



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

TRUE NORTH

Guided by You: 2025 Annual Meeting a Success



Bruce W. Mueller

This was the second year our members had the opportunity to vote for trustee representation by mail, and once again, nearly 10% of our membership

made their voices heard. Read more about the election results on Page 12B.

We continue to hold **CONCURRENT REMOTE ANNUAL MEETINGS** across the WEC service territory, offering our cooperative membership and employees the ability to attend and participate in the annual meeting remotely. We have been doing this for seven consecutive years now.

A total of 548 people — including 368 registered members — attended this year's meeting on April 23 across eight meeting locations.

This is what the cooperative spirit is all about — **DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL**, one of the Seven Cooperative Principles, which means you, our members, have a say in how your co-op is run. Cooperatives are member-led organizations, meaning our members have a direct say in how we operate. Trustees are elected from within the membership and are responsible for representing the interests of all members, helping shape policies and key decisions.

During the meeting, we shared videos highlighting Wheatland's **2024 FINANCIAL REPORT** and **2024 ANNUAL**

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SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Always protect your skin from the sun. Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation is the primary cause of skin cancer. The two broad categories of skin cancer are melanoma and non-melanoma. The most common, non-melanoma types are basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma. Basal and squamous cells are located in the top layer of our skin, which means they are exposed to potential sun damage. The majority of skin cancers are non-melanoma (the basal cell type) and are highly treatable, as well as highly preventable.

Co-op Members Elect New Trustees by Mail

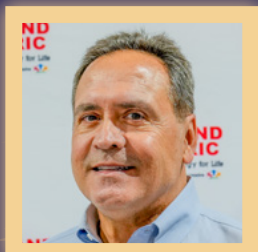
Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. members have elected two new trustees and one incumbent to serve on its 10-member board. Results were announced during the 2025 Annual Meeting held on April 23 in Scott City, Kansas, and at seven remote locations across southwest and central Kansas.

This year marked the cooperative's second mail-in trustee election. Members elected:



Maribeth Benker

★ **MARIBETH BENKER** was unopposed and elected to her first three-year term to represent District 6, which includes Great Bend. She received 1,488 votes.



Jeff Clarke

★ **JEFF CLARKE** will represent District 5, defeating Jason Dougherty with a vote count of 832 to 716. Clarke replaces Wes Campbell, who served on the board for nearly 28 years. Campbell was first appointed to the board to fill a vacant seat in 1997 and has served on the board for nearly 28 years. District 5 serves members across Finney County, the eastern half of Kearny County, and northwest Gray County.



Dustin Stansbury

★ **DUSTIN STANSBURY** will to continue to represent District 7, winning reelection over William "Woody" Barnes with 1,006 to 623. District 7 serves members in Harper, Kingman, Sumner and Sedgwick counties. Stansbury will begin his second three-year term; he was first elected by members in 2022.

All three candidates were nominated by WEC's member-led nominating committee, which includes representatives from each of the cooperative's seven districts across southwest and central Kansas.

Trustees may serve up to six three-year terms on the board.

This year's ballots received by mail represent a total of 9.21% of the co-op voting membership overall (1,844 returned ballots received from an eligible 20,031 eligible voters). Survey and Ballot Systems, an independent third-party, conducted this year's election.

Cooperative members voted in 2023 to approve bylaw changes that shifted trustee elections from in-person to mail-in voting starting last year.

Members Approve Bylaw Changes at 2025 Annual Meeting

Wheatland Electric Cooperative Inc.'s 2025 Annual Meeting, held on April 23, drew 548 attendees — including co-op members, special guests and other non-members — across eight meeting locations: Scott City, Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Great Bend, Harper and Caldwell. Of those, 368 were registered WEC members.

During the meeting, members voted 205-48 to approve several amendments to the cooperative's bylaws.

Those key changes include the following:

- ▶ A "cooling off period" of three years before former employees may run for the board of trustees;
- ▶ A requirement of a 45-day written notice for any proposed new business that "would change or add a bylaw or written policy of the board of trustees" during the annual meeting.
- ▶ And removing write-in candidates from the trustee election process.
- ▶ Additionally, members also voted 239-17 to remove all references to "telecommunications service" or the like in WEC's bylaws for purposes of membership and patronage capital. WEC discontinued broadband telecommunication services starting in 2022.

This year's meeting theme, "True North: Our Commitment, Your Cooperative," emphasized the vital role members play in shaping WEC's future.

Grounded in the Seven Cooperative Principles, WEC remains focused on member needs while upholding its core values of **SERVICE, INNOVATION AND COMMUNITY**.

Members across all eight meeting sites were able to engage in real-time discussion while viewing the primary broadcast from Scott City. Attendees enjoyed a meal at every location and members took home a color-display electronic weather station as a token

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★ A total of 548 individuals, including co-op members and special guests, attended Wheatland Electric's 2025 Annual Meeting on April 23, 2025, in Scott City and across seven other meeting locations in Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Great Bend, Harper and Caldwell.

\$50 Bill Credit WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of our \$50 bill credit giveaway! These members attended the WEC Annual Meeting in one of eight meeting locations — we thank you for your engagement and participation in your co-op!

SCOTT CITY
MADDISEN SHARPE

LEOTI
LEO BJURSTROM

TRIBUNE
JERRY HUDDLESTON

SYRACUSE
NIKKI SCHWERDFEGER

GARDEN CITY
VAL E. VES

GREAT BEND
KATHLEEN M. COLLICOTT

CALDWELL
NANCY ROOP

HARPER
ORVAL ZIMMERMAN

★ Members of Boy Scout Troop 149 of Scott City presented and retired the colors during the 2025 Annual Meeting at the Scott Community Building on April 23, 2025.



★ Jim McVay, assistant general manager/general counsel, speaks to the crowd gathered at the Scott Community Building on April 23, 2025.



★ Attendees at every location of the 2025 Annual Meeting received WEC's 2024 Annual Report, highlighting the cooperative's financial performance and key achievements from the past year.



14 SCHOLARSHIP Winners Announced



CARTER SWINGLE
Attica High School (At-Large)



LAYTEN CARUTHERS
Caldwell High School



HALLI STARKS
Chapparral High School



BROOKE BECK
Conway Springs High School



BRENDA HARPER
Deerfield High School



JOHN OSWALT
Garden City High School (At-Large)



JILLIAN REIMER
Great Bend High School



JADYN MANGAN
Greeley County High School



KAYLA GEORGE
Holcomb High School



KYLER MURPHY
Norwich High School



MEGAN TROUT
Scott Community High School



MADDIE MINOR
South Haven High School



EBBEN URIE
Syracuse High School



BRIELLE KOEHN
Wichita County High School

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., is proud to announce the following 14 high school seniors will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

Scholarships are awarded to local students who attend one of the 13 high schools in our service territory. In addition, at least one at-large scholarship is awarded to a student whose parent/guardian is a member of WEC, but does not attend one of the schools in our service territory.

A panel of the WEC Board of Trustees reviews applications and selects scholarship recipients. Students and their families were recognized during the WEC Annual Meeting in Scott City on April 23.

Congratulations to these talented students — we wish you continued success in the years ahead! To learn more about our scholarship program, visit www.weci.net/scholarship-program.

Members Approve Bylaw Changes ...

Continued from page 12B ►

of appreciation from WEC for their attendance and participation.

In addition, Director of Member Services and Corporate Communications Alli Conine also recognized 14 local high school seniors from across WEC's service territory who were recipients of \$1,000 scholarships. High school juniors selected for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, later this summer were also honored.

Lastly, WEC Board President Mark Arnold acknowledged WEC employees and trustees celebrating service milestones ranging from five to 45 years, commending their dedication to the cooperative.

The primary new business discussed at this year's meeting was the announcement of trustee election results and voting for proposed bylaw changes.

Members may now view an annual meeting summary video and 2024 financial report on our website and also view or download the 2024 Annual Report at www.weci.net/annual-meetings.

WEC extends sincere thanks to all who attended. For further questions, members are encouraged to send a message to memberservices@weci.net or contact their local office.

★ Flags flap in the wind outside the Scott County Community Center on April 23, 2025.



★ Co-op members who attended any of WEC's eight meeting locations were eligible to win one of over 50 door prizes and were also entered for our grand prize giveaway: a Dyson Hot+Cool air purifier. The grand prize winner was Craig Richards of Scott City, Kan.

Service AWARDS

5 YEARS

DAMON CARMIN
SCOTT CITY

COLBY GUGELMEYER
SYRACUSE

AARON SHERRILL
GARDEN CITY

10 YEARS

ALLI CONINE
SCOTT CITY

AMANDA MARTINEZ
SCOTT CITY

CODY STRECKER
GARDEN CITY

RHEI THURMAN
SCOTT CITY

15 YEARS

MARCUS GOEBEL
HARPER

BRANDON RITCHIE
GREAT BEND

20 YEARS

DARRIN CAMPBELL
GREAT BEND

WADE GRUMBEIN
HARPER

25 YEARS

CHAD DENISTON
GARDEN CITY

COLTON GREEN
SYRACUSE

MARK MAIER
GARDEN CITY

RANDY ROGERS
SCOTT CITY

30 YEARS

BRYAN MULLIGAN
SCOTT CITY

MIKE OLSON
SYRACUSE

35 YEARS

TODD NEMECHK
TRIBUNE

JAMES ZORN
GREAT BEND

45 YEARS

RANDY COLEMAN
SYRACUSE

TRUE NORTH

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SUMMARY — telling the story of a year full of growth, service, and community impact. If you missed them, you can scan the QR code to the right to watch.

Members in attendance also received a copy of our **2024 ANNUAL REPORT**. Scan the QR code to view. I encourage you to direct any questions to memberservices@weci.net — we are always happy to help.

During the meeting, WEC employees and trustees were also recognized for service awards ranging from five to 45 years. You can find a list of these awards on Page 12E.



High school juniors who were selected to attend this year's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, were also recognized.

WEC recognized 14 high school senior scholarship winners, who will each

receive a \$1,000 scholarship to continue their education. Find out more on Page 12D.

Thank you again for making this year's meeting a success. Your involvement helps make Wheatland stronger every year!

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.



Do you have a signed membership application on file?

If not, we will be contacting you via mail or email (via wheatland@smarthub.coop)!

We recently completed an internal audit of active member accounts and found some *without signed membership applications*.

Our cooperative bylaws state that a *signed membership application must be on file* for members to receive capital credits when disbursed to their account.

Questions?
memberservices@weci.net or
 call your local office today!

SHARING OUR SUCCESS!

We now have \$30,000 in our SHARING SUCCESS FUND!
Non-profit and other community-based organizations are encouraged to apply online beginning June 1! Visit www.weci.net/sharing-success-program or scan our QR code!



IT'S GETTING CHERRY HOT IN HERE!

DON'T MISS THE HOTTEST AFTER HOURS YET!

JUNE 4 @ DRY LAKE BREWING
1305 MAIN ST. | GREAT BEND
4-7 P.M.

UNIQUE
DRINKS &
APPS!

DOOR
PRIZES!

GREAT BEND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



HOSTED BY:





POWER PLAY

Thursday, July 10

GARDEN CITY WIND

FIRST 200 PEOPLE:
FREE HAMBURGERS & HOTDOGS!
CLINT LIGHTNER FIELD | GAME STARTS AT 6:30 P.M. CDT

First 50 people get in free! | Serving at 6 p.m.



POWER PLAY

Treat Bend! Join us for a
Tuesday, June 10

FREE HAMBURGERS + HOTDOGS
FIRST 200 PEOPLE
GIVEAWAYS! PRIZES!

serving at 6 p.m.

AL BURNS MEMORIAL FIELD
GATES OPEN AT 6:30 P.M. CDT

