




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 Co-op Inc.

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- Wes Campbell**
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Trustee

District Offices

- Garden City — 620-275-0261**
2005 W. Fulton, P.O. Box 973
Garden City, KS 67846
- Great Bend — 620-793-4223**
2300 Broadway, P.O. Box 1446
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

Wheatland's Annual Meeting & Early Capital Credit Payout



Bruce W. Mueller

It's that time of year again — **ANNUAL MEETING TIME**. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. had to postpone our regularly scheduled annual meeting in April. Now that the State of Kansas has progressed into a phase of the recovery plan that will allow for meetings for a larger number of people, I'd like to personally invite you to join us on **AUG. 26, 2020**, at the Caldwell Community Building, 119 E. First, in Caldwell, Kansas.

We look forward to gathering with you — the members of Wheatland Electric — to catch up, hear what you have to say and enjoy good food and fellowship. We will have some great door prizes to give away and will be honoring the winners of the WEC scholarships for local seniors, Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp winners.

This event is a chance to visit with other members of the cooperative and a great opportunity to learn about what Wheatland accomplished in the past year, as well as our plans for the future.

It's also an opportunity for you to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of Wheatland Electric,

Continued on page 16H▶

HAPPY

4TH OF JULY

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Our office will be closed on Friday, July 3, for the holiday.

Member

SPOTLIGHT

SCOTT RECREATION COMMISSION FITNESS CENTER

For over a decade the Scott Community Foundation has worked tirelessly to make a wellness center become a reality in Scott City.

Dreams do come true and the **SCOTT RECREATION COMMISSION FITNESS CENTER** is that dream for the the Scott Community Foundation. They worked tirelessly for over a decade to make a wellness center become a reality in Scott City.

The late **LOREN** and **SIDNEY JANZEN** were active members of the Scott Community Foundation, serving on numerous committees and the board of directors. A community need that seemed essential to them was the establishment of a wellness center. This led to their lead donor gift in 2007 that established a Wellness Fund under the Scott Community Foundation.

Becoming a Reality

A wellness center has always been a top priority for Scott City community members. The project officially began in 2008 when the Scott Community Foundation engaged the University of Kansas to complete a feasibility study. Many committee meetings and proposals later, the project finally broke ground in October 2019.

Through the support of both the Wellness Fund of the Scott Community Foundation and a loan from the Rural Economic Development Loan program (REDLG) through Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., the wellness center was



From left: Nolan Numrich, Trey Grebe, Katie Eisenhour, Kylie Stoecklein, Chris Irvin, Brad McCormick, Mayor Everett Green, Shane Faurot, Jordan Carter, Troy Lewis, Myles Vulgamore, Sidney Janzen, and Ryan Roberts take part in the groundbreaking for the Scott Recreation Commission Fitness Center.

built and scheduled to open on April 1, 2020.

Due to COVID-19, the opening of the fitness center was delayed, but the center was officially opened to community members on May 18 with limited occupancy and hours of operation. Starting June 3, the fitness center had 24/7 access, still with limited occupancy.

About the Fitness Center

The Scott Recreation Commission Fitness Center is open 24/7. The 7,200 square foot facility features the following equipment with individual TV's:

- ▶ 3 ellipticals
- ▶ 4 treadmills
- ▶ 4 bikes
- ▶ rowing machines
- ▶ complete set of dumbbell/free weights

Follow the Scott Recreation Commission page on Facebook for more information about personal training and a complete schedule of small group classes.

Rural Economic Development Loan Program

The REDLG program provides zero-interest funds from the United States Department of Agriculture to local electric cooperatives that in turn lend the money to local entities to support projects in rural areas. These loans promote rural economic development and job creation projects. As the funds are repaid to Wheatland, a portion of the funds can be re-loaned to assist with future projects in our communities.

Since Wheatland began the REDLG program, we have secured more than \$2 million in funding within our service territory for projects ranging from fire trucks and an athletic fieldhouse to replacing dairy cows; all helping to



The 7,200-square-foot-facility features ellipticals, treadmills, bikes, rowing machines and free weights.

create multiple jobs.

“Commitment to communities is one of the seven cooperative principles that has guided Wheatland Electric since founded in 1948. Utilizing this loan program from the USDA allows us to provide opportunities for rural organizations in need and help make sure our communities continue to be great places to live, work, and raise a family,” said Wheatland’s CEO/General Manager Bruce W. Mueller.



The multipurpose venue provides the community with access to fitness equipment, group exercise classes and programmed nonathletic recreational activities.

Camp Canceled, Scholarships Awarded to Winners



Ryan Thompson

In last month's *Kansas Country Living*, we had notified our members of the cancellation of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Trip to Washington, D.C. We were holding out hope that the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, held in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, would still be able to go on as planned. Unfortunately, we found out shortly after our printing deadline the camp had also been canceled due to COVID-19 concerns.



Zoe Jerke

As we did with the Youth Tour winners, Wheatland has set aside a \$1,000 scholarship for each of the campers:

ZOE JERKE, Great Bend, and **RYAN THOMPSON**, Syracuse, upon their high school graduation. Wheatland is deeply committed to the next generation and realizes the effort that went into the application and selection process.

Wheatland Electric repurposed the remainder of the funds allocated for the camp to help food banks in our local communities. A \$500 donation was made to each of the 10 food banks in Wheatland's service territory.

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp brings together high school students from Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming at the Glen Eden Resort for a week in July. Students learn about the cooperative business model, power generation, legislative processes, teamwork and leadership skills, while also participating in activities such as rafting, swimming, volleyball, and a talent show.

We are disappointed by the cancellation of the camp for 2020, but believe the well-being of all involved was the most important consideration.

Wheatland Retires \$500,000

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. is pleased to retire \$500,000 (65% from 1988 and 35% from 2019) in capital credits during Harvest Day in August 2020.

This year, the capital credits will be retired earlier than most years and will be issued as bill credits. Due to COVID-19 and the economic impact it had for some of our members, the Wheatland board of trustees wanted to assist the membership by retiring capital credits early.

"The Wheatland Electric Board of Trustees has shown a tremendous amount of concern for the community in making this decision," said Wheatland CEO/General Manager Bruce W. Mueller. "Even during these unprecedented times, our trustees have shown their commitment to taking care of the membership."

This year, capital credits will be retired for those consumer-members who were receiving service from

Due to COVID-19 and the economic impact it had for some of our consumer-members, the Wheatland Board of Trustees wanted to assist the membership by retiring capital credits early.

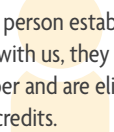
Wheatland Electric during 1988 or 2019. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, Wheatland will retire \$500,000 more in capital credits in December, bringing the total capital credits retired in 2020 to \$1 million. Over the last three years, Wheatland has paid out \$3 million in capital credits to our members.



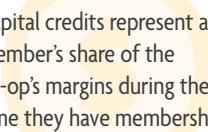
To learn more about capital credits, visit weci.net to watch our short video located at the bottom of the home page. The video explains how capital credits work and why they are an important part of the cooperative business model.

es \$500,000 in Capital Credits

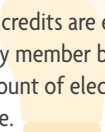
HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK



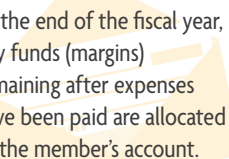
When a person establishes service with us, they become a member and are eligible for capital credits.




Capital credits represent a member's share of the co-op's margins during the time they have membership.



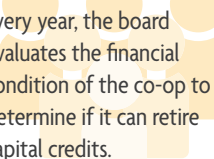
Capital credits are earned by every member based on the amount of electricity they use.



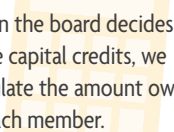
At the end of the fiscal year, any funds (margins) remaining after expenses have been paid are allocated to the member's account.



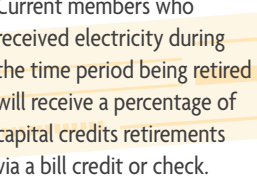
The allocated funds are used as operating capital for system improvements and maintenance.



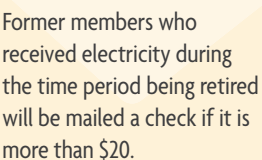
Every year, the board evaluates the financial condition of the co-op to determine if it can retire capital credits.



When the board decides to retire capital credits, we calculate the amount owed to each member.



Current members who received electricity during the time period being retired will receive a percentage of capital credits retirements via a bill credit or check.



Former members who received electricity during the time period being retired will be mailed a check if it is more than \$20.

An **ALLOCATION** is made annually for each member, based on the amount of electricity purchased. An allocation is the member's share of the net margins. The co-op sets this money aside to be used as operating capital for improvements and maintenance over a period of years.

A **RETIREMENT** is the amount a member receives as a payout. It is a portion of the total allocation. The amount paid is decided annually by the board of trustees based on the financial condition of the co-op.



New Look, Same Friendly Faces

Last month, Wheatland Electric and Wheatland Broadband opened their lobbies to the public. With the additional safeguards Wheatland has implemented, the lobbies may look different than you remember, but one thing has not changed — we're still here to serve our members.

CEO/General Manager Bruce W. Mueller expressed his appreciation to the Wheatland employees who have worked hard to serve our members during these challenging times.

“Over the past few months, we’ve seen the communities we serve band together even while they were physically apart and that has been inspiring to say the least,” Mueller said. “One of the seven cooperative principles that is at the very core of Wheatland is ‘concern for the community.’ In that vein, we’ve been proud to serve our communities during this time.”

- Additional safeguards in our lobbies include:
- ▶ Safety stickers on the floor to indicate a safe social distancing space between our members.
 - ▶ Limiting the number of people in the office at one time.



Wheatland Electric and Wheatland Broadband lobbies are open; however, if you are uncomfortable entering public spaces visit weci.net to find alternative payment options.

- ▶ Adding protective barriers between our members and front office employees and having hand sanitizer available for use in each office lobby.
- ▶ Continuing to clean and disinfect our offices daily.

“These new processes, practices and procedures will ensure that Wheatland Electric accomplishes our mission of **DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE**,” Mueller said.

If you are not feeling well, or uncomfortable entering public spaces, Wheatland offers several payment options for our members. Please call your local office or visit weci.net to learn more.



Left: Wheatland lobbies were opened June 1. Barriers were built in offices to keep our employees and members safe.

Below: Hand sanitizer will be available at each office for member use.



Sharing Success Grant Program Keeps on Giving

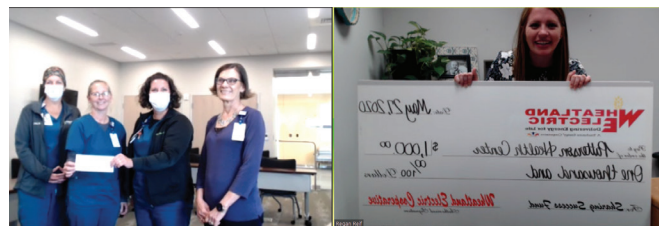
Wheatland Electric and CoBank recently renewed their Sharing Success program.

The Sharing Success program is one of the most valuable tools for giving back to the communities we serve. Wheatland has been able to make a significant impact in our communities helping many organizations achieve their mission.

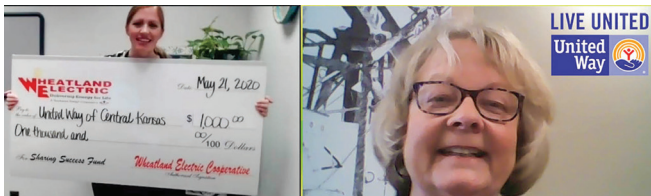
The Scott Community Foundation began formally accepting applications for grants from the Wheatland Electric Sharing Success Fund from non-profit organizations on Dec. 1, 2012. Wheatland Electric and CoBank have each increased their contribution amounts to the fund over time. Beginning in 2020, each organization will donate \$10,000 annually.

The application process for the Sharing Success program requires a brief description of your non-profit organization, the project details and costs for which you are requesting the grant. Non-profit groups interested in receiving funding from the Wheatland Electric Sharing Success Fund should contact Alli Conine, manager of member services and corporate communications, at 620-874-4563 or aconine@weci.net.

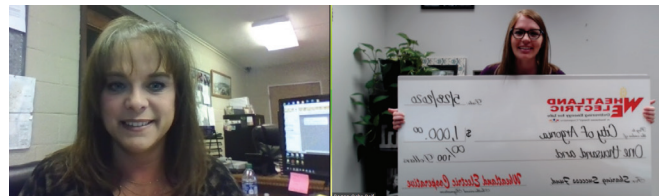
“The Sharing Success program allows us to give back to the communities we serve,” said Wheatland’s CEO/General Manager Bruce W. Mueller. “Since 2012, the Sharing Success program has awarded \$85,000 in grants to non-profit organizations across our service territory. Wheatland is excited to continue partnering with CoBank and the Scott Community Foundation.”



Top: Yvette Lopez, Haven House Director, and Renee Geyer, MMC – Grant Coordinator for Compass Behavioral Health, receive a \$1,000 Sharing Success grant check from Wheatland Electric’s Sharing Success Fund. Bottom: Patterson Health Center employees virtually accept a \$1,000 Sharing Success grant check from Regan Reif, member services and key accounts manager at Wheatland Electric. The grant will be used to purchase new medical equipment. From left: Crissa Cox, Director of Nursing – Emergency Dept; Kyla Quigg – Clinical IT; Heather Reames – Director of Nursing – In-Patient; and Loretta Kerschen – Grants/Preparedness Coordinator.



Left: Gailea Demel, Executive Director of the United Way of Central Kansas accepts their \$1,000 Sharing Success grant check virtually. The money will be used to provide hand sanitizer stations for public gathering areas in Barton County. Right: Tara Pierce, City Clerk for the City of Argonia, virtually accepts their Sharing Success grant money for updating city grounds, including the rodeo arena.



You Have a Voice at YOUR

CO-OP

— attend annual meeting to use it.

JOIN US WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

Registration 10:30 a.m. central | Lunch 11:30 a.m. | Meeting 12:30 p.m.

Caldwell Community Building, 119 E. First, Caldwell, KS 67022

View LIVE at your local Wheatland Electric Office



CONNECT
ENGAGE
ELECT

Wheatland's Annual Meeting & Early Capital Credit Payout Continued from page 16A ▶

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 that are up for re-election, the process is outlined below:

- ▶ **THE FIRST WAY SET FORTH IN WHEATLAND'S BYLAWS IS TO BE NOMINATED BY THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.** Every year, the board of trustees appoints a nomination committee. The committee is comprised of one individual from each of the seven districts. You are welcome to contact Wheatland and get the name of the member who represents you on the nomination committee. You can then contact them at your convenience.
- ▶ **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 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.

- ▶ **ANY MEMBER CAN MAKE A NOMINATION FROM THE FLOOR** at the annual meeting (remote locations included) to present another consumer-member as a candidate.

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

As we did last year, the annual meeting will be **SIMULCAST AT ALL OUR OTHER OFFICE LOCATIONS IN SCOTT CITY, GREAT BEND, LEOTI, SYRACUSE, HARPER, FINNEY COUNTY (FULTON STREET OFFICE) AND TRIBUNE.** Consider them mini annual meetings. The members in attendance at these satellite locations will be able to: **ATTEND, NOMINATE, VOTE AND WIN A DOOR PRIZE IF SELECTED.**

Lunch will be provided at each location. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be taking a few extra steps this year to ensure the safety for our employees and members in attendance at each location.

- ▶ Social distancing will be practiced as applicable.
- ▶ The typical lunch buffet will be replaced with box lunches.
- ▶ WEC employees will direct members where to sit for the meeting.
- ▶ WEC employees will be wearing personal protective gear.
- ▶ WEC recommends members in attendance wear masks.

I realize some of the steps above may seem a bit restrictive, but they are in place to make sure employees and members stay healthy before,

during and after the annual meeting.

We hope you make it a point to attend the **WHEATLAND ELECTRIC ANNUAL MEETING** at any of the locations and exercise your right as a member of the cooperative and vote.

Capital Credit Payout

At the May 2020 board meeting, the Wheatland Electric Board of Trustees approved an early payout of \$500,000 in capital credits in the **FORM OF BILL CREDITS** on the membership's **AUGUST 2020 BILLS.** Typically, the cooperative distributes capital credits in December. We hope that the early payout will assist members who are experiencing a financial hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The amount members receive as a **BILL CREDIT** is based on the amount of electricity used in 1988 and 2019 and how long you have been a member. Those Wheatland members will receive a percentage of capital credit retirements, reflecting their contribution of capital to, and ownership of, the cooperative during those years. The percentages of capital credits retired during the years mentioned are as follows:

Year Retired	% of Capital Credit Retirement
1988	65%
2019	35%

If you were a member in 1988 and 2019 you will receive two capital credit bill credits.

The 2020 Wheatland Electric budget approved by the Wheatland Electric Board of Trustees included monies for capital credit retirement (based on the 2019 financials). I want to emphasize budgeted, in case there is some unforeseen financial crisis that would inhibit our ability to payout the remainder of the budgeted capital credits. Barring that circumstance, WEC is planning on paying out additional capital credits in December 2020, during our Capital Credit Harvest Days.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.

SAFETY Tip of the Month

The human body is normally able to regulate its temperature through sweating, until it is exposed to more heat than it can handle. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke can escalate rapidly, leading to delirium, organ damage and even death. In 2017, 87 people died in the U.S. from exposure to excessive heat, according to Injury Facts.