

R&A
WESTERN CO-OP ELECTRIC



WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

NEWS

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



Nominations for Trustee Elections Due March 1

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members. Trustees are elected among the membership and are accountable to those they serve. Trustees actively participate in setting policies and ensure proper business practices are being performed.

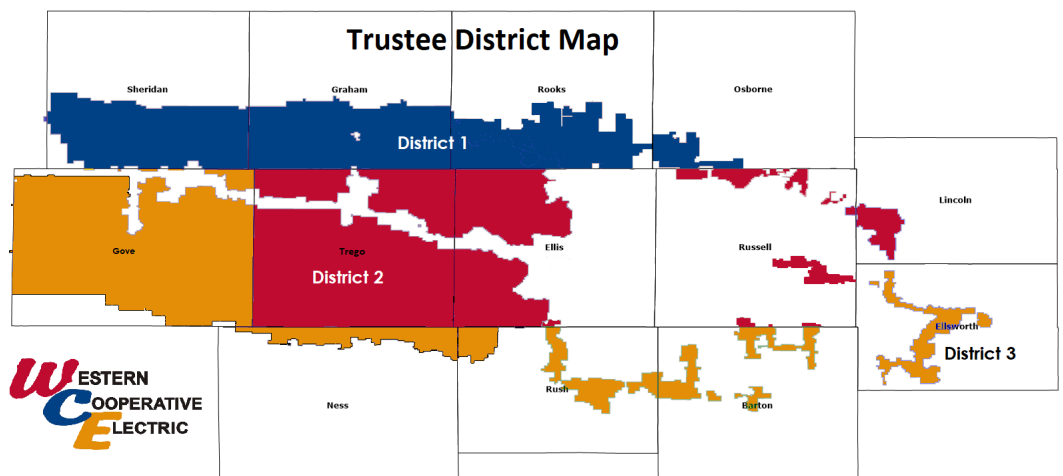
Prior to the annual meeting, the board president shall appoint a nominating committee of three members from each of the three trustee districts with the approval of the board of trustees. The nominating committee shall nominate one or more members from their district for each trustee position.

To run for a trustee position, candidates:

- ▶ Must be a member of Western Cooperative Electric.
- ▶ Cannot be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative.
- ▶ Cannot be a current employee or have been employed by the cooperative within the last five years.
- ▶ Must be a bona fide resident within Western's service territory.

Only trustee nominations submitted before the March 1, 2022, deadline will be printed on the ballots. If

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Nominations for Trustee Elections Due March 1

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you are interested in running for a board of trustees seat, contact a nominating committee member in your corresponding district, or stop by Western's office to pick up the member petition form. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS INCLUDE:**

EXPIRING TERM INCUMBENTS

District 1

- ▶ **HARRY CRONN**
WaKeeney
- ▶ **MIKE PETERSEN**
Palco
- ▶ **KEITH KENNEDY**
Hoxie



Susan Rohleder

District 2

- ▶ **BRIAN STAAB**
Hays
- ▶ **JOHN KUPPETZ JR.**
Ellis
- ▶ **MARIAN FABRIZIUS**
WaKeeney



Frank Joy

District 3

- ▶ **NICK ZERR**
Gove
- ▶ **JANET CARSWELL**
Ellsworth
- ▶ **CHUCK LINK**
Ransom



Charles Luetters

Outage Management

When service outages occur, it is critically important for Western to assess the situation as quickly as possible in order to respond promptly and communicate effectively with our members.

Western's new outage management system (OMS) went live on Dec. 13 and was immediately tested by the windstorm that hit Kansas on Dec. 15.

"Western has committed to leveraging technology to gain work efficiency and improve outage response times," said IT Manager Craig Cramer. "OMS allows us to quickly discover an outage and direct crews to the right place."

During December's windstorm, Western's system sustained significant damage. At one point, 70% of Western consumers were without power. By tying OMS to our advanced meter infrastructure, Western's operations teams can easily manage outages and prioritize restoration efforts.

"We are starting to realize the benefits of all of these systems working together," said Assistant

Line Superintendent Nate Budig. "Now, when OMS notifies us of an outage, it can predict where the fault is happening. Then I can check the automatic vehicle location (AVL) screen to see which line crew is nearby and give them a precise location to start their restoration work."

OMS is not only for Western's internal use. Members will also have access to many new tools to stay up-to-date with system outages. Members can view the real-time outage map anytime at westerncoop.com. This map is automatically updated as outages occur and restored. The outage map allows members to quickly check for outages in their area.

SmartHub members can take advantage of the new notification features. By signing up for SmartHub



Assistant Line Superintendent Nate Budig can easily monitor, and manage power restoration efforts through Western's new Outage Management System (OMS).

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

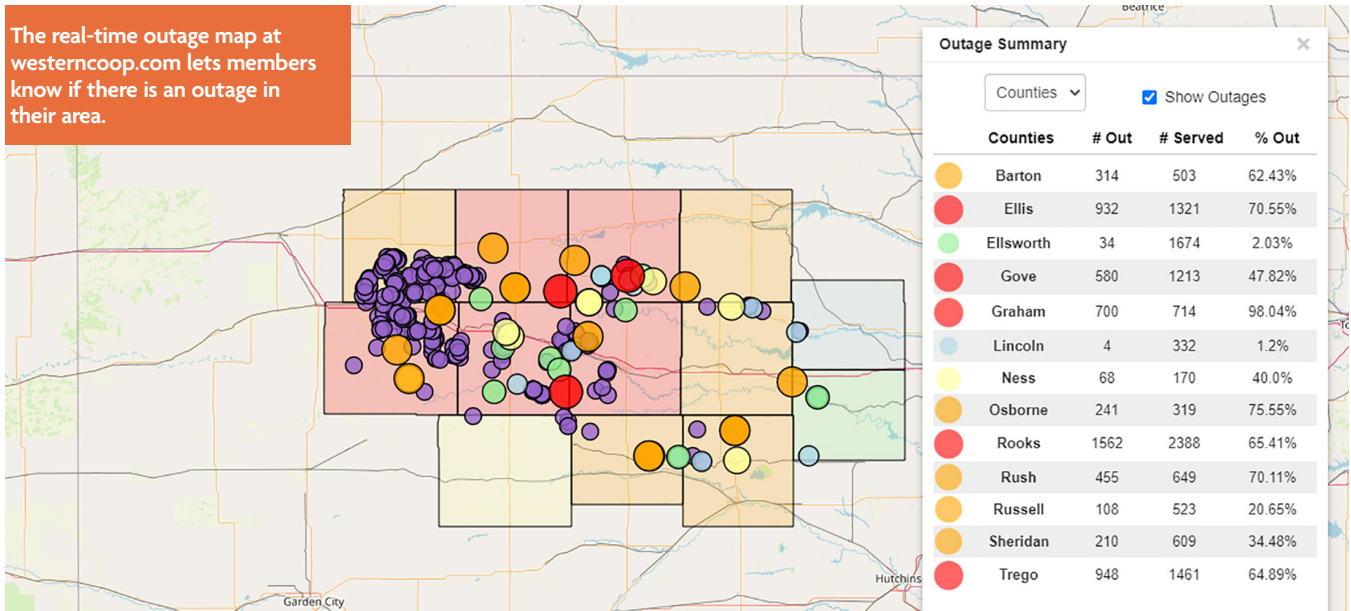
About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip windows to seal air leaks. When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



ent System NOW LIVE

The real-time outage map at westerncoop.com lets members know if there is an outage in their area.



and changing the notification settings, members can be notified of outages and restorations via email or text.

“We remain focused on our members and providing them with the best service possible,” said Member Services Manager Nolan Numrich. “By signing up for

SmartHub and opting-in to the different notifications, members will know when the system is experiencing an outage and when it has been restored.”

To receive outage notifications, members must first sign up for SmartHub at westerncoop.com.

The outage map allows members to quickly check for outages in their area.

profile ▾ My Usage ▾ **Notifications ▾** Contact Us ▾

Manage Notifications

Use this page to sign up for notifications about activity on your billing account.

- ▶ Billing
- ▶ Miscellaneous
- ▶ **Service**

Select Account: 50843001 ▾

Alert Type	Description	Text Message	E-Mail
Planned Power Outage	This is a notification to inform you when a power outage is planned.	None ▾	None ▾
Power Outage	This is a notification to inform you when a power outage has occurred.	None ▾	None ▾
Power Outage Restored	This is a notification to inform you when a power outage has been restored.	None ▾	None ▾
Program Event	Occurs when an efficiency program notification is sent.	None ▾	None ▾

Reset Save Settings

To receive outage notifications, sign up for SmartHub then click on the Notifications tab.

Western's Sharing Success Fund Gives \$4,000 to Local Disaster Relief Funds

Western Cooperative Electric's Sharing Success Fund, in partnership with CoBank, and managed by the Golden Belt Community Foundation, has awarded four \$1,000 grants to Ellis, Rooks, Russell and Trego counties for disaster relief funds.

In the wake of the recent wildfires, the **HEARTLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION** and the **RUSSELL COUNTY AREA**

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION have established disaster relief funds to meet the emergency needs of the area following a major emergency, weather event, or other disasters.

"Our hearts go out to the people affected by the windstorm and wildfires," said Western's Member Service Manager Nolan Numrich. "Having our community foundations establish these funds will ensure Kansans are getting immediate relief when they need it."

The foundations hope to create a long-term solution by setting up disaster relief funds for each of the counties they serve. Nonprofit organizations, schools, churches and other agencies providing direct relief to people, property or livestock in the impacted county may be eligible for grant money.

"It is our hope that with continued donations



Western Cooperative Member Services Manager Nolan Numrich (left) presented the \$4,000 Sharing Success grant to Heartland Community Foundation Executive Director Sarah Meitner.

and investment growth over time, money held in the funds will provide a permanent safety net to local residents in the aftermath of any future emergency or disaster. We know that it can take time for state or federal money to come to the area after an emergency. These funds will give us the ability to respond immediately and close that gap," said Heartland Community Foundation Executive Director Sarah Meitner.

Since 2013, the Sharing Success program has donated \$85,000 to local nonprofit organizations. Grants will be available until funds are exhausted. To apply, visit westerncoop.com/sharing-success.

"Western Co-op looks forward to continuing to work with local organizations who provide relief to our members," Numrich said.

Since 2013, the Sharing Success program has donated \$85,000 to local nonprofit organizations. Grants will be available until funds are exhausted. To apply, visit westerncoop.com/sharing-success.