

Rural Power

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

Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers to speak at KEC Annual Meeting

KEC is pleased to announce that **LT. GOVERNOR LYNN ROGERS** will be the morning keynote speaker at the KEC Annual Meeting on Jan. 28.

Rogers, who was confirmed as the Lt. Governor on Jan. 14, is leading the administration's Office of Rural Prosperity. This initiative will focus on building an interconnected, strategic plan for rural economic development that leverages Kansas communities' unique assets. Top priorities include developing infrastructure, addressing the shortage of affordable housing and supporting agribusiness, and ensuring that rural Kansans can get the support they need to thrive.

KEC's Annual Meeting will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and adjoining Maner Conference Center in Topeka, Jan. 26-29.

Other speakers include the following. **STEPHEN BELL**, NRECA, will report on the Lexicon Project which has guided development



Lt. Gov. Lynn Rogers

of a common language for co-ops to use when discussing priority issues. **SID SPERRY**, SPIDI Weather Solutions, will demonstrate key features of the Sperry-Piltz Ice Accumulation (SPIA) Index. **BRIAN SLOBODA**, NRECA, will give an update on consumer-centric emerging technologies, including blockchain, batteries, and electric vehicles. **KELLY LENZ**, WIBW/Kansas Agriculture Network, will present an agricultural outlook. In addition, there will be presentations by **BRANDI MILLER**, Kansas Cooperative Council, and **TIM BRYAN**, NRTC.

The luncheon program features world-touring entertainer **MARK J. LINDQUIST**, who has appeared in ABC's "Lost," CBS' "Hawaii Five-O," and the Universal Studios movie "Battleship."

The program includes G&T updates by KEPCo's **SUZANNE LANE** and Sunflower's **STUART LOWRY**. **KEITH MCNICKLE**, KEC President, and **BRUCE GRAHAM**, KEC's CEO, will report on achievements and activities in the State of the Statewide presentation. There will also be an introduction to the KEC app, a legislative briefing, and safety achievement certificates will be distributed by KEC staff.

NRECA Standing Resolutions Committee prepares recommendations

The NRECA Standing Resolutions Committees met on Jan. 9 to review the results of the NRECA Regional Meetings resolutions process and make recommendations on all new and existing resolutions that will be reviewed next at the NRECA Annual Meeting.

There are three standing resolutions committees. **BRUCE GRAHAM**, KEC Chief Executive Officer, serves on the Legislative Committee; **BRIAN LANG**, DS&O Trustee, serves on the Cooperative Management, Employment, and Community (CMEC) Committee; and the Regulatory Committee is the third. Committee representatives are elected by each NRECA region and Kansas is part of a rotation among the four states in Region 7, which provides an opportunity for each state to participate on a committee.

During the January meeting, each of the standing committees reviewed approximately 40 different resolutions and made recommendations. Those recommenda-

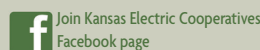
tions were then reviewed by the Resolutions Committee later in the day. Graham was also appointed this year by NRECA President Phil Carson as one of 15 NRECA member representatives from across the country to serve on the NRECA Resolutions Committee.

"The resolutions process is very thoughtful with many opportunities for the full membership to engage and shape policy. I appreciate the confidence of NRECA leadership to be an active part of the association's advocacy effort," Graham said.

The next step in the resolutions process will be a membership briefing at the NRECA Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 10. That briefing is followed by the membership vote on the resolution recommendations as part of the Annual Business Meeting on Tuesday, March 12. The process starts again with a meeting of the Resolutions Committee in June to work on new priorities for consideration by the membership.



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KEC to host Day at the Capitol

KEC invites cooperative representatives to attend the second annual “Day at the Capitol” event, scheduled for Feb. 6 in Topeka.

The day begins at 7:30 a.m. and will conclude late morning. Attendees will meet with legislators and staff over breakfast, attend committee and legislative sessions, and visit elected officials at the Capitol.

“The Day at the Capitol event is an important opportunity to connect with state legislators as they discuss energy and utilities policy under the dome,” explained **TARA MAYS**, KEC’s Manager of Government Relations.

KEC has emailed hotel information and event details to co-op managers. The Day at the Capitol will be in addition to KEC’s annual Legislative Reception, which is held in conjunction with the January Annual Meeting. Registrations are due Feb. 1.

For more information, contact Leslie Kaufman at lkaufman@kec.org or Tara Mays at tmays@kec.org.

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 openings for an Accountant in Topeka and Apprentice 1 in McLouth.
- ▶ Sunflower has openings for a Communications Specialist, a Project Management Intern, Lab Tech Trainee, Environmental & Science Intern, Transmission Engineer, Transmission Engineer Intern, Senior Transmission Engineer, Transmission Geotechnician, Instructional Designer, and an Operator Technician.
- ▶ Wheatland has an opening for a Social Media Specialist.

co-opcalendar

JANUARY

- 26-29 **KEC Annual Meeting**, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka
- 29 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, immediately following KEC Annual Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 30 **Kansas Cooperative Council Joint Legislative Action Day**, Kansas State Capitol, Topeka

FEBRUARY

- 5-7 **Underground Overhead Metering School**, Finney County Fairgrounds, Garden City
- 6 **KEC Day at the Capitol event**, Kansas State Capitol, Topeka
- 15 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 20-21 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

MARCH

- 5 **KEC Microlearning Webinar**, Transitioning in the Workplace: Succession Planning with Multiple Generations, 10 a.m.
- 6-7 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Hilton Garden Inn, Salina
- 10-13 **NRECA Annual Meeting**, Orlando, Florida

upcomingtraining

2019 HR Summit and SMDP HR Course planned for April

KEC has planned the next HR Summit for April 24 at the Wichita Marriott. This year’s event will be followed by the Supervisor and Manager Development Program (SMDP) course 717.1 Know the Rules: Legal Responsibilities and Liabilities for Supervisors on April 25.

Speakers for the HR Summit include **KRISTINA DIETRICK**, HR Partners; **DR. ROBERT LLOYD**, Fort Hays State University; **MELODY RAYL**, Fisher Phillips; and **MALACHI STURLIN**, NRECA. Topics will range from dealing with workplace violence, workplace etiquette, and managing priorities.

The SMDP course will be facili-

tated by **LYNN INGMIRE**, President and Owner of Essential HR Partners, LLC. Learn how to avoid common employment law pitfalls at your cooperative while improving your management skills, enhancing your leadership abilities, and encouraging a productive work environment. This course will count as one credit toward the new Supervisory Certificate (see story below).

To make a hotel reservation, call the Wichita Marriott at 316-651-0333, and ask for the “KEC HR Summit” rate of \$124. The room block expires on April 9, 2019.

Detailed program information will be emailed closer to the meeting date.

KEC to host Supervisor and Manager Development Program courses

For the week of Aug. 19, 2019, KEC will offer five of the new Supervisor and Manager Development Program (SMDP) courses. The courses will be led by NRECA’s **BRYAN SINGLETARY** and will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SMDP is a flexible, co-op-specific education program focused on strengthening the leadership skills, knowledge and abilities needed to hire, develop and lead others, manage performance, communicate effectively and make decisions. The goal of this program is to equip co-op supervisors and managers with tools and resources to successfully lead and engage high-performing teams

in support of the four mission-critical areas of safety, member satisfaction, reliability and cost control.

This program is intended for co-op staff with leadership responsibilities ranging from key contributors considering a supervisory role, to new and experienced supervisors and mid-level managers.

Registration information will be sent to each cooperative. Participants will be able to select individual courses or can sign up for the entire week.

Contact Shana Read at 785-478-4554 or email sread@kec.org if you have any questions.

Day of Service held as part of gubernatorial inaugural celebration

Governor Laura Kelly and Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers held a day of service and community celebrations across Kansas on Jan. 12 as part of their inaugural festivities.

KEC staff joined other community members in contributing to a food drive for Let's Help, Inc. and Doorstep, Inc., organizations that assist individuals and families to break the cycle of poverty and attain self-sufficiency. In addition to the Topeka food drive, other community events were held across the state.

"The Day of Service event was a wonderful opportunity to showcase KEC's commitment to our Kansas communities," said Tara Mays, KEC's Manager of Government Relations. "We are happy to demonstrate the culture that makes Kansas and our co-ops so special."



Willie Wiredhand, helps deliver donations of non-perishable food items during the statewide Day of Service canned food drive on Jan. 12.

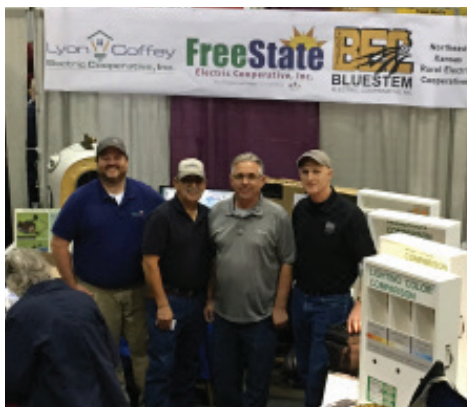
Electric co-ops connect with members at annual farm show

Three electric co-ops joined forces to sponsor a booth at the Topeka Farm Show, Jan. 8-10. Bluestem, FreeState, and Lyon-Coffey used the opportunity to interact with members and the public.

"The farm show creates an in-person interaction between the co-ops and our members," said **MIKE TWEEDY**, Member Services for Lyon-Coffey. "The entire event is simply getting in front of our members, fielding questions on energy efficiency, cooperative programs, solar, and wind. We also talk about their concerns regarding farm safety, and for Lyon-Coffey members, there have been lots of questions on the consolidation."

The Topeka Farm Show celebrated its 30th anniversary this year. Kaw Valley and LJEC, which consolidated as FreeState in 2017, along with Bluestem, Brown-Atchison, and Lyon-Coffey cooperatives began attending the show in the early 1990s and have had a presence every year since.

"We are fortunate to be here every



Representing co-ops at the Topeka Farm Show (from left): Matt Lambert, FreeState; Frank Ortega, FreeState; Mike Tweedy, Lyon-Coffey; and Kevin Heptig, Bluestem.

year and interact with the hundreds of people that come to the show," Tweedy explained. "I spoke with 23 members in the first 90 minutes of the show, then I lost track."

Members who stopped at the co-op booth were invited to view Touchstone Energy videos and visit with staff. Members could also register for an LED TV door prize donated by KEPCo.

More than 300 exhibiting companies participated in the event that drew more than 22,000 attendees at the Kansas Expocentre in Topeka.



A young Farm Show attendee interacts with the Tesla ball at the co-op booth.

KEC welcomes Shaylee Arpin

On Jan. 21, **SHAYLEE ARPIN** joined KEC's communications team as Multimedia Communications Specialist.

Arpin fills a vacant position and her skills will allow the department to move forward with several initiatives including developing a website for *Kansas Country Living*; creating original Kansas-focused content—editorial, videos, social media campaigns—for member cooperatives to use in their centerspreads and on social media; and raising the profile of KEC and the mission of electric cooperatives in Kansas through an increased and consistent presence on all social media channels.

Arpin is a May 2018 graduate of Kansas State University with a degree in agricultural communications and journalism and a minor in animal sciences and industry. She most recently worked for the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce as member relations manager. Arpin served as design editor for the *Kansas State Agriculturist* magazine and completed internships with Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB), Land O'Lakes, and Mid Kansas Cooperative.

Arpin was recently selected to Leadership KFB, a year-long program focused on encouraging influential thought leaders to create change and engage in issues affecting rural communities across Kansas.



Shaylee Arpin

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.



Kansas YLC representative to present at NRECA's Annual Meeting

For the past 58 years, Kansas electric co-ops have selected student leaders to take part in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. While on tour, each state selects one student to represent them on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Leadership Council.

After they are selected, these students return to NRECA in July for additional leadership training. This year, the YLC students were challenged to return home and visit with their sponsoring cooperative.

"The goal of the meeting between the YLC student and the co-op was to demonstrate that the students are more than just recipients of free trips, but rather to position themselves as emerging leaders in their communities," said **BETH KNUDSON**, NRECA's Youth Programs & Training Manager.

PAUL BRULL, sponsored by Western Cooperative Electric, is the Kansas rep-



Paul Brull

resentative to the YLC. Tom Ruth, Western's General Manager, invited Brull to visit with the board at the December meeting where they discussed young people leaving rural America.

"Rural youth are leaving, robbing rural areas of potential," Brull said during his presentation.

He then shared ideas that the co-op could pursue to attract and retain a young, educated work force in the community.

"I think it's important for co-ops to be involved with youth programs like the Youth Tour and scholarships for aspiring co-op leaders," Brull said. "Co-ops could also create a special board position for younger individuals."

Brull, along with three other YLC students—**BEN BALLARD** from Nevada, **HANNAH DELKER** from Alaska, and **CAITLIN FINLEY** from North Carolina—have been asked to share their conversations with their co-ops in a breakout session during the NRECA Annual Meeting in Orlando.

The breakout session, titled "Engaging the Next Generation of Leaders at Your Co-op," is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12 at 1 p.m. and will be repeated at 2:15 p.m.

Area schools collect donations for Wheatland's Cram the Van

Several local schools competed to collect food items and donations for Wheatland's Cram the Van program.

Fifteen western Kansas schools raised a total of 6,473 pounds of food and \$1,718.68 in donations during a weeklong event. This is the third year that the schools have participated in the donation efforts.

Students were encouraged to participate in a variety of ways. Some competed to earn a cash prize for their school while others were promised a half-day off class or a special lunch provided by Wheatland.

Others were also involved to help



Wiley Elementary students collected 680 pounds of food items, earning their school the \$500 Cram the Van grand prize from Wheatland Electric.

incentivize students. Wiley Elementary superintendent matched the \$500 winnings to give the Holcomb school \$1,000. Wheatland donated a

total of \$1,000 in prize money to Scott City and Holcomb schools. Hiss-Sherman Wealth Management sponsored the cash prizes for the Great Bend schools.

Wheatland plans to continue the school competition and hopes to add more schools. Cram the Van was started in 2015 and has raised a combined total of 32 tons of food donations.

All items are taken to the local food bank in the community in which they were donated.

insympathv

Virginia "Ginger" Lee Haas

Virginia "Ginger" Lee Haas, wife of UtiliBiz Solutions' Tony Haas, died Dec. 31, 2018, in Emporia. Services were held Jan. 5 at the Church of Christ in Emporia.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Church of Christ or the Tallgrass Christian Camp and sent in care of Roberts-Blue-Barnett Funeral Home, 605 State St., Emporia, KS 66801.

Brett Eisenhour

Brett Eisenhour, husband of Wheatland Trustee Katie Eisenhour, died Jan. 9 at the St. Catherine Hospital in Garden City.

Funeral Services were held Jan. 11 at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Scott City.

Memorials may be made to the Brett Eisenhour Memorial Fund in care of Price & Sons Funeral Homes, 401 South Washington Street, Scott City, KS 67871.

Q What is the required line clearance for an oil and gas tank battery?

A According to the National Electrical Safety Code Rule 234C, unguarded or accessible wires, conductors, cables, or rigid live parts may be located adjacent to buildings, signs, billboards, chimneys, radio and television antennas, **tanks**, flagpoles and other installations and any projections therefrom.

[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