

## 2010 Annual Meeting Highlights



Trustee Bob Abell visits with former Manager Harlen McGinness and his wife, Audrey.



The Wheatland High School electric car team brings a race car to display.



Western employees manage the registration table at the Annual Meeting.

Approximately 250 people attended the 65th Annual Meeting of Western Cooperative Electric on May 12.

Western's linemen provided valet parking, and helped serve the meal, catered by Bigge's Country Kitchen of Stockton.

The Wheatland High School electric car team brought a car to display and 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 Stuart Lowry, Executive Vice President/General Counsel for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and Earl Watkins, President and CEO of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation.

Lowry spoke with members about current issues affecting electric utilities, specifically, legislative and environmental issues.

Watkins discussed ongoing efforts for Holcomb expansion and Sunflower's future power supply options, including renewable resources.

The 2009 youth tour winners, Brianne Plante and Dal 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, General Manager, spoke of issues regarding the past year, including progress of rebuilding from past storms and an overview of Western's operations.

Incumbent Trustees, Donald L. Schultz, District 1; Frank Joy, District 2; and Charles Luetters, District 3; were re-elected for three year terms.

Door prizes were distributed and members enjoyed ice cream before departing.

### Annual Meeting Prize Winners

Prize	Winner	Prize	Winner
\$200 Credit to Electric Bill	Glen Kroeger	Air Purifier	Pete Parke
\$100 Credit to Electric Bill	Ron & Karen Herl	Garden Hose	Steve DeSaire Sr.
\$100 Credit to Electric Bill	Louella Heier	Humidifier	Riley's Auto Magic
\$100 Credit to Electric Bill	Ronald Keith	Mosquito Zapper	Jay Russell
Food Slicer	Kenneth Schoenthaler	Blender	Francis Wildeman
Ice Cream Maker	Leonard Purinton	Crock Pot*	Gerald Armbruster
Muffin Toaster	Donald Geist	Portable Work Light*	Dave Conness
Five Quart Roaster	Joe Faulkner	400 W MH Light Bulb**	Richard Brungardt
Energy Efficiency Kit***	Arden Cronn		

\*Donated by Techline; \*\* Donated by Stanion; \*\*\*Donated by Sunflower Electric Power Corporation

Western employees help serve the meals at the 65th Annual Meeting. (Below)



Senator Ralph Ostmeyer (right) visits with members.



Members visit the Sunflower Electric Power Corp. booth.



Trustee Melvin Keller introduces himself.

## Western Welcomes Summer Interns

**DALTON NUTTLE, TRENT STEVENSON,** and **CHRIS HAZEN** are employed at Western Cooperative Electric for the summer to train and experience the challenging field of electric utility work.

Nuttle graduated from Ransom High School and is employed at the Olmitz warehouse. He has completed one year of Electric Power Technology studies at Dodge City Community College and plans to return this fall and to complete his associate's degree in December. His hobbies include spending time with his family and hunting.

Stevenson, an Ellsworth High School graduate, is employed at the Ellsworth warehouse. He completed one year at Pratt Community College in the electric

power technology program. He enjoys hunting and fishing in his spare time. Shortly after his employment, the Ellsworth area experienced a large outage and Stevenson assisted in the restoration process.

Hazen graduated from Ellis High School and is employed at the WaKeeney warehouse. He attends the Dodge City Electric Power Technology program and plans to complete his associate's degree in December. He enjoys being a spectator at local car races and spending time with his family at local area lakes.

These men are not only gaining experience, but are realizing how important safety and focus are within the daily work of an electric cooperative lineman.



Dalton Nuttle



Trent Stevenson



Chris Hazen

## Know What's Below: Call Before You Dig

Summer is a great time for outdoor improvement plans to play out.

If your projects include digging, you'll have to wait a few days so the job can be done safely.

Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water, and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a summer project into a disaster.

To find out where utility lines run on your property, dial 811 from anywhere in the country a few days prior to digging. Your call will be routed to a local "one call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

Many homeowners are aware of the 811 services, but the majority don't take advantage of them. A national survey showed that only 33 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before digging, according to the Common Ground Alliance, a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals.

Although light gardening usually doesn't call for deep digging, other seemingly simple tasks, like planting shrubs, can damage utility lines. A severed line can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers, and result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. The 811 service is free. It prevents the issue of interrupting utilities, and can help avoid serious injury. For more information, visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com).



Check for utilities before digging deep holes, like one requiring a post hole digger.