

**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

David Dubbert, Trustee
Beloit — District 2

John George, Trustee
Lebanon — 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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efficiency
tips and cooperative news.



Election Packet Coming Soon to Your Mailbox

In the next few weeks, you will receive a voting packet for the Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative trustee elections. The packet will contain the 2022 annual meeting booklet, trustee candidate information sheet for your district, and your ballot to cast your vote. Please be sure to follow the directions and return your marked ballot in envelopes supplied.

Ways to Return Your Ballot:

- ▶ **BY MAIL** Your ballot and member certification may be returned by mail to the cooperative office at 3075B U.S. Highway 24, PO Box 339, Beloit, KS 67420. Your ballot must be received before **10 A.M. ON APRIL 21, 2023, TO BE COUNTED.**
- ▶ **BY DELIVERY TO THE CO-OP OFFICE** You may drop off your ballot at the cooperative office at 3075B U.S. Highway 24, Beloit, KS 67420 on or before **6:30 P.M. ON APRIL 21, 2023.**
- ▶ **BY DELIVERY AT THE ANNUAL MEETING** before **6:30 P.M. ON APRIL 21, 2023.**

If you need a replacement ballot, contact Executive Services Manager, Adrion Reed, at 785-534-1601.

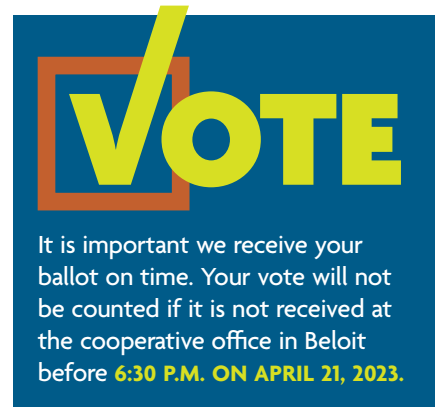
A Few Friendly Reminders When Returning Your Ballot:

- ▶ Please **DO NOT** send your utility bill payment with your ballot.
- ▶ Ensure the member certification is signed on the back of the ballot envelope for the vote to be counted.

Save the Date for Annual Meeting

The Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting will be held on **FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023.**

Look for more details in next month's *Kansas Country Living* issue!



Get to Know Your Board of Trustees Candidates

District 1, Position 1



COREY DLABAL

and his wife, Jennifer, live 6 miles southeast of Wilson. They have five children:

a daughter Abby, and four sons, Caleb, Chisholm, Quentin and Kyler. Corey was raised on the family farm near Wilson. He graduated from Wilson High School and Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and a minor in agronomy. After graduating from K-State, Dlabal returned to Wilson and has worked at the Wilson State Bank for 20 years as a loan officer and vice president. He also farms and helps his father and brother with the family farming and ranching operation.

The Dlabals are members of the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Wilson. They enjoy spending time with their kids and being involved with them in their school, sports and 4-H activities. Dlabal has served on the Rolling Hills Electric board for the past six years. He looks forward to learning more about Rolling Hills Electric in the future and serving on the board if reelected.

District 2, Position 1



DAVID DUBBERT

was born and raised in Tipton and currently lives on a farm west of Beloit. He graduated

from Tipton Catholic High School, Kansas State University and the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He's presently executive vice president at First Bank of Beloit and primarily focuses on the bank's agriculture and commercial lending. He's worked at the bank for 25 years. He also farms and raises wheat, sorghum and soybeans.

Dubbert and his wife, Jeri, have four children. Trey and his wife, Kennedy, live in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He teaches K-12 and coaches basketball at Lincoln Christian. Davis lives in Wichita and will marry Elise Kaiser in July. He works for Koch Industries in their minerals and trading operations. Kail is a senior at Kansas State University majoring in mechanical engineering. Lauryn is a sophomore at Newman University in Wichita. She is majoring in marketing and also plays on their basketball team.

Dubbert is proud to represent the members of Rolling Hills Electric.

District 2, Position 4



TOM MARR

is a lifetime resident of Jewell County. He graduated from Mankato High School in 1976 and

from Kansas State University in 1980 with a bachelor of science degree. He and his wife, Sherry, have one son, Tyler, who lives nearby with his wife, Shiann; both help on the farm when they can. The Marrs are the fourth generation to farm the land that has been in the Marr family since 1893. Marr has a dryland farming operation of corn, soybeans, wheat, cover crops and a cow-calf herd. In 2007, their farm was selected by the Jewell County Conservation District for the Banker's Award for soil conservation. One of his favorite hobbies is raising and training border collies for working livestock.

Marr is a member of the Kansas Farm Management Association and serves on the Jewell County Fair board, the Formoso Fire District board, and is a trustee for the Webber United Methodist Church. He is also a member and past director of the Jewell County Prescribed Burn Group (a group of area cattle producers who work together to safely burn pasture and CRP land). He has served on the boards of Jewell County Farm Bureau, the Republic County Rural Water District and the Jewell County Livestock Association.

Dependable and affordable electric service is important to Marr because his farm is in a remote location, like many other members. He is a fiscal conservative who wants to keep our co-op financially strong. He would appreciate your vote to work hard to represent the members of Rolling Hills Electric.

District 3, Position 1



C. ERIC ANDERSEN grew up in the Jamestown and Concordia areas attending Cloud County Junior College and graduating from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in psychology. After a few years as a social worker in the mental health field, he began farming and raising cattle along with operating his backgrounding feedlot. In 1987, he took a position with Waddell & Reed, a financial services company. He and his wife of 39 years, Mona, operated an investment office in Concordia until his retirement in 2015 when she passed away. They have two children:

Jaime, who teaches economics at Penn State, and Chad, a senior analytics and automation developer with MLC corporation in Nashville.

In 2019, he remarried. He and his wife, Trudy, reside on the farm west of Concordia. They stay very busy traveling to their condo in Branson as well as camping in their fifth wheel.

He enjoys doing projects around his rural Jamestown home as well as occasional visits to Tennessee and Pennsylvania. Andersen is a past member and president of the NCK Electric Board of Trustees, which became part of Rolling Hills in 2002. With over 25 years of service to electric cooperatives, he currently serves as the alternate delegate to the Board of Trustees for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., our statewide organization.

Be on the look out for your annual report and ballot in your mailbox in early April!

Becker Retires After 30 Years at Rolling Hills

SHIRLEY BECKER, the kind, always smiling, familiar face everyone has come to know and love, whether calling in or walking into our office, officially retired on Feb. 1, 2023, after 30 years of dedicated service to our cooperative.

Shirley is a lifelong resident of Mankato. She attended Cloud County Community College where she earned her general office degree. She began her career as a clerk at the Jewell County Treasurer's office in Mankato. In 1993, she decided to apply with Jewell-Mitchell Electric Cooperative, which became Rolling Hills Electric in 2002. She has held various positions throughout her career, mainly membership and receptionist roles.

The biggest changes she experienced during her tenure was the consolidation of the three cooperatives in 2002 and technological advances from doing everything on paper to now on a



Shirley Becker always ready to greet members with a smile.

computer. She has enjoyed living and working in a small town, the biggest reason being how people come together to help no matter the circumstance and you get to know members on a personal level.

Shirley says her biggest reason for retirement is to be able to do things while she is healthy. She is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren (Knox, Mason and Remi), reading and doing what she loves the most — quilting! She has plenty of quilting projects to keep her busy and is also part of a quilting group where they attend quilting retreats and trips all over the United States. She says her quilting friends inspire her and when they

Top left: Manager Doug Jackson (left) presents Shirley Becker with her certificate for 30 years of service.

Lower left: Shirley Becker with her retirement cake.

Below: Shirley Becker's family was on hand to help her celebrate. From left: Her mom, Betty; son, Danny; and partner, Jack.



Shirley Becker bids all employees farewell after lunch.

gather, they share ideas and have a great time together.

Shirley's specialty has always been customer service. She believes in smiling while talking to members on the phone because they can "hear" it on their end.

"In my position, you must be able to talk to people over the phone and in person," said Shirley. "I got to know a lot of people both ways — and I enjoyed that. I will miss my co-workers and members that I got to know."

Shirley is known for going above and beyond serving our members, including watching for and meeting members out in the parking lot who may have troubles getting out of their vehicle or walking to the door. Her advice to someone just beginning their career is to make it as enjoyable as possible by getting to know your customers, for example.

All employees were present on Shirley's last day to help her celebrate with lunch of her choice and cake. Employees sent her off with some memorable stories and well wishes.

"I will miss a lot of the people and a big thank you to the members that have reached out and wished me a happy retirement," she said.

Shirley's contributions to our cooperative will always be valued. She will be remembered for her hard work, commitment and dedication.

Wishing you all the best, Shirley, and for a happy and healthy retirement! We will sure miss you around here!



LIEAP Application Period Ends March 31

The 2023 LIEAP application period **ENDS MARCH 31, 2023, AT 5 P.M.**

For more information and/or to apply online, visit www.dcf.ks.gov, select the SERVICES tab at the top, then scroll down and click on ENERGY ASSISTANCE (LIEAP). For assistance in completing an application, please contact the LIEAP office at 800-432-0043.

Cold Weather Accommodation Ends March 31

Spring is just around the corner and with it, warmer weather. As a friendly reminder, the Cold Weather Accommodation for residential members ends March 31. For more information about Rolling Hills' cold weather accommodation policy, please call 785-534-1601.

Accepting Bids for Mowing Substations

Rolling Hills Electric is accepting sealed mowing bids for four areas. The frequency of mowing each substation is dependent on the weather to keep the areas well maintained.

To Submit a Bid, Please Provide the Following:

- ▶ Total cost to mow all substations listed in that area.
- ▶ Proof of \$3 million liability insurance.
- ▶ Current W9 form.

Sealed bids will be accepted through **MARCH 31, 2023**, and can be mailed or delivered to the dropbox at:

**ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC
C/O CATIE MELLIES
3075B US 24 HWY, P.O. BOX 339
BELOIT, KS 67420**

For more information, please contact Catie Mellies at 785-534-1601.

Ellsworth Area	Beloit Area
Bunker Hill	Beloit <small>*including office outer field area</small>
Ellsworth	Esbon
Glendale	Gilbert
Holyrood	Hunter
Kanopolis	Ionia
Lucas	Jewell
Vesper	Lovewell
Wilson - City	Mankato
Wilson - Rural	Mankato Radio Tower Station
Belleville Area	Osborne Area
Ames	Alton
Aurora	Bellaire
Clifton	Cedar
Cuba	Covert
Jamestown	Osborne
Republic	
Rice	
Scandia	

RHEC Welcomes New Faces, Announces Changes

New Faces

THOMAS BIERY was hired as a second-year apprentice lineman for the Beloit district. He also served as an intern over this past summer, so we are excited to bring him back as a full-time employee. Thomas grew up in the Clyde area and attended Manhattan Technical College to complete lineman school and earned an associate's degree in Electric Power and Distribution. He enjoys calling coyotes, bass fishing and golfing in his spare time.

MIKE CALLAWAY was hired as a journeyman lineman for the Beloit district and comes to us from Twin Valley PPD. Mike grew up in Almena and completed lineman school at Manhattan Area Technical College. He has two kids, Oaklyn, 5, and Kora, 3, and enjoys fishing and working on cars in his spare time.

EVAN KEATING was hired as a second-year apprentice lineman for the Ellsworth outpost. After having

him as an intern over this past summer, we are excited to bring him back as a full-time employee. Evan grew up in the Minneapolis area and attended Manhattan Technical College to complete the lineman school program. He enjoys hunting, fishing, the outdoors and golfing in his spare time.

Employee Changes

ADAM BADGER, journeyman lineman in the Beloit area, has taken on a temporary role as an operations assistant in the Beloit office to help with staking.

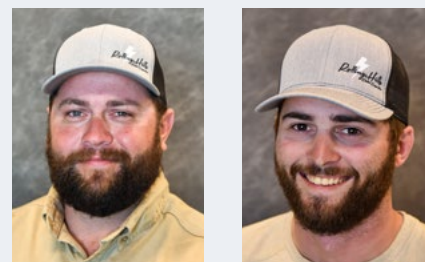
CLAY PICKEL, journeyman lineman at the Osborne outpost, accepted a position for an exciting career change at an agricultural aerial spraying company.



Thomas Biery

Mike Callaway

Evan Keating



Adam Badger

Clay Pickel

We are very appreciative of all Clay has done for the cooperative and wish him the best in his new endeavor — he will be greatly missed!