

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Bruce Mueller—General Manager

Board of Trustees

Wes Campbell
President

Dave Lowe
Vice President

Patrick Riley
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Dan Bonine
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President Emeritus

Charles Ayers
Trustee

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Vic Case
Trustee

Bob Hiss
Trustee

Lawrence Houston
Trustee

Roe Johnson
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
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

May is Electrical Safety Month

I wanted to thank all of our members who attended Wheatland Electric's 65th Annual meeting in Caldwell. We had great attendance from district seven, with approximately 150 barbecue meals served. I also wanted to thank all our special guests who attended.

During the meeting we presented our 2012 financial report, service and infrastructure upgrades and a yearly summary of all activities and accomplishments of the cooperative in 2012. We also had an electric generation power summary update from Stuart Lowry, CEO of Sunflower Electric, Wheatland's wholesale power supplier. During the meeting, service awards were presented to Wheatland employees and directors with the award years ranging from 40 to five years. In 2014, the Annual Meeting will be in Holcomb.

During the meeting, the weather outside left a bit to be desired, however there was moisture and that is always a good thing. With that in mind, as the weather in May warms up and hopefully as the rains come there is always that chance for a thunderstorm which could knock your power out for a short time.

This could necessitate you using a portable generator. Since May is National Electric Safety Month, I wanted to give you a few safety tips

to protect yourself and our Wheatland linemen who work to restore your power.

First, never ever plug a portable generator directly into one of your home's outlets—unless you have had a licensed electrician install a “transfer switch” in your home. If you don't have a transfer switch, power provided by the generator can “back feed” along power lines, which can electrocute a lineman working on those lines.

In addition, portable generators create carbon monoxide, the odorless, colorless gas that can quickly become deadly if the generator isn't exhausted outside. Attached garages with an open door don't count—the carbon monoxide can still seep indoors and poison inhabitants. Generators must go outside in a dry area, which might mean you'll need to rig a canopy to protect it from precipitation at a safe distance from your home's windows, doors, and vents. Other things to keep in mind:



Bruce Mueller

“Thank you to all of our members who attended the Annual Meeting.”

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CO-OP CONNECTIONS

Scott City Pharmacist Featured in *Kansas Country Living*

A few months ago, we sent out Co-op Connections Cards to all of our members in the October issue of this magazine.

This month, you might have noticed the main story in this magazine features Jeremiah Mader a local pharmacist from Scott City and Barb Wilkinson, a Wheatland Electric member, exchanging the Connections Card for the Healthy Savings prescription discount.

To date, our members have averaged savings of 35 percent on prescription discounts using their Co-op Connections Card. The Healthy Savings prescription discount is just one of many discounts available using the Co-op Connections Card.

In addition to the prescription discount, there are Healthy Savings discounts on vision, lab and imaging, dental, chiropractic and hearing services. Please note that this card is not meant to replace your existing insurance and cannot be used in conjunction with other insurance benefits.



To date, our members have averaged savings of 35 percent on prescription discounts using their Co-op Connections Card.

In addition to the Healthy Savings discount, the card also gives you access to discounts through local and national retailers.

Over the past few months, we have been working with local retailers throughout our service territory to offer discounts to our members. Our friends at Touchstone Energy continue to add new national discounts as well.

If you haven't done so recently be sure and go to our website at www.connections.coop/weci and check out all the ways you can save using your Co-op Connections Card. There are new deals being added all the time!

If you happened to have misplaced your card or maybe you missed it inside the *Kansas Country Living*, that's ok. We have more! Stop by any of our local service offices and our friendly staff will be happy to give you a new one. You can also e-mail us at connections@weci.net and we'll be happy to mail you one.

Get your Co-op Connections Card today and see all the ways you can save!



Barb Wilkinson presents her Co-op Connections Card to Jeremiah Mader at the Scott City Health Mart.

2013 Ann

Wheatland Electric celebrated their 65th anniversary at their annual meeting in Caldwell on April 3, 2013. Approximately 150 people attended.

The flag was presented by Gene Struble, Melvin Johnson, and Marshall Love, Color Guard. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem was played on the projector screen.

Dave Lowe, Vice President of Board of Trustees, opened the Annual Meeting. Joel Bryan, Director of Finances for Wheatland Electric, gave the financial report. Stuart Lowry, President & CEO of Sunflower Electric, shared information detailing power cost drivers, market purchases, operating costs, and mentioned various projects being built. Phillip Shelley, Director of Operations for Wheatland Electric explained service and equipment updates in the district.

Bruce Mueller, General Manager of Wheatland, summarized 2012 for the membership. Mueller also presented employee and board of trustee service awards, those recognized were:

- ▶ **40 Years:** Stanley Bieker, Ron Davis (Trustee) and Vincent Strickler;
- ▶ **35 Years:** Gary Fair;
- ▶ **30 Years:** Richard Klaus and Phillip Shelley;
- ▶ **25 Years:** Kathleen Hoeme and Marcia Matthies;
- ▶ **15 Years:** Roe Johnson (Trustee) and Jevin Kasselmann;
- ▶ **10 Years:** Jamie Coleman, Joshua Holt, Michael Ille, Pamela Murphy, Perry Smith;
- ▶ **5 Years:** Paul Aguiniga, Dan Bonine (Trustee), Adam Carver, Mark Douglas, Stephen Gerard, Ashley Grubb, Steven Hageberg, Secret Imel Jamie Kitch, Jillane Koochel, Dave Lowe (Trustee), Luciana Martinez, Eric Newberry, Neil O'Connell, Clay Shelton and James Welker.

There were 32 prizes given to registered members in attendance.

Annual Meeting Highlights



Approximately 150 people attended Wheatland's 65th Annual Meeting in Caldwell.



Consumer Service Representatives, (L to R) Secret Imel, Jillane Koochel and Sheila Helm register a member for annual meeting.



Bruce Mueller, General Manager, discusses cooperative issues with the membership.

The nomination committee provided the list of Trustees for reelection. The members accepted the nominations for reelection of District 3: **LAWRENCE HOUSTON**, District 5: **WES CAMPBELL**, District 6: **BOB HISS**, and District 7: **WOODY BARNES**.

Questions and comments were accepted by Bruce Mueller, GM, from the members. Wheatland Electric thanks District 7 and the town of Caldwell for the warm welcome offered to all who attended. Webb's Barbeque served the meal, which was enjoyed by all.



The flag was presented by (from left) Gene Struble, Marshall Love and Melvin Johnson.



Albert Melichar explained how much he, and many others, appreciated the Caldwell Wheatland linemen who worked in the recent blizzard to restore service. He said "the weather was horrible, but the guys did a great job."

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.

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- ▶ Plug appliances directly into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords, but don't overload it.
- ▶ Follow the manufacturer's instructions for maximum load.

Shut off the generator before refueling, or a fire could start—and it's a good idea to have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby, just in case.

Safety is a top priority at Wheatland Electric Cooperative, for our employees and members alike. Contact us at 800-762-0436 or go to our website at www.weci.net (click on Energy Education and then Safety Tab) to learn more about how to properly install and use a portable generator.

Until next time, take care.

Wheatland Adds Numrich & Osterberg to Staff

In March, Wheatland added two new employees.

NOLAN NUMRICH joined the Wheatland as an installer in our broadband division. **ROBERT OSTERBERG** also began working as a first-year Line-man Apprentice in Harper.

Welcome to the cooperative family!



Nolan Numrich



Robert Osterberg

March 28 Declared "Ron Baker Day" in Scott City

On March 28, Scott City mayor, Dan Goodman, declared it was "Ron Baker Day."

RON BAKER is a member of the Wichita State University team, which made it to play in the Final Four in Atlanta.

Not only does this honor a graduate of Scott City, but Baker honored the community when he was interviewed and said, "Scott City, I love you."

Wheatland employee Randy Rogers helps take photos during the "Ron Baker Day" celebration.



He represents many of our students, past and present with his work ethics and loyalty. Simply search on the internet Ron Baker and Scott City, to read about a town that has as much pride in him, as he has in his hometown.

Wheatland Electric supports communities in all our territories, so it was no surprise when Wheatland Electric agreed to loan the bucket truck and operator, Randy Rogers, to assist taking pictures of the crowd.



SCOTT HOLT

Ron Baker (center, number 31) is a Wichita State guard who helped his team make it to the Final Four in 2013.