

Rolling Hills Electric Co-op, Inc.

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Sarah Goss, Trustee
Kanopolis — District 1

Tom Marr, Trustee
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Staff

Jason Rabe, CEO/General Manager

Contact Us

3075B U.S. Hwy. 24 | P.O. Box 339
Beloit, KS 67420
785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572

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MEETING NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Board to Consider Rules and Regulations

SEPT. 19, 2023, AT 9 A.M. | 3075B US HIGHWAY 24 IN BELOIT

The Rolling Hills Electric Board of Trustees will discuss and vote upon the adoption of updated Rules and Regulations, which include its service fees and rates (not electric rates), at their September board meeting. This meeting is open to the membership and will be held on **SEPT. 19, 2023, AT 9 A.M.** at the cooperative's office at 3075B US Highway 24 in Beloit.

If you cannot attend or have questions, you may call the office at 785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572 or send written comments to Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 339, Beloit, KS 67420. Members have the right under K.S.A. 66-104d(g) to petition the Kansas Corporation Commission for review of a rate change.

A redlined version and a clean version of the proposed Rules and Regulations can be found on our website at

[HTTPS://ROLLINGHILLS.COOP/RULES-REGULATIONS-AND-BYLAWS](https://rollinghills.coop/rules-regulations-and-bylaws).

**SCAN TO VIEW
THE PROPOSED
CHANGES POSTED
ON OUR WEBSITE.**




Join us for a tour of
the new Ellsworth facility
and learn about what's
new at your co-op!

Friday, Oct. 13 | 9-11 a.m.
Coffee and light refreshments will be served.
Rolling Hills Ellsworth Outpost
1466 Old Hwy 40, Ellsworth, KS 67439

OPEN HOUSE

Trustee Election Process

It is time to begin the trustee election process for 2024. Please read through the qualifications and process for nomination of trustees for election outlined in the article below. **NOTE: THIS PROCESS WAS REVISED IN THE BYLAWS IN 2020.**

SECTION 5.2. QUALIFICATIONS TO BE NOMINATED, ELECTED AND REMAIN A TRUSTEE.

Any natural person will be eligible to be nominated, elected and remain a Trustee of the Cooperative who:

- ▶ Is a Member of the Cooperative residing in the Trustee District which the Member is to, or does represent, and is receiving a Cooperative Service at the Member's primary residential abode, for at least 10 months out of every calendar year or;
- ▶ Is authorized by a Member Entity to serve as a Trustee, if the Member Entity occupies and uses a Cooperative Service at a location within the Trustee District from which the Trustee is nominated or elected for at least 10 months out of every year. If authorized by a Member Entity to serve as a Trustee on behalf of the Member Entity, the authorized Trustee Member must also receive a Cooperative Service at that individual Member's primary residential abode within the Trustee District from which the Trustee is to, or does represent for at least 10 months out of every year;
- ▶ Has the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts;
- ▶ Meets and retains all of the qualifications for membership in the Cooperative;
- ▶ Is not an employee of the Cooperative or in any way financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business engaged in selling energy, energy services or energy supplies or maintaining energy-producing or selling facilities. However, the Board may grant exceptions for "de minimis" competing enterprises;
- ▶ It is not closely related to an incumbent Trustee or an employee of the Cooperative. The term "closely related" means the relationship of spouse, father, mother, brother, sister, son and daughter existing by reason of blood, marriage or adoption;

- ▶ Has not had a conviction or judicial determination involving a felony crime or a crime of moral turpitude;
- ▶ Is not employed by another Trustee, or employed by an Entity over which another Trustee exercises substantial control.

SECTION 5.5. DISTRICTS. The territory of the Cooperative shall be divided into three Member Trustee Districts, as hereafter described, for the purpose of electing and constituting the Cooperative's Board of Trustees. The boundaries of Trustee Districts shall be depicted on an official territory and Trustee District map adopted and approved by the Board of Trustees of the Cooperative. The official territory and Trustee District map shall be maintained, for Membership review and inspection, at the Registered Office of the Cooperative. For an equitable representation of the Members, the number of Members represented by a Trustee within each Trustee District must be within twenty (20%) percent of the number of Members represented by a Trustee within every other District. The Board may amend the boundaries of the Districts, from time to time, as required, or as deemed necessary or appropriate.

Current Board of Trustee Districts and Trustee Positions Are:

District One

- ▶ **POSITION ONE** – At Large from the Counties of Ellsworth, Russell, Lincoln, Barton, Saline and Ottawa Counties;
- ▶ **POSITION TWO** – At Large from the Counties of Ellsworth, Russell, Lincoln, Barton, Saline and Ottawa Counties;
- ▶ **POSITION THREE** – At Large from the Counties of Ellsworth, Russell, Lincoln, Barton, Saline and Ottawa Counties.

District Two

- ▶ **POSITION ONE** – At Large from Mitchell, Osborne, Smith, Jewell, Rooks and Phillips Counties;

- ▶ **POSITION TWO** – At Large from Mitchell, Osborne, Smith, Jewell, Rooks and Phillips Counties;
- ▶ **POSITION THREE** – At Large from Mitchell, Osborne, Smith, Jewell, Rooks and Phillips Counties;
- ▶ **POSITION FOUR** – At Large from Mitchell, Osborne, Smith, Jewell, Rooks and Phillips Counties.

District Three

- ▶ **POSITION ONE** – At Large for the Counties of Republic, Clay, Washington, and Cloud Counties;
- ▶ **POSITION TWO** – At Large for the Counties of Republic, Clay, Washington, and Cloud Counties;
- ▶ **POSITION THREE** – At Large for the Counties of Republic, Clay, Washington, and Cloud Counties.

SECTION 5.6. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

AND TERM OF OFFICE. Trustees shall be elected from each District, only by the Members from such District, for a term of three calendar years as terms of office expire. The permanent election cycle, the number of Trustees, and the term of office, for each District, are as described below.

District One Shall Have Three Trustees to be Elected as Follows

- ▶ **POSITION ONE** – the District One, Position One, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2026 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION TWO** – the District One, Position Two, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2025 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION THREE** – the District One, Position Three, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

District Two Shall Have Four Trustees

- ▶ **POSITION ONE** – the District Two, Position One, Trustee position

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Rolling Hills Sends Students to Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

AUBREY GENGLER and **THAD DONLEY**, along with **JAKE SASSE**, ambassador, attended the 46th Annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) from July 14-20, 2023. The leadership camp was held near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and hosted 43 student leaders from Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming, sponsored by 25 participating cooperatives.

Gengler and Donley were selected by RHEC based on the leadership skills, academic achievements, extracurricular activities, and character demonstrated in their applications, which was comprised of application data, a written essay, and scores on an open-book electric cooperative exam, as well as an in-person interview process.

Sasse represented RHEC as a camper in 2022 and was selected to return to camp this year as an ambassador.

During the camp, Gengler and Donley learned how an electric cooperative is organized and operated by developing a model-cooperative with their fellow students, empowering the campers to elect a board of directors, appoint a general manager, establish committees, and attend daily membership meetings. Camp participants also attended educational seminars on leadership, online reputation management, conflict management, and co-op careers, in addition to



Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp attendees pose on top of Mount Werner near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The 2023 CYLC hosted 43 student leaders from Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming, sponsored by 25 participating cooperatives.



presentations on high voltage electricity, raptors and avian protection with HawkQuest, and a tour of the Craig Power Station and the Yampa Valley Electric community solar array.

Along with its professional development programs, CYLC included a visit to Mount Werner and downtown Steamboat Springs, whitewater rafting on the Colorado River, and other fun activities such as a volleyball tournament, swimming, talent show and a dance.

“Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative is proud to continue our sponsorship of our co-op’s student leaders at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp,” Jason Rabe, CEO/general manager said. “It is an honor to help provide students opportunities to grow in their leadership potential and develop the knowledge to further engage in our cooperative community.”

For Gengler, attending the camp as a representative of her cooperative was a motivating experience, saying, “The leadership talks definitely inspired me to get out of my comfort zone and make new friends while learning about leadership. The ambassadors and other campers inspired me to be myself and to have fun.”

“The thing that affected me the most was the speaker Rodd Welker,” Donley said. “I really liked how he took the leadership points he was teaching and put them into the activities.”

Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative sponsors the trip of one student each year. For more information on how to attend and send students to camp, contact Lisa Colson, member services, at 785-534-1601.



From left: Thad Donley and Audrey Gengler pose with Jake Sasse in front of the Elk River. Sasse represented RHEC as a camper in 2022 and returned as an ambassador this year.

Trustee Election Process Continued from page 12B ▶

will be up for election at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

- ▶ **POSITION TWO** – the District Two, Position Two, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2025 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION THREE** – the District Two, Position Three, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2024 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION FOUR** – the District Two, Position Four, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

District Three Shall Have Three Trustees

- ▶ **POSITION ONE** – the District Three, Position One, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2026 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION TWO** – the District Three, Position Two, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2025 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION THREE** – the District Three, Position Three, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

A Trustee's term commences with the adjournment of the Annual Meeting at which the Trustee was elected, or if appointed, then at the time of appointment. A Trustee's term, if the Trustee is not re-elected expires upon the adjournment of the applicable Annual Meeting at which the Trustee's position is elected. If no Trustee is elected at the Annual Meeting, then the Trustee's term ends upon the election and qualification of a successor Trustee. A Trustee may serve no more than four (4) successive three-year terms, provided that he or she is duly nominated, or otherwise placed on the ballot as permitted by these Bylaws of the Cooperative and re-elected by the Members at the conclusion of each successive term. Completion of an unexpired term, by an appointed Trustee, does not constitute a 3-year term for purposes of determining whether a Trustee has served more than four (4) successive three-year terms.

SECTION 5.7. NOMINATIONS OF TRUSTEES. All nominations for the election of Trustees must be by petition. To be placed on the ballot for election as a Trustee, a Nominating Petition containing the signatures of at least twenty (20) non-suspended Members of the Cooperative, who live in the nominee's District, must be filed at the Registered Office of the Cooperative on or before the close of business on November 30. If the Registered Office is not open for business on November 30, then the Nominating Petition must be filed on or before the close of business on the last business day of November that the Registered Office is open. The Nominating Petition must state on each page thereof the name of the Member being nominated and the District and position for which the nominee is being nominated. Additionally, the Nominating Petition must contain the printed name of the signing Member, that Member's signature, and address, and be dated within 60 days prior to the November 30 deadline.

If timely filed, the Secretary will forthwith determine the validity of the Nominating Petition, and if certified to be valid, and provided the nominee meets the qualifications to be nominated and elected as a Trustee, the Secretary will cause the name of the nominee to be placed on the ballot for the next Trustee election. Only the names of the properly nominated and qualified nominees for each District will be placed on the ballot. The candidates' names will be placed on the respective ballots in alphabetical order.

If the Secretary determines that the timely filed Nominating Petition(s), having at least 20 signatures for a nominee, is defective, solely because there are not 20 Member signatures, then the nominee and/or the person delivering the Nominating Petition, if not the nominee, will be forthwith notified of the deficiency. The nominee or the person delivering the Nominating Petition, if not the nominee, will then have 15 business days, from the date of notification, to obtain the additional Nominating Petitions

needed to meet the required number of Member signatures (20). If additional signatures are obtained on one or more Nominating Petitions, timely delivered to the Cooperative's Registered Office, the Secretary will again determine the validity of the Nominating Petitions submitted on behalf of a nominee. If the collective Nominating Petitions, are then certified to be valid, and if the nominee meets the qualifications, to be nominated and elected as a Trustee, the Secretary will cause the name of the nominee to be placed on the ballot for the next Trustee election.

If a question is raised as to the validity of a Nominating Petition or Petitions or the qualifications of a candidate to be nominated and elected as a Trustee, the determination will be made by a majority vote of the Board, after a review of the facts and circumstances giving rise to the question. Purely technical reasons will not be used as a basis for disqualifying a nominee. The decision of the Board, if based on competent information shall be final.

Failure of strict compliance with the provisions of this Section shall not affect the validity of any election of a Trustee.

No nominations may be made at or from the floor of a Member Meeting.

SECTION 5.8. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES. The election of Trustees shall be by Mail Ballot with a Member Meeting. Only the names of those candidates nominated in accordance with these Bylaws will appear on the ballot. There may be write-in votes for a qualified Member not named on the Mail Ballot. The Secretary shall cause the Mail Ballot with a Member Meeting to be delivered in accordance with Bylaw Section 4.4 to those Members qualified to vote as of the Record Date. The Board may provide general information with regard to the Trustee election process as well as general candidate information to the Members with their notice of Member Meeting with Mail Ballot. Failure of strict compliance with the provisions of this section shall not affect the validity of any election of Trustees.