

Rolling Hills Electric Co-op, Inc.

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Lebanon — District 2

Sarah Goss, Trustee
Kanopolis — District 1

Tom Marr, Trustee
Formoso — District 2

Staff

Jason Rabe, CEO/General Manager

Contact Us

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Trustee Election Process

It is already that time of year to begin the trustee election process. Please read through the qualifications and process for nomination of trustees for election outlined in the article below. **NOTE: THIS PROCESS WAS REVISED IN THE BYLAWS IN 2020.**

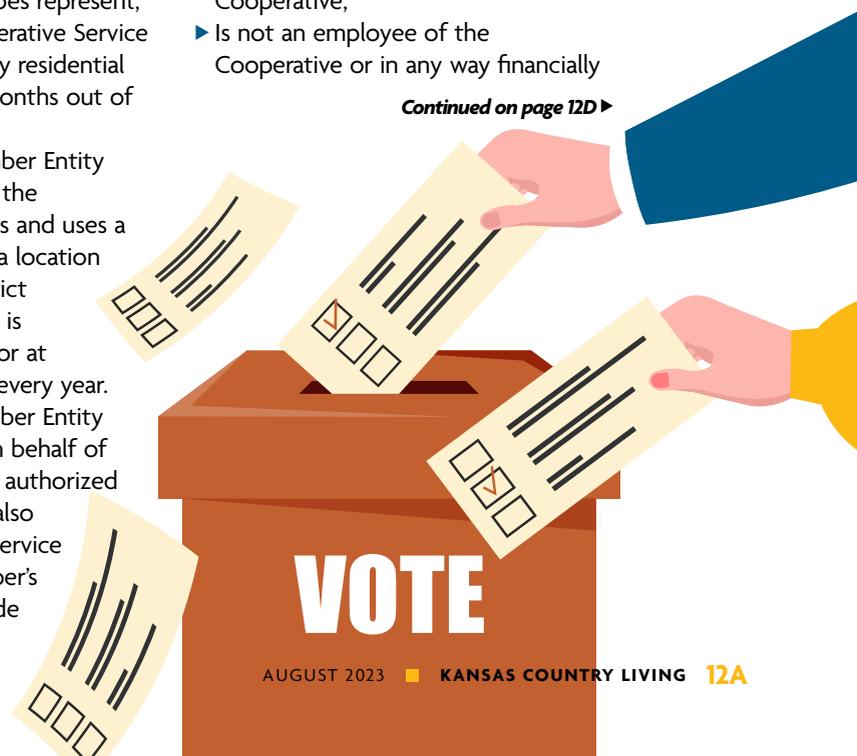
SECTION 5.2. QUALIFICATIONS TO BE NOMINATED, ELECTED AND REMAIN A TRUSTEE. Any natural person will be eligible to be nominated, elected and remain a Trustee of the Cooperative who:

- ▶ 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

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CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF

Doug Jackson

GENERAL MANAGER

DOUG JACKSON, respected and devoted general manager of Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, retired officially June 30, 2023, after 36 years of dedicated service to Rolling Hills Electric.

Jackson is a lifelong resident of Republic County. He attended Cloud County Community College before attending Kansas State University where he earned his bachelor's degree in business. After college, Jackson and his wife, Dawn, made Belleville their home. Jackson began his career in the electric industry in 1981 at a local power plant, which later allowed him the opportunity to move into the city office of Belleville. While working for the City of Belleville, Jackson became proficient in billing and computers; these skills provided him with the expertise to jump-start his career.

NCK Electric hired Jackson as their office manager in 1987. In late 1991, the NCK Electric Board of Trustees conducted a national search for a new general manager. Jackson seized the opportunity and applied for the position. Trustees narrowed the candidates down to their top three and decided Jackson would be the best fit for the position. With his hire, Jackson became one of the youngest rural electric cooperative managers in the nation. His career with RHEC has truly been remarkable.

The Jacksons raised their four daughters, Jenna, Jillea, Jacie and Jayden, within the cooperative family. The girls were fortunate to attend cooperative-related activities over the years including a lobbying trip to Washington, D.C. In high school, they had the honor of singing during statewide cooperative meetings.

When asked about changes and challenges he experienced during his tenure, Jackson recalled the consolidation of Smoky Hill Electric, Jewell-Mitchell Electric and NCK Electric in 2002, which formed Rolling Hills Electric.

Adopting new technologies also proved to be a challenge, but one that created significant efficiencies. Computers and tablets replaced much of the work that was previously done by paper and pencil. Members went from reading their meters and sending in their usage to having their meters read digitally.

One of the most recent notable changes was the centralization of the office in 2016. The new facility boosted employee morale by bringing employees together in an environment that allowed them to foster mutual respect and strengthen teamwork among themselves.

Jackson is looking forward to retirement allowing he and Dawn more travel time with their four daughters and eight grandchildren. While at home, Jackson will probably be found creating woodworking projects or tinkering with antique vehicles. He is excited for life to slow down and looks forward to something as simple as being able to enjoy a thunderstorm or snowstorm.

Jackson received the following advice from his father that he wished to pass on, "Whatever job you do, do it to the best of your ability. That is the key to success."

In closing this chapter, Jackson said it's been a blessing to be part of RHEC with past and current employees as well as members. His contributions to our cooperative will always be valued.

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



approx.
1993



Doug Jackson poses with his cake during his retirement party on June 30.





Manager Doug Jackson (back row, far left) with the board of trustees.



Doug Jackson with his wife, Dawn, their four daughters and grandson at his retirement party.



2015 From left: CFC's Mike Lewis, RHEC Board President Gary Frieling and Doug Jackson at the Beloit facility groundbreaking.



Embracing retirement!



Incoming Manager Jason Rabe (left) presents Doug Jackson with a meter lamp during his retirement party.



2015 Doug Jackson (right), with Kansas Electric Co-ops, Inc. Director of LCS&C Larry Detwiler, displays a safety award.



1999 Doug Jackson (left) at the Touchstone Energy-sponsored Belleville Midget Nationals.



Doug Jackson entering his retirement party.



Doug Jackson greets former Board Secretary Kevin Cromwell during his party.



Doug Jackson looking forward to retirement.



SPEECH!



Doug Jackson (center) poses with board members and staff at his final board meeting as general manager.

Trustee Election Process *Continued from page 12A* ▶

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

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 2026 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION TWO** – the District One, Position Two, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

- ▶ **POSITION THREE** – the District One, Position Three, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

District Two Shall Have Four Trustees

- ▶ **POSITION ONE** – the District Two, Position One, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2026 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION TWO** – the District Two, Position Two, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2025 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION THREE** – the District Two, Position Three, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2024 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION FOUR** – the District Two, Position Four, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

District Three Shall Have Three Trustees

- ▶ **POSITION ONE** – the District Three, Position One, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2026 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION TWO** – the District Three, Position Two, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2025 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ **POSITION THREE** – the District Three, Position Three, Trustee position will be up for election at the 2024 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

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Trustee Election Process *Continued from page 12D* ▶

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 determining 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 of 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 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.

SAFETY TIP

If you have electrical fencing, make sure everything is tight, secure and free from frays. A loose fence means wires can fall out of insulators.



SOURCE: SAFE ELECTRICITY

A photograph of a man in a white shirt and blue jeans, seen from the back, wearing a red hard hat. He is standing outdoors with trees in the background. Overlaid on the image is text for Labor Day.

Happy
LABOR DAY

Our office will be closed Monday, September 4th in observance of the holiday. To report an outage or emergency, call 785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572

ROLLING HILLS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative Sends Local Student to Tour Nation's Capital



Thad Donley poses in front of the White House during the 2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

THAD DONLEY was among 27 Kansas student delegates to attend the 2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., held June 15-22. Donley, a junior homeschooled in rural Kanopolis, was selected to represent Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative at this exclusive opportunity to experience the country's history and government firsthand.

While exploring Washington, D.C., students learned more about America's electric cooperatives and developed valuable leadership skills. Thad was chosen to join 1,531 students from 44 states after a competitive application process that

evaluated the leadership ability, community involvement, and academic accomplishment of each candidate. Winners were selected based upon application data, a written essay, and scores on an open-book electric cooperative exam, as well as an in-person interview process.

The 2023 Youth Tour began in Topeka with a get-acquainted dinner for the students, followed by a night tour of the Kansas State Capitol led by

State Treasurer Steven Johnson and Kansas Representative Kyle Hoffman, both alumni of the Kansas electric cooperative youth programs. Before departing for Washington, D.C., students visited with linemen at FreeState Electric Cooperative where they learned about the co-op's commitment to safety, linemen safety gear, and had the opportunity to ride in a bucket truck.

The seven-day trip to D.C. included a tour of the U.S. Capitol, the White House, the Smithsonian museums, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Arlington National Cemetery and Mount Vernon. The students helped raise the garrison flag at Fort McHenry, and they sang "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" alongside Screech the mascot of the Washington Nationals during the 7th inning stretch of a Major League Baseball game. Students experienced an elevator ride to the top of the Washington Monument, a dinner cruise on the Potomac, and a driving simulation at the Law Enforcement Museum. They also enjoyed a performance of *The Enigmatist* at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, a visit to the National Aquarium, and an interactive language experience at the Planet Word Museum.

Kansas delegates joined youth from other states to attend a day of inspirational programming at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) National Youth Day on June 17. Paralympic Gold Medalist Mike Schlappi addressed the students and motivated them for success as future



One of the first stops on the tour was the Kansas State Capitol.



FreeState Electric Cooperative in Topeka taught delegates about electric cooperatives.



The 2023 delegation included 27 students from Kansas and four from Hawaii.



Delegates pose in front of the Washington Monument.

leaders. Other speakers included Mat Kilgore, a lineman from Iowa Lakes Electric Co-op, who shared stories from his time in Guatemala with NRECA International, and Rukaya Alrubaye, the NRECA Youth Leadership Council spokesperson, sponsored by Ozarks Electric in Arkansas, who encouraged the students to dream big.

The Kansas student delegates witnessed government in action by engaging with United States Senators Jerry Moran and Roger Marshall. The Kansas legislators answered questions from the students ranging in topics from the farm bill, crop insurance, labor shortages, the impact of a flat tax, and how students can succeed in future internships.

For Donley, attending the youth tour as a representative of his cooperative was an inspirational experience, saying, “The thing that had the most impact on me was the changing of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. It showed how these men and women lay down their lives so we can have ultimate freedom. They do this knowingly. They may never come back home.

“I will always remember this trip because it was an amazing opportunity to learn so much about our nation’s capital,” he said. “I also will remember all the people and connections I was able to make. Not only from Kansas; I was able to meet some great people from all over the nation.”



Thad Donley (fourth from right) with a group during a tour of the White House.

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Delegates pose outside of Washington Nationals stadium before taking in a baseball game.



Students raise the flag at Fort McHenry.



The 8-Man All-Star Football Team was invited to a safety demonstration hosted by RHEC while in Beloit the beginning of June. These kids come from across the state of Kansas.

TOP LEFT: Marc Martin, operations manager, demonstrates the breaker switch.

TOP RIGHT: Safety Coordinator Scott Splichal cuts open a hot dog to show the internal damage caused by high voltage.

BOTTOM: All-Star players from across the state watch the demonstration.

RHEC in the *Community*



The Mitchell County Emergency Response Team participated in a safety demonstration hosted by RHEC. As the Mitchell County Emergency Manager David Dohe says, preparedness through education is less costly than learning through tragedy.

TOP LEFT: Learning in class before the shop demonstration.

TOP RIGHT: Local first responders prepare for the high voltage demonstration.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Rolling Hills Electric proudly works with local sheriff department and EMS.

