

# Rural Power

## KEC prepares for annual meeting, legislative reception

Representatives of rural electric co-ops from across the state will gather at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka from January 24-27 to share experiences and discuss the tough choices facing cooperatives as they work to keep electricity safe, reliable and affordable. This meeting is the 73rd annual meeting convened by Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC).

The agenda features Barry Flinchbaugh, former K-State Ag Economics Professor and noted professional speaker; Board policy issues and concerns with Bob Patton, NRECA; Jasper Schneider, RUS Acting Administrator; Kansas Association of Community Foundation by Bob Muirhead, Midwest Energy; a luncheon presentation by storm chaser and professional photographer Stephen Locke; a review of hydro customer group issues by panelists Bill Drummond of Midwest Electric Consumers Assoc., and Nicki Fuller of Southwestern Power Resources Assoc.; and a trustee roundtable discussion. In addition, Phil Irwin from Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange and Seth Hart from CoBank are part of the speaker line-up.

### Legislative Reception

The Legislative Reception will be held from 5:30-8 p.m. on Jan. 26, and is hosted by Federated and the Kansas electric cooperatives.

### KCRE and Silent Auction

The Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) will host its annual silent auction on Jan. 26 and its annual meeting on Jan. 27. For more information or to donate items, please contact Carol Dorr, KEC.

A special KEC Auxiliary silent auction item is a hand-made quilt donated by Carolyn McNickle, wife of Twin Valley director Ronald McNickle. This year's KEC Auxiliary two raffle prizes are child rocking chairs donated by David Mueller, former trustee of DS&O.

### Directors' Training

Three NRECA trustee courses will be offered prior to the meeting. Terry Holzer will facilitate the new Board Leadership Course 957.1 *How to Evaluate and Improve Board Per-*

*formance* starting at 9 a.m. on Jan. 24. Bob Patton will offer the CCD Course 2600 *Director Duties and Liabilities* starting at 9 a.m. on Jan. 24, and he will facilitate the new Board Leadership Course 958.1 *Succession Planning: Developing the Purpose-Driven Organization* starting at 9 a.m. on Jan. 25.

### Expo

Also available on Jan. 26 is the 10th Annual KEC Expo. Breaks and door prizes will be given in Heritage Hall. Also, a photo area will be available on Monday from 10 a.m. - noon for anyone who would like a new photo in the annual KEC Directory.

### "Catch" Breakfast on Tuesday

On Jan. 27, breakfast will once again feature "Short Stack", a skilled pancake flipper from Chris Cakes of Wichita. Come get your hot cakes between 7 - 8:15 a.m.

### Auxiliary

The KEC Auxiliary will meet on Jan. 26 at 9 a.m. The agenda includes a presentation Barn Quilt Art by Connie Larson, and a "Teatime to Tailgates" discussion about 150 years at the K-State table by Jane Marshall. That afternoon, the Auxiliary will tour the newly-renovated Capitol.



Tickets for the quilt and two rocking chairs are available for \$1 each, or 6 for \$5. Proceeds benefit KEC's youth programs. For tickets, contact Carol Dorr at (785) 478-4554 or [cdorr@kec.org](mailto:cdorr@kec.org).

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## KEC shares Christmas spirit

KEC staff has been sharing the Christmas spirit this season by supporting two non-profit associations.

As part of the company Christmas party, employees were asked to bring donations of hygiene products – such as shampoo, combs, deodorant, and toothbrushes – for the Topeka Rescue Mission. The staff donated more than 150 pounds of items.

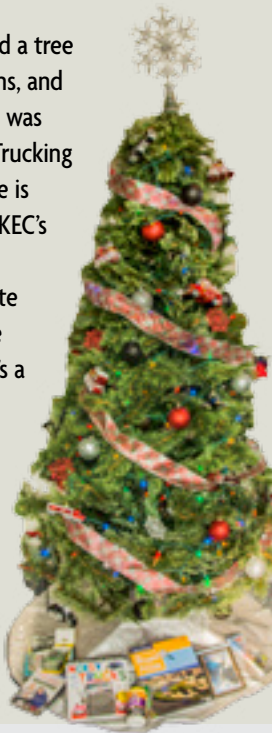
KEC staff also helped Sheltered Living's Festival of Trees celebrate its 37th anniversary this month.

The event is a fund raiser for Sheltered Living Inc., and features Christmas trees and wreaths decorated by local designers, businesses and organizations. This year, approximately 65 trees and wreaths were on display at Ag Hall in the Kansas Expo-centre, and 200 volunteers hosted visitors over the four-day event.

KEC purchased a tree titled "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles" that was donated by Toby Trucking of Seneca. The tree is now on display at KEC's headquarters.

"We appreciate the support of the community, and it's a great way to start off the Christmas season," said Shannon Warta of Sheltered Living.

KEC's Christmas tree was purchased to help a local charity.



## DECEMBER

- 17-18 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 19 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 25-26 **Christmas Holiday – KEC Office Closed**

## JANUARY

- 1 **New Year's Holiday – KEC Office Closed**
- 16 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 24-27 **KEC Annual Meeting.** Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka
- 27 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka – 1 p.m.

## Al Tamimi named Sunflower's new VP of transmission planning, policy and compliance

Sunflower has named Dr. Al Tamimi as vice president of transmission planning, policy and compliance.

Tamimi began his tenure at Sunflower in 2001. He most recently served as the senior manager of planning and distribution engineering where he directed plans to meet transmission and distribution requirements for Sunflower and its six cooperative members.

"I am honored to be selected to this position for Sunflower," Tamimi said. "I am not only passionate about my profession, but I am also passionate about the cooperative business model where our goal is to provide our members with reliable energy at the lowest possible cost."

In his new position, Tamimi



Al Tamimi

will provide leadership and implement strategies relating to transmission planning and build-out, transmission policy, regulatory affairs and compliance issues. He will also represent Sunflower with various national, regional, and state organizations and regulatory agencies, working to shape transmission energy policy that benefits Sunflower's members and those they serve in central and western Kansas.

"Al's dedication to his profession, to Sunflower and to our members makes him an excellent choice for this position," said Stuart Lowry, president and CEO of Sunflower. "The electric industry faces an exciting and challenging future, particularly in regard to the transmission infrastructure and energy policies necessary to meet the growing demand for electricity. I am confident that Al's expertise and leadership will allow us to build on past success and will help poise the system for what lies ahead."

## Hall, Hellwig, & Newton honored at December board meeting



(From left) Bruce Graham, KEC CEO; and Ralph Phillips, KEC Board President; presented certificates of appreciation to Steve Newton, NRECA Regional Director; Bob Hall, Ark Valley Manager; and Don Hellwig, DS&O Manager, who all plan to retire soon. These dedicated employees were honored for their years of service at the KEC Board Meeting held Dec. 4 in Wichita.

## insympathy

### Phillip Lesh

Phil Lesh, former manager of Norton-Decatur Electric Co-op and KEPCo President from 1989-1990, died Dec. 1.

Services were held on Dec. 8 at the Enfield Funeral Home in Norton. Memorials may be sent to Norton Christian Church, 208 N. Kansas Avenue, Norton, KS 67654.

## KEC promotes electric cooperative careers at KU internship fair

On Nov. 19, Kansas Electric Cooperative employees attended the University of Kansas Internship Fair.

At the event, staff informed students about cooperatives and available internships. Decks of cards, stylus pens and tumblers were popular giveaways among the students.

The event gave students of all major fields of study the opportunity to learn what KEC does and the different careers offered by electric cooperatives.

“Attending career fairs is a great way to connect with students and inform them about internships and other coop-

erative careers,” said Carrie Kimberlin, KEC’s Communications Specialist.

Assisting Kimberlin was Amber Sheley, KEC’s communications intern.



KEC’s Carrie Kimberlin discusses co-op careers with a college student at the KU internship fair.

## Midwest Energy, Heartland linemen compete in rodeo

Midwest Energy took first place in the Senior Journeyman Division at the 31st annual International Lineman’s Rodeo in Bonner Springs on Oct. 18 where more than 200 teams represented a handful of countries.

The team members included Mike Stremel, Hays; John Horesky, Russell; and Bill Nowlin, WaKeeney. Midwest Energy also sent two Journeyman teams and an Apprentice Lineman. The individuals competing were Alex Breeding, Nate Stryker, Chris Taylor, and J.C. Bosch, Great Bend; and Travis Dinges, Daniel Hodges, and Butch Hamel, Hays.



Midwest Energy’s Alex Breeding and Nate Stryker compete in the International Lineman’s Rodeo in Bonner Springs.

repair services for bucket and utility trucks.

Each team and individual took part in events based on traditional lineman tasks and skills. These events included CPR, a “hurt man” rescue, a speed pole climb and a written test. Competitors also took part in mystery events which are designed to simulate unexpected challenges experienced on the job. All events are timed and judged by experts from other utilities on safety, speed and proficiency.

Heartland Rural Electric also sent Taylor Kellerman, Apprentice Lineman, to compete along-

side more than 250 apprentices worldwide. This division includes competitors from IOU’s, municipal and public power systems and other groups, but the top three spots were taken by linemen from co-ops across the nation.

“It was a very fun and humbling experience. I plan on attending next year, as well, and hope to be a little more prepared now that I know what to expect. I’m glad I got to go up and represent Heartland,” said Kellerman.

## Flint Hills’ Chuck Goeckel graduates from MIP

Flint Hills’ Assistant Manager Chuck Goeckel has completed an intensive program in electric utility management with the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program

(MIP) is a series of workshops offered by NRECA in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin. The program guides participants through all facets of the electric utility industry, including the many changes occurring around the nation.

Goeckel has completed one of the most exclusive educational programs in the nation for electric cooperative management and is one of only a few electric utility management staff that graduated from the MIP this year.

MIP class members engaged in three 10-day sessions designed to challenge and educate participants in new, innovative management techniques. They left with a better understanding of what their members want.

By also covering the unique principles that govern the operations of electric cooperatives, the program helps the co-op analyze other business ventures it may want to enter as well as enhancing the core organization.

Only rural electric cooperative CEOs and top level management participate in the program. This allows greater emphasis of study, on management challenges and the aspects of consumer-ownership that cooperatives enjoy.

Participants learned how to focus on member value as part of day-to-day decision making.

“I would like to thank General Manager Bob Reece and the Flint Hills’ board of trustees for allowing me to take part in the training,” Goeckel said. “The program was excellent and hopefully will enhance decision making in the future.”



Chuck Goeckel



*Christmas*  
**GREETINGS**  
*from the staff at Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.*



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