

Rural Power

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Please send your story ideas to ruralpower@kec.org.

Ken Maginley inducted into the KCC Hall of Fame

KEN MAGINLEY, retired Bluestem manager, was inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Council's Hall of Fame on March 20. The 2019 inductees, which also included **DR. DAVID BARTON**, Director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, were honored for

going "above and beyond the call" in advancing the cooperative philosophy.

MIKE MORTON, Bluestem's General Manager, shared why Maginley deserved this honor.

"His passion for cooperatives became his legacy which was member focused, with the highest level of integrity that maximized the cooperative vision," Morton said. "Ken will forever be recognized for his wisdom, fairness, and honest approach to the values held by all within the cooperative system."

Achievements at Bluestem

Maginley began his 40-year electric cooperative career at Lyon County Electric in accounting during the 1970s. Four years later, he moved to Bluestem, formerly PR&W, where his leadership ability and skill with numbers were recognized by the Board of Trustees. The Board selected him as General Manager, and he served in that position for 35 years.

"One highlight of his career is his successful guidance of the consolidation of PR&W and C&W Electric Cooperatives in 1999 to become Bluestem," stated KEC CEO **BRUCE GRAHAM**.

As joint manager at both C&W and PR&W, Maginley guided both boards through the process of consolidation.

"He never forced the issue. Instead, he laid out the facts for the boards to make solid decisions for the good of both cooperatives," explained Morton. "They held meetings around the area so that members could understand why this consolidation was good."



From left: James Jirak, KCC Chairman; Ken Maginley, inductee; Bruce Graham, KEC CEO and KCC Director; David Cron, KCC Vice Chairman; and Brandi Miller, KCC President/CEO, pause for a photo during the Kansas Cooperative Council's Hall of Fame ceremony on March 20, 2019.

Leadership within Cooperatives

Maginley was involved in many levels within the co-op organization. He served as KEC Board President from 1990 to 1992 and Kansas Electric Power Cooperative Board President from 2005 to 2009.

He also served as the president of the Kansas Managers Association, chaired executive search committees for both KEPCo and KEC, served as the KEPCo interim manager, and was active in committees.

Advocate for Cooperative Members

Maginley has a reputation for his willingness to speak up and take action, especially in regards to protecting cooperative members.

"Ken was quoted as saying 'The electric cooperatives have been and will continue to be instrumental in the success of rural America,'" stated Morton. "He advocated for electric cooperatives several times at the state house and to other organizations, and he made several trips to visit with our legislators in DC. Everything he did was guided by his concern for the members," stated Morton.

Over the years, Maginley has proven his ability to work with others to achieve consensus.

KIRK THOMPSON, CMS General Manager said, "Mr. Maginley has spent a career advancing the cooperative principles in all the various roles he has been assigned. He has always served with great humility and never looked for the spotlight to be placed upon himself. Rather he has always praised the work of the group. This is what cooperatives are all about, moving forward to success as a group."

"Without a doubt, Mr. Maginley has been a tireless and thoughtful proponent of the electric cooperative network and a strong supporter of the principles that guide our cooperative network," Graham added.



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Gov. Kelly appoints Susan Duffy to KCC

Governor Laura Kelly appointed Susan Duffy to the Kansas Corporation Commission on March 18.

Duffy served as the KCC's executive director from 2003 to 2011. She has been the General Manager of the Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority since August 2012. She also has state government experience, having served in the Kansas Legislative Fiscal Research Department, the Kansas State Historical Society, the Kansas Department of Revenue, and the Division of the Budget.

Duffy will replace former Sen. Jay Emler on the commission.

"My administration is focused on strengthening the KCC's ability to serve the people of Kansas now and into the future," Kelly said in a release. "Susan Duffy has the skills and experience to enhance and improve how Kansas provides critical services in energy, telecom, natural resources and transportation."

The commission consists of three members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate for overlapping four-year terms.

jobmarket

KEC helps to promote co-op careers by listing openings on the careers section of the KEC website.

Visit <https://www.kec.coop/careers> to learn more about the following positions.

Send your open position listings to ruralpower@kec.org. Positions will be posted on the website for one month, unless otherwise directed by the co-op.

- ▶ FreeState has an opening for an Accountant.
- ▶ Sunflower has openings for a Legal Administrative Assistant, Transmission Engineer I-II, EMS/SCADA Network Applications Administrator, Line Technician Intern, Mechanic I-Sr, Operator Technician Mechanic I-IV, Operator Trainee, Relay Supervisor (Substation Automation and Protection Supervisor), and a Substation Technician Intern.
- ▶ Wheatland has openings for Member Services and a Key Accounts Manager.

co-opcalendar

MARCH

- 26-27 **Speak Up!/Listen Up!**, Butler Headquarters, El Dorado
- 27-29 **KMSDA Meeting**, Courtyard by Marriott Old Town, Wichita
- 28-29 **Speak Up!/Listen Up!**, DS&O Headquarters, Solomon
- 28 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

APRIL

- 11 **KEC Quarterly Learning: Touchstone Energy**
- 17-18 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 19 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays

annualmeetings

MARCH

- 26 **Heartland**, Fort Scott Community College, 2108 S. Horton, Fort Scott. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.
- 28 **Doniphan**, Troy Community Building, 1217 Last Chance Rd., Troy. Meal starts at 5 p.m. Meeting at 6 p.m.
- 30 **Sumner-Cowley**, Wellington High School, 1700 E. 16th St., Wellington. Meal starts at 11:30 a.m. Meeting starts at 1:15 p.m.

APRIL

- 2 **DS&O**, Webster Conference Center, 2601 N. Ohio Street, Salina. Meal starts at 6 p.m. Meeting following meal.
- 2 **Prairie Land**, Co-op Headquarters, 14935 U.S. Hwy. 36, Norton. Meal starts at noon. Meeting starts at 12:45 p.m.
- 2 **Sedgwick County**, The Cotillion Hall & Ballroom, 11120 W. Kellogg Dr., Wichita. Meal starts at 6:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.
- 4 **CMS**, Meade High School, 409 School Addition, Meade. Meal starts at 5:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.
- 4 **Flint Hills**, Herington Community Building, 810 S. Broadway, Herington. Meal starts at 5:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.
- 4 **Radiant**, Co-op Headquarters, 9346 Jewell Rd., Fredonia. Meal starts at 5:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.
- 5 **Alfalfa**, Cherokee High School gym, 412 E. 5th St., Cherokee, OK. Meal starts at 5 p.m. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.
- 5 **Rolling Hills**, Co-op Headquarters, 3075 B U.S. Hwy. 24, Beloit. Meal starts at 5:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.
- 8 **Lyon-Coffey**, Burlington High School, 830 Cross Street, Burlington. Meal starts at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.
- 9 **Victory**, Western State Bank Expo Building, 11333 Highway 283, Dodge City. Meal starts at 5 p.m. Meeting following meal.
- 11 **Twin Valley**, Labette County High School Cafeteria, 601 S. High School St., Altamont. Meal starts at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.
- 16 **Ark Valley**, Sunflower Building, Kansas State Fairground, 2000 N. Poplar St., Hutchinson. Meal starts at 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m.

KEC's Working through Transition webinar available online

KEC hosted an interactive webinar on March 5 that discussed how cooperatives can work through transitions.

KRISTINA DIETRICK, President of HR Partners, discussed the steps on how cooperatives can manage three different types of changes electric cooperatives face today:

- ▶ **Changes in business procedures and/or practices**—how to communicate and manage change;
- ▶ **Succession planning**—beyond the cooperative's executive leadership; and
- ▶ **Experiencing a merger between cooperatives**—how to be transparent with staff before, during, and after the process.

This webinar was recorded and is available on the member's only section of KEC's website. It was the second of the planned remote learning opportunities offered through KEC. The first was held Nov. 29, 2018, and focused on how the election results would affect electric co-ops.

What's Next?

The next webinar is scheduled for April 11 at 10 a.m. Touchstone Energy's **ANNE HARVEY** will discuss resources Touchstone Energy offers including online training through Lynda.com, onboarding assets, and employee discounts.

For more information or to suggest topics, please contact Shana Read at sread@kec.org.

Angie Erickson named Twin Valley CEO

Twin Valley's Board of Trustees has selected **ANGIE ERICKSON** as CEO. She joined the co-op on Feb. 14.

For more than 17 years, Erickson has worked in the cooperative industry, having most recently served as the Director of Administration & Finance at Heartland Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. She also has three years in the cable utility industry.

A 2016 graduate of NRECA's Robert I. Kabat Management Internship (MIP) Program, Erickson also earned her

Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting from Pittsburg State University.

Erickson and her husband of 25 years have two grown children: a daughter who recently graduated from Kansas State University and a son currently attending Pittsburg State University.

"I'm excited to serve the Twin Valley membership," Erickson said. "I look forward to working with our Board of Directors as we develop a strategic plan for the cooperative."

Download the KEC App

Search for "Kansas Electric Cooperatives" using either the App Store or Google Play. Members will log in using the email they use for KEC. Click "always allow" for the app to access your location and to send notifications. These features are important to send updates during KEC events.



annual meetings

Nemaha-Marshall

Nemaha-Marshall kicked off the annual meeting season at the Axtell American Legion on Feb. 26. This year, 210 meals were served to members and guests.

Guest speakers included KEC's **BRUCE GRAHAM**, 2018 Youth Tour participant **HENRY GLYNN**, and 2018 camp participant **KOY OLBERDING**.

Re-elected to the board were **DEAN BECKER**, **JIM BORGERDING**, and **DAVE KOCH**.

Brown-Atchison

On Feb. 28, Brown-Atchison held its annual meeting at the co-op headquarters in Horton. Approximately 200 members and guests attended.

Before the meeting, Horton High School's choir provided entertainment. The guest speaker was **SUZANNE LANE**, KEPCo.

KEVIN GIGSTAD, **HARRISON IDOL JR.**, and **WAYNE PAGEL**, were all re-elected to the board.

Pioneer

Pioneer held its 75th annual meeting March 2 at the Grant County Civic Center in Ulysses. Prior to the meeting, 1,109 people attended the health fair co-sponsored by Pioneer Electric and Pioneer Communications.

Long-time employee **HENRY BUCZYSKI** gave a welcome to the 283 members and guests that attended the meeting. Board President **MELVIN WINGER** and General Manager

STEVE EPPERSON shared their thoughts about Pioneer's history and future goals through a video that celebrated the co-op's 75 years. Scholarship and youth tour winners were introduced at the meeting.

FRED CLAASSEN, **JIM BELL**, and **CHARLES MILBURN** were re-elected to the board.

Bluestem

Bluestem held its 21st annual meeting on March 4 at St. Bernard Catholic Church in Wamego. Prior to the meeting, Bluestem staff served cobbler to the 110 members and guests.

Guest speakers included **SUZANNE LANE**, KEPCo, who discussed power supply issues, and **BRANDI MILLER**, Kansas Cooperative Council, who announced that retired Bluestem manager **KEN MAGINLEY** would be inducted into the Hall of Fame this month.

Following the meeting, attendees played a Bluestem version of the game Bingo to win doorprizes.

Trustee elections were conducted by mail ballot last December. Re-elected were **DEAN BLANKA** and **RICHARD RIDDER**. Newly-elected was **MARK DIEDERICH**.

Butler

Butler's annual meeting was held on March 7 at the Circle Middle School in Benton. There were 274 members and guests who attended the meeting.

RYLEE MADDEN, daughter of Sarah Madden, Butler's Office Manager, entertained the members with her vocal talent and sang

the National Anthem.

During the meeting, Butler's Member Services Director **TRAVIS GRIFFIN** moderated a panel discussion to answer member questions. Panelists included **SUZANNE LANE**, KEPCo; **BRYCE FLAMING**, outgoing Board President; **DALE SHORT**, CEO; and **BEN WHITESIDE**, Vice President of Administration and Finance.

Newly-elected to the board were **JOSH HARDER** and **DEAN THOMPSON**.

Caney Valley

Caney Valley held its annual meeting on March 14 at the Cedar Vale School Gymnasium. Prior to the meeting, hamburgers were served to the 440 members and guests.

General Manager **ALLEN ZADOROZNY** gave the annual report, introduced the camp and scholarship winners, and presented service awards to staff.

KENNY BATES and **STEVE CLARK** were re-elected to the board, and **STEPHANIE OLLENBORG** was newly elected.

Ninnescah

Ninnescah's annual meeting was held March 19 at the Pratt Municipal Building.

Guest speakers included **SUZANNE LANE**, KEPCo, and **BRUCE GRAHAM**, KEC. 2018 Youth Tour participant **TREY FISHER** and 2018 camp participant **ADISON HAMPTON** gave presentations about their trips.

Re-elected to the board were **GLEN HONEMAN**, **RUTH TEICHMAN**, and **PAUL UNRUH**.

Kansas co-op representatives serve on forums at NRECA's Annual Meeting

More than 6,000 representatives from electric co-ops across the nation, including 75 from Kansas, attended NRECA's annual meeting. The meeting, which ran March 7-13 in Orlando, sets NRECA's legislative and organizational agenda for 2019.

Co-op representatives heard from NRECA officials, key public figures, and business experts about issues affecting electric cooperatives and their consumer-members.

During the meeting, KEC CEO **BRUCE GRAHAM** continued his service as a member of the National Resolutions Committee. The Committee led a forum on Sunday that provided an opportunity for co-op officials to ask questions and learn how opinions and amendments from all 10 of NRECA's regions have been consolidated into a single set of proposed resolutions. The resolutions were voted on during Tuesday's annual meeting business session.

The Youth Leadership Council was also a large part of this year's meeting. All 43 YLC members appeared together carrying their state flags during the traditional parade of the states at the beginning of the first general session.

Throughout the annual meeting, these students helped board members communicate with their legislators, served as pages during the business session, and provided assistance during the educational forums.

The YLC members were selected from more than 1,800 state delegates during the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour last June. This year, YLC members were challenged to return home and

visit with their sponsoring cooperative. **PAUL BRULL**, the Kansas representative to the YLC, was invited to speak at Western's board meeting last December where they discussed youth leaving rural America and shared creative ideas on how cooperatives could attract and retain a young, educated work force in rural communities.

Brull, along with four other YLC students—**BEN BALLARD** from Nevada, **HANNAH DELKER** from Alaska, **CAITLIN FINLEY** from North Carolina, and **WILL TUCHTENHAGEN** from Wisconsin—were asked to share their conversations with their co-ops in a breakout session during the meeting.

Their breakout session, titled *Engaging the Next Generation of Leaders at Your Co-op*, took place on March 12.

"I think the most useful information to come out of the panel was the notion of integration between co-op and community," said Brull. "Engaging in both youth leadership through things such as youth tour and member advisory committees, as well as becoming present within schools allows co-ops to become an integral part of the community."

He noted co-ops' unique power to



Paul Brull, sponsored by Western Cooperative Electric, answers questions from the attendees about youth engagement during a breakout session at NRECA's Annual Meeting.

connect with so many people within their communities.

"The biggest thing I learned from being on the panel was how to harness my power as a youth leader and drive it toward good," Brull said. "Many issues plague rural communities. Sometimes it just takes someone to say something to make a difference."

Each of the student panelists commended the cooperatives for supporting youth programs. They identified Youth Tour as being instrumental in their leadership development and understanding of the co-op business model.

"Youth Tour and YLC have given me the opportunity to come into my own," said Brull. "These two youth programs have given me the confidence to say 'I've got this.' Being a part of these programs helps me to realize that I've taken a role bigger than myself. It has given me a voice."

Q Our co-op is considering discounting early retirements of capital credits, but the board is not sure what rate should be used. Can you provide us some guidance??

A The early retirement of capital credits of members who have either died or left the system may make sense for your co-op. It is helpful to the executor of the estate in winding up the affairs of the decedent and there is also benefit to the recipient in receiving money sooner than they would otherwise... [READ MORE](#).

Each issue of *Rural Power* will feature an answer to a question or a solution to a problem provided by KEC to a member cooperative.

Asked & Answered

insympathy

Doug McMurtrey

Doug McMurtrey, Alfalfa Board Member, died on March 19.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, March 23 at 1:30 p.m. at the Cherokee First Baptist Church. Memorials may be made in care of the Lanman Funeral Home, 1305 S. Grand Ave., Cherokee, OK 73728.

Dorothy Ridder

Dorothy Ridder, mother of Bluestem Board President Rick Ridder and wife of former board member Merlyn Ridder, died March 5.