

ROLLING HILLS
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE
PRINCIPAL
OFFICE IN BELOIT

FEGISTRATION 5:30 P.M.

6:30 P.M.



### OFFICIAL NOTICE OF

Annual Meeting

You and each of you are hereby notified that on APRIL 25, 2025, the Annual Meeting of Members of Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting the annual meeting business in accordance with the cooperative's bylaws and the agenda below. The meeting will be held at the principal office of the cooperative located at 3075 B US Highway 24 in Beloit, Kansas.



### **PROGRAM AGENDA**

5:30 P.M.

Registration

**Education &** Safety Booths

Dinner

### 6:30 P.M.

Call to Order MICHELLE BROKES, PRESIDENT

Ascertain Quorum Present JUSTIN TROST, SECRETARY

Official Notice of Meeting MICHELLE BROKES, PRESIDENT

Introduction of **Board of Trustees** and Guests

### 6:45 P.M.

**Voting Cutoff** 

Minutes of 2024 Meeting

President's Report MICHELLE BROKES, PRESIDENT

Business and Manager's Report JASON RABE, MANAGER

Treasurer's Report ANGIE BEHYMER, **ACCOUNTING & MSR MANAGER** 

**Industry Updates KEC, KEPCO AND OTHERS** 

Member Questions and Comments

Trustee Election Results

New or **Unfinished Business** 

Adjournment



## **President's Report**

2024 was another good year at Rolling Hills Co-op! Financially the co-op is on solid ground, our infrastructure is continually being updated and improved, and as a whole, outages are few and far between. All of this can be credited to the dedicated, quality staff that we have!

While all employees play a vital role in the success of our co-op, I'd like to highlight a few folks. Retiring this past year were **RODNEY PAYNE**, 36 vears of service: **KENNETH CASTOR**. 40 years of service; and JERRY WEBB, 31 years of service. That is 107 years of experience! While that is a lot of experience to replace, we are excited to announce that we were able to hire four journeyman linemen this year. That is almost unheard of in today's employment climate. Please join me in welcoming RYAN GOHEEN, KEVIN KOLARS. BLANE PAYEUR and TRAVIS WINEINGER. We wish them many successful years at Rolling Hills! In addition to the day-to-day

functions performed to keep the lights on, there are always extra projects in the works. One such project started in 2024 was a comprehensive system inventory. Given the scope of our system — spanning 6,425 miles of line — this project is substantial, requiring meticulous accounting of all materials along the line. Upon completion, this ambitious undertaking will enhance our operational efficiency. One advantage will be the ability to accurately assess storm damage in an affected area without extensive, time-consuming physical inspections.

I would like to encourage all members to attend the annual meeting on April 25, 2025, to hear about what's happening at your co-op.



Michelle Brokes **Board President** 

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### THANK YOU TO OUR DOOR PRIZE SPONSORS

- ▶ Altec
- Border States
- ► Emerald Transformer
- ► KEPCo

- ► KSI Engineering
- ► NRECA
- ▶ Power Equipment
- ► Protective Equipment Testing Laboratory
- Solida Tree Service
- ► Sunbelt Solomon
- ▶ Terex

## **2025** BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION

### **DISTRICT 1, POSITION 2**



### MICHELLE BROKES, WILSON

Michelle resides south of Wilson with her husband, Allan, and sons Cade, 17; Lane, 15; Bo, 11; and Brock, 5. Michelle works full time with her family on their cow/calf operation. They also raise wheat, milo, sorghum sileage and alfalfa.

The family is active in the Wilson Winners 4-H Club as well as St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church. Michelle also serves on the Ellsworth County Fair Association.

Michelle has served on the Rolling Hills Board of Trustees for 6 ½ years and has enjoyed learning about and staying up to date with the everchanging electric industry.

REAPING THE BENEFITS OF BEING A CO-OP MEMBER

## CAPITAL CREDITS REFUNDED \$500,000

MORE THAN \$8 MILLION SINCE CONSOLIDATION IN 2002.



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 Rolling Hills members.



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.



**ACTIVE MEMBER** accounts will receive a credit on their bill for their capital credits.

**FORMER MEMBERS** who received electricity during the time period being retired will be mailed a check.

## **2025** BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION

### **DISTRICT 2, POSITION 2**



### **JOHN GEORGE, LEBANON**

John recently retired as senior trust and investment officer for First National Bank and Trust, Phillipsburg, including Smith County Bank, Smith Center, and Solomon Valley Bank, Beloit. He is a graduate of Kansas State University with a degree in agricultural economics and 44 years banking, investment and trust experience.

John earned his National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Credential Cooperative Director certificate in his first year on the board in 2016. Since then, he has completed the Board Leadership Program and the Director Gold program. John represents Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative serving as a trustee and secretary on the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. board. He is committed to the betterment of Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative for the members and the future of the cooperative.

John and his wife. Sherrita, live three miles west of Lebanon near his family farm. They have two grown children and three grandsons. John has been a Rolling Hills member since 1998 and his family farm has been served by the cooperative for more than 70 years.

John and Sherrita are members of the Smith Center United Methodist Church where he serves as church treasurer and on the administrative council. John is a member of the Srader Foundation for Smith County. He is a past member of Smith County Memorial Hospital board and Smith County Fair board, and served as treasurer for both organizations. His hobbies include attending K-State basketball games.

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## **2025** BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION

### **DISTRICT 3, POSITION 2**



### MIKE BRZON, COURTLAND

Mike and his wife, Linda, operate a family farm in Republic County near Courtland, Scandia and Republic areas. Irrigation is a large part of their farming operation, including irrigated corn and soybeans.

Working with family members has always been very important to Mike. Watching and helping family and friends excel is always a great reward. Over the years, he has been involved with numerous associations and advisory boards. In the mid-70s, he became involved in state water issues and regulation in the Republican River Basin in Kansas and Nebraska, trying to protect and sustain the resources of the region.

Mike has served on the Rolling Hills Board of Trustees for the past nine years, earning his National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Credentialed Cooperative Director Program credential and Board Leadership Program credential. Mike's tenure has been dedicated to ensuring RHEC continues with operational efficiencies to maintain affordable and dependable electricity. He will continue to represent you, the membership, for a brighter future.

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# Annual Repo

JOIN US FOR THE ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**APRIL 25, 2025** 

REGISTRATION 5:30 P.M. | MEETING 6:30 P.M. ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC PRINCIPAL OFFICE IN BELOIT

### FROM THE MANAGER: 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

The electric energy industry continues to face an unprecedented combination of cost pressures, energy generation uncertainty, and substantial electric demand growth for the first time in decades.

Despite these challenging times, Rolling Hills had positive results in 2024 with an operating margin of \$1,540,772. As a cooperative, we continue to see strong electricity demand in our footprint, selling nearly 212 million kilowatt-hours. In 2024, we invested \$6,775,607 in system improvements and \$780,007 in vegetation management to continue improving system reliability, while returning \$635,598 in the form of capital credits to our members.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2022, your Rolling Hills Electric Board underwent a strategic planning process that focused on five main areas, which have directed investments and staff efforts during the last three years:

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE OUR CULTURE OF SAFETY. In 2023, your Rolling Hills board implemented a fulltime safety coordinator. In 2024 alone, we had 14 safety demonstrations reaching 1,300 children and adults, 54 crew safety observation visits, and greatly improved on our Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program results. Safety for our employees and members directly translates to reliable and economical power for members.

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE OUR FINANCIAL STABILITY. Rolling Hills has continued to position itself through our consolidation and centralization to remain viable and become more efficient. Staffing is 20% leaner than 10 years ago while still providing the same high level of service. In 2024, we pursued nearly \$1 million in grants; our line loss continues to trend downward (meaning our system wastes less electricity); our automated metering allows us to be more responsive with fewer full-time employees; and by undergoing a system inventory, we can stake in half the time with half of the resources — these are just a few highlights.

PROVIDE RELIABLE AND **ECONOMICAL POWER.** The Rural Electric Cooperative Act created electric co-ops in 1935 to bring electricity to areas in which investor-owned utilities (IOUs) would not invest, largely due to population density and expense. A municipal or IOU may have 20-60 meters per mile, while Rolling Hills has less than two. We are not profit motivated; we are built to serve you. Our primary goal is to be as economical as possible, while providing reliable power in the face of natural challenges.

**BUILD A STRONG EMPLOYEE CULTURE.** Like all entities. we have dealt with generational retirements and now have an energetic but less experienced workforce. The board has made it a priority to continue to find ways to be competitive in the marketplace, as

great employees are a huge part of reliable electricity for our co-op members. Training and growing our own is a priority.

KEEP MEMBERS INFORMED. At Rolling Hills, we pride ourselves on using multiple channels to communicate to our membership. This comes in the form of our Kansas Country Living, billing inserts, social media and in-person meetings, whether at the office or in the field. It has been five years since our last cost-of-service and rate study. Like many cooperatives, we are looking at how we deliver electricity at rates that are equitable while matching how electricity is billed and delivered by our providers. Our upcoming rate meetings will share how we are redesigning rates to allow our members to take more control of their energy usage. We ask our members to take advantage of the member meetings to learn more.



Jason Rabe

### MEMBER **RATE MEETINGS**

MAY 2 9 A.M. Osborne Outpost

MAY 9 9 A.M. Ellwsorth Outpost

MAY 21 9 A.M. Belleville Outpost

MAY 28 9 A.M. Beloit Office

## Treasurer's Report



Corey Dlabal

The 2024 operating statement and balance sheet on this page show Rolling Hills Electric's total margins for 2024 were \$2,846,125 and operating margins for the sale of electricity to members were \$1,540,772. The average margin for each meter on our system is \$11.19 per month or \$134.32 per

year. Non-operating margins, which includes other activities of the cooperative, were \$1,305,353. This figure includes \$243,462 of capital credits allocated to your cooperative by our power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) and other organizations.

In 2024, \$635,598 in capital credits were paid in general retirements and to estates of deceased members. An effort is being made to maintain Rolling Hills Electric's 30-year retirement rotation with its members. Currently, Rolling Hills has retired capital credits through a portion of 1998.

Interest payments of \$2,716,865 were made to our lender. CFC. The cooperative has met the financial covenants with our lender in 2024.

Capital expenditure items budgeted for 2024 totaled \$309,134. Due to supply chain constraints, approved capital items from previous years were acquired for a total of \$1,282,000. These purchases included: four new 40-foot bucket trucks, a new 4x6 Digger Derrick, used 40-foot bucket truck, pole trailer, service pickups and a pole puller attachment. Also, several new technology components including a new host domain controller with security server and scheduled computer replacements were purchased.

The accounting firm of Kelso Lynch, P.C., P.A. completed the annual audit for 2024 and confirmed that all proper accounting procedures were followed and funds accounted for. A copy of the 2024 audit report is on file at the cooperative.

A complete treasurer's report will be given at the annual meeting. Please join us in Beloit on APRIL 25. We look forward to seeing you there.

BALANCE SHEET AS OF DEC. 31, 2024			
ASSETS	2024	2023	
Total Cost of Utility Plant	\$129,597,657	\$122,822,050	
Less Estimated Depreciation	(\$41,912,746)	(\$39,740,272)	
Net Utility Plant	\$87,684,911	\$83,081,778	
Cash on Hand & Temporary Investments	\$1,110,342	\$1,164,350	
Investments in Associated Organizations	\$9,548,969	\$9,395,493	
Investments in Economic Development Projects	\$132,785	\$275,269	
Accounts Receivable	\$2,595,595	\$2,377,640	
Materials & Supplies	\$446,382	\$623,072	
Interest Receivable	\$10,398	\$10,398	
Misc Deferred Debits	\$772,357	\$161,698	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$102,301,739	\$97,089,698	
LIABILITIES			

LIABILITIES		
Long-Term Debt	\$60,553,123	\$56,836,224
Accounts Payable (Mainly Power Bill)	\$1,909,056	\$1,956,307
Consumer Deposits	\$192,975	\$198,000
Accrued Interest, Taxes, Insurance & Benefits	\$1,414,128	\$1,361,540
Other Deferred Credits	\$117,431	\$1,018,636
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$64,186,713	\$61,370,707

EQUITY		
Membership Fees	\$17,560	\$18,080
Patronage Capital & Current Margins	\$34,953,584	\$33,308,938
Other Equities	\$3,143,882	\$2,391,973
TOTAL EQUITY	\$38,115,026	\$35,718,991
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$102,301,739	\$97,089,698

OPERATING STATEMENT AS OF DEC. 31, 2024			
REVENUE	2024	2022	
Sales of Electric Energy	\$30,874,574	\$29,347,524	
Misc. Electric Revenue	\$231,833	\$211,794	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$31,106,407	\$29,559,318	

EXPENSES		
Wholesale Power Cost	\$15,999,156	\$14,804,554
Operations, Maintenance & Administrative Expense	\$6,074,582	\$5,729,679
Property & Other Tax Expense	\$1,485,330	\$1,436,089
Interest Expense	\$2,716,865	\$2,420,807
Depreciation & Amortization	\$3,289,702	\$3,119,168
TOTAL COST OF ELECTRIC SERVICE	\$29,565,635	\$27,510,297
Operating Margins	\$1,540,772	\$2,049,021
Non-Operating Margins	\$1,305,353	\$1,095,446
NET MARGINS	\$2,846,125	\$3,144,467



\$30,874,574

**TOTAL kWh SALES REVENUE UP FROM \$29.347.524** 

\$635,598

AND FORMER MEMBERS IN 2024, \$8 **MILLION SINCE CONSOLIDATION IN 2002.** 





ROLLING IN 2024
THE NUMBERS



OBSERVATION VISITS



\$780,007

**INVESTED IN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT** 

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

\$6,775,607

**INVESTED IN** 

\$1,540,772 IN OPERATING MARGINS

\$129,597,657

**TOTAL UTILITY PLANT UP FROM \$122.822.050**  \$15,999,156

**TOTAL COST OF POWER UP FROM \$14,804,554** 

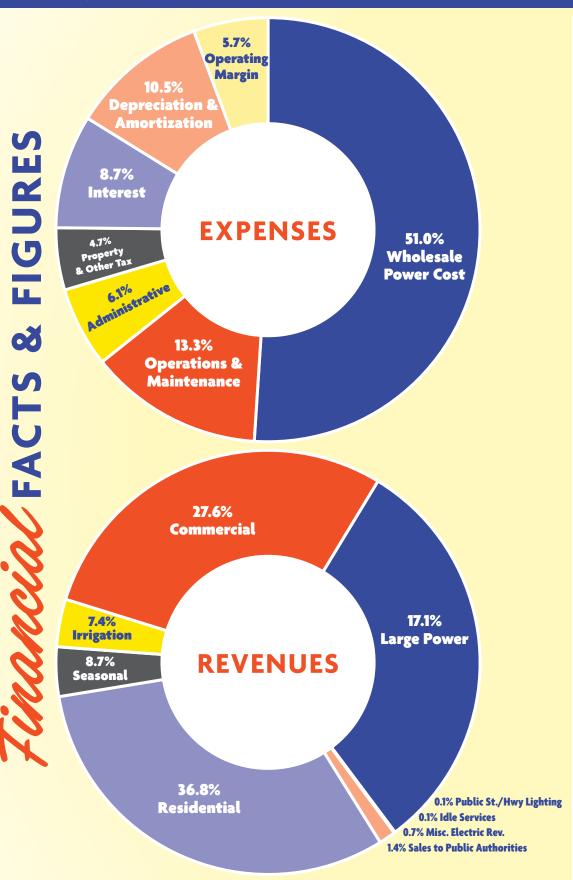
### PROPERTY TAXES BY COUNTY

Mitchell	296,239	Russell	86,181
Republic	211,526	Washington	42,894
Ellsworth	207,887	Rooks	8,866
Osborne	170,160	Phillips	1,847
Jewell	154,517	Clay	1,386
Smith	138,507	Saline	575
Cloud	126,199	Barton	261
Lincoln	120,060	Ottawa	225

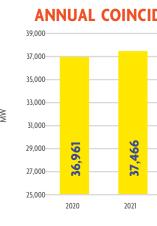
**TOTAL 2024 PROPERTY TAX PAID (16 COUNTIES)** \$1,567,332.57 (4.4% INCREASE OVER 2023)

### **2024 PROPERTY TAXES**

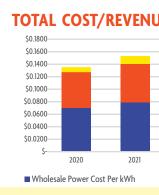
Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative will pay a total of \$1.567.332.57 IN PROPERTY TAXES FOR 2024. These amounts were assessed against assets such as electric lines, poles, buildings and trucks owned by Rolling Hills. As a not-for-profit cooperative, Rolling Hills is exempt from income tax. At left, is a list of property taxes assessed by county for 2024.









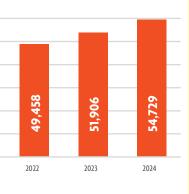






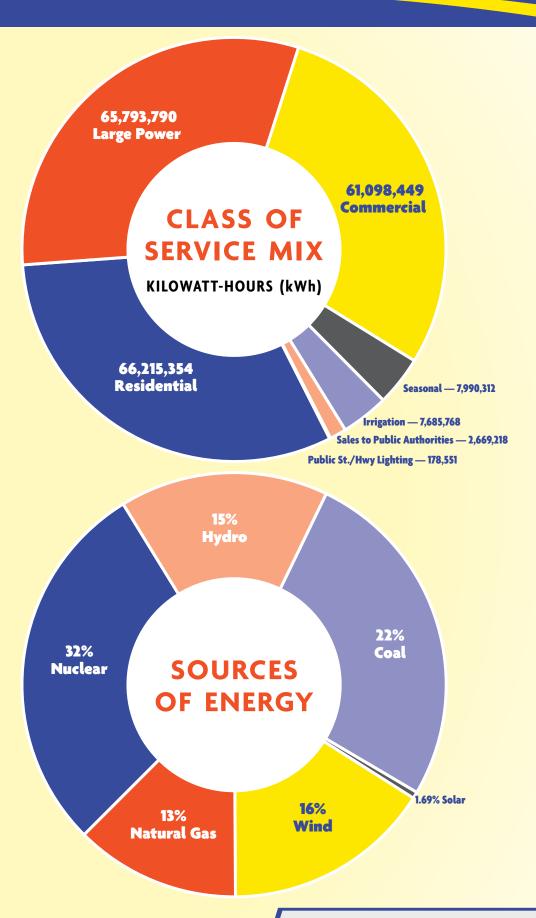
2023

2022



IE PER KILOWATT-HOUR







### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**



**Michelle Brokes** President Wilson | District 1



**Paul Wilson** Vice President Burr Oak | District 2



**Justin Trost** Secretary Concordia | District 3



**Corey Dlabal** Treasurer Wilson | District 1



**Eric Andersen** Trustee Jamestown | District 3



Mike Brzon Trustee Courtland | District 3



**David Dubbert** Trustee Beloit | District 2



John George Trustee Lebanon | District 2



Sarah Goss Trustee Kanopolis | District 1



Tom Marr Trustee Formoso | District 2

## Our EMPLOYEES



Jaden Atwood Apprentice Lineman 3 years | Beloit



**Cody Bacon** Electrician 4 years | Beloit



**Adam Badger** Operations Assistant 14 years | Beloit



**Tyler Bailey** Foreman 5 years | Beloit



Remi Eilert Membership Clerk/MSR 2 years | Beloit



Doug Errebo Journeyman Lineman 17 years | Ellsworth



**Brian Falk** Journeyman Lineman 43 years | Ellsworth



Ryan Goheen Journeyman Lineman 1 year | Beloit



**Derek Miner** Journeyman Lineman 2 years | Osborne



**Kaitlyn Nick** Accounting Assistant/MSR 3 years | Beloit



**Blane Payeur** Journeyman Lineman 1 year | Beloit



**Tanya Peters** Billing Clerk/MSR 7 years | Beloit



**Scott Splichal** Safety Coordinator 25 years | Belleville



**Kendall Strutt** Outpost Foreman 32 years | Belleville



**Hunter Teel** Apprentice Lineman 1 year | Beloit



Trent Webb Journeyman Lineman 14 years | Osborne



**Travis Wineinger** Journeyman Lineman 1 year | Beloit



**Justin York** Journeyman Lineman 7 years | Osborne



**Justin Zerbe** AMI/IT Technician (Operations) 6 years | Beloit



John Bailey
Operations Assistant
36 years | Ellsworth



Angie Behymer
Accounting & MSR Manager
7 years | Beloit



Thomas Biery
Apprentice Lineman
2 years | Belleville



Braden Burks
Apprentice Lineman
1 year | Beloit



Kristi Clark
Operations Clerk
6 years | Beloit



Lisa Colson
Communications Specialist
2 years | Beloit



JR Hynek
Journeyman Lineman
6 years | Beloit



Tate Kadel
Apprentice Lineman
1 year | Beloit



Evan Keating
Apprentice Lineman
2 years | Ellsworth



Kevin Kolars
Journeyman Lineman
1 year | Belleville



Loren Kraus
IT Specialist
4 years | Beloit



Marc Martin
Operations Manager
36 years | Beloit



Jason Rabe CEO/General Manager 2 years | Beloit



Adrion Reed
Executive Services Manager
14 years | Beloit



Tyler Roesti Outpost Foreman 17 years | Ellsworth



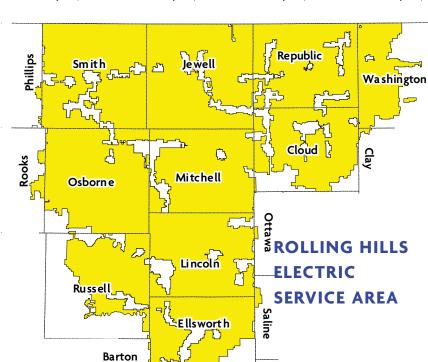
Ben Ruthstrom
Outpost Foreman
26 years | Osborne



Casey Smith
Foreman
5 years | Beloit



Hudson Smith
Journeyman Lineman
4 years | Ellsworth



6,587
MEMBERS

21
UTILITY TRUCKS

30 SUBSTATIONS

16
COUNTIES SERVED

37 EMPLOYEES 130,000
APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF POLES

11,471
ACTIVE SERVICES

6,181
MILES OF DISTRIBUTION LINE

187
MILES OF TRANSMISSION LINE

1.8
MEMBERS PER MILE OF LINE



## **2024 Annual Meeting Minutes**

The 2024 Annual Meeting of Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at the cooperative's principal office in Beloit, Kansas, on the 19th day of April 2024, commencing at 6:30 p.m.

Registration for the meeting began at 5:30 p.m. Drawings for attendance prizes were held both prior to and at the end of the formal business meeting. Members and guests enjoyed an outstanding meal before the meeting, which was provided by Vathauer Catering of Clay Center.

Thad Donley, son of John and Vicki Donley of Kanopolis, presented the meeting with an informative report on his attendance at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Aubrey Gengler, the daughter of Craig and Jolene Gengler of Beloit, then presented an informative report on the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, which Thad also had the opportunity to attend. Both reports were well received by the members and the youth expressed their appreciation to the cooperative for its sponsorship.

The business meeting was then called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Board President Michelle Brokes.

President Brokes introduced Justin Trost. board secretary, who announced that the membership present had been enumerated and more than 50 members were present, thus constituting a quorum for the purpose of conducting the cooperative's annual meeting business. President Brokes then announced the meeting was legally and duly called, and in session.

The next item of business was that of establishing proof of timely mailing of the Notice of the Annual Meeting. It was noted that the Notice of the Annual Meeting, stating the date, time, location and purpose of the meeting was delivered by mail, to the members, on March 25, 2024, being at least 10 days and not more than 35 days prior to the meeting. There being no objection voiced, a formal reading of the notice was waived. President Brokes then directed that the Notice and Proof of Mailing thereof be filed with the minutes of the meeting.

The next item of business was the reading and approval of the 2023 annual meet-

ing minutes. The minutes were included in the notice of the meeting. There being no objection voiced, a formal reading of the minutes was waived. A motion was then made, seconded, and passed, via voice vote, without dissent, approving the 2023 annual meeting minutes.

President Brokes then recognized those board of trustees members who were in attendance. Past board members were then recognized for their prior service to the cooperative. President Brokes then thanked the board, past board members and the cooperative's employees for their dedicated service to the cooperative and its members.

President Brokes then presented the President's Report as published in the notice of the annual meeting.

President Brokes then gave the floor to the cooperative's accountant & MSR manager, Angie Behymer. Behymer reviewed the cooperative's financial report as published by board treasurer Corey Dlabal in the notice of the annual meeting. In summary, the cooperative's balance sheet showed assets of \$97,089,699 constituting an increase in assets from 2022 of \$4.032,364, with liabilities of \$61,370,707, an increase of \$1,502,242. Member equity increased by \$2,530,121 from \$33,188,870 to \$35,718,991. Total revenue for the year was \$29,559,318 with expenses of \$27,510,297 providing operating margins of \$2.049.021.

CEO/general manager Jason Rabe then presented his first manager's report as published in the notice of the annual meeting. Highlights included work in updating outpost facilities in Ellsworth and Belleville to provide operational efficiencies to better serve the members. CEO/general manager Rabe also reported on critical challenges including cybersecurity and the need for electric generation infrastructure.

Kansas Senate Minority Leader Dinah Sykes was then introduced. Senator Sykes is the cooperative's adopted legislator. The Adopt a Legislator Program is sponsored through our statewide association, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC), for the purpose of educating legislators who may not be familiar with rural electric cooperatives and the issues they face. She then engaged

in a roundtable discussion of various issues with CEO/general manager Rabe. Senator Sykes recalled her past rural background and stated how pleased she was to be in rural Kansas and learn about Rolling Hills and cooperative principles.

Mark Barbee. Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, provided an informative and detailed program on the Southwest Power Pool (SPP). The report provided information on a very important, but relatively unknown, regional (in portions of fourteen states) transmission organization. SPP functions include managing the transmission grid, overseeing competitive wholesale markets and planning and development of the regional electric transmission grid. The SPP administers 5,180 substations, 949 generation plants, 72,004 miles of transmission line, and generation capacity of 98,608 megawatts. Barbee reported on the need for enhancement of the grid both in size and reliability, as well as the need for enough electric generation to supply consumers during peak demand periods.

Lee Tafanelli, CEO of KEC, again presented an informative report on the nature of the industry and challenges and opportunities being confronted by rural electric cooperatives.

CEO/general manager Rabe then asked questions from the audience. There being none, president Brokes asked the Trustee Election Tally Committee to report the results of the trustee elections.

The Trustee Election Tally Committee reported that the following persons were elected to the position of trustee:

- ▶ District 1. Position 3: SARAH GOSS
- District 2. Position 3: PAUL WILSON
- ▶ District 3, Position 3: **JUSTIN TROST**

President Brokes then called for new and unfinished business to come before the meeting. There being none, the meeting was duly adjourned.

For those who wished to stay, an informative energized electric line safety program was presented after the meeting.

> **JUSTIN TROST, SECRETARY MICHELLE BROKES, PRESIDENT**