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NEWS

WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

Western Cooperative Electric. Inc.

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WesternCoopElectric to find co-op news, energy tips, photos from co-op events and more!

FROM THE MANAGER

Western Retires \$1.25 Million in **Capital Credits**

The Western Cooperative Electric Board of Trustees approved the retirement of more than \$1.25 million to be returned to eligible members in December. Members with retirements more than \$20 can expect to receive checks in early January.

"The annual retirement of capital credits has always been one of Western Cooperative's top priorities," said General Manager Tom Ruth. "Returning excess margins to the consumers we serve is one of the many benefits of being a member, not just a customer."

Unlike investor-owned utilities, which only pay dividends to a small group of shareholders, electric cooperatives return excess revenue to the members we serve. Capital credits are one of the biggest perks of being



Tom Ruth

Continued on page 12D ►

CAPITAL CREDITS: REAPING THE BENEFITS OF BEING A CO-OP MEMBER



When a person establishes service with us, they become a member and are eligible for capital credits.







Current members who received electricity during the retirement period will receive a percentage of capital credits retirements through a check from the co-op.

The allocated funds are used as

Every year, the board evaluates the

financial condition of the co-op to

determine if we can retire capital credits.

When the board decides to retire capital

credits, we calculate the amount owed to

and maintenance.

each member.

operating capital for system improvements

Former members who received electricity during the time period being retired will be mailed a check to the forwarding address on record.



member based on the amount of their electric use.

Capital credits are earned by every

time they have membership.

At the end of the fiscal year, any funds (margins) remaining after expenses have been paid are allocated to the member's account.



NEWS FROM WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

OP10Social Media **Posts of the Year**

Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc.

We had a great time at the WaKeeney parade this morning!! Thank July 17 . @

you to the linemen who take pride in the communities we serve!

Happy New Year from Western! We wanted to take a moment to review 2021's top social media posts. The past year seemed to fly by, and despite any challenges we faced, Western remained focused on serving our members. Western's employees remain dedicated to providing safe, reliable, and affordable power in 2022.

Follow us on social media to learn more about outage notifications, electrical safety, scholarship opportunities, and everyday happenings at your electric co-op.

Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc.

Saturday night's storm contained wind gusts of 60+ mph. Unfortunately Lane-Scott Electric sustained some heavy damage north of Ness City, including fitty-six broken poles. Fortunately, Western Co-op and Victory Electric out of Dodge City believe in the 7 Cooperative principles including #6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives. We were able to send some crews to help provide mutual aid to our neighbors. Western helns suit when we can because it may be us who needs the Western helps out when we can because it may be us who needs the help next time. #cooperativedifferen #CooperationAmongCooperatives

KANSASCTY.COM 'That was Jared, wasn't it?' Watch KU parents celebrate after son's catch beats Texas

Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc. , November 15 at 11:58 AM · O

CYMI Jared Casey, son of WCE's Plainville Field Supervisor Jerry Casey, Scored the game-winning 2-pt conversion against Texas on Saturday night in an OT thriller!!! Congrats to the Kansas Jayhawks and an amazing family!!!

12B KANSAS COUNTRY LIVING

Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc. February 15 . G

Let's take a minute to thank the linemen out working today. While a lot of the natural gas supply shortages are out of our control, these guys have been doing everything they can to alleviate pressure on the transmission lines and prevent outages before they happen. Thank you for all that you do!

Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc. May 12 . 3

Today we celebrated Western Cooperative's 76th Annual Meeting!! 🎉 Ioday we celebrated western cooperative s /otn Annual Meetingit We are thankful we had the opportunity to meet with our members and share a meal. Thank you to all of the members who attended and to our special guests Rep. Steven Johnson, Rep. Barbara Wasinger, Rep. Jim Minnix, Rep. Ken Rahjes, Sunflower Electric CEO Stuart Lowry, and KEC CEO Les Tatanali: @Duration



Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc. is in Ellsworth, Kansas. - September 9 · 🕲

👉 Another day, another great day of training!! 💪 The Ellsworth crew performed their annual pole-top and bucket rescue training today. Stay tuned... tomorrow we end our pole-top training in Plainville. #SafetyMo



Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc. October 12 · 🕄 W_

Dalton Hensley demonstrates an emergency bucket exit at height Dalton Hensley demonstrates an emergency bucket exit at reegint using the Buckingham Ox Block. The Ox Block is designed to lower a utility worker, tools or equipment with this handline rigging system from Buckingham. Designed for use by utility line workers, this from buckingnam. Designed for use by utility line workets, uns handline rigging block can be used in emergency situations where it is critical to lower a large weight with very little effort in a controlled manner. #linemansafety #oxblock #buckingham

Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc.

Today, Lineman Apprentice Hunter Folsom completed his first-year Today, Lineman Apprentice Hunter Folsom completed his first-year skills testing to be recognized as a second-year apprentice. As part of Western's training program, Apprentices must demonstrate proficient skills and have proper on-the-job training to perform dangerous live-linework safely. Congrats Hunter!! & #SafetyMonth

Follow us on social media to learn more about outage notifications, electrical safety, scholarship opportunities, and everyday happenings at your electric co-op.

W_

Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc. is in Ellsworth We had a great time at Ellsworth Covtown Days II Thank you to We nao a great time at Ellsworth Cowtown Days !! Thank you to those who stopped by our electrical safety booth. We can't wait t

it again next year!!

Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc.

Congratulations to our 2021 Youth Leadership Scholarship winners. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) canceled the 2021 youth trips to Washington D.C. and Steamboat Springs, CO. In response, the Western Cooperative Board of Trustees approved four \$1,000 Youth Leadership scholarships along with the \$250 Darrell Brown Memorial Scholarship. Thank you to all those students who participated!



KANSAS COUNTRY LIVING

Western Retires \$1.25 million in Capital Credits Continued from page 12A

a member of Western and is part of our third cooperative principle — Members Economic Participation.

To qualify for a retirement check, members must have taken service from Western Cooperative in the year and territory being retired. For the 2021 retirement the West service area will receive 50% of the 2005 distribution co-op allocation (\$907,598). The East service area will receive 62.6% (\$354,093) of the 2018 G&T (Sunflower Electric) allocation.

Members who received electricity during the retirement period will receive their percentage of capital credit retirement based on the amount electricity used during the retirement period.

"As a cooperative, we don't focus on achieving profit margins for a small group of investors because we are a not-forprofit business," said Ruth. "By definition, a cooperative is an organization that is collectively owned and operated for the mutual benefit of all members. These benefits include the generation, accumulation, and return of capital."

For more information about capital credits visit westerncoop.com/capital-credits. If a former member's forwarding address has changed they may have unclaimed capital credits. To search a list of members with outstanding payments visit, westerncoop.com/unclaimed-capital-credits.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Electric co-ops maintain more miles of power lines per consumer than other electric utilities. Even though we power fewer consumers on our lines compared to other utilities, we'll always go the extra mile for you, the consumer-members we proudly serve.



Apply by Jan. 31 for Youth Leadership and Scholarship Opportunities

High school juniors are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship and youth leadership opportunities!

2022 youth leadership scholarships are available for high school juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Western Cooperative Electric.

- The top four students will receive \$1,000 scholarships, with the fifth-place student receiving the \$250 Darrell Brown memorial scholarship.
- Contestants must complete the application by JAN. 31, 2022.
- Upon receipt of the application, contestants will be mailed an entry packet.

Scan the QR code or visit westerncoop.com/youth-tour to apply online.

- Finalists are scored and selected based on a short essay, open-book quiz and an online interview.
- Winning students will have an opportunity to attend allexpenses-paid leadership training
- this Summer in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, or Topeka..

