



## WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# NEWS

### Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

**Bruce Mueller**—General Manager

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**Wes Campbell**  
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**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

## Wheatland Celebrates National Cooperative Month



**Bruce Mueller**

Every October, cooperatives are recognized for the principles that make the cooperative business model unique: Voluntary and

Open Member-

ship, Democratic Member Control, Members' Economic Participation, Autonomy and Independence, Education, Training, and Information, Cooperation Among Cooperatives, and Concern for Community.

Cooperatives are special, we have an obligation to provide reliable, competitive and safe electricity, but we take that a step further. We also have a responsibility to support our members, enrich schools, and enhance our communities.

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., is proud to be part of America's cooperative network, which employs more than 850,000 people. Across the nation, 29,000 co-ops and credit unions generate \$74 billion in annual wages and nearly \$500 billion in revenue.

Co-ops (credit unions, food co-ops, agricultural co-ops, and electric) thrive in Kansas, with more than 328 co-ops serving more than 999,000

members, while employing more than 16,000 Kansans. Nationally more than 2.1 million jobs are supported by co-ops.

Wheatland Electric is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives, public utility districts and public power districts serving 42 million people in 47 states.

Electric cooperatives were formed when neighbors banded together and lit up the countryside when no one else would. That's what we celebrate each October.

In this issue, you will see several instances where Wheatland Electric employees are fulfilling the Concern for Community Cooperative principal I mentioned earlier.

► **BRYAN MULLIGAN**, Scott City, was recently awarded the Touchstone Energy Power and Hope award. This award is given to co-op employees who demonstrate one of Touchstone's core values: Commitment to Community.

► **JOE BIRZER AND RANDY ROGERS**, Scott City, recently judged the electric entries at the Kansas State Fair.

► **WHEATLAND'S GREAT BEND EMPLOYEES** assisted the Great Bend Police Department in setting a new flag pole.

*Until next time, take care.*

## Wheatland Employees Set Pole for Police Dept.



Wheatland employees from Great Bend volunteered to set a flag pole for the local police department.

The Great Bend Police Department enlisted the help of Colby Black, Mark Ziemba, Trent Suchy, Dax Walk, and Tyson Ryff who are all employees from Wheatland Electric's Great Bend office, a digger and bucket truck to set a new flag pole.



It took 12 volunteers to set the flag pole in its new location.

## Birzer & Rogers Volunteer at Kansas State Fair



Joe Birzer

**JOE BIRZER**, engineer in District 7, and **RANDY ROGERS**, lineman in District 1, volunteered to judge the electrical projects at Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson.

Most state fairs could not function without the unpaid volunteers who judge the many projects and events.

Wheatland Electric is proud to have many employees who step up to the plate when help is needed.



Randy Rogers

## Mulligan Receives Power & Hope Award



Bruce Mueller, General Manager, and Mark Ladner, District 1 Line Supervisor, present Bryan Mulligan with the Power & Hope Award. From left: Mueller, Mulligan and Ladner.

**BRYAN MULLIGAN**, a Journeyman Lineman from Scott City, was recently presented with the Power & Hope Award by Bruce Mueller, General Manager of Wheatland Electric. Mark Ladner, District 1 Line Supervisor was also present for the ceremony.

The Touchstone Energy Board of Directors and all Touchstone Energy cooperatives chose Mulligan for his dedication to helping others.

After a tornado devastated the

area around Moore, OK, Mulligan helped organize volunteers to help the residents. His BBQ team, C-Mor-Butz BBQ, joined with Operation BBQ Relief to feed the victims and volunteers.

"The community made this possible because of their time and contributions," Mulligan said.

He explained that many people donated their time, supplies and money, as well as helped transport volunteers to assist in the efforts. So, Mulligan accepted the award for all of them.

This award is intended to honor co-op employees who exemplify Touchstone Energy's core value of "Commitment to Community."

Wheatland Electric is a member of Touchstone Energy, an alliance of member-owned electric co-ops which support each other with education, communications, and programs like the Co-op Connection Card, among others.



The volunteers helped Operation BBQ Relief feed more than 143,000 meals in seven days following the EF5 tornado that struck Moore, OK, on May 20.

## Wheatland Welcomes Beth Looney to Staff

**BETH LOONEY** began her duties with Wheatland Electric on September 1 as Assistant General Manager.

She and her husband are the parents of two sons. The family enjoys traveling, movies, swimming and home improvement projects.

Looney is a former employee of Sunflower Electric, so she is no stranger to Wheatland Electric. Her career includes more



**Beth Looney**

than eight years in the cooperative industry.

“Wheatland has an excellent reputation in the local community, as well as the cooperative industry,” Looney said. “I am honored to have been offered the opportunity to participate in making this already great cooperative even

better.”

Wheatland is pleased to welcome her to our cooperative.

## Sunflower Documentary Features Rudolphs



From left: Pat and Lowell Rudolph were interviewed by Shawn Powelson, Wheatland Member Services, and Steven Hausler, Sunflower Electric about life before electricity.

Do you remember life before electricity? Sunflower Electric, Wheatland's power supplier, is working on a documentary featuring members who remember when electricity first reached their homes or farmsteads.

Wheatland was delighted to introduce **LOWELL** and **PAT RUDOLPH**, a couple from Scott City to the Sunflower project. Steven Hausler, external affairs specialist at Sunflower, interviewed the Rudolphs about the dif-

ficulties of life before electricity, how electricity changed their lives, and the importance of co-op membership. The Rudolphs shared their memories of life without electricity and other stories that told the wonders of living with people who depended upon each other.

Videos from all of Sunflower's member co-ops will be created, including one for Wheatland, to share with our members.

## 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 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](http://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.

## Efficiency Tip of the Month

Keep wintery drafts out of your home by sealing cracks and gaps. Weather stripping around doors and windows works well when you can see daylight between the frame and the wall or floor. Use caulk to seal around the frames where you see gaps. For more tips and tricks, visit [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

# Cold Weather Rule is in Effect November 1-March 31

The Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) adopted a statewide, uniform Cold Weather Disconnection Rule on May 8, 2002. This rule governs termination or restoration of utility service when members are financially unable to pay utility bills from November 1 through March 31 annually.

Cooperative members who are unable to pay their electric service bills during the cold weather period may qualify for this program provided they fulfill certain requirements when attempting to pay.

The following requirements must be met in order to qualify for the Cold Weather Rule:

- ▶ **Members must notify** the cooperative and state their inability to pay their service bill in full.
  - ▶ **Members must apply** to federal, state, local or other financial assistance programs for which they may be eligible to receive aid in paying utility bills.
  - ▶ **Members must make an initial minimum payment** equal to 1/12 of the total amount due the cooperative which includes any arrearage. Example: If a customer owed an arrearage of \$200 and a current bill of \$40, they would owe the cooperative a total of \$240. The initial payment under the cold weather rule would be equal to \$240 divided by 12, or \$20.
  - ▶ **Members will be required to enter into a payment plan agreement** for past, current and future charges for electric service, with arrears paid in equal installments over the next 11 months. A member and the cooperative may negotiate other payment arrangements mutually agreeable, individualized to the member's situation, providing the most appropriate terms, after the member has been informed that he or she has at least 11 months in which to pay under the Cold Weather Plan. Members will be required to provide sufficient financial information to enable the cooperative to determine an appropriate payment agreement.
- Please note that members may be ineligible for the benefits under the Cold

Weather Disconnection Rule if they fail to follow the above requirements, illegally divert utility service, receive service by tampering (as defined by KCC rules), or default on a payment agreement.

During the cold weather period, your cooperative will do the following:

- ▶ **Inform you of agencies or organizations** which may provide financial assistance in paying utility bills;
- ▶ **Not disconnect service** until the member is personally contacted or a notice is posted on the member's premises the day before disconnection is to take place.
- ▶ **Provide the member** with the telephone number of the Kansas Corporation Commission Member Protection Office prior to disconnection which is 800-662-0027.

In no event will the cooperative disconnect service if the temperature is forecast to fall below 35 degrees F. or to be in the mid-30's or colder within 24 hours following the time of disconnection.

Your cooperative may have a third party notification program, whereby if you are notified that your electric service is subject to disconnection, a third party of

your choice will be contacted. Contact your cooperative for more information. The Cold Weather Rule is to ensure that human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months.

You have the right to dispute any billing or the disconnection of service at any time prior to the above date. Additionally, complaint procedures are available through the Kansas Corporation Commission to resolve disputed billings.

Further, if you can establish that disconnection would be hazardous due to a health condition of a resident at this location, other payment arrangements may be negotiated. Health conditions must be verified in writing by a physician or public health official.

Disconnection can be avoided by paying or making payment arrangements on the outstanding billing or the undisputed portion of the outstanding billing. To make payment arrangements or inquire about this notice please call your local office at one of the following numbers: Garden City at 620-275-0261, Great Bend at 620-793-4223, Harper at 620-896-7090, Syracuse at 620-384-5171, Tribune at 620-376-4231, Leoti at 620-375-2632, and Scott City at 620-872-5885.

## Looking for Reliable Internet at a Fair Price?

Wheatland Broadband is locally-owned and operated. We are committed to promoting community growth and providing our members with the best service and support.

### Residential

Basic (1.5mg/512kb)\$39.95  
Preferred (3mg/1mg)\$49.95  
Premium (4mg/1mg)\$64.95

### Business

Basic (2mg/512kb)\$49.95  
Preferred (3.5mg/1mg)\$64.95  
Premium (5mg/1mg)\$79.95

**We're here when you need us!**

**For more information visit [www.wbsnet.org](http://www.wbsnet.org)**



Call to get your installation scheduled today!

**866-872-0006**

**Wheatland Broadband & Wheatland Electric Bills Can be Paid with One Check**

You may have noticed the broadband bill now is printed with the name, Wheatland Broadband on the top. Even though the bills are printed separately, they may still be paid in the same manner as before. If you paid with one check, please feel free to mail them together and use only one check. The Wheatland Electric and Wheatland Broadband bills do not need to be paid separately.