945 · SERVING KANSAS · 2025



2024 ANNUAL

ANNUAL 80" MEETING





YOUR POWER, OUR PURPOSE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

Door Prizes | Cooperative Updates | Trustee Election Results

DOORS OPEN AT 11 A.M. LUNCH & MEETING AT NOON

NEW LOCATION! VFW POST 3449 | 400 N. RAILROAD AVE. | WAKEENEY, KANSAS

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Over the past year we have focused our efforts on strategic advancements that underscore our dedication to you, our members. This year's meeting theme — Your Power, Our Purpose — highlights our board's role: to embody and represent your interests, ensuring that our cooperative meets current needs and anticipates future challenges.

When you vote in the cooperative's elections, you are exercising your power to guide the cooperative. As representatives of our members, Western trustees take our role seriously because our actions have a direct impact on the livelihood of those we represent.

Over the past year, our board has faced losing 50 years of institutional knowledge with the passing of longtime board member RICHARD SCHAUS. Richard was a good friend and someone I relied on to guide me as a new trustee. While Richard's presence is impossible to replace, Western was fortunate to appoint STEVE HAUSLER to that seat. Steve brings over a decade's worth of utility experience, which will help the cooperative navigate future power supply issues.

Likewise, with SUSAN ROHLEDER'S retirement from the board, Western will be losing a valuable member of our team. During her tenure, Susan achieved the Director Gold Credential through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. As we thank Susan for her past insights, I am highly encouraged by the four qualified and eager candidates nominated to fill her previous seat. It is a testament to the members of Western to have people willing to serve and be part of something larger for the betterment of their neighbors.



As the utility landscape continues to evolve rapidly, we must position ourselves strategically to mitigate risk and maximize effectiveness. Over the past year, we have laid the groundwork through engineering studies and geographic information system mapping to prioritize electric reliability through strategic infrastructure upgrades. These improvements are crucial for providing consistent, dependable power, which is fundamental to our mission.

The annual meeting will be held on May 14 and serve as an opportunity for member, board and staff engagement. It is your opportunity to provide feedback that shapes our coop direction and policies. Your participation is vital in guiding our cooperative's future, reinforcing that our board exists to represent and serve you.

Thank you for your trust and support. Together, we are committed to advancing our cooperative in ways that will benefit all members, today and in the future.

WARM REGARDS, NICK ZERR



Nolan Numrich

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to invite you to our annual meeting on May 14, which will be held at the VFW Post in WaKeeney. Doors will open at 11 a.m. and we will provide lunch at noon. This meeting is an excellent opportunity for us to come together as a community, discuss important matters, and look ahead to the future.

This will be my first annual meeting in my new role as CEO/general manager and I look forward to continuing Western Cooperative's 80-year tradition of faithfully serving its members. I would also like to thank the member-elected board of trustees for entrusting me with the honor of serving you and upholding our commitment to providing safe, affordable and reliable energy.

This year's meeting theme — Your Power, Our Purpose — encapsulates the cooperative ethos. Simply put, it's our purpose and mission to provide worldclass service to our members. We, as employees, are only stewards of what is ultimately yours: ownership of the cooperative and the power we deliver.

This past year, we've invested in advanced technologies and system upgrades to strengthen infrastructure and enhance reliability — key to our commitment to you. As energy demand grows, we remain focused on maintaining affordability while adopting innovative solutions to improve grid

efficiency. Our goal is to balance progress with cost-effectiveness, ensuring safe, reliable power for your future needs.

Cybersecurity is a top priority as our network grows more interconnected. We are committed to strong security measures to protect our systems and your personal information, ensuring our cooperative remains a trusted partner. Our commitment to you extends beyond infrastructure and security. Your Power, Our Purpose is also about enhancing your experience with us. We are upgrading our digital interfaces to make your interactions with us as seamless as possible, providing you with a service that is not only reliable but also conveniently accessible.

Community engagement and education remain key priorities. We are committed to informing our members and partnering with local leaders to strengthen and grow the communities we serve.

As our annual meeting approaches, your support and involvement remain vital to our success. Your Power, Our Purpose is more than a theme — it's our promise. I look forward to seeing you at the WaKeeney VFW Post on May 14.

Thank you for your continued trust, collaboration and commitment to WCE. Together, we will continue to light the way forward. It is an honor and privilege to serve you and lead Western Cooperative into the future.

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

BALANCE SHEET

AS OF DEC. 31, 2024

ASSETS (What We Own)

| Original cost of our plant | \$114,388,497.04 |
|---|-------------------|
| Estimated depreciation | (\$32,090,954.02) |
| NET COST OF OUR PLANT | \$82,297,543.02 |
| Cash in the bank | \$1,110,290.40 |
| Temporary cash investments | \$8,105,790.19 |
| Net value of accounts receivable | \$3,840,730.35 |
| The value of our materials and supplies | \$4,644,031.13 |
| Advance payments of insurance, etc. | \$150,489.14 |
| Other current and accrued assets | \$811,725.47 |
| Miscellaneous debits | \$135,281.19 |
| Investments in associated organizations | \$26,838,210.28 |
| Investments in eco devo projects | \$280,639.00 |
| Interest and dividends receivable | \$5,817.96 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$128,220,548.13 |

LIABILITIES (What We Owe)

| LIABILITIES (What We Owe) | |
|--|-------------------|
| We have borrowed from the RUS/CFC/CoBank | \$120,601,756.64 |
| We have paid back | \$(54,099,246.75) |
| We still owe RUS/CFC/CoBank | \$66,502,509.89 |
| Capital leases payable | \$0.00 |
| Accumulated retirement obligations | \$507,961.32 |
| Other current and accrued liabilities | \$1,083,328.43 |
| Deferred credits | \$149,472.91 |
| Consumer deposits | \$489,718.19 |
| Accounts payable | \$1,641,792.43 |
| Notes payable | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$70,374,783.17 |
| EQUITY (Net Worth) | |
| Patronage capital assigned | \$86,029,356.68 |
| | |

(\$3,639,725.06)

(\$28,595,775.82)

Patronage capital assigned Special refund

NET PATRONAGE CAPITAL

Patronage capital refunds 1952-2006

| ASSIGNED | \$53,793,855.80 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Operating margin this year | \$2,259,400.76 |
| Non-operating margin cumulative | \$1,173,114.23 |
| Other margins and equities | \$619,394.17 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | \$57,845,764.96 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | \$128,220,548.13 |

OPERATING REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 2024

REVENUE

| We sold electric service amounting to | \$34,816,443.34 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Miscellaneous revenue | \$687,913.02 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$35,504,356.36 |

EXPENSES

| Electric power costs us | \$18,850,053.83 |
|--|-----------------|
| Expenses operating and maintaining plant | \$9,244,142.54 |
| Estimated depreciation on our system | \$3,452,487.51 |
| Interest charged to operations | \$1,698,271.72 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$33,244,955.60 |
| Operating margin & patronage capital | \$2,259,400.76 |

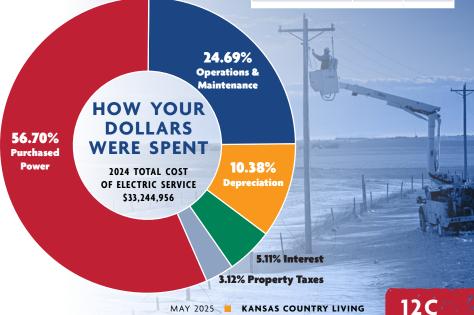
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITY

| Income/loss from investments | \$214,039.86 |
|---|----------------|
| Merchandising, gain/loss on general plant sales and other | \$1,934.08 |
| Power supplier equity and patronage capital (non-cash) | \$1,074,473.66 |
| NON-OPERATING MARGIN & PATRONAGE CAPITAL | \$1,290,447.60 |
| | |

TOTAL MARGINS & \$3,549,848.36

FACTS & 2023 2024 FIGURES

| FIGURES | 2023 | |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| METERS | 12,101 | 12,077 |
| IDLE SERVICES | 626 | 651 |
| MILES OF LINE | 4,023 | 4,030 |
| CONSUMERS PER MILE | 3.01 | 3.00 |
| AVERAGE kWh USED RESIDENTIAL | 858 | 850 |
| AVERAGE BILL RESIDENTIAL | \$122 | \$119 |
| AVERAGE BILL COMMERCIAL, SMALL | \$160 | \$153 |
| AVERAGE BILL COMMERCIAL, MEDIUM | \$1,561 | \$1,438 |
| AVERAGE BILL COMMERCIAL, LARGE | \$37,583 | \$35,723 |
| GROSS REVENUE PER MILE | \$8,955 | \$8,809 |
| RUS, CFC AND COBANK PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS | \$3,368,063 | \$2,373,338 |
| RUS, CFC AND COBANK INTEREST PAYMENTS | \$1,488,244 | \$1,668,859 |





MANAGEMENT. TEAM



CEO/GM



ey Malsam CFO



LINE SUPERINTENDENT



SAFETY MANAGER



HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER



MANAGER OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS



MEMBER SERVICES

OOPERATIVE LECTRIC

BOARD **MEMBERS**



Terry Hobbs VICE PRESIDENT



Marvin Keller



Susan Rohleder

RETIREMENTS & RECOGNITIONS

Irvin, McCoy retire after 55 combined years of service



Kellye Irvin (left) JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN 40 YEARS



Robert McCoy (center) GIS/AMI TECH 15 YEARS

NEW EMPLOYEE: Hirsch joins Olmitz crew



Caleb Hirsch

CALEB HIRSCH joined Western Cooperative's Olmitz crew on Feb. 1. He is a native of Sylvan Grove, attended line school at Pratt Community College, and is married with three daughters. Hirsch is a journeyman lineman and brought 12 years of linework experience to Western. Welcome to the cooperative family!

DISTRICT 2 | TREGO, ELLIS, RUSSELL AND LINCOLN COUNTIES









Tim Stanton

DISTRICT 3 | GOVE, NESS, RUSH, BARTON AND ELLSWORTH COUNTIES



Landon Heier SECRETARY/ **TREASURER**



Dale Weinhold



Nick Zerr PRESIDENT

HONORING TOM RUTH'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE



Tom Ruth

In the electric cooperative world, where service and dedication to members are paramount, few embody these values as fully as TOM RUTH. His 50-year career in the electric industry was marked by hard work, integrity and a deep commitment to the communities he served.

As he enters a well-earned retirement, he leaves behind an inspiring legacy.

Tom began as a lineman apprentice in Missouri, working his way through nearly every role — from apprentice to CEO. His contributions have been invaluable to the organizations he served.

Reflecting on his time with Western Cooperative Electric, Tom shared, "Serving the members of Western Cooperative Electric for the past seven

years has been an incredible honor. I am deeply thankful for the trust and support of our members and the dedication of our employees. As I close this chapter, I am confident the cooperative will continue to thrive under new leadership."

Known for mentoring others, Tom's guidance helped the cooperative navigate transitions while staying focused on its mission of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

"Tom Ruth's dedication is unmatched," said Nolan Numrich, CEO and general manager of Western Cooperative Electric. "His expertise, kindness and commitment to service have left a lasting impact. We are grateful for his extraordinary leadership."

We wish Tom and his wife. Christine. all the best. From all of us at Western Cooperative Electric: Thank you, Tom, for your dedication and excellence. Your impact on the cooperative and the communities we serve will not be forgotten.

Tom Ruth's dedication is unmatched. His expertise, kindness, and commitment to service have left a lasting impact.

NOLAN NUMRICH, CEO AND GENERAL MANAGER















POWERING COMMUNITIES: 2024 SHARING SUCCESS GRANTS IN ACTION

In 2024, Western Cooperative Electric proudly supported local organizations through the CoBank Sharing Success Community Grants, reinforcing our commitment to serving our members and strengthening our communities.

TREGO COUNTY HOSPITAL

received \$5,600 to purchase feedback equipment for CPR training. This new technology ensures medical professionals and community members receive high-quality training, equipping them with life-saving skills. By improving CPR effectiveness, we help create a safer environment for all.

USD 327 ELLSWORTH was awarded \$5,000 for new medical bags. These upgraded supplies allow school nurses, athletic trainers and first responders to provide swift and efficient medical care, ensuring the well-being of students and staff. Investing in our schools means investing in the future of our community.

The FORGOTTEN STEWARDSHIP **PROJECT** received \$5,000 for building improvements at the Ransom VFW. This funding helps restore a vital community space where veterans gather, fostering friendships and support. By preserving this facility, we honor those who have served and continue to serve our country.

ELLSWORTH FAMILY CONNECTIONS received \$4,400 to repair sidewalks at the family visitation center near the correctional facility. Safe and accessible pathways ensure families can visit loved ones without unnecessary obstacles, strengthening familial bonds and promoting

At Western Cooperative Electric, our mission goes beyond delivering power we strive to empower the communities we serve. By funding essential projects, we

rehabilitation.



| WESTERN CARES PAYMENT ASSISTANCE | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|------|------------|------------|------|------------|-------------|
| YEAR | # ASSISTED | AMOUNT | YEAR | # ASSISTED | AMOUNT | YEAR | # ASSISTED | AMOUNT |
| 2016 | 41 | \$6,315.00 | 2019 | 16 | \$2,498.79 | 2022 | 59 | \$11,427.21 |
| 2017 | 29 | \$4,409.28 | 2020 | 36 | \$6,020.16 | 2023 | 53 | \$8,598.00 |
| 2018 | 26 | \$3,621.31 | 2021 | 48 | \$8,488.15 | 2024 | 28 | \$2,722.38 |

2024 YOUTH WINNERS







Bryan Garvert Youth Tour Winner



Mariah Werth Youth Tour Winner



Taylor Ayers Camp Winner



Evan Walt Camp Winner

enhance safety, education, and well-being, reinforcing our dedication to those who rely on us every day.

YOUTH TRIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The youth trips and scholarship programs invest in the future of the community by providing educational opportunities for young people. These programs show how Western Cooperative goes beyond providing electricity to actively participating in and supporting the community.

YOUTH TRIP RECIPIENTS

- **BRYAN GARVERT, Plainville High School**
- MARIAH WERTH, LaCrosse High School
- ► TAYLOR AYERS, Plainville High School
- **EVAN WALT, Hill City High School**

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- ▶ LOGAN CLARK, Ellsworth High School, plans to attend Hutchison Community College majoring in manufacturing engineering.
- ► LILLIAN PAYNE, Western Plains High School,

plans to attend Fort Hays State University majoring in marketing and communications.

- ► **KELSEY SELENSKY**, Quinter High School, plans to attend Kansas State University and major in agricultural business.
- ► AVERY ZIEGLER, Trego Community High School, plans to attend Kansas State University and major in veterinary medicine.

DARRELL BROWN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

In addition to these scholarships, Western Cooperative Electric is also honored to present **ANNA THIELEN, Russell High School, with the** \$250 Darrell Brown Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is in memory of Darrell Brown, a longtime trustee and friend of Western Cooperative Electric. It is awarded to a student who exemplifies the spirit of community and dedication. Thielen will continue her education at Kansas Wesleyan University, majoring in exercise science.

At Western Cooperative Electric, our mission goes beyond delivering power — we strive to empower the communities we serve.

2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Logan Clark



Lillian Payne



Kelsey Selensky



Avery Ziegler



Anna Thielen



HONORING 80 YEARS OF POWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES







LIGHTS CAME ON: A FARMER'S MEMORY







I still remember it like it was yesterday — even though it was a long time ago, back around 1949 or 1950. Out here on the farm, we didn't have much beyond what we could do with our own hands. our livestock and a windmill or two. But then we heard the news: Western Cooperative Electric was coming our way, bringing power to the rural parts of Kansas. That changed everything.

I watched as those linemen showed up — tough fellas, working with the best equipment they had back then. No fancy bucket trucks in those days. They climbed every pole by hand. We were told not to nail anything to the poles — no signs, no fences, nothing that might hurt the men working up there. We listened because we were grateful.

As the poles and wires went up, so did our hopes. We started digging trenches and laying pipes. Electric pumps went into the wells, and we even rewired some of our old windmills. Folks who'd never had indoor plumbing started turning closets and pantries into bathrooms. That was a big deal — no more running to the outhouse in the dead of winter.

We wired our own homes, one room at a time. The lights we put up had those little pull chains — no switches on the wall just yet. At first, it was just the house that got wired. Later on, we ran lines to the barn and sheds. Slowly, our whole farm came alive in a new way.

We packed away the old gas lanterns

and kerosene lamps. We didn't need them anymore. I remember when we finally got a refrigerator and a deep freeze. Up until then, everything stayed down in the cellar — milk, cream, butter, eggs and all our canned goods. With electricity, we had a way to keep things fresh and safe all year long.

Electricity brought us radios that plugged into the wall and stoves that didn't burn wood or coal. Once we got electric stoves, cooking felt a whole lot easier — and cleaner, too.

I'll never forget the ice storm we had in the early '80s. Power lines came down, and we were without electricity for nearly a month. But folks were resourceful some bought PTO generators for their tractors, about \$800 at the time. That year, a few Thanksgiving dinners were cooked with the help of a John Deere and a generator humming out back.

Looking back, I can't say thank you enough to Western Cooperative Electric. They brought light, heat, and a whole new way of life to farms like mine. Over the years, they've modernized and got new trucks, and when an outage hits, they're out here in no time.

We're lucky to have them, and I am grateful — not just for the electricity but also for the care and commitment they've shown us rural folks ever since those first poles went up.

— A THANKFUL FARMER



\$1.8 MILLION

RETIRED IN CAPITAL CREDITS

In 2024, Western Cooperative Electric shared some very exciting news with members. Retired General Manager Tom Ruth reported, "We're pleased to announce the retirement of \$1.8 million in capital credits this month. Our members who were connected in 2006, 2007, 2012 and/or 2022 will be receiving a check or bill credit as a symbol of our appreciation and our commitment to the cooperative principles that set us apart."

Capital credits are a unique benefit that cooperatives, like Western, offer to their members. At the end of each year, operating margins over and above our expenses are allocated back to you, our members. These margins represent your ownership in the cooperative, and each year, the board of trustees carefully reviews our financial position to determine how much we can return to members through capital credits.

Think of it as a little extra something for being a member of Western Cooperative Electric. These funds come from previous years' margins, and Tom was thrilled to be in a position to return



them to members. By staying committed to your cooperative, you're helping to keep the lights on for everyone in our community, and spreading warmth and light during the colder months.

At Western, our mission has always been to serve you reliably and affordably, but we're also committed to being a part of the community fabric — because here, you're not just a customer; you're an owner. Capital credits are a reminder that our cooperative exists to serve you, and our success is a shared achievement. You're part of a community that values people over profit, and we are so grateful to each of you for your continued trust and support.













THE BACKBONE OF WESTERN COOPERATIVE: CELEBRATING OUR TEAM

At Western Cooperative Electric, every member of our team, from linemen and operations to member service and management, plays a pivotal role in our commitment to reliable service. For 80 years, these dedicated professionals have powered rural communities, ensuring that homes, farms and businesses have the electricity they rely on. Their expertise, dedication and hard work are the foundation that keeps the lights on — whether responding to outages in severe weather, maintaining essential infrastructure, or upgrading our systems for the future.

Service at Western Cooperative Electric is more than a job — it's a shared responsibility. Our entire team, including linemen who brave storms, climb poles, and work tirelessly around the clock, is committed to keeping our members connected. As integral parts of the communities they serve, our employees take pride in their work, building relationships based on trust, dependability and a deep sense of duty.

Their collective dedication drives our cooperative forward, adapting to new challenges while staying true to our mission: delivering safe, reliable and affordable power. At Western Cooperative Electric, our team doesn't just provide electricity — they provide peace of mind, ensuring our communities stay powered today and for generations to come.

YOUR POWER IS TRULY OUR PURPOSE.













Customer

Satisfaction Award 2024

Customer Satisf

WESTERN EARNS ACSI® 2024 CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AWARD

Western Cooperative Electric is honored to have earned a 2024 Customer Satisfaction Award* from the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®) based on our member survey results. Members were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with us, how well we lived up to their expectations, and how well we measured up to their ideal co-op experience. While these were not the only questions in the survey, we included these specifically because they are the core components of the proprietary ACSI methodology.

Western Cooperative's ACSI score substantially outperforms the industry average score earned by

publicly measured utilities reported in the 2024 ACSI Energy Utility Study. This award is a testament to Western Cooperative's ongoing efforts to provide the best possible member experience.

The 2024 Customer
Satisfaction Award
affirms that Western's
hard work has been
noticed by its members.
Western is grateful for its
members and will continue
to strive for excellence
through constant dedication to
improvement.

improvement.

"Western Cooperative Electric's achievement of an 87 ACSI score underscores our steadfast commitment to our members," said Nolan Numrich, CEO and general manager. "This result reflects both the dedication of our team and their ability to navigate challenges while maintaining high standards. I am proud of how our staff consistently rises to meet these demands, ensuring the best for our members and the communities we serve."

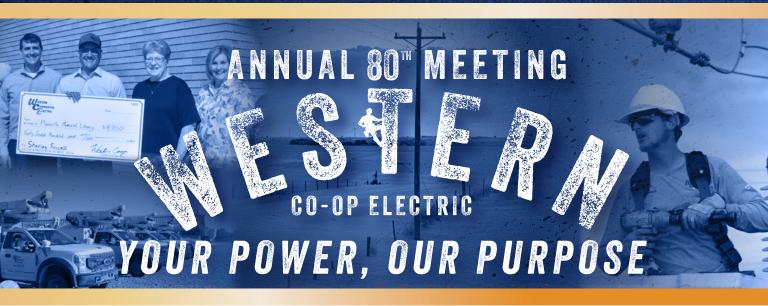


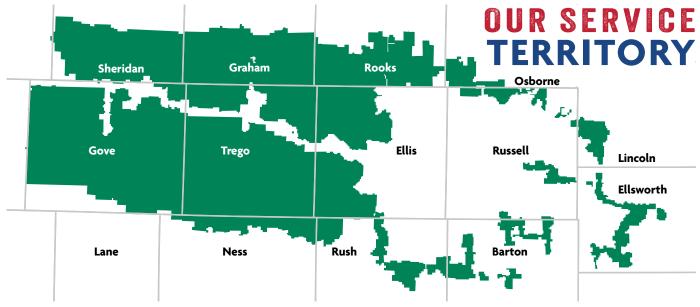
* AWARD CRITERIA ARE DETERMINED BY THE ACSI® AND ARE BASED ON CUSTOMERS RATING THEIR SATISFACTION IN A SURVEY INDEPENDENT OF THE SYNDICATED ACSI ENERGY UTILITY STUDY. FOR MORE ABOUT THE ACSI, VISIT WWW.THEACSI.ORG/BADGES. ACSI AND ITS LOGO ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF THE AMERICAN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION INDEX LLC.

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METERS SERVED

MILES OF LINE

COUNTIES