

# ANNUAL REPORT



WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING

# April 14, 2021

GREAT BEND EVENTS CENTER  
3111 10TH STREET | GREAT BEND, KS 67530



# MEETING AGENDA

Invocation & Lunch | 11:30 A.M.

Posting the Colors

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem

Annual Meeting Call to Order

**WILLIAM BARNES | PRESIDENT**

Recognition of Trustees/Spouses

**WILLIAM BARNES | PRESIDENT**

Recognition of Special Guests

**BRUCE W. MUELLER | CEO/GENERAL  
MANAGER**

Declaration of Quorum

**WILLIAM BARNES | PRESIDENT**

Official Notice | Affidavit of Mailing

**JIM MCVAY | GENERAL COUNSEL**

Financial Report (Treasurer's Report) Video  
Presentation

**RADONA SMYTHE | DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

Annual Summary

Video Presentation

KEY Leadership Conference Winners

**TREY GREBE | ASSISTANT GENERAL  
MANAGER**

Scholarship Awards

**TREY GREBE | ASSISTANT GENERAL  
MANAGER**

Service Awards

**WILLIAM BARNES | PRESIDENT**

Old Business

**WILLIAM BARNES | PRESIDENT**

New Business

**WILLIAM BARNES | PRESIDENT**

**JIM MCVAY | GENERAL COUNSEL**

Grand Prize Drawing

**WILLIAM BARNES | PRESIDENT**

Adjournment

Retiring the Colors

# TO OUR MEMBERS

Like many of you, 2020 has presented all of us here at Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. with an unprecedented number of challenges.

As CEO and General Manager, I am both proud and humbled by the fact that despite these challenges, we've come out stronger, more financially sound, and better rooted than ever to confront future storms that lie ahead.

The early part of 2020 began with a growing pandemic, during which we were forced to postpone our annual member meeting until further notice. In those early weeks, as we learned more about the ongoing health crisis, we worked quickly to expand our emergency preparedness plan. Our goal was to make sure we were equipped to carry out our mission — “delivering energy for life” — while putting the safety and health of our employees and members first. In those early months, as more of us began hunkering down in our homes, we also recognized the need for connection. And so, we set up free public hot spots in several of our communities and increased internet speeds at no charge for our broadband members to make working and studying from home just a little bit easier.

As an electric cooperative with roots that were first planted over 70 years ago, we are governed by seven cooperative principles (see list) that guide how and why we do what we do and why we put our members first. As the demands of 2020 continued to develop – disruption, hardship, and uncertainty – we began to look for creative ways to help the communities we serve.

To show our appreciation to those working on the pandemic's frontlines, we donated 700 bottles of hand cleanser to all our first responders, including EMTs, firefighters, and law enforcement. We also purchased

treats from local businesses, which we delivered to health professionals at all our area hospitals and health care centers. And we even gave our employees \$50 in downtown dollars to further encourage local spending in our communities.

We knew 2020 might be the first time some of our members experienced food insecurity. Following one of our most important principles, concern for community, we began our Cram the Van annual food drive in the spring, instead of waiting until fall, by donating \$9,100 to 11 area food banks to help stock our local pantries.


As the year progressed, we began planning how we could continue raising cash and can donations for our food pantries without compromising public health or safety. We knew the WAY we did Cram the Van would change, but the WHY would not.

Following successful drive-thru style events in our Wheatland districts, we raised a record-setting 32,206 pounds of food — more than 16 tons. I encourage you to read more about our successful Cram the Van season on Page 12. And I want you to know that all of us at Wheatland Electric are humbled by the generosity and support from YOU — our members — without whom none of this would be possible.

In light of last year's special challenges, we also knew that 2020 might have been the first time some members experienced financial hardship, as well. In May 2020, your Wheatland Electric trustees voted to retire



**BRUCE W. MUELLER**  
CEO/General Manager



\$500,000 in capital credits to distribute to members in August, an early payout in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. We retired an additional \$500,000 in December, bringing our total amount returned to our membership to \$1 million. Member economic participation is another of our guiding principles. As a cooperative, we belong to the communities we serve, and capital credits are just one of the many ways we honor that cooperative spirit.

Like the beautiful Kansas sunflowers you see at our meeting today, we too are rooted in our communities. Our roots were first planted in 1948, when nine visionary western Kansas residents decided to take matters into their own hands. They were tired of being left behind by big, for-profit power companies that didn't want to spend the money to connect our rural communities to the grid. In 1950, through their own grit and determination, they were ready to welcome

an additional 2,246 members.

Today, we are proud to “deliver energy for life” to more than 30,000 homes and businesses over 4,500 miles of electrical lines across our southwest and south-central Kansas service territory and three Colorado counties. We're rooted in community interests because our cooperative employees are the same people who live where you do and work where you do. What's good for the community is good for the co-op — and vice versa. As your leader, I am once again gratified and humbled by all that we have accomplished in a tumultuous year for our cooperative and the communities we serve.

I want to thank you again for attending the annual meeting, either at our Great Bend location or one of our seven remote locations across our service territory. Thank you for using your voice as a cooperative member-owner to shape and strengthen our future.

## 7 CO-OP PRINCIPLES

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

## SERVICE AWARDS

### 5 YEARS

**JULIE STOSS** | Great Bend  
**CORBIN SPELLMAN** | Garden City  
**ROCHELLE IRWIN** | Scott City  
**MICHAEL DOYLE** | Great Bend  
**KRIS LEHMANN** | Garden City  
**TRACI GODDARD** | Garden City  
**DEVAN YORK** | Harper  
**JESUS VILLEGAS** | Great Bend

### 10 YEARS

**DEREK CALLAWAY** | Harper

### 15 YEARS

**BARBARA KIRK** | Scott City  
**MARK DINKEL** | Garden City  
**LUKE WEST** | Garden City  
**FRANCIS LOBMEYER** | Garden City  
**MATT HOSLER** | Great Bend

### 20 YEARS

**MATT SCHEETER** | Garden City

### 25 YEARS

**DAX WALK** | Great Bend

### 30 YEARS

**WALT LOVINS** | Scott City  
**CURTIS LAMB** | Garden City  
**KELLEY BURCH** | Leoti

### 35 YEARS

**DENZIL REED** | Harper

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## DISTRICT 1

ED CUPP

1305 Antelope, Scott City, KS 67871-1902

## DISTRICT 2

MILAN D. REIMER

1294 W County Road P, Leoti, KS 67861-6247

## DISTRICT 3

DALE WETZEL

PO Box 331, Tribune, KS 67879-0331

## DISTRICT 4

PAT RILEY

PO Box 925, Syracuse, KS 67878-0925

## DISTRICT 5

JASON DOUGHERTY

111 Cambridge Court, Garden City, KS 67846-9662

## DISTRICT 6

MATT HOISINGTON

1816 Lincoln St, Great Bend, KS 67530-7513

## DISTRICT 7

KIM MILLER

505 W 1st Ave, Caldwell, KS 67022-1357

# TRUSTEE NOMINEES

These members have been nominated by the nominating committee for the position of Wheatland Electric Cooperative Trustee.

## DISTRICT 3

**MIKE THON** was first elected to Wheatland's board of trustees in 2017. As a local business owner — Mike has been the owner and president of Ron's Oil Co. Inc. since 1991 — and a lifelong resident, Mike wants to serve his community in multiple ways. Other long-standing positions he's held include the Greeley County Board of Education for 12 years and the board of supervisors for the Greeley County Commission for 16 years.



While on the Wheatland Board, Mike has gained knowledge about how a cooperative operates, and why specifically a cooperative like Wheatland Electric does the things they do. With this knowledge, through experience on the Board and courses provided by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), Mike has become better equipped to understand and respond to events and changes when they take place within the cooperative environment.

As a member of the board, Mike enjoys meeting and getting to know people from other parts of central and southwest Kansas and learning about their experiences — not just with Wheatland Electric, but through life in general.

Mike is proud to represent his district and his community. He understands that while all cooperatives struggle at times, he believes Wheatland Electric certainly has its members in mind with every action they take. Mike appreciates being a part of those decisions and wants to ensure that sentiment continues going forward.

Mike has two children and enjoys supporting them, attending sporting events, traveling, and woodworking in his spare time.

## DISTRICT 6

**DAN BONINE** has been on the Board of Trustees since Great Bend first became a part of Wheatland Electric in 2007. As a resident of Great Bend since 1976, Dan spent over four decades in the banking industry. He received his bachelors and masters degrees from Kansas State University, and later graduated from the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin. In 1977, Dan was named the President and CEO of American State Bank and Trust Co., then First Kansas Bank, and held that role until his retirement in 2007 when he began consulting.

Along with his nearly 14 years of service to the Wheatland Board, Dan served on the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) board for several years, recently retiring from that position in 2020. He also simultaneously served as an alternate board member with Sunflower Electric for eight years. This role provided Dan with a better understanding of the connection between Wheatland and our power supplier.

Through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), Dan achieved Director Gold Credential, which means he has completed the educational steps of an advanced cooperative director. He also recently completed the course “Governance Challenges of the Evolving Distribution Co-op,” which provided Dan insight and advanced perspectives into the importance of making sound decisions and how the Board’s responsibilities can be detailed into policies, processes, and guidelines.

From completing various courses at NRECA, to his many years of experience learning about Wheatland partnerships and other co-ops in Kansas, Dan believes he has much to contribute to the Wheatland Board. “I think we have excellent management at Wheatland, and an excellent board. It’s fun to be a part of something that you’re proud of,” says Dan.

Dan is a current and former member of many other community, financial, civic, and youth organizations. In 2016, Dan was named “Outstanding Citizen of the Year” by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, and has received numerous other awards and honors tied to his community roles.

He and his wife, Jannette, have three children and four grandchildren, whom Dan enjoys traveling to see whenever possible. He feels blessed by all the people who have guided him throughout his life and continues to enjoy the simpler things life has to offer, such as yard work, reading, exercise, and bible study.



## DISTRICT 7

**MARK ARNOLD**, CEO of the Stock Exchange Bank in Caldwell, is seeking a second, three-year term to the Wheatland Electric Board of Directors this April.

Mark, who has represented District 7 since he was first appointed to fill a vacancy in October 2016, said he is honored to serve as a cooperative leader.

“I was raised on cooperative lines, and I believe in the cooperative way. That investment we put back into the rural communities is what I appreciate most. And it’s what I want to continue, giving rural residents the same opportunities that people have in more metropolitan settings.”

Mark grew up in north-central Oklahoma, graduated from Oklahoma State University and has been a resident of District 7 since 2004. As board treasurer, he brings a wealth of experiences to his role. In addition to having served as mayor of Caldwell for more than 12 years, he has also served on the Member-Braman (Oklahoma) school board, the Kay County Cattleman’s Association, and currently represents Wheatland Electric on the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) board. Mark also served previously as a trustee through Kay Electric Cooperative in Blackwell, Oklahoma, for five years.

During his time as a trustee, Mark has obtained his Board Leadership Certificate through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), a director certificate program that is designed to help cooperative leaders understand their roles and responsibilities and stay up to date on key industry issues and trends. “The way Wheatland has transformed our infrastructure from what it was before, and the investment it’s made in our people is why I’m proud to be associated with this cooperative. I think that investment is so important to rural communities and our rural way of life and making sure everyone has affordable and reliable electricity.”

As a leader, Mark is cognizant of his role to represent Wheatland’s entire service territory. He always keeps in mind what is “best for the entire cooperative, not just Caldwell.”

“I try to keep that in the forefront of the decisions that I make, for our cooperative and for all our members, no matter where they’re located.”

Arnold is married to his wife, Leslie, and is father to two daughters. For fun, he likes to hunt and fish, travel, attend sporting events, and play golf.



## PROPERTY TAXES

Wheatland Electric will pay a total of \$4,362,304 in property taxes for 2020. These amounts were assessed against assets such as electric lines, poles, buildings and trucks, as well as water and broadband-related equipment owned by Wheatland. As a not-for-profit cooperative, Wheatland is exempt from income tax. The following is a listing of property taxes assessed by county for 2020:

COUNTY	AMOUNT
Finney	1,356,974
Barton	529,181
Harper	481,778
Scott	332,728
Kearny	324,005
Sumner	308,325
Hamilton	307,272
Greeley	266,051
Wichita	237,430
Kingman	141,154
Gray	60,903
Reno	6,296
Wallace	4,093
Logan	2,448
Sedgwick	1,627
Haskell	1,514
Seward	348
Lane	177

**Total 2020  
Property Taxes Paid  
(18 counties) \$4,362,304**

# 2020 FINANCIALS

## OPERATING STATEMENT

FOR YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 2020 (UNAUDITED)

INCOME	
Electric Revenues	87,944,952
Water and Broadband Revenues	5,290,223
Interest Income	496,260
Capital Credits from Other Cooperatives	3,189,232*
Non-Operating Income (Other)	(1,402,885)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>95,517,782</b>
EXPENSES	
Purchased Power/Cost of Sales	49,493,058
Operations & Maintenance	8,800,521
Administrative & General	7,375,902
Depreciation	11,956,341
Interest	8,565,749
Taxes	5,284,780
Other	37,816
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>91,514,167</b>
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>4,003,615</b>

\* Of this amount \$2,160,915 is a non-cash allocation of margins from Sunflower Electric Power Corporation for the year of 2020. This amount will be available to be paid out to members at such time when Sunflower makes cash distributions to Wheatland for that year.

## BALANCE SHEET

AS OF DEC. 31, 2020 (UNAUDITED)

ASSETS	
Cash & Short-Term Investments	2,392,332
Memberships and Other Investments	89,034,101
Notes Receivable	4,048,189
Accounts Receivable	8,892,889
Materials and Supplies	2,974,022
Other Current and Accrued Assets	423,924
Deferred Charges	6,401,878
Plant Assets (All Operations)	382,578,076
Accumulated Depreciation	(113,561,365)
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>383,184,046</b>
LIABILITIES	
Principal Owed on Long-Term Debt	206,236,307
Interest Payable on Long-Term Debt (in 2021)	581,880
Notes Payable	39,193,076
Accounts Payable	6,748,919
Property Taxes Payable (due in 2021)	2,112,874
Consumer Deposits	1,352,896
Other Liabilities/Deferred Credits	4,863,046
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>261,088,998</b>
EQUITIES	
2020 Operating Margin	1,644,366
2020 Non-Operating Margin	2,359,249
Prior Years Margins	117,935,018
Other Equities	156,415
<b>TOTAL EQUITIES</b>	<b>122,095,048</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>383,184,046</b>

# #POWERON

As we navigate the challenges of the pandemic together, Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. has looked for ways to help and encourage the communities we serve. If you follow us on social media, you most likely saw our #PowerOn signs, and you may have even recognized some of the people holding the signs.

Our #PowerOn initiative allowed us to embody one of our seven cooperative principles — concern for community. This means that while we focus on member needs, we also work toward the sustainable development of our communities, much like other electric cooperatives across the nation.

“At Wheatland Electric, we recognize that the ongoing pandemic has had a severe impact on families we know, businesses where we shop, and our local economies as a whole,” said Bruce W. Mueller, CEO/general manager. “We understand the strain the pandemic has caused our members. That’s why we made it our mission, in addition to delivering safe, reliable and competitively priced electricity to our members, to take care of those who were taking care of us.”

In 2020, Wheatland made donations totaling \$9,100 to the following local agencies to assist with pantry supplies: Hamilton County Food Pantry in Syracuse; Caldwell Community Food Bank and United Methodist Food Bank in Caldwell; Genesis Family Health in Garden City; Community Food Bank of Barton County in Great Bend; Greeley County Food Bank in Tribune; Harper Mission Mart in Harper; Wichita County Food Bank in Leoti; Hope’s Closet in Scott City; Horns for Hope c/o USD 363 in Holcomb; and Emmaus House in Garden City.

As part of our #PowerOn project, we also provided 700 bottles of hand cleanser to all first responders across our service territory. In addition, we purchased treats from local businesses to give to all employees of the seven hospitals Wheatland serves. And last but not least, we gave away Downtown Dollars/Chamber Bucks, valued at \$50 per employee, to encourage local spending.



**Wheatland Electric thanked our local communities who worked diligently to #PowerOn during the pandemic with donations, support and recognition.**

“Supporting our local first-responders, health care workers, local businesses, and food banks allows us to give back to the communities we serve,” Mueller added. “We wanted to be sure to care for our neighbors who were answering the call of duty to care for all.”

Through encouragement and positivity, we got through 2020 together. We are grateful to the local first responders and health care workers for their efforts to keep us all safe. We also ask our members to please remember to shop local to help our small businesses and donate to your local food bank that may be having difficulty keeping up with extra demand. Thank you for doing your part to #PowerOn.

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

We are proud to award up to \$14,000 in scholarships each year to seniors graduating from one of the 13 high schools in our service territory, plus one at large.

**SAVANNAH SHIVELY** | Argonia

**ALEXA LIGHTNER** | At-large

**KARI DVORAK** | Caldwell

**KAMON HAYDOCK** | Chaparral

**OWEN BALMAN** | Conway Springs

**MARIA RAMIREZ** | Deerfield

**CAL DUNEKACK** | Great Bend

**MACIE LEHMAN** | Greeley Co./Tribune

**ZACCERIE PENKA** | Holcomb

**BRITTANY GOSCH** | Norwich

**PAIGE VULGAMORE** | Scott Community

**MADISON SMITH** | South Haven

**GUNNAR UPSON** | Syracuse

**CAMBREE KOEHN** | Wichita Co./Leoti

## HAND CRAFTED IN KANSAS



As a “thank you” to members attending the annual meeting, they will receive a one-of-a-kind gift made exclusively by area high school students.

We commissioned these hand-crafted cutting boards and trivets from woodworking/technology students at Great Bend High School, Scott Community High School, Chaparral Jr/Sr High School, Caldwell High School, Greeley County Jr/Sr High School, Syracuse Jr/Sr High School, and Wichita County High School.

Great Bend High School instructor Travis Straub worked with students to create a couple of handmade boards per pupil, made of red oak, soft maple, and cherry wood. Each features an iconic Kansas emblem in the corner, such as a sunflower, windmill or buffalo.

“We’ve got some farm scenes, oil derricks, hunting scenes, but most are in one corner of the board,” he said. “We have one design that depicts the rivers of Kansas, and encompasses the entire board.”

We hope you and your family enjoy your uniquely crafted gift. Thank you to the talented students and their instructors for creating such beautiful pieces for our members!

# MADE IN KANSAS! WHERE IS YOUR ANNUAL

## THE COUNTRY OVEN BAKERY MARIENTHAL

The Country Oven Bakery at Heartland Mills takes a farm-to-table approach with their delicious pies, cookies, breads, bierocks, and more. That is, the organic flour used in the baked goods sold on site and at fairs and trade shows across Kansas come directly from the mill next door. Behind the baker's apron is Ashlyn Nightengale, who first began helping his grandmother in the kitchen as a little boy. Today, the professional baker and business owner also designs elegant wedding cakes for clients for miles around. We hope you enjoy the apple butter, Traffic Jam (cherry, strawberry, and rhubarb), or caramel pecan apple butter you may have received as part of your annual meeting member gift.



## HERITAGE MEATS LEOTI

Heritage Meats in Leoti is a family-owned meat processing facility located in the heart of beef and pork country. The business strives to offer the highest quality meat products and share with the world something we take for granted in western Kansas – delicious meat. Their services include custom processing, retail meats, beef and pork wholes or halves, wood-smoked, fully-cooked meats, fresh sausages, and more. For more information, visit <https://heritage-meats.com/>. We hope you enjoy the salsa, strawberry jam, or peach jelly you may have received as part of your annual meeting member gift.





# MEETING GIFT FROM?

## ROSEWOOD CREATIONS GREAT BEND

Rosewood Creations is a division of Rosewood Services. Based in the Great Bend area, Rosewood Services provides individuals with unique abilities the access to innovative programs and services in safe, nurturing and appropriately challenging environments. Through the company's greenhouse and ranch, client-employees of Rosewood Services grow tomatoes, jalapenos, and other vegetables and fruits. At Rosewood's industrial kitchen, client-employees help make salsa, jelly, and other products sold at Rosewood Wine Cellar, located in downtown Great Bend. Learn more at [www.rosewoodcreations.com](http://www.rosewoodcreations.com). We hope you enjoy the Cowboy Candy or Honey Apple Butter you may have received as part of your annual meeting member gift.



## SARAH JANE'S ARGONIA

Sarah Jane's LLC is a home-grown business based in Argonia, dedicated to creating intense gourmet flavors with locally sourced ingredients. Sarah Jane first began making her creations in her own kitchen in 2009, shortly after being laid off from the aircraft industry. At the time, she planted a garden to grow her own food. Fast-forward more than a decade later, and Sarah Jane's products – salsas, relishes, mustards, and much more – are sold in several retail locations throughout the state, including the family store in Argonia. Learn more at [www.sarahjanesalsa.com](http://www.sarahjanesalsa.com). We hope you enjoy the jalapeno jelly you may have received as part of your annual meeting member gift.



# MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

## WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. AUGUST 26, 2020

The 2020 Annual Meeting of the members of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Wheatland or Cooperative) was held on August 26, 2020, at the Caldwell Community Building, 119 E. First, Caldwell, Kansas, at 12:30 p.m. CDT. The meeting was held pursuant to notice provided to each member of Wheatland. Board Chairman, Woody Barnes, announced that the annual meeting of the members was being simulcast at all other Wheatland office locations. Bruce W. Mueller, Wheatland's CEO/General Manager, discussed the extra precautions taken in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, pursuant to Wheatland policy, every meeting starts with a safety tip, "keep walkways and hallways free of debris, clutter and obstacles to avoid slips, trips and falls. Clean up spills immediately after they take place. Filing cabinets and desk drawers should be kept shut when not in use. Cover cables and cords properly if they need to be in a walkway." The luncheon began at 11:30 a.m. Charles Ayers, former Board of Trustees member, and first ballot Hall of Fame inductee to the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame, presented an invocation.

William Barnes, Board President, served as Chairman throughout the meeting. The Chairman called to order the 72nd Annual Meeting and welcomed all members and guests. Chairman Barnes introduced the Trustees and their spouses. Mueller introduced the executive staff of Wheatland and special guests in attendance to include: United States Congressman from the 4th District, Ron Estes; Stuart Lowry, President and CEO of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation; and Leslie Kaufman, Vice President of Government Relations and Legal Counsel for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. At that time, a color guard comprised of Lieutenant Commander Marshall Love of the United States Navy and Sergeant First Class Fred Leis of the United States Army presented and posted the colors. The membership then recited the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by the playing of the National Anthem.

Chairman Barnes announced there were 227 members

present in person at the meeting and 38 members present by proxy. Those members present by proxy were reported and posted to the members by the Wheatland staff. The cooperative membership exceeds 1,000 members, and therefore, 50 members or more constitutes a quorum. A quorum was announced by Chairman Barnes.

The Chairman again presented that the official Notice of the Annual Meeting, the Affidavit of Mailing, and the Certificate of Membership would be read to the members verbatim. However, upon motion made by the members from the floor, it was seconded and passed by unanimous vote to waive the formal reading of the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting, the Affidavit of Mailing, and the Certificate of Membership. Jim McVay, General Counsel for Wheatland, summarized the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting, the Affidavit of Mailing, and the Certificate of Membership.

The 2019 Annual Meeting minutes were provided to the membership when registering at the meeting. Chairman Barnes presented that the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes would be read to the membership. However, upon motion made from the floor to dispense with the reading of the 2019 minutes and to approve them as presented, it was seconded and passed by unanimous vote. The reading of the previous minutes was, therefore, waived. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes, and they were approved and adopted by unanimous vote.

Thereafter, a video presentation was made to the members by Radona Smythe, Wheatland's Director of Finance. She presented the Financial Report/Treasurer's Report, which was also published in the August issue of *the Kansas Country Living* magazine and was mailed to each of the members, along with the official Notice of the Meeting. Once Radona finished her report, the Chairman asked the members if there were questions relative to her report. The Chairman announced that he would entertain a motion to accept the report as mailed

to each member of the Cooperative. Upon motion made, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote, the Financial Report/Treasurer's Report was approved and adopted.

Mueller began a video-presentation to the members and stated that all area Wheatland offices were participating in the annual meeting by video conference. All Wheatland members attending the concurrent annual meeting at each district office were permitted to vote and participate fully. Mueller presented on Wheatland's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and safety measures to protect employees and members. Mueller also discussed the early retirement of capital credits in the form of billing credits to help members get through these trying times.

Rick Klaus, Director of Operations, then discussed Wheatland's efforts to enhance construction, safety, and reliability in District 7. These efforts included the building of new 138kV transmission facilities and several new substations. Jevin Kasselmann, the Director of IT/Broadband, informed the members of all activities to secure Wheatland cybersecurity and Wheatland's IT system. Alli Conine, Manager of Member Services and Corporate Communications, provided the members with a summary of all Wheatland's efforts to stay connected and communicate with its members.

Mueller then concluded the video presentation with the 2019 Wheatland highlights. He discussed rate issues and the relationship between member rates and transmission cost allocations at the SPP. Mueller explained how shifting the cost allocation will save Kansas ratepayers money in the future. He also informed the members of the Kansas legislature's SB 69 rate study and its results. He also highlighted the fact that Wheatland has current plans to implement another capital credit retirement in December barring any unforeseen circumstances. He then closed with a safety discussion of Wheatland's commitment to zero contact injuries. After the video presentation, Mueller asked if there were any questions from the membership and

there were none.

Trey Grebe, Wheatland's Assistant General Manager, announced the cooperative's winners for the Youth Tour programs. He explained that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Washington, D.C., trip was canceled. However, Wheatland was proud to award the two Youth Tour winners with a \$1,000 scholarship. These awards were presented to Sadie Schmanke of Conway Springs High School and Leah Bowlby, of South Haven High School. Wheatland is also proud to sponsor the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. It was also canceled due to the pandemic. This year, the two students were awarded \$1,000 scholarships. The two winners were Zoe Jerke, of Great Bend High School and Ryan Thompson of Syracuse High School.

Grebe then presented scholarships to high school seniors who are attending post-secondary education from the 13 schools in the Wheatland territory, and one at-large scholarship. This year, there are 13, \$1,000 scholarships awarded to the following students:

1. Hope Casner – Argonia HS
2. Delaney Mayo – Caldwell HS
3. Audrey Bebermeyer – Chaparral HS
4. Victor Kunz – Conway Springs HS
5. Luke Maneth – Great Bend HS
6. Kamryn Youmans – Greeley County HS
7. Gracelyn Rupp – Holcomb HS
8. Tori Poe – Norwich Consolidated Schools
9. Madison Shapland – Scott Community HS
10. Rachel Turek – South Haven HS
11. Alex Moser – Syracuse HS
12. Johanna Ridder – Wichita County HS
13. Carson Linenberger – Garden City HS and At-Large Winner

The service awards were also then announced by the Chairman to employees as follows:

- ▶ 40 Years – Randy Coleman
- ▶ 30 Years – James Zorn and Todd Nemechek

- ▶ 25 Years – Mike Olson, Bryan Mulligan and Jana Harkness
- ▶ 20 Years – Chad Deniston, Randy Rogers, Colton Green and Mark Maier
- ▶ 15 Years – Darrin Campbell, Wade Grumbein and Radona Smythe
- ▶ 10 Years – Marcus Goebel and Brandon Ritchie
- ▶ 5 Years – Amanda Martinez, Cody Strecker, Rhei Thurman, Erin Carter and Alli Conine

Chairman Barnes then recognized Vic Case, who has been on the Wheatland Board of Trustees for over 12 years and is now retiring from his position. This was his last board meeting. Vic was lauded and thanked for his years of service by all the members present.

Chairman Barnes then inquired of the members whether there was any old business to come before the meeting. There was no old business to come before the meeting.

The Chairman then called for new business. There was no new business announced from the floor. The Chairman announced one item of new business. There were four Wheatland districts up for trustee elections. Jim McVay read the Nomination Committee Affidavit. The Nominating Committee was composed of Ed Cupp, Milan Reimer, Dale Wetzel, Marvin Graber, Robert Buerkle, Matt Hoisington, and Kim Miller. The Nominating Committee placed into nomination and selected the following candidates: Katie Eisenhour in District 1; Brady Harbin and Josh Young in District 2; Stacey Addison-Howland in District 4, and John Kleysteuber in District 5. McVay presented that all nominations were made by motion, seconded and passed by unanimous vote. The members were once again told that Trustee candidates could be nominated from the floor. The qualifications for the Office of Trustee were read to the membership verbatim from the Wheatland Bylaws.

Thereafter, the Chairman asked for nominations from the floor. At the end of the 60-second waiting

period from the floor and awaiting any response from the remote locations, there are no nominations from the floor. Upon motion made and seconded, it was then passed by unanimous vote of the members to accept the slate of candidates from the committee on nominations for Districts 1, 4, and 5. Therefore, Katie Eisenhour of District 1, Stacey Addison-Howland of District 4, and John Kleysteuber of District 5 were elected to three-year terms as Wheatland trustees. This leaves District 2 as the only contested election.

Pursuant to the rules of the annual meeting and specified in the notice of the annual meeting to the membership published in *Kansas Country Living*, both Brady Harbin and Josh Young gave three-minute presentations on their desires and qualifications to be a Wheatland Trustee.

Thereafter, McVay informed the members to cast their ballots for the District 2 election. During the counting of ballots, a safety video presentation was made to the membership. A ballot counting committee was formed in each of Wheatland's locations to count the ballots. The announcement and results of the election are as follows: Josh Young received 212 votes and Brady Harbin received 145 votes. Josh Young was elected for a three-year term as a member of the Board of Trustees of Wheatland from District 2.

After the new business results were announced, Chairman Barnes called for the retirement of the colors. Commander Love and Sergeant Leis retired the colors.

Thereafter, Chairman Barnes announced that Pat Thurman was the winner of the grand prize flat-screen television.

The Chairman also asked for and found that there was no additional new business to be presented at the meeting. The Chairman, Woody Barnes, ordered that the meeting be adjourned by motion made, seconded and carried at 2:23 p.m. CDT.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
JAMES M. MCVAY, GENERAL COUNSEL**

# CRAM THE VAN

## The WAY Changed but the WHY Remained the Same



**TOP:** Representatives of the Ministerial Alliance in Scott City accept a check from Wheatland Electric trustee Katie Eisenhower for the local food bank in Scott City.

**MIDDLE:** Nine Great Bend schools also raised food and cash donations for Cram the Van in 2020! Members of our Great Bend line crew, Tyson Ryff and Nick Lawson, pose with staff at Riley Elementary School.

**BOTTOM:** Randy Coleman, district manager, (left) and Riley Waggoner, line apprentice, grill hamburgers and hot dogs during our Cram the Van donation drive-in events.

For many of us, 2020 was a tumultuous year. Despite all the challenges we faced — across our cooperative and within our communities — we couldn't be more grateful for the generosity and goodwill that endures year after year.

Since 2014, we've helped collect more than 63 tons (127,733 pounds) of food donations, which have all been delivered to the local food banks in the communities in which they were donated. As we wrapped up our seventh consecutive year of Cram the Van, we were blown away by the support and kindness of everyone who stepped up to help feed their neighbors in need!

Early in 2020, amid a public health pandemic and with greater than ever need, we knew we needed to act even if things looked different. We knew the WAY we did Cram the Van would certainly look different; however, the WHY would remain the same.

That's because as a cooperative, "concern for community" is one of our governing principles. We work daily for the sustainable development of our communities through policies supported by our members. And our success in 2020 — a total of 32,206 pounds collected — can only be credited to the cooperation and compassion from the communities we serve!

Our Co-ops Care Charity Golf Tournament held in August 2020 served as our Cram the Van kickoff event. In our second year and in partnership with Victory Electric Cooperative Association, we were able to raise over \$16,000 for our respective causes: Cram the Van and Dodge City's Avenue of Flags.

Thanks to the generosity of more than 120

golfers and our own cooperative employees and volunteers, we're excited to share that half of the total funds raised from the event (\$8,319) were split evenly among our local food banks that power food pantries across our service territory.

The Co-ops Care annual fundraiser — "fore" a good cause! — would not have been possible without the assistance of at least three dozen businesses who made corporate sponsorships at the \$250 (watt), \$500 (kilowatt) and \$1,000 (megawatt) levels.

Our recognizable red van made its way to Great Bend on Sept. 22, 2020, to greet attendees at the Great Bend Tribune's Women's Expo event at the Great Bend Events Center. All proceeds from this community event are included in our donation totals for the Community Food Bank of Barton County.

Our signature Cram the Van events — community get-togethers in each of our seven districts — had to be modified due to COVID-19. To prioritize safety and health while carrying out our mission, we set up drive-thru style donation drop-offs for members.

Our first donation drive-in was held in Scott City on Oct. 13, 2020. In exchange for a cash or can donation, we served meals in prepackaged boxes and collected donations from our generous members. We collected 4,045 pounds of food, and were able to deliver these donations to Hope's Closet on Dec. 2, 2020.

On Oct. 16, 2020, in Great Bend, we set up another donation drive-in collecting a whopping 4,500 pounds of food from Great Bend schools. Central Kansas Christian Academy earned a \$500 prize for raising the most donations in a friendly competition

sponsored by **HISS SHERMAN WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP.**

Jefferson Elementary School came in second, receiving \$300, and Riley Elementary School came in third, receiving \$200.

Thanks to the amazing efforts of our youngest cooperative members, we were able to collect 7,590 pounds of food for the Community Food Bank of Barton County.

We continued our donation drive-ins the following week in October in Tribune and Syracuse. Members donated 2,596 pounds of food for the Greeley County Food Bank and 2,679 pounds for the Hamilton County Food Bank.

Our Leoti and Harper drive-ins were rescheduled due to inclement weather, but that didn't stop our members from showing how much they cared about their neighbors in need.

In Leoti, we received 3,096 pounds of donations, which we delivered to the Wichita County Food Bank. In Harper, we raised 2,152 pounds of donations, which were delivered to the Harper Mission Mart.

A special "Caldwell Cares" Cram the Van event was held on Nov. 12, 2020, at **THE STOCK EXCHANGE BANK** in Caldwell. We collected cash and can donations for the United Methodist Food Pantry and the Caldwell Food Bank. In exchange for their generosity, Caldwell residents enjoyed a sweet treat on us from Pekarna Coffee+Bakery. Our Cram the Van campaign netted both Caldwell food banks 2,055 pounds in food donations this year.

We treated some of our youngest members in Conway Springs to pizza parties, thanks to their incredible efforts to help us Cram the Van. A friendly school competition — the Cardinal Cares Canned Food Drive — between Kyle Trueblood Elementary School, St. Joseph Catholic School and Conway Springs middle and high schools garnered us a total of 2,672 pounds of food donations for the local Mission Mart.

Because 2020 had its unique challenges, we also introduced a new way for members to donate — online! With a few simple clicks, individuals could donate to one (or more) of our 11 local food banks at [www.weci.net](http://www.weci.net).

Our online campaign raised \$1,150 with an average online donation just under \$40. As our way of saying "thank you," we gave away a Traeger Tailgater grill to one lucky online donor on Dec. 9, 2020. **JANA HARKNESS** of Finney County was the winner. A video of our drawing was shared on our Facebook page.

Every year, we Cram the Van because we care. And every year, our members show us why the travel and time are worth all the effort. We know there are many families, children, and seniors within our communities who struggle with food insecurities. And in 2020 — our most challenging year yet — we couldn't have broken these records without the dedication, kindness and compassion of the communities we serve. It costs so little to help so much — **THANK YOU** from the bottom of our hearts for helping us make 2020 another successful year!



Representatives of Genesis Family Health in Finney County help Alli Conine, Manager of Member Services & Corporate Communications, unload Cram the Van food donations for the county food pantry.

Regan Reif (right), Member Services and Key Accounts Manager, presents a check to representatives of the Community Food Bank of Barton County for cash donations made from Cram the Van events in Great Bend.



In 2020, we raised an additional \$1,150 in online donations. As our way of saying thank you to our online donors, every \$10 online donation was entered to win a Traeger Tailgater Grill. Our winner, pictured here, was Jana Harkness of Finney County, who made a \$100 donation to the Emmaus House.

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**William Barnes** | District 7  
PRESIDENT



**Wes Campbell** | District 5  
VICE PRESIDENT



**Stacey Addison-Howland** | District 4  
SECRETARY



**Mark Arnold** | District 7  
TREASURER



**Katie Eisenhour** | District 1  
TRUSTEE



**Robert Hiss** | District 6  
TRUSTEE



**Dan Bonine** | District 6  
TRUSTEE



**John Kleysteuber** | District 5  
TRUSTEE



**Mike Thon** | District 3  
TRUSTEE



**Josh Young** | District 2  
TRUSTEE

## WHEATLAND MANAGEMENT



**Bruce W. Mueller**  
CEO/GENERAL MANAGER



**Trey Grebe**  
ASSISTANT GENERAL  
MANAGER



**Jim McVay**  
GENERAL COUNSEL



**Rick Klaus**  
DIRECTOR OF  
OPERATIONS



**Barbara Kirk**  
DIRECTOR OF  
HUMAN RESOURCES



**Radona Smythe**  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

# WHEATLAND OFFICES

## SCOTT CITY HEADQUARTERS

101 Main Street | PO Box 230  
Scott City, KS 67871  
620-872-5885

## GARDEN CITY

2005 W. Fulton | PO Box 973  
Garden City, KS 67846  
620-275-0261

## HARPER

906 Central | PO Box 247  
Harper, KS 67058  
620-896-7090

## SYRACUSE

206 N. Main | PO Box 1010  
Syracuse, KS 67878  
620-384-5171

## GREAT BEND

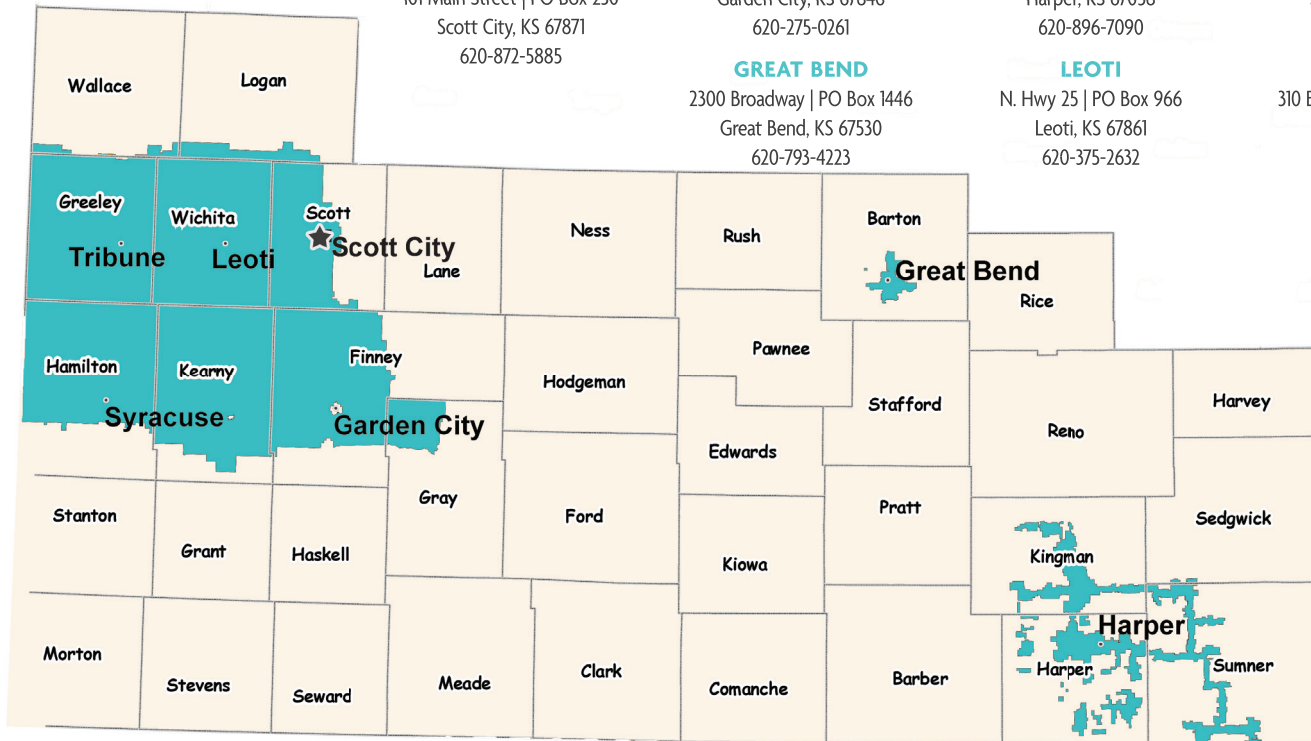
2300 Broadway | PO Box 1446  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
620-793-4223

## LEOTI

N. Hwy 25 | PO Box 966  
Leoti, KS 67861  
620-375-2632

## TRIBUNE

310 Broadway | PO Box 490  
Tribune, KS 67879  
620-376-4231



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CONSUMER SERVICES



**Luke West**  
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE  
SERVICES & WATER DIVISION



**Alli Conine**  
MANAGER OF MEMBER  
SERVICES & CORPORATE  
COMMUNICATION



**Quinten Wheeler**  
MANAGER OF SAFETY  
& COMPLIANCE



**Rhei Thurman**  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



# Mission

**Delivering Energy for Life**

# Vision

**Wheatland Electric Cooperative will provide essential services that are safe, reliable, and competitively priced to enhance the lives of our members.**

**WHEATLAND  
ELECTRIC**  
Delivering Energy for Life  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 