

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS



Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Board of Trustees

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Wes Campbell
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Lawrence Houston
Trustee

Joe 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
906 Central
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

FROM THE MANAGER

2016 Annual Meeting Wrap-Up

I wanted to thank all of our members who attended Wheatland Electric Cooperative's 68th Annual meeting in Tribune. We had approximately 165 people in attendance, 120 of which were registered members. I also want to thank all the special guests who attended. During the meeting we presented the 2015 financial report, provided a yearly summary on the activities and accomplishments of the cooperative and discussed the upcoming meter data management program we will roll out later in 2016.

Wheatland recognized 12 high school senior scholarship winners who will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship to continue their education. We also recognized two Youth Tour winners and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp winner.

During the meeting, Wheatland employees were recognized for service awards ranging from five to 40 years. Stuart Lowry, President and CEO of Sun-

flower Electric, Wheatland's wholesale power supplier, presented an update on environmental and government regulations that affect the wholesale power of electricity. The 2017 Annual Meeting will be held in Leoti.

One of the topics I discussed during the annual meeting was the Co-ops Vote initiative. This new effort is being led by our national organization, the National Rural Electric Cooperatives of America. The program is designed to boost the number of electric co-op voters on Election Day. Wheatland Electric is supporting this initiative by hosting three candidate "Meet and Greet" events throughout Wheatland's service territory. The meeting times and dates are:

- ▶ June 10, 2016, 3 p.m. at the Garden City Wheatland office, 2005 Fulton Street.
- ▶ June 22, 2016, 3 p.m. at the Great Bend Wheatland office, 2300 Broadway.

- ▶ June 23, 2016, 3 p.m. at the Harper Wheatland office, 906 Central Harper.

These meetings are designed to allow you to become acquainted with the candidates and allow you time to visit one-on-one about issues that concern you and your community.

Again, this program focuses on enhancing the political strength of electric cooperatives and its members through voter engagement. The goal is to boost voter turnout in cooperative areas, making sure that our members exercise one of their basic rights—the right to vote. Please come by one of the scheduled "Meet and Greet" events and get to know the candidates. For more information on the Co-ops Vote initiative, please visit www.vote.coop.



Bruce Mueller

**Until next time,
take care.**

2016 Wheatland Electric Annual

The 68th Annual Meeting of Wheatland Electric was held on Wednesday, April 20, in Tribune. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity for Wheatland members to hear about what has taken place with their co-op during the past year and to find out what is on the horizon. Several key programs that give back to the community were highlighted during the Annual Meeting.

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp is not just another trip! Referred to as the “trip of a lifetime” in her presentation by the 2015 camp participant, **MALLORY HORTON**, shared her experience in Steamboat Springs, CO, and the memories and friends that will last her a lifetime. This year, **BREANNE AKIU**, will attend the camp. Breanne will have the opportunity to learn about cooperatives, tour

a generation facility, learn about government and build on communication and leadership skills. Winners of the 2016 Youth Tour **ERIN HALL** and **MARCOS MARTINEZ** will have the opportunity to join nearly 1,700 other students in Washington, D.C., in June. They will have the unique opportunity to watch history come alive as they explore the museums, memorials and monuments with other students from Kansas. They will also have the chance to meet and talk with congressional leaders from Kansas at the U.S. Capitol.

Each year, Wheatland sponsors two students to attend the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour and one student to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. Wheatland hopes these three lucky individuals do have the “trip of a lifetime!”

Twelve high school seniors each walked away with a \$1,000 scholarship from Wheatland this year. Why award scholarships? The answer can be found in two of the core founding principles of all cooperatives: education, training and information; and concern for community. Wheatland established the scholarship to help develop the leaders of tomorrow and to ensure that Wheatland’s future is just as bright as its past.

Ballots were counted and election results were announced for four uncontested trustee positions. The following trustees were elected: District 3 **LAWRENCE HOUSTON**; District 5 **WES CAMPBELL**; District 6 **ROBERT HISS**; and District 7 **WILLIAM BARNES**.

Thank you for attending this year’s Annual Meeting and we look forward to seeing you next year!

1. Luke West, manager of safety and policy, Chad Deniston, lineman (District 5), and Representative John Doll use the Annual meeting as a time to share ideas.
2. Board president Wes Campbell welcomes members to the Annual Meeting.
3. Mallory Horton thanks the membership for the opportunity to participate in the 2015 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.
4. Bruce Mueller, general manager, addresses the membership.
5. Wheatland welcomes members to the Annual Meeting.
6. Bruce Mueller, general manager, presents Shyla Mason with her scholarship certificate.



Meeting Highlights

Employee Service Awards

The following employees were recognized for their service to Wheatland Electric (* denotes Trustee).

40 years

▶ ANITA MCCOLLUM

30 years

▶ DENZIL REED and CHARLES AYERS*

25 years

▶ WALT LOVINS, CURTIS LAMB and KELLEY BURCH

20 years

▶ DAX WALK

15 years

▶ MATT SCHEETER and PATRICK RILEY*

10 years

▶ MARK DINKEL, MATTHEW HO-SLER, BARBARA KIRK, FRANCIS LOBMEYER and LUKE WEST

▶ 5 years

DEREK CALLAWAY, KARRY DE-SCHNER and DOUG HEBERLEE

2016 Scholarship Winners

Twelve high school seniors were awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from Wheatland this year.

▶ KOLTEN KOERNER, Argonia

▶ KARLEE SCHMIDT, Caldwell

▶ JACI UMMEL, Chaparral

▶ SARAH DOFFING, Conway Springs

▶ SHELBY DEIST, Great Bend

▶ CASSIDY HILD, Greeley Co

▶ MARGARET ROTH, Holcomb

▶ SHYLA MASON, Leoti

▶ DERIAN GARRISON, Norwich

▶ MADISON BRAUN, Scott

Community

▶ PAIGE TUREK, South Haven

▶ MALLORY HORTON, Syracuse

Congratulations and best of luck in your future endeavors.



Additional Payment Options

▶ Recurring Credit/Debit Card

- Automatic posting to electric account the 5th of each month.

▶ **E-check** - Electronic payment with check—one-time payment withdrawn from checking or savings account.

Enjoy the convenience of having your bill automatically paid each month from your bank account or card when you enroll in Auto Pay.

With Auto Pay, you no longer have to worry about due dates or late fees since your payment is automatically deducted from your account the 5th of each month. Prior to enrolling, your current balance must be zero.

If you have questions regarding the new payment options, please contact your local Wheatland Electric office.



Tip of the Month

Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

CHARGED

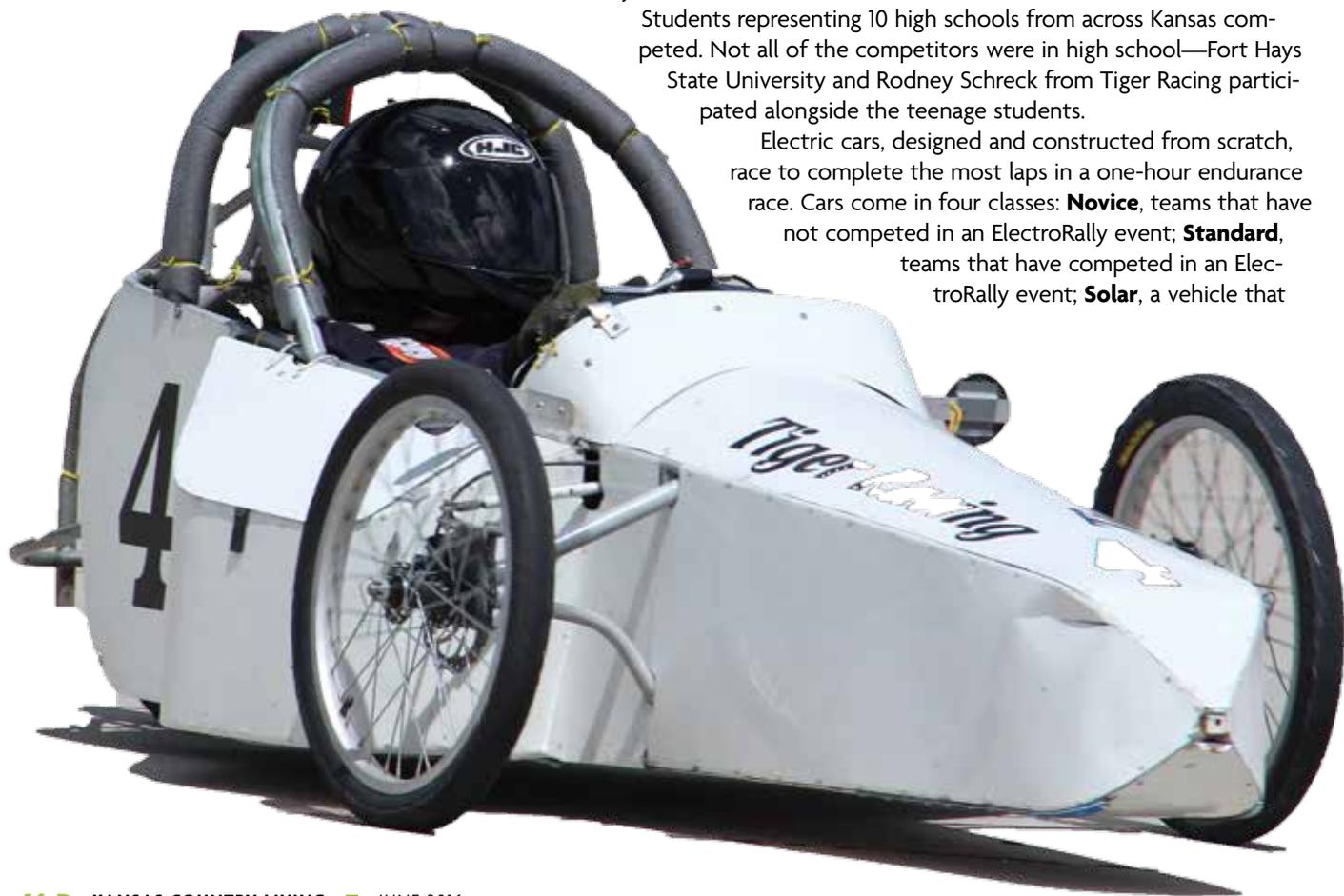
Up to Race

Local Youth Race in ElectroRally Series

The 19th Annual Sunflower ElectroRally was held April 27 at the Scott City Airport. The race is part of the Kansas ElectroRally Championship Series, with other races held in Beloit and Olathe. When teams gather in Scott City for the annual race, there is no “perfect race weather guarantee.” Cold and inclement weather have been a problem in the past, and this year was no different. Thunderstorms moved through that morning, but stopped before dawn. It was chilly and windy, but the race went on.

Students representing 10 high schools from across Kansas competed. Not all of the competitors were in high school—Fort Hays State University and Rodney Schreck from Tiger Racing participated alongside the teenage students.

Electric cars, designed and constructed from scratch, race to complete the most laps in a one-hour endurance race. Cars come in four classes: **Novice**, teams that have not competed in an ElectroRally event; **Standard**, teams that have competed in an ElectroRally event; **Solar**, a vehicle that





The Great Bend high school team prepares for the 19th Annual Sunflower ElectroRally.

Race Results

Standard Class

1. Clearwater - #154: 96 laps
2. Hays High - #20: 95 laps
3. Dundy Co, NE - #761: 95 laps

Solar Class

1. Scott City - #123x: 93 laps
2. Scott City - #195x: 88 laps
3. Hodgeman Co. - #145x: 81 laps
4. Wheatland - #384x: 67 laps

Open Class

1. Tiger Racing - #4: 89 laps
2. Fort Hays State - #500: 65 laps

has an added power source such as solar panels; **Open**, anyone may participate as long as they follow racing rules and design guidelines.

The course is a quarter-mile road course designed with twists and turns. The races are professionally run with strict car inspectors and safety as the rule of the day. Each car has an electric motor and a battery (up to 73 pounds in weight). In addition, each car must have 180 pounds of cargo. If the driver weighs less than 180 pounds then weight must be added. Some drivers, who dripping wet, couldn't weigh more than 100 pounds, added close to their body weight to get to 180 pounds.

In addition to sponsoring individual programs at Scott City and Great Bend high schools, Wheatland employees volunteer to help set up the course, take it down, grill hamburgers and hotdogs for all of the race participants and whatever else is needed to ensure a successful race.

Wheatland is proud to be a sponsor of this program; each year we look forward to seeing familiar faces and new ones. For more information about the electric car program in Kansas, visit www.kansaselectrorally.org. Schools interested in starting an electric car program should contact Shawn Powelson, manager of member services and corporate communications, at spowelson@weci.net.

Veteran Racer Continues to Compete

The concept of racing electric cars isn't a new one. In 1997, the first ElectroRally was held in Kansas. The response was so positive it became an annual event. An organization called Electrathon America provided rules and guidelines for the event.

The concept of Electrathon racing was introduced in 1990 by an Australian Electrathon racer named Clark Beasley. The idea rapidly gained popularity. Rodney Schreck, an avid racer from Florida, remembers the day he knew that this was what he wanted to do and ElectroRally racing became not only a hobby, but a passion. It was in 1991, while watching an episode of MotorWeek about electric cars. At the time he had just recently built an electric skateboard.

With hopes of learning more about the sport, Schreck mailed 300 letters (the internet was not what it is today in 1991) to companies and individuals. He heard from two, one being Clark Beasley. With the help of Beasley, he built his first car and raced in his first race on May 31, 1996.



Rodney Schreck, member of Tiger Racing, holds a photo of the first electric car he built in 1995.

Twenty years later, he's still racing. This year has been his biggest year, competing in 15 races. With each race he experiments with different motors and gear ratios and has a blast doing it. He must because not everyone would drive more than 1,900 miles to Scott City to race.

Get to Know Your Co-op Staff Clint Gulick

Line Foreman
8 Years at Caldwell



Clint Gulick

dog named Willie, after Willie the Wildcat.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

I have a wife of 12 years, Hollie, and three daughters: Heidi, 11, Haley, 8, and Georgia, 5. We have a

WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

Iola

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I enjoy golfing and spending time with my family and friends.

WHAT SPORT TEAM IS YOUR FAVORITE?

I am a big K-State fan and like to go watch their football games in the fall.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE?

My favorite movie is *The Sandlot*. It reminds me that as a kid all of us neighbor kids got together for a game of baseball or basketball.

WHAT WOULD YOUR IDEAL JOB BE?

My ideal job would probably be a pro golfer if you could really call that a job.

WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

My three biggest accomplishments are my three daughters. It seems like yesterday they were in diapers.

Office Closed 4th of July

Wheatland Electric Cooperative's office will be closed on Monday, July 4, 2016, in observance of the 4th of July holiday.

Co-op Candidate Tour Wheatland Meet & Greet

Join us at a Wheatland office near you for an opportunity to meet the candidates running for election in the August primary in your area. Wheatland will host the following legislative meet and greets in the month of June. All members are welcome to attend.

- ▶ **June 10**, 2005 W Fulton, Garden City, at 3 p.m.
- ▶ **June 22**, 2300 Broadway, Great Bend, at 3 p.m.
- ▶ **June 23**, 906 Central, Harper, at 3 p.m.

The Co-op Candidate Tour is

sponsored by Kansas Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Government Relations department as part of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Co-ops Vote initiative.

Co-ops Vote is a national non-partisan campaign to encourage co-op members to register to vote, educate voters on key issues, and encourage members to vote for candidates that support electric co-ops.

Read more about KEC's Co-ops Candidate Tour on page 22 of this month's issue of *Kansas Country Living*.

New Kiosk for Bill Payment

Need to make a payment? Check out the convenience of our new payment kiosk located at Hired Man's Grocery and Grill in Conway Springs.

The kiosk provides easy to use, automated access to your account. All you need is your account number! Payments of cash, check or credit/debit cards are accepted. Visit Hired Man's Grocery and Grill during normal business hours.

Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m.-8 p.m.

Saturday
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday:
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Hired Man's Grocery & Grill
424 N. 5th, Conway Springs
620-456-3663



Look for the new kiosk for bill payment at Hired Man's Grocery and Grill.

Check Out a New Way to Curb Your Energy Usage

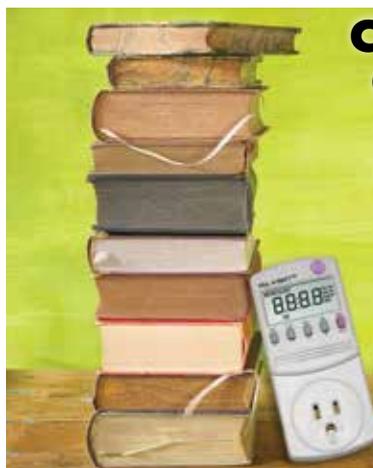
Borrow a Kill-A-Watt at Your Local Library Today!

The Kill-A-Watt™ EZ is an electricity monitoring device designed to easily measure how much electricity is being used by your plug-in appliances at home or work.

Find out how much money you would save in your electricity bills by turning them off and being smarter in your home energy management.

The Kill-A-Watt EZ is now available for checkout at your local library.

You must have a valid library card to borrow a Kill-A-Watt through this program.



Powelson Awarded Brand Champion

Shawn Powel-son, manager of member services and corporate communications at Wheatland Electric, was named a 2016 Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Brand Champion on May 11. The awards ceremony was held in Portland, OR, during the Connect 2016



On May 11, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives COO Mary McLauri named Shawn Powel-son, Wheatland Electric Cooperative, as one of the 2016 Brand Champions.

Conference for electric cooperative marketing, communication and member services professionals.

"It is certainly an honor to receive an individual award, and I appreciate those that nominated and selected me," Powel-son said. "However, as all of us know, very few things happen in the co-op world as the result of one person's efforts. I work for a great co-op and have been able to put together a great team over the last couple of years, so really it's an award for all of us."

Along with three other dedicated co-op employees, Powel-son was recognized for his exceptional efforts in making the Touchstone Energy brand come alive for his members. He refreshed Wheatland's digital pres-

ence through Touchstone Energy's Co-op Web Builder program and was the first to bring the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon to Kansas.

"Wheatland is proud of Shawn and happy to have him as part of our team. This honor shines the

spotlight on dedicated employees who have shown leadership, effectiveness and consistency while building the brand," said Bruce Mueller, general manager.

"I love working for a co-op, and I'm fortunate to work with a lot of great folks across Kansas and really, the country," Powel-son explained.

The Connect Conference is the annual national conference and expo that brought together more than 550 electric co-op professionals.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives is a national network of approximately 750 consumer-owned electric cooperatives dedicated to serving their members and communities with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

Reconnecting Your AMI Meter

If your service has been disconnected for non-payment and the required payment amount has been completed and processed, you can automatically reconnect your service. **Please note:** Automatically reconnecting service can only be utilized by members with AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) meters.

To reactivate your service, push and hold the black button on your meter for 5 seconds. If your service is not automatically restored or if you

do not have an AMI meter, please contact 800-762-0436. For after hours assistance, please call 800-662-4246.



Press and hold the black button for 5 seconds to restore your service.

Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

Mark Kircher

District Supervisor
25 Years at Great Bend

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

My wife of 27 years is Tonya, who is a loan officer at the local credit union. I have two daughters. Hanna, the oldest, is a senior at Fort Hays State University studying nursing. Haley is at Barton Community College studying nursing.



Mark Kircher

WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

Winfield, KS

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I have a 1973 Corvette that I'm trying to restore, but it is taking a lot longer than I would like.

WHAT SPORT TEAM IS YOUR FAVORITE?

Kansas State Wildcat football

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE FAMILY VACATION?

In February of this year, my wife surprised me with tickets to the Barrett Jackson Car Auction in Scottsdale, AZ. Seeing all those cool cars was incredible. The highlight was riding in a 2016 Corvette.

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPER POWER WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

I would like to have the ability to see into the future. That way I could invest in the newest technologies and make a lot of money.

WHAT IS SOMETHING NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT YOU?

While living in Hays back in the day, they filmed Paper Moon nearby and I got to be an extra kid in the crowd along with a bunch of my friends.

A DAY *in the* LIFE

BY SHAWN POWELSON



Matt Scheeter
Warehouse Foreman
15 years in Garden City

What goes into being a warehouse foreman for Wheatland Electric? That is what was on my mind when I arrived at the warehouse in Garden City. I'd been to the warehouse to see Matt a few times before but I was trying to take extra notes this time around.

One thing I noticed right away, this place was neat and tidy. Not the first thing that comes to mind when you say "warehouse", for sure.

Matt greeted me from the hallway and welcomed me into his office. I asked him to tell me about his official duties as warehouse foreman. (Some of the unofficial ones, I was already well aware of. It's not uncommon to see Matt around the Garden City office shoveling snow, replacing lightbulbs and even performing an occasional toilet repair.) Basically, Matt is in charge of making sure the Garden City line crews have the materials they need to complete any line construction projects coming up. He is responsible for tracking those materials all the way from start to finish of a project. Matt showed me some paperwork and walked me through the typical life cycle of a construction project, which is referred to internally as a work order.

The work order originates with the staking department who determines all the materials necessary for a project and generates a pick list. The work order and pick list then go to the warehouse to ensure the materials are on hand or, if not, Matt orders them. The morning the project is to commence, Matt and warehouse

assistant Paul Aguiniga pull the materials and have them ready for each of the three line crews.

As Matt described this process, we took a walk through the warehouse where he showed me rows and rows of shelves and boxes filled with every kind of part you can imagine. I heard him say something about a poxilator and before I could get offended, noticed he was pointing to a part on one of the shelves. He continued, that's a #32415, or officially, a deadend insulator 15KV, but we call it a poxilator. Throughout our time together, I picked up on that fact that he could do that with thousands and thousands of part numbers. I was officially impressed.

Matt took me on a quick tour of the rest of "the yard," where large items like poles and transformers are kept. As we drove along, Matt talked about the importance of everybody working together. He and the line crews have established a very good working relationship that requires a lot of trust. They have to trust that Matt has everything they need to do their job, and Matt has to trust that they keep an accurate count of all of the materials they use for a project so all of his paperwork and records match.

As we finished our day, we talked about his wife of 20 years, Kellie, and his two sons Carson and Caleb. We talked baseball and bingo, as well. Matt is a member of the local Knights of Columbus and regularly "calls" at the local hall on Sunday and Thursday nights. Matt told me that he absolutely loves his job and feels blessed to have it. He said, "When you like the people you work with, it's easy to love your job." Well said, Matt, and thanks for sharing your day with me!

SHAWN POWELSON, Manager of Member Services and Corporate Communications

