



## WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC **NEWS**

### WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC, INC.

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#### GENERAL MANAGER

**Nolan Numrich**

CEO/General Manager

#### CONTACT US

635 S. 13th Street

P.O. Box 278

WaKeeney, KS 67672

785-743-5561

FAX: 785-743-2717

[www.westerncoop.com](http://www.westerncoop.com)

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### FROM THE MANAGER

## Staying Reliable as Temps Rise and Demand for Electricity Surges

Summer is here and with it comes the increased demand for electricity as air conditioners run overtime to keep homes and businesses cool. At Western Cooperative Electric, we work closely with our generation and transmission provider, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, to ensure we're prepared for this seasonal demand — and that our system remains reliable no matter how high the temperature climbs.

Extreme heat puts strain on the entire electric grid, not just our local cooperative. That's why we coordinate with the Southwest Power Pool, our regional transmission operator, to monitor grid-wide conditions. In rare cases, during prolonged heatwaves, we may be asked to encourage members to reduce their usage or implement controlled outages to protect grid stability. Rest assured, we'll always keep you

informed if such measures become necessary.

You can help too. Adjusting your thermostat a few degrees, sealing air leaks, using major appliances during off-peak hours, and closing blinds in the afternoon all reduce the burden on the system. Even small changes help ensure our community stays cool and powered.

But summer heat isn't our only challenge. Recent federal energy policies have threatened the reliability of the entire U.S. electric grid by pushing for the early retirement of dispatchable power plants — the kind that can be called on any time, day or night. That's why we welcomed the Environmental Protection Agency's recent decision to



**Nolan Numrich**

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## Thank You for Joining Us for Our 80th Annual Meeting

Western Cooperative Electric's 80th Annual Meeting was a remarkable milestone — and it was made even more special by your presence. Thank you for attending and for continuing to support your cooperative. Your participation reflects the heart of our theme: “Your Power, Our Purpose.”

That simple phrase speaks volumes. For 80 years, the strength of our cooperative has come from the power of our members — their trust, their voice and their commitment to community. In turn, it's our purpose to serve, protect and invest in that power — day in and day out.

### A CELEBRATION OF 80 YEARS

This year's meeting was not just a business gathering; it was a celebration of where we've been and where we're headed. From the early days of rural electrification to today's advanced grid technology, our mission has remained constant: to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity, while always keeping our members at the center.

We were honored to have so many members join us in-person to commemorate this historic occasion. Whether you came to listen, ask questions, enjoy fellowship or simply eat ice cream — you made the event meaningful.

### “A FARMER'S STORY”: A TRIBUTE FROM ONE OF OUR OWN

One of the most touching moments of the meeting was

the premiere of “A Farmer's Story” — a heartfelt tribute to Western's 80 years of service. Authored by a Western Cooperative Electric member, this short film captures the spirit of rural life, the strength of community, and the critical role electricity has played in powering rural Kansas “like magic.”

### HONORING THE PAST, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

During the meeting, we shared updates on current projects, long-term goals, and how we're navigating the challenges ahead. From strengthening our infrastructure to embracing innovation, everything we do is guided by one principle: Your power is our purpose.

We are committed to investing in technology, security, and service improvements that will benefit all members. We're also focused on keeping our operations efficient and sustainable, while never losing sight of the people behind the power.

### WITH GRATITUDE

We're grateful for your continued trust and support. Thank you for joining us to celebrate 80 years of service. Thank you for being part of our story. And most of all, thank you for reminding us every day that your power is truly our purpose. We look forward to serving you in the year ahead and welcoming you back for our 81st annual meeting. Until then, stay connected, be safe and let's power this next year with purpose.



### WATCH MEETING VIDEOS ONLINE

Revisit key discussions, hear messages from our leadership or share the experience with others by watching our annual meeting videos on multiple platforms:

- ▶ **OUR WEBSITE:** [www.westerncoop.com](http://www.westerncoop.com)
- ▶ **WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** @westerncooperativeelectric5824
- ▶ **WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC FACEBOOK PAGE:** @WesternCoopElectric

Be sure to check out “A Farmer's Story” — it's a moving reminder of what Western Cooperative Electric stands for and the legacy behind member involvement.

# Western Cooperative Electric Welcomes New and Returning Trustees

Western Cooperative Electric is pleased to announce the results of the 2025 Board of Trustees elections, officially shared during our 80th annual meeting on Wednesday, May 14. We extend our sincere congratulations to the newly elected and returning trustees who will help guide the cooperative's ongoing mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service to our members.



**Cody Howland**  
**DISTRICT 1**



**Frank Joy**  
**DISTRICT 2**



**Nick Zerr**  
**DISTRICT 3**

community it serves," Cody shared. "I'm looking forward to contributing to Western's future."

## DISTRICT 2 – FRANK JOY

We are pleased to announce that **FRANK JOY** will continue representing District 2. His steady leadership and ongoing dedication to Western's values are deeply appreciated.

## DISTRICT 3 – NICK ZERR

**NICK ZERR** was reelected in District 3. We thank Nick for his continued service and commitment to the cooperative's mission.

Western Cooperative Electric thanks all members who participated in this year's election. Your involvement ensures member-driven leadership and a strong future for the cooperative.

To learn more, visit [www.westerncoop.com](http://www.westerncoop.com) or follow us on Facebook.

## DISTRICT 1 – CODY HOWLAND

We welcome **CODY HOWLAND** as the newly elected trustee for District 1. A lifelong Kansan, Cody lives in northeast Trego County where he farms with his family. He brings over a decade of experience in IT services from his time with Nex-Tech and is currently serving his third term on the board of Golden Belt Co-op in Ellis. Cody is passionate about cooperative governance and is eager to bring his expertise in technology, finance and strategic planning to Western.

"Serving on a board is a great opportunity to directly impact the

# CELEBRATING OUR 2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Western Cooperative Electric is proud to invest in the future by supporting the leaders of tomorrow. Each year, we recognize outstanding local students who demonstrate academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential.

For the 2025-2026 school year, the Western Cooperative Electric Board of Trustees has awarded four \$1,000 scholarships and the \$250 Darrell Brown Memorial Scholarship to exceptional high school seniors from our service area. This year's scholarship recipients are:

- ▶ **BRYAN GARVERT** – Plainville High School
- ▶ **TORI MILLER** – Hays High School
- ▶ **JESSA SCHULTZ** – Ellsworth High School
- ▶ **MARISA WASINGER** – Hays High School
- ▶ **BRIANA CROISANT** – Otis-Bison High School (Darrell Brown Memorial Scholarship)

We congratulate these students on their achievements and wish them continued success in their academic and personal pursuits. Western Cooperative Electric remains committed to supporting education and empowering the next generation.



**Bryan Garvert**



**Tori Miller**



**Jessa Schultz**



**Marisa Wasinger**



**Briana Croisant**

## KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE

**Fireworks stress out pets. Help keep them calm and safe this Fourth of July:**

- ▶ Never leave them unattended outside. Keep them indoors in a quiet space.
- ▶ Play soft music or white noise.
- ▶ Make sure ID tags and microchips are up to date.





## STAYING RELIABLE AS TEMPS RISE AND DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY SURGES

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revisit several rules that could have jeopardized affordable and reliable power. We appreciate the advocacy work done by our national trade association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, in securing these important policy reviews.

Meanwhile, Western is looking to the future. Data centers — the massive facilities that power cloud computing, streaming and AI — are starting to appear in rural areas like ours. With abundant land, lower costs, and reliable cooperative services, rural Kansas is becoming increasingly attractive for energy-intensive operations. Serving a data center could bring jobs, infrastructure upgrades, and stable long-term revenue to our area — but it also requires careful planning. These facilities can use more electricity than all of our members combined.

We're working with our power supplier, economic development teams and regulators to evaluate opportunities while protecting the cooperative's financial stability. Our approach ensures that any significant growth in large loads benefits our entire membership, both now and in the years to come.

In short, your cooperative is adapting to a fast-changing energy landscape. Whether it's the heat of summer, shifting federal policies, or large new loads like data centers, we're focused on keeping the lights on, keeping your bills affordable and ensuring your power remains reliable.

Thank you for your continued trust in Western Cooperative Electric. Together, we're building a resilient energy future for western Kansas.

**HERE TO SERVE,  
NOLAN NUMRICH, CEO/GM**

## W.O.R.K Scholarship will Launch to Support Local Professionals

Western Cooperative Electric is proud to introduce the W.O.R.K. (Working Opportunities for Rural Kansas) Scholarship, a new program created to support individuals who have completed post-secondary education and are now building their lives within Western's service area.

The W.O.R.K. Scholarship offers \$1,000 in direct payment toward student loan debt or school-related financial obligations. This program is designed for those who have not only invested in their education but have also made a conscious decision to live, work and serve in our rural communities.

Applications open July 1 and will be accepted through Aug. 1, 2025. To qualify, applicants must:

- Be a current resident of Western Cooperative Electric's service area for at least six months.
- Have completed post-secondary education within the past five years.
- Show proof of employment or volunteer service within the community.
- Provide documentation of outstanding student loan debt or financial need.
- Include the company name, address and account number of where the payment should be directed.
- Submit a personal statement explaining their commitment to community life.

"This scholarship is about recognizing and supporting the people who make our rural communities stronger," said Christina Hayes, WCE Member Services Manager. "The W.O.R.K. Scholarship allows us to give back to those who have chosen to plant roots and contribute to the future of our region."

Applicants can complete the W.O.R.K. Scholarship application at [www.westerncoop.com](http://www.westerncoop.com). The form will include space to upload all necessary documentation and the personal statement.

Western Cooperative Electric encourages all eligible individuals to apply and continue making a difference in the places they call home.

# WESTERN W.O.R.K SCHOLARSHIP

WORKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL KANSAS

\$1,000 POST GRADUATE:

To an individual who has received post secondary education and moved into Western's service area! This money will be directly payable to their student loans or school debt.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Fill out Western W.O.R.K Scholarship Application
- Provide proof of residency, employment or volunteer status, schooling debt or need & company, address and account number of where to make the payment.

APPLICATIONS OPEN ON  
JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> AND DUE BY:

AUGUST 1, 2025

For More Information & Check Eligibility:

[www.westerncoop.com/scholarship](http://www.westerncoop.com/scholarship)



