



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
**101 Main, P.O. Box 230, Scott City, KS 67871**  
**620-872-5885**  
**www.weci.net**

## WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE **NEWS**

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

Bruce Mueller—General Manager

#### **Board of Trustees**

##### **William Barnes**

President

##### **Wes Campbell**

Vice President

##### **Dan Bonine**

Treasurer

##### **Stacey Addison-Howland**

Secretary

##### **Mark Arnold**

Trustee

##### **Vic Case**

Trustee

##### **Katie Eisenhour**

Trustee

##### **Bob Hiss**

Trustee

##### **John Kleysteuber**

Trustee

##### **Mike Thon**

Trustee

#### **District Offices**

##### **Garden City**

2005 W Fulton  
P.O. Box 973  
Garden City, KS  
67846  
620-275-0261

##### **Great Bend**

2300 Broadway  
P.O. Box 1446  
Great Bend, KS  
67530  
620-793-4223

##### **Harper**

906 Central  
P.O. Box 247  
Harper, KS 67058  
620-896-7090

##### **Leoti**

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

##### **Scott City-Main**

101 Main Street  
P.O. Box 230  
Scott City, KS 67871  
620-872-5885

##### **Syracuse**

206 1/2 N Main  
P.O. Box 1010  
Syracuse, KS 67878  
620-384-5171

##### **Tribune**

310 Broadway  
P.O. Box 490  
Tribune, KS 67879  
620-376-4231

#### **FROM THE MANAGER**

## **Members to Receive Capital Credits**



**Bruce Mueller**

When you belong to an electric cooperative, you're not a customer, you are a member—and a co-op owner. Wheatland Electric Cooperative is a non-profit

distribution cooperative. The co-op buys electricity from our wholesale providers Sunflower and Mid-Kansas Electric, arranges for its transmission and distributes the electricity to our membership through Wheatland Electric's power lines.

As mentioned, Wheatland Electric members are also owners. The cooperative shares its excess revenue—monies it collects above what is required to run the business, and when its economically feasible, the cooperative retires or pays out this excess money—called Capital Credits.

In March of this year, Wheatland's Board of Trustees decided how much to retire, or payout, in capital credits based on the 2016 financial year. The Board of Trustees considered the impact the retirement would have on the financial strength of the cooperative. The Board decided it was economically feasible to retire \$750,000 in capital credits.

Capital Credits retirements are based on one of the Seven Cooperative Principles—Economic Participation—and distinguishes electric cooperatives from investor-owned utilities and municipalities.

The amount that members will receive depends on how much electricity you used in the payout years and how long you have been a Wheatland Electric member. The payout this year, which will occur in December, is for members of Wheatland Electric from 1987 and 2016. Those Wheatland Electric members will receive a percentage of capital credits retirements through either bill credits or checks, reflecting their contribution of capital to, and ownership of, the cooperative during those years. The percentages of capital credits retired for the years mentioned are as follows:

<b>Year Retired</b>	<b>Percent of Capital Credit Retirement</b>
1987	65%
2016	35%

1987 may seem like a long time ago, however those funds helped Wheatland reduce the amount of money needed to borrow from outside lenders to build, maintain and expand a reliable electric distribution

*Continued on page 16-F▶*

# CO-OPS COMMIT

Wheatland  
Electric  
Celebrates  
National  
Co-op Month

**Wheatland Electric Cooperative is joining 30,000 cooperatives nationwide in October to celebrate National Co-op Month, which recognizes the many ways cooperatives are committed to strengthening the local communities they serve. "Co-ops Commit" is the theme for this year's**

**celebration, spotlighting the countless ways cooperatives meet the needs of their members and communities.**

"Our cooperative delivers electricity to more than 20,000 member-owners in our 16-county service area of Kansas and Colorado," said Bruce Mueller, general manager of Wheatland Electric. "Delivering safe, reliable, competititvely-priced power is our top priority, but we are also invested in our communities because we are locally owned and operated. Revenue generated by Wheatland Electric goes back to Main Street, not Wall Street."

Rural America is powered by a network of about 1,000 electric cooperatives, most of which were formed in the 1930s and 40s to bring



Wheatland employees volunteer their time to serve water and tea at Beefiesta, an annual event held during the Scott County Free Fair.

## seven COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

### 1 OPEN & VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP

Co-ops are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

### 2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Co-ops are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary co-ops, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and co-ops at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

### 3 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.



Linemen Devan York, Derek Callaway and Chris Schurle utilize a table-top safety display to teach electrical safety at the Caldwell Progressive Agriculture Safety Day.

electricity to farms and rural communities that large, investor-owned power companies had no interest in serving because of the higher costs involved in operating in low-population and low-density areas.

In addition to providing the vital power co-op members depend on, Wheatland Electric is heavily involved in the communities we serve. Whether it's volunteering at local county fairs, driving a truck in community parades or being involved in civic organizations Wheatland and its employees are present and engaged in local communities across our service territory. Through programs like Cram the Van, youth tour trips, scholarships and safety demonstrations, Wheatland provides the resources and support needed to keep rural America vibrant and strong.

In celebration of National Cooperative Month, we invite you to join us this month as we continue our Cram the Van food drive to help feed hungry people across our communi-



Bruce Mueller, general manager, awards Morgan Crockett of Greeley County High School with a \$1,000 scholarship at the 2017 Wheatland Annual Meeting.



The Scott City line truck makes its way to the parade route on Santa Saturday.

ties. See our remaining schedule of events on page 16-D for an event near you or bring your donation to your local Wheatland Electric office or Caldwell City Hall or Hired Man's Grocery in Conway Springs. Members helping members, it doesn't get any more cooperative than that.

Follow #CoopMonth on Facebook and Twitter to see how co-ops across the country are celebrating National Co-op Month.

## 4

### AUTONOMY & INDEPENDENCE

Co-ops are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-op autonomy.

opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

## 6

### COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Co-ops serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-op movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

## 5

### EDUCATION, TRAINING & INFORMATION

Co-ops provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-ops. They inform the public, particularly young people and

## 7

### CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, co-ops work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

# 7 Events to Go

## Help Wheatland Electric Cram the Van this Fall

The big red van is on the move! We've been filling up the donation bins and collecting cash for our local food banks. We would like to thank everyone who attended our first two events at Syracuse and Garden City. Before the end of September, we'll have made it to Scott City and Leoti, too. We are well on our way to another successful year of Cram the Van.

New to Cram the Van this year are two school competitions in Conway Springs and Great Bend. The all-schools competition in Great Bend, sponsored by Hiss-Sherman Wealth Management, will take place from Oct. 9 to 13. Hiss-Sherman has offered cash prizes to the top three schools who collect the most donations: 1st place \$500, 2nd place \$300 and 3rd place \$200. The top three schools will be determined by calculating average pounds collected per student.

In Conway Springs, all of the



Staking Technicians Corbin Spellman and Heath Hill man the grill at the Western Kansas Broadcast Center event in Garden City.



Wheatland employees and their families help out at the Cram the Van event at the Syracuse Bulldogs Football Game.

schools will work together to collect food for their "Cardinals Care" Food Drive in conjunction with Cram the Van from Oct. 2 to 6. If the schools reach the goal set by the superintendent, all the district students will receive a half day off of school.

In addition, at the high school, each class will compete against each other to see who can collect the most donations. The winning class will

receive a free lunch of their choosing provided by Wheatland Electric.

Be sure and watch for the big red van at an event near your community in October. And don't forget, you can also bring your donation by any Wheatland office, Caldwell City Hall or Hired Man's Grocery in Conway Springs from now until the end of October.

Wheatland Electric thanks you for helping us Cram the Van!



Wheatland employee Tara Watson serves members hamburgers and hot dogs at the Syracuse Cram the Van event.

### Cram the Van at these Local Events

- OCT 2-6 **Cardinals Care Food Drive**, Conway Springs
- OCT 6 **Conway Springs Cardinals Football Game**, Conway Springs
- OCT 9-13 **Great Bend Schools-Hiss-Sherman Challenge**, Great Bend
- OCT 13 **Wheatland Electric**, Great Bend
- OCT 17 **Gooch's Foods**, Tribune
- OCT 20 **Holcomb Longhorns Football Game**, Holcomb
- OCT 21 **Harper Fall Fest/Bullseye BBQ**, Harper
- OCT 26 **Caldwell Bluejays Football Game**, Caldwell
- OCT 28 **Fall Finale**, Scott City Airport, Scott City

# FALL Finale

OCT 28 | DONATE  
3-6 P.M.

Canned goods or  
cash for free food,  
fun and prizes

SCOTT CITY AIRPORT, SCOTT CITY

Cram the Van food slides |  
pumpkin seed spitting contest  
| hayrack rides | marshmallow  
roasting | pumpkin decorating



REGISTER TO WIN a free one-night stay at Hotel Old Town in Wichita and tickets for family of four to Exploration Place



## Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

### Tara Watson

Customer Service Representative  
*4 months in Syracuse*



Tara  
Watson

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

My husband, Greg, and I have four kids: Karssen, 15; Mallory, 13; Morgan, 11; and Isabelle (Izzy), 8. We also have two yellow labs, Mia and Adobe

#### WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

Syracuse

#### WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

Spending time with family and friends at the lake camping, fishing and water sports.

#### WHAT SPORT OR TEAM IS YOUR FAVORITE?

Denver Broncos

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

Precognition, so I could see future events, hopefully allowing me to alter current events to change the future outcome. I'd play my cards correct now to ensure my family has a healthy and successful life.

#### WHAT IS SOMETHING NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I'm not afraid to get my hands dirty as I work alongside my husband on his favorite hobby (building demolition derby cars).

#### WHO HAS INSPIRED YOU IN YOUR LIFE AND WHY?

My dad. He was always positive, followed his dreams (conquered most) and lived each day as it were his last.

## SAFETY Tip of the Month

Protect outdoor electrical devices from moisture. Make sure electrical equipment that has been wet is inspected and reconditioned by a certified repair dealer.

## Members to Receive Capital Credits

*Continued from page 16-A ▶*

system. The Wheatland Electric Board of Trustees wanted to make sure our long-time members received capital credits along with our newer members, who haven't been members of Wheatland Electric for such an extended period. If you were a member in 1987 and 2016, you will receive two capital credits retirements.

In December, each Wheatland Electric district office will host **Wheatland Capital Credits Harvest Days**. On specific days during that month, each Wheatland Electric district office will have capital credits checks ready for pickup. If the amount owed is less than \$20, Wheatland Electric will credit your electric bill. (Please note, no capital credits will be paid that are under \$1). We will have coffee and snacks available for you while you visit with your fellow members, friends and employees of the cooperative.

If you were a member in 1987 and 2016, you will receive two capital credits retirements.

Inactive members or persons not currently purchasing their electricity from Wheatland Electric, but who were distribution members during the years of the capital credit retirements will be receiving a check for their capital credits. It is very important that Wheatland Electric has the current mailing address of all inactive members to ensure the delivery of the capital credits checks. To confirm or update your mailing address, please call Wheatland Electric at 800-762-0436.

There will be more information forthcoming in the November and December issues of *Kansas Country Living* on the **Wheatland Capital Credits Harvest Days** schedule and frequently asked questions regarding capital credit returns.

*Until next time, take care.*

## CAPITAL CREDITS HARVEST DAYS COMING IN DECEMBER

Cultivating the co-op difference results in bountiful harvest for cooperative members. In December, Wheatland Electric will retire **\$750,000** in capital credits.

*Watch for more details on Capital Credits Harvest Days in next month's issue of Kansas Country Living magazine.*

## Wheatland Awards \$1,000 Sharing Success Grant



Wheatland Electric employees award Sharing Success Grant to the Great Bend Fire Department. From left: Alli Conine, Wheatland Electric member services representative; Mark Orth, Great Bend Fire Department inspector; Fire Chief Luke McCormick, Great Bend Fire Department; and Teresa Mazouch, Wheatland Electric member services representative.

Wheatland Electric Cooperative recently awarded a \$1,000 grant to the Great Bend Fire Department through its Sharing Success Fund, managed by the Scott Community Foundation.

The Great Bend Fire Department submitted their request for a \$1,000 grant which would help with the cost of purchasing the BullEx/BullsEye Digital Fire Extinguisher system with the R.A.C.E system and Electrical Shut off.

The BullEx system allows the Great Bend Fire Department to conduct important fire safety education training in any setting. The BullsEye is a virtual training tool that uses digital flame generation and patented sensor technology to demonstrate proper fire extinguishment techniques. This self-contained system allows the trainings to be conducted indoors when necessary, allowing more training opportunities and less restrictions due to weather and/or available space.

The Great Bend Fire Department was founded in 1874 with a hand-drawn wagon, two dozen leather buckets and two 16-foot ladders. The department has grown to a fully-staffed department of 24 shift mem-

bers, along with the Fire Chief, Fire Inspector, four volunteers, and Department Secretary. The department currently has two staffed stations in the city and one unstaffed station at the airport. The department provides fire protection and rescue for the City of Great Bend and the four surrounding townships. The Great Bend Fire Department Fire Prevention program teaches to approximately 2,200 students annually during October, which is fire prevention month. They also provide Fire Extinguisher Training to more than 10 organizations per year including Wheatland Electric.

The Scott Community Foundation began formally accepting applications for grants from the Wheatland Electric Sharing Success Fund from non-profit organizations on Dec. 1, 2012. Wheatland Electric and CoBank have contributed an additional \$5,000 each year to the fund. The program will continue to run until the funds are exhausted.

Non-profit groups interested in receiving funding from the Wheatland Electric Sharing Success Fund should contact the Scott Community Foundation at 620-872-3790 for more details.

## Get to Know Your Co-op Staff **Lynae Curtis**

Customer Service Representative  
*4 months in Great Bend*

### TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

My husband, Greg, works at Copeland Acid and Cement. I have a 17-year-old daughter, Brenna, and a 13-year-old son, Blake.



Lynae Curtis

### WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

I grew up in Olmitz and graduated from Otis Bison High School

### WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I love to read and scrapbook with my daughter and my mom and attend all my son's numerous games.

### WHAT SPORT OR TEAM IS YOUR FAVORITE?

The Kansas City Chiefs is my favorite sports team. I even had a Chiefs-themed wedding and my engagement ring is an arrowhead shaped diamond! We also root for the Royals and the Jayhawks at my house.

### WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE VACATION?

When my husband and I were dating, we took my kids to San Antonio to the Alamo, the Riverwalk and Seaworld. I think it's my favorite vacation because after spending 15 hours in the car and then five days with us all in close quarters, he still wanted to marry me and become their step dad!

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK OR MOVIE AND WHY?

I love to read so it's hard to pick a favorite, but anything by Dean Koontz or Bella Forest are my go-to reads.

### WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

My kids are my proudest accomplishments. They are both growing up to be very kind and loving young adults. They are both super kids, and I'm so happy I get to be their mom!

# LET'S HAVE A PARTY!

National Co-op Connections® Day is October 6th.



## #ImConnected

You work hard all year long, so on October 6, let  
The One Card That Does It All® work hard for you.

Help celebrate National Cooperative Month by using your Co-op Connections Card on October 6 to receive special deals and discounts. Then share a photo featuring your card with the hashtag **#ImConnected** to be eligible to win a prize.

