


A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
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**WHEATLAND
 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

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 Co-op Inc.**

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FROM THE MANAGER

Member Engagement

Key to Co-op Success

As a member of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, you're not a customer, **YOU'RE A MEMBER** and a key part of the co-op's success. As new challenges confront electric cooperatives, our ability to succeed depends on strong engagement with our member-owners. Today, how we interact and how we engage with our members is changing. Engagement is built on mutual trust. With trust we can adapt to new challenges in partnership with our members.

Cooperatives around the world operate according to seven co-op principles:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member's Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for the Community

Community and member engagement

are important contributors to the cooperative principles and the cooperative business model. It is important that we do more to keep our members engaged and to the greatest extent possible, involved in our efforts to serve you better and advocate on your behalf.



Bruce W. Mueller

Wheatland will be conducting a **MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MEETING** again this year on Oct. 28 in Caldwell. As in the past, the Wheatland Board of Trustees will be asking members to participate in the annual **MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS**.

The primary objectives of the meet-

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SAFETY
Tip of the Month

Without proper air circulation, electrical equipment can overheat and short out, becoming an electrical fire hazard. Make sure your appliances have proper air circulation and avoid running electrical equipment in enclosed cabinets.



Member

SPOTLIGHT

WHIMMYDIDDLE ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

Whimmydiddle. Some might say “Whimmy what?” When most Scott County residents hear the word “Whimmydiddle” they know it references one of the largest craft fairs in the state of Kansas. Whimmydiddle, held the last Saturday in September every year, attracts more than 4,000 people to Scott City, nearly doubling the size of the county.

This year will mark the 47th year for the **WHIMMYDIDDLE ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR**, a tradition established by a small group of Scott City women featuring “tole painting.” The original event held on the courthouse lawn became so popular, Fourth Street was blocked off in front of the courthouse to accommodate more people. With the event’s growth more help was needed and 44 years ago, the women of Alpha Omega Sorority joined the event and each year since have been running this time-honored tradition.

Alpha Omega begins accepting applications each spring for the nearly 200 booth spaces available. The Whimmydiddle Arts & Crafts Fair only accepts vendors that sell quality, creative,



Michael Winters, of Winters Inspirational Creations from Greeley, Colorado, was awarded the Best Booth Award at the 2018 Whimmydiddle.



The Women of Alpha Omega Sorority work countless hours to ensure the success of Whimmydiddle.

handmade items. The event attracts 15-20 new booths each year. Some vendors, like the Raggedy Ann vendor, have participated in the fair since its beginning and others for the first time. Whimmydiddle attracts vendors from all over the world. The ever-popular kettle corn vendor comes from Wyoming each year; the nesting eggs vendor travels from Russia.

In 46 years, Whimmydiddle has never been canceled. There’s been wind, rain and snow, but thousands still attend. Alpha Omega Sorority consists of 18 members who rotate through eight to nine different roles/committees to ensure Whimmydiddle is a success.



A Whimmydiddle is a wooden toy consisting of a notched stick with a smaller stick attached on the end.

Each vendor pays a minimum of \$100 for their booth space and an additional \$20 for electricity. Alpha Omega Sorority donates proceeds, more than \$25,000 in 2018, back into the Scott community. The sorority awarded 18 local high school seniors with scholarships, funded the milk money fund at Scott City Elementary School, and helped families and individuals with medical expenses. They also gave funds to Cooper’s Cause, Stomper Club, Scott Community Breadbasket, Golden Rule Preschool, Red Cross Blood Drive, in addition to others in the Scott community. Approximately 95% of the funds stay local, while the other 5% benefit state-wide projects such as Heartspring Inc., Kansas Share and Care, Goodwill, March of Dimes, the Make a Wish Foundation, and one international project, St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital.

Whimmydiddle is not just a long-standing tradition in the Scott Community made possible by the women of Alpha Omega Sorority, it’s an event that leaves a positive financial impact on local, state and international projects.

Member Engagement

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ings will be to:

- ▶ Help Wheatland Electric Board of Trustees and management better understand the thoughts of the members relating to the community, the co-op and cooperative membership.
- ▶ Serve as a sounding-board for the evaluation of ongoing programs, policies and initiatives and for the development of new programs, policies and initiatives.
- ▶ Foster a higher degree of understanding with the membership regarding their cooperative and the cooperative business model.
- ▶ Enable the co-op to be totally member-oriented and responsive to the expectations and needs of the membership.

Several of the topics to be discussed at the upcoming **MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MEETING** are:

- ▶ **RELIABILITY OF SERVICE:** Wheatland Electric continues to focus on improving system reliability for its members. The recent improvements to our electric system will be discussed.
- ▶ **NEW TECHNOLOGY:** We will be discussing new technologies Wheatland has implemented to better serve the membership and potentially reduce costs.
- ▶ **SERVICE TERRITORY LAW:** We will briefly discuss the newly adopted Sub, Senate Bill 323 and the benefits it has for the cooperative.

Now, that it's September, it's time once again for Wheatland's annual food drive "**CRAM THE VAN.**" Details on this year's schedule of events are at right. Thank you in advance for supporting this worthwhile event. Without your help Cram the Van would not be the success it has become over the past few years. Keeping our focus on members and working as a team to serve their evolving needs is what makes a cooperative different.

Until next time, take care.



Returns!

Help Wheatland Electric Cram the Van this Fall!

- ▶ **SEPT. 13** – Co-ops Care Charity Golf Tournament, The Golf Club at Southwind, Garden City
- ▶ **SEPT. 19** – Arts Park, Leoti, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- ▶ **SEPT. 24** – Women's Fair, Great Bend Events Center, Great Bend
- ▶ **SEPT. 26** – Longhorn Festival, Holcomb Rec Center, Holcomb
- ▶ **OCT. 3** – Syracuse Junior High Volleyball & Football Game, Syracuse
- ▶ **OCT. 10** – Greeley County Junior High Volleyball & Football Game, Tribune
- ▶ **OCT. 11** – Caldwell High School Football Game, Caldwell
- ▶ **OCT. 17** – First National Bank School Challenge, Scott City Middle School Football Game, Scott City
- ▶ **OCT. 18** – Great Bend Wheatland Electric Office, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- ▶ **OCT. 18** – Hiss-Sherman School Challenge, Great Bend High School Football Game, Great Bend vs. Liberal
- ▶ **OCT. 18** – Cardinals Care Challenge, Conway Springs High School vs. Chaparral High School, Conway Springs
- ▶ **OCT. 19** – Harper Fall Fest, Harper
- ▶ **OCT. 26** – Cram the Van Finale, Scott City

Broadband Invests in Fiber for Scott City

Wheatland Broadband is proud to announce a significant investment will be made to strengthen its service offerings in Scott City.

Historically, Wheatland Broadband has been leasing fiber optic cable in between Garden City and Scott City for internal use at Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Wheatland Broadband, but now, Wheatland will be forging ahead on a new project! Wheatland Broadband has begun preparations to run fiber down the corridors of Scott City, along the east and west side of Main Street.

This fiber project will improve our broadband infrastructure by providing additional bandwidth. It will also

provide fiber services to businesses and homes in certain residential areas.

While we always strive to provide exceptional service, fiber will provide a better end-user experience to our members, as it is more reliable. Fiber is land-based unlike the air-based towers which are more prone to severe weather events leading to disruption of service. Fiber also provides the potential for unlimited bandwidth capacity, resulting in faster internet service.

Wheatland Broadband has acquired the fiber and the project will soon be underway. Members interested in fiber services should email Wheatland Broadband at fiber@weci.net.





1. The Kansas delegation of 36 students join the four students from Hawaii in front of the White House.
2. Mayo (right) and Mull (second from right) enjoy high tea at the National Cathedral.
3. Before flying to Washington, D.C., Mull and her fellow students learn about electric cooperatives and the equipment linemen wear.
4. Mull (front row, left), Mayo (front row, second from right) and their fellow delegates snap a pic in front of the Washington Monument.
5. The youth delegation visits with Senator Pat Roberts (center) during their Capitol Hill visit.



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mayo and Mull Explore Nation's Capital, Witness Government in Action

DELANEY MAYO and **OLIVIA MULL** were among 36 Kansas high school students to witness government in action firsthand during the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Wheatland Electric sponsored Mayo and Mull on the trip that took place June 13-20.

The students began their experience in Topeka with a get-acquainted dinner before flying to Washington D.C., where they joined more than 1,800 high school students from 43 states. The students experienced government in action through meetings with their senators and congressional representatives, including Sen. Pat Roberts and U.S. Reps. Ron Estes, Roger Marshall, M.D., and Steve Watkins. They toured the U.S. Capitol, The White House, Smithsonian museums, Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Memorial Museum and various memorials. New to the Youth Tour schedule this year was the National Law Enforcement Museum.

For Mull, the Youth Tour trip motivated her to set leadership goals: "The Vietnam Veterans Memorial had the most impact on me because my grandpa served in Vietnam, and he would have loved it," Mull said.

Youth Tour participants also attended the musical "Hello, Dolly!" at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

During the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Day program, keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic Medalist and two-time world wheelchair basketball champion, shared his inspiring message, "Just because you can't stand up doesn't mean you can't stand out!"

"All the delegates from our state and others inspired me to strive for my goals and push me out of my comfort zone," Mayo said. "Hearing ev-

eryone say their goals in life made me realize that having big dreams is an amazing thing to have!"

"Wheatland is proud to support our local student leaders through the Youth Tour program," said Bruce Mueller, general manager.



Wheatland's representatives Olivia Mull (left) and Delaney Mayo stand in front of the U.S. Capitol.



1. Nearly 100 youth from four states participate in this year's Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.
2. Tori Poe (second from left) and friends visit Lookout Mountain.
3. Fabel Yanez enjoys a slice of pizza with a friend.
4. Yanez learns more about cooperatives in small groups at camp.
5. Campers take a moment to chill in the Rockies.



COMMUNITY | LEADERSHIP | MEMORIES

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

Poe & Yanez Attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

TORI POE and **FABEL YANEZ** were selected to attend the 43rd annual Cooperative Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, from July 12-18. Joining their peers from across Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming, approximately 100 youth learned about the cooperative principles at the weeklong educational retreat.

“Wheatland is proud to be a participating sponsor of the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp and send our local youth to develop essential leadership and teamwork skills,” said Bruce Mueller, general manager. “Through this trip, we hope our students take time to learn how electric cooperatives work and how co-ops and their employees support the communities they serve.”

The Kansas and Oklahoma participants met as they boarded the bus along its route to Colorado. When the bus arrived in Denver, the group was treated to an indoor skydiving experience and STEM educational lab at iFLY. When the group arrived at Glen Eden Resort, nestled in the Rocky Mountains, the campers immediately organized into their own cooperatives, held daily membership meetings where a general manager, board of directors and committees were selected. The weeklong experience also gave participants an

authentic camp feel with a hike to Fish Creek Falls, river rafting, a volleyball tournament, swimming, a dance and a talent show.

Several demonstrations and presentations enhanced students’ knowledge on the cooperative business model and on operations at their electric cooperative. Campers competed to build a model transmission line out of craft supplies, toured Trapper Mine, Craig Power Plant and watched a high-voltage safety demonstration. The campers also raised \$293.13 to donate to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International Foundation. The money will be used to purchase backpacks and school supplies for students who attend school in Sillab, Guatemala.

When asked “what memory will you always have with you from this trip?” Yanez said, “The thing that affected me the most from this trip would be having to socialize. I have never been great at socializing, but I was kind of forced to at this camp. This allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and meet new people who have turned into my friends.”

Overall, the campers said they left CYLC with a new sense of leadership and an understanding of how their local electric cooperative operates and

how they contribute to improving the communities they serve.

“The amazing energy and attitude of those around me at camp influenced my experience the most. The atmosphere allows everyone to feel comfortable, and I want to create the same environment in my community,” Poe said.



Fabel Yanez and Tori Poe enjoy the view of Elk River during camp.

CO-OPS CARE CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Golf Club at Southwind

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 13

9 a.m. SHOTGUN START

4-MAN SCRAMBLE/ \$100 PER PLAYER

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFITING



Wheatland's Cram the Van Food Drive and Friends of the Wright Park Zoo in Dodge City



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



TO REGISTER CALL 620-275-4080 OR EMAIL NNUMRICH@WECI.NET