



**WHEATLAND
 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**
NEWS

**Wheatland Electric
 Cooperative, Inc.**

Bruce Mueller—General Manager

Board of Trustees

Wes Campbell
 President

Dave Lowe
 Vice President

Patrick Riley
 Secretary

Dan Bonine
 Treasurer

Ron Davis
 President Emeritus

Charles Ayers
 Trustee

Woody Barnes
 Trustee

Vic Case
 Trustee

Donald Hedges
 Trustee

Bob Hiss
 Trustee

Lawrence Houston
 Trustee

Roe Johnson
 Trustee

District Offices

Garden City
 2005 W Fulton
 P.O. Box 973
 Garden City, KS 67846
 620-275-0261

Great Bend
 2300 Broadway
 P.O. Box 1446
 Great Bend, KS 67530
 620-793-4223

Harper
 302 W. 6th
 P.O. Box 247
 Harper, KS 67058
 620-896-7090

Leoti
 N Hwy 25
 P.O. Box 966
 Leoti, KS 67861
 620-375-2632

Scott City—Main
 101 Main Street
 P.O. Box 230
 Scott City, KS 67871
 620-872-5885

Syracuse
 206 1/2 N Main
 P.O. Box 1010
 Syracuse, KS 67878
 620-384-5171

Tribune
 310 Broadway
 P.O. Box 490
 Tribune, KS 67879
 620-376-4231

In Case of Outage

After-hours and emergency reporting call
 1-800-ON AGAIN.

Message from the Manager

I want to thank everyone at the cooperative for making my first month on the job very enjoyable. All employees, directors and members I have met have made me feel very welcome. My predecessor, Neil Norman, left me an excellent organization to manage. I feel very fortunate.

On April 25, the Wheatland Annual meeting will be held in Great Bend. The meeting is for all members of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, spouses and immediate family are welcome. I'm looking forward to meeting our members in person.

In late April and early May, cooperative leaders (managers, directors and employees) from across the nation will attend the NRECA Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. We will spend time on Capitol Hill talking to our congressional delegations and congressional staff about legislative issues affecting electric cooperatives and their member-owners.

This year, the focus will be on increasing electric cooperatives' grassroots strength to prepare for legislative battles in 2013 and beyond. One of the battles will be a potential rewrite of the Clean Air Act.

We hope you can join us April 25 for the Annual Meeting and take an active role in your cooperative.



Bruce Mueller

Join us at the Annual Meeting

April 25 at 11:30 a.m.

Please come and join us for your annual meeting on April 25 in Great Bend at the Knights of Columbus, 723 Main Street.

The meal begins at 11:30 a.m. (CDT), followed by the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

The official notice is located on page 16-B. Members, spouses and children are welcome to come. Door prizes will be available and other prizes will be won through a drawing.

We hope to see you there!

April 2012						
S	M	T	W	U	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Operating Statement

for December 31, 2011

Revenues	
Operating Revenues	\$106,451,068
Expenses	
Cost of Power	\$76,214,388
Operations & Maintenance	\$5,739,527
Administrative & General	\$8,827,505
Depreciation	\$7,147,837
Total Interest	\$4,174,090
Taxes	\$3,620,373
Other	\$201,254
Total Expenses	\$105,924,974
Operating Margins	\$526,094
Non-Operating Margins*	\$14,877,233
Net Margins	\$15,403,327

(*) Of the non-operating margins, \$12,561,187 is an allocation of patronage from Sunflower Electric, our power supplier. This allocation is not in cash and will be available to Wheatland's patrons only at such time as it is paid out from Sunflower. 2011 is the first year for this allocation because Sunflower has been operating in a negative equity position.

Wheatland Electric Balance Sheet

as of December 31, 2011

Assets	
Electric Plant	\$211,932,163
Non-Electric Assets	\$58,917,267
Less: Depreciation	(\$70,209,678)
Net Plant	\$200,639,752
Investments	\$31,678,434
Cash & Short-Term Investments	\$11,417,829
Receivables	\$26,351,449
Materials & Supplies	\$4,315,507
Prepayments & Other	\$9,034,991
Deferred Debits	\$1,282,265
Total Assets	\$284,720,227
Liabilities	
Long-Term Debt	\$200,760,893
Lease Obligation	\$16,745,000
Total Long-term Liabilities	\$217,505,893
Payables	\$17,268,091
Other Liabilities	\$5,544,348
Short Term Liabilities	\$22,812,439
Equities	
Patronage Capital	\$43,552,239
Other Capital	\$849,656
Total Equities	\$44,401,895
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$284,720,227

Annual Meeting Notice

The 64th annual meeting of the members of Wheatland Electric will be held April 25, 2012, at the Knights of Columbus, 723 Main Street, in Great Bend.

A lunch will be served at 11:30 am. (CDT). The meeting will convene at 12:30 pm. The following matters will be addressed:

- ▶ Reports of officers, trustees, committees and employees.
- ▶ Voting on proposed bylaws amendment(s)
- ▶ Election of trustees of the cooperative
- ▶ Any other business which may come before the meeting
- ▶ Adjournment

The 2012 nominating committee consisted of the following members:

- ▶ **District 1**—Ed Cupp
- ▶ **District 2**—Milan Reimer
- ▶ **District 3**—Dale Wetzel
- ▶ **District 4**—Marvin Graber
- ▶ **District 5**—Robert Buerkle



Charles Ayers



Dan Bonine



Ron Davis



Roe Johnson



Dave Lowe

- ▶ **District 6**—Clark Rusco
- ▶ **District 7**—Kim Miller

The following trustees have been nominated by the nominating committee for the position of trustee: District 2—**CHARLES AYERS**; District 3—**ROE JOHNSON**; District 4—**RON DAVIS**; District 6—**DAN BONINE**; and District 7—**DAVE LOWE**.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor during the meeting.

Operating Statistics	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	East Electric Added April 2007				
Operating Revenue (Electric) (X 1,000)	\$80,884	\$92,088	\$90,322	\$100,341	\$106,451
Energy Sales (kwh) (X 1,000)	990,016	1,079,932	1,053,460	1,104,384	1,139,182
Average Revenue (\$/kwh)	\$0.0817	\$0.0853	\$0.0857	\$0.0909	\$0.09345
Cost of Power (X 1,000)	\$58,707	\$70,559	\$63,369	\$71,617	\$76,214
Total Purchases (kwh) (X 1,000)	1,032,608	1,127,045	1,103,894	1,148,485	1,184,993
Average Cost of Power (\$/kwh)	\$0.0569	\$0.0626	\$0.0574	\$0.0624	\$0.06432
Other Operations & Maintenance (X 1,000)	\$15,067	\$13,295	\$12,921	\$14,410	\$14,421
Total Operations & Maintenance (X 1,000)	\$73,774	\$83,854	\$76,290	\$85,398	\$90,635
Gross Operating Margin (X 1,000)	\$7,110	\$8,234	\$14,032	\$14,943	\$15,816
Gross Operating Margin (\$/kwh)	\$0.0072	\$0.0076	\$0.0133	\$0.0135	\$0.0139
Depreciation Expense (X 1,000)	\$4,650	\$6,231	\$6,992	\$7,188	\$7,148
Property Taxes (X 1,000)	\$2,112	\$2,432	\$2,469	\$2,779	\$3,131
Other Taxes (X 1,000)	\$401	\$474	\$501	\$457	\$489
Long Term Interest Expense	\$6,531	\$5,550	\$6,265	\$4,504	\$3,994
Net Operating Margin	\$(1,799)	\$(5,453)	\$(1,432)	\$2,097	\$526

Work Continues at Leoti Substation



Wheatland employees supervise as the transformer is brought in on a semi trailer.

Work is continuing at the Leoti Substation, just north of Leoti. A new transformer was unloaded and set into place by Wheatland employees in March.

The new transformer and switch are improvements that will increase capacity at the substation. This will mean more reliable power for members.

The transformer was manufactured by Virginia Transformer, Pocatello, ID. The large size and weight of the transformer meant a crane had to be brought in to lift and position it.



Employees had to dig a hold five-foot wide and 21-foot deep to accommodate the new transformer.



Wheatland employees use a crane for positioning transformer.

Wheatland Electric Official Proxy for the Annual Meeting of Members

Wednesday April 25, 2012

Know All Men By These Presents: That I, the undersigned member of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., do hereby constitute and appoint

Carrier's Name (please print)

to be my lawful attorney, substitute and proxy for me in my name, place and stead, to vote and represent me at the annual meeting of the members of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., to be held in Great Bend, KS, on the 25th day of April 2012, and to any adjournment or adjournments, and I hereby grant my proxy full power and authority to act in my stead and with the same effect as I might or could do were I present at such meeting in person; and I will hereby ratify and confirm all that my said attorney or proxy may lawfully do at such meeting in my place and stead. It is understood by me that this proxy shall not be valid unless it is filed with the secretary of the cooperative before, or at the time of the meeting at which the proxy is to be used; and further, that if I am personally present at such meeting, then the proxy shall be void.

In witness of, I have hereunto set my

hand this _____

day of _____ 2012.

Member (print)

Member (signature)

Witness (print)

Witness (signature)

Proxy invalid after 60 days from execution

Happy Easter!

All Wheatland Electric offices will be closed April 6 so our employees can observe Good Friday services with their families. Have a Happy and Safe Easter.

In case of an outage, please call 1-800-ON-AGAIN (1-800-662-4246) for assistance. Thank you!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

It's All About the Sun BY DOUG RYE



Doug Rye

Several things have happened to convince me that I should dedicate several articles to the very basics of energy efficiency. I have pondered this a lot and

even wake up during the night thinking about it.

I have discussed some of these thoughts with young students, middle-aged adults and some seniors. They all agree that we need to know more basics about energy efficiency. Just last week, while conducting a meeting at a high school auditorium, I asked the question, "As we know it, all energy comes from where?"

There were 75 people in attendance including students and adults. No one answered the question, so I asked it again. Finally, an adult answered, "from the sun." That is the correct answer, and I, like many of you, had learned that in a science class many years ago. I'm sure that some others thought, after they heard the correct answer, "Oh yeah, I knew that, too." I am convinced that many in the room did not know that all energy comes from the sun. Wow, that's a really big statement, so let's look at some of the ways that the sun relates to the energy usage of our home.

- ▶ If there had been no sun a long time ago, there would be no coal for the generation of electricity today.
- ▶ If there had been no sun in the past, there would be no natural gas for house heating or electricity

generation today. This also applies to propane gas.

- ▶ If there were no sun, there would be no wood to help heat a house.
- ▶ If there were no sun, there would be no wind to turn a turbine to generate electricity.
- ▶ If there were no sun, there would be no rain and, therefore, no water in the lake to generate electricity.
- ▶ If there were no sun, biomass would not even be considered as a possible future source for generating electricity.
- ▶ And last, and most obvious, if there were no sun, you could not have any solar generation.

Isn't it interesting to note that just about all of this has to do with the generation of electricity? Why is this the case?

It is because just about everything in the house, except the dog and the furniture, needs electricity. Even a gas furnace and a gas clothes dryer need electric fan motors to operate properly. Even a gas cooktop in the kitchen probably uses electricity for the clock and timers.

For the last several years, electronic items have been the number one gift at Christmas, and, yes, all electronics use electricity. I think that we would all agree that the need for electricity is not going away and that the demand is most likely going to increase. With that said, it is imperative that we use electricity wisely. That is exactly why this column is placed in this publication. Your electric co-ops' mission is to provide you with adequate and affordable electricity.

Folks, I am not an employee of any electric co-op, but I know for a

fact that they all work hard to fulfill their mission to you, the member, in spite of difficult governmental regulations. Although you and I have no control whatsoever over utility rates, we do have control over usage. Simply put, that is called conservation and energy efficiency.

Think with me for a minute. Just look at a tube of caulk. Energy was required to manufacture, package and ship the tube. Let's say that it took 50 cents to put the tube on the shelf. Now, let's suppose that 10 cents of the 50 cents was for electricity for the manufacturing. If you pay \$2 for the tube and caulk places in your house, you will then save 10 cents per month on your electric bill. The 10 cents of electricity that was used in producing the one tube of caulk would likely save hundreds of dollars of electricity over the life of the house.

What if each household in America would use one tube? Wow, that would be huge. What if each household used 10 tubes? That total savings in the generation of electricity would be unbelievable.

It is not important that my dollar figures be exactly correct. It is important that we use energy wisely today to help have adequate affordable energy in the future. We can do our part, and we can make a difference.

Of course, without the sun, it wouldn't even matter.

DOUG RYE is a licensed architect and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show. You can contact Doug at 501-653-7931. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.