



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

**WHEATLAND  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

**NEWS**

**Wheatland Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**  
 Bruce Mueller—General Manager

**Board of Trustees**

- |                                       |                                   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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**District Offices**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Garden City</b><br>2005 W Fulton<br>P.O. Box 973<br>Garden City, KS<br>67846<br>620-275-0261 | <b>Scott City—Main</b><br>101 Main Street<br>P.O. Box 230<br>Scott City, KS<br>67871<br>620-872-5885 |
| <b>Great Bend</b><br>2300 Broadway<br>P.O. Box 1446<br>Great Bend, KS<br>67530<br>620-793-4223  | <b>Syracuse</b><br>206 1/2 N Main<br>P.O. Box 1010<br>Syracuse, KS<br>67878<br>620-384-5171          |
| <b>Harper</b><br>906 Central<br>P.O. Box 247<br>Harper, KS 67058<br>620-896-7090                | <b>Tribune</b><br>310 Broadway<br>P.O. Box 490<br>Tribune, KS 67879<br>620-376-4231                  |
| <b>Leoti</b><br>N Hwy 25<br>P.O. Box 966<br>Leoti, KS 67861<br>620-375-2632                     |  |

**FROM THE MANAGER**

**Rate Changes Pass—Effective Jan. 2017**

On Sept. 27, 2016, two rate proposals were presented to the Wheatland Electric Board. The study for the rate changes was completed by C.H. Guernsey & Associates. As announced in the September issue of *Kansas Country Living*, the board meeting was open to all members during the rate changes discussion and vote.

In the presentation, it was demonstrated that neither of the proposed changes will affect existing members unless they choose to participate. One change is an Optional General Service High Load Factor Rate Rider where qualifying members who are billed under the General Service tariff may receive reductions in their monthly billing. The other is the Grid Access Charge, which will affect members who choose to install distributed generation on or after Jan. 1, 2017.

After questions, the Board discussed the matter thoroughly and decided it was in the best interests of the cooperative and its members to adopt the rate changes. The changes will go into effect Jan. 1, 2017.



**Bruce Mueller**

**Optional General Service High Load Factor Rate Rider**

For members with high load factors, the rider will provide a credit that will reduce their monthly bills. This rider will only be applicable to Wheatland's standard General Service tariff.

The rider is beneficial to both General Service members and Wheatland members as a whole. Individual members may see a reduction in monthly billing—but only if they main-

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**Grid Access Charges**

The Grid Access Charge is designed to recover the Cooperative's cost associated with owning and maintaining the distribution and transmission facilities required to provide reliable electric service when the member-generator cannot meet its own supply needs.

Any renewable member-generators with installed and operating generation prior to December 2016 shall be grandfathered in and the Grid Access Charge waived until such time as the member modifies the nameplate capacity or type of generation.

**Grid Access Charges**

- ▶ **RESIDENTIAL** - \$5.14 per kW per month
- ▶ **GENERAL SERVICE** - \$3.60 per kW per month
- ▶ **LARGE GENERAL SERVICE** - \$3.98 per kW per month
- ▶ **IRRIGATION** - \$5.86 per kW per month

A member-generator who installs renewable generation on or after Jan. 1, 2017, shall be billed a monthly Grid Access Charge, based on a per kW of nameplate generating capability as defined above. These charges may be updated and amended from time to time by the Board of Trustees.

# COOPERATIVES BUILD: Wheatland Ce

Being part of a cooperative means being part of something special. Wheatland Electric is celebrating National Cooperative Month in October, along with 40,000 other cooperative businesses serving more than 120 million people nationwide. "Cooperatives Build" is the theme of this year's National Cooperative Month.

"This year's theme is excellent, because there are so many ways that cooperatives help to build a stronger rural America," says Bruce Mueller, Wheatland general manager. "Our cooperative is intertwined with the communities we serve, from the people we employ, to the various organizations and events we support, all the way down to the electricity we deliver to our members. Every day we work together with our members and those communities to build a stronger, brighter tomorrow."

Consider these ways that cooperatives build:

## Cooperatives Build Trust

Most co-ops strive to adhere to seven key cooperative principles, which combine to help build trust between the co-op, its members and the community. For example, the first principle is Voluntary and Open Membership, which means that we are a voluntary organization open to all people who use our services. The second principle, Democratic Member Control, gives members a voice in the cooperative's policies and decisions through the election of a board of trustees who represent their membership. Through the fifth principle, Education, Training and Information, we enable members to contribute to the development of our cooperative. Each year, Wheatland hosts a series of member engagement meetings where members learn



A Wheatland line crew tosses out candy and frisbees from a bucket truck in the local community parade.

new programs and initiatives of the coop and have the opportunity to ask questions and provide valuable member feedback.

## Cooperatives Build Community

The seventh cooperative principle is Concern for Community. Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through employee involvement in local organizations, through charitable

## Celebrate National Co-op Connections Day on Oct. 14

*Get involved and save big using your Co-op Connections Card*

In an effort to support our local industries and build our communities, Wheatland Electric participates in Touchstone Energy's Co-op Connection program. On October 14, 2016, Wheatland invites you to take advantage of the benefits the Co-op Connections Card provides by participating in the first-ever National Co-op Connections Day.

Cooperative employees and members can celebrate this money saving program and receive even more benefits when they use The One Card That Does It All® at participating national and local retailers. Featured flash sales and unique offers from national and local vendors can be found at <http://www.connections.coop/CCDay>.

Co-op Connections day will also include a social media photo contest. Be sure to get involved by sharing photos featuring your Co-op Connections Card with the hashtag #ImConnected on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. You may be announced as the photo contest winner!

### Save using your Co-op Connections card at Yours Truly

At **YOURS TRULY**, Amy and Donna specialize in fresh flowers, gifts and events that are Truly Unique, Truly Inspired and Truly You! They offer truly charming gifts for your home, patio, weddings, babies,

special occasions or every day. With a full service flower shop you can order a personalized arrangement or pick one out that is ready to go out of the cooler!

**Use your Co-op Connections Card and receive 25% off one regularly priced item!**

Visit Yours Truly on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ytgiftandevents/?fref=ts>.

Use your Connections Card at these other local businesses for more great savings! For a complete list of deals visit <http://www.connections.coop/weci>.

- ▶ **THE TAYLOR HOUSE**, Scott City
- ▶ **BECKER TIRE**, Great Bend
- ▶ **RENEWAL BY ANDERSON**, Great Bend

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



# and Celebrates National Co-op Month

contributions to community efforts and through support for schools. Wheatland offers a variety of community programs that help to strengthen our communities..

Wheatland's Sharing Success program donates \$10,000 each year to worthy non-profit organizations in our service territory, this is a chance for Wheatland to share its own financial stability with non-profit organizations.

You can join us, right now for our Cram-the-Van Food Drive. We travel across our service territory collecting donations for the local food banks.

Another way Wheatland supports our communities is through our youth programs. Our youth programs consist of the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colo. Each year, Wheatland sends two high school juniors on the Washington D.C. trip and one to the Colorado camp, based off of a competitive selection process.

One of the more-widely known ways Wheatland supports its communities is by providing bottled water for certain community events. A stock of bottled water is kept on hand to donate to community groups for their events. Wheatland donates thousands of bottles of water to organizations and communities each year. These are just a few of the many ways Wheatland helps to build the communities we serve.

## Cooperatives Build Jobs

Cooperatives generate jobs in their communities, keep profits local and pay local taxes to help support community services. Cooperatives often take part in community improvement programs, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to benefit from the cooperative experience. With close to 150 employees living in the communities we serve, Wheatland jobs help to provide a solid foundation for a

stronger tomorrow in rural America.

## Cooperatives Build a Better World

Through all of these ways, cooperatives build a better world. A world where neighbors help neighbors, small towns thrive and the values your grandparents taught you are still the rule of the day.



Board trustee Katie Eisenhour works alongside Wheatland employees to prepare thousands of bite-sized pieces of steak at the annual Beef Tasting Booths in Scott City. Wheatland's booth was chosen people's champion in 2016!

## SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

### VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

### DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

### MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

### AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

### EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

### COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

### CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

## Rate Changes Pass

Continued from page 16-A ▶

tain a high load factor. Wheatland's other members may benefit as high load factors generally result in lower average cost of power, which flows through to all members by way of the monthly Energy Cost Adjustment.

No member will pay more under the optional rider than their current General Service rate, and each member may opt to participate as long as all rider requirements are met. Wheatland may temporarily see a small reduction in margins but does not anticipate any cost shifting between rate classes or failure to meet its financial goals.

### Grid Access Charge

The Grid Access Charge will add a monthly charge to allow Wheatland to recover the cost of providing distributed generation members electric service. All existing net metering and renewable members will be grandfathered under their existing tariffs.

Currently, Wheatland recovers a portion of its fixed costs for providing service (tree trimming, line maintenance, etc.) from the monthly service availability charge. But, when members move to a net metering rate, cost recovery is reduced because the member purchases less energy. Wheatland firmly supports providing each net metering member with

## General Service High Load Factor Rate Rider (GSHLFRR)

This optional rate is available to existing members who receive electricity and are billed under the General Service tariff. This rider is only applicable to Wheatland's General Service tariff and not to its General Service Time of Use or Large General Service

tariffs, or any other tariffs. Participation in this rider is limited to members with a load factor during the past 12 months of 70 percent or greater (sum of 12 month kWh usage / (sum of 12 month metered kW \* 730)). If at any point, the member's usage changes such that the average load factor is less than 70 percent, the member will be removed from this rate.

### What is load factor?

The ratio of actual kilowatt-hours used in a given period, divided by the total possible kilowatt-hours that could have been used in the same period, at the peak kW level established during the billing period.

$$\text{Load factor} = \frac{\text{kWh}}{\text{kW} \times \text{total hours in billing period}}$$

**Monthly Rate** – All applicable General Service rates, charges and riders shall be billed, and in addition;

**GSHLFRR Credit** – All kW per month: \$3.70 credit per billing kW

*Applied to total monthly billing kW under the General Service rate including kW billed a monthly charge of \$0 per kW*

**GSHLFRR Credit shall be applied to the member's monthly bill and shall at no point cause the member's total monthly billing to be less than the member's minimum monthly billing as described on the General Service rate tariff.**

For a full and complete copy of this tariff information, please visit [www.weci.net](http://www.weci.net) and click on "Tariffs" under the "Billing" tab or contact your local Wheatland office.

a benefit related to reduced power costs that are based on reductions in Wheatland's cost of power. However, when a member fails to pay his or her share of Wheatland's fixed cost of providing service unrelated to generation or power, ultimately those costs are shifted to the rest of the Wheatland membership.

Since all existing members will continue to be billed under their existing rates, this proposed change

will have no effect on Wheatland's revenue.

The Wheatland Board and management recognize that any change to rates is very important to the members. The co-op has evaluated this issue for some time and decided the rate changes were necessary for responsible operation. Contact me anytime to visit about questions, concerns or suggestions.

**Until next time, take care.**



From left: Shawn Powelson, manager of member services and corporate communications at Wheatland Electric; and from Scott Community Foundation Pam Caldwell, assistant executive director; Julie Niehage, community development coordinator; Brinlee Griffith, community healthcare coordinator; Ryan Roberts, executive director.

## Sharing Success Renews Funding

Wheatland Electric and CoBank recently renewed the "Sharing Success" program for 2016. The bank will match contributions dollar-for-dollar, from a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum of \$5,000. CoBank, considered rural America's cooperative bank, first launched the program in 2012. CoBank believes that the Sharing Success Fund is the best way to partner with their customers to make a meaningful impact in corporate citizenship.

Wheatland contributed \$5,000 to the Scott Community Foundation for the Sharing Success Fund. CoBank matched the donation made by Wheatland Electric, resulting in \$10,000 available to distribute to local non-profits. Since inception, the Sharing Success Fund has awarded 47 grants, totaling more than \$38,000 to non-profits across Wheatland's service territory in Kansas.

The Sharing Success Fund, which is managed by the Scott Community Foundation, is accepting applications for grants from non-profit organizations. The program will run until funds are exhausted. Non-profit groups interested in receiving funding should contact Julie Niehage at the Scott Community Foundation at 620-872-3790 or [julie@scottcf.org](mailto:julie@scottcf.org).

# 6 Events To Go!

Help Wheatland Electric Cram the Van this Fall!



Wheatland employees Rhei Thurman and Shawn Powelson serve members lunch for their donations to the Wichita County food bank at the Cram the Van event in Leoti.

The big red van is on the move! So far, we've made stops in Leoti, Garden City, Scott City, Syracuse and Tribune. We're burnin' up the blacktop!

We'd like to thank everyone who has come out to the events to help us Cram the Van at these stops. We've been filling up the donation bins and collecting cash for our local food banks. We're well on our way to our goal of hitting the 10-ton mark but we won't make it without your help.

Be sure to watch for the big red van at an event near your community in October. You can also bring your donation by any Wheatland office, Caldwell City Hall or Hired Man Grocery in Conway Springs from now until the end of October. Thanks for helping us Cram the Van!



Wheatland board trustee Vic Case drops off his donation at the event in Leoti.

## Cram the Van at these Local Events

- ▶ **OCT 7** - Caldwell Bluejays Football Game, Caldwell
- ▶ **OCT 11** - Ron's Market, Holcomb
- ▶ **OCT 15** - Harper Fall Fest/Bullseye BBQ, Harper
- ▶ **OCT 21** - Cardinal Challenge/Hired Man Grocery, Conway Springs
- ▶ **OCT 28** - Great Bend Panthers Football Game, Great Bend
- ▶ **OCT 29** - Fall Finale, Wheatland Broadband, Scott City



## Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

### Walt Lovins

Line Foreman

26 years in Scott City



Walt Lovins

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

My spouse, Lisa, and I have four children—Krystal, Brennan, Adrian and Paden—and one grandson,

Norman. We have two miniature schnauzers—Milo and Sasha—a pit bull named Nala, and a chocolate lab named Sadie.

#### WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

Lexington, Kentucky

#### WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

Anything outdoors, gardening, backpacking, running, hunting and spending time with family.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK OR MOVIE AND WHY?

*The Bible*—all of life's lessons are in it, if we just take time to read it.

#### WHAT IS SOMETHING NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I have run two half marathons and two Spartan races.

#### IF YOU COULD BE ANY ANIMAL, WHAT WOULD YOU BE AND WHY?

A wolf, because they run in a pack kind of like a family does.

#### WHO HAS INSPIRED YOU IN YOUR LIFE AND WHY?

My mother, because of all the sacrifices she made so her kids could do well.

## AMI Meters Help You Track Your Electric Usage Data

With our new meter data management system, now you can analyze your usage data in SmartHub to make more informed decisions to improve energy efficiency.

### Make Informed Choices

Login to your online Wheatland Electric account and you'll notice a more powerful, efficient and streamlined experience designed to help you make smarter energy choices.

By utilizing SmartHub technology, co-op members can now access these great benefits:

- ▶ View your electric usage data, down to the hour (once new AMI meter is installed);
- ▶ See how temperature affects heating and cooling usage;
- ▶ Compare usage between months with temperature data;
- ▶ Set usage markers, thresholds and alerts;
- ▶ Receive bill reminders; and
- ▶ View Wheatland's social media feeds.

### Logon today!

To access SmartHub from your desktop, simply click "Pay Bills" at the top right of our website at [www.weci.net](http://www.weci.net) and login with your email address and password. Setting up a new online account is quick and simple, too.

### Free Mobile Apps

To download free mobile apps for Apple or Android devices, search for "smart-hub" in your app store.



## Wheatland Linemen Teach State Fairgoers

Wheatland linemen took part in the annual high voltage safety demonstration at the Kansas State Fair. Two teams of Wheatland linemen from the Harper and Great Bend districts operated the demonstration trailer.



Wheatland linemen Jordan Hartwell, Tyson Ryff and Blake Reed operate the safety demonstration trailer at the State Fair.

The safety demonstration was part of the Kansas' Largest

Classroom program. The linemen conducted demonstrations throughout the day for school-age students attending the fair with their classes and for general fairgoers. The demonstrations included a number of examples and illustrations that challenged audience members to think carefully about electrical safety. A number of common everyday items were shown to the audience, and the audience was asked to identify which would be

considered conductors of electricity and which would be insulators (or things that might protect you from the flow of electricity). Many of the items identified by audience members as insulators were actually proven to be conductors under the right set of circumstances.

Other topics discussed included downed power line safety, when to call 911, common equipment used by linemen and additional safety facts.

## Cold Weather Accommodation Begins

As of March 1, 2016, Wheatland has adopted the following Cold Weather Accommodation policy for **residential members**. All accounts are subject to disconnection when temperatures exceed 35 degrees for a 48-hour period during the cold weather period (Nov. 15-March 15) unless a member requests a cold weather accommodation.

In order for a member to retain electric service when temperatures are above 35 degrees during the cold weather period, they must comply with the following cold weather accommodation provisions:

- ▶ Inform Wheatland of their inability to pay their account in full;
- ▶ Pay half of each current bill during the cold weather period;

- ▶ Have a zero balance due at the start of the cold weather period;
- ▶ Apply for federal, state or local funds for which the member may be eligible;
- ▶ Agree to make a payment plan at the conclusion of the cold weather period; and
- ▶ Complete and sign a Cold Weather Accommodation agreement at any Wheatland district office.

Members who do not adhere to the Cold Weather Accommodation rules are not eligible for payment arrangements at the conclusion of the cold weather period. Their entire outstanding balance is due and payable prior to reconnection if service is disconnected after March 15.

# Wheatland Electric Recognized as '5-Star Co-op'

Wheatland Electric has been named a "5-Star Co-op" by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The 5-star designation recognizes Wheatland's high level of participation in Co-ops Vote, a national get-out-the-vote campaign. The non-partisan campaign seeks to boost voter turnout in areas served by electric co-ops all across the country.

"We are honored to receive the "5-Star Coop" designation," said Wheatland general manager, Bruce Mueller. "We want our members and our employees to be informed, decide which candidates align with their views, and then go vote. We honestly don't care who they vote for, we just want them to exercise their right to vote and be a part of the process."

"Electric cooperatives play a unique and special role as a voice in their communities," said NRECA CEO Jim Matheson. "That level of strong engagement is evident in the conversation Wheatland has created around the opportunity to vote. Elections are

important, especially in rural areas, and Wheatland has used the Co-ops Vote program to increase awareness of our civic duty on every Election Day. I'm pleased to congratulate them on this accomplishment as they make a real difference in the communities they serve."

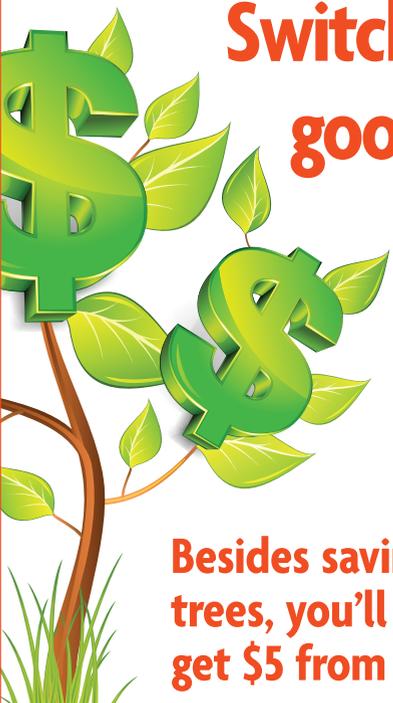
Five-star status marks the highest level of engagement in Co-ops Vote and is achieved when a participating co-op completes at least five activities under the program. Wheatland earned this distinction by hosting a series of legislative meet and greets across its service territory, promoting a Co-ops Vote campaign on social media, hosting an employee engagement activity, having a booth at their annual meeting and several other qualifying activities. A complete list of activities can be found on [www.cooperative.com](http://www.cooperative.com)

The Co-ops Vote campaign was launched by America's electric co-ops in response to continued voter apathy, particularly in rural America. Just 9 percent of America selected

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton as the presidential nominees. Most of the nation chose not to vote. And in the 2012 elections, rural voter turnout dropped 18 percent. Since its launch in February, more than 560 electric co-ops have joined forces through Co-ops Vote to increase voter turnout in areas served by co-ops, which include much of rural America.

Read "Tackling the Decline in Rural Voting" on page 8 in *Kansas Country Living* for more information on Kansas' 5-Star Co-ops. Visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop) to pledge to vote in this year's elections and find a variety of voter resources, including information on the candidates, registering to vote, voting locations and brief descriptions of key co-op issues.





## Switch to paperless billing and feel good about **SAVING GREEN**

Wheatland now offers paperless billing. Sign up by Oct. 31 to receive a \$5 bill credit.\*

**How to Sign Up**

- ▶ If you do not currently have an online SmartHub account, complete the required information at [www.wheatland.smarthub.coop](http://www.wheatland.smarthub.coop).
- ▶ Once you've signed up, log into SmartHub, click on "My Profile" on top menu, then choose "Update My Printed Bill Settings."
- ▶ Click on "Turn off Printed Bills," and choose "Yes" to confirm.



**Besides saving trees, you'll also get \$5 from us!**

\*\$5 bill credit will be issued to the member's primary account. Maximum of one \$5 bill credit per member of record. Bill credit will be applied to your December bill.



# A DAY *in the* LIFE

BY SHAWN POWELSON

I'll admit it, ok? Sometimes the busyness of life and work culminate in "oops moments" for me. The kind of moments when you "know" something, but you fail to actually realize it until you're in the moment.

Exhibit A—I recently got ready for work and dressed in my customary slacks and button-up and headed for the office. I knew I was going to meet Bryan at 9 a.m. and spend the morning doing our "Day in the Life" interview. I knew **BRYAN MULLIGAN** was a serviceman and that he spent a fair amount of his time in his service vehicle, out and about and in the elements. I knew that it had just rained and it was muddy.

So it shouldn't have come as a shock when I pulled up to the warehouse, waived hello to the local line foreman and then heard him shout over to Bryan, "You're going to have to clean out your truck, Bryan!" That's when I realized, "I'm in an 'oops moment.'"

After running home quickly to change, Bryan and I set out on our day. Bryan explained to me that he typically starts every morning by checking his emails, locates, service orders and then quickly checks with the customer service representatives up front before heading out. Bryan explained that "locates" are requests, routed through the Dig Safe program, to locate our underground lines for members and contractors performing earth work. We locate our lines for the person making the request by placing a flag in the ground above the buried line.

A service order is the primary means by which Bryan is dispatched to perform most of his work. This could include anything from connecting/disconnecting a service, replacing a meter, looking into a power quality issue or a number of other things.

Bryan informed me that we'd perform a few meter changeouts that day, but first we needed to stop by a member's house where a contractor had been doing some work and had requested that we temporarily remove the meter. After making sure everything was in order and securing the meter back in place with a padlock, we headed out to change meters.

As we drove from location to location, we visited about all things Wheatland, I even managed to squeeze in a few questions about life outside of Wheatland. Bryan and his wife, Linda, have been married for 29 years and have two sons, Clay and Trace. The Mulligans show, breed and sell pigs for 4-H. I also learned that they have a number of free range chickens which leads to, as Bryan explained it, "Linda gets to have an Easter Egg hunt every morning."

At a couple of our stops, we had the opportunity to visit with members. It was obvious to me that after 22 years, Bryan had developed considerable rapport with them. I could tell Bryan genuinely enjoyed his job and working at Wheatland during those interactions. As the local face of Wheatland, that's definitely a good thing. As we finished up our day together, I asked Bryan what he enjoyed the most about working at Wheatland. "The people, the company," he said. "I mean, I get to work with a bunch of great guys everyday and it's a great job." Well said, Bryan, and thanks for sharing your day with me!

**SHAWN POWELSON, Manager of Member Services and Corporate Communications**

