

**ROLLING HILLS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

Rolling Hills Electric Co-op, Inc.

Board of Trustees

Bob Fredrickson, President
Ellsworth – District 1

Paul Wilson, Vice-President
Burr Oak – District 2

Justin Trost, Secretary
Concordia – District 3

John George, Treasurer
Lebanon – District 2

Eric Andersen, Trustee
Jamestown – District 3

Michelle Brokes, Trustee
Wilson – District 1

Mike Brzon, Trustee
Courtland – District 3

Corey Dlabal, Trustee
Wilson – District 1

David Dubbert, Trustee
Beloit – District 2

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

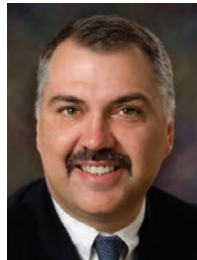
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FROM THE MANAGER

Attendance Limited for Annual Meeting



Doug Jackson

Co-op principle number seven: “Concern for Community” – this principle has been one of the top priorities for the Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees and staff in trying to plan and schedule the annual meeting for this year. With the health and safety of our members and staff our No. 1 priority, the decision was made to limit attendees for the 2021 annual meeting due to the current COVID-19 pandemic situation. We believe this is the best decision at this point in time to continue doing our part to stop the spread of the virus, and keep both our members and employees safe.

The annual meeting will be held Friday, April 9 at 10 a.m. at the Beloit office with only the Rolling Hills Board of Trustees, Attorney John Sherman, General Manager Doug Jackson and appropriate staff in attendance. Members can participate in the business of their co-op by dropping off their ballots that morning before 10:15 a.m.

According to the bylaws, a quorum can be achieved by adding members voting in the trustee election. The trustee members attending would

consider all action required at the annual meeting, such as:

- ▶ Determination of the existence of a quorum.
- ▶ Determination of proof of the timely delivery of the notice of the meeting as required by the bylaws, or receipt of waivers of the notice of meeting.
- ▶ Review and approve minutes of previous meeting of the members, as applicable or appropriate.
- ▶ Complete and report on trustee elections at the annual meeting as required by the bylaws.
- ▶ Present for considerations reports from the president and treasurer, and such other reports and presentations as the board deems appropriate.
- ▶ New business items noticed for the member meeting, or items otherwise properly brought before the member meeting for discussion, if any.
- ▶ Unfinished business, if any.
- ▶ Members questions or comments.

Members will receive notice of the meeting with special instruction and all the reports and information as provided in the past.

We are just as saddened as you are to not be able to host our members for our usual gathering and fellowship as we have in year’s past. The highlight of our year is getting to see each and every one of you, our members, to enjoy great

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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' cold weather accommodation policy, please visit our website. If your service is disconnected for non-pay, please review Rolling Hills' rules and regulations on our website at www.rollinghills.coop.

Election Packet Coming Soon to Your Mailbox

In the next couple of weeks, you will receive a voting packet for the Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative trustee elections. The packet will contain the 2021 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 9, 2021 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 **10 A.M. ON APRIL 9, 2021.**
- ▶ **BY DELIVERY AT THE ANNUAL MEETING** before **10:15 A.M. ON APRIL 9, 2021.**

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 **10 A.M. ON APRIL 9, 2021.**

REMEMBER ELECTRICAL SAFETY

As you prepare for planting season don't forget to plan for safety. There are many aspects to safety on the farm, but electrical safety is often overlooked. Keep these safety tips in mind as you prepare for planting.



TRAIN OTHERS: Train anyone working on your farm, including family members and seasonal workers, on electrical hazards.



USE A SPOTTER: When working near power lines, always have a spotter on the ground who can direct you away from power lines or poles if you are getting too close.



SAFETY FIRST: Have daily meetings to review the day's work and discuss safety implications. Know and review where the power lines are, the clearance required, and the proper position of extensions as they are transported.



DO NOT EXIT YOUR CAB: If your machine or truck makes contact with a power line, pole or guy wire, you could become electricity's path to ground and become electrocuted if you step out of the cab.



WAIT TO UNFOLD: Remind workers to fold or unfold extensions well into the field, not close to the field's edge where power lines are typically located.



CALL 911: Call 911 to have your electric utility dispatched to deenergize the power source. Only exit the cab if your equipment is on fire. If that happens, make a solid jump out and hop away with feet together as far as you can.

Get to Know Your Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees Candidates



District 1, Position 3

SARAH GOSS, KANOPOLIS

Growing up in the hills of northeast Kansas, Sarah Goss could barely see the prairie over the fields of corn and soybeans. Her family encouraged her to go west to Kansas State University, where she earned a degree in agricultural economics. Now, planted firmly in the middle of Kansas, or 6 miles northeast

of Kanopolis, Sarah is living a modern-day prairie adventure.

Sarah and her husband, Brent, have put down roots in rural Ellsworth County, spending the past eight years restoring an old farm and raising alfalfa and Simmental cattle. Sarah began her career in economic development and is currently the coordinator for Ellsworth County Farm Bureau and the co-founder of Roots & Legacies Consulting, Inc. Brent works for Corteva Agriscience.

Sarah and Brent enjoy working on the farm, coaching and following their children's sports teams and helping them show livestock through 4-H, and leading the Teen Faith Group at St. Bernard's Catholic Church.

Sarah and Brent have four children: Noah, 15; Tucker, 13; Nell, 11; and Britta, 8.



District 2, Position 3

PAUL WILSON, BURR OAK

I am seeking reelection to my position on the Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative board, District 2. My grandfather, Otto H. Wilson, was born in 1881 in a dugout near Northbranch, and in 1916 purchased the farm where my wife, Luann, and I currently reside. My father helped wire Grandfather Otto's house when REA (electric cooperatives) first came in. Both

my parents and my family live in the same area and have no plans to move.

The decisions the Rolling Hills Board of Trustees make today and in the future affect our lives, as well as all other members. I take this responsibility very seriously and have earned my Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD), Board Leadership Credential (BLC) and Director Gold Credential (DGC). I have served on the Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) Board of Directors as an alternate delegate since February 2017.

I graduated from Kansas State University in 1978 with degrees in accounting and agricultural economics. I worked for the 12th largest CPA firm in the U.S. at its Wichita office for 2 1/2 years and earned my CPA designation. In February 1981, I moved back to Jewell County to help with the family farm and started my accounting business, which now has three full-time employees. Luann (formerly Luann Ferguson of Kensington) and I were married in 1983 and we have raised a son and daughter on the family farm, which consists of 875 acres farmland and 1,155 acres grassland. Luann is the owner of the Hidden Treasures Quilt Shop.



District 1, Position 3

ANTHONY HOPKINS, KANOPOLIS

Anthony and his wife, Kimbree, have been Rolling Hills members since 2013. Kimbree is from Ellsworth County while Anthony grew up in Lindsborg. Together they have three daughters, Ellie Jo, Claire and Maggie.

Anthony has been the State Farm agent for Ellsworth and Lincoln counties since 2017. Before that, he worked as a regional sales manager for Cashco in Ellsworth. He also has served as mayor of Kanopolis since 2018. Kimbree is a registered nurse at Ellsworth County Medical Clinic.

Anthony enjoys giving his time to the Ellsworth Golf Course Advisory Board, Ellsworth First Presbyterian Church Finance Committee, and he recently finished a six-year term as vice president of the Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce. He was also selected for the Leadership Kansas program in 2020. He enjoys spending time with his three daughters, watching live music with Kimbree, working on classic cars, golf and watching KU athletics.

Anthony believes his current and previous leadership positions can help Rolling Hills move forward into the future.



District 3, Position 3

JUSTIN TROST, CONCORDIA

I returned home to farm northeast of Concordia after graduating from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in animal science. I farmed and ranched extensively for 20 years. I still maintain a small cow herd.

I currently serve as secretary for the board of trustees of Rolling Hills Electric.

Serving on the board has been interesting and educational, learning from trustees with years of knowledge. I have a better understanding of the responsibilities of the board, management, employees and operation of the cooperative.

In addition to the above, I was a director on the Peoples Exchange Bank Board for three years and active on the Republic County Farm Bureau Board. In my spare time, I am busy caring for my family and attending many school and community activities.

I look forward to your vote of confidence to continue as a trustee for Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.

LIEAP Applications Due March 31

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.

Applications for the 2021 year must be received by the Department for Children and Families (DCF) Service Center prior to 5 p.m. on March 31, 2021. The following summary describes basic LIEAP eligibility provisions. If you need assistance, call 800-432-0043 or visit www.dcf.ks.gov.

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 purchase of the primary heating energy.
- ▶ The combined gross income (before deductions) of all persons living at the address may not exceed 130% of the federal poverty level according to the guidelines listed in the chart to the right.

To apply for assistance, print an application or apply online at www.dcf.ks.gov/services/eas/Pages/EnergyAssistance.

Applications can also be obtained from your local DCF office, your local health department, Rolling Hills' website or from our office here in Beloit. Contact Catie Mellies, member services, at 785-534-1601 with any questions or assistance or to have an application sent directly to you.

2021 Income Eligibility Guidelines	
Persons Living at the Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$1,383
2	\$1,868
3	\$2,353
4	\$2,839
5	\$3,324
6	\$3,809
7	\$4,295
8	\$4,780
9	\$5,265
10	\$5,751
11	\$6,236
12	\$6,721
+1	\$486 for each additional person

Attendance Limited for Annual Meeting

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food and an evening together all under one roof — which these days sadly seems like a thing of the past.

However, we are hopeful that if the pandemic conditions improve over the coming months and large gatherings are deemed safe, Rolling Hills will host an informational meeting and dinner for our members at a later date, before Oct. 1, 2021. In this case the annual meeting would be recessed, and the following agenda items will conclude the agenda:

- ▶ Continuation of members questions and comments
- ▶ Adjournment

If a meeting and meal for members is not possible prior to Oct. 1, the meeting will be adjourned and we will hope 2022 allows us to have a “normal” year, whatever “normal” may look like in the future. Until then, we will hold out hope that we will see you all again soon!

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 subs in the area you are bidding.

Applicants Will Need to Provide:

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

Bids are being accepted through March 12, 2021. The frequency of mowing each substation is dependent on the weather to keep the areas maintained. For more information, please contact Marc Martin 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	Osborne Area
Ames	Beloit	Alton
Aurora	Esbon	Bellaire
Clifton	Gilbert	Cedar
Concordia	Hunter	Covert
Cuba	Ionia	Osborne
Jamestown	Jewell	
Republic	Lovewell	
Rice	Mankato	
Scandia	Mankato Radio Tower	
	Solomon	
Ellsworth Area		*Bid This Location Separately:
Bunker Hill	Lucas	
Ellsworth	Vesper	Ellsworth Pole Yard and Office
Glendale	Wilson – City	
Holyrood	Wilson – Rural	
Kanopolis		