



WHEATLAND ELECTRIC

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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FROM THE MANAGER

Empowering the Membership



Bruce Mueller

At right, are the seven cooperative principles that Wheatland Electric Cooperative and all cooperatives use as a base to serve their

membership.

For Wheatland to accomplish principle five, “Education, Training and Information” we need to engage in meaningful dialogue and provide the membership with useful information.

As our industry transforms and expectations increase, members often ask us: “What have you done for me lately?”

Today, it is imperative that we do more to keep our members engaged and to the greatest extent possible involved in our efforts to serve them better and to advocate on their behalf.

In 2014, for Wheatland to accomplish this objective, we formed **Member Engagement Teams** made up of Wheatland members. Wheatland will be conducting **Member Engagement Meetings** again this year. The Wheatland Electric Board of Trustees will ask groups of members to participate in these **Member Engagement Team meet-**

ings in August. We will hold three meetings during the month in Scott City, Great Bend and Harper. All member districts will have member participants invited.

The primary objectives of the meetings will be to:

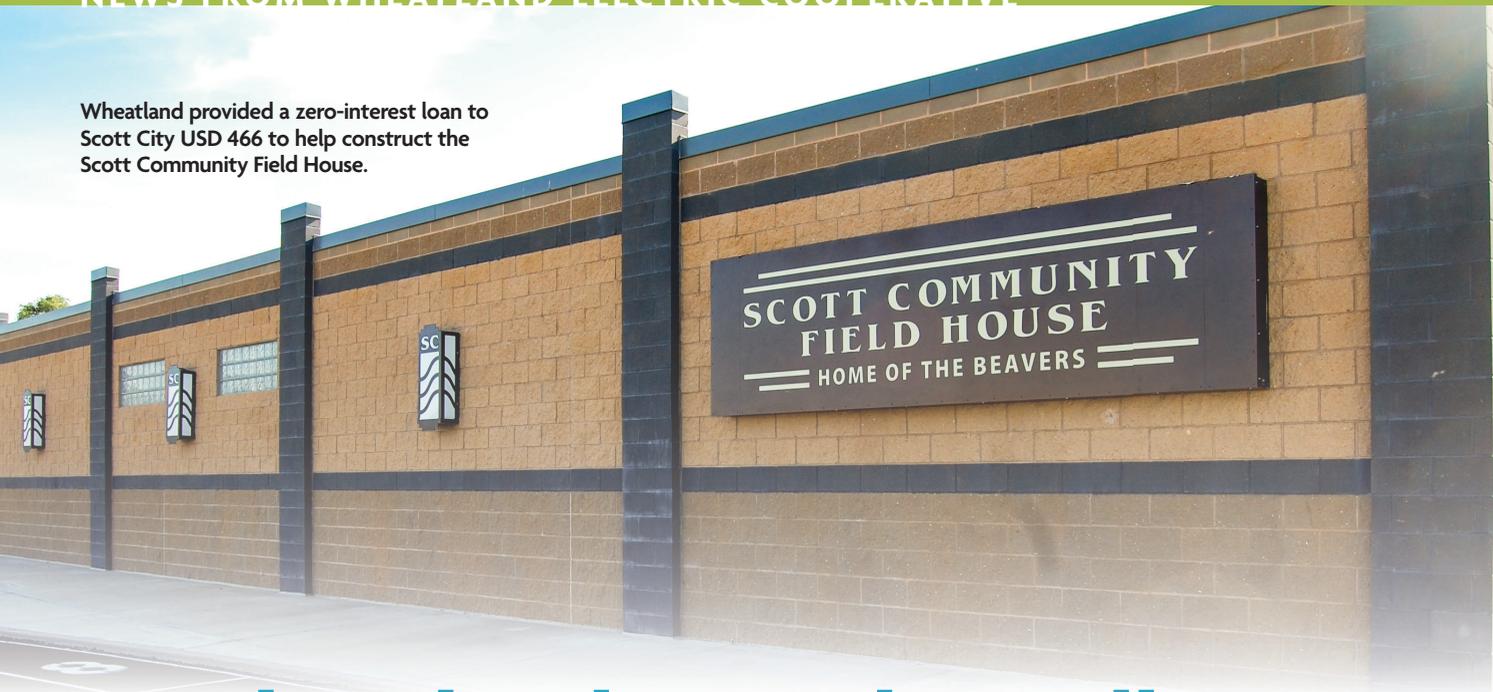
- ▶ Help the Wheatland Board of Trustees and management better understand the feelings of the members relating to the community, the co-op, and its members.
- ▶ Serve as a sounding board for the evaluation of ongoing programs, policies and initiatives and for the development of new programs, policies and initiatives.
- ▶ Foster a higher degree of understanding with the membership for their cooperative and the cooperative business model.
- ▶ Enable the co-op to be totally member-oriented and responsive to the expectations and needs of the membership.

7 Cooperative Principles

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

Continued on page 16-E ▶

Wheatland provided a zero-interest loan to Scott City USD 466 to help construct the Scott Community Field House.



Wheatland Provides Millions in Loans for Community Projects

“Being able to borrow the money interest-free and have 10 years to repay it was a huge help. Definitely a win-win for us.”

**LYNETTE ROBINSON,
USD 466 SCHOOL
BOARD MEMBER**

Since 2000, Wheatland Electric has invested more than \$2.6 million back into the communities it serves through its partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG). The program makes low to no-interest loans available to certain qualifying community and economic development projects.

Concern for community, one of the seven cooperative principles, has been a hallmark of Wheatland Electric since its inception and this program is a clear example of their commitment to that principle.

Loan funds from the program can be used in two ways, the first is for community development projects. Over the years, these com-

munity development projects have included initiatives like helping to establish a dentist office, providing funds for the purchase of a fire truck and partnering with a local school district to build a high school fieldhouse.

Officials from USD 466 in Scott City learned of the funds from a Wheatland representative at a community meeting held to discuss the funding of the school's new fieldhouse locker room.

“We couldn't have done it [the fieldhouse project] without the help of Wheatland,” said Lynette Robinson, USD 466 School Board member. “The community was really behind this project and everyone wanted to help. The school district wanted to do our part, but we didn't have the cash on-hand to be able to



REDLG loan funds were used to furnish the inside of the fieldhouse, as well. Wheatland partners with local banks to stimulate private investments in rural Kansas communities.

We look forward to continuing that partnership with the communities and businesses in our service territory.

BRUCE MUELLER, GENERAL MANAGER

fund the entire project. Being able to borrow the money interest-free and have 10 years to repay it was a huge help. Definitely a win-win for us.”

The second way the funds can be used is for economic development projects that involve new business start-ups or existing business expansions. Past economic development projects from Wheatland’s program include dairy startups and expansions, a grain storage facility and an ethanol manufacturing facility.

“For the last 15 years Wheatland has been investing in the future of rural Kansas communities through our economic development loan program,” said Bruce Mueller, General Manager of Wheatland. “We’re proud to have been a part of some really great projects that have benefited entire communities as well as projects that have helped local businesses expand and thrive. We look forward to continuing that partnership with the communities and businesses in our service territory.”

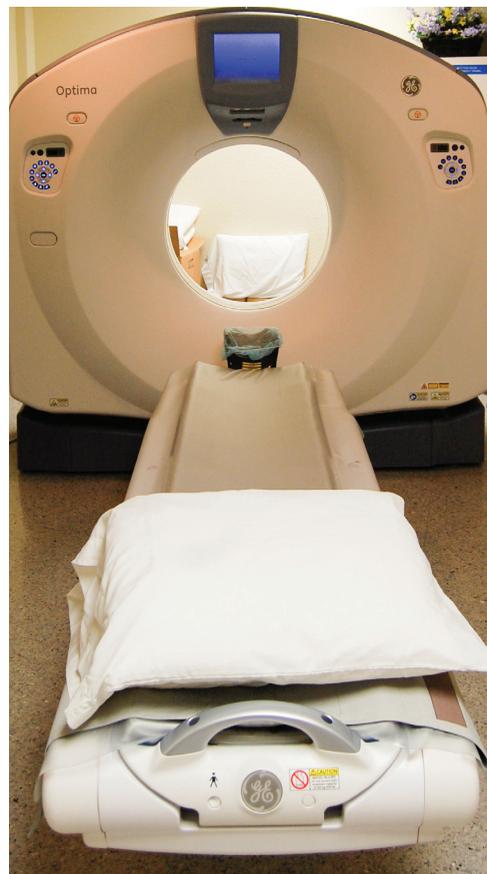
Wheatland emphasizes that these loans are not meant to compete with local banks, but to partner with them on projects that stimulate private investments and the creation of jobs and wealth in rural Kansas.

Some of the steps required for eligible community groups and businesses to secure

financing for their project include the following:

- ▶ Request assistance from Wheatland and obtain board approval for the project
- ▶ Submit a detailed business plan that includes all of the pertinent details of the project
- ▶ Provide an irrevocable letter of credit from a financial institution
- ▶ Provide three-year historical and projected financial statements
- ▶ Each application varies and additional information may be required to determine project eligibility.

Wheatland says there are currently funds available through the program and that interested community groups and businesses can learn more about the program by visiting www.weci.net or by contacting Shawn Powelson, Manager of Member Services and Corporate Communications at 800-762-0436.



Wheatland was able to help the Syracuse Hospital purchase a new CT machine in 2006 using REDLG funding.



REDLG funds can be used for community development, such as the purchase of a new fire truck at the Syracuse Fire Department, as well as for new or expanding businesses in rural areas.

Ayala & Martinez Travel to Topeka for Tour

XIMENA AYALA and **ALMA MARTINEZ**, both from Scott City, recently visited the capital city on a trip sponsored by Wheatland Electric, with the help of Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. The whirlwind tour of Topeka included the Kansas State Capitol building, Brown vs. Board of Education National Historical Site, a guided tour of Ward-Meade Park, and the Kansas Museum of History.

The guided tour of the Kansas State Capitol building included histories of the featured murals and statues, and tours of the ceremonial governor's office, Senate Chamber, Representative Hall, Old Kansas Supreme Court and State Library.

"I really liked hearing the history behind the murals and why they



Alma Martinez (left) and Ximena Ayala recently visited the Kansas Museum of History on their tour of Topeka sponsored by Wheatland Electric.

were painted," Ayala said.

Next, the girls visited the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, which was established in 1992 to commemorate the landmark 1954 Supreme Court Ruling that made segregated public schools unconstitutional. The case originated in Topeka, and by the time it reached the Supreme Court was actually a compilation of five separate cases across the United States.

The tour continued at Ward Meade Park where the students toured the original homestead, Victorian Mansion, schoolhouse, church and the Potwin Drugstore where they enjoyed ice cream sundaes.

"The tour of the mansion was one of my favorite parts," Ayala said. "Getting to see the clothing that they wore back in that time and the furniture they used was neat. I couldn't believe it when



Ayala (left) and Martinez enjoyed ice cream sundaes at Ward Meade Park's Potwin Drugstore to finish their tour.

the tour guide told us that wedding dresses used to be green!"

The tour concluded at the Kansas Museum of History, which was named one the Eight Wonders of Kansas and houses such artifacts as the Santa Fe Railroad's oldest surviving locomotive and William Allen White's printing press.

When asked about the trip as a whole, Ayala said she enjoyed it. "More students should take advantage of this opportunity. It was a lot of fun and a really great experience."



A tour of the State Capitol building was the first stop on their tour of the capital city.

Syracuse Office Relocates to 2 S Barber During Remodel

Our Syracuse business office remodel will cause the office to relocate beginning July 2. The office, located at 206 N Main Street, will close and its business operations will be temporarily relocated to 2 S Barber in Syracuse. We will be open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. MST at the temporary location beginning on Monday, July 6.

You may continue to make payments and transact business with us as you normally would at the temporary location. Our mailing address and phone number will remain the same. Please find below our

contact information for the duration of the remodel process:

Wheatland Electric
PO Box 1010, 2 S Barber
Syracuse, KS 67878-1010
Phone: 620-384-5171 Fax: 620-384-5773

We apologize for the inconvenience and we look forward to serving you from our new and improved facility once the remodel process is complete.

Empowering Membership *Continued from page 16-A*

Several of the topics we will discuss at the Member Engagement Meetings are:

- ▶ **Automated Metering Interface:** This new metering system will allow Wheatland to offer, in the next few years, new products and services such as time of use rates, pre-pay ability (pay as you go) with a credit card and the ability for the member to see their actual usage daily.
- ▶ **Cost-of-Service Study:** As Wheatland focuses on combining

the current west and east service territories into one company, a cost-of-service study needs to be completed. We are in the preliminary stages of this process. Our goal is to ensure that all of our fixed costs are being covered with our current rate structure.

We hope you will participate in this important member activity if asked. We would like to walk away with actionable items to implement to better serve the membership.

Until next time, take care.

Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

Mary Ann Davis

Senior Billing Specialist in Scott City

40+ Years at Wheatland



Mary Ann Davis

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY (SPOUSE, CHILDREN, PETS).

My husband, Les, and I have a son, Daniel; a daughter-in-law, Krista; and our grandson, Andrew.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

Ransom

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

Work in the garden, crochet, put jigsaw puzzles together, and make cookies!

WHAT SPORT OR TEAM IS YOUR FAVORITE?

Kansas State Football

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE VACATION?

Going to visit my son, daughter-in-law and grandson.

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPER POWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

I would love to be able to fly!

WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

Working at Wheatland for 40 years!

Check Out a New Way to Curb Your Energy Usage

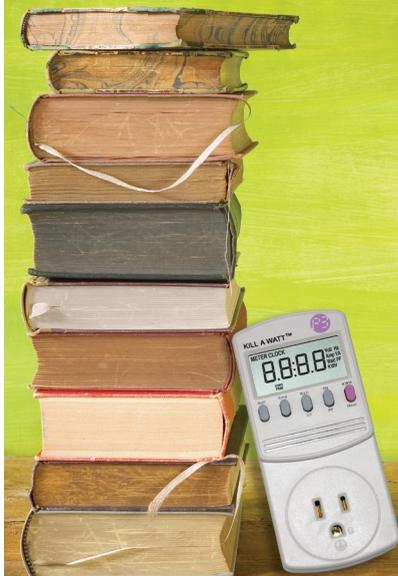
Borrow a Kill-A-Watt at Your Local Library Today!

The Kill-A-Watt™ EZ is an electricity monitoring device designed to easily measure how much electricity is being used by your plug-in appliances at home or work.

Find out how much money you would save on your electricity bills by turning them off and being smarter in your home energy management.

The Kill-A-Watt EZ is now available for checkout at your local library.

You must have a valid library card to borrow a Kill-A-Watt through this program.



Wheatland Hosts Annual Golf Tournament



Nineteen teams participated in the Wheatland Golf Tournament on June 6.

Wheatland held their annual golf tournament on June 6 at The Golf Club at Southwind in Garden City.

The tournament began more than 25 years ago and has become a summer highlight for both members and employees. The event provides members, trustees and employees the opportunity to interact outside of the traditional cooperative office setting. Wheatland vendors and suppliers help to sponsor the tournament which helps keep the entry-fee affordable and make the cash prizes possible.

This year, 19 teams entered the four-person scramble format, in which each player on a team tees off from the teebox and the team members choose the best of those four shots for the next shot and so on.

There were two flights, with the top three teams in each flight receiving a cash prize. Cash prizes were also awarded for six hole contests. Winners were:

Flight 1

- ▶ **First**—Ray Navarro, Pete Deleon, Matt Fuller, and Juan Ollarzabal
- ▶ **Second**—Quinten Wheeler, Rod Wheeler, Brady Wheeler and Carlos Prieto
- ▶ **Third**—Dan Small, Josh Hussey, Dave Malone, and Steve Carrithers

Flight 2

- ▶ **First**—Ted Musgrove, Rebekah Platt, and Jeff Oglesbee
- ▶ **Second**—Donnie Combs, Keith Jackson, Kenny Dow, and Maggie Carrithers
- ▶ **Third**—Mike Howland, Stacy Addison, Marilyn Kohart, and Steve Schell

Hole Contests

- ▶ **Hole 2**—Longest Putt Made from the Green—Randy McCauley
- ▶ **Hole 5**—Longest Drive in the Fairway—Josh Hussey
- ▶ **Hole 9**—Closest to the Pin—Jay Warren
- ▶ **Hole 10**—Longest Drive in the Fairway—Josh Hussey
- ▶ **Hole 12**—Longest Putt made from the Green—Carlos Prieto
- ▶ **Hole 16**—Closest to the Pin—Carlos Prieto



Golfers enjoy Wheatland's annual golf tournament at the Golf Club at Southwind in Garden City.

Stay Safe Exploring the Outdoors

Summer is in full swing, and that means more time for fun in the sun. As you increase your time outdoors, Wheatland Electric Cooperative reminds you to stay safe.

Planning a home improvement project? When working outdoors, you may be using tools, such as ladders, power tools, shovels—or even paintbrushes with extendable arms. These items help you get the job done but have the potential to be dangerous if used improperly.

Pay attention to where you place metal ladders or dig for fence posts. Before you start any project, always look up and avoid overhead power lines. Keep a minimum of 10 feet between you and overhead lines.

If you are planning a project that requires digging, remember to dial “811” first to determine if the area you will be working in is clear of underground power lines. Power tools should be kept away from wet surfaces, and outlets should not be overloaded.

Exploring the great outdoors is a great way to spend time with the family, but keep these safety tips in mind.

- ▶ Children should never climb trees near power lines—always assume a wire is live.
- ▶ Fly kites and remote-controlled airplanes in large open areas



If you are planning a project that requires digging, remember to dial “811” first to determine if the area you will be working in is clear of underground power lines.

like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines.

- ▶ Planning to take a dip in the pool? Electrical devices, such as stereos, should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources, and outdoor electrical outlets should always be covered.
- ▶ If you hear a rumble of thunder, exit the pool right away.
- ▶ Speaking of thunder, summer storms can be dangerous if you're caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. If you find yourself outdoors during a storm, move toward suitable shelter with covered sides, and stick to low-lying ground if possible.

Remember these tips when you spend time outdoors this summer with your family. Have fun out there, and always keep safety in mind!

Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

Sheila Helm

Member Services

Representative in Great Bend

*37 Years in Utility Business
(8 years—Wheatland, 29—Aquila)*

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY (SPOUSE, CHILDREN, PETS).

My husband, Mark, and I celebrated 25 years of marriage in June. Our blended family consists of his son and my two daughters, five grandchildren and two on the way. Mark's daughter passed away three years ago. We also adopted a “pound puppy” who keeps Mark busy while he enjoys his retirement from Sunflower Electric Power Corporation.



Sheila Helm

WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY? I was born and raised in Great Bend.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I love to read, cook with my husband, spend time with family and enjoy a good glass of wine.

WHAT SPORT OR TEAM IS YOUR FAVORITE?

I enjoy college football (no favorite) and basketball (KU fan, although they have been quite frustrating lately).

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE VACATION?

Mark and I took a trip to Taos and Santa Fe, NM, several years ago. I enjoyed the food, architecture, and history of the area.

WHO HAS INSPIRED YOU IN YOUR LIFE AND WHY?

My parents. Both in their mid-80s, they continue to run the family business, and have instilled the importance of hard work, commitment and family. They are a blessing.

IF YOU COULD BE ANY ANIMAL, WHAT WOULD YOU BE AND WHY?

I would be our “pound puppy” so I could enjoy retirement with Mark.



Chris Huber
District Manager in Great Bend
8 Years at Wheatland

A Day in the Life

Chris Huber

BY BETH LOONEY,
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

CHRIS HUBER manages the day-to-day operations of Wheatland Electric's Great Bend area. When Wheatland purchased the investor-owned utility in Great Bend in 2007, we also picked up Chris. He had never worked for a cooperative utility before and had some reservations at first.

"Working for a cooperative was different than expected, but in a good way," Chris explained.

He said that the cooperative culture was completely different than what he was used to. Rather than focusing on earning profits for investors, he could now focus on maintaining a quality electric distribution system with an eye on reliability for the members.

After Chris completed timesheet approvals and addressed some building maintenance contract matters, we set out to do field inspections of his two line crews. He said that he does these inspections monthly and shares the results with the crew foreman to ensure good work practices.

When we arrived at the site where the first crew was working, Chris began inspecting the crew's work quality, safety and processes. I watched as the crew used a Ditch Witch to change out a pole. This machine is like a giant pressure washer working simultaneously with a

giant wet vac. Basically, they use water to dig up the earth, then suck up the mud into a tank. Chris explained that this process was more efficient than digging in a municipal setting as it rarely causes interruption of other underground utilities in the area, such as phone or cable. Needless to say, it was a muddy mess of an endeavor that I left to the experts to complete.

When we went to the next crew, Chris paid special attention to the work performed by the apprentice lineman on the crew. Chris, and the line foreman, Dax Walk, ensure the apprentice receives exposure to new challenging work to improve his skillset. In fact, Chris said that working with apprentices and "bringing them up" in skills and knowledge is one of the most rewarding aspects of his job at Wheatland.

When we went back to the office to complete some administrative work, I noticed a collage of raccoon pictures on the wall. Chris explained that he is an avid outdoorsman. He spent many years hunting raccoons. Lately though, his new hunting passion is bears. He and his wife have a trip planned this summer to visit Canada and hunt bear. He is hoping for a 700-pound black bear. I wish you luck Chris and look forward to the pictures!