



An Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

101 Main, P.O. Box 230, Scott City, KS 67871
620-872-5885 | www.weci.net

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark Arnold

President

Josh Young

Vice President

Stacey Addison-Howland

Secretary

John Kleysteuber

Treasurer

Maribeth Benker

Trustee

Jeff Clarke

Trustee

Lynn Freese

Trustee

Dustin Stansbury

Trustee

John Sullivan

Trustee

Kevin White

Trustee

DISTRICT OFFICES

Garden City — 620-275-0261

2005 W. Fulton, P.O. Box 973
Garden City, KS 67846

Great Bend — 620-793-4223

200 10th St., 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

101 W. F St., P.O. Box 966
Leoti, KS 67861

Scott City-Main — 620-872-5885

101 S. Main St., P.O. Box 230
Scott City, KS 67871

Syracuse — 620-384-5171

206 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

Your Cooperative, Your Voice

Join us for our annual meeting on **April 22**

At Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC), our mission remains clear: **DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE**. That mission is rooted in the cooperative principles that guide our decisions and define how we serve you. As we prepare for our 2026 annual meeting, we are embracing the theme, **“THIS IS WHEATLAND: A DEFINING YEAR, A TRUSTED COOPERATIVE.”**

A defining year is built on reliability, trust, service, community and democracy — the values that shape the cooperative you rely on every day. Together, these elements reflect who we are and how we serve our members.

THIS IS WHEATLAND.

I'd like to personally invite you to join us on **APRIL 22 AT THE GREAT BEND EVENTS CENTER**, 3111 10th Street in Great Bend, Kansas, or at one of our remote meeting locations in Scott City, Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Harper or Caldwell.

- ▶ **REGISTRATION:** 11 a.m. CDT
- ▶ **LUNCHEON:** 11:30 a.m. CDT
- ▶ **BUSINESS MEETING:** Noon CDT

Our annual meeting is more than a gathering — it's an opportunity for you to connect with fellow co-op members, meet cooperative staff and leadership, and hear directly from our board of trustees.



Bruce W. Mueller

THIS IS WHEATLAND.

The values that guide our cooperative — reliability, trust, service, community and democracy — form the foundation members depend on every day. Each member plays an important role in shaping the future of our cooperative. That's why this year's theme is especially meaningful, and why we invite you to join us to **LEARN, VOICE, CONNECT AND WIN** in Great Bend or at a remote location near you.

LEARN

As a member-owner, you will hear important cooperative updates and reflect on a year of progress — where strategy, stewardship and service

Continued on page 12C ▶

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take shelter inside a sturdy building with walls and solid foundation before a thunderstorm. Shelter in the basement or a small, interior windowless room on the lowest level to provide additional protection from high winds and tornadoes. Plan to stay inside until the weather forecast indicates it is safe to leave.

MEETING AGENDA

11:30 A.M. CDT

Invocation & Lunch

NOON CDT

Posting the Colors

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem

Call to Order

MARK ARNOLD, PRESIDENT

Recognition of Trustees

MARK ARNOLD, PRESIDENT

Recognition of Special Guests

BRUCE W. MUELLER, CEO/
GENERAL MANAGER

Declaration of Quorum

MARK ARNOLD, PRESIDENT

Official Notice & Affidavit
of Mailing

JIM MCVAY, ASSISTANT GENERAL
MANAGER/GENERAL COUNSEL

Financial Report —
Treasurer's Report

VIDEO PRESENTATION

TRACI GODDARD, DIRECTOR
OF FINANCE

Annual Summary

VIDEO PRESENTATION

Youth Programs & Scholarships

ALLI CONINE, DIRECTOR OF
MEMBER SERVICES & CORPORATE
COMMUNICATIONS

Service Awards

MARK ARNOLD, PRESIDENT

Old Business

MARK ARNOLD, PRESIDENT

New Business

MARK ARNOLD, PRESIDENT
JIM MCVAY, ASSISTANT GENERAL
MANAGER/GENERAL COUNSEL

Grand Prize Drawing

MARK ARNOLD, PRESIDENT

Adjournment

Retiring the Colors

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Annual Meeting for Wheatland Members

The 2026 Annual Meeting of the Members of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at the Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th St., in Great Bend, Kansas.

Registration opens at 11 a.m. CDT, and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. CDT. The business meeting will convene at noon CDT. The following matters will be addressed:

- ▶ Reports of officers, trustees, committees and employees.
- ▶ Election results announced.
- ▶ Bylaw revision referendum.
- ▶ Any other business which may come before the meeting.
- ▶ Adjournment.

The 2026 nominating committee consisted of the following members: District 1, Ed Cupp; District 2, Milan Reimer; District 3, Dale Wetzel; District 4, Patrick Riley; District 5, Bob Harrington; District 6, Lane Moore; and District 7, Troy Dierking.

The following trustees have been nominated by the nominating committee for the position of trustee:

DISTRICT 1

- ▶ **LYNN FREEZE**, 2061 W. Road 230,
Scott City, Kansas 67871

DISTRICT 2

- ▶ **JOSH YOUNG**, 112 S. Genesse, Leoti,
Kansas 67861

DISTRICT 4

- ▶ **STACEY ADDISON-HOWLAND**,
911 N. Norris, Syracuse, Kansas 67878

DISTRICT 5

- ▶ **JOHN KLEYTEUBER**, 6310 E. Old
Post Road, Garden City, Kansas 67846

STACEY ADDISON-HOWLAND, SECRETARY

NOMINATING Committee

Bylaws Article 4 Section 4 states that the nominating committee must meet between Feb. 6 and March 8, 2026. This year's meeting was held Feb. 24, 2026. The 2026 nominating committee consisted of the following members:

DISTRICT 1

ED CUPP

1305 Antelope, Scott City, KS 67871

DISTRICT 2

MILAN REIMER

1294 W. County Road P, Leoti, KS 67861

DISTRICT 3

DALE WETZEL

P.O. Box 331, Tribune, KS 67879

DISTRICT 4

PATRICK RILEY

P.O. Box 925, Syracuse, KS 67878

DISTRICT 5

BOB HARRINGTON

P.O. Box 2681, Garden City, KS 67846

DISTRICT 6

LANE MOORE

4600 Quail Creek Drive, Great Bend, KS 67530

DISTRICT 7

TROY DIERKING

P.O. Box 46, Caldwell, KS 67022

Your Cooperative, Your Voice *Continued from page 12A*

aligned to strengthen our vision. We will celebrate 14 scholarship recipients receiving \$1,000 each and recognize four student delegates selected for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Colorado.

VOICE

Democratic Member Control is foundational to WEC. Your vote is your voice. Mail-in ballots for four trustee seats were mailed March 25 and must be received by April 17. **BALLOTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT WEC OFFICES.** Members will also vote on a proposed bylaw change.

CONNECT

In addition to our primary meeting location in Great Bend, we're hosting **CONCURRENT ANNUAL MEETINGS** for the eighth year in a row in Scott City, Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Harper and Caldwell.

A full list of meeting locations is available on Page 12H. As always,

members with questions are encouraged to reach out to your local WEC office or email memberservices@weci.net.

Lunch will be provided at every location, including remote locations, and co-op members like you can **WIN** door prizes (if selected), including our **GRAND-PRIZE GIVEAWAY**, a set of Govee Permanent Outdoor Lights, 150-foot in length, valued at \$489!

With our mission of **DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE** at the heart of all we do, this year's annual meeting theme reflects the strength of our cooperative and the role each member plays in shaping its future. When members engage, share their perspectives, and stay connected, we continue building a cooperative that is strong, responsive and prepared for the years ahead. **THIS IS WHEATLAND.**

I hope you will plan to attend in Great Bend or at a location near you.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.



LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY IS APRIL 13, 2026

Our lineworkers go above and beyond to keep the #PowerON 24/7. Hear from them—and the gratitude of our members—starting 4/13 on YouTube or follow us on social!

www.youtube.com/@wheatlandelectric

Want to send a personal note to #ThankALineworker?



Scan our QR code or visit www.weci.net/thank-lineworker by 4/6 to submit your message!

facebook.com/WheatlandElectric
instagram.com/wheatlandelectric
twitter.com/WheatlandElect1



2025 Financial Statements

OPERATING STATEMENT

AS OF DEC. 31, 2025 (AUDITED)

INCOME:

Electric Revenues	101,505,994
Water Revenues	3,815,905
Interest Income	237,141
Capital Credits from Other Cooperatives (*)	4,448,647
Non-Operating Income (Other)	(164,629)
TOTAL INCOME	109,843,058

EXPENSES:

Purchased Power/Cost of Sales	52,780,694
Operations & Maintenance	8,588,284
Administrative & General	9,957,202
Depreciation	13,571,238
Total Interest	10,122,073
Taxes	3,713,451
Other	256,089
TOTAL EXPENSES	98,989,031

TOTAL MARGINS 10,854,027

(*) Of this amount, \$4,104,488 is a non-cash allocation of margins from Sunflower Electric Power Corporation for the year of 2025. This amount will be available to be paid out to members at such time when Sunflower makes cash distributions to Wheatland for that year.

Property Taxes Paid

Finney	1,205,048	Sumner	248,204	Reno	4,186
Barton	434,995	Hamilton	240,364	Wallace	3,336
Harper	332,317	Wichita	235,178	Sedgwick	2,308
Greeley	296,287	Kingman	104,997	Logan	2,006
Kearny	291,410	Gray	52,790	Cheyenne	765
Scott	253,761	Kiowa	5,450	Prowers, CO	50
TOTAL \$3,713,451					

WEC will pay a total of \$3,713,451 in property taxes for 2025. These amounts were assessed against assets such as electric lines, poles, buildings, trucks and water-related equipment owned by WEC. As a not-for-profit cooperative, WEC is exempt from income tax. Above is a listing of property taxes assessed by county for 2025.

BALANCE SHEET

AS OF DEC. 31, 2025 (AUDITED)

ASSETS:

Cash & Short-Term Investments	2,200,702
Memberships and Other Investments	93,196,468
Notes Receivable	1,248,671
Accounts Receivable	12,543,026
Materials and Supplies	6,242,847
Other Current and Accrued Assets	1,137,234
Deferred Charges	446,271
Plant Assets (All Operations)	438,962,801
Accumulated Depreciation	(131,794,817)
TOTAL ASSETS	424,183,203

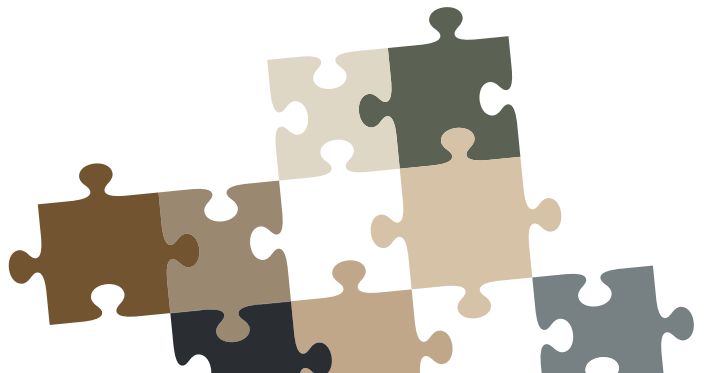
LIABILITIES:

Principal Owed on Long-Term Debt	200,813,864
Interest Payable on Long-Term Debt (in 2025)	963,999
Notes Payable	36,539,721
Accounts Payable	6,248,787
Property Taxes Payable (due in 2025)	2,050,453
Consumer Deposits	1,532,138
Other Liabilities/Deferred Credits	6,023,594
TOTAL LIABILITIES	254,172,556

EQUITIES:

2025 Operating Margin	6,332,868
2025 Non-Operating Margin	4,521,159
Prior Years Margins	157,798,714
Other Equities	1,357,906
TOTAL EQUITY	170,010,647

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 424,183,203



Proposed Bylaw Changes

The Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) Board of Trustees has proposed the following amendment to the cooperative's bylaws that relate to the **PAYMENT OF CAPITAL CREDITS**. These proposed changes will be voted upon by the membership as part of the **2026 ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 22, 2026**. WEC encourages you to review the ballot proposal at **RIGHT**.

The foundation to any successful cooperative is member trust and transparency in decision-making. If you have questions regarding the proposed bylaw changes, please email memberservices@weci.net.

THE WEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECOMMENDS ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE (AT RIGHT) TO THE BYLAWS OF WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

A "yes" vote is a vote in favor of the proposed change. A "no" vote is a vote against the proposed change. A complete version of WEC's current bylaws can be found at www.weci.net/coop-bylaws.

WHAT THE CHANGE MEANS FOR MEMBERS

WEC's Board of Trustees is asking members to approve a small change to the bylaws, to be voted upon at the 2026 annual meeting.

While very large loads are responsible for all upfront system upgrade costs, their size relative to our system introduces long-term financial and operational considerations. The proposed bylaw change ensures that appropriate safeguards are in place that protect the payment of capital credits, so existing members are not exposed to undue risk.

WHAT IS CHANGING?

The change enables the board to create special rules for how capital credits are handled for very large electric loads — specifically accounts with loads larger than 50 MW.

WHY IS THIS NEEDED?

Very large loads (over 50 MW) can create significant financial risk and exposure for the cooperative and its members. This change would allow the board to better manage those risks and protect the cooperative as a whole.

WHAT WOULD THE BOARD BE ALLOWED TO DO?

For accounts over 50 MW, the board could:

- ▶ Set special rules for how capital credits are allocated (assigned).
- ▶ Set special rules for how capital credits are retired (paid back).

WHAT IS NOT CHANGING?

Capital credits would still belong to members. This change simply gives the board flexibility to protect the cooperative and all members should unusual, high-risk situations arise.

BALLOT PROPOSAL

To protect your capital credits, the WEC Board of Trustees has unanimously voted to request a change of Article 7, Section 2, eighth full paragraph of the cooperative bylaws, to add the following:

"Notwithstanding any other provisions of these bylaws, the board of trustees, at its discretion, shall have the power to adopt special rules of general application to allocate and retire capital credits to different classes of patronage accounts with energy demands that add substantial risk and financial exposure to the Cooperative's system and its members."

RATE BENEFITS AND LOAD FACTOR IMPROVEMENT FROM LARGE LOADS

Large new loads can provide meaningful rate benefits for WEC primarily by increasing the cooperative's load factor, which improves how efficiently the system is used.

WEC's electric system — like most utilities — has significant fixed costs for distribution infrastructure, system maintenance and reliability, labor and employee compensation just to name a few. These costs must be recovered regardless of how much electricity is sold. When a very large member operates with a high and consistent energy demand, it adds substantial kilowatt-hour sales without proportionally increasing those fixed costs.

Because many large industrial or data-intensive loads operate continuously or for long durations, they tend to maintain a relatively steady demand throughout the day and year. This helps increase the cooperative's load factor, which is the ratio of average load to peak load. A higher load factor means the system's existing assets are used more efficiently rather than sitting idle during off-peak periods. It also helps reduce the cooperative's average wholesale power cost per kilowatt-hour.

BENEFITS OF IMPROVING THE LOAD FACTOR

- ▶ Spreads fixed system costs across more energy sales.
- ▶ Improves utilization of generation and transmission capacity.
- ▶ Stabilizes revenues and system planning.
- ▶ Reduces upward pressure on rates for existing members over time.
- ▶ Reduces the cooperative's average wholesale power cost per kWh.

When structured properly, very large loads can help improve overall system efficiency and help distribute fixed costs across a larger energy base.

Meet Your Trustee

DISTRICT 1

LYNN FREESE, Scott City, is seeking to continue representing District 1 on Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s (WEC) Board of Trustees. First elected in 2023, Freese brings decades of cooperative and agricultural experience to the board.

Raised on a farm in Oklahoma, Freese earned a Bachelor of Science in agriculture from Oklahoma State University before moving to Scott City in 1979 to begin his career with WEC. He started as energy conservation director, leading efficiency, load management and conservation initiatives. Over the course of 38 years, he served in multiple leadership roles, including director of member services and director of consumer services, with oversight of IT, broadband and water departments. He was also a Class 4 water system operator. He retired from WEC in 2017.

Today, Freese operates a cow/calf ranching operation in rural Scott County. His background as both a longtime cooperative employee and a producer gives him a practical understanding of the challenges facing rural communities and the importance of reliable, affordable power.

Freese has also served his community in numerous capacities, including 10 years on the Finney County Rural Water District No. 1 Board, nine of those as chairman. His experience working with and reporting to boards provides valuable insight into governance, strategic planning and accountability.

He and his wife, Lori, have three adult children and one granddaughter. Freese enjoys ranching, fishing, hunting and spending time with family.



**LYNN
FREESE**

DISTRICT 2

JOSH YOUNG is seeking his third term representing District 2 on Wheatland Electric Cooperative Inc.'s (WEC) Board of Trustees. First elected in 2020, he currently serves as board vice president and represents WEC on the Sunflower Electric Power Corporation Board of Directors.

A lifelong resident of western Kansas, Young brings both financial and governance experience to the board. He is a senior vice president at Security State Bank in Leoti and holds the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Certificate designation. He is also working toward his Director Gold Certificate.

During his tenure, Young has helped guide the cooperative through significant industry and weather-related challenges, including extreme winter conditions and major storm events that tested grid resilience and cost stability. These experiences have reinforced the importance of strategic planning, clear communication and proactive policy development.

Young remains focused on issues such as grid reliability, evolving energy resources and responsible rate management. His leadership approach centers on integrity, practical decision-making and long-term sustainability for cooperative members.

Beyond the cooperative, Young has been active in local leadership, serving on the Wichita County USD 467 Board of Education, Wichita County Hospital Board, Park and Recreation Board and local economic development efforts. He has also volunteered as a youth football and basketball coach.

Young attended Fort Hays State University. He and his wife, Courtney, have three sons and enjoy supporting their children's activities and spending time together as a family.



**JOSH
YOUNG**



**MAIL-IN BALLOTS MUST
BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 17!
SCAN TO LEARN MORE**

Nominees

Trustee elections are conducted by mail-in ballot. Ballots were mailed March 25 and must be received **NO LATER THAN APRIL 17** using the postage-paid envelope provided. Members are encouraged to return their ballots as soon as possible. **BALLOTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT WEC OFFICES.**

DISTRICT 4

STACEY ADDISON-HOWLAND is proud to say she is a lifetime southwest Kansas girl who grew up in rural Gray County. For the past 20 years she has called Hamilton County home. A Fort Hays State University graduate, she has experience as a teacher, a bank loan review and compliance officer, and for the past 20 years has owned her own insurance business: Farmers Union Midwest Agency, located in Syracuse. She and her husband, Mike Howland, have two adult daughters whom they travel to visit, as often as time allows.

Addison-Howland was elected to the board in 2017. “I believe it took the first full year to learn the terminology associated with an electric distribution operation, and I continue to learn the ins and outs that make our co-op so special,” she said.

She has earned her Director Gold Credential, which is the highest level of achievement in National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s (NRECA) board director training.

“I have dedicated my time on the board to actively learning from our staff and the professionals at NRECA,” she added.

As a trustee, Addison-Howland has enjoyed serving on the scholarship and youth tour application committees, which she sees as an important investment to all WEC communities by developing new and productive future co-op members. She is the board secretary and represents WEC on the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) and Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) boards.

“It has been a privilege to grow and learn with Wheatland Electric over the past 10 years and, more importantly, to serve our members,” she said. “As a trustee, we answer to you, not a board of investors. If re-elected, I look forward to continuing to work with our outstanding Wheatland leadership team to help guide the co-op for future development and continued economic success.”



**STACEY
ADDISON-
HOWLAND**

DISTRICT 5

JOHN KLEYTEUBER, Garden City, is seeking election to continue representing District 5 on Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.’s (WEC) Board of Trustees. He has served on the board since 2016 and currently holds the office of treasurer.

A fourth-generation farmer and rancher in Finney County, Kleysteuber understands firsthand the essential role reliable electricity plays in agricultural operations and rural businesses. His irrigated farm and ranch depend on consistent service and responsible rate management, shaping his commitment to sound policy and long-term planning.

Kleysteuber completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Credentialed Cooperative Director program and remains committed to continuing his board education. His service emphasizes financial oversight, responsible governance and thoughtful decision-making on behalf of members.

A Garden City native, Kleysteuber graduated from Garden City High School and Garden City Community College before earning a bachelor’s degree in agribusiness from Kansas State University. After college, he returned home to join his family’s farming and ranching operation.

He remains deeply invested in the future of District 5 and the communities WEC serves. Kleysteuber believes local representation, agricultural perspective and strong fiscal stewardship are key components of effective cooperative leadership.

He and his wife, Marisa, have two sons, Cooper and Colin. Cooper serves in the U.S. Navy, and Colin attends Oklahoma State University. Kleysteuber values time with family and takes pride in contributing to the long-term strength of his community.



**JOHN
KLEYTEUBER**

Join us
April 22
GREAT BEND EVENTS CENTER
3111 10TH STREET, GREAT BEND

2026
ANNUAL MEETING

REGISTRATION 11 A.M. CT
LUNCHEON 11:30 A.M. CT
BUSINESS MEETING NOON CT

Wheatland

This is
A DEFINING YEAR, A TRUSTED COOPERATIVE

This is Wheatland.

A defining year made up of many pieces — reliability, trust, service, community and democracy — each one essential, each one connected.

Join us at the annual meeting in Great Bend (or at a remote location near you) as we reflect on the year behind us and look forward to the cooperative we're building together.

REMOTE LOCATIONS

DISTRICT 2
Leoti
Wheatland Electric Warehouse
103 W. F St.

DISTRICT 5
Garden City
Wheatland Electric Office
2005 W. Fulton

DISTRICT 3
Tribune
Wheatland Electric Warehouse
310 Broadway Ave.

DISTRICT 7
Caldwell
Caldwell Community Building
119 E. First St.

DISTRICT 1
Scott City
Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center,
212 E. Fifth St.

DISTRICT 4
Syracuse
Hamilton County Library
102 W. Ave. C

DISTRICT 7
Harper
Westview Lodge & Apartments
1300 N. Westview

