



An Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 278, WaKeeney, KS 67672  
800-456-6720

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**WESTERN  
COOPERATIVE  
ELECTRIC**

# WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC NEWS

## Western Cooperative Electric, Inc.

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**Tom Ruth**  
General Manager

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## This Magazine Cost-Effectively Fulfills Several Cooperative Principles



Tom Ruth

What's delivered to your home each month, provides something for everyone in your household and costs less than a cup of regular (not a fancy frappé or lavish mocha) coffee? *Kansas Country Living* magazine, the most cost-effective way to share important business information with our consumer-members. It has interesting features about this great state and the communities in which we live, work and play.

As a consumer and a member of Western Cooperative Electric you are

entitled to know and understand how your cooperative operates. Cooperative Principle No. 2, Democratic Member Control, means our consumer-members participate in setting policies and making decisions for the electric cooperative. It's Western's responsibility to keep you informed of the cooperative's business in a timely, and hopefully interesting, manner so when it's time to vote on issues and for representation on the board of directors you will have the knowledge to make informed decisions. By doing so, we fulfill Cooperative Principle No. 5—educate our members about their electric cooperative so they may effectively contribute to its development.

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## 2019 Summer Resolution Winner is Mark Rohr

Summer could include simplifying your bill paying process with Western Cooperative Electric. Payment options include bank draft with checking/savings or recurring card (debit/credit).

Additional options include enrolling for e-business (ebiz) or going green by opting for paperless billing. With paperless billing, you may opt to receive text or email notifications to get your information.

Ebiz allows you to see your monthly bill, view daily electric usage and historical data, store a payment method and make payments. Using ebiz allows you to enroll in automatic payments. If you need assistance

contact us at 800-456-6720. There are no forms to complete so signing up is fast, friendly and convenient. Automatic payment guarantees on-time payments while maintaining an excellent payment history.

Selecting any one of these payment options makes you eligible for a monthly drawing for a \$25 voucher to a local business of your choice. Already signed up for these payment options? Your name will also be included in the drawings. **THIS MONTH'S WINNER IS MARK ROHR, ELLSWORTH.** Get a fresh summer start by enrolling in an easy payment option. Enter today for a chance to win.



1. Forty students from Kansas and Hawaii traveled to Washington, D.C. in June for Youth Tour.
2. Western Electric delegate Hayden Rogers creates an etching of the Vietnam Wall while visiting the memorials throughout D.C.
3. Jordyn Coonrod and Hayden Rogers stand next to the U.S. Capitol building.
4. Youth Tour delegates had the opportunity to visit the Air Force memorial while in D.C.
5. Jordyn Coonrod (far left) and friends enjoy a spot of tea at the National Cathedral.



# ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR

WASHINGTON, D.C.

## Students Explore Nation's Capital, Witness Government in Action

**JORDYN COONROD** and **HAYDEN ROGERS** were among 36 Kansas high school students to witness “government in action” firsthand during the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Western Cooperative Electric sponsored Coonrod and Rogers on this trip that took place June 13-20.

The students began their experience in Topeka with State representatives Steven Johnson and Dr. Brenda Dietrich speaking at the opening banquet before leading the students on a private tour of the State Capitol.

While still in Kansas, the group was treated to bucket truck rides, a safety demonstration and a co-op career fair by the employees at FreeState Electric Cooperative in Topeka.

The students then traveled to Washington, D.C., where they joined more than 1,800 high school students from 43 states. The students experienced government in action through meetings with their senators and congressional representatives, including Sen. Pat Roberts and U.S. Reps. Ron Estes, Roger Marshall, M.D., and Steve Watkins. They toured the U.S. Capitol, The White House, Smithsonian museums, Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Memorial Museum and various memorials. New to the Youth Tour schedule this year was the National Law Enforcement Museum.

Youth Tour participants were also able to attend the musical “Hello, Dolly!” at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

“Each memorial impacted me in a different way,” Rogers said. “The Korea War Memorial had the greatest impact on me. Seeing the statues of those men walking through the marsh really opened my eyes.”

“Learning about all of the wonderful things past presidents have done made me see more hope for our future,” Coonrod said.

During the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Day program, keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic Medalist and two-time world wheelchair basketball champion, shared his inspiring message, “Just because you can't stand up doesn't mean you can't stand out!”

“Western is proud to support our local student leaders through the Youth Tour program,” said Manager Tom Ruth.



# Fulfilling Cooperative Principles

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So, for less than the cost of a cup of coffee, Western Cooperative Electric keeps you abreast of annual meeting details, legislative issues potentially affecting our rural way of life, cooperative youth programs, and outage and construction activities. Through the magazine we introduce you to cooperative employees—your neighbors—who work to maintain safe and reliable electricity and bring you safe electricity tips for around the farm and home, plus ways to use electricity wisely. By law, some of this information must be received by members and verified, and the magazine fulfills that requirement in the most cost-effective way possible.

Western Cooperative Electric is one of 24 Kansas electric cooperatives providing *Kansas Country Living* to their consumer-members. By combining forces with other electric cooperatives, the cost to produce our local cooperative pages and the magazine make it our main communication vehicle of

choice to get substantive information to you, which relates directly to Cooperative Principle No. 6—Cooperation Among Cooperatives.

Our social media channels—Facebook and our website—enhance what we provide in *Kansas Country Living* and offer immediate response for outages and other time-sensitive announcements. All these communication channels work together to meet all of our consumer-members where they choose to access their information.

This month, more than 131,000 magazines will be mailed to electric cooperative consumer-members in Kansas, including those representing us in Washington, D.C., and at the Kansas Statehouse. By keeping our policymakers informed of rural and cooperative issues, we help fulfill Cooperative Principle No. 7—Concern for Community, which arguably is the most important of the Seven Cooperative Principles as we all work for the sustainability of our communities.

**WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC**  
A TruSource Energy Cooperative

# 2019 RATE STUDY

**What will a rate study tell us?**

Existing data is used to determine how much revenue is required to operate the cooperative in the future.

Next, a **cost-of-service study** examines how and why the costs are incurred in each rate class (e.g., commercial, industrial, residential).

There are costs associated with energy generation, consumption, and transmission of power from the power plants to our substations. Distributing the power to our members entails costs for poles, wire, trucks, office and warehouse facilities, substations, maintenance and repair of lines, repayment of loans, and employee costs.

Once the study is fully analyzed, **electric rates will be redesigned**, if necessary, to meet costs and recover revenue from each rate class.

Find us on **facebook**

As always, if you have questions, give us a call: 785-743-5561 or visit [westerncoop.com](http://westerncoop.com)



## Let Us Help You Mind Your eBiz-ness

### Register for eBiz

1. Go to [www.westerncoop.com](http://www.westerncoop.com)
2. On Western's homepage, click the link to eBiz
3. Enter the information requested (shown below)

User Name	<input type="text"/>	Required, at least 8 characters in length.
Password	<input type="text"/>	Required, at least 8 characters long, contain at least an uppercase letter, at least one number, and may not contain any blank spaces.
Re-enter password	<input type="text"/>	
Account number	<input type="text"/>	Required, this is the basic account number.
Phone	<input type="text"/>	This phone number must match the one on file with Western. The error "Did not validate" means you need to provide the co-op with your current contact information.

- Western Cooperative Electric now offers eBiz—a consumer-member-friendly application to access your account. eBiz offers the following account management tools:
- ▶ See your current billing statement and billing/payment history;
  - ▶ View your daily meter readings from your meter;
  - ▶ Pay your bill with a check or card (no processing fee);
  - ▶ Pay one time or set up monthly payments;
  - ▶ Use our online bill calculator;
  - ▶ View charts and graphs of usage data;
  - ▶ Compare months or years of usage;
  - ▶ Make account changes;
  - ▶ Sign up for email billing notifications;
  - ▶ Request service from Western Cooperative; and
  - ▶ Store payment options and go paperless.

To create an eBiz account, visit [www.westerncoop.com](http://www.westerncoop.com) and follow the directions at left.