

**WHEATLAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS



Wheatland Electric Co-op, Inc.

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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

2019 Annual Meeting Highlights

Thank you to all our members who attended **WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S 71ST ANNUAL MEETING** in Great Bend. This year, we tried something new and held concurrent live feeds of the annual meeting at our six other offices across the Wheatland service territory. This was the first time we were able to offer the membership and employees the ability to attend and participate in the annual meeting remotely.

We had 278 people in attendance, 262 of which were registered members. 52 proxy votes were also cast. We had a contested trustee election for the first time in many years, and the member nominated from the floor came from one of the remote office locations.

THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT COOPERATIVE PRINCIPAL NO. 2 IS ALL ABOUT: DEMOCRATIC CONTROL.

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

Representatives (trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership.

We want to thank the special guests who attended. During the meeting, we presented the 2018 financial report and annual summary, telling the Wheatland Electric story for 2018. As we did last year, we produced videos for the financial report and annual summary. You may view the videos at www.weci.net.

Wheatland recognized 14 high school seniors who will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship to continue their education. We also announced our two Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and two Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp winners. During the meeting, Wheatland employees were recognized for service awards ranging from five to 30 years.

In 2018, Wheatland Electric paid capital credits in the amount of \$1,250,000. We announced at the



Bruce W. Mueller

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SAFETY Tip of the Month

Choose the right ladder for the job and don't overload it. Only use a ladder on flat, level ground. Always face the ladder while climbing and maintain three points of contact at all times. Maintain proper clearances from all electrical lines. Look up and live!



71st ANNUAL MEETING



Wheatland Electric held its 71st Annual Meeting on April 24th at the Great Bend Events Center in Great Bend, Kansas. Two hundred seventy-eight people attended the meeting in Great Bend or at one of the remote locations.

Members had the opportunity to visit with Wheatland staff and other members prior to the start of the meeting. In addition, members were able to view the hotline safety demo trailer and a pre-recorded hotline safety demonstration that was held earlier this year. Members were also able to view Wheatland's drones that are utilized during storms or large outages to patrol lines and ask questions about Wheatland's new Prepay Power program.

Boy Scout Troop #184 from Great Bend presented the colors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. The financial report and the

annual summary, telling the Wheatland story for 2018 were presented in a video.

Youth Tour and scholarship winners were announced and those students in attendance were presented with a certificate from General Manager, Bruce Mueller. Employees were recognized with service awards ranging from 5-30 years.

The Wheatland Board of Trustees recommended the following amendments regarding Article 4 Trustees, Section 3 Qualifications of a Trustee.

Article 4 Trustees, Section 3. Qualifications

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee of the Cooperative who:

- ▶ Is not a member and taking electric service in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative;
- ▶ Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing

Top: Wheatland members attend the 71st annual meeting at the Great Bend Events Center on Wednesday, April 24.

Middle: William "Woody" Barnes, Wheatland Electric Board of Trustees President, addresses the membership.

Left: General Manager Bruce Mueller discusses the future plans of the cooperative and 2018 success stories with members.



From left: Drew Oelger, Aston Charles, and Tyler Duryee, Pack 184 members, present the colors at the 71st Wheatland Electric annual meeting.

enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures, or supplies to the members of the Cooperative; or

- ▶ That has a close family member that is an employee of the Cooperative. A close family member means a spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandchild, grandparent, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew and the same for inlaw and "step" relationships. Upon establishment of the fact that a trustee is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the Cooperative's Board of Trustees shall remove such trustee from office. The bylaw amendment passed with 190 members in favor of and 7 members in opposition of.

Wheatland Electric had three districts up for election, District 5, District 6 and District 7. For the first time in many years we had a contested election. Scott Blubaugh from District 7 was nominated from the Harper remote location, opposing current Board

Trustee, William Barnes. The following trustees were elected to the Wheatland Electric Board of Trustees:

- ▶ District 5 – **WES CAMPBELL**
- ▶ District 6 – **ROBERT HISS**
- ▶ District 7 – **WILLIAM BARNES**

In the District 7 contested election, William Barnes received 160 votes and Scott Blubaugh received 35 votes. More democratic participation by our membership is precisely why we started holding meetings at the remote locations.

General Manager, Bruce Mueller, announced that the Wheatland Electric Board of Trustees has budgeted \$1 million in Capital Credits payouts in 2019. Barring an unforeseen circumstance, Wheatland plans to payout Capital Credits in December 2019.

All members who attended the annual meeting were eligible to win door prizes, even those members who attended at the remote locations. Wheatland gave away more than 40 door prizes with Ms. Becky Hill winning the Grand Prize, a 65-inch HD TV.

Boy Scout Troop #184 retired the colors and the 71st Annual Meeting was adjourned. We look forward to seeing

Right: Dan Bonine (right), Wheatland Electric Board of Trustee, visits with Great Bend members Maurice and Norma Hammeke prior to the meeting.

Far Right: Quinten Wheeler, manager of safety and compliance, stands in front of the hotline safety demonstration trailer. The trailer shows the destructive potential of electricity and how Wheatland's linemen stay safe on the job.



Live Streaming a Success

In addition to the meeting at the Great Bend Events Center, Wheatland live streamed the 71st annual meeting at six additional offices throughout our service territory—in Scott City, Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City and Harper. This allowed members to attend the meeting at their local office. Members who attended remotely were able to nominate trustees, vote for trustees and the proposed bylaw amendment, and win door prizes.

"This was the first time we were able to offer the membership and employees the ability to see and attend the annual meeting remotely," said General Manager Bruce Mueller. "It was also the first time in many years we had a contested trustee election. This was only able to happen because we are working on improving our transparency for the membership. In the past, only members who attended the actual meeting location could have been nominated from the floor, and only those members in attendance could have voted. We are fully expecting the attendance and participation by the membership at the remote sites to continue to grow."

We are grateful for the response and look forward to growing attendance and participation at the remote locations in the years to come.



ElectroR



The Scott Community ElectroRally team finished second place in the standard and solar classes. Wheatland Electric is proud to sponsor multiple high school ElectroRally teams.

Thirteen teams from Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska came to race despite the wind and cold to compete in the Solar, Standard and Open classes in the Sunflower ElectroRally Race on April 25 at Scott City Municipal Airport.

Wheatland Electric has partnered with Sunflower Electric Power Corporation to support the Kansas ElectroRally since its inception in 1997. Kansas ElectroRally is an organization that hosts competitions for Kansas high school teams that design and build lightweight, efficient electric vehicles. Wheatland Electric is a proud sponsor of the Great Bend High School and Scott Community High School ElectroRally teams.

Teams design, build and race their own cars using several disciplines to construct the perfect racing machine. Developed around specific rules designed to keep costs down and competition high, these unique vehicles offer an opportunity to experiment, learn and compete.

Race days are exciting. Generally, the routine is

BUILDING AN ELECTRATHON VEHICLE

An Electrathon vehicle is much like a full-size RC model car – except you can get in and drive it. Building a competitive and safe vehicle is the challenge. The Electrathon rules have evolved over many years to help builders construct a well-designed and safe vehicle for the driver's protection, as well as the safety of the other drivers and spectators. An Electrathon competition combines speed, aerodynamics, handling and lightweight design to create a balanced performance formula.

SAFETY

Safety is of key concern at all events. The design of the vehicles is only

one variable in the safety of an event. A pre-race inspection of the vehicles is required to ensure they are safe. Event courses must be free from obstructions and ensure participants and spectators are not in harms way. These are just some of the sanctioning regulations.

TIMING AND SCORING

An Electrathon race is one hour in duration, with a maximum of two minutes allowed after that time for each vehicle to complete its final lap. At exactly 60 minutes by the official clock, the checkered flag is dropped. Any vehicle that crosses the finish line before that time may continue until they cross the finish line again. If they complete this final lap within the

ally

the same: students and sponsors check in, turn in waivers, drivers are weighed in (they must weigh 180 pounds or make up the difference with ballast), each team is required to pass a written exam on safety, and vehicles must pass inspection—all before a single car hits the track. From there, the cars draw for pole position, last-minute checks are done, and the race begins. Each car has a designated "counter" to record the number of laps their car successfully completes in one hour. This lap count determines the winner.

Wheatland provides volunteers to help set up and tear down the track, register teams, grill and serve hot dogs and hamburgers, take photos, run errands or do whatever is needed to make the race a success. Wheatland is fortunate to be able to use the Spencer Flight Center to host the event, especially when the weather is not on our side.

For more information about the electric car program in Kansas, visit www.kansaselectrally.org. Schools interested in starting an electric car program should contact Alli Conine, Manager of Member Services and Corporate Communications, at aconine@weci.net.

additional two minutes that lap will be counted, if they do not, it will not be counted. Finishing position may be determined by observing the order vehicles cross the finish line on the final lap or recording the time it took to do so.

VEHICLES

Electrathon vehicles are single person, lightweight, aerodynamic, high efficiency, electric vehicles with three or four pneumatic tires. They must meet specific design and safety rules. They are powered by standard sealed (won't leak if damaged) lead acid battery packs not exceeding the weight limit specified in the vehicle design rules.



Top: Great Bend High School won first place in the Solar Class.

Middle: Clearwater High School placed third in the Standard Class.

Bottom: Scott Community High School placed second in the Solar and Standard Class.

Wheatland Linemen Teach at Ag Safety Days

At Wheatland Electric we take safety seriously. We provide our linemen with the most up-to-date electrical safety training and equipment. This ensures everyone goes home safely after working what is an inherently dangerous job.

Electrical safety does not only apply to those who work on the lines, but to all of our members. Since we all live near power lines, there is a possibility anyone could all be involved in a potentially dangerous situation. This is why Wheatland Electric has taken an active approach in educating the public and promoting electrical safety in the communities we serve.

Recently, Progressive Agricultural Safety Days were held at the Greeley County Fairgrounds in Tribune. At this event, Wheatland's Manager of Safety and Compliance, Quinten Wheeler, used the hotline safety demonstration trailer to show the destructive potential of electricity and how linemen remain safe on the job. Third and fourth grade students were shown several examples of how potential accidents can happen and how to best avoid them.

Throughout the day, students rotate between several stations where they participate in hands-on activities and demonstrations, including electrical

Providing these demonstrations is a great way to teach students about the dangers of electricity. Usually, the kids really perk up after they see that first flash. After that, they tend to pay attention and really come away with a new understanding of the destructive power of electricity.

safety, firearm safety, farm equipment safety, fire safety and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) Safety.

Wheatland believes safety education is a key component of cooperative principle five: Education, Training and Information.

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the public about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

During the demo, students had the opportunity to pass around safety gear while linemen showed how easily electricity can arc between lines.

"Providing these demonstrations is a great way to teach students about the dangers of electricity," Wheeler said. "Usually, the kids really perk up after they see that first flash. After that, they tend to pay attention and really come away with a new understanding of the destructive power of electricity."

Ag safety days rotate between several locations in our service area and happen twice a year—in the early spring and fall.

To learn more about Wheatland Electric's dedication to safety or to set up a demonstration, please email Quinten Wheeler, at qwheeler@weci.net or Alli Conine at aconine@weci.net or call 620-872-5885.



Manager of Safety and Compliance, Quinten Wheeler, and Lineman Apprentice, Logan Meuli, demonstrated the dangers of power lines to students at Ag Safety Days.

2019 Scholarship Winners Awarded \$1,000

Fourteen high school seniors were awarded \$1,000 scholarships at this year's annual meeting.

- ▶ **BRANT COTTA**
Argonia High School
- ▶ **SOPHEE SPRAGUE**
Caldwell High School
- ▶ **JAMIE MANNING**
Chaparral High School
- ▶ **MOLLY SCHMANKE**
Conway Springs High School
- ▶ **YADIRA JUAREZ-SOTO**
Deerfield High School
- ▶ **GRACE SOUPISET**
Great Bend High School
- ▶ **SEBASTIAN TORRES**
Greeley County High School
- ▶ **JASMINE PALACIOS**
Holcomb High School
- ▶ **HANNAH HOLLER**
Norwich High School
- ▶ **CHASETON CUPP**
Scott Community High School
- ▶ **CADE DVORAK**
South Haven High School
- ▶ **WYATT CARTER**
Syracuse High School
- ▶ **KAIYA GERSTBERGER**
Wichita County/Leoti High School
- ▶ **ABBY FLICKNER**



Congratulations,
graduates and
scholarship recipients!

2019 Youth Tour and Leadership Camp Winners

Each year, Wheatland sponsors four local youth to attend all-expense-paid trips of a lifetime. Two will attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 13-20, 2019, and two will travel to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 12-18, 2019. Congratulations to this year's winners!

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour *Washington, D.C.*

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp *Steamboat Springs, Colorado*



DELANEY MAYO
Caldwell High School



OLIVIA MULL
Great Bend High School



TORI POE
Norwich High School



FABEL YANEZ
Greeley County/Tribune High School

Chamber of Commerce Plaque Unveiling

The Wheatland Electric office in Scott City carries significant history as it sits on the corner of 101 Main St., where The Hotel Northern once stood.

Built in 1886, it was a grand two-story frame building with a large stable to the south of it. Courthouse records show these lots were originally owned by Ida Eastman, the daughter of Maria DeGeer. Records show J.E. Van Voorhis purchased it in 1887. Then it was sold to Fredrick Strickert in 1902.

History is oftentimes illusive as discovered with research of this hotel. One account says it burned in 1912, while other accounts say it was destroyed in 1915. Either way, it met the same fate as the Grand Central Hotel in the 700 block of Main Street—fire; the great menace of prairie towns. Records show 13 owners of the lots from that time to today. It's unknown what other buildings or businesses might have resided here until Wheatland Electric purchased it in 1955 and built the current structure.



From left: Wheatland Electric's General Manager, Bruce Mueller; Deb Lawrence, Scott City Historical Society; and Lindsay Singley, executive director of Scott City Area Chamber of Commerce, unveil the Chamber of Commerce plaque on Wheatland Electric's building representing the site's historical significance.

2019 Annual Meeting Highlights *Continued from page 16A* ►

annual meeting the Wheatland Board of Trustees has budgeted paying \$1 million in capital credits in 2019 (based on the 2018 financials). I want to emphasize "budgeted," just in case an unforeseen financial crisis would inhibit our ability to pay capital credits. Barring that circumstance, Wheatland Electric plans to pay capital credits in December 2019. Be sure to look for the 2019 Capital Credits Harvest Days where checks will be distributed.

One of the topics discussed during the annual meeting video was drone use for electrical system restoration after an outage caused by Mother Nature. It's now summer and there most likely will be an occasional severe storm affecting the flow of electricity to our electrical system. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that Wheatland Electric is ready to respond.

The major cause of most power outages (in parts of our service territory)

comes from damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches. We work year-round—through right of way clearing—to ensure power lines in our service territory stand little risk of being damaged by trees, branches or other types of vegetation.

Despite our best efforts, major storms can cause damage to transmission structures, substations and power lines. When this happens, our priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. All avenues of communication are used to take your outage report. The big problems are handled first—like damage to transmission lines, which serve thousands of people. These problems must be corrected before we can focus on other areas where more localized damage may have occurred.

Using drone technology (where applicable), line crews inspect substations to determine if the problem starts there or if there could be an issue down the line. If the root of the problem is at the substation, power can be restored to thousands of members relatively quickly.

Next, line crews use the latest technology to check service lines that deliver power into neighborhoods and communities. Line crews repair the damaged lines, restoring power to hundreds of members. If you continue to experience an outage, there may be damage to a tap line outside of your home or business. Make sure you notify Wheatland Electric so crews can inspect these lines.

We will do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans. Be sure to check our Facebook page and website for the latest updates during a power outage.

Until next time, take care.