



**ROLLING HILLS  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

**NEWS**

**Rolling Hills  
Electric Co-op, Inc.**

**Board of Trustees**

**Bob Fredrickson**, President  
Ellsworth – District 1

**Paul Wilson**, Vice-President  
Burr Oak – District 2

**Justin Trost**, Secretary  
Concordia – District 3

**John George**, Treasurer  
Lebanon – District 2

**Eric Andersen**, Trustee  
Jamestown – District 3

**Michelle Brokes**, Trustee  
Wilson – District 1

**Mike Brzon**, Trustee  
Courtland – District 3

**Corey Dlabal**, Trustee  
Wilson – District 1

**David Dubbert**, Trustee  
Beloit – District 2

**Tom Marr**, Trustee  
Formoso – District 2

**Staff**

**Douglas Jackson** General Manager

**Contact Us**

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Beloit, KS 67420  
785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572

**Like us on Facebook**

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



**Board Elections in Final Stages**

The election process is not only a privilege, but also a civic duty and a responsibility that we, as citizens of the United States of America, should take seriously.

As a consumer-member of Rolling Hills Electric, you also have this privilege and responsibility. Being a cooperative has its benefits, especially for its consumer-members, who have a voice in choosing who serves on the board. Trustees are elected representatives and act in the best interest of the cooperative’s consumer-members.

A trustee candidate submits a nominating petition that contains at least 20 signatures of current members of the cooperative who reside within the candidate’s district. The petition had to be filed at the Rolling Hills office in Beloit on or before November 30th, 2020. The nominating petitions were submitted to the secretary who determined that the candidates met the qualifications to be nominated and the petitions were valid.

The ballots are currently being final-

**Board of Trustees Nominees**

**District 1, Position 3**

**SARA GOSS**

Kanopolis

**ANTHONY HOPKINS**

Kanopolis

**District 2, Position 3**

**PAUL WILSON**

Burr Oak

**District 3, Position 3**

**JUSTIN TROST**

Concordia

ized and will be mailed on March 12, 2021. Upon receipt of the ballot, please mark your choice or write in a candidate, sign the back of the ballot envelope (certificate of membership), and return your ballot immediately. Ballots must be received in Beloit by April 9, 2021.

The names listed above will appear on your ballot. A complete biography along with a picture of each candidate will be included with the ballot. If you have any questions or need a replacement ballot, please call our office at 800-530-5572 or 785-534-1601.

**Annual Meeting:  
Save the Date!**

The Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting will be held on **FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021**. With the current pandemic situation, please look for more details in next month’s *Kansas Country Living* issue!

**April 2021**

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

# Rolling Hills Celebrates Three Retirees

It has been a month full of bittersweet retirements here at Rolling Hills Electric. Due to current pandemic concerns, most of us did not get to celebrate these retirements all together on their last days, however there are plans to hold celebrations once it is considered safe to do so.

## Linnea Beebe

### LINNEA BEEBE'S

last day at the Rolling Hills office in Beloit was Jan. 5 after almost 22 dedicated years.

She began her career with Smoky Hill Electric in

March 1999 as a receptionist/accounts receivable and RadioShack associate, and for the past 13 years has worked in the member services position.

The biggest changes she has encountered during her career were the consolidation in 2002 to become Rolling Hills Electric, the installation of turtle meters so consumer-members no longer needed to read their own meters, and the way technology has streamlined jobs and improved accuracy.

She offers advice to the younger generations beginning their careers. "You have joined a family atmosphere as an employee of Rolling Hills Electric. If you have a question, don't hesitate to ask. Everyone is willing to help one another. Be patient and respectful of others. Leave work at work and home at home."

She said her biggest accomplishments came from assisting consumer-members with an issue or concern, noting it's the little things that add up time and time again that made her feel the most accomplished.



Linnea Beebe

Her retirement plans include traveling once the threat of COVID-19 has settled down. Linnea and her husband are most looking forward to being able to take off at a moments notice and make fun day trips to spend time with family and friends.

What will Linnea miss the most? "Oh my gosh! I miss the co-workers and connection with the consumer-members already," she said. "It was hard to walk away."

Linnea, your positive spirit will be greatly missed, but we wish you the best in your retirement!

## Kyle McGreevy

### KYLE MCGREEVY

officially retired on Jan. 4 after 31 ½ dedicated years as a journeyman lineman. He began working for the cooperative in June 1989 as a lineman in the Ellsworth district. He said the biggest changes during his tenure include the use of technology, specifically computers and iPads.

Advice Kyle would pass down to the younger generation just beginning their careers is, "Show up to work every day and on time."

As for his retirement plans, he is taking it day by day and has big plans to finish restoring his classic car, a 1957 Chevy Bellaire.

What will Kyle miss the most about working at Rolling Hills? He said his co-workers.

Kyle, congratulations on your well deserved retirement, you've earned it!



Kyle McGreevy

## Vonda Wakefield

### VONDA

### WAKEFIELD'S

last day was Jan. 5 after 26 dedicated years with the cooperative.

She has held many different positions during her tenure, starting in December 1994 as a work order material clerk. Since that time, she has worked as a receptionist assisting with billing, payroll, accounting, FEMA projects, and in the operations department as well.

When asked about changes, Wakefield says there are many more rules and regulations that have been implemented since she began her career at Rolling Hills.

One of her biggest accomplishments at Rolling Hills was working on the numerous Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) projects, which she states was a huge, complicated job but she learned so much through it all.

She has eight grandchildren and is looking forward to getting to spend more time spoiling them and their families.

Vonda is also an avid crafter and is looking forward to having more time to dedicate to quilting, sewing, painting and other crafts during her free time. Spending more time at the lake and traveling (once it is safe) is also on her retirement "to-do" list.

She said she will miss the employees the most and added, "Rolling Hills is a wonderful company and I have been fortunate to have worked for them."

Vonda, thank you for your years of dedicated service to the team and we wish you the best in your retirement!



Vonda Wakefield

**On behalf of Rolling Hills Electric, we wish Kyle, Vonda and Linnea a happy, healthy and fun-filled retirement! You deserve it!**

# Operations Report

- ▶ Our operations team has been working on replacing the irrigation load control system this winter. They will continue to work on these until the load control season starts on June 1.
- ▶ Employee Update: **DOUG ERREBO**, who began his career in the Ellsworth area but was moved to Beloit when the new office was opened, will now be based out of the Ellsworth district again due to a recent retirement on the team.

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

**ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.**

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



## WAIT! Don't Eat That!

**Make sure food is safe to eat after an outage.**

If there is a power outage for more than an hour or two, the food in your refrigerator may not be safe to eat.

Unlike mold that visually warns you not to eat old bread or cheese, many foods do not scream 'Don't eat me, I'll make you sick.' They can look harmless, but bacteria growing in them can bring a slew of symptoms.

**During and after an outage, keep these food safety tips in mind:**

- ▶ Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to keep in the cold air.
- ▶ Time the outage. Foods in an unopened fridge up to 4 hours should be safe to eat.\*
- ▶ Know the numbers: A half-full freezer that is kept closed can keep foods frozen for 24 hours. A freezer that is full and kept closed can keep foods frozen for 48 hours.\*
- ▶ Never taste food to determine if it is safe to eat. When in doubt, throw it out.
- ▶ Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after 4 hours without power or a cold source like dry ice.
- ▶ Throw out any foods with unusual color, odor, or texture.

*\*According to the CDC*

**Remember, when in doubt, throw it out.**

## Staying Safe During an Outage

We work hard to provide the most reliable service possible.  
Rest assured, if the power is out, we are on it!

### STAY SAFE UNTIL POWER IS RESTORED.

- ▶ Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines, which could be live and deadly.
- ▶ If you come across a downed line, immediately call 911 to report it.
- ▶ Never enter a flooded room; the water could be energized.
- ▶ If you are standing in water, do not turn on/off power or flip a switch.

The length of time it takes to restore your power depends on several factors, including:



Extent of the storm's destruction



Severity of utility equipment damage



Number and extent of outages



Accessibility to damaged equipment.

#### PREPARE FOR A STORM BY GATHERING THESE ITEMS:

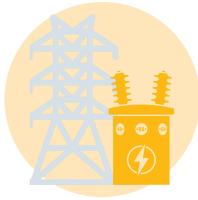
- ▶ Bottles of water
- ▶ Non-perishable food
- ▶ Portable phone charger
- ▶ Prescriptions
- ▶ Battery-powered radio
- ▶ Extra batteries
- ▶ Pet supplies
- ▶ Blankets and warm clothing
- ▶ First-aid kit
- ▶ Hand sanitizer

## ONCE THE POWER IS OUT HOW IS IT SAFELY RESTORED?

When conditions are favorable for a storm, severe weather can take down power lines or disrupt your electric service in several ways.

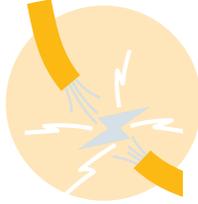
Please know that when the power goes out, we are doing all we can to safely and efficiently restore power.

Here are a couple of steps we take in the assessment and restoration process:



### STEP 1: ASSESS THE DAMAGE

We assess the damage to utility equipment and power lines across the service area.



### STEP 2: ADDRESS SAFETY RISKS

We address immediate safety risks, including downed power lines.



### STEP 3: RESTORE ESSENTIAL SERVICES

We ensure that public health and safety facilities are operational.



### STEP 4: PRIORITIZE REPAIRS

We repair (usually in this order): transmission towers and lines, substations, distribution lines, and service lines and properties.

Many cold-weather injuries result from falls on ice-covered sidewalks, steps, driveways and porches.

Walk cautiously and consciously. Be alert to your surroundings and be aware you could easily slip on an unseen patch of ice.



Brought to you by the electric cooperatives of Kansas.



Use ice melt or sand on your sidewalks and driveways. If you don't have any, try non-clumping cat litter.



Wear gloves, a hat and a bulky coat, which can cushion a fall. Wear footwear that can grip the ice or detachable ice cleats.



If you must walk on ice, slow down and shorten your stride. Keep your hands out of your pockets to help balance and use handrails wherever available.



When exiting your vehicle, use multiple points of contact. Grip your car's door frame and either your steering wheel or the grab handle on your car's frame.

**Take precautionary measures to keep yourself on your feet this winter.**

If you do fall, protect your head above all else. Remember to never stick your arms out to try to brace yourself. This can easily cause a broken wrist or arm.

Source: Good Samaritan Society