




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

**WHEATLAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

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FROM THE MANAGER

Capital Credits, Concern for the Community, Giving and Merry Christmas

I'd like to focus this month's article on two of the seven cooperative principles: **MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION AND CONCERN FOR THE COMMUNITY.**

Member Economic Participation

When you belong to an electric cooperative, you're not a customer, you are a member — and a co-op owner. **WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (WEC)** is a nonprofit distribution cooperative. The co-op buys electricity from our wholesale provider Sunflower Electric, arranges for its transmission and distributes the electricity to our membership through WEC's power lines.

As mentioned, WEC members are also owners. The cooperative shares its excess revenue — moneys it collects above what is required to run the business, and when it's economically feasible, the cooperative retires or pays out this excess money — called **CAPITAL CREDITS.**

In 2020, WEC's board of trustees decided how much to retire, or payout, in capital credits based on the 2019 financial year. The board of trustees considered the impact the retirement would have on the financial strength of the cooperative. The board decided it was economically feasible to retire **\$500,000 IN CAPITAL CREDITS IN**

AUGUST AND ANOTHER \$500,000 IN DECEMBER.

This brings the total retirement of capital credits in 2020 to \$1 MILLION. **AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE AUGUST PAYOUT, THE DECEMBER PAYOUT WILL BE IN BILL CREDITS.**

MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION distinguishes electric cooperatives from **INVESTOR-OWNED UTILITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES.**

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WEC WILL NOT BE HOSTING OUR TRADITIONAL CAPITAL CREDITS HARVEST DAYS AT EACH OF OUR DISTRICT OFFICES. As mentioned above, just as we did with the August 2020 capital credit payout, we will be giving **BILL CREDITS** on your December 2020 electric bills.

The amount that members will receive depends on how much electricity you used in the payout years and how long you have been a WEC member. **THE PAYOUT THIS YEAR IS FOR MEMBERS OF WEC FROM 1988, 1989 AND 2019.** Those WEC members will receive a percentage of capital credits retirements reflecting their contribution of capital to, and ownership of, the cooperative during those years.



Bruce W. Mueller

Continued on page 16F ▶

Wheatland Retires Another \$500,000 in Capital Credits

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., will retire another **\$500,000 IN CAPITAL CREDITS** this month, bringing the total amount returned to our membership this year to \$1 million.

Eligible members will see their capital credits refund in December, either through SmartHub or their paper bill. The Wheatland Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees voted in May to retire Wheatland's first round of credits — also \$500,000 — to members in August, as an early payout in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

Trustees evaluate the financial condition of the cooperative every year to determine if it can retire capital credits. One of the seven cooperative principles is members' economic participation. Specifically, members control the capital of their cooperative, at least part of which remains common property. Surpluses can be allocated for many

purposes, including benefitting members in proportion to their transactions within the cooperative. Capital credits is just one way we honor the cooperative spirit!

The credit amount that members will receive this December is based on the amount of electricity used (kilowatt-hours) in 1988, 1989 and 2019, and their duration of membership. These allocations reflect members' contributions of capital to the cooperative and ownership of the cooperative during these two calendar years. So, the more electricity you buy and the longer you use service, the more monetary equity (allocations) you accumulate.

Capital credits are just one more way it pays to be a cooperative member! Questions? Learn more at <https://www.weci.net/capital-credits> or contact your local Wheatland office today.

Thank You for Helping Us Cram the Van!

Thank you to our members for once again helping us Cram the Van! Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to collect thousands of pounds of food donations and lots of cash for our local food banks — in every single district we serve! Though the donation drive-in looked very different this year, the kindness and compassion of our neighbors and communities did not. Stay tuned as we share more in January's *Kansas Country Living* about our donation totals.



STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION NEXT MONTH.



Thank You for Helping us Spread the GOODNESS this GIVING Season!



In true cooperative spirit, our members and Facebook fans voted, and we are proud to announce our Giving Goodness winner: **BABY BRONC BEGINNINGS!**

The non-profit community daycare that serves Lakin USD 215 employees was the overall winner of our charity challenge on Facebook. From Oct. 26 through Nov. 12, we asked our members and fans to nominate a deserving non-profit or charity organization within our service territory to be the next recipient of a \$1,000 Sharing Success grant.

Out of dozens of nominations, four rose to the top: Baby Bronc Beginnings, Lakin; Russell Child Development Center, Garden City (\$500); Syracuse Christian Academy, Syracuse (\$250); and Magic's Hope, Finney County (\$250). These final four contenders squared off for our members' and Facebook followers' votes, with RCDC and Baby Broncs rising to our top two. The championship players then rallied their fans and followers for the title fight, garnering hundreds of favorable votes! Visit our official Facebook page (www.facebook/WheatlandElectric) to watch a video of our winning charity team and how their \$1,000 grant will help them spread some GOODNESS during this GIVING season!



General Manager & Trustees



Executive Team – Scott City



District 1 – Scott City



District 2 – Leoti



District 3 – Tribune



District 4 – Syracuse

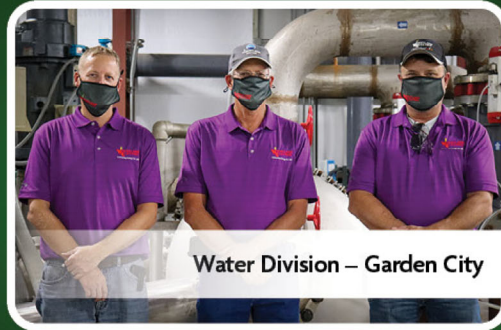
Wishing You and

HAPPY H

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



Wheatland Broadband – Scott City



Water Division – Garden City

Your Loved Ones

HOLIDAYS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

From all of us at
**WHEATLAND
ELECTRIC**
 Delivering Energy for Life
 A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

*Our offices will be closed on Thursday,
 Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25, for the
 Christmas holiday. We will be closed on
 Friday, Jan. 1, for the new year.*



District 5 – Garden City



District 6 – Great Bend



District 7 – Harper



14 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Wheatland Electric Scholarship Program, established in 2015, is committed to the leaders of tomorrow. Our board of directors has approved 14 scholarships for \$1,000 each for the 2020-2021 school year, and the time to apply is now!

Graduating seniors who attend one of the following 13 high schools are eligible to apply: Argonia, Caldwell, Chaparral, Conway Springs, Deerfield, Great Bend, Greeley County, Holcomb, Norwich, Scott County, South Haven, Syracuse and Wichita County.

Applicants must be a legal dependent of an active member receiving service from Wheatland Electric and must plan to attend an accredited two or four-year college or university or accredited

technical or vocational institution. Children of Wheatland employees or Wheatland board members are not eligible to apply. One at-large scholarship is available to students who have a parent/guardian who is a member of Wheatland Electric but does not attend one of the 13 high schools in Wheatland's service territory.

Learn more or apply online at www.wec.net/scholarship-program no later than **FRIDAY, JAN. 8, 2021, AT 5 P.M. CST.** Scholarships will be awarded at the Annual Meeting of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. to be held in April 2021.

Selection will be made without regard to the applicant's race, color, ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, marital status or physical handicap.

Capital Credits, Concern for the Community, Giving and Merry Christmas *Continued from page 16A* ►

Although 1988 and 1989 may seem like a long time ago, those funds helped WEC reduce the amount of money needed to borrow from outside lenders to build, maintain and expand a reliable electric distribution system. The board of trustees wanted to make sure our longtime members received capital credits along with our newer members, who haven't been members of WEC for such an extended period. **IF YOU WERE A MEMBER IN 1988, 1989 AND 2019 YOU WILL RECEIVE CAPITAL CREDITS RETIREMENTS.**

Inactive members or persons not currently purchasing their electricity from WEC but who were distribution members during the years of the capital credit retirements will be receiving a check in the mail for their capital credits (if the amount is \$20 or more). It is very important that WEC has the current mailing address of all inactive members to ensure the delivery of the capital credits checks. To confirm or update your mailing address, please call WEC at **800-762-0436**.

Concern for Community

This is something all employees of WEC value year-round. But during the holiday season, concern for community seems especially important.

Electric cooperatives have a proud history of giving back. At WEC, we give back through many member programs and initiatives like **SHARING SUCCESS, YOUTH TOUR, SCHOLARSHIPS AND OUR CRAM THE VAN FOOD DRIVE.**

As we shared with you in last month's magazine, our Sharing Success Fund has now awarded more than \$95,000 in grants to nonprofits since its inception in 2012.

Normally each year, Wheatland sends students on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, as part of the youth tour program. In addition, Wheatland

awards up to \$14,000 in scholarships, each year, to seniors graduating from one of the 13 high schools in our service territory and one at-large high school. This year, we were able to award the scholarships, but due to the pandemic, both trips were canceled. The four winners of those two trips were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship and the remaining moneys (budgeted for the trips) were donated to hospitals, first responders and the food banks in the WEC service territory.

WEC members help us give back, too. The way we did Cram the Van may have looked different this year, but why we continue to do it hasn't changed. Over the past six years more than 47 tons have been donated by way of this program. We couldn't do this without you, and we thank you for partnering with us in giving back. So many families go without and struggle to make ends meet. This struggle can be especially hard during the holiday season, and this year the pandemic added to the burden. Because of you and the WEC employees and trustees who worked hard to make Cram the Van a success, Christmas will be better for many families in our communities. Stay tuned as we share more in January's *Kansas Country Living* about our donation totals.

In this month's local pages, you will see a **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR** greeting from all the Wheatland employees (including the Water and Broadband divisions) and board of trustees. We hope that you have a wonderful holiday season.

I hope and pray that 2021 will find a successful COVID-19 vaccine implementation and medical treatments that will assist in a fast recovery for those whom the vaccine doesn't work. Please have a safe and healthy **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR



WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 14-21, 2021



YOUTH PROGRAMS

BUILD

LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY, MEMORIES

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP



COLORADO

JULY 16-22, 2021



CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS!

Apply **ONLINE** for the Trip of a Lifetime!

Youth Tour is more than just another trip. It's an opportunity to send four outstanding high school juniors to build leadership skills, make lifelong friends and explore with students from across the country. Each trip is designed to challenge and inspire the next generation of leaders. Best of all, it's free!

Wheatland Electric will award four area juniors with an all-expenses-paid trip to either Washington, D.C., or Steamboat Springs, Colorado. All costs and travel arrangements are covered by the electric cooperative. Apply online at www.weci.net/youth-tour-program **BY JAN. 8, 2021, AT 5 P.M. CST.**

Applicants will be interviewed at Wheatland Electric Cooperative Inc., in Scott City. Two winners will be selected for

the Washington, D.C., trip and two more will be selected for the Steamboat Springs, Colorado, trip. Selection is based on the completed application and interview. High school juniors must meet the following criteria to apply:

- ▶ Their parent and/or guardian must receive electrical service from Wheatland Electric.
- ▶ They must attend Argonia, Caldwell, Chaparral, Conway Springs, Deerfield, Great Bend, Greeley County, Holcomb, Norwich, Scott Community, South Haven, Syracuse or Wichita County high schools.

For more information contact Alli Conine, manager of member services and corporate communications, at aconine@weci.net or 620-874-4563.

TOUR THE NATION'S CAPITAL



During the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., students meet with our elected officials. This year's tour will be June 14-21, 2021.

Imagine — a chance to visit our nation's capital for one week, meet with 35 other student leaders from across the state and visit with Kansas' senators and congressional representatives. The **ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR** in Washington, D.C., is jam-packed with visiting many of the major memorials, including the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial and the brand-new Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial. To see what's in store, visit <http://bit.ly/dcytvideo2015>.

The safety of our students and chaperones is our top priority. If the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour or Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp organizers believe that travel is unsafe due to concerns with the coronavirus (or any other acts of terrorism, disaster, civil disorder, or curtailment of transportation facilities), then the trip will be canceled.

ADVENTURE IN THE ROCKIES



Each year, campers go rafting during Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, which is scheduled for July 16-22, 2021.

How big is a bald eagle? How thrilling is white-water rafting? Can I help run a successful cooperative? Find the answer to those questions and more at the **COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP**. Enjoy nature like never before in the beautiful Colorado Rockies. Meet nearly 100 students your age from cooperative communities in Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming while creating memories to last a lifetime. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/cylvideo>.

Begins After Thanksgiving

HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

Hanging Your
Holiday Lights?

3 WINNERS
RECEIVE BILL CREDITS

1st \$200
2nd \$150
3rd \$100

Show us your winter wonderland for
a chance to win a bill credit!

BEGINS: Nov. 27 at 8 a.m.

ENDS: Dec. 18 at 11:59 p.m.

WINNERS ANNOUNCED DEC. 23
on our Wheatland Electric Facebook page!

Submit Your Entry

Send **PHOTO OR VIDEO** submissions to sdonecker@weci.net or submit via Facebook message to Wheatland Electric's Facebook page. The photo/video of the decorated property submitted to the contest must be owned or rented by the member submitting the property for consideration.



