



## 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

**Larry Kendig**, Trustee  
Osborne – District 2

**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

#### 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.



### FROM THE MANAGER

## Rolling Hills Returns \$450,000 in Capital Credits to Members

If you have been a cooperative member for long enough, you’ve probably heard about the “Cooperative Difference.” Possibly you are not quite sure what that means?

One of the many differences a cooperative offers its members is the return of capital credits, which your board of trustees recently approved. Members who received service from Smoky Hill Electric, Jewell-Mitchell Electric or NCK Electric during 1988 and 1989 will receive a “patronage refund” credit on the electricity bill they receive in December. If no longer an active member, a check will be mailed to the last known address on file.

The cooperative pays back its margins — or the money left after bills are paid by retiring capital credits to members. Rolling Hills Electric is a not-for-profit utility owned by the members who receive or have received electricity from us. The cooperative relies on its members to cover the operating

costs on a day-to-day basis.

The third cooperative principle, Members’ Economic Participation, refers to the money Rolling Hills Electric needs to cover the operating costs which comes directly from the members paying their monthly electric bill.

“Patronage” is the money you pay for your bill each month. Each year, the board allocates the margins to your capital credits account based on your patronage.

The board then examines the cooperative’s financial position and determines whether to retire capital credits to its members. This year the board decided to retire the remaining margins from 1988 and 40% of the margins from 1989.

If you have had a change of address since leaving our service, please contact the office to update your information.



Doug Jackson



## RECYCLE YOUR ELECTRONICS



**Wait! Before you recycle or donate your unwanted electronics, consider these tips from the Environmental Protection Agency:**

- 1 Delete and destroy all personal information from the device.
- 2 Remove batteries for separate recycling.
- 3 Check with the manufacturer or with local major retailers for recycling options.
- 4 Consider upgrading your current computer's hardware or software instead.



Recycling 1 million laptops saves the energy equivalent to the electricity used by more than 3,657 U.S. homes in a year!

For every million cell phones we recycle, we can recover:

- ▶ 35,000 pounds of copper
- ▶ 772 pounds of silver
- ▶ 75 pounds of gold
- ▶ 33 pounds of palladium

## Board Elections in Final Stages

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

As a member of Rolling Hills Electric, you also have this privilege and responsibility. Being a cooperative has its benefits, especially for its 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.

The board asks members residing in their respective district to serve on the nominating committee. The nominating committee's responsibility is to find one or more candidates in each district to be voted on by the membership. It is usually difficult to find interested members who have the time and willingness to fill these roles. The nominating committees each meet and submit a name or names to be placed on the ballot.

The names submitted by the nominating committees then come before the board in October for approval, confirming each resides in Rolling Hills Electric's service territory. The ballots are then prepared and will be mailed Dec. 6, 2019.

Upon receipt of the ballot, please mark your choice or write in a candi-

### 2019 Board of Trustees Nominees

#### DISTRICT 1, POSITION 1

▶ **COREY DLBAL**, Wilson

#### DISTRICT 2, POSITION 1

▶ **DAVID DUBBERT**, Beloit

#### DISTRICT 2, POSITION 4

▶ **TOM MARR**, Formoso

#### DISTRICT 3, POSITION 1

▶ **C. ERIC ANDERSON**, Jamestown

date, sign the back of the ballot envelope (certificate of membership), and return your ballot immediately. Ballots must be postmarked or received in Beloit by Dec. 31, 2019.

Unsigned envelopes and late postmarks will be considered null and void. Please do not enclose your ballot in the payment envelope. Ballots will be counted in the Beloit office by a tally committee on Jan. 7, 2020. The elected trustees resume or assume office immediately.

The names above will appear on your ballot, plus any names of those candidates properly filed by petition. A complete biography along with a picture of each candidate will be included with the ballot.

### York Completes Merchant Job Training & Safety Program



Justin York

**JUSTIN P. YORK**, an employee with Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc., has successfully completed one of the world's most comprehensive training programs for power line personnel. The Merchant Job Training and Safety (MJTS) Program is administered to line personnel in 40 states throughout the United States.

Each utility has an acting training coordinator assisting their trainees by administering closed-book testing. The coordinators manage their people throughout the training process from rules set by the MJTS and the statewide association, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Congratulations to Justin P. York, who can look forward to a very rewarding, life-long occupation.

# Allayna Hanson Receives 2019 Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship

**ALLAYNA HANSON** of Concordia, a senior majoring in agricultural economics at Kansas State University, has been awarded the Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center and the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University. Allayna is active in Wheat State Agronomy Club, Collegiate Cattlemen's Club, Collegiate Cattlewomen's Club, Kansas Corn Growers and the Wheat State Agronomy Club. She was also selected to be part of the Kansas Corn Collegiate Academy.

Allayna has completed internships with Polansky Seed and MKC. She will graduate in May 2020 and plans to work with agricultural producers and farms. The Hanson family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: American AgCredit, CVA, Cloud County Co-op Elevator Association and Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative.

The Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship has awarded \$89,000 in scholarships since its establishment in 2005. Otis and Mary Lee Molz have been contributing to cooperative organizations, education



From left: Otis Molz, Allayna Hanson and Mary Lee Molz at the K-State Department of Agricultural Economics Awards Banquet, Oct. 4, 2019.

and development for many years and are respected leaders in the cooperative community.

"The scholarship was established to honor and perpetuate the memory of the contribution of Otis and Mary Lee Molz and to encourage an interest in the formation, operation, management, leadership and economics of and participation in all types of cooperatives, including agricultural, financial, electric, telephone, housing and consumer cooperatives," said Professor Brian Briggeman, director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. "It's also to

provide significant financial assistance to eligible students enrolled in educational programs emphasizing these areas of study."

To be eligible for the Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship, a student must be either a junior or senior in K-State's College of Agriculture at the time the scholarship is received and be affiliated as a member or as a child or dependent of a member of a Kansas agricultural marketing, supply or service cooperative that is a member of the Kansas Cooperative Council.

The Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship is funded by contributions to the KSU Foundation. Contributions have been made by Otis and Mary Lee Molz and their family and friends in the cooperative community. "Additional contributions by those who want to honor Otis and Mary Lee Molz and support the purposes of the scholarship are welcome," Dr. Briggeman said. They should be made payable to KSU Foundation/Molz and sent to the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, Kansas State University, Department of Agricultural Economics, 305 Waters Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506.

## Be Aware of Fake Calls: Don't Be Scammed!

If you receive a phone call from anyone threatening to disconnect your electricity if you do not pay them within a couple of hours, please do not give them any information. The callback number may appear to be a local number.

Instead, get a callback phone number, the caller's name, and where they are calling from. They may disconnect the phone call or be very rude. They do not like to be questioned.

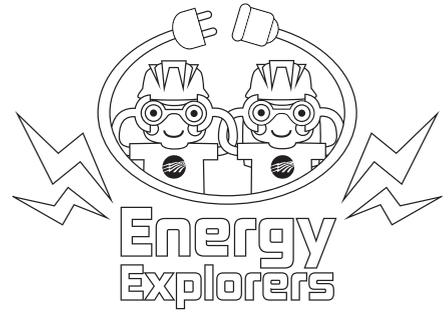
If Rolling Hills Electric does call you for any reason, the employee will identify himself or herself. If you are uncomfortable with the conversation, hang up and call us to verify if one of our employees did call.

## AMI Update

Installation of the AMI metering system continues. As of Monday, Nov. 11, installation of single-phase meters in District 2 on the Jewell, Mankato, Gilbert and Lovewell substations is complete. Installations are continuing in the Solomon substation area. In all, approximately 4,000 single-phase meters have been installed and are reporting in District 2 and District 3.

# Happy Holidays from Your Electric Co-op

Wishing you a merry and bright holiday season!  
Color in the picture below.



**Energy Tip** | Remember to decorate your tree with energy-saving LED holiday lights.