

**ROLLING HILLS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

Rolling Hills Electric Co-op, Inc.

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

John George, Trustee
Lebanon – District 2

David Dubbert, Trustee
Beloit – District 2

Sarah Goss, Trustee
Kanopolis – District 1

Tom Marr, Trustee
Formoso – District 2

Staff

Douglas Jackson 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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On Facebook, search for “Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.” and like our page for continued updates, energy efficiency tips, cooperative news and outage updates.



2021 Continuation of Annual Meeting

August 26 at 6:30 p.m. | Cooperative Headquarters

NOTICE OF CALL reconvening the Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting, which was recessed, subject to call, on April 9, 2021.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the president of the cooperative has called for the Annual Meeting of Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc., to reconvene on Aug. 26, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. The reconvened meeting will again be held at the cooperative’s headquarters located at 3075B US Highway 24 in Beloit, Kansas.

Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. The recessed annual meeting will resume at 6:30 p.m. for an informational meeting, as well as questions and answers. The CEOs from Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) and Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) have been invited to speak. An electrical power line safety demonstration will also be presented.

Please RSVP one of the following ways if you plan to attend:

- ▶ **PHONE:** 785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572
- ▶ **ONLINE:** www.rollinghills.coop
- ▶ **MAIL:** Fill out and return the form below to the address listed



5:30 p.m. Registration



6 p.m. Dinner



6:30 p.m. Reconvene Annual Meeting

RSVP BY MAIL

RSVP by mail by cutting on the dotted line and mailing this bottom portion to Rolling Hills Electric, P.O. Box 339, Beloit, KS 67420.

NAME _____

ACCOUNT # _____ **PHONE #** _____

TOTAL # OF ATTENDEES _____ **ADULTS** _____ **KIDS (12 & UNDER)** _____

Rolling Hills Electric Trustee Election Process

With the revisions to the bylaws in 2020, the process for nomination of trustees for election has changed. Please read through the qualifications and process. One trustee from each district in



Attending monthly board meetings are part of the important role of each Rolling Hills Electric trustee. At the May board meeting, Lee Tafanelli, KEC CEO, (standing) presented to the board.

Position Three was elected at the 2021 Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting that was held on April 9, 2021, as outlined below:

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

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 2023 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION TWO** – the District One, Position Two, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2022 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION THREE** – the District One, Position Three, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

District Two Shall Have Four Trustees

- ▶ **POSITION ONE** – the District Two, Position One, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2023 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION TWO** – the District Two, Position Two, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2022 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION THREE** – the District Two, Position Three, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2021 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION FOUR** – the District Two, Position Four, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

District Three Shall Have Three Trustees

- ▶ **POSITION ONE** – the District Three, Position One, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2023 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION TWO** – the District Three, Position Two, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2022 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION THREE** – the District Three, Position Three, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2021 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 determin-

ing 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 and 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

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Election Process *Continued from page 16C* ▶

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.

Ron Rathbun Retires After 29 Years

RON RATHBUN officially retired on June 1 after 29 ½ dedicated years as the electrician based out of our office in Beloit. He grew up in Lincoln, Kansas, and went to Bethany College on a football scholarship where he figured out that he actually didn't want to be a football player and decided to attend Beloit Vo-Tech for electrical work.

He started out his career working for Bossman Electric in Beloit for three years then was offered a position as a farm hand on a hog farm. He then worked at Eldorado RV out of Minneapolis as an electrician and eventually worked up to managing half of the plant. After three years, he then went to work for Great Plains as a supervisor for assembly and paint for another three years.

Rathbun began his career for the cooperative in 1991 as an electrician and has held that job title ever since.

When asked what has changed the most since he began his career here at Rolling Hills, he says a lot has changed on the technical side. Back then, there was a lot of paperwork and now it's all laptops and computers. "I took computer class at the vo-tech but that didn't help me any," Rathbun said.

His biggest accomplishment while working at Rolling Hills was trenching and putting in a lot of underground at Wilson Lake, as well as implementing the new load control system.

Rathbun has seven children and 16 grandchildren and is looking forward to spending more time visiting them and attending their sporting events.

Advice he would pass down to the younger generation just starting out in their career is, "Always try to do your best at



Manager Doug Jackson (left) congratulates Ron Rathbun on his retirement at an all employee meeting.

what you're doing. Work hard, pay attention and follow orders."

As for his post-retirement plans, he said he still hasn't hit the "easy chair" yet, and is enjoying doing electrical work on the side in his spare time a few days a week. He and his wife have plans to travel and head to the lake at least once a month. He also is helping take care of his dad and goes to check on him every morning.

What will he miss the most about working at Rolling Hills? The people. "I enjoyed working with the guys, getting

up and going to the shop every morning," he said. "I always enjoyed going to work, Rolling Hills always treated me good."

Rathbun said he was a little nervous to retire at first, but now he is enjoying being able to do what he wants and when he wants to do it.

"I can stay up late, but I haven't been able to sleep in yet. I'm still up at 5 a.m.," Rathbun said.

He is looking forward to having more time with his wife and being able to travel and see his kids and grandkids.

When asked what's a fun fact about you that not everybody knows? He confided that his wife likes to dance and so she takes him along to different events.

"Enjoy life and Rolling Hills is a great outfit to work for. You treat them good, they will treat you good. I've had a great almost 30 years with Rolling Hills," he added.

You will sure be missed around here, Ron! On behalf of Rolling Hills Electric, we wish you a happy, healthy and fun-filled retirement! You deserve it!