



WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC NEWS

Western's Annual Meeting Highlights

An estimated crowd of 300 people attended the 64th Annual Meeting of Western Cooperative Electric on May 13.

Western's linemen not only provided valet parking, but also assisted in serving the meal catered by Bigge's Country Kitchen of Stockton.

The Wheatland High School electric car team brought a car for members to see, as the team shared the past year's race experiences.

After the meal, Larry Evans, Western's Board President, called the meeting to order. Introduction of special guests included Dave Holthaus, Manager Government Relations of Kansas Electric Cooperatives; and Earl Watkins, President and CEO of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation.

The 2008 youth tour winners, Keith Gustin, Jake Schlegel, Heather Weber, and Cas Schultz, gave informative presentations about the "Government in Action" Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs CO.

Dave Schneider, Western's General Manager, addressed the membership regarding the past year, including progress of rebuilding and a special mention of no ice storms since the previous annual meeting report.



More than 300 people attended Western's 2009 Annual Meeting.



Wheatland High School Electric Car Team with Western Trustee, Chuck Luetters (center).



Western's employees serve members a meal prepared by Bigge's County Kitchen.

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Western's linemen provided valet parking for members.



Keith Gustin (left) and Jake Schlegel talk about their trip to Washington, D.C., with the "Government in Action" Youth Tour in 2008.

2009 Annual Meeting Highlights

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Annual Meeting Prize Winners

Digital Picture Frame	Leonard Purinton
Shop Vac	Melvin Quakenbush
Leaf Blower, Mulcher	Florence Hladek
Coffemaker	Kelly Owens
Handi-Pan	Fred Johnson
Shaver	Robert Berens
Fan	Arden L. Cronn
Wafflemaker	Ralph Schmeidler
Garden Hose	Larry Pearson
Garden Hose	Wayne Zimmerman
Travel Chair	Kenneth Schoenthaler

Gift Certificates (donated by Stanion Wholesale)

Phil Mann
Chad Schoenthaler
Donald Herl
Adolph Flax

Ice Chests and Coolers (donated by Kriz-Davis)

Clem Zerr
Mike Pipkin
David Faulkner
Henry Gassmann
Marvin Nimz
Edwin Schmeidler

Prizes Donated by Tech Line

Mr. Coffee	Allen Pfeifer
Shop Vac	Darrell Sutor
Fan	Bernita Kinderknecht

Prizes Donated by North Pacific

Windbreaker	Norma Lang
Polo shirt	Fantasy Flyers
Pocket Knife	Ernest Keller

Prizes Donated by Sunflower Electric Corp.

Portable Power Station	Ron Herl
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The wives of Western's Board of Trustees served ice cream to members after the meeting.

Holthaus spoke with membership about legislative issues, specifically the complexity of current issues and upcoming concerns within the electric utility industry.

Watkins was pleased to announce to the membership about the agreement with the Governor's office for the Holcomb expansion. Watkins confirmed that Sunflower will continue with expanding its resources for renewable energy, along with the opportunity for increased base load power.

In the election, incumbent Trustees Melvin Keller, District 1; Craig Crossland, District 2; and Larry Evans, District 3 were re-elected for three year terms.

After adjournment, door prizes were distributed and members enjoyed ice cream before departing.



Earl Watkins, Sunflower's CEO, addresses the membership.



Cas Schultz and Heather Weber share their experiences during Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.



Western's former Manager Harlen McGinness and his wife, Audrey, are welcomed at the meeting.

Keep Electricity from Going Down the Drain

Water use and electricity go hand in hand. Heating water can account for 14 to 25 percent of the total energy consumed in a typical home. What's more, systems used to clean public water supplies and deliver it to homes require large amounts of electricity. If your home receives water from a well or spring, the pump also draws power. So when we use water, hot or cold, we're also using energy.

Techniques for trimming water use in your home are surprisingly simple. For one, you can significantly reduce hot water consumption by simply repairing leaks in fixtures—faucets and showerheads—or pipes. A leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 per month.

You can also reduce water heating costs in a matter of seconds by lowering the thermostat on your water

heater. For each 10° F reduction, you can save 3 to 5 percent in energy costs. Reducing the setting also slows mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Although some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140° F, most households usually only require them set at 120° F.

Adding insulation to your water heater can save around 4 to 9 percent in cost. To determine if you need to insulate your water heater, touch it. A tank that's warm to the touch needs additional insulation.

Insulating your water heater tank is fairly simple and inexpensive, and will pay for itself in about a year. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around \$10 to \$20. Choose one with an insulating value of at least

R-8. In addition, don't set the thermostat above 130° F on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket—the wiring may overheat. Installing insulation on gas and oil-fired water heaters is more difficult. For these appliances, it's best to have a qualified professional perform the work.

For more tips on trimming water use in your home, including pipe and water heater insulation techniques, visit www.energysavers.gov or contact Western at 800-456-6720.



Easy Summer Cooling Tips

If your home is too hot in the summer, there are many ways you can help keep heat out of your house. Planting trees, for instance, is one of the best ways to diffuse the hot summer sun before it enters your home. But a surprising amount of heat comes from inside your home.

The biggest sources of internal heat gain are lights and appliances. Reducing their use will save electricity and keep your home cooler. In humid climates, moisture that is released by cooking, bathing and other activities will also make it harder for air conditioners to cool your home. A drier home feels more comfortable.

Here are some easy ways to keep cool in the summer:

- ▶ Replace standard incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs. The electricity used by standard bulbs produces 10 percent light and 90 percent heat. Also, compact fluorescent lights are cheaper to operate.
- ▶ Schedule heat-producing chores like baking or doing the laundry after the hottest part of the day.
- ▶ Use kitchen and bathroom fans to remove heat and moisture during and after cooking and bathing.
- ▶ When replacing appliances, buy those with the Energy Star® label. These appliances conserve energy and release less unwanted heat.
- ▶ If you live in an area where evenings are cool, don't forget about the cheapest cooling method of all. Open your doors and windows, or run window fans. This will move cool evening air through your home for almost no cost.

'PHANTOM LOAD'

"Phantom Load" is the energy used by some products when they are turned off but still plugged into a power outlet.

Many appliances and electronic devices in our homes continue to draw power even when they are switched off, such as:

- DVD players
- Charging units
- Televisions
- Power adapters
- Stereos
- Computers

In the average home, 75% of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off.



To save energy, unplug these and other devices when they are not in use. Better yet, plug them into a power strip with an on/off switch.

Energy Commandment No. 3

“Thou Shalt Invest in an Energy-efficient Water Heater”

BY DOUG RYE

As we continue with the 10 Commandments of Energy Efficiency, we will keep our focus on making wise investments. This month, I am encouraging you to invest in a specific item that will make a world of difference in your utility bill.

Have you ever thought much about your water heater? Are you aware that about 20 percent of your utility bill goes toward the

the Astrodome in Houston. It takes several days to see everything in that show, which is sponsored by the National Association of Homebuilders. I actually did an energy presentation there and had about four extra hours to look around. I was practically running through the aisles looking at every display as fast as possible. At one point, I looked to my left and saw some

they could get a Marathon.

I know for a fact that hundreds of you have already purchased one. If you understand the facts, the rest of you will do the same. The facts are simple.

It is the last water heater that you will ever need at a particular location. It won't rust or leak because the tank has no metal. And the Marathon is so well insulated with “envirofoam,” that it has practically zero standby loss regardless of the location. It does not warm your cold garage in the winter and it does not heat your house in the summer.

Now, consider this: The average gas water heater is less than 58 percent efficient, which means that about 40 percent of the natural gas you buy goes up the flue into the sky. On the other hand, the all-electric Marathons average 91-plus percent efficiency. That's a no-brainer in my book. So, my advice to you is this: When you need a water heater for your new or existing house, contact your local electric co-op and ask about the Marathon water heater.

Remember – your co-op values you, the member, and it cares. That's why your co-op is doing all it can to help you save money on your electric bill.

Doug Rye, is a licensed architect and the popular host of the “Home Remedies” radio show. You can contact Doug at 1-888-Doug-Rye. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.

strange looking objects that were shaped like a 44-caliber pistol bullet only they were about five feet tall.

I hollered over to the fellow and asked, “What are these?” And he

said, “Water heaters.” I said, “commercial?” and he said, “No, mostly residential.”

I turned and walked his way and asked, “What is so special about these water heaters?”

And he said they are guaranteed to never leak or rust and are 91 to 95 percent energy efficient. I didn't necessarily believe him but I knew that if it were true, a lot of my listeners would want to have one.

Later, when I got proof that it was true, I started telling about the Marathon water heater in my seminars and on my radio show. Folks just like you started asking where



“...the all-electric Marathons average 91-plus percent efficiency. That's a no-brainer in my book.”

heating of water? Have you ever had to replace your water heater? Nearly every one of you said “yes”. Now, why did you replace it? Was it the wrong color? Well, of course not. You replaced it because it quit working or had started leaking. At some point, we all need to replace a water heater. Now wouldn't it be great if we could install a replacement guaranteed to never leak or rust? And wouldn't it be great if the new water heater was super energy efficient? Well, such a product is available and I will tell you how I learned about it.

About 10 years ago, I was attending a really big home show in