




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
101 Main, P.O. Box 230, Scott City, KS 67871
620-872-5885
www.weci.net

WHEATLAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Wheatland Electric Co-op Inc.

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Treasurer
Stacey Addison-Howland
Secretary
Wes Campbell
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Lynn Freese
Trustee
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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

Thank You for Making Our 2023 Annual Meeting a Success

I want to thank all our members who attended **WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S 2023 ANNUAL MEETING**.

This was the fifth year of holding **CONCURRENT REMOTE ANNUAL MEETINGS** across the WEC service territory, offering our cooperative membership and employees the ability to fully participate from close to home.

A record total of 814 individuals including co-op members, special guests and other non-members, were in attendance on April 26 across our eight meeting locations, including 630 registered members.

This defines exactly what our second cooperative principle is all about: **DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL**. Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their

cooperative members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Elected representatives (trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership.

During the meeting we presented videos of the **2022 FINANCIAL REPORT** and the **2022 ANNUAL SUMMARY**, telling the 2022 WEC story. You can view the videos at www.weci.net/annual-meetings-reports or on our YouTube channel.

In addition, we shared our 2022 annual report with every member in attendance at this year's meeting, a copy of which can be downloaded on our website. This year's report



Bruce W. Mueller

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SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

With 88% of cardiac arrests happening at home, it's wise to be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to help loved ones immediately. Many people who suffer from cardiac events appeared healthy at the time and didn't have any known heart risk factors. Whether you're enjoying time outdoors, at a friend's home, or in your own home, knowing CPR can buy an individual precious minutes until professional medical help arrives.



RECORD ATTENDANCE 2023 Annual Meeting

Co-op members elect new trustee, three incumbents, pass bylaw changes

Members of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) have elected a new trustee and three incumbents to its 10-member board during this year's 2023 annual meeting, April 26 in Scott City, and at seven remote meeting locations across southwest and central Kansas.

Members, who attended in record numbers for the second year in a row, elected **LYNN FREESE** (2061 W. Road 230, Scott City) as their District 1 trustee following a nomination that was made by petition prior to the date of the annual meeting.

Members also elected **JOSH YOUNG** (112 S. Genesee, Leoti) as their District 2 trustee, **STACEY ADDISON-HOWLAND** (911 N. Norris, Syracuse) as their District 4 trustee, and **JOHN KLEYTEUBER** (6310 E. Old Post Road, Garden City) as their District 5 trustee.

Young, Addison-Howland, and Kleysteuber were nominated by the cooperative's nominating committee, and faced no challengers by petition or nominations from the floor. Addison-Howland and Kleysteuber will begin their third three-year term (of six available terms), and Young begins his second term.



A centerpiece display commemorating WEC's 75th anniversary at the annual meeting in Scott City on April 26, 2023.

District 1 serves members across Scott and Logan counties. District 2 serves members in Wichita and Wallace counties; District 4 serves members in Hamilton County and the western half of Kearny County and Prowers County, Colorado; and District 5 serves the eastern half of Kearny County, Finney County, and a portion of northwest Gray County.

In addition to the election of trustees, members



Attendees at this year's annual meeting received a Dutch oven and spoon rest, custom engraved by students from Wichita County High School, as a special 75th anniversary gift.



Historical items were on display in Scott City reflecting 75 years of shared cooperative history at WEC.



A record 814 individuals attended Wheatland Electric's 2023 Annual Meeting on April 26. The meeting was held in Scott City and seven other meeting locations in Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Great Bend, Harper and Caldwell.

voted 320-287 to pass revisions to the cooperative's bylaws. These revisions include the following changes:

- ▶ Trustee elections will be held by mail starting in 2024. Mail-in ballots must be returned at least five days prior to the annual meeting date.
- ▶ Trustees have been given the authority to pass policies on the qualifications of trustees and the rules of mail-in-ballot voting.
- ▶ Nomination by petition of trustees must occur with the support of at least 25 cooperative members. (Prior to the bylaw revision, at least 15 members were required for nomination by petition.)
- ▶ The nomination committee can now nominate two candidates for each district election.

A record total of 814 individuals

including co-op members, special guests and other non-members, were in attendance across our eight meeting locations, including 630 registered members. In addition to our primary meeting location in Scott City, additional remote meetings were also held in Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Great Bend, Harper and Caldwell.

This year's theme — Feel the Power — reflects our celebration of 75 years of shared cooperative history with our membership. WEC was first chartered by the Rural Electrification Administration in 1948. A historical display of documents and artifacts reflecting our rich and varied history was featured at this year's primary meeting location in Scott City.

Additionally, members at every

Continued on page 12D ▶

Freese Elected to Wheatland Board to Represent District 1

LYNN FREESE, a full-time rancher in Scott County and retired WEC employee has been elected to the WEC Board of Trustees to represent District 1 following our 2023 annual meeting held on April 26. District 1 serves co-op members across Scott and Logan counties.



Lynn Freese

Freese was raised on a farm in Oklahoma and graduated with a bachelor of science in agriculture from Oklahoma State University. He relocated to Scott County in 1979 to join WEC, first serving as the energy conservation director.

During his 38-year career with WEC, Freese served in various capacities including supervisory roles in consumer services, internet technology, broadband and water. He was a Class 4 water system operator. He retired in 2017 to become a full-time rancher and continues to operate a cow/calf operation in Scott County today.

He has been a part of many community organizations including serving on the Finney County Rural Water District for 10 years and previously umpiring little league baseball.

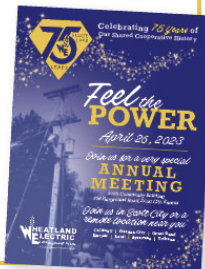
During this year's annual meeting, Freese challenged existing WEC trustee Katie Eisenhower, who was nominated by WEC's nominating committee and had served since her appointment to the board in 2013. Eisenhower was serving as vice president of the board. Freese won his seat by a vote of 358-296, which includes 129 proxy votes carried by members across our eight meeting locations.

Freese and his wife, Lori, have three adult children and one granddaughter. In addition to enjoying time with family and ranching, he is an avid fisherman, hunter and knife crafter.

\$75 Bill Credit Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of our \$75 bill credit giveaway! These *Kansas Country Living* magazine readers attended our 2023 annual meeting — we thank you for your readership and participation in your co-op!

- | | |
|---|--|
| ▶ CHARLENE LOWE
Caldwell | ▶ ALICE V. BENNETT
Harper |
| ▶ DAVID SEIOWART
Conway Springs | ▶ BEVERLY WORTHINGTON
Harper |
| ▶ JIM ROBB
Danville | ▶ DARRELL FOUSER
Scott City |
| ▶ ROBERT STAATS
Garden City | ▶ LISA POWELSON
Scott City |
| ▶ PISTOL PETE'S
Great Bend | ▶ DARYLE LEWIS
Syracuse |



RECORD ATTENDANCE 2023 Annual Meeting Continued from page 12C ▶



Mark Arnold, board president and trustee, speaks to the crowd gathered at the Scott Community Building on April 26 in Scott City.



Our grand prize giveaway was a red, retro Galanz refrigerator with a \$200 beef bundle won by Marilyn Dryer of Scott City.

location were able to ask questions or choose to make nominations in real time as they viewed the primary meeting location held in Scott City. In addition to voting, members in attendance enjoyed a meal at every location and took home a Dutch oven and a lid/spoon rest engraved by students at Wichita County High School as our thank you for their attendance.

Our annual meeting summary video is now available on our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/@wheatlandelectric), where a livestream of the meeting will also be made available.

Our 2022 annual report, distributed to those in attendance at our annual meeting, can be downloaded at www.weci.net/annual-meetings and features a special historical section to celebrate our 75th anniversary.

WEC wishes to thank all members in attendance for taking the time to participate in their co-op. Members with questions are free to contact their local office or send their questions to memberservices@weci.net.

Service Awards *INDICATES BOARD MEMBERS

5 YEARS

Heath Hill
Tara Watson
Jim McVay
Manuel Gonzalez
Jeanine Biera
Keith Vrbas

Megan Sneath
Sheena McKinley
Derek Holdt
Jessica Preisner
Andrea Tucker
Riley Waggoner
Stephanie Fontenot

10 YEARS

Tyler Gehring
Kreyton Demel
Chris Schurle
Justin Skelton
Chris Oliver
Katie Eisenhour

15 YEARS

Lucy Martinez
Paul Aguiniga
Eric Newberry
Jim Welker
Mark Douglas
Clay Shelton
Jillane Koochel

20 YEARS

Perry Smith
Mike Ille

25 YEARS

Jevin Kasselmann

35 YEARS

Chris Huber

40 YEARS

Rick Klaus



WHEATLAND ELECTRIC ANNOUNCES RENEWAL OF

Sharing Success

With \$10,000 Matching Contribution

Grant applications are now accepted

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. is proud to announce that we are once again renewing our **SHARING SUCCESS** program, a grant-giving initiative, in partnership with CoBank and the Scott Community Foundation.

As in years past, WEC and CoBank have each contributed \$10,000 this year to the fund, meaning \$20,000 in grant funds is available for deserving community organizations across our service territory.

To date, our cooperative has awarded individual grants in the amount of \$1,000 to many non-profit and community-oriented organizations across southwest and central Kansas for community-based projects. A total of **\$145,000 HAS BEEN AWARDED TO DATE** over the past decade.

The Scott Community Foundation began formally accepting applications for grants from the Wheatland Electric Sharing Success Fund from non-profit organizations on Dec. 1, 2012. The program will continue to run until the funds are exhausted.

"The Sharing Success program allows us to give back to the communities we serve," said WEC's CEO/General Manager Bruce W. Mueller. "We're



Alli Conine, director of member services and corporate communications (left), presents a \$20,000 check to Ryan Roberts, executive director of the Scott Community Foundation.

excited to continue partnering with CoBank and the Scott Community Foundation."

Community organizations interested in receiving funding from the Wheatland Electric Sharing Success Fund can apply online at <https://www.weci.net/sharing-success-program>.

Questions should be referred to Alli Conine, director of member services and corporate communications, at 620-874-4563 or aconine@weci.net.

Thank You for Making Our 2023 Annual Meeting a Success

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features a special historical section to celebrate our 75th anniversary. I encourage you to view a copy today and direct any questions you have our way.

WEC also recognized 14 high school senior scholarship winners, who will each receive \$1,000 to continue their education. High school juniors who were selected to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, later this year were also recognized. All winners can be viewed on Page 12F and 12G.

During the meeting, WEC employees and trustees were also recognized for service awards ranging from five to 40 years. All those recognized can be viewed on Page 12D.

In 2022, WEC paid out capital credits in the amount of \$2.5 million. This amount was approved by the WEC Board of Trustees based on the 2021 financials. We also announced that the WEC board has approved additional budgeted capital credits to be paid out (based on the 2022 financials). I want to emphasize budgeted just in case there is some unforeseen financial crisis that would inhibit our ability to pay capital credits. Barring that circumstance, WEC is planning to pay out an additional \$1 million in capital credits in December 2023.

Thank you again for attending our 2023 annual meeting! Members with questions are free to contact their local office or send their questions to memberservices@weci.net.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.



Youth Program Winners Selected

Juniors Head to Washington, D.C., Colorado This Summer

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) is excited to announce that **BRINLIE STEVENS**, junior at Scott Community High School and **ASHLYN HOWARD**, junior at Great Bend High School, have been selected to serve as our WEC delegates at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., this June.

In addition, **HAYLEE OSNER** and **MYA DEVINE SCOTT**, both juniors at Conway Springs High School, have been selected to represent WEC at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in July.

To apply, eligible high school juniors completed an online application, including a written essay about a family, social, or school situation in which their leadership made a difference. Our four selected delegates were shortlisted from these applications and selected following extensive interviews by our WEC Board of Trustees.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

brings students to Washington, D.C., providing Stevens and Howard with the opportunity to meet their congressional representatives and senators on Capitol Hill, meet with nationally recognized speakers to talk about current topics important to rural communities, tour national historic landmarks and museums, attend a performance at the Kennedy Center, cruise on the Potomac River, and build meaningful connections with other youth leaders from across the country.

Osner and Scott will join 100 other high school youth representing cooperatives from Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming near Steamboat Springs, Colorado for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. While at camp, students will learn about the cooperative business model, develop leadership skills, and listen to nationally recognized speakers. They also have the opportunity to raft the Colorado River, tour the Craig Generation Plant, attend a high-voltage

safety demonstration, and participate in other activities, building memories that will last a lifetime.

Ultimately, these students learn new skills, build meaningful connections, and come back energized to lead their communities!

In the event one of our selected delegates cannot attend, the WEC Board of Trustees has chosen the following students to serve as alternates: **ALEXANDER HEKEL** of Conway Springs High School, Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, and **ALEXIS POWELSON** of Scott Community High School, Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

Applications for these leadership opportunities are accepted each fall with a January deadline. High school juniors who reside in WEC's service territory that are a legal dependent of an active member receiving service from WEC are eligible to apply. See our website for more information at www.weci.net/youth-tour-program.



FAR LEFT: Kayanna Hammeke, member services and key accounts manager, (center) present Haylee Osner (left) and Mya Devine Scott (right) with a surprise announcement about their selection as leadership camp delegates at Conway Springs High School on Feb. 24, 2023.



TOP RIGHT: Brinlie Stevens (right) was recognized at our 2023 annual meeting in Scott City on April 26, 2023, by Bruce W. Mueller, CEO/general manager.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Mary Hoisington (left), member services and key accounts manager, surprises Ashlyn Howard with her selection as a youth tour delegate at Great Bend High School on Feb. 27, 2023.

14 LOCAL STUDENTS *Awarded \$1,000 Scholarships*



KAYA BJURSTROM
Holcomb High School



KAMDYN BUTLER
South Haven High School



MADISON HALEY
Chaparral High School



ANNISTON LEE
Caldwell High School



YADIRA MORENO
Syracuse High School



AUDREY MUSIL
Deerfield High School



NAYOMI OLIVAS
Great Bend High School



TEJA SAMUELSON
Norwich High School



BROOKE STRINE
Scott Community High School



FAITH STUHLSTZ
Conway Springs High School



PAYTON TULL
At-Large (Garden City High School)



WESLEY WEISHAAR
Argonia High School



ELISE WHALEN
Wichita Co. High School



KARLYN WOELK
Greeley Co. High School

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., is proud to announce that we've awarded 14 scholarships for \$1,000 each to high school seniors across our service territory.

These scholarships have been awarded to local students who attend one of the 13 high schools on our lines. In addition, at least one at-large scholarship for a student whose parent/guardian is a member of WEC but does not attend one of the schools in our service territory is also available each year.

A panel of the WEC Board of Trustees reviewed and selected all of our scholarship recipients. Several of these students and their families were recognized at our 2023 annual meeting in Scott City on April 26, 2023.

We congratulate these talented students, and we wish them continued success in the years ahead! To learn more about our scholarship program, please visit www.weci.net/scholarship-program.

**Congrats to our
POWER
YOUR YEAR
WINNER!**

**Katelynn Kehl
GREAT BEND, KS**

Katelynn is the recipient of
**ONE YEAR OF FREE
ELECTRICITY**
for using paperless billing
and autopay!



The image shows a woman, Katelynn Kehl, standing in front of a wall with electrical equipment. She is holding a large ceremonial check from Wheatland Electric. The check is dated May 10, 2023, and is payable to Katelynn Kehl for \$1200.00. The check is for 'One Year of Electricity' and is signed by Wheatland Electric. The check also includes the account number 1001 and the phone number 234.56.7890.

Wheatland Electric Presents
**LET'S PAINT
IT RED!**

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

DRY LAKE BREWING
4 to 7 P.M.

**NEW DATE:
JUNE 14**

DOOR PRIZES **SIGNATURE DRINKS** *Boots & Brews* **RED DIRT MUSIC** **FOOD & FUN**



The image is a promotional poster for a 'Let's Paint It Red!' event. It features a black and white photograph of a street scene with a red overlay. The text is in various fonts and colors, including red, white, and black. The event is presented by Wheatland Electric and is scheduled for June 14. The event includes door prizes, signature drinks, red dirt music, and food & fun. The event is also associated with Dry Lake Brewing and Boots & Brews.

