

# 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

**Jason Rabe,**  
CEO/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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For outage updates,  
energy efficiency tips and  
cooperative news.

## Upcoming Board Elections

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

As a consumer-member of Rolling Hills Electric, you also have this privilege and responsibility. You have a voice in choosing who serves on the board. Trustees are elected representatives and act in the best interest of you, the cooperative's consumer-members.

A trustee candidate submits a nominating petition that contains at least 20 signatures of current members of the cooperative who reside within the candidate's district. The petition had

### 2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOMINEES

**DISTRICT 1**  
**SARAH GOSS**  
Kanopolis

**DISTRICT 2**  
**PAUL WILSON**  
Burr Oak

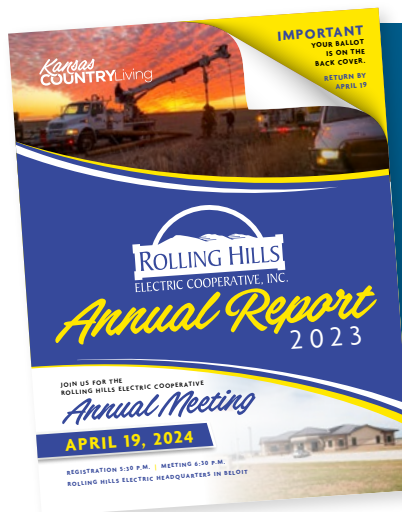
**DISTRICT 3**  
**JUSTIN TROST**  
Concordia

DISTRICT 2 NOMINEE WAYNE FROST HAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE ELECTION.

to be filed at the Rolling Hills office in Beloit on or before Nov. 30. Nominating petitions are submitted to the secretary who determines that candidates meet the qualifications to be nominated and the petitions were valid.

This year, your 2023 annual report and board of trustees ballots will be included in *Kansas Country Living* magazine. The magazine will be mailed

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

# ANNUAL MEETING IS APRIL 19

**5:30 P.M.** Registration and Meal

**6:30 P.M.** Meeting

Look for your ballot on the April issue of *Kansas Country Living* magazine.

# RHEC IS PROUD TO HONOR THE RETIREMENTS OF *Craig Clark & Jerry Roesti*



Craig Clark (right), journeyman lineman, poses with his wife, Nancy, during his retirement party celebrating his 38 years at the co-op.



After 23 years with the cooperative, Jerry Roesti, line foreman, celebrates his retirement with his wife, Bobette.

**RIGHT:** Jerry Roesti enjoys a laugh with his Rolling Hills co-workers during the retirement party. Pictured from left are Marc Martin, Scott Splichal, Roesti and Kenneth Castor.

In January, Rolling Hills Electric employees and guests honored the combined 63 years of service of Craig Clark and Jerri Roesti during a joint retirement celebration.

**CRAIG CLARK**, journeyman lineman, hung up his hard hat one last time on Jan. 3, 2024. Craig came to Jewell-Mitchell Electric Cooperative when he was farming with his dad in August 1985. At that time, the cooperative requirement stated you had to begin on the tree clearing crew and work your way up, which is exactly what Craig did in the three years he was on the line crew. Craig is no stranger to the area since he was raised on a farm north of Formoso, graduated from Mankato High School and then attended Kansas State University.

Craig said that the trucks and equipment have been a huge improvement from when he had joined the cooperative. He notes that he has met a lot of good people over the years, and he will miss them.

He now looks forward to having time to travel to spend with his kids and grandkids, as well as golfing, fishing and enjoying friends at the local coffee

shop. Craig's wife, Nancy, will have projects for him to complete in his spare time too.

"Get to work on time and pay attention to what you are doing," Craig said is his best advice.

Craig says he will miss helping the members when they are having troubles.

Rolling Hills thanks Craig for his 38 years of dedicated service and wants him to know he will be greatly missed!

**JERRY ROESTI**, construction foreman, walked into Rolling Hills once more as employee on Jan. 3, 2024, and left a retiree. As a farmer and rancher, Jerry was no stranger to hard work prior to joining Jewell-Mitchell Electric Cooperative in 2000. He grew up in Burr Oak and attended Manhattan Vocational College.

Jerry began his career in July 2000 as a lineman. While at RHEC Jerry's proudest accomplishment was becoming a journeyman and then later

a construction foreman. He said the biggest challenges during his career were the consolidation of co-ops and technology advances.

Jerry says RHEC is an excellent opportunity for someone looking for longevity with a family-oriented company.

Jerry and wife, Bobette, will now enjoy spending more time with their two children, Tyler and Tami, and their seven grandchildren.

Jerry looks forward to ranching and being able to dedicate seven days a week versus two days to tend to livestock and haying.

Jerry will miss his co-workers and we will miss his cheerful attitude and warm grin. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your 23 years of dedicated service and wish you a happy retirement!



Craig Clark (above left) and Jerry Roesti (below left) are presented with certificates honoring their service to Rolling Hills Electric by General Manager Jason Rabe.



## UPCOMING BOARD ELECTIONS

*Continued from page 12A* ▶

on March 25. Be sure to look for your ballot when you receive April's edition of *Kansas Country Living*. Upon receipt of the ballot, please mark your choice or write in a candidate, sign the back of the ballot envelope (certificate of membership), and return your ballot immediately. **BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED IN BELOIT BY 6:45 P.M. ON APRIL 19, 2024.**

The nominees listed on Page 12A will appear on your ballot. A complete biography along with a picture of each candidate will be included with the ballot. If you have any questions or need a replacement ballot, please call our office at 800-530-5572 or 785-534-1601.

## TRIMMING BRANCHES after a storm?

Put Safety First to Avoid Injuries

Each year, thousands are treated for injuries caused by chainsaws.

Always look up and look out for overhead power lines before starting any outdoor project, and do not trim trees **WITHIN 20 FEET** of an overhead power line or pole.

### WHEN USING A CHAINSAW, follow these safety guidelines:

- ▶ Make sure all safety functions on the saw are in place and work properly.
- ▶ Keep the chain clean, sharp and lubricated with the correct oil.
- ▶ Keep the cutting area clear.
- ▶ Work with a partner.
- ▶ Avoid overhead hazards, such as utility lines or dead, hanging limbs that may fall.
- ▶ Be careful of inclines and uneven ground.
- ▶ Stand to the side of what you are cutting.
- ▶ Keep the saw as close to you as possible for better control.
- ▶ Keep both hands on the saw handles.
- ▶ Cut at full throttle (i.e., bring the saw up to speed before cutting).
- ▶ Let the saw come to a complete stop before reaching for the chain or bar.
- ▶ Turn off the saw or activate the chain brake when carrying the saw.
- ▶ Wear close-fitting clothing.
- ▶ Let the saw cool before refueling.

Read and follow all directions provided by the saw manufacturer. Keep equipment well-maintained and in proper working order. Familiarize yourself with new tools or machinery before starting a project.

### SAFETY FIRST.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG



## 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, PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- ▶ Total cost to mow all substations listed in that area.
- ▶ Ability to provide proof of \$3 million in liability insurance at start of mowing season.
- ▶ Current W-9 form.



Sealed bids will be accepted through **MARCH 31, 2024**. Complete and submit your bid online at <https://rollinghills.coop/form/substation-mowing-bid>. You can also print and return the

form by mail or deliver to the dropbox at:

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

For more information, call 785-534-1601 or email [lcolson@rollinghills.coop](mailto:lcolson@rollinghills.coop).

Ellsworth Area	Beloit Area
Bunker Hill	Esbon
Ellsworth	Gilbert
Glendale	Hunter
Holyrood	Ionia
Kanopolis	Jewell
Lucas	Lovewell
Vesper	Mankato
Wilson — City	Mankato Radio Tower
Wilson — Rural	Solomon Rapids
Belleville Area	Osborne Area
Ames	Alton
Aurora	Bellaire
Clifton	Cedar
Cuba	Covert
Jamestown	Osborne
Republic	
Rice	
Scandia	

## Need Assistance Paying Your Bill? Apply for LIEAP by March 29

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.

**THE 2024 LIEAP APPLICATION PERIOD IS FROM DEC. 18, 2023, THROUGH MARCH 29, 2024, BY 5 P.M.** 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.

2024 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES			
Persons Living at Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income	Persons Living at Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$1,823	7	\$5,678
2	\$2,465	8	\$6,320
3	\$3,108	9	\$6,963
4	\$3,750	10	\$7,605
5	\$4,393	11	\$8,248
6	\$5,035	12	\$8,890
+1	\$643 for each additional person		

For more information and to apply, visit **WWW.DCF.KS.GOV**, select the **SERVICES** tab at the top, then scroll down and click on **ENERGY ASSISTANCE (LIEAP)**. Applications must be received at the DCF office prior to 5 p.m., March 29, 2024. Late arrivals 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 come directly to Rolling Hills Electric and be applied directly to the account. For more information or assistance in completing the 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.