




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
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620-872-5885
www.weci.net

**WHEATLAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

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Great Bend, KS 67530
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FROM THE MANAGER

Make Your Voice Heard



Bruce W. Mueller

There's an old political saying: "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This adage is the perfect answer to the question, "why vote?" It's a blunt description

of what happens when you don't engage in the political process.

If you don't vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate who shares your views and concerns, you're allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future. That's why we're encouraging all Wheatland Electric Cooperative Inc. members to recognize National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 22, 2020. Whether you're registering yourself or others to vote or helping members of our community get organized, there are many ways to get involved.

Your Vision, Your Vote

While local and state elections may not be as exciting as the high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical. These elections have a direct impact on your community and on your quality of life.

Like the national level, local and state elections represent who we are as a community, and more importantly, where we want to go. Whether it's an election for a mayor, sheriff, state representative, or school board, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

Voting keeps elected officials accountable. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback.

Staying in Sync with the Community

A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures diverse views are represented. The

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#POWERON

7 Co-op Principles

1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP – Co-ops 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.

2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL – Co-ops are organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary co-ops, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

3 MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION – Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-op. They 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 co-op, setting up reserves, benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-op and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE – Co-ops are 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 co-op autonomy.

5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION – Co-ops provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-ops.

6 COOPERATION AMONG CO-OPS – Co-ops serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-op movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY – While focusing on member needs, co-ops work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Like many cooperatives across the country, Wheatland Electric operates according to the same set of seven core principles and values. One of those seven principles — Concern for Community — has never been more important than now. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly disrupted our lives, our livelihoods and the local economies where we live, work and send our children to school.

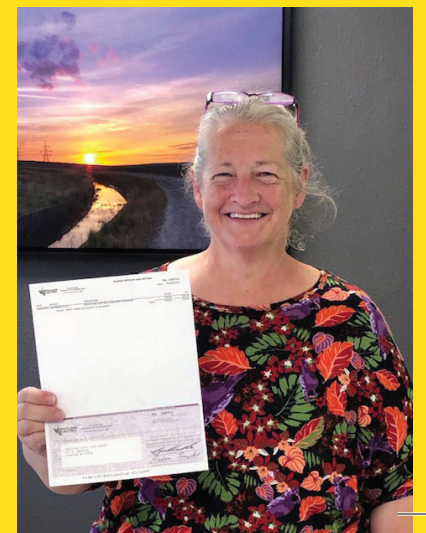
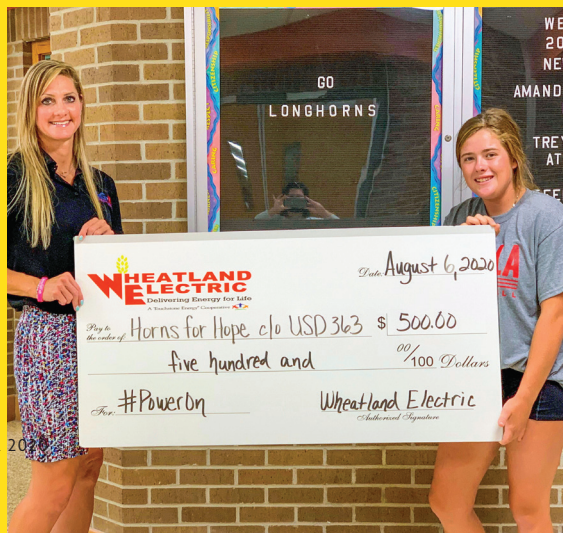
In the wake of the disruption, hardship and uncertainty, we've been searching for creative ways to make the communities we serve — and the people who live within them — a little brighter and a little safer.

This is at the core of our #PowerOn campaign. As we navigate through the pandemic and the strain it's caused to so many facets of our lives, we must work together to stay positive, to support one another and ultimately overcome the challenges we face collectively.

At Wheatland, we know that our most critical needs are a sufficient supply of safe drinking water and food.

Helping our members who are experiencing food insecurities or hunger has been one of our primary goals through our #PowerOn campaign.

To that end, we've partnered with 10 local food banks to donate over \$9,000 toward replenishing food pantries across our service territories.



Cram the Van Gets a Jump-start

Due to COVID-19, Wheatland decided to start our first round of donations for our annual Cram the Van food drive in the spring and a second round this summer.

In total, donations of \$9,100 were made to the following organizations to assist with their pantry needs: Hamilton County Food Pantry in Syracuse, Caldwell Community Food Bank and United Methodist Food Bank in Caldwell, Genesis Family Health in Garden City, Community Food Bank of Barton County in Great Bend, Greeley County Food Bank in Tribune, Harper Mission Mart in Harper, Wichita County Food Bank in Leoti, Hope's Closet in Scott City, Horns for Hope c/o USD 363 in Holcomb, and Emmaus House in Garden City.

Keeping Communities Safe and Supplied

In early spring, Wheatland provided 700 bottles of hand cleanser to all first responders across our service territories, thanks to the Boot Hill Distillery in Dodge City.

Thanking these individuals who are working on the front lines during the pandemic, EMTs, law enforcement officials and firefighters, is the least we can do.

And helping keep them safe with tools and supplies to mitigate the spread of the disease helps keep our communities safer, too.

"We want to thank our local first re-

sponders for putting in the extra time to keep all of us healthy and safe," said Manager of Member Services and Corporate Communications Alli Conine. "They put their lives on the front lines for us every day so we're here to do our part to support and encourage them for all they do for us."

Boosting Local Businesses

At Wheatland Electric, we continue to #PowerOn because collaboration and community are two primary elements of our cooperative principles.

These principles date back to the mid-19th century when the first modern cooperative was founded in Rochdale, England, according to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

And these principles are a key reason that electric cooperatives, like Wheatland, differ from other electric utilities, by putting the needs of our members first.

That includes our local businesses, which power the growth of our local economies, help fund our schools and employ our neighbors.

To support our local economy, Wheatland Electric purchased treats from small businesses in our service territories to supply to health professionals at our community hospitals and health centers. Co-op employees delivered the treats to: Scott County Hospital, Wichita County Health Center, Hamilton County Hospital, Greeley County Hospital, Great Bend Regional Hospital, Sumner County Hospital and

Patterson Health Center.

"These workers who are on the front lines of the health pandemic deserve our support, appreciation, and praise every day, but especially now," Conine added. "We're here to help them power on through the pandemic and show them what their dedication to their professions means to our communities."

Supporting Our Staff

To further stir local economic spending and support our small businesses, Wheatland also provided each employee with \$50 in "Downtown Dollars/ Chamber Bucks" to spend in their local communities.

Wheatland has even gone a step further to boost morale and show employee appreciation by starting milkshake Mondays and fan gear Fridays.

On Mondays, employees are treated to a dairy dish from a local ice cream vendor, and on Fridays we sport our favorite team apparel to remind ourselves that a return to normalcy is on the horizon. It's one more way we #PowerOn. Together.

"Many of our employees dedicate their time to local organizations, some of which are the lifelines for their communities, and so we're here to give back to them, too," said CEO/General Manager Bruce W. Mueller. "We're also here to keep our communities connected during this uncertain time. That's one thing you can count on for certain."



Summer of Sharing Success

Wheatland Electric has had a busy summer awarding Sharing Success grants throughout our service territory. A few recent grants are highlighted below.

Child Abuse Prevention Education, Great Bend

Child Abuse Prevention Education's (CAPE) mission is to aid in the reduction of child abuse through education, increased public awareness, advocacy, program development and collaboration and to serve as a resource to all communities served by the organization. The group was founded in 1984 to address the needs of children in Great Bend.

During the 2019-2020 school year, 3,399 preschool through sixth-grade students in 22 attendance centers and 458 adults that work with those students heard CAPE's message and learned about physical, emotional and sexual abuse, as well as



Bertha Mendoza, southwest area agent, expanded food and nutrition education, family nutrition program, accepts the \$1,000 Sharing Success Grant for the Ogallala Commons from Alli Conine, manager of member services and corporate communications.



Several CAPE board members accept their \$1,000 Sharing Success Grant from Wheatland Electric. From left are: "Happy Bear" (Mary Johnson); Regan Reif, member services and key accounts manager for Wheatland; Judy Johnson, CAPE director; Shala Ehrlich, CAPE treasurer; and Sheryl Neeland, CAPE board president.

neglect. This was an increase of 400 students and 100 adults from the previous year.

CAPE plans to use the Sharing Success grant money to continue expanding their programming into other attendance centers in this area, while continuing to serve all Great Bend public and private schools. CAPE's program is offered to schools and preschools at no cost.

Ogallala Commons, Finney County

Ogallala Commons is a nonprofit education organization that reinvigorates the commonwealth to build vibrant Great Plains communities. The grant will be used to support two internships in Finney County.

Since 2007, Ogallala Commons has created and managed a successful Community Internship Program as part of a Workforce and Leadership Development Ecosystem designed to better equip youth and adults who wish to live and prosper on the Great Plains. To date, over 500 youth and adults have completed the Ogallala Commons Community Internship.

Caldwell Art Brigade, Caldwell

The Caldwell Art Brigade will use Sharing Success funds to combine with a recent grant received from the Kansas Creative Arts Industry Commission (funded by the National Endowment for the Arts) for a community development project in Caldwell.

Together, the City of Caldwell and the Caldwell Art Brigade will use the funds for this project to help define their cultural identity through new community branding, including a new flag, logo, signage, and seven murals that the community will be invited to help complete.

Scott County Farm Bureau, Scott County

It is the mission of Farm Bureau to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service. The Sharing Success grant will be used to help purchase a weather station for Scott County and be part of the group of weather stations known as the Kansas Mesonet.

These weather stations

record climate and provide essential weather data for Kansas industries — specifically the state's largest industry and primary user of the data, agriculture.

Salter House Museum, Argonia

The Salter House Museum was home to Mrs. Susanna Salter, America's first elected woman mayor. The museum preserves the historic home and the artifacts within it, as well as the history of Argonia while honoring the life of Salter. The Sharing Success grant funds will be used to make roof repairs to help preserve the artifacts within this one-of-a-kind historic site.

Quivira Council (Boy Scouts of America), Harper and Anthony

The Boy Scouts of America units in Anthony and Harper include more than 60 boys and young men. The Sharing Success grant money will be used to help fund program registrations and camperships so that more youth can join the organization and existing Scouts can remain in the program.

How to Apply for Sharing Success Funds

The Scott Community Foundation began formally accepting applications for grants from the Wheatland Electric Sharing Success Fund from nonprofit organizations on Dec. 1, 2012. Wheatland

Electric and CoBank have each increased their contribution amounts to the fund over time. Beginning in 2020, each organization will donate \$10,000 annually, for a total of \$20,000 to be awarded to projects in the Wheatland Electric service territory.

The application process for the Sharing Success program requires a brief description of your nonprofit organization, the project details, and costs for which you are requesting the grant. Nonprofit groups interested in receiving funding from the Wheatland Electric Sharing Success Fund should contact Alli Conine, manager of member services and corporate communications, at 620-874-4563 or aconine@weci.net.



Salter House Museum board and volunteers accept their Sharing Success grant.



From left: Gena Ricker, Anthony committee chair; Justin Ricker, Anthony scoutmaster; Justin Bell, South Winds District executive; and Mike Alldritt, Harper scoutmaster. The group gathered on July 24 to accept a \$1,000 Sharing Success grant check from Wheatland Electric to the Quivira Council of Boy Scouts of America.



Caldwell community members gather to accept their \$1,000 Sharing Success grant from Wheatland Electric on July 2.



From left: Christine Cupp and Millie Dearden, Scott County Farm Bureau board members, are presented with a \$1,000 grant from Alli Conine, manager of member services and corporate communications.

SUNFLOWER ELECTRIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

energy to grow



Commitment to community is one of the seven cooperative principles that govern the operation of cooperatives. The member distribution utilities that are part of the Sunflower Electric Power Corporation system show once again how we live this cooperative prin-

ciple. We know that community vitality is central to your success. Community success and vitality looks different in each of our communities, but having access to jobs, adequate housing and education, and programs that improve life for residents are common needs for

all of our communities.

That's why the member distribution utilities, including Wheatland Electric, that are part of the Sunflower system recently launched the Sunflower Electric Economic Development (SEED) program. As a member of Sunflower, Wheatland is actively engaged in bringing this program to our communities. Wheatland Electric is already invested in making our communities a success, but this program allows us to bring additional community and economic development programs to you.

The key to sharing our cooperative story with our communities and the world is the economic development website, www.sunflowercodevo.com. The website includes information for businesses that want to learn about the advantages of expanding in the Sunflower member service territory, where to review available sites and buildings, how to connect with member staff and information about the region.

The website also has information on programs available to communities that may want to advance their local economic development program. Information about Wheatland Electric and Sunflower that can provide assistance for economic development planning is described on the website.

Living and working in a vibrant community is a goal we all share. Wheatland Electric and the SEED program will continue our commitment to our community. Just give us a call to learn more about this exciting new program!

SEED Involves Several Programs

► **INDUSTRY MARKETING** — We know which industries are predominate in our area. Companies find success here for a variety of reasons, perhaps natural resources or being located in the central part of our country. Whatever the reason, it makes sense to share our story of business success with other companies within these industries. The world won't know this is a great place to do business until we tell them. We have identified value-added agriculture, heavy equipment manufacturing and the associated supply chain, distribution and warehousing, and data centers as opportunities to expand our business base. We are developing plans to directly market to companies in these industries and make sure they know what our part of Kansas has to offer for expansion opportunities.

► **AVAILABLE SITES AND BUILDINGS** — Just as a business needs inventory on its shelves, inventory of available sites and buildings must be visible and promoted. LocationOne Information Systems (LOIS) is the largest website for economic development properties in the U.S. We have purchased a license and are actively working to increase the number of properties that are promoted on

LOIS. Let us know if you are interested in using this site as a way to promote your available sites or buildings. The Sunflower Certified Site Program is a certification that guarantees extensive research has been completed for a property intended for business development. Certified site programs are valuable to businesses as they reduce the chance of a site-related surprise during the construction process. A comprehensive list of items are researched and cataloged so a prospective owner knows the available utilities, capabilities, environmental and historical attributes of the property, confirming that the site is ready for development.

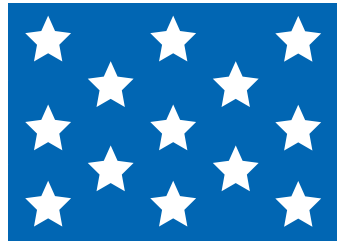
► **LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT** — Your local leaders are in the best position to understand what opportunities fit your community. What they may need is additional education, access to information, and resources for projects that benefit the residents. Our team includes trained facilitators to help your community identify which opportunities are right for you and how to capitalize on them. We have identified an extensive list of resource providers ready to support technical expertise for economic development.

Make Your Voice Heard Continued from page 16A ▶

whole community benefits when more people participate in the process because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state, and local elections, you are serving as a role model for your family, friends and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues on the ballot, and get out and vote!

To learn more about **NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY OR TO GET INVOLVED, VISIT**



**NATIONAL
VOTER
REGISTRATION
DAY**

SEPT. 22, 2020

WWW.NATIONALVOTERREGISTRATIONDAY.ORG.

On another note, due to the printing deadlines for this magazine, we will be reporting the 72nd Wheatland Electric Cooperative's annual meeting in the October issue.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.

REBATES AVAILABLE! Upgrade Your HVAC

Did you know that Wheatland offers rebates to residential members for the installation of energy-efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems? Heating and cooling a house often account for the majority of a household's monthly energy costs.

Many homeowners can save energy and

money by installing a more efficient HVAC system. Higher efficiency means lower monthly energy bills and improved comfort.



To learn more, visit www.weci.net and click on the "Member Services" tab and then on "HVAC Rebates" or call 800-762-0436.

Rebate Levels

BTU	Min SEER	Central A/C	Heat Pump
Up to 36,000*	13	\$200	+\$150

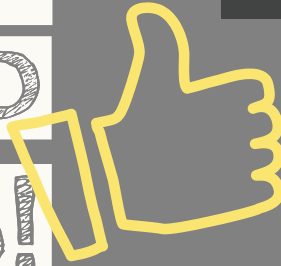
*Add \$30 for each ½ ton above 3 ton (36,000 BTU). For example, you could receive a \$410 rebate for a four-ton (48,000 BTU) heat pump.

STAY

CONNECTED

WITH US!

FACEBOOK: @WHEATLANDELECTRIC
 TWITTER: @WHEATLANDELECT1
 INSTAGRAM: @WHEATLANDELECTRIC



ARE YOU CONNECTED WITH WHEATLAND ELECTRIC ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

Be sure to "Like" Wheatland Electric on Facebook and "Follow" us on Instagram and Twitter. Besides industry and cooperative news, Wheatland shares outage information on Facebook and hosts giveaways. We share safety information on our pages and also keep members up-to-date on cooperative events such as our Co-ops Care Charity golf tournament and Cram the Van food drive. This year we have also hosted photo contests and coloring contests, so be sure to engage with us on our social media platforms for your chance to win!



TWO winners will be selected Thursday morning! Be sure to comment with your favorite type of cookie below! 🍪🍪🍪



National Chocolate Chip
COOKIE DAY!

Comment below what your favorite type of cookie is to be entered to win a cookie gift box!



Wheatland Electric Jul 15

PLUS A \$25 GIFT CARD TO YOUR LOCAL GROCERY STORE!

GIVE YOUR AIR CONDITIONING AND OVEN A BREAK! CONSIDER GRILLING SUPPER TONIGHT!

LIKE AND SHARE THIS POST FOR A CHANCE TO WIN THIS GRILLING BASKET! WINNER ANNOUNCED FRIDAY!