the third-annual National Co-op Connections Day. Cooperative employees and member-owners can use the card, website, or app to find deals and coupons at national and local retailers.

To add even more excitement, we are bringing back the #ImConnected social media photo contest. Members are eligible to win prizes when they share a photo on Facebook that features them using any of the three ways to save on or before Sunday, Oct. 7 and using the hashtag #ImConnected.

"We are excited to celebrate Co-op Connections Day with our community," Alli Conine, Manager of Member Services and Corporate Communications explained. "And we are happy to help our members save even more while supporting the local economy."

All members are encouraged to get involved and visit their favorite participating business on Oct. 5. If you need a new card, print one from connections.coop or contact your local Wheatland office. Or you can simply download the free Co-op Connections

app for Apple or Android devices and start saving!

If you are a local business wishing to be part of the Co-op Connections program, you can join at no cost to you. Simply contact Alli Conine at 620-874-4563 or aconine@weci.net to sign up.



Wheatland Broadband Rate Adjustment: Newer, Faster, Cheaper

Earlier this year, Wheatland Broadband hired C.H. Guernsey to prepare a study that examined the cost of providing broadband service. This cost-of-service study reviewed each rate class and looked to see if each rate class was recovering their costs. To continue to stay on the cutting edge of technology, we have revised our plans to serve today's market more effectively.

BEGINNING NOV. 1, 2018, new plans will be implemented. These new rate plans have been designed to fit today's internet usage. Overall, the number of plans have been reduced and combined. While some of the rates will see an increase in price per month, the majority of the plans will see a **DECREASE IN PRICE**. All plans that have a rate increase will also see an increase in speed. We recognize that any change in rates is very important to the members. This rate increase is necessary to continue providing the best possible service to our members. Wheatland Broadband is working very hard to provide you with the best service possible in our remote areas. We are thrilled to be able to offer these **INCREASED SPEEDS** and excited for the future of the industry. The charts at right demonstrate the new rates that will go into effect on Nov. 1, 2018.



| Residential Rates | Current Package | Current Speed | Current Price | New Package | New Speed (Nov. 1) | New Price (Nov. 1) |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Basic | 1.5/1.5 | \$39.95 | Economy | 3/1 | \$44.95 |
| | Preferred | 3/1 | \$49.95 | Basic | 5/1 | \$54.95 |
| | Premium | 4/1 | \$64.95 | Basic | 5/1 | \$54.95 |
| | Residential 10/2 | 10/2 | \$79.95 | Standard | 10/2 | \$64.95 |
| | Residential 15/3 | 15/3 | \$94.95 | Preferred | 15/3 | \$69.95 |
| | Residential 20/4 | 20/4 | \$109.95 | Premium | 20/4 | \$74.95 |
| | Residential 25/5 | 25/5 | \$124.95 | Premium+ | 25/5 | \$79.95 |

| Commercial Rates | Current Package | Current Speed | Current Price | New Package | New Speed (Nov. 1) | New Price (Nov. 1) |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Basic | 2/1 | \$49.95 | Economy | 3/1 | \$54.95 |
| | Preferred | 3.5/1 | \$64.95 | Basic | 5/2 | \$69.95 |
| | Premium | 5/1 | \$79.95 | Basic | 5/2 | \$69.95 |
| | Residential 10/4 | 10/4 | \$94.95 | Standard | 10/4 | \$84.95 |
| | Residential 15/6 | 15/6 | \$109.95 | Preferred | 15/6 | \$99.95 |
| | Residential 20/8 | 20/8 | \$124.95 | Premium | 20/8 | \$114.95 |
| | Residential 25/10 | 25/10 | \$139.95 | Premium+ | 25/10 | \$129.95 |

COMING SOON PREPAY COULDN'T BE EASIER
SIGN UP - FILL UP - USE UP - FILL UP



Events Near You!

- ▶ **OCT. 1-5** – Cardinals Care Food Drive (Conway Springs)
- ▶ **OCT. 1-5** – USD 466 Scott City School Challenge
- ▶ **OCT. 4** – Longhorn Festival (Holcomb)
- ▶ **OCT. 4** – Scott City Middle School Football Game (Scott City)
- ▶ **OCT. 5** – Cardinals Football Game (Conway Springs)
- ▶ **OCT. 8-12** – Great Bend Schools-Hiss-Sherman Challenge (Great Bend)
- ▶ **OCT. 8-12** – USD 363 Holcomb School Challenge
- ▶ **OCT. 12** – Wheatland Electric (Great Bend)
- ▶ **OCT. 20** – Harper Fall Fest/Bullseye BBQ (Harper)
- ▶ **OCT. 27** – Fall Finale (Spencer Flight Center, Scott City)



Former Wheatland Trustee Charles Ayers (left), enjoys lunch at Arts Park in Leoti.



Wheatland employees serve hot dogs and hamburgers to a long line of members at the Cram the Van event in Leoti.



Mike Thon, Wheatland Board Trustee and Tribune resident, makes a donation at the Cram the Van event on Sept. 11 at Gooch's Foods in Tribune.

SAFETY Tip of the Month

Don't overload circuits or extension cords. Cords and wires should never be placed under rugs because of the risk of fire, or in high traffic areas as they could pose a tripping hazard.

CRAM THE VAN

FALL Finale



Oct. 27 from 1-5 p.m.

TANDEM SKYDIVING

YOUNG EAGLES RIDES
FROM 1-4 P.M.

BEECH 18 RIDES

SCHEDULING BEGINS OCT. 24

CONTACT LIZ VULGAMORE 620-874-8325

PUMPKIN DECORATING

FACE PAINTING

HAYRACK RIDES

CANDY DROP

AT 5 P.M.



SPENCER FLIGHT & EDUCATION CENTER



LUCY MARTINEZ
Plant Accountant

A DAY *in the* LIFE

BY ALLI CONINE

I was finally able to convince **LUCY MARTINEZ** to let me spend the day with her this month. In the past she has always been a little

hesitant—wait, let's be honest, she has always told me no! And it's not because she just doesn't want to do it, it's because she thinks her job is boring, not to her, but to everyone else. I told Lucy that I would be the first one to admit that accounting is not my forte, but every job is interesting to me. Every person has something they are good at, something they excel at and Lucy's just happens to be her job.

Lucy started working at Wheatland Electric in June 2007 as an accounting clerk. She was later promoted to an accounting specialist, senior accounting specialist and most recently to a plant accountant. Her new role is a recently created position at Wheatland, and she's learning everyday what her job duties entail and what the average day is going to look like. So for now, she is taking it one day at a time. While learning her new role, Lucy is also training **STEPHANIE FONTENOT** to do parts of her previous job.

Lucy is responsible for asset management at Wheatland. She explained to me how she keeps track of Wheatland's assets including which ones need to be added and which ones need to be retired. When someone at Wheatland gets a new vehicle or a new computer, Lucy will retire the old asset and add the new asset. Lucy shared with me a typical day, noting that she is always busy the first of the month. She is responsible for closing

the Miscellaneous Receivable (MR) accounts, reconciling one of Wheatland's main bank accounts along with the smaller bank accounts. Lucy works with three other accountants, and over the last few years they have realized the importance of cross-training. Lucy talked about how beneficial this has been for their department.

I asked Lucy about her experience before joining Wheatland. In 1998, she started working for the Garden City School District eventually working in accounts payable. She had the opportunity to advance and made the move to Garden City Community College where she was the accounts payable coordinator for five years. Lucy studied at Garden City Community College for two years and then earned a business management degree from Friends University.

When asked what she loves about working at Wheatland, Lucy said "everything"—the people, the job, and that she truly loves what she does. She shared that her department is easy to work in, everyone gets along and they have good communication.

When she's not at work, Lucy spends most of her time with family. Lucy met her husband in Garden City 27 years ago and they have one daughter who they enjoy visiting in Wichita as often as they can. Most of Lucy's extended family lives in south Texas, a 16-hour drive from Garden City. Lucy and her husband enjoy traveling to small towns across the state. After spending the day with Lucy, I can tell you that I was reminded of why Wheatland is such a great place to work. I am fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work with people like Lucy and for that I am grateful.

ALLI CONINE, Manager of Member Services and Corporate Communications