



# WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE **NEWS**

## **Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

**Bruce Mueller**—General Manager

### **Board of Trustees**

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

### **District Offices**

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

**Leoti**  
N Hwy 25  
P.O. Box 966  
Leoti, KS 67861  
620-375-2632

### **FROM THE MANAGER**

## **Members May See Lower Bills in 2015**

As I mentioned in last month's article, Wheatland Electric Cooperative has implemented a "Positive Energy Outreach" initiative. This year, we will highlight good news for the cooperative, our members and the communities we serve.

This month, I am happy to announce that due to efforts at Wheatland and Sunflower Electric, your electric bill is likely to be about 11 percent less in 2015! The 11 percent decrease should put close to \$5 million in savings back in the pockets of our members. You can find details on how we accomplished these savings on page 16-B.

Rest assured, whatever the wholesale power cost savings amount to, Wheatland will pass 100 percent of those savings to our members. These savings are only for the members whose wholesale power is generated by Sunflower Electric.

As a result of our 2007 acquisition of the Aquila service territory, we purchase wholesale power for those members through Mid-Kansas Electric. Since the acquisition, both Wheatland and Mid-Kansas have invested millions to improve system reliability to that part of our service territory.

In continuing those improvement efforts, Mid-Kansas has planned a number of

generation and transmission projects for 2015. While these system reliability and generation projects won't allow for a rate decrease, we do expect the rates through Mid-Kansas to remain stable for our members through 2015.

The Wheatland board of trustees set a strategic goal to reduce costs. We looked at opportunities to reduce costs internally and also advocated on your behalf for the same efforts to be conducted at Sunflower and Mid-Kansas. We are pleased to share all of these savings with our members.

On another note, in March we will be asking our Colorado members to vote on the issue of self-regulation. Last May, our Kansas members voted overwhelmingly in favor of self-regulating and now we'd like to give our Colorado members the opportunity to do the same. Every Colorado member should soon receive a letter from me further explaining the self-regulation voting process. You can also find more information about self-regulation in the pages that follow or on our website at [www.weci.net](http://www.weci.net). Until next time, take care.

### **Wheatland Annual Meeting is April 15**

The Wheatland Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, at the Fair Building in Syracuse (806 S Main). Lunch is at 11:30 a.m. mountain and the meeting will follow at 12:30 p.m. mountain. Watch for your March issue of *Kansas Country Living* magazine for more details. We hope to see you there!



**Bruce Mueller**

<b>April 2015</b>						
<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>S</b>
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

# Wheatland \$5 Million

*Power Cost Savings will be Passed on to Wheatland Members in 2015*

As a result of your locally-elected Wheatland board of trustees' efforts to encourage and support strategies that seek to mitigate the rising costs of wholesale power, Wheatland expects to see an 11 percent decrease in power costs from one of its wholesale power suppliers, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, in 2015.

In 1948, at a time when the rural areas of Kansas did not have access to electricity like their urban neighbors, you, our members formed Wheatland Electric. For 66 years we have been steadfastly committed to the mission of providing reliable electricity at a competitive price to our members.

Our goal in keeping to that mission is to protect the way of life you value. We know your access to competitively priced, reliable energy is essential to meeting the needs of your family, business, and community.

As a cooperative, Wheatland is governed by a democratically elected board of trustees. The board is made up of members just like you, some of them your friends and neighbors, who work together for the good of the cooperative. One of the many jobs of your member-elected board is to advocate on the behalf of the membership for lower wholesale power costs from our wholesale power suppliers, Sunflower Electric and Mid-Kansas Electric.

These wholesale power costs impact

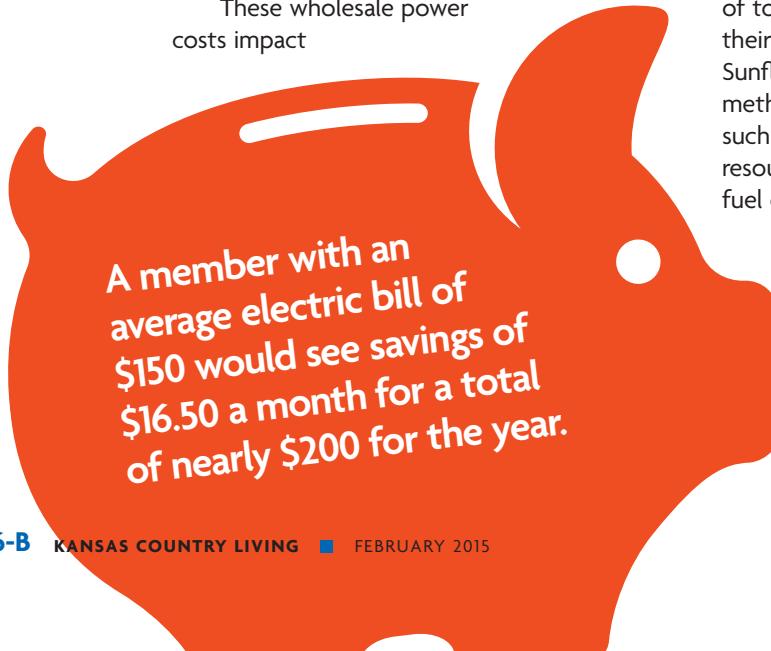
your monthly electric bill in several ways, one of which is the Power Cost Adjustment Charge (PCA), which makes up the largest percentage of a monthly bill. The PCA includes the costs of generating and purchasing power, as well as the cost of transmission needed to deliver the power from our power suppliers to Wheatland and, ultimately, to you.

Wheatland plans to pass these Sunflower power cost savings on to Wheatland members. The 11 percent decrease should put close to \$5 million in savings back in the pockets of our members. A member with an average electric bill of \$150 would see savings of \$16.50 a month for a total of nearly \$200 for the year.

Wheatland anticipates the power costs from Mid-Kansas to remain stable in 2015. Mid-Kansas has a number of planned generation and transmission projects that will serve to further improve reliability to the Mid-Kansas system. The expense of these welcome improvements prevents Mid-Kansas from passing through a rate reduction; however, the improvements are not expected to put increasing pressure on power cost rates.

While the savings associated with the Sunflower power cost decrease are expected to be 11 percent, fluctuating fuel prices and other variables that impact the PCA may vary the amount of total savings Wheatland members see in their bill over the course of the year. However, Sunflower and Mid-Kansas have implemented methods to help manage these fluctuations, such as owning a diverse fleet of generating resources and executing long-term contracts for fuel delivery.

We're pleased to have been a part of making this power cost reduction for you happen. We want you to know that your locally-elected board members will continue to speak on your behalf and make each decision with you in mind. Whether at the local level or the wholesale power level, you have a voice in the business of your cooperative.



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# Members in Colorado Encouraged to Self-Regulate

In May 2014, Wheatland's Kansas members voted to self-regulate by an overwhelming 78 percent majority. In March, Wheatland will ask its Colorado members to vote on the issue of self-regulation.

Becoming self-regulated allows your member-elected Board of Trustees to make rate decisions for the cooperative. Presently, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of the State of Colorado has authority over rates, rate setting terms and conditions of service and other aspects of the coop-

## Colorado Self-Regulation Timeline

- **Feb. 2, 2015**—Informational letter and brochure mailed to all Colorado members.
- **Feb. 17, 2015**—Informational Meeting in Towner, CO.
- **March 2, 2015**—Ballots to be mailed to all Colorado members.
- **March 23, 2015**—All ballots must be received.

erative operations. In 1983, the law in Colorado was changed to allow electric distribution cooperatives, like Wheatland, to vote on being released from regulatory jurisdiction of the PUC. Currently, all Colorado-based electric distribution cooperatives are self-regulated.

Wheatland will mail every member in Colorado a letter further explaining the self-regulation process this month. You can also find more information on our website at

[www.weci.net](http://www.weci.net) under the News tab.

## Wheatland to Award \$13,000 in Scholarships to Graduating Seniors

Wheatland Electric is pleased to announce that beginning this year, we will offer 13 scholarships for graduating seniors going on to a post-secondary institution.

One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a qualifying senior at each of the 13 schools Wheatland serves including, Argonia, Caldwell, Chapparal, Conway Springs, Deerfield, Great Bend, Greeley County, Holcomb, Norwich, Scott Community, South Haven, Syracuse or Wichita County.

Those who qualify for the scholarship must:

- Have a parent/guardian who is a member of Wheatland Electric.
- Attend one of the 13 high schools in Wheatland's service territory.
- Attend an accredited college or a



Thirteen \$1,000 scholarships are available! Submit your application by March 2, 2015.

technical or vocational school.

Children of Wheatland employees are not eligible to apply. Seniors who meet the qualifications will need to complete the application found on Wheatland's website [www.weci.net](http://www.weci.net) under the Community tab **BY MARCH 2, 2015**.

A committee will then choose the winning applicant from each school, and the scholarships will be awarded at the Annual Meeting on April 15.

High School Seniors Apply at [www.weci.net](http://www.weci.net) by March 2



## 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 "Services" tab and then on "Get Energy Efficiency Rebates." You can also contact any local office.



# Attention High School Juniors!

## Win a Trip to Washington, D.C., or Steamboat Springs, CO



Wheatland Electric will choose **three high school juniors** whose parent(s) or guardian(s) are Wheatland Electric members to win an **all-expense-paid trip** to either Washington, D.C., or Steamboat Springs, CO.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is June 11-18, 2015. While in Washington D.C., students will join more than 1,600 youth from across the country. They will have the opportunity to sightsee, take a boat cruise on the Potomac, as well as meet with senators and representatives.

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO, is July 11-17, 2015. At camp, students will spend time in the beautiful Rocky Mountains, go whitewater rafting, attend leadership workshops, perform in a talent show and tour a coal mine.

For more information or to apply, contact your guidance counselor at one of these participating high schools: Argonia,

Caldwell, Chaparral, Conway Springs, Deerfield, Great Bend, Greeley County, Holcomb, Norwich, Scott Community, South Haven, Syracuse or Wichita County.

Children of Wheatland employees are not eligible to apply.

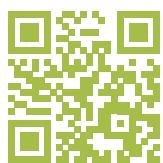
Applications are due **by March 2, 2015**.

**Scan these Codes for Videos About Each Trip**

Washington, D.C.



Steamboat Springs, CO



Students from four states will gather to develop leadership skills at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp July 11-17, 2015.