

**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

## Like us on Facebook

For outage updates, energy 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 22, 2022, TO BE COUNTED.**
- ▶ **BY HAND DELIVERY** You may drop off your ballot at the cooperative office at 3075B U.S. Highway 24, Beloit, KS 67420 before **6:30 P.M. ON APRIL 22, 2022.**
- ▶ **BY DELIVERY AT THE ANNUAL MEETING** before **6:30 P.M. ON APRIL 22, 2022.**

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 bill payment with your ballot.
- ▶ Ensure the member certification is signed on the back of the ballot envelope for the vote to be counted.



It is important we receive your ballot on time. Your vote will not be counted if it is not received at the cooperative office in Beloit before **6:30 P.M. ON APRIL 22, 2022.**

## Annual Meeting: Save the Date!

The Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting will be held on **FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022.** Keep an eye out for more details in next month's *Kansas Country Living* issue.

April 2022						
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	<b>22</b>	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## Cold Weather Accommodation Ends March 31



### The Cold Weather Accommodation for residential members 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 Electric's cold weather accommodation policy, please call our office at 785-534-1601.

## Trooper Ben Hosts Active Shooter Training

"It can happen anywhere ... it's not up to you," said Trooper Ben, Kansas Highway Patrol Troop C.

Rolling Hills Electric had the honor of having **KANSAS STATE TROOPER BEN GARDNER** join us for a safety meeting in January to present active shooter training for all of our employees. Trooper Ben presented the Kansas Active Shooter Mitigation (KASM) training material that was created by law enforcement after the Aurora, Colorado, theater shooting. It is training that we all pray we will never have to use, but as Trooper Ben said — it's not up to us.

Rolling Hills Electric sends a big **THANK YOU** to Trooper Ben for his time and his dedication to protect and serve this great state that we get to call home. Also, we would like to thank our first responders — answering the call in time of peril, the ones heading toward the danger when everyone else is heading out. Your service is admirable today and always. Thank you.



**Trooper Ben Gardner presents the KASM training to Rolling Hills Electric staff**

## Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance Struggling to pay rent or utilities due to COVID-19?

The Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance (KERA) Program may be able to help. The KERA program provides rental, utility, and internet assistance to households experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. If the application is approved, the landlord and/or service provider receives funds directly from KERA and applies the KERA funds to the applicant's account(s). Approved applicants are eligible for up to 15 months of assistance. For more information, please visit their website at [www.kshousingcorp.org](http://www.kshousingcorp.org). You may qualify for this program if you meet all of the following criteria:

- ▶ You rent your home, or are currently homeless.
- ▶ Your 2020 income did not exceed 80% of your area's median income.
- ▶ At least one member of your household is experiencing documented financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hardship may include reduction in household income, loss of employment, or significant COVID-related expenses (medical bills, personal protective equipment, child care costs, equipment or internet costs to enable online work/schooling, etc.).
- ▶ At least one member of your household is uncertain where they will stay or may become homeless without housing assistance.
- ▶ Tenant can provide valid proof of identification.

### What Does Assistance Cover?

- ▶ Up to 15 months of current and past due household rent.
- ▶ Up to three months of prospective rent at a time, even if the household does not have rental arrears.
- ▶ Past due residential utility, home energy (electric, gas, water, sewer and trash services) and internet expenses.

**NOTE:** All expenses must have been billed or charged April 1, 2020, or later.

**Learn more and apply**  
[online.kshousingcorp.org/  
emergency-rental-assistance.](http://online.kshousingcorp.org/emergency-rental-assistance)

# Get to Know Your Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees Candidates

## District 1, Position 2



**MICHELLE  
BROKES  
WILSON**

Michelle graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in family

studies and human services. She worked eight and a half years as Ellsworth County's extension agent.

She and her husband, Allan, reside south of Wilson where they run a cow/calf operation as well as raise wheat, milo, sorghum silage and alfalfa. Her family consists of sons, Cade, 14; Lane, 12; Bo, 8; and Brock, 2. The boys are active in 4-H while Michelle serves on the Ellsworth County Fair Association, Midway District 4-H PDC and St. Wenceslaus parish council.

Michelle has enjoyed serving on the Rolling Hills board of trustees and has learned a great deal in the past three years. She looks forward to continuing to learn the system and serve the membership.

## District 2, Position 2



**JOHN  
GEORGE  
LEBANON**

John is the Vice President and Trust Investment Officer for First National

Bank and Trust, Phillipsburg, including Smith County Bank, Smith Center, and Solomon Valley Bank, Beloit. He is a graduate of Kansas State University with a degree in agricultural economics and 41 years banking, investment and trust experience.

John and his wife, Sherrita, live 3 miles west of Lebanon near his family farm. They have two grown children and three grandsons. John has been a Rolling Hills member since 1998 and his family farm has been served by the cooperative for more than 60 years.

John and Sherrita are members of the Smith Center United Methodist Church where he serves as church treasurer and on the administrative council. John is a member of the Srader Foundation for Smith County. He is a past member of Smith County Memorial Hospital Board and Smith County Fair Board, and served as treasurer for both organizations. His hobbies include attending K-State basketball games.

John completed and earned his National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Credential Cooperative Director certificate in his first year on the board in 2016. Since then, he has completed the Board Leadership Program and the Directors Gold program. John represents Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative serving as a trustee on the Kansas Electric Cooperatives (KEC) board. John is committed to the betterment of Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative for the members and the future of the cooperative.

## District 3, Position 2



**MIKE  
BRZON  
COURTLAND**

Mike and his wife, Linda, operate a family farm in Republic County near the

Courtland, Scandia and Republic areas. Irrigation is a large part of their farming operation including irrigated corn and soybeans.

Working with family members has always been very important to Mike. Watching and helping family and friends excel is always a great reward. Over the years, he has been involved with numerous associations and advisory boards. In the mid-70s, he became involved in state water issues and regulation in the Republican River Basin in Kansas and Nebraska, trying to protect and sustain the resources of the region.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month



When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest. A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can greatly impact the efficiency of your system.

Look for  
your annual  
report, which  
includes your  
voting ballot,  
co-op news and  
annual meeting  
information the  
first part of April.

## Accepting Bids for Mowing Substations

Rolling Hills Electric is accepting sealed mowing bids for four areas. To submit a bid, please provide the total cost to mow all substations listed in that area.

### Applicants Will Need to Provide:

- ▶ Proof of \$3 million liability insurance
- ▶ Current W9 form

Sealed bids will be accepted through March 25, 2022. The frequency of mowing each substation is dependent on the weather to keep the areas maintained. For more information, please contact Catie Mellies at 785-534-1601. Sealed bids may be mailed or delivered to the drop box at:

### ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC

c/o Catie Mellies  
3075B US 24 Hwy, P.O. Box 339  
Beloit, KS 67420

Belleville Area	Beloit Area
Ames	Beloit <small>*Including office outer field area</small>
Aurora	Gilbert
Clifton	Hunter
Cuba	Ionia
Jamestown	Jewell
Republic	Lovewell
Rice	Mankato
Scandia	Mankato Radio Tower
	Solomon

Ellsworth Area	
Bunker Hill	Lucas
Ellsworth	Vesper
Glendale	Wilson – City
Holyrood	Wilson – Rural
Kanopolis	

Osborne Area	
Alton	Covert
Bellaire	Osborne
Cedar	

## Operations Update

Crews will be working north of Russell so some members in that area may experience brief outages in the upcoming month.

Crews will also be working at the Kanopolis substation so some members in that area may experience brief outages in the upcoming month.



## LIEAP Application Deadline is March 31

Rolling Hills Electric receives requests for assistance with member electricity bills throughout the year. The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded program that helps eligible households pay a portion of their home energy costs by providing a one-time per year benefit.

To qualify, applicants must meet the following requirements:

An adult living at the address must be personally responsible for paying the heating costs incurred at the current residence, payable either to the landlord or the fuel vendor.

- ▶ Applicants must demonstrate a recent history of payments toward purchases of the primary heating energy.

The combined gross income (before deductions) of all persons living at the address may not exceed 150% of the federal poverty level.

The benefit levels vary according to the following factors:

- ▶ Household income.
- ▶ Number of persons living at the address.
- ▶ Type of dwelling.
- ▶ Type of heating fuel.

For more information and/or to apply online, go to [www.dcf.ks.gov](http://www.dcf.ks.gov), select the “SERVICES” tab at the top, then scroll down to click on **ENERGY ASSISTANCE (LIEAP)**. Applications must be received at the designated DCF office **PRIOR TO 5 P.M., MARCH 31, 2022**. Late applications will not be considered for assistance. The state will contact Rolling Hills Electric to verify payments are being made on the account and the account is active in the applicant’s name. LIEAP payments will be sent directly to Rolling Hills Electric and applied to the member’s account. For more information or assistance in completing the application, please contact Catie at 785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

### 2022 Income Eligibility Guidelines

Persons Living at the Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$1,610
2	\$2,178
3	\$2,745
4	\$3,313
5	\$3,880
6	\$4,448
7	\$5,015
8	\$5,583
9	\$6,150
10	\$6,718
11	\$7,285
12	\$7,853
13	\$ 8,420
14	\$8,988
+1	\$568 for each additional person