

Rolling Hills Electric Co-op, Inc.

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2022 Annual Meeting Summary



Nearly 167 people attended the 2022 Rolling Hills Electric Annual Meeting.

We want to thank all of our members who attended the 20th Annual Meeting of Rolling Hills Electric, held April 22, 2022, in Beloit. The evening kicked off by members and guests “blowing in” with the very high sustained winds and an above normal temperature. Attendees were greeted by Rolling Hills employees who took care of registration and provided each member with a prize ticket and member gift, a logoed umbrella. Approximately 167 people were in attendance, 97 of which were registered members. A delicious meal was provided and served by The Front Porch Event Center and Bakery (Shelly

Roach and family) out of Alton. Brisket, Parmesan chicken breast, vegetables, salads, rolls and a variety of cakes were served.

Business Meeting

The event started off with the first half of the prize drawings and the business meeting was convened by Board President Michelle Brokes. Board Secretary Justin Trost was then called upon to give the report of quorum and official notice of meeting. Brokes then gave the president’s report and recognized current as well as some past board

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— HAPPY —

4TH OF JULY

★ ★ ★

Our office will be closed on
Monday, July 4, for the holiday.

2022 Annual Meeting Summary Continued from page 12A ▶

members who were in attendance for their service to the cooperative. Cooperative accountant Angie Behymer was called upon to review the cooperative's financial report.

General Manager Doug Jackson then gave a report on the status and activities of the cooperative. He noted that while the cooperative has nearly twice

as much line to maintain as the average Kansas cooperative, with only a limited number of customers per mile, the cooperative's electric rates have remained reasonable. Jackson also stated that the cooperative had sustained approximately \$750,000 in damage to its distribution system from the Dec. 15, 2021, catastrophic windstorm, which was declared a disaster; FEMA funds will be available to cover a portion of those costs. An additional \$220,000 in damages due to a winter storm in March has yet to be declared a disaster by FEMA.



Linemen Adam Badger, Tyson Knox and Casey Smith perform a safety demonstration for the members.

operatives with electricity, thus serving nearly 200,000 Kansans.

Jackson then introduced Lee Tafanelli, CEO of Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC). He spoke of how KEC provides services to its member cooperatives that they could not otherwise afford or effectively provide on their own. He noted four major areas of service that member cooperatives receive, being: (1) board member education; (2) legislative and lobbying services; (3) employee training of many types, especially safety training; and (4) publication of *Kansas Country Living* to keep members of their respective cooperatives informed.

Jackson, Lane and Tafanelli fielded questions from the audience for a brief question and answer session. There were some great questions from our membership.

Industry Speakers

Jackson next introduced Suzanne Lane, executive vice president and CEO of Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), Rolling Hills Electric's power supplier, to speak about the electric utility industry. Lane reported that KEPCo is well situated in its role as an electric supplier and has net zero carbon emissions due to the varied energy sources it has access to including solar, nuclear, hydro and coal. It was noted that KEPCo supplies 16 rural electric co-

Annual Meeting Prize	Winner(s)
GRAND PRIZE: Blackstone Grill	Anthony Kennedy
\$100 Bill Credit	Kenneth Novak Leon Boden Gregory Jordan Elmer Hoffman Mahlon McDill
\$50 Bill Credit (courtesy of KEPCo)	Jim Garretson
\$50 Bill Credit (courtesy of KSI Engineering)	Patty Roadhouse
100 ft Garden Hose	Lois Lund
DeWALT Extension Cord	Phyllis Dolezal
Ecobee Smart Thermostat (courtesy of Border States)	Jeff Thompson
YOUTH PRIZE Fishing Pole & Water Balloons	Keynan Flinn
YOUTH PRIZE Summer Fun Bucket	Travis Peters
Milwaukee Blower (courtesy of Border States)	Wendell Debey
Ring Doorbell (courtesy of KEPCo)	Connie Long
Shop Broom	Jeffrey Meyer
Shop Vac	Janice Lund
Step Ladder	Randy Sprague
Weather Station	Brad Kalivoda
Boston Fern Basket	Edith Hulett Stephen Zachary
Hanging Flower Basket	Doug Pair Neal Herndon Max Flinn



Annual meeting prize winners Keynan Flinn (left photo) and Anthony Kennedy (right photo).

Safety Presentation

Operations Manager Marc Martin then presented a highly informative presentation to those in attendance. The first part overviewed and explained retired sticking equipment that was set up in the front area and explained how linemen operations and safety measures have drastically changed over the years. He explained the sticking methods where linemen climbed poles and used 8-foot wood-handled sticks to grasp energized line, often not wearing rubber gloves. Linemen who did not wear rubber gloves could tell when the sticks were wearing out by the electrical current leakage they felt. Martin noted that many operations and safety improvements have been made such as the use of bucket trucks, mandated use of rubber gloves and fire retardant (FR) clothing, and comprehensive safety training; these improvements have greatly reduced work-related injuries and created a safer work environment for employees. He noted that a three-man crew with a bucket and digger truck can now do three times as much work in a day as a six-man crew of 50 years ago could do.

Martin then explained the Cooperative Response Center (CRC) and how it works to provide after-hours outage reporting contact with the cooperative. He demonstrated how the response center coordinates with the cooperative's new AMI metering system in reporting, locating and responding more rapidly to member outages.

An electrical safety presentation was performed by Martin with the assistance of three linemen, demonstrating the risk of coming in contact with a power line and the options to safely exit from that dangerous situation.

Board Elections and Closing

Brokes then announced the voting results re-electing **MICHELLE BROKES**, District 1; **JOHN GEORGE**, District 2; and **MIKE BRZON**, District 3. The remaining prizes were drawn and President Brokes thanked members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

We want to thank our special guests and members who attended and look forward to seeing you next year!



All smiles for young members receiving some fun goodies.

BOARD ELECTION RESULTS



Michelle Brokes
District 1



John George
District 2



Mike Brzon
District 3



Operations Manager Marc Martin with grandson, Gage.



Board President Michelle Brokes welcomes the membership.



Shelly Roach with The Front Porch serves one of her delicious cakes.

Marr & Trost Receive Director Certifications

Rolling Hills Electric Trustees **TOM MARR** and **JUSTIN TROST** recently received director certifications. Marr received the Credentialed Cooperative Director Program certification and Trost received the Board Leadership Program certification.

Director certificate programs are specifically designed to help electric cooperative directors, at every stage of their service, understand their roles and responsibilities, stay up-to-date on the key issues and trends in the industry and prepare them to meet current and future challenges facing electric cooperatives.

Board members receive their education courses throughout the year in conjunction with a variety of conferences and events hosted by Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., the statewide association, and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Help us congratulate both board members on this achievement and their continued service to Rolling Hills Electric.



Rolling Hills Electric Trustee Tom Marr (right) with his Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate and Justin Trost holding his Board Leadership Program certificate.

Tractor Safety Course at Beloit



Marc Martin speaks to students taking the Tractor Safety Training course on the importance of “look up, look out.”

Electricity is one of the most overlooked, yet deadliest hazards of working on a farm. It is crucial to follow safe work practices at all times to prevent tragic accidents.

Rolling Hills Electric was asked to present to individuals taking the 2022 Tractor Safety Course that was held at Carrico Implement in Beloit on April 9. Marc Martin, operations manager, performed an electrical safety demonstration for the participants of the course. This information was especially relevant for this group and a great visual of the hazards of electricity in case they ever find themselves involved with a power line out in the field.

This event was a collaboration between K-State Research and Extension Districts of Central Kansas, Cottonwood, Midway, Post Rock and River

Valley. The program provides trainees with knowledge of tractor, machinery, and other farm hazards to reduce farm accidents. It also provides sufficient information to pass a written examination and an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to pass a safe tractor driving examination. Federal law requires youth to participate in hazardous occupations training and become certified in order to work for hire for anyone other than their parents.

Farmers contribute so much to our everyday lives, and we care about their safety. We thank farmers for all they do and just like us, we want them to go home safely at the end of each day.

If your group would be interested in a free electrical safety demonstration, contact Catie Mellies, member services, at 785-534-1601.

Summer Line Crew Hours

Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative's line crew began working summer hours, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., on May 31 and will continue through Sept. 6. Each year during this period, the line department switches to summer hours in an effort to complete most of the day's work before the major heat of the day arrives. The office will retain normal business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you have questions or need to report an outage, please call 785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572.