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WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

NEWS



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WESTERN CO-OP

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

Western Retires Nearly \$1 Million in Capital Credits

If you were a member of Western Cooperative Electric in 2005, you recently received your share of the retired operating margins from 2005 in the form of a capital credit check.

ELECTRIC

In December, Western Co-op distributed \$914,508.50 to our 2005 consumer-members. Based on electric usage and the dollar amount paid to Western Co-op, each member received their share of the retired year's excess capital.

Due to the financial strains caused by the economic downturn, Western's board of trustees elected to retire half the allocated amount. The board plans to retire the other half over the next two years, depending on the co-op's financial stability.

"We still have a strong financial position, but this was a necessary step to protect the co-op during uncertain times. Western's goal is to strive to maintain a 15-year retirement cycle, and we will be working hard to reach that



goal again within the next two years," said CFO Stacey Malsam.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, which only pay dividends to a small group of shareholders, electric cooperatives return excess revenue to all the consumer-members we serve. Capital credits are one of the biggest perks of being a consumer-member of a co-op and a large part of the cooperative difference.

In the past, when compared to other electric cooperatives, Western Cooperative has consistently retired capital credits faster than the state and national averages. Dependably retiring capital credits is a point of pride for the Western board of trustees.

"The annual retirement of capital credits is one of Western Cooperative's top goals," said General Manager Tom Ruth, "Members' Economic Participation is a cooperative principal and one of the many benefits of being a consumer-

Continued on page 16D ►

VISIT westerncoop.com/capitalcredits/unclaimed to see if you have unclaimed capital credits!

NEWS FROM WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

OP10Social Media **Posts of the Year**

Typically, New Year's Day is used for two things, weight loss resolutions and Top 10 lists. While we cannot help you lose that 10 pounds, we can look back at our Top 10 social media posts of the year.

We all might celebrate a little more than usual this New Year's Day. The last year has been plagued with uncertainty and turmoil. However, looking back at the top social media posts of the year, it is clear Western's consumer-members appreciate our employees and the work they do to keep the lights on.

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.

No matter what is happening across the country, locally, we are here to serve our members. Our dedication to those we serve is something we will eagerly carry over into 2021.

> Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc. added a new photo to the album: Safety Certification Olmitz - In Olmitz, Kansas.

September 2 · O

Happy New Year from Western!

Content

milestones in 2019. Being

viers reached years of service milestones in 2019. Being mile to right is Kellye Irvin, 35 years; Brad Bata, 10 years k 10 years; Kelly Owens, 35 years; Jacob Arnold, 5 years; Já years. Not Dictured is recent retiree Dennis Dennis Dannes an

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el. 35 years. Not pictu

Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc. Published by Valerie Schneider (?) - June 8 - @

Western Cooperative Electric welcomes Hunter Folsom to the electric Western Cooperative Electric welcomes Hunter Folsom to the electric cooperative family as our newest Apprentice Lineman. Hunter, originally from Wakeever, graduated from Trego Community High School in 2018. From there he enrolled in the Electrical Power Technology (EPT) program at Pratt Community College and completed a summer internship with Western last year after his first year in the EPT program. Hunter commented that he enjoyed every minute of his internship at Western.

When Hunter isn't working, he enjoys hunting, fishing and just being outdoors. He also enjoys taking his dog hunting and learning with him each time. Hunter will be working at our WaKeeney location.

KANSAS COUNTRY LIVING IANUA

Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc.

Crews replaced a 60' broken power pole at the Riga and I70 intersection following an early morning vehicle accident.



rn Cooperative Electric Assn. Inc August 6 . O

UPDATE: 10:52 - All power has been restored to the Quinter, Church, and Grainfield subs. If you are still experiencing an outage, please call 1-800-456-8720

Due do a breaker opening on the transmission lines from our power supplier, we are experiencing large outages out of our Quinter, Church and Grainfield substations. Crews are trying isolated the issue to restore the power as quickly and safely as possible. We will provide updates as they become available.

become available.



Five high school juniors will receive a \$250 college scholarship, and the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. or Steamboat Springs, Colo., through the Western Cooperative Electric youth contest program. The winners were selected based off their combined scores in three areas: ine winners were selected based on meir combined scores in three at essay writing, personal interview, and electric cooperative knowledge. Jonathan Spachek, Elisworth High School, son of Kurt and Linda Spachek; and Ethan Reever, Otis-Bison High School, son of TJ and... See More



2020 Youth Contest Winners

...

Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc. Published by Ø Sophia Henrickson (?) - February 5 - Ø We found a photo of our Olmitz Line Foreman, Jay Scott, and naturally we had him pose just like he did 20 years ago. #75years #ann #beforeandafter

Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc. Kyle Casper, Grant Heldstab, and Tanner Flax have joined Western Cooperative Electric for a summer internship to train and experience the challenging field of electric utility work... See More

Follow Western Co-op for large outage alerts and estimated restoration times. co-op updates, Youth Tour opportunities and more!

Western Cooperative Electric Assn., Inc. is in Plainville, Kansas. 53 Shout out to our Plainville crews who worked from 11pm- 3am lest it Ea Shout out to our Plainville crews who worked from 11pm. 3am last r to perform some critical maintenance without disturbing our member's service during the day. Great job! We are blessed to have such dedicates linement! #thunkalineman

Western Cooperative Electric Assn., In November 7 . @

Six Western linemen recently returned from Kingfisher, OK where they Six Western linemen recently returned from runginarie, OK where uny provided Cimaron Electric Cooperative with mutual aid assistance following a devastating loe storm on Oct. 27. The damage consisted of hundreds of broken poles and cross arms, and caused thousands of members to be without power. After one week of helping, all power had been restored to the residential members. Great job guys!! ing #CooperationAmongCoopera

KANSAS COUNTRY LIVING JANUARY 2021

Stahl Retires After 43 Years of Service

After 43 years of serving as a lineman in the Plainville area, **GREG STAHL** is ready to hang up his gaffs. Stahl's career began in February 1978 as a lineman apprentice for Western Light and Telephone.

"When I started, we didn't use buckets (bucket trucks) like we do now. I used to love to climb poles to do linework," Stahl recalls. "Back then, you probably would have seen us with no shirts on doing linework in the summertime. A lot has changed since then, much of it for the better."

Besides doing more work from bucket trucks, Stahl says other significant changes have been in the tools linemen use and the safety protocols. Although working with high voltage is inherently dangerous, better tools and safety procedures have made linework safer now than it has ever been. "During my time we never had a serious injury from an electrical contact," Stahl proudly stated.

Western Cooperative Electric acquired the Rooks County service territory from Aquila in 2007. However, over the last 43 years, there have been several companies and name changes to the electrical distribution in the area. Even while experiencing several management changes, Stahl's dedication to the job has always remained constant.

"I tried to count all the guys I worked with over the years. I got up to 65. It makes things easier when you work with so many good people," Stahl said.

Field Supervisor Jerry Casey has worked with Stahl for the past 37 years. "Greg was a guiding hand for me when I started and through the years he has been a dependable, steady employee," Casey said. "I could always count on Greg, and I had total confidence in his work and his suggestions on work procedures. Not only myself, but the entire crew will miss his experience and knowledge. We all hope he enjoys his retirement."

Stahl and his wife, Susan, have two sons, Josh and Jason. During his retirement, Stahl plans to do some work on his farmhouse and spend time with his three grandchildren.

"I am not going to miss working in the cold or through storms," Stahl said with a half-smile on his face. "But it comes with the job. If someone is



After 43 years of service, Greg Stahl (left) receives a plaque from General Manager Tom Ruth to commemorate his retirement.

without power, it is our job to restore service. No matter the time or weather conditions."

"Greg has demonstrated exemplary and professional service throughout his career," said General Manager Tom Ruth. "He is a true professional and leaves big boots to fill when he retires. Greg has made a significant impact on all of us. His quiet generosity leaves no doubt he cares about others. We will certainly miss him but wish Greg and his family the very best in life and the years ahead."

Western Retires Nearly \$1 Million in Capital Credits Continued from page 16A >

CAPITAL CREDITS: REAPING THE BENEFITS OF BEING A CO-OP MEMBER



When a person establishes service with us, they become a member and are eligible for capital credits.



Capital credits represent a member's share of the co-op's margins during the time they have membership.



Capital credits are earned by every member based on the amount of their electric use.



At the end of the fiscal year, any funds (margins) remaining after expenses have been paid are allocated to the member's account.



The allocated funds are used as operating capital for system improvements and maintenance.

Every year, the board evaluates the financial condition of the co-op to determine if we can retire capital credits. When the board decides to retire capital credits, we calculate the amount owed to each member.

Current members who received electricity during the retirement period will receive a percentage of capital credits retirements through a check from the co-op.

Former members who received electricity during the time period being retired will be mailed a check to the forwarding address on record. member of Western." For FAQs and more information about capital credits visit westerncoop.com/ capital-credits.

Moved Recently? No Longer a Member of Western?

If your forwarding address is not updated, you may have unclaimed capital credits. To search a list of members with outstanding payments, visit WESTERNCOOP. COM/CAPITAL-CREDITS/ UNCLAIMED.