

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Bruce Mueller—General Manager

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FROM THE MANAGER

Empowering the Membership through Engagement

In last month's article, I discussed the seven cooperative principles that Wheatland Electric Cooperative (Wheatland) and all cooperatives use as a base to serve their membership.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation Among Co-ops
7. Concern for Community

I focused on principle number seven: "Concern for the Community" and what activities Wheatland is doing to fulfill our members' expectations.

I'd like to continue that thought and also add cooperative principle number five "Education, Training and Information" to the discussion this month.

Members expect better communication, service excellence, and programs that really help them meet their expectations for Wheatland. As our industry transforms and expectations increase, members will more often ask us: "What have you done for me lately?"

Today it is imperative that we do more to keep our members engaged and, to the greatest extent possible, involved in our efforts to serve them better and to advocate on their behalf.

For Wheatland to accomplish this objective, we are forming **MEMBER ENGAGEMENT TEAMS** made up of Wheatland members in your community. The Wheatland Electric Board of Trustees has invited

a group of members to participate in these Member Engagement Team meetings in October. We will hold three meetings during the month in Scott City, Great Bend and Harper. All member districts will have member participants invited.



Bruce Mueller

The primary objectives of the Member Engagement Team meetings will be to:

- ▶ **Help the Wheatland Board of Trustees and Wheatland Management better understand** the opinions and desires of the members as it relates to the community, Wheatland, and its members.
- ▶ **Serve as a sounding board for the evaluation of Wheatland's ongoing programs**, policies and initiatives and for the development of new programs, policies and initiatives.
- ▶ **Foster a higher degree of understanding** amongst the membership of Wheatland and the cooperative business model.
- ▶ **Enable Wheatland to be totally member-oriented and responsive** to the expectations and needs of the membership.

We hope to make these Member Engagement Team meetings an annual occurrence. We would like to walk away with actionable items to implement to better serve you, the members.

Until next time, take care.

Help “Cram the Van” & Support Local Food Banks

Our “**CRAM THE VAN**” food drive is officially under way and we’d like to thank you for helping us “**CRAM THE VAN**” at the events in your community.

The van has been busy as it has made appearances in Garden City, Syracuse, Conway Springs, Great Bend and Chaparral High School in Anthony. If the van has yet to make an appearance in your community, don’t worry, we’ll be there soon! (See event schedule below.) We’re still adding a few dates for van events as well, so make sure you keep an eye out for the van in your community.

Remember, you don’t have to wait till you see the van to make your donation! We’ll have a donation bin in every local Wheatland Electric office, Hired Man Grocery in Conway Springs and Caldwell City Hall until the end of October. Drop off your non-perishable food item any time!

All donations received will go to the local food bank where the item was collected. Thanks for helping us “**CRAM THE VAN**” and look for the **big red** Wheatland van at an event near you!



Cram the Van volunteers Randy Coleman (left), Area Supervisor; Wayne Parks, Journeyman Lineman; Patrick Riley, Trustee; and Steve Gerard, Warehouseman; fire up the grill at the Syracuse stop.



The van made a stop at the Garden City Women’s Fair in September.



“Cram the Van” at These Events

- ▶ **Friday, October 3—**
LEOTI INDIANS FOOTBALL GAME, Leoti
- ▶ **Wednesday, October 8—**
EDIGER’S VENTURE FOODS, Caldwell
- ▶ **Tuesday, October 14—**
GOOCH’S FOODS, Tribune

You can also donate at any Wheatland Electric office, Hired Man Grocery in Conway Springs and Caldwell City Hall until the end of October.

“**CRAM THE VAN**” and you could win a free night’s stay at the Hotel at Waterwalk in Wichita.

A Perfect Day to Fly a Balloon

Members Lined up for Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon Rides

The Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon arrived in Scott City for the Showdown on the Plains BBQ Festival and Airshow shortly after a long day of showers had finally moved out of the area. Balloon pilot John Petrehn surveyed the rain-soaked field where the balloon was to be set up the next morning and noted that things might be a bit sloppy for the next day. However, a very favorable forecast with negligible winds had everybody hoping for the best.

The Touchstone balloon is generally not flown in winds much over 10 mph, making the early morning hours the most favorable for inflating and giving rides. Morning dawned with the sun shining and virtually no wind—the table was set for a great day of tethered hot air balloon rides.

There was a steady line all morning as Wheatland members and other event attendees awaited their chance to cross an item off of their bucket lists including 95-year-old, long-time Wheatland member **LORENA TURLEY**, who had always wanted to ride

in a hot air balloon. When Wheatland member **TRACY HESS** heard the Touchstone Energy balloon would be at this year's Showdown, she made a point to bring her grandma out for the chance to fulfill that dream.

Four and a half hours later as Petrehn exhausted the last of his propane supply and concluded the final ride of the day, the event was deemed a success. The Scott City event

The Scott City Showdown on the Plains BBQ Festival and Airshow had perfect weather for rides in the Touchstone Energy hot air balloon.



Wheatland employees helped assist riders into the basket, including Neil O'Connell (left), Anita McCollum, and Bryan Mulligan.



Wheatland employees help 95-year-old Wheatland member Lorena Turley (center) check hot air balloon ride off of her "bucket list."

Wheatland Linemen Teach in “Kansas Largest Classroom”

Linemen from Wheatland’s Great Bend and Garden City offices recently volunteered for the high voltage safety demonstration at the Kansas State Fair. Two teams of Wheatland linemen each took a day to man the demonstration trailer.

The safety demonstration was part of the Kansas Energy Expo sponsored by the Kansas Corporation Commission, which was new to the fair this year.

The linemen conducted demonstrations throughout the day to students attending the fair with their classes, as well as general fair-goers. Even Kansas Governor Sam Brownback stopped by for a safety lesson of his own.

The demonstrations consisted of a number of examples and illustrations that challenged people to think carefully about electrical safety. A number of common everyday items were shown to the audience and the audience was asked to identify which would be considered conductors of electricity and which would be insulators (or things that might protect you from the flow of electricity). Many of the items the audience identified as insulators were proven to in fact be conductors under the right set of circumstances. Other topics discussed included downed power line safety, when to call 911, common equipment used by linemen and much more.



Trent Suchy (right) and Matt Hosler, both Substation Technicians from Great Bend, conduct the high-voltage demonstration.



Governor Sam Brownback (right) tries on linemen’s gloves during the demonstration.

Rebates Available to Upgrade Your HVAC

Save Energy, Save Money



Did you know that Wheatland offers rebates to residential members for the installation of energy-efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems?

Heating and cooling a house often accounts for the majority of a household’s monthly energy costs. Many homeowners have a great opportunity to save energy and money by installing a more efficient HVAC system.

Essentially, higher efficiency equates to lower monthly energy bills and improved comfort. For example, you could

receive a \$410 rebate for a four-ton (48,000 BTU) heat pump.

For eligibility requirements or to download a rebate form, visit www.weci.net and click on the “Energy Education” tab and then on “Rebates.” You can also contact any local office.

Rebate Levels

BTU	Min SEER	Central A/C	Heat Pump
Up to 36,000*	13	\$200	+\$150

*Add \$30 for each ½ ton above 3 ton (36,000 BTU)

Plug-in to Savings!