



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

Giving Thanks for the Power of Community

As we enter November — a month that naturally invites gratitude and reflection — I want to take this opportunity on behalf of all of us at Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) to say thank you to our members. Your trust, support and continued engagement make it possible for us to provide safe, reliable and competitively priced electricity to the communities we serve across western and south-central Kansas — fulfilling our mission of **DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE**.

At WEC, we never take for granted the privilege of serving you. Our cooperative exists because of our members, and every decision we make is guided by the principle of working together for the common good. Whether it's improving the reliability of our electric system, investing in community initiatives like **POWER THE PANTRY**, or providing scholarships and youth programs that help shape the next generation of leaders, our goal remains the same: to make life better for those we serve, our members.

This November, I also want to take a moment to recognize one of our newest leaders at WEC — **BRAD THYNE**, our new manager of safety and compliance. Brad brings with him a renewed energy and focus

on one of our most important commitments: keeping our employees and members safe. His leadership has already strengthened our culture of safety, encouraging our teams to take ownership of their own well-being and the safety of those around them. From updated training initiatives to hands-on field safety programs, Brad's passion for safety has truly sparked a new level of engagement across the cooperative.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I encourage each of you to pause and reflect on the many blessings in your life — big and small. For me, I'm especially thankful for the dedicated employees who make WEC what it is today, and for our members who remind us every day why our work matters.

On behalf of our entire WEC family, I wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and safe Thanksgiving season. Thank you for being part of our cooperative community — we couldn't do it without you.



Bruce W. Mueller

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.



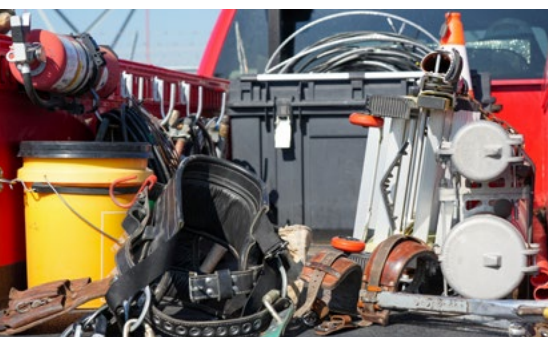
Brad Thyne, manager of safety and compliance, secures a 180-pound mannequin to the top of a power pole prior to the start of annual pole-top rescue training in Garden City on Sept. 15.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sometimes the most powerful stories come from simple reflections. When we read this piece by our new safety manager, Brad Thyne — originally written for a company e-newsletter — we were struck by its honesty and insight. It offers a behind-the-scenes look at the challenges, values and people that keep Wheatland Electric strong. We thought our readers would appreciate it just as much as we did!

Seeing the Big Picture

IN SAFETY AND TEAMWORK

BY BRAD THYNE, MANAGER OF SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE



A lineworker's gear includes a pole climbing belt, hard hat, insulated gloves and other essential equipment.

I've often been impressed with how Wheatland Electric operates. Our lineworkers have always amazed me with their professionalism, determination and ability to rise to any challenge. In my new role as manager of safety and compliance, I'm coming to find just how deeply connected and interwoven this company truly is. Maybe I've been a little naïve — or perhaps just blinded by my own pride in being a lineman.

“I realized I wasn’t alone — and I saw how valuable this training was, not just for the linemen, but for the company as a whole. It reminded me that the only way to prepare for the worst is to rely on the hard work and dedication of the best.”

Earlier this fall marked our annual pole-top rescue training. In years past, I looked forward to it as a chance to spend time with the crew and test our skills. But during my years as a foreman, it took on a different meaning. It became a sobering reminder that sometimes bad things can happen — and when they do, I need to be ready to respond.

During my time as a foreman, I constantly ran scenarios through my head while watching my team perform dangerous work. Especially during ice storms or blizzards, we’d find ourselves in serious situations where the next decision depended entirely on how well — or how poorly — the last one went. One good choice could ensure safety; one poor choice could risk disaster. Success, or tragedy, often hinges on honesty, integrity, respect for others’ opinions, and confidence in the people beside you.

This year, we added Mayday training to our traditional pole-top rescue. I’ll

admit — I was nervous. Had I been the only one worried about my ability to perform under pressure? Had I been the only foreman afraid that I might be unprepared for the unimaginable? The fear of the unknown can be overwhelming.

But those fears were quickly put to rest. I realized I wasn’t alone — and I saw how valuable this training was, not just for the linemen, but for the company as a whole. It reminded me that the only way to prepare for the worst is to rely on the hard work and dedication of the best.

Wheatland Electric is full of the best. The call for help has been answered. The challenges and uncertainties we need to overcome to be as prepared as we can be are many. However, we have incredible people — honest, willing to listen, and fully capable of rising to any challenge.

My eyes have been opened to the bigger picture — and I know this won’t be the last time.



Lineworkers practice a pole-top rescue drill, lowering a dummy that simulates an injured man from a power pole during safety training in Garden City on Sept. 15.

MEET BRAD THYNE

WHEATLAND’S NEW MANAGER OF SAFETY & COMPLIANCE

BRAD THYNE

stepped into the role of Wheatland Electric Cooperative’s, Inc. **MANAGER OF SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE** in April.



Brad Thyne

Thyne oversees WEC’s safety and compliance programs — researching, planning and developing procedures to keep employees, members and the public safe. He also provides ongoing training and electrical safety education, ensuring that safety is not just a requirement, but part of the cooperative’s culture.

Thyne’s career at WEC began nearly two decades ago. Originally from Julesburg, Colorado, he joined the cooperative in 2006 as a groundman, earned his journeyman lineman credentials in 2010, and was promoted to foreman in 2019. His years of hands-on field experience give him a deep appreciation for the challenges lineworkers face, and that perspective shapes his leadership today.

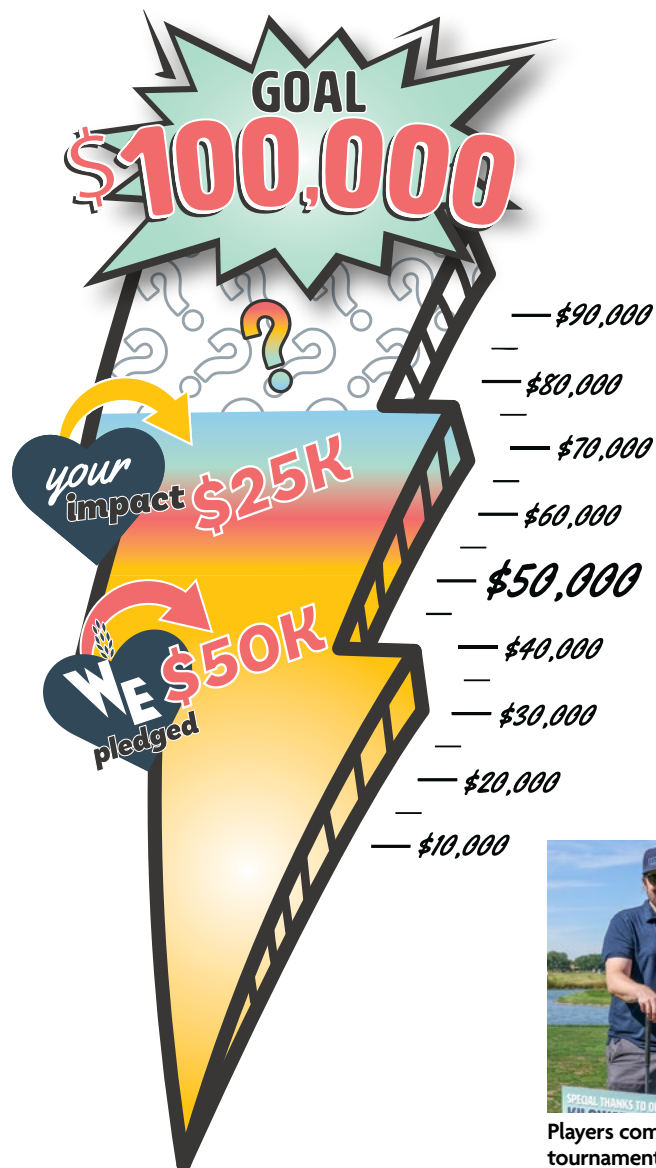
“As I’ve always told our guys, everything we do during the day is just practice for when we have to do it at night,” Thyne said. “Little things may not matter on a nice day, but they mean everything when you’re looking straight into the storm. All I expect is safety and quality.”

That philosophy is reflected in WEC’s new safety motto: **“ALWAYS SAFE, INTEGRITY ALWAYS.”** It’s a standard Thyne strives to uphold daily, he said, emphasizing both technical excellence and the character that makes safety possible.

Outside of work, Thyne and his wife, Randi, stay busy raising their three children — Rylie, Luke and Carly. When he’s not at his kids’ events, Thyne enjoys playing golf and strumming his guitar.

With his blend of experience, dedication and passion for safety, Thyne is well-positioned to guide WEC’s safety and compliance efforts into the future.

CO-O



WEC employees pose in front of a Ford F-150 Lightning displayed at Hole 10 during the tournament. From left: Elias Rodriguez, apprentice lineman; Lupe Carrasco, apprentice meter technician; Tanner Crist, journeyman lineman; Taylor Heili, wireless tower technician; and Jason Crockett, staking technician.



Players competed in a four-person scramble tournament. Pictured from left: Steve Phillips, Marilyn Kohart, Joseph Addison and Stacey Addison-Howland, WEC trustee.



Rhei Thurman, manager of consumer services, putts on the practice green.



First-place flight winners pose with their tournament prizes. From left: Brent Parks, warehouseman; and Braeden Simon, Brian Berglund and Joe Thomeczek, journeyman linemen.



More than 50 door prizes were awarded to tournament players during the event at Southwind Golf and Dining on Sept. 26.

PS CARE!

Annual golf tournament raises \$25,000 for POWER THE PANTRY



A full day of golf, camaraderie and community spirit at the Golf Club at Southwind turned into \$25,000 for Power the Pantry at our seventh annual **CO-OPS CARE CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT** on Sept. 26, 2025.

For the fifth year in a row, the tournament sold out, with golfers enjoying a four-man scramble filled with food and fun — all **FORE** a great cause. Thanks to the generosity of our players, sponsors, employees and volunteers, this year's tournament made a tremendous impact!

Power the Pantry (formerly Cram the Van) is now in its 12th year and continues to be one of the most impactful ways we

give back to the communities we serve. Our annual food drive supports a dozen local food banks across our southwest and central Kansas service territory.

For the third consecutive year, we are proud to make a \$50,000 commitment to local food pantries — with an overall campaign goal of \$100,000 through office collections, business partnerships, and online fundraising. Every dollar raised from the golf tournament goes directly toward that goal, ensuring food banks have the resources they need to power our communities.

A special thank-you goes to our **GIGAWATT SPONSORS** — **SUNFLOWER ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION, PIONEER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, TECHLINE, WESCO, LOGICALIS** and

OKONITE CABLES — each contributing \$3,000 to this year's tournament!

Alongside these partners, dozens of additional sponsors and dozens of dedicated golfers helped make this year's success possible. We couldn't have achieved this milestone without you, and we are deeply grateful for your support in showing how and why **CO-OPS CARE**.

We'll continue to share updates in the coming months as donation totals grow and we wrap up our Power the Pantry season. Follow along in *Kansas Country Living*, visit our website or check out our social media channels to stay up to date!



More than 150 golfers gathered at Southwind Golf and Dining on Sept. 26 for the seventh annual Co-ops Care Charity Golf Tournament, to raise funds for a dozen local food banks across southwest and central Kansas.



*Thank you to
our sponsors!*

\$3,000 GIGAWATT



Sunflower
ELECTRIC POWER CORP



pioneer
electric
cooperative, inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



LOGICALIS
Architects of Change



TECHLINE



wesco



OKONITE CABLES

\$2,000 MEGAWATT



Q97
Continuous
Country
KKJQ 97.3 FM



Atec

\$1,000 KILOWATT



Security
State Bank



SUNBELT-SOLOMON
SOLUTIONS



POWERTEL
& Associates, Inc.



K-D JOHNSON INC



LEGACY
Auto



1st National
Bank
501 Main, Scott City, KS 67871



GMCN
ARCHITECTS + PLANNERS



K2 Farms



BORDER STATES



STANION
WHOLESALE ELECTRIC CO.



HUTTON



CFC



NCSC

Pro Enterprises, L.L.C.



RENSENHOUSE

SENIORS!

**APPLY
NOW FOR
SCHOLARSHIPS**



**WHO IS ELIGIBLE
TO APPLY?**

- ✓ *Graduating high school seniors planning to attend a college or trade school for the 2026-2027 school year.*
- ✓ *Must attend one of 13 high schools in Wheatland Electric's service territory.*

Scan the QR code above or visit www.weci.net/scholarship-program

Apply

online by

Jan. 12!



12F KANSAS COUNTRY LIVING ■ NOVEMBER 2025

WEC Staff Successfully Complete Leadership Academy

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) announces that three Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., (WEC) employees are among the graduates of the **HIGH IMPACT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (HILA)**, a

comprehensive, results-driven program designed to develop leadership skills among frontline supervisors, managers and executives. Participants engaged in dynamic group exercises, case studies, and leadership assessments tailored specifically for electric cooperatives across the state.

The following WEC staff members participated in this second KEC HILA cohort and graduated during a Sept. 24 ceremony in Wichita, having successfully completed weekly sessions between May and September: **JIM MCVAY**, assistant general manager and general counsel; **DAX WALK**, district manager; and **KYLE STRICKERT**, manager of substations and metering.

These sessions were designed to deliver hands-on, practical training rooted in real-world challenges. As District 6 Manager, Walk oversees operations throughout WEC District 6, which encompasses Great Bend, WEC's most densely populated service area.

"Participating in HILA gave me the opportunity to step back and think critically about how I approach leadership," Walk said. "The program challenged me to strengthen my decision-making and taught me new ways to inspire trust and accountability across my team."

Strickert also reflected on the experience.

"HILA pushed me outside of my comfort zone," he said. "The program gave me practical tools I can use every day — not only to manage my responsibilities more effectively, but also to help mentor and develop others on my team."

A team of highly experienced instructors with military



Wheatland's Jim McVay (far left), assistant general manager and general counsel; Dax Walk (ninth from right), district manager; and Kyle Strickert (third from right), manager of substations and metering; graduated from KEC's second KEC HILA cohort on Sept. 24.

leadership backgrounds leads the HILA program, ensuring a disciplined and results-driven approach.

McVay, who serves on WEC's executive staff, emphasized the broader impact of the program.

"One of the biggest benefits of HILA is the way it prepares cooperative leaders to face tomorrow's challenges head-on," he said. "At Wheatland, we're committed to developing leaders who can think strategically, act with integrity, and serve our members with excellence."

KEC is a statewide Kansas service organization serving 26 electric distribution cooperatives and three generation and transmission cooperatives. Headquartered in Topeka, KEC represents the interests of and provides needed services and programs to electric cooperatives that serve member-consumers within the state. The state association functions for the mutual benefit of its members, promoting rural electrification and fostering the principles on which electric cooperatives were founded.

As a member-owned distribution cooperative, WEC is proud to invest in leadership development that strengthens not only our team but also the communities we serve. By preparing future leaders through programs like HILA, WEC ensures we remain true to our mission of delivering safe, reliable and cost-effective electricity while supporting the growth and vitality of our service territory.

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Animal-vehicle collisions are not only costly but can be very dangerous. They contribute to thousands of fatalities every year, nationwide. Whether a deer, dog, moose or squirrel, animals on the roadway are unexpected, and their actions can be erratic and unpredictable, creating a dangerous situation for motorists. Use caution and remain alert to avoid becoming involved in a collision with wildlife.

VETERANS DAY

Honoring All Who Served
NOV. 11, 2025

OUR OFFICES
WILL BE
CLOSED
ON NOV. 11.

Happy Thanksgiving from our co-op family to yours
Our offices will close at 2:30 p.m. CT on Wednesday, Nov. 26,
and remain closed on Thursday, Nov. 27, and Friday, Nov. 28,
to celebrate the holiday.

COORDINATED BY **KEC**
KANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
A Wheatland Electric Cooperative Member

SPONSORED BY
WHEATLAND ELECTRIC CO-OP

CYLC

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP
MAKE YOUR OWN PATH

JULY 10-16, 2026

COMMUNITY
Form a candy cooperative, lead camp activities, and connect with students from electric cooperative communities in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming.

LEADERSHIP
Learn about the cooperative business model, strengthen leadership skills, and hear from nationally recognized speakers.

MEMORIES
Raft the Colorado River, tour a power plant, and compete with your small group in fun activities. You'll be sure to make memories to last a lifetime.

APPLY NOW



MAKE THE MARK!



YOUTH TOUR
NRECA

June 13-19, 2026
A week of building memories, skills, leadership and friendships that will last a lifetime!

Experience the trip of a lifetime with Youth Tour!
Wheatland Electric will sponsor two high school juniors on an inspiring Washington, D.C. trip to build leadership skills and lifelong connections!

Deadline: Jan. 12, 2026 | Learn more or apply at www.weci.net/youth-tour-program today!



COLD WEATHER ACCOMMODATION

BEGINS NOV. 15



Wheatland Electric has adopted the following cold weather accommodation policy for residential members. All delinquent accounts are subject to disconnection when temperatures exceed 35 F for a 48-hour period between Nov. 15 and March 15, unless a member requests a cold weather accommodation.

In order for a member to retain electric service when temperatures are above 35 F during the cold weather period, they must comply with the following provisions:

- Inform us of their inability to pay their account in full.
- Complete and sign a Cold Weather Accommodation agreement.
- Pay any outstanding billed deposit in full.
- Pay half of each current bill during the cold weather period.
- Past due balances (including the bill due Nov. 5) must be paid in full at the inception of the cold weather period.
- Apply for federal, state or local funds for which the member may be eligible.
- Agree to make an arrearage payment plan or sign up for our Prepay Power program at the conclusion of the cold weather period.

Members who do not adhere to their accommodation agreement are not eligible for payment arrangements at the conclusion of the cold weather period. The entire outstanding balance, applicable fees and additional deposit, if applicable, are due and payable prior to reconnection if service is disconnected. Questions? Contact your local WEC office today.