

# WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS



## Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Bruce Mueller—General Manager

### Board of Trustees

|  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>Wes Campbell</b><br>President       | <b>Vic Case</b><br>Trustee         |
| <b>Dave Lowe</b><br>Vice President     | <b>Katie Eisenhour</b><br>Trustee  |
| <b>Patrick Riley</b><br>Secretary      | <b>Bob Hiss</b><br>Trustee         |
| <b>Dan Bonine</b><br>Treasurer         | <b>Lawrence Houston</b><br>Trustee |
| <b>Ron Davis</b><br>President Emeritus | <b>Roe Johnson</b><br>Trustee      |
| <b>Charles Ayers</b><br>Trustee        |                                    |
| <b>Woody Barnes</b><br>Trustee         |                                    |

### District Offices

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Garden City</b><br>2005 W Fulton<br>P.O. Box 973<br>Garden City, KS<br>67846<br>620-275-0261 | <b>Scott City-<br/>Main</b><br>101 Main Street<br>P.O. Box 230<br>Scott City, KS<br>67871<br>620-872-5885 |
| <b>Great Bend</b><br>2300 Broadway<br>P.O. Box 1446<br>Great Bend, KS<br>67530<br>620-793-4223  | <b>Syracuse</b><br>206 1/2 N Main<br>P.O. Box 1010<br>Syracuse, KS<br>67878<br>620-384-5171               |
| <b>Harper</b><br>302 W. 6th<br>P.O. Box 247<br>Harper, KS<br>67058<br>620-896-7090              | <b>Tribune</b><br>310 Broadway<br>P.O. Box 490<br>Tribune, KS<br>67879<br>620-376-4231                    |
| <b>Leoti</b><br>N Hwy 25<br>P.O. Box 966<br>Leoti, KS 67861<br>620-375-2632                     |   |

## FROM THE MANAGER

# Self-Regulation Ballots Are in the Mail

I want to thank all of our members who attended Wheatland Electric Cooperative's 66th Annual Meeting in Holcomb. We had 61 members in attendance and over 100 barbecue meals served to the members and guests in attendance.

I also wanted to thank all our special guests who attended. During the meeting we presented our 2013 financial report, service and infrastructure upgrades and yearly summary of all activities and accomplishments of the cooperative in 2013. We also had an electric generation power summary update from Stuart Lowry, President and CEO of Sunflower Electric, Wheatland's wholesale power supplier.

During the meeting, service awards were presented to Wheatland employees and directors with the award years ranging from five-40 years. The 2015 Annual Meeting will be held in Syracuse.

## Self-Regulation Ballots Are in the Mail

Over the past few months, I've been speaking with you about the subject of self-regulation. Well, the time is now here for each of you to decide if you would like Wheatland Elec-

tric to be self-regulated.

As a reminder, self-regulation ballots will be mailed to each of you starting May 1, 2014. **Please return your vote in the postage-paid envelope provided by May 21, 2014.** The Board of Trustees and the Management of Wheatland Electric encourage you to participate in this important decision with a **YES** vote for self-regulation.

A **YES** vote means you trust your elected Board of Trustees to set rates for electric service in a way that maintains the reliability and safety of the electric system.

Benefits include: keeping the cost of power competitive, increase flexibility and efficiency, and local control. Once again, the Board of Trustees and Management of the cooperative support a **YES** vote.

**Until next time, take care.**



Bruce Mueller



# Vote YES for Self-Regulation!

Cast Your Vote by  
Mailing in Your Ballot  
by May 21, 2014.

## Bylaw Amendment Passes Vote

During the Annual Meeting on April 2, the members voted to amend Election and Tenure of office bylaw. The adopted bylaw is listed below:

*All trustees shall be elected by secret ballot at each annual meeting of the members, and beginning with the 2014 annual election instead of electing all of the trustees annually, one-third (1/3) of the trustees, or as near thereto as possible, shall be elected for a four (4) year term. Members of the board of trustees shall not serve more than five (5), four (4) year terms beginning from and after adoption of this by-law by the membership at an annual meeting. Trustees shall be elected by a plurality vote of those members casting secret ballots at a duly convened annual meeting of members. If an election of the trustees shall not be held on the day designated herein for the annual meeting, or any adjournment thereof, a special meeting of the members shall be held for the purpose of electing trustees within a reasonable time thereafter.*

## In Memoriam

Two former Wheatland Electric Co-op employees recently passed away.

**DONNIE R. GEIST** was born Sept. 19, 1947, and married Garee S. Hillery on June 11, 1971. Geist was a long-time employee as journeyman/warehouseman in Scott City. He passed away March 21, 2014, in Scott City. Wheatland Electric offers condolences to his wife, family and friends. He will be missed.

**ETHEL VIRGENE "JEAN" CHENEY PALMBLADE** was born Sept. 7, 1922, and married Marvin Palmblade on May 11, 1941. Palmblade was a long-time employee in the Leoti office. She passed away April 4, 2014, in Leoti. Wheatland Electric extends sympathy to her family and friends.

## When Thunderstorms, Tornadoes Strike

Beware. Spring can usher in more than April showers. Now through the summer months, thunderstorms can quickly roll in and tornadoes can touch down, often during the afternoon and evening hours, according to researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Severe Storms Laboratory.

Follow these tips from NOAA and the American Red Cross to keep you and your home safe when tornadoes and severe thunderstorms come your way:

- ▶ Prepare for high winds by removing diseased and damaged tree limbs.
- ▶ Listen to local news or National Weather Service broadcasts to stay informed about tornado watches and warnings.
- ▶ If in a mobile home, immediately head to a sturdy shelter or vehicle. Mobile homes, especially hallways and bathrooms, are not safe places to take shelter during tornadoes or other severe winds.
- ▶ Designate a family meeting place for shelter during and after a storm. If possible, go to your home's basement, a small interior room, or under stairs on the lowest level. Also, have a battery-operated weather radio handy along with emergency supplies.
- ▶ Unplug your electronics. Avoid using electrical equipment and corded telephones.
- ▶ Remember that there is no safe place outside during a severe storm. If you are caught in a storm while on the road, the American Red Cross urges drivers to turn their headlights on, try to safely exit the roadway, and park. Stay in the vehicle with your seat belt on and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. If thunder and lightning is occurring, avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.
- ▶ Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that can be picked up by the wind and become a projectile.
- ▶ Stay safe after a storm. Remain indoors at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder. Also, stay away from downed power lines and avoid flooded areas, power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report them to Wheatland immediately.

## Wheatland Offices Closed on May 26 for Memorial Day Holiday

All Wheatland Electric, Water Treatment Plant and Wheatland Broadband offices will be closed May 26, in observance of Memorial Day. To report an outage, or in case of emergency, call 800-662-4246. Have a safe holiday.

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868, by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery in remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. Moina Michael conceived the idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving in the nations during war time from the poem below she wrote in 1915.

*We cherish too, the Poppy red,  
That grows on fields where valor led,  
It seems to signal to the skies,  
That blood of heroes never dies.*



## Harris Wins FREE Trip to Washington, D.C.

**BAILEY HARRIS** of Tribune was recently selected to represent Wheatland Electric on this year's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Harris will join 33 other students from Kansas and four from Hawaii in June when the Kansas delegation departs from Topeka for the nation's capital.

Applicants submitted a short essay on how they saw the cooperative values at work in their communities. The six finalists met at Wheatland's headquarters on March 24 for test on electric cooperatives and an interview before a panel of three Wheatland Trustees.

All three panelists were impressed with all of the students and thought they truly represented their communities and high schools well.

Harris and her parents, Tim and Shelly, attended Wheatland's Annual Meeting in Holcomb on April 3 where she was recognized as the Youth Tour winner.

When asked what she was most looking forward to on the upcoming Youth Tour trip, Harris responded, "I can't wait to explain living in a small town with a small population!"

Congratulations Bailey, on your well-deserved selection!



Bailey Harris

## Practical Pointers for National Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and Wheatland Electric Cooperative is joining with the Electrical Safety Foundation International to raise awareness about potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety. This year's campaign, "Back to the Basics," challenges consumers to make home electrical safety assessments a priority.

According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average home today has a minimum of three televisions, two DVD players, at least one digital camera, one desktop computer, and two cell phones.

Many homes and their electrical systems were built before most modern-day home electronics and appliances were even invented. Today's increased demand for energy can overburden an older home's electrical system.

Wheatland offers the following tips to help identify and eliminate electrical hazards to protect yourself, your family, and your home:

- ▶ Make sure entertainment centers and computer equipment have plenty of space around them for ventilation.
- ▶ Use extension cords as a temporary solution, and never as a permanent power supply.
- ▶ Do not place extension cords in high traffic areas, under carpets, or across walkways, where they pose a potential tripping hazard.
- ▶ Use a surge protector to protect your computer and other electronic equipment from damage caused by voltage changes.
- ▶ Heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed by a qualified, licensed electrician.
- ▶ Check outlets for loose-fitting plugs. Replace missing or broken

wall plates so wiring and components are not exposed. If you have young children at home, install Tamper Resistant Outlets (TROs) or cover unused outlets with plastic safety caps.

- ▶ Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical items such as televisions and computers.
- ▶ Make sure outlets in the kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, workshop, basement, and garage are equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs). Test them monthly.
- ▶ If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced.
- ▶ If there are electrical issues in your home, make sure to call a professional to make the repairs.
- ▶ Teach children to stay away from electric utility equipment. Never enter a substation, do not play on pad mounted transformers, and fly kites safely away from overhead power lines.

Electrical safety awareness and education among consumers, families, employees, and communities will prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities.



Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.





**EVERY MEMBER HAS A VOICE.  
EVEN THE ONES WHO CAN'T YET SPEAK.**

As an electric co-op member, your household has a say in how the co-op is run. Which helps you care for an even bigger family – your community. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).



Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup>

[TOGETHERWESAVE.COM](http://TOGETHERWESAVE.COM)