

Press Release on 2018 Legislative Spouses Tour

As the 2018 Kansas legislative session came to a close, members of the Legislative Spouses organization took their final tour in Maple Hill and Wamego. This organization meets twice weekly to hear from speakers, tour together, and raise funds for charities through the sale of state seal pins.

The tour began with lunch in Maple Hill at Nextgen's Chophouse. The group next traveled to Wamego where Caterpillar provided an extensive tour of the plant and operations thanks to Tour Coordinator, Allison Karnowski, Material Requirement Planning Supervisor; Operations Manager and Tour Guide, Bryant VanMeeteren; Section Manager, South Weld, and Tour Driver/Guide, Thad Havenstein; and the Wamego Women's Initiative Network Leadership Team members, Kellie O'Shea, Megan Reichel, Laci Lindeman, and Julia Slane. Operations Manager Bryant VanMeeteren included in his talk and walk through of the plant and grounds discussion of all the benefits of working for Caterpillar and the need they have for more plant employees.

The Old Dutch Mill in the Wamego City Park is also a place the group requested seeing. This century-old mill has become a familiar Kansas landmark. Thanks to Mike Dendurent, Tour Guide for the Wamego Historical Society, they enjoyed seeing the inner workings of this historical mill. It is a tribute to Wamego forefathers for moving the mill, stone by stone, to its final location in the park and setting it upon a hill of soil excavated for the construction of the beautiful whale shaped pond.

A trip back to Wabaunsee County for homemade pie at the Highlands concluded the tour. For the last five years Linda Highland, wife of Representative Ron Highland, has led tours of many sites to promote the region, and coordinated this tour.