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FreeState Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

FREESTATE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

The Outlet

FREESTATE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Larry Butel
Overbrook

Bill Conley
Delia

Karol Lohman
Leavenworth

Don Montgomery
Burlingame

Jeanine Murphy
Leavenworth

Rob Sage
Maple Hill

Matthew Turecek
Valley Falls

Mark Wulfkuhle
Lawrence

STAFF
Christopher Parr
CEO

OFFICE

1100 S.W. Auburn Road
Topeka, KS 66615
Monday-Thursday
7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

NOTICE

As our GIS Audit continues, you may see people walking or riding ATVs along the right-of-way or easement areas to take pictures of our infrastructure.

FROM THE CEO

Moving FreeState Forward

A Year of Progress and Possibility



Chris Parr

As 2026 comes to a close, I'm proud to reflect on a year of progress, partnerships and impactful investments in the future of FreeState Electric Cooperative. This year was about more than change. It was about preparing your cooperative to serve you well into the future.

One of our biggest milestones was completing the consolidation of our administrative operations at our newly renovated Topeka headquarters. Bringing our employees and resources together has created a safer, more secure, and efficient workplace while positioning us to better serve our members.

We also announced an exciting partnership with Western United Electric Supply to build a new warehouse just north of our operations facility on Auburn Road. FreeState will own the building, creating a long-term asset for the cooperative, while Western United will operate from the facility through a commercial lease.

This partnership is especially exciting because it brings a cooperative-based electric supply distributor to Kansas, supporting FreeState and other utilities across the state. Having materials closer to home means quicker access to critical supplies during storms, outages and construction projects. It's another way we're investing in readiness.

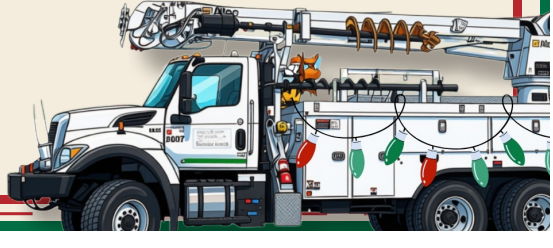
While these are two of our more visible accomplishments, plenty

> "Change isn't always easy, but our employees have embraced it while staying focused on serving our members."

Continued on page 12C ▶

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our office will be closed on
Wednesday, Dec. 23,
Thursday, Dec. 24,
and Thursday, Dec. 31,
to celebrate the holidays.



Phillips Announces Retirement from Board

After four decades of dedicated service to the cooperative community, **RALPH PHILLIPS** retired from the FreeState Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees effective Nov. 1, 2026.

Phillips began his board service with Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative (LJEC). Following the consolidation that created FreeState Electric Cooperative in 2017, he continued his leadership as a FreeState trustee, helping guide the cooperative through a period of significant change, growth and opportunity.

His contributions extend well beyond FreeState's service territory. Phillips was an active leader within the Kansas electric cooperative community, serving at the statewide level through the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Board of Trustees and representing the interests of rural electric cooperative members across Kansas.

"Ralph's 40 years of service represent an extraordinary commitment to our members, our cooperative and the cooperative community across Kansas," said Jeanine Murphy, FreeState Board President. "We are grateful for the time, experience, and leadership he has given to both the legacy LJEC organization and FreeState. We wish Ralph and his family all the best."

Phillips' retirement will create a vacancy on the FreeState Board of Trustees. Murphy said the board will carefully consider the appropriate next steps.

"The board will evaluate how best to fill the vacant position, and we will communicate that information to our members once a decision has been made," Murphy said.

FreeState extends its sincere appreciation to Phillips for four decades of leadership and service. His commitment to LJEC, FreeState, and Kansas electric cooperatives has made a lasting contribution to the cooperative and the members and communities it serves. We wish him well in retirement!







Ralph Phillips (center) at his last board meeting in October with CEO Chris Parr (left) and Board President Jeanine Murphy (right).



Ralph Phillips listens to a presentation during a Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. meeting.



Ralph Phillips accepts a FreeState safety award from retired Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Safety Instructor Stacey Marston.

Moving FreeState Forward *Continued from page 12A* ▶

of important work happens behind the scenes. From supporting local organizations and engaging with young people to promoting electrical safety, our commitment to the communities we serve remains strong.

What I'm most proud of, though, is our people. Change isn't always easy, but our employees have embraced it while staying focused on serving our members.

As we look toward 2027, our priorities remain the same: continued investment in readiness, strengthening reliability and being good stewards of your cooperative's resources. We can't predict every challenge ahead, but we can prepare for them.

RALLYING CO-OP Spirit!



Vice President of Communications Sarah Farlee (left) and Key Accounts and Energy Services Manager Matt Lambert (right) announced the winner of the $100 bill credit at the McLouth volleyball games.

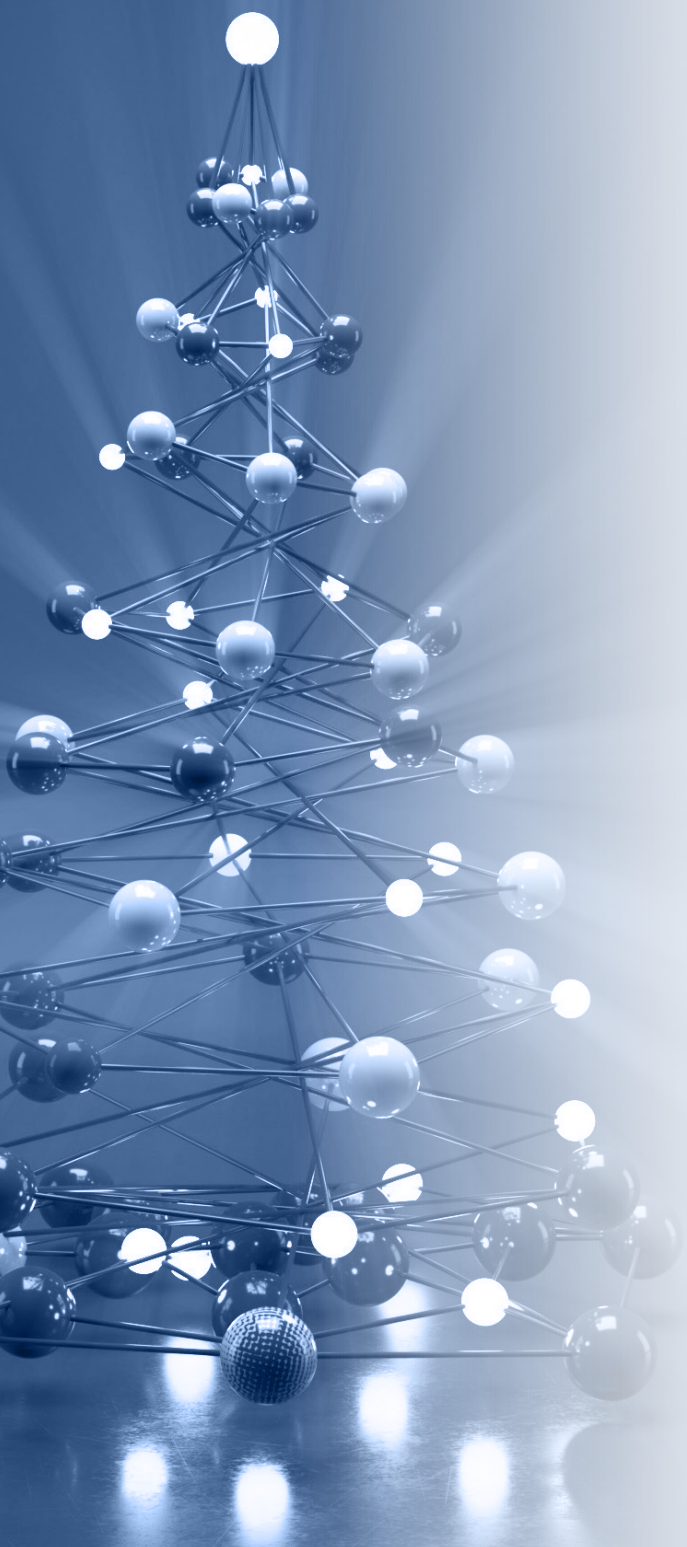
THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

Our schools are often the hub of the communities we serve. We were excited about the opportunity to spend extra time throughout our territory and sponsor the Rallying Co-op Spirit events for cooperative month this year.

We wanted to share our appreciation to every person who stopped by our table to visit or pick up a rally towel. The chance to experience a live event alongside our members was truly special.

Members were also eligible to enter a drawing for a $100 bill credit at each event. Those unable to attend sent their entry cards to the Topeka office to be entered into a final drawing at the end of October. Congratulations to our winners!

- **SEPT. 29:** McLouth Volleyball vs. Troy, Mauer Hill — **PAUL AND KATHY G.** of McLouth
- **OCT. 12:** Tonganoxie Soccer vs. Paola — **EDGAR AND YEZENIA L.** of Tonganoxie
- **OCT. 13:** Silver Lake Volleyball vs. St. Mary's, Royal Valley — **DONALD AND LORI K.** of Mayetta
- **OCT. 20:** Washburn Rural Soccer vs. Topeka High — **CRAIG AND JENNA C.** of Topeka
- **OCT. 23:** Mission Valley Football vs. Wabaunsee — **DANIEL AND ARIN Z.** of Burlingame
- **NOV. 2:** Second Chance Drawing — **BECKY B.** of Leavenworth



Happy Holidays

From our co-op family to yours, we wish you a merry holiday season and prosperous new year!

Aaron McMullen
Adam Hernandez
Aidan McKinsey
Amanda Tarwater
Andrew Moore
Ashley Karl
Beth Miller
Blake Blassingame
Bobby Riedel
Brad Heideman
Brent Edgecomb
Britton Anderson
Brodie Wright
Brooks Vaughn
Bryce Best
Chase Mills
Chris Parr
Christina Mitchell
Cody Carlein
Connor McManus
Corey Ealy
Danny Mehrhoff
Darcy Winingham
David Gechter
Dean Lasher
Deborah Anderson
Derek Frazier
Derrick Brown
Dustin Crotinger
Eli Atkins
Elle Cloyd
Gary Willits
Grant Walker
Greg Kramer
Henry Cloyd
Jacob Pineau
Jake Kelly
Jake McCowan
Jeremy Cameron
Jill Taggart
Jim Holwick
Jordann Moody
Justin Seele
Keyan Crawford
Kim Howbert
Kyle Bonham
Kyle Fritz
Kyle Hallgren
Kyle Hammer
Kyle Sharp
Lane Burris
Loren Goss
Lori Kloepper
Mark Raines
Mark Smith
Matt Gemmel
Matt Lambert
Michael Kay
Michelle Meyer
Nic New
Nick Price
Nolan Lewis
Paul Brugh
Paul Herring
Rob Ecklund
Ryan Coates
Sarah Farlee
Scott Shepherd
Scott Wright
Shad Schafer
Shauna Snyder
Tannar Hinson
Tanner Bristol
Tate Dwyer
Traci DePriest
Tyler Meyer
Tyler Owens
Wes Holthaus
Wyatt Garber
Zach Sterling
Zane Peak