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Contact Us

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785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572

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RHEC Welcomes Jason Rabe as CEO/General Manager



Jason Rabe

Rolling Hills Electric is excited to welcome **JASON RABE** (pronounced Ray-bee) on board as our new CEO/general manager officially as of June 1, 2023. Before relocating to

Beloit, Rabe started his career in banking where he eventually served as vice president of retail lending with Guaranty Bank & Trust Company, based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. His banking career allowed him to become well versed in understanding financial statements, business plans, and credit underwriting for agricultural, commercial and consumer customers.

Concurrently, Rabe was elected mayor of Fairfax, Iowa. The community lacked professional management prior to his election yet faced tremendous infrastructure and financial challenges due to nearly tripling in size over the course of a decade. Thanks to the efforts of city staff and the governing body, Rabe was able to facilitate the completion

of over \$11.6 million in infrastructure projects and ensure future growth through a major annexation during his six years as mayor.

Rabe received his bachelor's degree in marketing management from Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina, and holds a master's degree in public administration from Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas. He has over 13 years of general utility experience and six and a half years of electric utility experience.

He and his wife, Julia, live in Beloit along with their three children — Kaden, Keira and Kael. Rabe looks forward to serving our members.



From left: New General Manager Jason Rabe with his wife, Julia, and children Kael, Keira and Kaden.

RHEC in the Community

Commitment to the communities we serve is a core value of Rolling Hills Electric. Here are some events we've been a part of this summer.

Preschool in the Park BELOIT ELEMENTARY



Excited to try on a hard hat!



Electrician Cody Bacon oversees kids exploring a Rolling Hills Electric digger truck.



This preschooler wasn't afraid to get his hands dirty.

Community Clean Up IN ALTON



Our RHEC lineman working to remove a cottonwood tree.



RHEC linemen removing brush from a cottonwood.

Safety DEMOS

Belleville Ag Safety Day



Belleville students listen while Rolling Hills Electric linemen prepare their safety demonstration.

Ellsworth Youth Safety Program



Rolling Hills linemen show Ellsworth youth the power of electricity.

Russell Tractor Safety Course



Operations Manager Marc Martin demonstrates what power lines can do to an auger in the air.

RHEC Welcomes New Faces and Changes



Catie Mellies



Lisa Colson

It is with mixed emotions that we announce **CATIE MELLIES**, member services, in our Beloit office, will be leaving Rolling Hills Electric to be a part of a family construction business. Her last day with the cooperative will be July 5. We appreciate her work for the cooperative over the years and wish her the best in her new endeavor! We will

to receive her bachelor's degree in agribusiness. She lives in Jewell county with her husband, Perry, and their six children, Ransom, Nick, Isabel, Olivia, Ellie and Asher. Colson enjoys spending time with family and tending to their farm animals. Welcome, Lisa!

SCOTT SPLICHAL, journeyman lineman, has taken on a new role at RHEC as the safety coordinator. He will work out of the Belleville and Beloit facilities. With 23 years of lineman experience, hot line school instruction and time spent on the RHEC Safety Committee, Splichal is more than qualified to tackle this new role. Congrats, Scott!

TYSON KNOX, journeyman lineman, has accepted the vacant lineman position with our Belleville district crew. He has been based out of Beloit for the past two years and previously was based at the Belleville outpost for 10 years. This change will allow him to be closer to home. Congrats, Tyson!

CASEY SMITH, journeyman lineman, has been promoted to foreman. Casey has been with RHEC for over three years and has demonstrated he has the leadership skills and knowledge to take on this position. Congrats, Casey!



Scott Splichal



Tyson Knox



Casey Smith

miss you, Catie!

LISA COLSON recently joined the Rolling Hills Electric family taking on the member services position. She comes to us from Solomon Valley Veterinary Hospital in Beloit. She is a local graduate of Jewell Jr./Sr. High School and attended Kansas State University



Steve Habiger Retires After 34 Years

STEVE HABIGER officially retired on April 3, 2023, after 34 dedicated years with Rolling Hills Electric. The entire RHEC crew and his family celebrated with a chicken fried steak lunch to congratulate Steve and wish him well. Habiger has been an integral part of the operations crew over the years with his experience and hard work ethic. We thank him for his dedication to our cooperative and wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement. We sure miss you around here, Steve!



Above: Steve Habiger (center) celebrates his retirement with his family after 34 years at Rolling Hills.



Left: General Manager Doug Jackson (right) presents Steve Habiger with a certificate for his years of service.

Meet Our Interns



Brandon Brin

BRANDON BRIN Ellsworth District

- ▶ **HOMETOWN:**
Plainville, Kansas
- ▶ **SCHOOL:** Manhattan Area Technical College
- ▶ **HOBBIES:** Hunting, fishing, body building, family time, camping



Braden Burks

BRADEN BURKS Beloit District

- ▶ **HOMETOWN:**
Jewell, Kansas
- ▶ **SCHOOL:** Manhattan Area Technical College
- ▶ **HOBBIES:** Hunting, fishing, golfing



Hunter Teel

HUNTER TEEL Beloit District

- ▶ **HOMETOWN:**
Concordia, Kansas
- ▶ **SCHOOL:** Pratt Community College
- ▶ **HOBBIES:** Hunting, fishing, working on his truck



Tanner Hajny

TANNER HAJNY Belleville District

- ▶ **HOMETOWN:**
Philip, South Dakota
- ▶ **SCHOOL:** Miami High School
- ▶ **HOBBIES:** Basketball



Tate Kadel

TATE KADEL Osborne District

- ▶ **HOMETOWN:**
Beloit, Kansas
- ▶ **SCHOOL:** Manhattan Area Technical College
- ▶ **HOBBIES:** Hunting, fishing

Water Heater Changes and Rebate Information

Due to increased cost and supply issues, RHEC is no longer selling Rheem Marathon water heaters or parts. Rheem water heaters and parts are available for purchase at the vendors below:

- ▶ Border States
1320 Armory Road, Salina, KS 67401;
785-826-1852
- ▶ Home Depot
- ▶ Local Plumbing & HVAC companies
- ▶ Menards

Rebates

Did you know we offer rebates for installing electric water heaters and heat pumps? Contact Rolling Hills Electric once your new water heater or heat pump has been installed to submit for a rebate (inspection of unit by RHEC tech is required).

Rebate Amounts

WATER HEATERS

- ▶ Standard Water Heater: \$175
- ▶ Lifetime Water Heater: \$325

HEAT PUMPS

▶ AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP

- ▶ \$150 per ton 14.5 SEER
- ▶ \$200 per ton 16 SEER
- ▶ \$250 per ton 17 SEER and above

▶ GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMP

- ▶ \$300 per ton (minimum efficiency requirement)
- ▶ Closed Loop = 3.3 COP, 14.1 EER
- ▶ Open Loop = 3.6 COP, 16.2 EER

Contact RHEC at 785-534-1601 for more information and details on the rebate program

Load Control

If you are not signed up for text alerts on peak days, please call our office at 785-534-1601. If any irrigators experience issues, please call the office and speak with the operations department.

Keep IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT and water streams 15 feet away from overhead power lines.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling. You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. (Check out Page 20 in the magazine for no bake recipes this month.) **SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV**

