



WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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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
302 W. 6th
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

In Case of an Outage

After-hours and emergency reporting call
1-800-ON AGAIN.

FROM THE MANAGER

Be Heard on Capitol Hill

Bringing the co-op message home to Congress

I recently returned from the Kansas Electric Cooperatives Annual Meeting in Topeka and it reminded me of the 1939 movie classic “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington;” Jimmy Stewart plays Jefferson Smith, a wholesome, idealistic Boy Ranger leader who finds himself appointed to the U.S. Senate. There he makes a stand as a true voice for the people, surrounded by others who have lost touch with the needs of their constituency.

As a Wheatland member, you are part of an army of Mr. Smiths marching your needs and concerns up to Capitol Hill every day. Through the “Our Energy, Our Future™” grassroots awareness campaign, folks just like you are alerting lawmakers about the need to keep electric bills affordable, reminding them that their actions have consequences.

Sound, thoughtfully crafted energy policy can lead to great things—the electric cooperative program is a perfect example. But hastily enacted energy policy could have far-reaching impacts on the electricity we use every day, doubling or even tripling its cost in the coming years and perhaps diminishing its availability.

While most parts of our economy are subject to some bureaucratic influence, whether through safety regulations or anti-trust laws, the

government has a say in virtually every aspect of the electric utility industry—from the type of fuel used in power plants right down to the way your house is wired. Unfortunately, if the interests of members aren't factored in these decisions, disaster awaits.

This is where the voice of the people comes in, and where you, as a Wheatland member, can make a difference. By contacting your representatives today and engaging them on the importance of developing economically sustainable energy solutions, you can greatly influence the national energy debate.

Elected officials need to hear a constant drumbeat about how energy costs are affecting you. Through “Our Energy, Our Future,” you can make your opinions heard via e-mail, a letter, or even video. It's amazing how quickly members of Congress respond when hearing from voters back home!

Please visit www.ourenergy.coop today to learn about the many ways you can be heard as a modern-day Jefferson Smith in Washington, D.C.

Hope you have a happy Valentine's Day and until next time, take care.



Bruce Mueller

Payment Options

Wheatland Electric Offers Members Several Ways to Pay

The following are the authorized bill payment options available to Wheatland Electric members. Payments by cash, credit card (for residential members only), money order, personal check, certified check or bank draft will be accepted. A fee of \$3.50 will be charged for every credit card transaction. All payments must be in a Wheatland Electric office before 5 p.m. on the Delinquent After Date printed on your billing to avoid late payment penalties.

Drop box: Deposit your payment, including payment stub and check or money order, in the payment drop box at any of the locations listed below or at Scott City Hall, 221 West 5th in Scott City.

In person: Pay your bill at any of our offices in:

- ▶ Caldwell—City Offices, 14 W. Central
- ▶ Crystal's DVDs—111 W. Spring St, Suite B
(Open Tues., Wed. Thurs. & Fri. from 3-9 p.m., Sat. from 2-9 p.m.)
- ▶ Deerfield—City Hall, 622 Main Street
- ▶ Garden City—2005 W. Fulton
- ▶ Great Bend—2300 Broadway
- ▶ Harper—302 W. 6th Street
- ▶ Leoti—N. Highway 25
- ▶ Scott City—101 Main
- ▶ Syracuse—206 ½ Main
- ▶ Tribune—310 Broadway

Mail: Enclose your bill payment stub along with a check or money order and mail in the envelope provided with your bill. Please allow three to five days for delivery.

Online: Visit www.weci.net and click on Online Bill Pay. Sign up for service and enter an e-mail address for receipts. Please make sure we have your e-mail address on file for your electric or internet account.

Phone: Call any Wheatland office to pay by phone.

All other payment options are considered "unauthorized pay agents." Unauthorized pay agents have no contractual requirement with Wheatland Electric to operate under rules approved by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). Wheatland Electric provides no assurance as to the timeliness or accuracy of payments made via unauthorized agents.

"Sharing Success" with the Community



Shawn Powelson, Wheatland, (left) and Ryan Roberts, Scott Community Foundation, (right) presented Nancy Goodman and Darci Berry, Russell Child Development Center with the first \$500 grant from the Sharing Success Fund.

Wheatland Electric, Inc. recently announced the creation of a \$10,000 charitable fund designed to benefit non-profit organizations throughout their service territory across rural Kansas.

Through the generosity of one of its partner banks, CoBank, which offered a matching contribution of up to \$5,000 to its cooperative customers, Wheatland was able to establish the new charitable fund with the help of the Scott Community Foundation.

"We saw this as a great opportunity to establish a fund that would benefit multiple organizations throughout our service territory," said Bruce Mueller, General Manager of Wheatland Electric. "When CoBank made the "Sharing Success" matching funds available to local cooperatives like us, we felt like this was a way we could give back to our local communities and maximize our investment."

Under the cooperative's new

"Sharing Success" fund, the funds will be made available, through a grant request process, to individual non-profit groups throughout its service territory.

Non-profit groups are encouraged to submit their requests for funds to the Scott Community Foundation. The funds will be allocated in \$1,000 blocks, with the intent to distribute the funds evenly throughout Wheatland's service territory, as funding requests allow.

"We are grateful to Ryan Roberts and the Scott Community Foundation for their willingness to work with us on this project," Mueller said. "Without their help we would not have been able to establish this fund."

The first organization to receive funding through the Sharing Success Fund was the Russell Child Development Center (RCDC) based out of Garden City.

RCDC submitted their request

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for the \$500 grant, which would allow them to purchase a new multi-function copier for their Scott City satellite office, located in the Scott County Courthouse. The copier will be used to help the two local staff members, Darci Berry and Nancy Goodman, provide the necessary documentation to families utilizing their services.

RCDC is a community based non-profit organization that serves children from birth to 36 months of age. The children they serve are eligible for early intervention services and are scattered among 12 counties in southwest Kansas.

Their services include, but are not limited to: speech pathology,

health services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, family training, social work, vision and hearing. Their mission is to lay a foundation of success for all young children and their families through the delivery of high quality, inclusive services.

The Scott Community Foundation began formally accepting applications for grants from the Wheatland Electric Sharing Success Fund from non-profit organizations on December 1, 2012. The program will 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 further details.

Employee Update New Hires, Promotions & Retirements

Wheatland Electric is proud to recognize three employees for their recent achievements.

MAYNARD MILLER, line foreman Great Bend, retired January 4, 2013.

Employees hosted a luncheon and presented him with a retirement gift. Wheatland Electric wishes him the best in his retirement.

DAX WALK was promoted to foreman in the Great Bend District. Wheatland congratulates him on his promotion.

LEVI MILNER joined Wheatland Electric in the Harper District as a second year apprentice lineman. Wheatland welcomes him to the cooperative family.



Maynard Miller



Dax Walk



Levi Milner

In Memoriam of Donald Hedges

DONALD HEDGES was elected to the Wheatland Board of Directors on April 3, 1990, representing District 1 in Scott City.

He passed away December 30, 2012.

Wheatland Electric offers deep sympathy to his family and friends.



Donald Hedges





**I CHANGED MY AIR FILTER.
AND MY WARDROBE.**

**Saving money on my electric bill seemed like a good
enough reason to update my closet. Find out what
you can do at TogetherWeSave.com.**



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TOGETHERWESAVE.COM