



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

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FROM THE MANAGER

The Power of Community: Why Involvement Matters



Nolan Numrich

At Western Cooperative Electric, our mission goes beyond keeping the lights on. We exist to serve our members, not just as consumers but as neighbors, families and communities that make rural Kansas strong. That's why community involvement isn't something we do extra — it's a cooperative principle.

From safety demonstrations at schools to scholarship programs that invest in the next generation, we are committed to being a partner in the places we serve.

One of the most important roles we play is in educating our youth. Through-

out the year, our linemen perform free safety demonstrations for students, first responders, and businesses, explaining the dangers of electricity and teaching how to stay safe around power lines. These hands-on demonstrations leave a lasting impression and reflect our commitment to building a community safety culture.

Western Cooperative Electric staff and board members also participate at upcoming local county fairs, supporting 4-H and FFA members in learning responsibility, leadership and pride in their work. Whether sponsoring livestock shows, judging projects or simply shaking hands and saying thank you, we believe in the value of passing down traditions and knowledge to the next generation.

We're proud to offer more than words

Continued on page 12B ▶



LEFT: Dalton Hensley presenting our tractor and farm safety program at Hoxie Implement. **RIGHT:** Retiree Bob McCoy provides safety lessons at Trego Community High School.



THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

Continued from page 12A ▶

of encouragement. New this year, Western will offer a **\$1,000 WORKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL KANSAS (W.O.R.K.) SCHOLARSHIP** for young adults moving to the area to start careers. The W.O.R.K. Scholarship will be paid directly toward student loan payments. See Page 12D for more information.

Leadership experiences include the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Colorado. These programs allow high school students to connect with peers from across the country and see firsthand how cooperatives work at the national level.

Additionally, I'm excited to share that **\$30,000 IN SHARING SUCCESS GRANTS** are available this year to support local nonprofit projects that strengthen our communities. We encourage you to apply if your organization has a vision to improve lives in our service area. Applications are now on our website and must be submitted by July 1.

Our community efforts aren't about checking a box — they're about living our values. As a cooperative, we're guided by the principle of "Concern for Community." That means we don't just work in these communities — we belong to them. Our employees volunteer in local fire departments, coach youth sports, and serve on local boards.

When our members succeed, our cooperative succeeds. That's why we'll continue to invest time, resources, and energy into the people and communities we serve.

Together, we are more than a utility. We are a community, powered with purpose.

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

Board Trustee Susan Rohleder Retires

After nearly a decade of dedicated service, Western Cooperative Electric extends its deepest gratitude to Board Trustee **SUSAN ROHLEDER** as she retires from her trustee position.

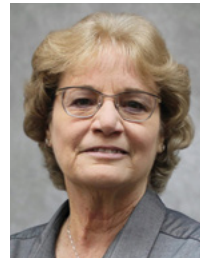
Since joining the board in 2016, Susan has brought a steady hand, a thoughtful voice and a passion for community-focused leadership. Her commitment to continued education led her to earn her Director Gold Certification through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) — an achievement that reflects not only her professionalism but her deep investment in understanding the evolving needs of the cooperative and its members.

Susan's contributions have been felt in every corner of our organization. Whether navigating challenging decisions or championing new

opportunities, she consistently led with vision, and heart. Her insights have helped shape the direction of Western Cooperative Electric, leaving a legacy that will guide us for years to come.

As we say farewell to her role on the board, we celebrate not just the milestones she helped achieve but the spirit of service she embodied every step of the way.

Thank you, Susan, for your unwavering dedication, leadership, and care. You've made a lasting impact on our cooperative family, and you will always be part of our story.



Susan Rohleder



APPLY FOR SHARING SUCCESS GRANTS TODAY!

Western Cooperative Electric is proud to once again partner with CoBank to support local nonprofits through grant funding. This year, we've raised the stakes — together, we're awarding a total of \$30,000 in the 2025 grant cycle. **APPLICATIONS CLOSE JULY 1, 2025** — don't miss your chance to apply!

We welcome applications from organizations within our service area or partner communities from any 501(c)3 charity, as well as organizations such as schools or government entities that serve a public purpose. However, please be aware that politically affiliated, religiously exclusive, or discriminatory organizations are ineligible for funding. Priority will be given to organizations within Western Cooperative Electric's service territory, and we encourage projects that benefit the community at large.

Our board of trustees will carefully review each submission and announce the winners following the July 17 board meeting. Grant recipients will be honored with presentations in August and September. While we strive to support every worthy cause, we cannot guarantee full funding for all applicants.

The Sharing Success Grants help make a meaningful impact in our community. Apply today, and let's work together to fulfill public needs and enhance our shared future.

Join us in making a meaningful impact in our community. Apply today, and let's work together to fulfill public needs and enhance our shared future.

APPLY BY JULY 1



WWW.WESTERNCOOP.COM/SHARING-SUCCESS-COMMUNITY-GRANTS

Investing in Leadership

Local students selected for life-changing youth trips



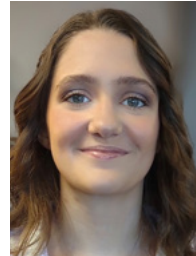
For four local high school students, this summer will be one they'll never forget — one filled with new friendships, unforgettable adventures, and the spark of leadership that may shape their futures. Western Cooperative Electric is proud to announce the selection of these remarkable young individuals for two wonderful youth leadership programs!



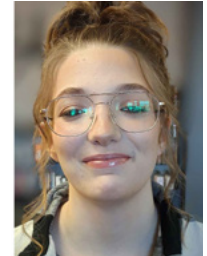
Nick Robben



Ethan Carroll



Delilah Reeve



Payton Reeve

NICK ROB BEN, Hoxie High School, and **ETHAN CARROLL**, Ellis High School, are headed to Washington, D.C., where they'll dive into history and leadership during the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. This trip is an immersive experience designed to educate and inspire young leaders from across the United States.

Meanwhile, **DELILAH REEVER** and **PAYTON REEVER**, both students at Otis-Bison High School, will head west to the scenic mountains of Colorado to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

While these destinations differ, the goal is the same: to empower young people with the knowledge and skills they need to become effective leaders in their communities and beyond.

The Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., offers more than just a history lesson. Students will meet with peers from across the country, engage in discussions about government and policy, and visit iconic landmarks such as the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Smithsonian museums. It's a trip that opens eyes — and minds — to the possibilities of public service and civic involvement.

In Colorado, the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp offers a different, but equally transformative experience. Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Rocky Mountains,

the camp brings together students from several states to learn about the cooperative business model, participate in team-building exercises, and sharpen their leadership skills. From mock cooperative board meetings to problem-solving challenges, the camp helps students discover the value of collaboration, communication and service.

"These trips represent so much more than just travel opportunities," said Nolan Numrich, CEO/GM of Western Cooperative Electric. "They're a chance for students to grow into their potential, connect with other young leaders, and bring back experiences that will benefit their schools, their communities and their futures."

Western Cooperative Electric has long believed in the power of investing in youth, especially in rural communities where opportunities for enrichment can be limited. Through programs like these, the cooperative continues its mission to strengthen local communities by nurturing the next generation of leaders.

For Nick, Ethan, Delilah and Payton the journey is just beginning — but we hope they realize that Western Cooperative Electric and their communities behind them, the possibilities are limitless.



POLE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

Western Cooperative Electric has implemented a new Pole Identification System across our entire service area to improve safety, efficiency and response times. Each utility pole is now marked with a unique identification number, making it easier for our crews to locate and service specific areas. This system enhances our internal mapping and infrastructure tracking, but it's also a valuable tool for the public.

If you notice a damaged pole or issue near one of our poles, referencing the ID number of that pole or a pole close to it when you call us will help our team quickly and accurately pinpoint the location. We encourage all members to take note of these pole numbers when reporting concerns — it's a small step that makes a big difference.



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.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

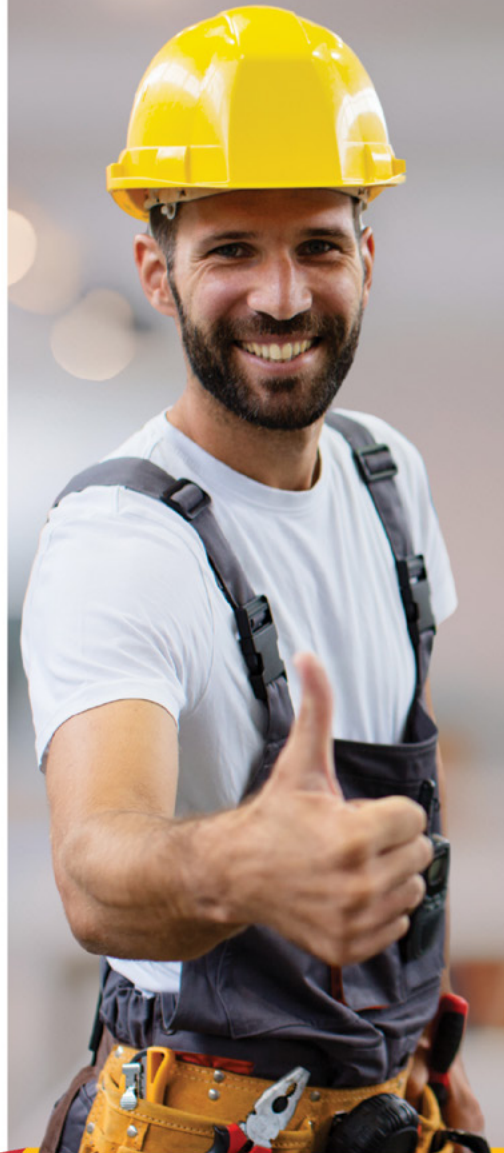
- Must be a current resident of the Western Cooperative Electric service area.
- Must have lived in the area for at least 6 months and be within 5 years of completing their education.
- Must provide proof of being actively employed or volunteering within the community.

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.
- Include a brief personal statement about commitment to the community

APPLICATIONS OPEN ON JULY 1ST
AND DUE BY:

AUGUST 1, 2025



For More Information

www.westerncoop.com/scholarship