



Wheatland Electric Co-op, Inc.

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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

Why You Should Attend Wheatland's Annual Meeting



Bruce W. Mueller

It's annual meeting time. On behalf of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., I'd like to personally invite you to join us on April 24, 2019, at the Great Bend

Events Center, 3111 10th St., in Great Bend, Kansas.

We look forward to gathering with you—members of Wheatland Electric—to catch up, listen to what you have to say and enjoy good food and fellowship. We will have great door prizes to give away and will be announcing the winners of the Wheatland Electric scholarships for local seniors, recipients of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., and recipients of the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp experience in Colorado.

This event is a chance to visit with other members of the cooperative, learn what Wheatland has accomplished in the previous year, and what we see for the upcoming year and beyond.

It's also an 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.

If you are interested in running for one of the board of trustees' seats up for reelection, the process is outlined below:

1. The first way set forth in Wheatland's bylaws is to be nominated by the nominating committee. Every year, the board of trustees appoints a nomination committee. The committee is comprised of one individual from each district (1-7). You are welcome to contact Wheatland for the name of the member who represents you on the nomination committee. You can then contact him or her at your convenience.
2. The bylaws also allow for nomination by a petition of your fellow members. Fifteen members, or more, of Wheatland can nominate any member as a candidate for trustee. These nominations by petition must be sent to Wheatland at least 40 days before the annual meeting. However, even if

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Prepay Power UPDATE

I don't think the members are used to having the control of their utility bills the way Wheatland's Prepay offers. We have been educating our members about the benefits of Prepay, and so far, those who have signed up have been thrilled with the flexibility and convenience Prepay offers.

NO DEPOSIT. NO LATE FEES. NO DUE DATE. NO MONTHLY STATEMENTS. You choose when and how much electricity to purchase. With Wheatland Electric's Prepay Power you become the manager of your account. We are only a couple of months into the launch of Prepay Power and the response has been nothing but positive.

Nowadays people are used to having the ability to access everything at their fingertips, but utility bills? When Wheatland rolled out the Prepay Power program Dec. 1, it was first met with hesitation.

"I don't think the members are used to having the control of their utility bills the way Wheatland's Prepay offers," said Julie Stoss, consumer services supervisor. "We have been educating our members about the benefits of Prepay, and so far, those who have signed up have been thrilled with the flexibility and convenience Prepay offers. We fully expect more people to switch to Prepay as the word gets out, and more people hear first hand from friends and family about how simple and easy it makes managing your power bills."

LISA MANCIAZ was one of our first members to sign up for Prepay and she has been happy she made the switch.

"Prepay has been great for me. I can look at my phone to see how much I have in my account and add to it when-



Julie Stoss, Consumer Services Supervisor, explains the benefits of Prepay Power in a short video being prepared for social media and Wheatland Electric's Annual Meeting.

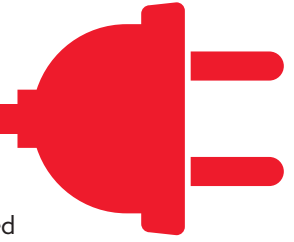
ever. It's very convenient," Manciaz said.

For people like Lisa, taking control and becoming managers of their own accounts has been a convenient way to keep tabs on the amount spent on electricity and the amount of electricity used.

"I am definitely more conscious of my electric usage now that I can see exactly how much I am spending per day," Manciaz said.

Getting started is easy.

Members, whether new or existing, must complete a **WHEATLAND PREPAY POWER PROGRAM AGREEMENT** available at your local Wheatland Electric office. You purchase electricity before you use it. Make payments when you want to, online, by phone, or in person at your local Wheatland office. When your account runs low, you will receive a notice by text or email letting you know it is time to recharge your account. If



funds in your account run out, electrical service will be automatically terminated. You will be notified by text or email that your service has been terminated. You can recharge your account at any time, day or night, online or by phone, and service will be automatically restored.

Who Can Participate?

All residential accounts with an advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) meter are eligible for Prepay Power.* Access to SmartHub is required to participate in Prepay Power. The member is responsible for updating their SmartHub account with a valid email address and text number to guarantee receipt of Prepay Power notifications. The member must provide and maintain a valid email/text number to receive low balance notifications. Failure to receive the notifications will not avoid termination of power. **MEDICAL NECESSITY OR RESIDENTIAL HEAT AND COOL ACCOUNTS WITH TWO METERS DO NOT QUALIFY FOR THIS PROGRAM.**

How do I get Started?

Any balance owed on a closed electric account must be paid in full prior to participation in Prepay Power.

Existing members' payment requirements when moving from a traditional account to Prepay Power will apply as follows:

- ▶ The calculated usage from the last billed reading up to the date of Prepay Power sign up.
- ▶ The total Accounts Receivable balance on account.
- ▶ Minimum payment of \$30 prepaid credit.
- ▶ \$50 account administrative setup fee.
- ▶ \$20 final energy usage credit.**
- ▶ New members will pay an initial \$100 set-up fee. This includes a \$50 account administrative set-up fee, \$20 final energy usage credit and a \$30 prepaid meter credit.

"Wheatland's Prepay Power program will empower our members to make their own choices about their electric service," said Pam Brungardt, director of consumer services. "Members will see many benefits with Prepay Power, from managing their daily usage to paying at their convenience. Text account notifications will allow our members to pay when they want and how much they want to pay, whether on the go, at home or work, from their mobile device or while visiting any Wheatland office."

**Additional qualifications and terms can be found in the Wheatland Prepay Power program agreement located on our website at www.weci.net.*

***Any deposit held on the account will be applied toward any outstanding balance and any remaining credit will be applied to the purchase of future energy use.*

PREPAY
POWER

AVAILABLE NOW PREPAY COULDN'T BE EASIER
SIGN UP FILL UP USE UP FILL UP

Safety Demo Gets Real-life Application

Last November, Adam Howell, a 19-year-old resident of Syracuse, was trying to finish what had been a long, drawn out milo harvest due to the weather. With the combine getting close to a full load, he extended the auger before he made the turn at the end of the field to make his way back toward the semi-truck. With a flash, the auger struck a power pole, breaking it in half and dropping the three phase lines onto his combine.

Fortunately, Adam remembered the hot line demonstration Wheatland's Manager of Safety & Compliance, Quinten Wheeler, performed at Syracuse High School.

"Initially I started to panic when I saw the lines had fallen on the combine, but I remembered what they showed us when they came to our school," Adam said.

Adam calmed down, stayed in the cab of his combine, while his father Bill Howell called the Wheatland Electric office for help.

Adam would have been safe waiting in the cab until crews could cut the power. Unfortunately, when the lines came down, the field phase line had burned apart, and one end landed on the header starting a fire in the field below him.

Adam was forced to get out of combine and clear the area. He climbed down to the bottom step of the ladder and jumped with both feet at the same time to prevent becoming the grounding source for the live power lines. Once he was on the ground he bunny hopped away, like he was taught at the dem-

Initially I started to panic when I saw the lines had fallen on the combine, but I remembered what they showed us when they came to our school.

onstration, and then instructed his passenger to do the same. After hopping more than 40 feet away from the downed power lines, they were out of the immediate danger zone. Both stayed away from the equipment and waited for crews to show up to cut the power and put out the fire.

"When I showed up, two of the three breakers were open; I opened the last one and completely killed the power. I drove up to where the accident happened, and Adam had already cleared away from the lines. If he hadn't paid attention at the demonstration, they could have been seriously hurt," Line Foreman Matt Riley said.

If you are ever in a motor vehicle accident and power lines are touching the vehicle, remember to:

- ▶ **ASSUME IT'S LIVE.** Always assume that any downed lines are live and dangerous. Do not attempt to touch or remove the wires and warn others to stay away.
- ▶ **STAY PUT.** Unless there is a secondary emergency, such as a fire, it is safer to stay inside the vehicle than trying to exit.
- ▶ **CALL 9-1-1.** Let the dispatcher know that you were in an accident and you have a downed line on your vehicle. The authorities will contact the power company and line workers will be sent to the scene to shut off power.
- ▶ **WARN OTHERS.** Witnesses may not notice the downed line and could be coming to help. Warn them to stay at least 40 feet away.

If there is another emergency posing a greater threat, like a fire, you may need to exit your vehicle. If you must exit:

- ▶ **GET YOURSELF READY.** The goal is to avoid touching the car and the ground at the same time. Remove any loose clothing, open your car door, step onto the metal frame of the car with your feet close together and tuck your hands and elbows into your chest.
- ▶ **JUMP FROM THE VEHICLE.** When jumping, keep your feet together. This is more important than how far you jump. If your feet are apart from each other, you could create a bridge, allowing electricity to run through you. Jump as far as you can from the vehicle without jeopardizing your stance.
- ▶ **SHUFFLE OR HOP TO SAFETY.** Don't become a circuit!

Shuffle your feet in slow and short strides always maintaining contact with the ground or hop with feet together until you are at least 40 feet away from the downed wire.

For safety demonstrations, contact Quinten Wheeler, Manager of Safety & Compliance at qwheeler@weci.net or Alli Conine, Manager of Member Services & Corporate Communications at aconine@weci.net.



Last November, a combine struck a power pole. Thanks to proper safety training the operator and his passenger were able to escape without serious injury.

SPRING PLANTING

Sow Seeds of Safety This Season



GETTY IMAGES/J-STOCKR

Remember these safety tips when returning to the fields this spring.

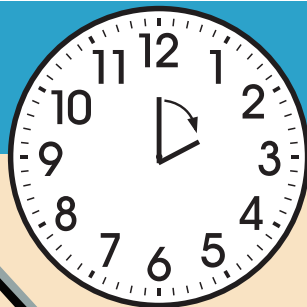
- ▶ **ELECTRICITY CAN ARC OR “JUMP”** from the line to equipment, so keep equipment at least 10 feet from overhead lines.
- ▶ **BE AWARE OF INCREASED HEIGHT** when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds.
- ▶ **DESIGNATE PREPLANNED ROUTES** that avoid hazard areas.
- ▶ **LOWER EXTENSIONS** like planter arms or cultivators to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- ▶ **NEVER ATTEMPT TO RAISE OR MOVE A POWER LINE** to clear a path.
- ▶ **CONSIDER USING A SPOTTER** to alert you if you come close to making contact. A spotter can see sagging

wires that would not be visible on a GPS and provide additional verification that you can pass safely.

- ▶ **STAY FOCUSED ON EQUIPMENT LOCATION** while in the field. Do not simply rely on the GPS system and be ready to take action if needed.
- ▶ Before getting out of the cab, **LOOK UP AND DOUBLE CHECK THE AREA** around your machinery to make sure it is not in contact with overhead lines.
- ▶ **KNOW HOW TO STAY SAFE** if equipment does make contact with power lines. Managers should make sure full-time and seasonal workers are educated on these and other electric safety precautions. Learn more about farm safety at SAFELECTRICITY.ORG.



Daylight Saving Time Check

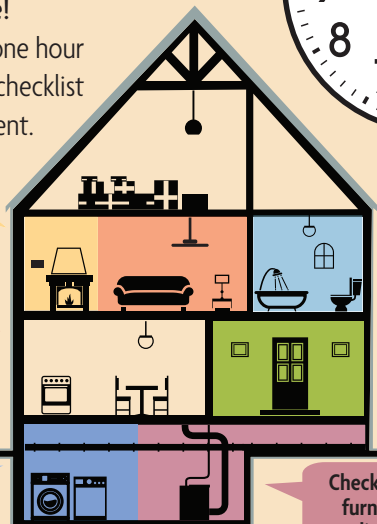


Spring forward with ease!
Set your clocks forward one hour this spring, then use this checklist to keep your home efficient.

Review and update your programmable thermostat.

Reverse your ceiling fan's direction to blow down in the winter and up in the summer.

Clean dryer filter and hoses. Check exterior vents to ensure they are clean of debris.



Check and replace CFLs.

Check windows and doors for drafts or leaks. Seal any leaks with weather stripping.

Check and replace furnace and air conditioning filters.

Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

Melissa Hubbard

Consumer Service Representative
1 month in Great Bend



Melissa Hubbard

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

Married to Casey; children are Patrick, 24; Ethan, 20; Darian, 18; dog – Ginger (American Eskimo)

WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

Grew up in Ellinwood, Kansas; live in Claflin

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

We like to go to concerts and hang out with friends, watch movies, walk the dog

WHAT SPORT OR TEAM IS YOUR FAVORITE?

Dallas Cowboys, K-State Wildcats, Fort Hays State Tigers

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE VACATION?

On our last trip to Colorado to visit our eldest son, we hiked through Red Rocks. It was beautiful!

WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

I know it may sound a bit cheesy and I'm sure everyone says this, but I am most proud of my children. They have grown into wonderful people, and I just enjoy spending time with them.

WHO HAS INSPIRED YOU IN YOUR LIFE AND WHY?

The biggest inspiration in my life is a very good friend of mine. Several years ago, she found the courage to leave a long-term abusive marriage. She took her four children, moved out of their home, and with no help from her ex-husband has flourished. Even through the hard times, she remains a positive example of strength and determination for her children and everyone around her.

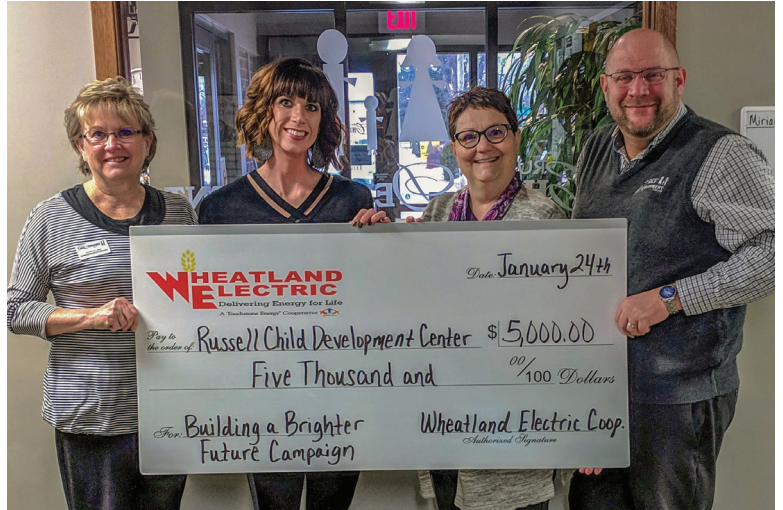
Helping Build a Brighter Future

Since Wheatland Electric is a not-for-profit and owned by the consumer-members we serve, we hold a strong commitment to our communities. It is even one of the seven cooperative principles that guides our mission. We take that commitment seriously, seeking ways to invest resources back into our communities. Therefore, Wheatland wanted to support the Russell Child Development Center's Building a Brighter Future Campaign.

Wheatland presented **RUSSELL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (RCDC)** with the last installment of a three-year, \$15,000 pledge to the Building a Brighter Future Campaign that ensures the agency will have a facility with the capacity and flexibility to accommodate service needs for the next 50 years. The \$5.2 million project is expected to be completed later this fall. With an excess of \$1 million still to raise, partnerships like that of Wheatland Electric and RCDC are vital. These types of partnerships truly define the essence of electric cooperatives.

RCDC began in 1965 when a group of parents and concerned citizens in Garden City, Kansas opened a daycare facility for children of all ages with development disabilities. In 1976, RCDC began enrolling children of preschool age after the passage of the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) required schools to assume responsibility of providing special education services to all eligible children of school age. Today, Russell Child Development Center has had the privilege of becoming the parent organization for four main early childhood programs: Tiny-k Early Intervention, Targeted Case Management, Child and Adult Food Care Program and most recently the Building Blocks Early Childhood Block Grant.

Today, RCDC serves 19 southwest Kansas counties and has



Wheatland Electric's Manager of Member Services & Corporate Communications Alli Conine presented the last installment of a three-year, \$15,000 pledge to the Building a Brighter Future Campaign. Pictured left to right: Jeanne Billings, RCDC coordinator; Alli Conine; Deanna Berry, RCDC executive director; and Scott Kedrowski, tiny-k director.

more than 50 employees.

"This is a project that we have been working toward for a very long time," said Deanna Berry, Executive Director of RCDC. "With an excess of \$1 million still to raise, RCDC is thinking outside of the box and being creative with our resources. Donations are tax deductible; we also have naming opportunities available," added Berry.

Those interested in donating to the campaign or searching for more information can do so at www.rcdc4kids.org.

Giving back to the organizations that help keep our communities strong and growing is important to Wheatland. The next time you think about your co-op membership, remember you are investing in your community.

Cold Weather Accommodation Ends March 15

Spring is just around the corner and with it, warmer weather. Wheatland issues a friendly reminder that the **COLD WEATHER ACCOMMODATION FOR RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS ENDS MARCH 15**. For more information about Wheatland's Cold Weather Accommodation policy, please visit our website. If your service is disconnected for non-pay, please review Wheatland's new rules and regulations, as they have changed.

Wheatland Electric's Board of Trustees held an open meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2018, to discuss and vote on potential changes to Wheatland's rules and regulations regarding member costs and fees for service. All changes to the rules and regulations were approved.

Wheatland's rules and regulations can be found on our website, www.weci.net, under the About tab. Specific information regarding additional deposits because of disconnection due to non-pay can be found in Section 3 – Credit and Security Deposit Regulations, A. Establishment and Maintenance of Credit, #5 – f.

Why You Should Attend Wheatland's Annual Meeting Continued on page 16A ▶

your petition doesn't make it in time, that petitioned nominee will be presented as a candidate at the annual meeting and considered a nomination from the floor. That candidate would then be a "write-in candidate" at the meeting.

3. Any member can make a nomination from the floor at the annual meeting to present a different member as a candidate.

Please contact Jim McVay, Wheatland's general counsel, if you're interested or have questions.

This year Wheatland Electric is trying something new. In the past, the annual meeting was held each year at a designated city in Wheatland's service territory (Scott City, Syracuse, Leoti, Tribune, Great Bend, Holcomb, Caldwell, etc.). It has rotated each year to a different district. This year we will be in Great Bend, District 6. However, on the same day and time as the

annual meeting, April 24, 2019, we will be having **CONCURRENT ANNUAL** meetings at all other WEC office locations: Scott City (Broadband Office), Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Finney County (Fulton St. office) and Harper. The annual meeting will be simulcast at each office. The members in attendance at these satellite locations will be able to:

- ▶ Attend
- ▶ Nominate
- ▶ Vote
- ▶ Win a door prize (if selected)

We will have lunch provided at each location.

Make it a point this year to attend the Wheatland Electric Annual Meeting at any of the WEC locations mentioned above and exercise your right as a member of the cooperative and vote.

Until next time, take care.

Wheatland's 71st Annual Meeting is April 24



Join us and take part in the business of the co-op.

NEW! view LIVE

at your local Wheatland Electric office
Scott City (Broadband Office), Leoti,
Tribune, Syracuse, Finney County
(Fulton St. office) and Harper

Wheatland Electric's

**2019
Annual
Meeting**

Wednesday, April 24

Registration at 10:30 a.m.

Lunch at 11:30 a.m.

Meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Great Bend Events Center

3111 10th St., Great Bend, KS



Melissa Hubbard, Lynae Curtis
and Jessica Preisner
Consumer Service Representatives

A DAY in the LIFE

BY ALLI CONINE

When you walk into Wheatland Electric's office in Great Bend, the first thing you see are the **CONSUMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES** (CSRs). On an average day around 80 members walk through the front doors, and on a busy day that number can grow to 200-300 visitors. With the drive-up window typically serving the same number of members as walk-ins, to say the CSRs are busy is an understatement.

MELISSA HUBBARD, the newest member of the Wheatland Electric team, who started in January 2019, **LYNAE CURTIS**, who has been with Wheatland since June 2017, and **JESSICA PREISNER**, who has been with Wheatland since December 2017, are the front line for members. CSRs serve as the initial contact for members via phone, walk-in or drive-thru. They assist members who are initiating new service, answer a variety of member questions, handle member account transactions, maintain files on active members, and collect deposits and payments. The newest responsibility added to their plate is Prepay Power. Prepay Power is changing the way members pay for their power and has been extremely popular in Great Bend since the December launch of the program.

The CSRs in the Great Bend office have signed up about 25 members for the new program that offers the flexibility of making smaller, more frequent payments when it is convenient for the members. Curtis, Preisner and Hubbard are quickly becoming the resident Prepay Power experts.

"Prepay Power is a better option for a lot of our members because there is no deposit, no late fees, no due date and no monthly statements," Preisner said.

Members also have more control and are becoming more aware of their energy consumption. Members who are a part of the Prepay Power program have access to a slider option in SmartHub that allows them to calculate how much money (based on their current usage) it will take for their energy costs over the next 10 days.

The application process for a member to sign-up for Prepay Power takes between 20-30 minutes. The aspect the CSRs like most about the program is getting to know the members better.

"Most members are coming into the office and paying cash on their account. The more the members come into the office, the better we get to know them," Curtis shared.

It just so happened the day we were doing Day in the Life was the same day we were filming a short Prepay Power video. Curtis, Preisner and Hubbard were able to share with me the names of multiple members who have been a part of the program since day one. Members who were a part of the video had the opportunity to share what they liked most about the program. I think the part members left out was how much they enjoy coming into the Great Bend office. I know I enjoyed my day with them. There wasn't a shortage of laughter and good conversation.

ALLI CONINE, Manager of Member Services and Corporate Communications

