



WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC NEWS

WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC, INC.

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FROM THE MANAGER

New Year, New Manager, Same Values

As we begin this New Year, I am both excited and deeply honored to be stepping into the role of CEO and general manager of Western Cooperative Electric. Having spent the past four years as the assistant general manager and member services manager, I've had the privilege of getting to know many of you personally. The relationships I've built with our members and employees have deepened my appreciation for what makes our cooperative so special: a shared commitment to the community.

Having grown up in a small Kansas town, a community much like many of those we serve, I have an understanding of the vital role a cooperative like ours plays in the lives of its members.

As I step into the role of CEO and general manager, I want to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to our mission and values. Western Cooperative Electric exists to serve you, our members, by providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity. I take this responsibility seriously and am dedicated to leading our cooperative with integrity and transparency.

Looking ahead, I'm excited about the opportunities we have to grow

and adapt to our members' changing needs. From adopting new technologies to improving our infrastructure, my goal is to ensure we remain a trusted partner in your daily lives. That trust is earned through open communication and a willingness to listen, and I encourage you to reach out to me or our team with any questions, concerns or ideas.

I am grateful for the strong foundation laid by those who have served in this role before me and for the dedicated team of employees who work tirelessly to keep the lights on and our cooperative thriving. Most importantly, I am grateful to you, our members, for the privilege of serving you in this new capacity.

I appreciate your support, trust and partnership. I look forward to meeting more of you in the days ahead and working together to continue to build and strengthen our communities.

Here's to a bright future and a New Year.



Nolan Numrich

**WARM REGARDS,
NOLAN NUMRICH**

Celebrating a Legacy

Honoring Tom Ruth's 50 Years of Service

In the electric cooperative world, where service to the community and dedication to members are paramount, few individuals embody these values as fully as **TOM RUTH**. His unwavering dedication, demonstrated over 50 remarkable years in the electric industry, has inspired us all. Now, as he embarks on a well-deserved retirement, he leaves behind a legacy of hard work and integrity and a deep commitment to the communities he served.

Tom began his career as a lineman apprentice at an electric cooperative in Missouri. Over the years, he has been an integral part of numerous projects and initiatives, holding nearly every position imaginable, from apprentice to CEO; Tom's contributions have been invaluable to the organizations he has served.

Reflecting on his time with Western Cooperative Electric, Tom expressed his gratitude, stating, "It has been an incredible honor to serve the members of Western Cooperative Electric for the past seven years. I am deeply thankful for the trust and support of our members, as well as the dedication of our employees. As I wrap up this chapter in my life, I am confident the cooperative will continue to adapt and thrive under new leadership."

Throughout his career, Tom has been known for his willingness to mentor

others and share his knowledge and experience. His guidance and wisdom have been invaluable, helping the cooperative navigate transitions and remain focused on its mission of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity. We are deeply grateful for his mentorship.

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

As Tom steps into retirement, we wish him and his wife, Christina, all the best in this next chapter. From all of us at Western Cooperative Electric and the members we serve: thank you,

Tom, for your 50 years of dedication and excellence. You have made an indelible mark on the cooperative and the communities we proudly serve. May your retirement be as fulfilling and rewarding as your incredible career.



Tom Ruth worked as a journeyman lineman while getting a degree in electrical engineering.



Tom Ruth's commitment to Western's members will continue to serve as a foundation for the cooperative's future.

GET TO KNOW

NOLAN NUMRICH

New CEO/General Manager

HOMETOWN

Scott City, Kansas

COOPERATIVE EXPERIENCE

I have worked with electric cooperatives for 8 years in two organizations. My focus areas have been member services, rate design, and communications.

PREVIOUS ROLE

I spent the last 4 years as Western Cooperative Electric's Assistant General Manager/Member Services Manager.

WHAT'S YOUR VISION FOR THE COOPERATIVE?

To enhance reliability, adapt to the changing energy landscape, and keep service to our members at the center of everything we do.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT WORKING FOR AN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE?

I'm a firm believer in the cooperative business model. We don't have customers; we have members, and our members are represented by a nine-person board of trustees. This ensures your voice is heard and you can share in the cooperative's financial success through capital credits.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING IN YOUR FREE TIME?

I enjoy going to the lake with my three sons (Coen, Gavin, and Wells) and my wife, Ragen. Lake time is family time, and it's always nice to slow down and disconnect.

WHAT'S ONE THING MEMBERS MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I served in the Marine Corps from 2004-2008, and this last year, I completed the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. It was challenging but incredibly inspiring, and it felt like a full-circle moment.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT LIVING IN KANSAS?

I love the people and the sense of community. There is no place else where I would rather live, work, and raise a family.

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

I'm honored to lead Western Cooperative Electric. My door is always open to our members, and I look forward to serving you and building a strong future together.



Western Cooperative Electric Now Accepting Sharing Success Grant Applications

In partnership with CoBank, Western Cooperative Electric provides grant opportunities for local nonprofit organizations.

Applications for the 2025 cycle will be accepted from Jan. 1, 2025, through July 1, 2025. The Western Board of Trustees will review the applications and select the winners at the July board meeting. Grants will be presented in August and September.

Those interested in applying for grant funds can submit an electronic application at www.westerncoop.com/sharing-success-community-grants.

CONTRIBUTION REQUEST AMOUNT

Western will award up to four grants totaling \$20,000. The minimum request is \$2,000. The CoBank's Sharing Success program is competitive on a first-come-first-serve basis, and funds are limited; therefore, Western Cooperative Electric is not guaranteed the full amount of granting dollars.

ELIGIBILITY

In general, contributions to any 501(c)(3) charity are eligible. Select organizations that are not designated a 501(c)(3) may also be eligible. These organizations include schools and government organizations such as counties or municipalities and their agencies or departments, as long as the donation serves a public purpose. Organizations that are political in nature, limit their activities based on religious affiliation or discriminate do not qualify.

Organizations in Western Cooperative Electric's service territory, which includes areas in the counties of Barton, Ellis, Ellsworth, Graham, Lincoln, Gove, Ness, Osborne, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Sheridan and Trego, will receive priority.

There are few restrictions on the type of projects that can apply, but Western asks that your project be community-oriented and serve a public need.

SCAN NOW
TO APPLY



TOP 5

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS OF THE YEAR


As we reflect on another year of connecting with our members, here are the top five social media posts that resonated most with our members.

Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc.
October 2 · 🌐

📌 **Successful Training Day in the City of Ellsworth!** 📌

Last week, we wrapped up an impactful week of pole-top and bucket rescue training with our dedicated linemen in Ellsworth. This session was not just about refining skills but also about adding a layer of realism to our rescue scenarios.

A huge thank you goes out to the **Ellsworth County EMS** and **Ellsworth County Sheriff's Office - Kansas** who collaborated with us to make this training as authentic and effective as possible.... See more




Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc.
May 20 · 🌐

Storm Update for Sylvan Grove Area

Last night, a severe storm swept through a portion of our service territory, causing significant damage, including downed and broken utility poles south of Sylvan Grove. Several crews from all of the outposts pitched in today to help make the necessary repairs.

👉 ****Power Outage Info:****... See more



Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc.
July 13 · 🌐

👉 It was beautiful day for a parade! 🎉

We were thrilled to have our trucks rolling through the Trego County Fair parade this year! 🎉 Thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating community spirit and the power of cooperation. Our colorful fleet and dedicated team members enjoyed waving hello to all of you. See you next time! 🎉 #CommunityPower #TregoCountyFair #WesternCooperativeElectric




Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc.
January 8 · 🌐

UPDATE 8:00 PM-- Weather and visibility have deteriorated to the point where it is no longer safe for crews to operate vehicles. Linemen have been sent home until tomorrow morning. If you are currently without power, TAKE PRECAUTIONS AND MAKE PLANS to be without electricity until tomorrow.

Crews made progress at the end of the day, reducing the number of outages to 1158 meters. That's down from more than 2400 meters at 3:15 PM.

A couple of important reminders-- If you see ... See more



Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc.
June 28 · 🌐

Bryan Garver, Plainville Jr-Sr High School, and Mariah Werth, LaCrosse High School, recently represented Western Cooperative at the 2024 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Read more at <http://www.westerncoop.com/local-students-attend-youth...>

