



An Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

www.westerncoop.com

www.facebook.com/WesternCoopElectric

WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC NEWS

Western Cooperative Electric, Inc.

Board of Trustees

Craig Crossland
President

Terry Hobbs
Vice President

Richard Schaus
Secretary-Treasurer

Landon Heier
Trustee

Frank Joy
Trustee

Marvin Keller
Trustee

Charles Luetters
Trustee

Susan Rohleder
Trustee

Dale Weinhold
Trustee

General Manager

Tom Ruth
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

Like us on Facebook

Be sure to LIKE us on Facebook! Just go to www.facebook.com/WesternCoopElectric to find



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

Newell Goes from Apprentice to Journeyman Lineman

CHASE NEWELL, WaKeeney, was recently promoted to journeyman lineman with Western Cooperative Electric Association, Inc. and received his U.S. Department of Labor Journeyman Certification.

To earn this promotion, Newell successfully completed the Merchant Job Training and Safety Program, which is a four-year curriculum and one of the world's most comprehensive training programs for power line personnel.

Newell joined Western in 2015 as a first-year apprentice after receiving

a certificate in electrical power line technology from Pratt Community College. Newell grew up in Damar and is a graduate of Palco High School.

In addition to Newell's success, Western would like to recognize Second-Year Apprentice Nick Geist, of WaKeeney, and Journeyman Lineman Al Katt, of WaKeeney, for completing Hot Line School hosted by Pratt Community College. The two and a half days of intensive hands-on training consisted of rubber glove work from bucket trucks on simulated energized lines.



Ron Aschenbrenner (right), line superintendent for Western, presents Chase Newell his journeyman certification.

WHY IS MY POWER OUT?

When the power goes out, we work hard to resume service as quickly and safely as possible.

Here are some common reasons the power goes out:



STORMS

Mother Nature can interfere with power delivery.



VEGETATION

This is why we work hard to keep power lines clear.



ANIMALS

Curious animals can cause damage, especially squirrels.



ACCIDENTS

Run-ins with a utility pole or other equipment can cause an outage.



PUBLIC DAMAGE

Unsafe digging, equipment or line damage, vandalism or theft can all interfere.



OVERLOAD

This happens when demand spikes, like on a hot summer day.



EQUIPMENT ISSUES

We maintain and inspect equipment regularly, but sometimes malfunctions occur.

Thank you for your patience during outages.

Board Trustees Complete their Board Leadership Certificate

Western board trustees **SUSAN ROHLEDER**, Morland, and **DALE WEINHOLD**, Ellsworth, completed the second part of the three-part Director Education Program through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. They had already completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director Program before completing the Board Leadership Program (BLC). The BLC is a series of courses focusing in greater depth on specific industry and governance issues including risk management, power supply, parliamentary procedure, technology and policy development.

Rohleder and Weinhold are both elected board trustees of Western,



Susan Rohleder



Dale Weinhold

voted on by the members.

Rohleder was elected in 2016 and serves District 1, which includes the counties of Sheridan, Graham, Rooks and Osborne. Weinhold was elected in 2014 and serves District 3, which includes the counties of Gove, Ness, Rush, Barton and Ellsworth.

Simplify Your Payments, Win \$25

Simplify your bill-paying process with Western Cooperative Electric and be entered in a monthly drawing for a \$25 voucher to a local business of your choice. 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 the monthly drawing. Already signed up for these payment options? Your name will also be included in the drawings. **THIS MONTH'S WINNER IS JEFF WEILERT, HAYS.**

JAN. 4 Cut Your Energy Costs Day

By sealing uncontrolled air leaks in your home, you can save **10%-20%** on heating and cooling bills.



Do You Have Unclaimed Capital Credits?

Western Cooperative has unclaimed capital credits. We issued checks to the last known address and have been unsuccessful reaching those listed. If you are on the list or an heir to a deceased member, please contact us at 800-456-6720. Having your previous addresses will be helpful. A full list of names can be found on our website, www.westerncoop.com. Go to My Account, Capital Credits and click on the view list of members in blue.

K C LAND COMPANY	LANG SIEGFRIED JR	MILBERGER WESLEY D	OLDHAM LAWRENCE 2553	PRAIRE STATES CONSTRUCT 26170
K R M PETROLEUM CORP	LARNITE INVESTMENTS KAISER	MILLER BRYAN	OLSEN ALAN 2528	PRAIRIE OIL KEITH
K R M PETROLEUM CORP TRANSUE	LASMO ENERGY	MILLER CLARENCE 23323	ONTARIO LTD	PRATOR, TERESA
KAISER ROSALIA LANG 217	LATTA DALE E 22196	MILLER PHILLIP G 23175	ORION DANCE HALL 2555 & 2556	PRATT FRED D
KANSAS ENERGY EXCHANGE 21306	LEE JAMES 22123	MILLER TERRY L	OWEN VICTORIA	PRDNNRS INV PROP
KANSAS OIL CORPORATION 22316	LEIKER AUGUST 22149	MILLER VOYLE D 23328	OWENS DONALD 2530	PRDNNRS INV PROP RCHRDS B1
KARLIN LEO E 21247	LEIKER DAVID M 22178	MILLS LEWIS 23170	OWENS FANNIE 2563	PRESIDIO EXPLRTN BENSON
KARLIN MARY C	LEIKER HERBERT 22150	MIZELL JAMES C	PAINE DRILLING COMPANY 26112	PREWO BEN 26171
KARST TED	LEVA ALLEN K 22131	MOBIL PIPE LINE	PAINTEN FRANCIS 263	PRICE ERNEST 26115
KASTNER HERMAN 21237	LEWIS KOLEAN	MOLLENKAMP DWIGHT 23347	PAN PETRO	PRICE FRANKIE
KEAR PAUL	LONGNECKER B J 22100	MONTGOMERY ARTHUR 23331	PAN PETRO LAHMAN	PRIME COMMUNICATIONS
KEITH DAVE 21232	LOOMIS SHAWN 22132	MONTGOMERY DRLG PROG	PARKER BILL	PRIME DRILLING COMPANY 2678
KEITH GEORGE ESTATE 21212	LOOSE KENNETH D 22181	MONTGOMERY DRLG PROG EILERS #3	PATMON CHARLES JR 26146	PTK PETROLEUM INC
KEITH GEORGE 2127	LOPES CHARLES	MOORE ROBERT 23121	PATTERSON DON	QUINT CARL
KEITH PAUL H	LOUGH STEVEN	MOORE ROLAND 23146	PATTERSON RAY E 26176	RAINES HELEN 28196
KELLER BRAD	LOUIS ROBERTS 28234	MORRILL JAMES 23355	PATTON OIL COMPANY	RANKIN RAYMOND 28198
KELLER JOHN P 21178	LUECKE PAUL 22199	MORRIS JAMES 23339	PATZEL NUNA LEE	RBJ CATTLE CO
KELLEY JAMES	MADDY DARRELL MR & MRS 23214	MULL FRANK 23340	PAYNE H O 26147	REACH GROUP
KENMARK CORPORATION	MAHANEY EARL 23179	MURPHY DEBBIE 23377	PECK HUGH 2694	REACH OIL CORP
KENNEC FRANKLIN JOY	MAIER ED 23303	MYERS ANNETTE L	PEEK JOHN R 26149	REED RANDALL
KENT MICHAEL 21233	MANN FRED JR 23306	MYERS LAWRENCE T	PENROD ROBERT & JOYCE	REETZ ALLAN
KERN LELAND C 21258	MARSHALL GARY 23212	MYERS MOLLIE 23342	PEOPLES HERITAGE S & LOAN	RESOURCES INVESTMT CORP
KEWANEE OIL COMPANY 21261	MARTIN LARRY 23313	NABOURS LINDA K	PERKINS THOMAS MR & MRS	RESOURCES INVESTMT CORP DICK#1
KEYES REX H 21262	MARTIN ROBERT E	NAHON H C 2475	PERRY DOUGLAS 26118	RIBORDY R J 28155
KINDERKNECHT NORMAN SR	MASK VERLON R	NATALE JAMES F	PERRY MIRIAM 26107	RICHARDSON HAROLD E 28218
KING DONALD E SR	MATTHEWS LAWRENCE 23217	NATIONAL ENERGY GROUP	PETERSON CONSTRUCTION 26151	RICHMEIER B J 28219
KING RESOURCES 21152	MATTKE CLARA M	NELSON GUST 2450	PETERSON GERALD L 26178	RICHMEIER RAY A 28223
KINGSLEY TIMOTHY C 21330	MCALPINE JOHN IRVIN	NELSON HAROLD E 2468	PETRO KANSAS OIL GRATHRONE	RIES EDDIE 28227
KLB OPRTING NICHLSN B-1	MCBRIDE INC 23286	NETT JAMES A 24101	PETRO LEWIS CORP	RINGER M 28232
KLEIN HARRY 21270	MCCLELLAND THOMAS M	NEUBURGER MIKE	PETRO LEWIS CORP JOSEPHINE	RIPPE MERLIN 28175
KLEYSTEUBER RAY 21271	MCCCLURE ANN L	NICKELS LEONARD 2484	PETROS JOHN	ROBBEN LEO B 28113
KLIEWER BRIAN	MCCRACKEN MARK 23292	NIERNBERGER DR E A 2486	PETTY HAROLD MRS	ROBBINS NELLIE M 28139
KLITZKE KAREN TAYLOR	MCDONALD E M 23293	NIERNBERGER ED A 2487	PETZOLD RON L	ROBINSON BETTY D 28279
KNOLL CORINA (ALBIN)	MCELROY BETHEL 239	NITSCH ROGER L 2473	PF AFF DANIEL C 26153	ROCK QUARRY 28236
KNOLL GERALYN	MCFARREN BERYL 23389	NORCROSS JOHN ESTATE 2493	PF AFF RALPH	ROCKERS KURT 28282
KNOUF ELMER 21274	MCI CENTER BRUSH CREEK	NORTH J M 2495	PFANNENSTIEL ALEX 26154	ROCKWOOD PETROLEUM CO DAUWE
KOEHN R DEAN	MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS	NORTH SLOPE PROPERTIES	PFANNENSTIEL JUDITH	ROME CHRISTINE 28154
KOHL, ALVIN A	MCINTIRE ROBERT 23184	NORTH SLOPE PROPERTIES ERBERT4	PFANNENSTIEL VERLIN	ROME DONALD A 28259
KRAMER DENNIS	MCINTIRE RON L	OCHS CARL	PFEIFER ALOYSIUS 26160	ROME PETER P 28244
KRAMER JOE 21216	MCKINLEY J C 23174	OCHS NEAL 2566	PFEIFER DENNIS V 26197	ROSS LAWRENCE 28246
KRIDER JEFF	MCMILLAN TOM 23245	OCHS STEVE 2550	PFEIFER LAVERNE 26163	ROTH THOMAS W
KRIDER LADONNA	MCNUTT GENE 23297	OH LDE AARON	PG&E RESOURCES	ROTH VIC 28249
KROEGER ARTHUR A	MCTEE JAMES M 23360	OIL INTERNATIONAL LTD	PHIFER GARY 26101	ROURKE BERNARD 28250
KROEGER IRENE	MEADE CHARLES 2368	OIL PROPERTIES INVTM COLL #2	POPP BRUCE	ROW ALVIN JR 2897
KUEHN CARL 21285	MEIS LAWRENCE 23171	OIL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT INC	POPP GLENN 2698	RUDER ANNA 28147
KUHN KATIE	MERSCH MARTIN 23364	OKLAHOMA FRACTURING CO 2543	POPP HAROLD JR 26168	RUPP BENEDICT 28254
LADIES SERVICE CLUB 22134	MEYERS RICHARD 23321		POST FRANK 26100	RUSSELL DICK
	MIL-ROE LYND #1		POST PHYLLIS M	
			POWERS ENERGY GRECIAN	

DIY Efficiency Projects to Tackle This Year

A New Year brings new opportunities to save energy — and money. You may think energy efficiency upgrades require a great deal of time and expense, but that's not always the case.

If you're interested in making your home more efficient but don't want to break the bank, there are several do-it-yourself projects you can tackle to increase energy savings. Let's take a look at three inexpensive efficiency upgrades that can help you save energy throughout the year.

Trim Dryer Vent

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: easy

SUPPLIES NEEDED: tin snips, gloves, measuring tape and masking tape

ESTIMATED COST: about \$25 depending on the supplies you already have

If your dryer vent hose is too long, your dryer is working harder than it has to, using more energy than necessary. The vent hose should be long enough for you to pull the dryer out a couple of feet from the wall, but the shape of the hose should form a line — it should not have a lot of slack, with twists and curves.

A shorter, unobstructed vent hose increases the efficiency of your dryer, dries clothing faster and reduces lint buildup, which can create potential fire hazards.

Simply measure, mark and trim the hose to the desired length, then reattach the hose to your dryer and exterior vent. If you're unsure about the hose length, check out YouTube.com for a quick video tutorial.

Seal Air Leaks

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: moderate

SUPPLIES NEEDED: caulk and caulk gun, weather stripping, gloves, putty knife, paper towels

ESTIMATED COST: \$25-\$50 depending on the materials you purchase

Sealing air leaks in your home can help you save 10%-20% on heating and cooling bills. Apply caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing to seal in conditioned air. You should also weatherstrip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Types of caulking and weatherstripping materials vary but ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need. For more information, the Department of Energy provides step-by-step instructions for caulking and weather stripping: <https://bit.ly/2Kesu6W>.

Insulate Attic Stairs Opening

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: moderate

SUPPLIES NEEDED (IF YOU BUILD THE BOX YOURSELF): rigid foam board, faced blanket insulation, tape for foam board, measuring tape, utility knife, caulk and caulk gun, plywood

ESTIMATED COST: \$50-\$100

A properly insulated attic is one of the best ways to optimize energy savings and comfort in your home, but many homeowners don't consider insulating the attic stairs, or the opening to your attic space. Even a well-insulated attic can leak air through the stair opening, but luckily, there's an easy fix.



Sealing air leaks in your home can help you save 10% to 20% on heating and cooling bills. Apply caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing to seal in conditioned air.

An insulated cover box can seal and insulate the attic stairs opening. You can build your own insulated cover box or purchase a pre-built box or kit from a local home improvement store like Home Depot or Lowe's for about \$60. If you decide to build your own, check out these step-by-step instructions from the Department of Energy: <https://bit.ly/36YNCYQ>. It should also be noted, if your attic opening is located in a garage you do not heat and cool, this upgrade will not be as effective.

Saving energy doesn't have to be hard. With a little time and effort, you can maximize energy savings and increase the comfort of your home. To learn about additional ways to save, contact Western Electric Cooperative by calling 800-456-6720.

83% have a positive opinion of their co-op as a **TRUSTED SOURCE OF INFORMATION** about energy use and consumer choices.

See article in this month's *Kansas Country Living*.
Source: Survey of 750 electric co-op members, July 2019, margin of error +/-3.6% by Frederick Polls

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss by up to 10%.

Source: energy.gov

