



WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Bruce Mueller—General Manager

Board of Trustees

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President

Wes Campbell
Vice President

Patrick Riley
Secretary

Dan Bonine
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Trustee

Vic Case
Trustee

Katie Eisenhower
Trustee

Bob Hiss
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
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

Optional Rate Change

Two New Riders Benefit Members

In April, Wheatland Electric Cooperative implemented its rate increase for the entire membership. At this time, we also announced that we would be designing a new rate option for members.

High Load Factor Rider

Wheatland Electric will offer a new **OPTIONAL GENERAL SERVICE HIGH LOAD FACTOR RATE RIDER** for members who are part of the General Service rate class with extremely high energy usage. Members in this particular sub-set of the General Service rate class received a somewhat higher percentage increase under the new rates as compared to the average rate increase.

The rider is beneficial to both General Service members and Wheatland Electric- members as a whole. The individual member may see a reduction in monthly billing—but only if they maintain a high load factor. Wheatland's other members may benefit as well, because high load factors generally result in lower average cost of power, which flows through to all Wheatland's members through the monthly Energy Cost Adjustment.

No member can pay more under the optional rider than their current General Service rate and each member may decide if they wish to participate—as long as all rider requirements are met.

Grid Access Rider

In addition to the High Load Factor Rider, Wheatland has designed a new **GRID ACCESS CHARGE**. Currently Wheatland Electric recovers a portion of its fixed costs for providing service (tree trimming, line maintenance, meter costs, debt payments, etc.) from the monthly service availability charge. But, when members move to a net metering rate, that cost recovery is reduced, because the member avoids kilowatt-hours consumption. Wheatland Electric firmly supports providing each net metering member with a benefit related to reduce power costs that are based on reductions in Wheatland's cost of power.

The Grid Access Charge will add a monthly charge to allow

Continued on page 16-D ►



Bruce Mueller

“Wheatland Electric supports providing each net metering member with a benefit related to reduce power costs that are based on reductions in Wheatland's cost of power.”



Putting Value in Your Wallet

THE CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD



No sign-up, no paperwork and no fees, just great local savings!
www.connections.coop

The Co-op Connections Card earns you both local and national discounts. It is FREE to members and is a money-saving tool we're proud to offer.

Wheatland Electric Cooperative's commitment to you goes beyond providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. We're always looking for ways to provide value to our members and the communities we serve. The Co-op Connections Card earns you both local and national discounts. It is **FREE** to Wheatland Electric members and is a money-saving tool we're proud to offer.

The card gives you access to local savings and online savings such as Best Western Hotels, Hertz Rental Cars and many, many more.

Your source for all the best deals on Main Street

More than 39 local businesses participate in the Co-op Connection Card savings program. With your Co-op Connections Card, you have access to savings in your local community, including great **NEW** deals at E-Z Tan in Great Bend—\$10 off any tanning package—and Yours Truly in Great Bend—25% off one regularly priced item.

Check out page 16-C for a list of local offers available with the Co-op Connections Card. You can also view

a complete list of local and national deals at www.connections.coop.

There's an App for That!

The Co-op Connections Card app download is on the www.connections.coop website. You will find it on the left-hand side below the search function box. The app provides a virtual card (front and back) with discount information on your phone. You can also use your phone's GPS feature to find businesses that accept the card if any are nearby, and identify your favorite discount deals and save them in "My Deals" for easy access.

Whether you want to order a pizza from a local business or book a hotel room or rent a car in another city, Wheatland Electric's Co-op Connections Card Program might provide you with a discount.

If your business would like to participate in the Co-op Connections Card Program, please contact us at connectionscard@weci.net.

Still need a Connections Card? Contact your local office for more information on how to start saving now with the Co-op Connections Card!

Earn Savings in Your Community by Using Wheatland's Co-op Connections Card

A440 Musical Instruments, Great Bend

15% off accessories

AJ Graphics, Garden City

10% off all products

Becker Tire & Treading, Inc., Great Bend

\$25 off a set of new tires

Cornerstone Interiors, Great Bend

Robert Rothchild Farm-Buy any sauce or dip and get a sample flavor FREE

D'Mario's Pizza, Harper

Large pizza for medium charge

Dairy Queen, Scott City

Buy one Orange Julius, get one FREE

EZ Tan, Great Bend—NEW!

\$10 off any tanning package

First National Bank, Scott City

10% off any purchase of \$50 or more

Gifts, Etc., Scott City

\$5 off a Trapp Candle (limit one per visit)

Great Bend Coffee, Great Bend

½ off coffee drinks from 2-3 p.m. Monday-Friday

Hairport, Harper

Buy 4 products get 1 FREE

Hairport, Harper

25% off haircut for new clients

Hamilton County Museum, Syracuse

FREE admission

High Call Outfitters, Great Bend

Denim-Buy one get one half-off

Key Office, Garden City

For every \$100 spent, Key will donate \$5 to the PEAR Program

Lifeteam, Newton

30% off a Lifeteam Membership

Maria's Mexican Grill, Great Bend

Buy one lunch entrée and get a FREE non-alcoholic beverage

Midwest Appliance Service, Great Bend

5% off parts and labor

Northrup Theatre, Syracuse

\$1 off medium or large special (tub of popcorn and two drinks)

Nostalgia Nook, Caldwell

10% off select items on Saturdays

Office Products, Inc., Great Bend

Copiers and printers over \$500, 90 days no interest. Subject to finance charges after.

Paper Graphics Inc., Garden City

\$25 off graphic design services

Perks, Great Bend

20% off specialty drinks on Saturdays

Pizza Hut, Scott City

Large pizza for medium charge

Playa Azul, Great Bend

Buy one lunch entrée and get a FREE non-alcoholic beverage

Renewal by Anderson, Great Bend

FREE installation

Revcom Electronics, Scott City

Buy two packs of batteries, get one FREE

Revolt Technology Group LLC, Garden City

10% discount on networking, security and computer services

Superior Car Care Center, Syracuse

FREE alignment check

Suzy B's Flowers & More, Scott City

\$1 off a pound of any bulk Jelly Belly Jelly beans

Tate's, Scott City

Buy one get one half off cheeseburger (excludes specialty burgers)

The Broiler Restaurant & Club, Scott City

2 (1/4 lb.) rack of ribs baskets for \$8.95 on Thursday nights

3Phase Laser, Scott City

20% off lasered pictures through Christmas

The Green Haus, Scott City

Buy three geraniums get one FREE

The Red Barn Family Restaurant, Caldwell

Buy a dinner special and get a 2nd for ½ off or \$2 off any large pizza

The Taylor House, Scott City

15% off flavored espresso drinks 10 a.m.-noon, Monday-Friday

The YMCA of Southwest Kansas, Garden City

Joining fee waived for new members

TNT Renovations, Inc, Great Bend

\$10 off any service or \$20 off any service over \$200

Yours Truly, Great Bend—NEW!

25% off one regularly priced item

E-Z Tan Joins Co-op Connections Card Deals

When you don't have time for the beach, keep your golden glow with regular visits to E-Z Tan in Great Bend. E-Z Tan is known as the largest, cleanest salon in Central Kansas offering 18 beds with three levels of tanning, a leg tanner, hand-held Air Brush Spray Tan, VersaSpa Spray Tan Booth, eyelash extensions, lotion inventory and more! No appointments necessary; walk-in

with your Co-op Connections Card and get \$10 off a tanning package!

Use your Connections Card at these other local businesses for more great savings!

- ▶ Pizza Hut, Scott City
- ▶ Yours Truly, Great Bend
- ▶ Suzy B's Flowers & More, Scott City

For a complete list of deals visit www.connections.coop/weci.

Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

Pat Hanna

Customer Service Representative
7 years in Garden City



Pat Hanna

Shonna; a son, Sheldon; granddaughter Samantha; and three grandsons: Tyler, Eric and Jameson.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

Ulysses

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I like to spend my spare time with my family and spoiling my grandchildren. I like to travel, cook and garden.

WHAT SPORT TEAM IS YOUR FAVORITE?

KSU

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE VACATION?

Our family vacation to Florida. Both of our children's families went. These family vacations are lots of fun.

WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

My family.

WHO HAS INSPIRED YOU IN YOUR LIFE AND WHY?

My grandmother. She gave of herself in many ways. She worked hard, but always had time for others. She had a spiritual strength that was uplifting.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

My husband Kenny and I have been married 47 years. We have a daughter,

Optional Rate Change Continued from page 16-A

Wheatland Electric to recover from distributed generation members the cost of providing them with electric service each month. All existing net metering and renewable members will be grandfathered under their existing rates and procedures.

Since all existing members will continue to be billed under the existing rate, this proposed change will have no effect on Wheatland's revenue and will not cause cost shifting.

C.H. Guernsey (our rate consul-

tant) has assisted Wheatland Electric with both new rate options.

The Wheatland Electric Board of Trustees and management will be considering these two new rate designs in the near future. Members will receive notification (when and where) of the meeting that the rate options will be considered at.

The Board and management recognize that any change in rates is very important to the members.

Until next time, take care.

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 on 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.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your room air conditioner working overtime? Reduce air leaks by installing rigid foam panels (instead of the commonly used accordion panels) in between the window frame and unit, and secure with duct tape.

Wheatland Members Meet Local Candidates

Wheatland recently hosted a series of legislative “meet and greets” across its service territory. More than 20 legislative candidates and nearly 100 employees and members attended the three meetings hosted at Wheatland’s offices in Garden City, Great Bend and Harper.

At the events, each candidate had the opportunity to give a four-minute stump speech, which was followed by

an informal meet and greet session. Candidates had the opportunity to get to know those in attendance and listen to the concerns of their constituents.

Wheatland partnered with the Government Relations staff of Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) to sponsor the events which

were part of a statewide effort to promote the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Co-ops Vote initiative. In all, KEC helped facilitate 20 events with 18 rural electric co-ops across the state.

“The purpose of these events was not to promote any one candidate or to support a particular political party,” said Bruce Mueller,



Jon Prescott, candidate for Kansas House of Representative, District 113, speaks to Wheatland’s membership at the Meet and Greet in Great Bend.

Wheatland Electric General Manager. “We just want people to be informed and participate in the political process. We want to encourage our members to get to know the candidates and then go vote. The democratic process is part of the seven cooperative principles and something we should all participate in.”

For additional information on the Co-ops Vote initiative please visit www.vote.coop.



Members attend Wheatland’s meet and greet in Harper and talk about local topics with Don Shimkus, candidate for Kansas Sen., District 32, and Michelle Schiltz, candidate for Kansas House of Rep., District 80.

Participate in Paperless Billing and Receive a \$5 Bill Credit

It’s time to say goodbye to misplaced bills and clutter with paperless billing from Wheatland Electric Cooperative. By going paperless, you can conveniently view and pay your electric bill online, all while making a positive impact on the environment. Best of all, it’s easy, convenient and absolutely free.

Paperless Benefits

- ▶ View or print your electric bill anytime with 24/7 access to your secure online information.
- ▶ Receive an automated email notification when your monthly electric bill is ready.
- ▶ Easily review your electric usage, payment and billing history.
- ▶ Use your credit/debit card or your checking account to pay your bill online with SmartHub.

In addition to receiving an automated email notification when your monthly electric bill is ready, you will also receive automated messages when your credit/debit card is about to expire, notice of intent to disconnect service if payment is not received, and a notice

of discontinuation of service if your account is delinquent.

How to Sign Up

If you are not currently signed up for online account access with SmartHub:

- ▶ Sign up for new online account access through SmartHub and complete the information required.
- ▶ Log into SmartHub, click on “My Profile” on top menu.
- ▶ Choose “Update My Printed Bill Settings,” click “Turn off Printed Bills,” and choose “Yes” to confirm.

If you have an existing online account with SmartHub:

- ▶ Log into your online SmartHub account and click on “My Profile” on top menu.
- ▶ Choose “Update My Printed Bill Settings.”
- ▶ Click “Turn off Printed Bills” and choose “Yes” to confirm.

Members who sign up for paperless billing through SmartHub by **October 31, 2016**, will receive a \$5 bill credit. Wheatland thanks you for participating in paperless billing.



Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

Teresa Mazouch

Member Services Representative
1 1/2 months at Great Bend



Teresa Mazouch

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

I've been married to my high school sweetheart for 10 1/2 years; we have three

daughters: Josephine is 9; Meredith is 7 1/2; and Norah is 3 1/2. We have no pets, but not for lack of trying on my girls' part.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

I was born and raised in Great Bend.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I love to read, sew, create, spend time with my family and watch my girls' activities.

WHAT SPORT TEAM IS YOUR FAVORITE?

I'm a diehard KSU Wildcat fan! I also love watching the Royals.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE VACATION?

Jamaica—such beautiful water and beaches.

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

I would want to be able to fly. Getting places would be so much faster!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK OR MOVIE AND WHY?

I love a fantastic story, so I've enjoyed *The Chronicles of Narnia* as well as the *Harry Potter* series.

Avoid Hazards with Power Lines

Electrical power is indispensable in modern agricultural operations. In fact, because electricity is commonplace in farm operations, it can easily become a part of the scenery. One often overlooked safety consideration is the power line clearance required for grain bins.

Equipment and vehicles, such as augers and grain trucks, around grain bins are particularly at risk of coming into contact with overhead power lines. It is important that bins be built a safe distance from power lines to help ensure the safety of all farm workers.

The National Electrical Safety Code sets minimum clearances around grain bins. It requires that high-voltage power lines (over 600 volts) be at least 18 feet above the highest point on a grain bin. Additionally, the code sets the minimum distance that power lines must be from grain bins, depending on the bin's height. For instance, a bin that is 15 feet tall must be at least 55 feet from power lines on its loading side, and a bin that is 50 feet tall must be at least 143 feet from power lines on its loading side.

The State of Kansas may have additional requirements. If you're planning to build a new grain bin, contact your local utility before any construction begins. We can help you determine minimum safety requirements.

Remember these additional tips anytime you are operating farm equipment around power lines:

- ▶ Keep equipment at least 10 feet



Building a structure too close to overhead power lines can create an electric shock danger during and after construction.

from lines, at all times, in all directions;

- ▶ Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance;
- ▶ Always remember to lower extensions when moving loads;
- ▶ Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines;
- ▶ Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance; and
- ▶ If a power line is sagging or low, contact Wheatland Electric.

If equipment does come into contact with a power line, remember, stay on the equipment until the utility has arrived to de-energize the lines. Warn others to stay away, and call the local utility provider immediately. The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, "bunny hop" away to safety.

For more information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Wheatland Offices to Close for Labor Day on Sept. 5

The Wheatland Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 5 in observance of Labor Day.



Join Us for Wheatland's Annual Cram the Van



Wow, it's difficult to believe summer is winding down and September is just around the corner. And with September comes the beginning of our annual Cram the Van food drive.

We can't wait to fire up the van and head to your community this fall. We're planning several new events and looking to make some of last years' even better.

The pumpkins and warm weather have already been ordered for this year's finale. Last year's Halloween finale, was a great time: We had hayrack rides, roasted marshmallows and decorated pumpkins. So mark your calendars for another great Cram the Van finale in Scott City on Saturday, Oct. 29 at the Wheatland Broadband building in Scott City.

your community, starting with the Z98 Women's Night Out at the Garden City Clarion Inn on Thursday, Sept. 15.

We appreciate everyone who has helped us collect more than 7 tons of food over the past two years. Thank you for partnering with us to help feed hungry people across Kansas.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our events as we work together to pass the 10 ton mark this year.

See the schedule below for a list of events and dates we are already planning:

- ▶ **Sept. 15** – **Z98 WOMEN'S FAIR**, Garden City
- ▶ **Sept. 20** – **HEARTLAND FOODS**, Scott City
- ▶ **Sept. 30** – **GOOCH'S FOODS**, Tribune
- ▶ **Oct. 15** – **BULLSEYE BBQ/FALL FEST**, Harper
- ▶ **Oct. 21** – **CARDINAL CHALLENGE**, Conway Springs
- ▶ **Oct. 29** – **CRAM THE VAN FINALE**, Wheatland Broadband in Scott City

We will be adding more events to the schedule, so be sure to check Wheatland's website (www.weci.net/) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/WheatlandElectric) for updates. See you soon, and thanks for helping us Cram the Van!

But before we get to Scott City on Oct. 29, we have 10 more stops to make in communities across our service territory. Be sure and watch for the big red van at an event in



Cram the Van events throughout Wheatland's service territory have netted more than 7 tons of food for local food banks over the past two years.



A DAY *in the* LIFE

BY SHAWN POWELSON



Barbara Kirk
Manager of Human Resources
10 years, 7 months in Scott City

Sometimes, finding a subject for my monthly Day in the Life article can be challenging, and I'm forced to be a little creative. Like resorting to extortion...I mean, um, deploying my excellent negotiating skills!

So when **BARBARA KIRK** called and left

me a voicemail telling me she needed to get together, I jumped at the chance to strike a deal. Without too much of a fight, Barbara agreed to my list of demands, which were rather short: Let me hang out with you for awhile, learn about your job and take you to lunch. Deal closed.

I made my way over to our corporate office in Scott City and headed straight for Barbara's office. Or, more accurately, Barbara's old office. "Sorry George, looking for Barbara. Oh, that's right, she moved. Thanks!" I stepped through Barbara's doorway with a sheepish grin on my face. "Hi Barbara, how's your new office?"

As the Manager of Human Resources, Barbara oversees several areas including employee benefits, payroll, hiring, workers' compensation and new employee orientation. A recent onslaught of retirements at Wheatland has kept her especially busy in the hiring department. She has coordinated 14 new hires in the last seven months. With each new hire, there is often more than 30 resumes to review before recommending a final list of interview candidates to the hiring manager. Next, interviews are conducted, usually five or six per position, and then job offers are extended, new employee orientations planned and paperwork prepared

and...yeah, you get the idea. She's been busy! And that's only one part of her job.

When she's not busy writing and placing job ads or sorting through resumes, she's working on developing a job description for every position at Wheatland, which was actually why she called me in the first place. She was working on the positions in my department and was ready for my input, so we took a break from her informal interview with me and worked on a couple of job descriptions for the member services department.

As we talked and jotted down notes, I asked Barbara about her family. She's married to Chuck, who owns and operates a local grain elevator. Together they have five children and four grandchildren. I know from previous conversations she absolutely adores her grandchildren and places tremendous value on faith and family. That's easy to see in almost everything she says and does. Barbara also enjoys quilting, reading, working in the yard and traveling—going back to Israel is on her bucket list. "Call me crazy", she said with a wink.

When I asked her favorite thing about working at Wheatland she said, "I have a lot of fun." Barbara added, "I enjoy meeting new people and getting to know them. There are a lot of good people at Wheatland who are friendly and helpful."

We finished our time together over lunch, where we were joined by her daughter, Brandy, and granddaughter, Sarah. As we sat and enjoyed our meal and friendly conversation, it seemed rather fitting that her family had joined us for lunch. That's Barbara. Thanks for sharing your family and your day with me!

SHAWN POWELSON, Manager of Member Services and Corporate Communications