

# WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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800-456-6720

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# WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC NEWS

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## Happy Mother's Day



Western would like to wish all mothers a happy Mother's Day on May 11.

## Holiday Closing



In observance of Memorial Day Western's office will be closed on Monday, May 26. Have a Safe Holiday!

## Efficiency Tip of the Month

Sunlight streaming through windows and bearing down on the roof can drive up air conditioner use. Using shade trees and shrubs in your landscaping plan can help reduce cooling costs.

Join Us for LUNCH at Western's  
**2014 Annual Meeting**  
Wednesday, May 14

Western Cooperative Electric's Office  
(I-70 exit 128 and Hwy 283, 635 South 13<sup>th</sup> St, WaKeeney)  
Registration begins at 11 a.m.  
Catered meal served at 12 p.m.  
Meeting begins at 1 p.m.

Registration Gifts      Trustee Elections  
Prize Drawings      Ice Cream

We hope to see you there!

# Get to Know the 2014 Board of Trustees Candidates

## District 1

*Graham, Osborne, Rooks & Sheridan Counties*

### TERRY

**HOBBS**, along with his family, farm and ranch in Graham and Trego counties on land homesteaded in 1887.

He has served as president of the school board, extension council, and served on the Citizens State Bank board for 20 years.

Kansas City Royals baseball and listening to oldies rock are two of his favorite pastimes. Currently, Hobbs serves on the Frontier Ag, Inc., board of directors, as well as Western Cooperative Electric and the Kansas Electric Cooperatives.



Terry Hobbs

## District 2

*Ellis, Lincoln, Russell & Trego Counties*

### RICHARD SCHAUS

and his wife, Claudia, live in Ellis. They are the parents of two grown children.

Schaus attended Kansas State University and has farmed in Trego County since 1964. He has served on Western Cooperative Electric's board since 1974. He also served the Trego County Rural Fire and Rescue since 1997, Trego Rural Water District No. 2 since 2013, and FSA committee-



Richard Schaus

man since 2013.

Schaus has served on the following boards: Sunflower Electric Power Corporation in Hays, Trego County Economic Development in WaKeeney, and Ellis Junior Free Fair. He is also an active member Christ Lutheran Church in Ellis and a past board member.

## District 3

*Barton, Ellsworth, Gove, Ness, & Rush Counties*

### BOB ABELL

was born and raised in Gove County. He served two years in the Army and is a Korean War Veteran. Abell has been married to wife, Marjorie, for almost 57 years.

He has been a member of Western Cooperative Electric since 1957 and a director for nearly 20 years. Abell has served on various other church, school, and Farm Bureau boards. He also served on the Board of Co-op Union Mercantile, COAG and the present Frontier Ag, Inc.

"My service on the Board of Western has been and continues to be a great learning experience," Abell said. "The ability to work together with eight other Board Members has been spectacular. The Management, staff and all employees are great and really makes for a great organization. Electric cooperatives are a very important aspect of life in rural America and I am proud to be a part of it."



Bob Abell

### DALE WEIN-

**HOLD** and his wife, Peggy, live in Ellsworth and have two grown children and one granddaughter. A native Ellsworth County resident, he graduated from Ellsworth High School. He served in the Air Force, and is a Vietnam Veteran.

He began working at Smoky Hill Electric Cooperative in 1968 as a lineman, then as an electrician, electrician foreman and later director of member service. He has experience in all phases of the electric cooperative business including rates and budgeting. He also served as an alternate trustee to Kansas Electric Power Cooperative. Weinhold retired in 2008 after serving members for more than 39 years.

Weinhold has served as a Chamber Board member, Hospital Board member and President, City Council member, President of Post Rock Opportunities Board, Past Deacon of the Presbyterian Church and a member of VFW Post 6485. He currently serves as Chaplin to the VFW post, Chairman of the Airport Advisory Board, Newsletter editor for the Ellsworth Experimental Aircraft Association and as co-captain of an usher team at the First Presbyterian Church.

The Weinholds enjoy traveling. He is also a pilot and enjoys taking to the skies whenever he can.



Dale Weinhold

## Vote YES for Self-Regulation

Ballots must be received by May 9 to be tabulated!

Over the past few months, we've discussed self-regulation. The time is now for each member to vote for Western to be self-regulated. **Please return your vote in the postage-paid envelope by May 9, 2014.**

A **YES** vote means your elected Board of Trustees will set rates for electric service in a way that maintains the reliability and safety of the electric system. Benefits include: keeping the cost of power competitive, increase flexibility and efficiency, and local decision making.



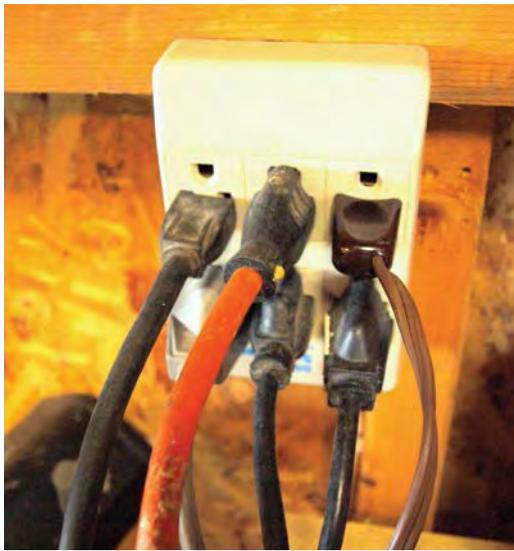
# Pointers for Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month—time to begin year round electrical safety awareness efforts. Western Cooperative Electric is encouraging home owners to take an active role in identifying hazards and in safeguarding their families from the dangers these hazards pose.

Electricity is a major cause of home fires. As each year goes by, Americans continues to use more energy in their homes. At the same time, the electrical systems in many existing homes have become outdated, and are unable to handle the demands of today's electrical appliances and devices, thus creating fires from inadequate wiring.

“Electrical hazards have a tendency to remain hidden until it's too late to avoid disaster. Don't let the small cost of prevention stand in the way of protecting your family and your property,” says Rick Schrant, Manager of Electrician and Wiring Services for Western. “There are many things you can inspect on your own to ensure electrical safety in your home.”

- ▶ Check electrical outlets for loose fitting plugs that can shock or be a fire hazard.
- ▶ Check the cords of the appliances in your home as well as the plugs and connectors.
- ▶ Extension cords should be used on a temporary basis only because they are not intended for use as permanent household wiring.
- ▶ Check your electrical panel to make sure that the breakers and fuses are properly rated for the circuit that they are protecting.
- ▶ Check light bulbs and appliances to make sure the wattage matches fixture requirements



**Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.**

- ▶ If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or gives and electrical shock immediately unplug, repair or replace.
- ▶ Check for or install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). GFCIs are special outlets designed to prevent injury and save lives.
- ▶ Consider installing arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs). An AFCI is a new type of circuit breaker which recognizes fire hazards and immediately shuts off the power.
- ▶ Decrease exposure by installing Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRRs). TRRs feature an internal shutter mechanism to prevent small children from inserting foreign objects into the receptacle.
- ▶ Inspect all outdoor connections, appliances and tools for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housings.

To help in identifying hazards and assist homeowners in safeguarding themselves against these hazards, Western offers safety demonstrations as well as an electrician department to address those electrical needs. For more information contact Western's office at 800-456-6720 or 785-743-5561.

## Tamper Resistant Receptacles Keep Your Kids Safe

They may look like standard outlets, but tamper resistant receptacles, or TRRs, are different. Their most distinguishable feature—a built-in shutter system that prevents foreign objects from being inserted—sets them apart. Only a plug that applies simultaneous, equal pressure to both slots will disengage the cover plates, allowing access to the contact points. Without this synchronized pressure, the cover plates remain closed.

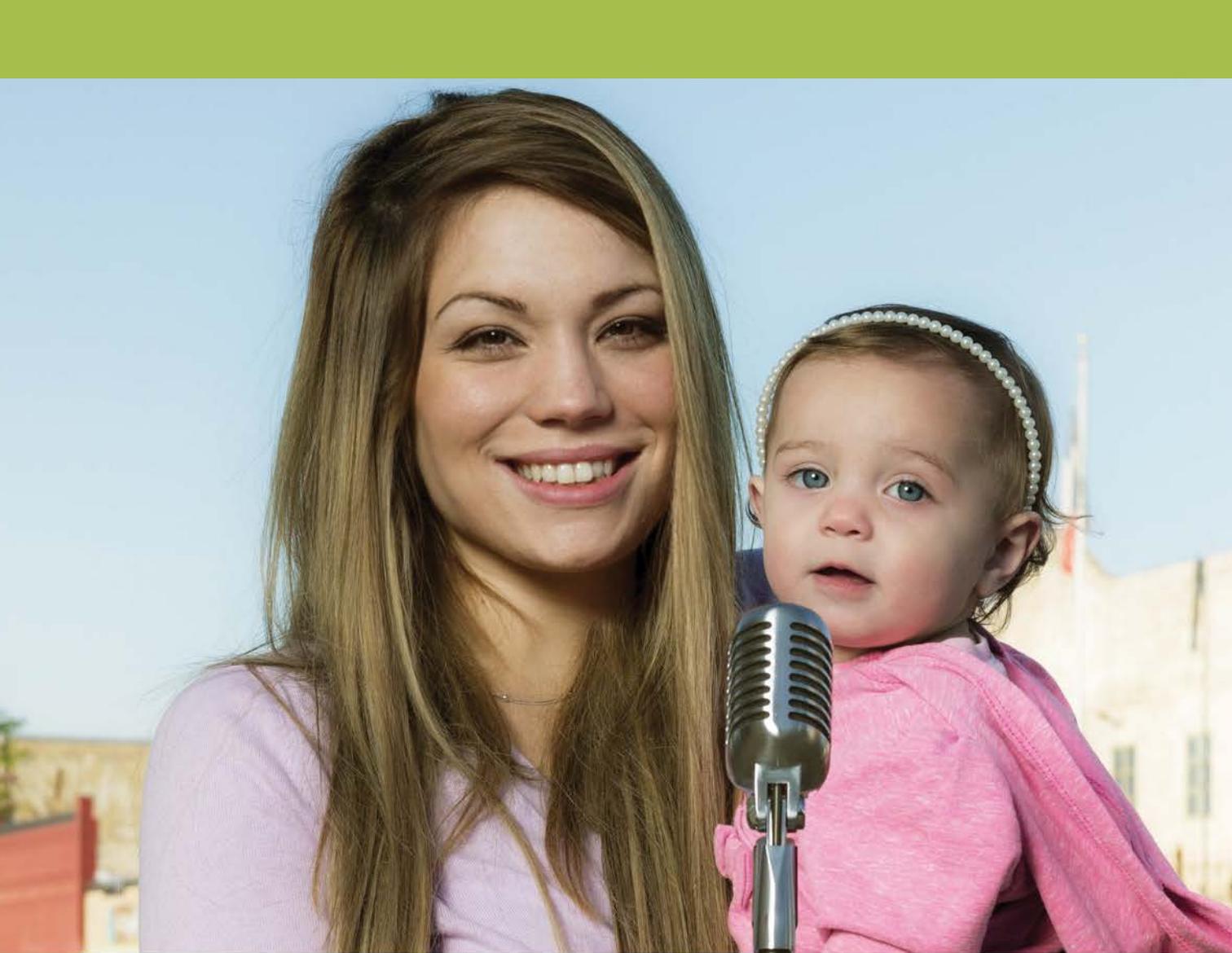
While a child's curiosity knows no boundaries, it can sometimes put them in peril, especially when electricity is involved. Located in practically every room of the house, electrical outlets and receptacles are fixtures, but they also represent potential hazards for children.

In recent years, more homes have been equipping their electrical outlets with TRRs, but in many public facilities, like hospital pediatric wards, these safeguards have been required for more than 20 years. Their efficiency also prompted the National Electrical Code to make TRRs standard in all new home construction. Existing homes can be easily retrofitted with TRRs using the same installation guidelines that apply to standard receptacles. TRRs should only be installed by a licensed electrician and should carry a label from a nationally recognized, independent testing lab such as UL, ETL, or CSA.

- ▶ Each year 2,400 children suffer severe shock and burns resulting from inserting objects into the slots of electrical receptacles. That's nearly seven children a day.
- ▶ It is estimated that 6-12 child fatalities result from children tampering electrical receptacles.
- ▶ Installing a TRR in a newly constructed home is only about 50 cents more than a traditional receptacle.
- ▶ Existing homes can be retrofitted with TRRs for as little as \$2 per outlet.

For more information on TRRS, visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).





**EVERY MEMBER HAS A VOICE.  
EVEN THE ONES WHO CAN'T YET SPEAK.**

As an electric co-op member, your household has a say in how the co-op is run. Which helps you care for an even bigger family – your community. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).



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