



WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

# NEWS

**WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC, INC.**

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**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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STRAIGHT TALK FROM THE TOP

## Partners in Power



Nolan Numrich

This year's theme for our 81st annual meeting says it all: **PARTNERS IN POWER**. In a cooperative, the word "partner" isn't just marketing — it's

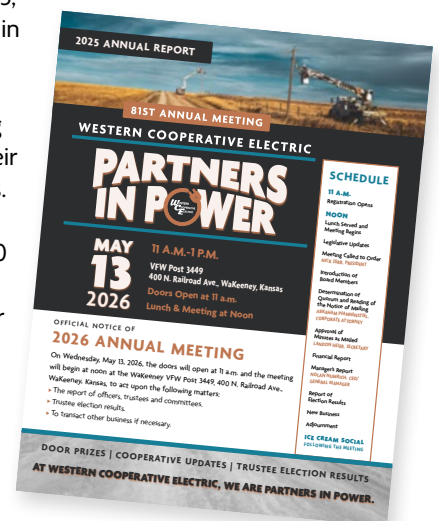
our founding principle. You own a stake in the lines that light your homes, the poles that carry power to your farms, and the future we build together. That partnership is what makes cooperatives different, and it's what makes Western strong.

**ATTENDING THE ANNUAL MEETING IS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO LIVE THAT PARTNERSHIP.** On Wednesday, May 13, 2026, we will gather at the WaKeeney VFW Post No. 3449 (doors open at 11 a.m., lunch and the meeting begin at noon). You'll have the chance to visit with the men and women who work for you every day — your trustees, your office staff and the linemen who keep the lights on. You'll enjoy a good meal, hear a clear report on last year's operations and finances, and learn what we're planning for the years ahead. In a world where so many companies feel too big or too distant, our annual meeting serves as a reminder that cooperatives are built differently.

**YOUR VOTE IS ANOTHER POWERFUL WAY TO EXERCISE PARTNERSHIP.** Ballots for the board of trustees election will be mailed in early April and must be **RETURNED BY MAY 1**. The trustees you elect make decisions that directly affect your rates, reliability and the cooperative's role in our communities. When you vote, you remind everyone that Western Cooperative Electric answers to its members — not to some distant corporate office.

**BEING PARTNERS ALSO MEANS STANDING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER IN THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.** We were born in 1945, when neighbors in eight northwest Kansas counties decided to bring electricity to their farms and towns. Today we serve more than 12,000 meters across 13 counties, yet our commitment

*Continued on page 12C* ▶



Ballots for the board of trustees election will be mailed in early April and must be returned by May 1. Voting reminds everyone that Western Cooperative Electric answers to its members — not a distant corporate office.

# Western Cooperative Electric Announces 2026 Youth Leadership Winners

Western Cooperative Electric is proud to announce the selection of four outstanding local students to represent the cooperative in this year's youth leadership programs.

Two students will travel to Washington, D.C., for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, an unforgettable opportunity to visit our nation's capital, meet elected officials, explore historic landmarks, and learn firsthand about the cooperative difference on a national level. Representing the cooperative in Washington, D.C., are:

- ▶ **AIDEN ASCHENBRENNER**, Ellis High School, son of Gary and Tara Aschenbrenner; and
- ▶ **REYGAN COONROD**, Ellsworth High School, daughter of Eric and Stephanie Coonrod.

Two additional students will attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. This camp focuses on leadership development, teamwork, and

cooperative education through hands-on activities and peer collaboration. Representing Western Cooperative Electric at camp are:

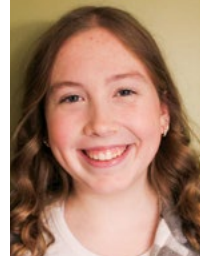
- ▶ **WYATT DIXSON**, Ellis High School, son of Tanner and Jill Dixson; and
- ▶ **LEVI SULLIVAN**, Hays High School, son of Nathan and Jennifer Sullivan.

These programs provide a unique opportunity for young leaders to learn about the cooperative business model, engage with peers from across the nation, and strengthen their leadership skills in an interactive environment.

"We are incredibly proud of these students and the leadership qualities they already demonstrate," said Christina Hayes, member services manager at Western Cooperative Electric. "Investing in youth leadership is investing in the future of our communities. These programs give students a deeper understanding of how cooperatives work and empower them to return home with confidence, knowledge and a broader perspective."



**Aiden Aschenbrenner**



**Reygan Coonrod**



**Wyatt Dixon**



**Levi Sullivan**

Western Cooperative Electric congratulates these four students and looks forward to seeing the positive impact they will continue to make in our communities.

## 2026 SPECIAL PROJECT

# SUPPORTING THE OLMITZ PARK VISION

Western Cooperative Electric is proud to support the Olmitz Park Project as our 2026 Special Project initiative.

Our staff is working alongside the Olmitz Park Committee as they reimagine and revitalize this important community space. Through grant writing efforts, fundraising events, and strong local partnerships, the committee is committed to creating a park that serves families today and for generations to come.

This project is especially meaningful to us. Olmitz is home to one of our outpost locations and, while the town may be small with just 90 residents,

nearly one-third of its population is children. That means this park represents more than green space; it represents opportunity, connection, and a place for young families to gather and grow.

We invite you to support the cause by attending the Adult Prom on May 2, 2026, one of several events designed to help bring this vision to life. When we come together as a cooperative, even the smallest communities can accomplish big things.

Together, we are truly **PARTNERS IN POWER** — strengthening the places we call home.

# Partners in Power Continued from page 12A ▶

remains the same: We are not just a utility passing through — we are part of these communities. Through Western Cares, we help members facing temporary hardship with their electric bills. We support local schools, organizations and events because when our rural communities thrive, we all thrive.

**NONE OF THAT WORK HAPPENS WITHOUT OUR PEOPLE.** They are the most valuable resource we have. More than 50 dedicated employees show up every day knowing that someone's lights, livelihood or life-support equipment may depend on them. No group embodies that dedication to our members more than our linemen.

## **MONDAY, APRIL 13 IS NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY —**

Please take a moment to thank the lineworkers who climb poles in blinding snow, blistering heat and howling winds so your power stays on. Wave when

you see a Western truck, send a note to the office, or simply share a message on Facebook to a lineman, "Thank you for keeping the lights on." Their work is often invisible until the moment it's needed most; April 13 is our chance to make our support visible.

**PARTNERS IN POWER** is more than a theme — it's a daily reality at Western Cooperative. You power the cooperative with your trust, your questions, and your participation. We power your homes, farms and businesses with reliable electricity and responsive service. Together, we power our communities.

I hope to see you on May 13 in WaKeeney. Until then, thank you for being a member, a neighbor and a true partner.

**HERE TO SERVE,  
NOLAN NUMRICH  
CEO/GENERAL MANAGER**



ALFAFA ELECTRIC CO-OP, CHELSEY GUFFY

**APRIL 13, 2026**

## **LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY**

**Honoring our heroes and true  
PARTNERS IN POWER**

On April 13, 2026, we proudly celebrate Lineman Appreciation Day — a special day dedicated to recognizing the hardworking men who keep the lights on for our members and communities.

At Western Cooperative Electric, our linemen are more than employees — they are our heroes and our greatest Partners in Power. Whether responding to outages in the middle of the night, restoring service after severe storms, or maintaining the lines that deliver reliable electricity every day, their work is demanding, dangerous and absolutely essential.

Rain, wind, heat or ice — our linemen show up. They climb higher, work longer, and face challenging conditions so our members can enjoy the comfort and convenience of safe, dependable power. Their commitment to safety, service and community reflects the very best of what a cooperative stands for.

This month, we invite our members to join us in saying thank you. Your appreciation means the world to the men who proudly serve you across our system.

To our Western Cooperative Electric linemen: Thank you for your dedication, your professionalism, and your unwavering commitment to powering our communities. We are proud to stand beside you as true Partners in Power.



# WATCH FOR YOUR BALLOT!

Your Western Cooperative Electric Trustee Election Ballot will arrive by mail soon!

**WHEN IT DOES:**

- VOTE FOR ONE CANDIDATE IN EACH DISTRICT
- FOLLOW THE BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY
- RETURN IT RIGHT AWAY

**MAIL SERVICE CAN TAKE LONGER THAN USUAL, SO EARLY RETURNS HELP ENSURE YOUR VOTE IS COUNTED.**



**YOUR COOPERATIVE.  
YOUR VOTE.**

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



**WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC**

# PARTNERS IN POWER



**81ST ANNUAL MEETING**

**MAY  
13  
2026**

**11 A.M.-1 P.M.**

**VFW Post 3449, 400 N. Railroad Ave.  
WaKeeney, Kansas**

**Doors Open at 11 a.m. | Lunch & Meeting at Noon**

**DOOR PRIZES | COOPERATIVE UPDATES | TRUSTEE ELECTION RESULTS**

**AT WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC,  
WE ARE PARTNERS IN POWER.**