

RuralPower

INSIDE

- 2 | Calendar
- 2 | Kansas Cooperative Council seeks Hall of Fame nominations
- 3 | Members reject proposed consolidation between Doniphan and Nemaha-Marshall
- 3 | Butler seeks CEO as longtime leader plans retirement

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your news
announcements to
ruralpower@kec.org.

Co-op leadership hosts virtual meetings with Kansas elected officials

The 2020 September DC Fly-in did not happen as originally planned, but important policy conversations continued nonetheless. Visits with Senators **PAT ROBERTS** and **JERRY MORAN**, and Representatives **RON ESTES**, **STEVE WATKINS**, and **SHARICE DAVIDS**

were held virtually through a series of September meetings.

"While we look forward to being back in DC in person very soon, we were grateful for the opportunity to hold virtual visits with our delegation," said **TARA MAYS**, KEC's director of government relations.

Cooperative representatives used the visits to learn more about discussions happening in the nation's capital.

Co-op leadership shared with the delegation on a variety of issues including COVID response



Kansas electric cooperative officials meet via Zoom with Sen. Jerry Moran on Sept. 22 as part of the series of Congressional virtual visits.

efforts to protect co-op employees and communities, broadband deployment, ways USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG) funds are being used in communities around Kansas to better serve rural Kansans in the area of health, and the need for RUS loan repricing (Flexible Financing for Rural America Act HR 7483/S 4152).

The discussions occurred at a critical time when congress may need to move quickly on any additional relief packages that would come before the completion of the 116th Congress.

KEC Auxiliary launches scholarship program for youth alumni

The KEC Auxiliary is now accepting applications for its inaugural scholarship program. For the first time, the KEC Auxiliary is offering two \$1,000 scholarships to current college students who participated in either the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., or the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Colorado.

Applicants must have been sponsored by a KEC member-cooperative for one of the youth programs, and they must have completed at least one semester at an accredited university, college, or trade school as a full-time student at the time of application.

"Kansas electric cooperatives are committed to encouraging and empowering the scholastic development of youth throughout our state," said **JOYCE BLANKA**, KEC Auxiliary chairperson. "The students who are selected

for the KEC youth programs are among the best and brightest. The scholarships we award are just one of the many ways cooperatives support our local communities. Offering assistance to our youth is making an important contribution to everyone's future."

Eligible students must complete the online application and submit a short video that focuses on one of the Seven Cooperative Principles and how his or her life has been impacted by KEC's youth programs. Recipients of the scholarship will be awarded during the KEC Annual Meeting in January 2021.

Deadline to apply is Dec. 31. Applications and complete eligibility requirements are now online at <https://www.kec.coop/form/kec-auxiliary-scholarship>. For additional information, contact Carol Dorr at cdorr@kec.org.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
PO Box 4267
Topeka, KS 66604-0267
www.kec.coop



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Kansas Cooperative Council seeks Hall of Fame nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame.

The program was established in 1999 to honor individuals in Kansas who have been instrumental in developing and spreading the cooperative philosophy. To date, 49 cooperators from all types of cooperatives have been inducted to this elite group, including 10 electric co-op representatives.

The Hall of Fame is important for recognizing the contributions of co-op pioneers and honoring those who have gone "above and beyond the call" in advancing the cooperative movement.

To download the nomination form, visit www.kansasco-op.coop. Application deadline is Dec. 1.

KEC offers virtual CLE

KEC is offering the annual Co-op Attorney CLE virtually on Friday, Oct. 23 and Tuesday, Oct. 27.

Six sessions will be presented via a live webinar broadcast over those two days. KEC has been approved for a total of six CLE hours for those attending all sessions.

The cost to register for both days, which includes six courses, is \$80. To register or for additional information, contact Carol Dorr at cdorr@kec.org or Leslie Kaufman at lkaufman@kec.org. Deadline to register is Oct. 16.

jobmarket

KEC helps to promote co-op careers by listing openings on the careers section of the KEC website. Visit www.kec.coop/careers to learn more about the following positions.

- ▶ KEC seeks an Administrative Assistant - Receptionist.
- ▶ Sunflower has multiple openings.
- ▶ Wheatland has multiple openings.

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.

co-opcalendar

OCTOBER

- 16 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays, and via teleconference, 8:30 a.m.
- 22 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting.** virtually only, 10 a.m.
- 22 **Kansas Touchstone Energy Annual Meeting.** Butler Headquarters, El Dorado, and virtually
- 22-23 **Kansas Accountants Club.** Senior Center, El Dorado
- 23 **KEC's Co-op Attorney Virtual CLE.** 8:50 a.m.-3:20 p.m.
- 27 **KEC's Co-op Attorney Virtual CLE.** 11 a.m.-2:20 p.m.
- 29 **MDM Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.

NOVEMBER

- 12 **MDM Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
- 18-19 **Rural Electric Statewide Managers Assoc. (RESMA) Virtual Meeting**
- 18-19 **KEPCo Annual and Board of Trustees Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka, TBD
- 20 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays, and via teleconference, 7:30 a.m.
- 26-27 **Thanksgiving.** KEC Office closed

DECEMBER

- 2-3 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting.** Wichita Marriott Hotel and virtually, 12:30 p.m.
- 11 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Intercontinental Hotel, 401 Ward Pkwy, Kansas City, MO, 8 a.m. (time and location subject to change)
- 16-17 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka, TBD
- 24-25 **Christmas.** KEC Office closed

upcomingtraining

Accountant's Association plans October meeting

The Kansas REC Accountant's Association Annual Meeting is scheduled for Oct. 21-23 in El Dorado. Members will have the option to attend this meeting in person or virtually.

A pre-meeting social will be held on the evening of Oct. 21. The meeting will be held at the El Dorado Senior Center, 210 E 2nd Ave., 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Oct. 22, and 8 a.m.-noon on Oct. 23.

Topics will include NRECA, CFC, and CoBank updates; sales and property tax; current rate designs trends; audits; the Outreach Program; and canine companions. There will also be a round table discussion. Each session will also be available on Zoom.

For more information, call Sarah Madden, Butler office manager and Accountant's Association president, at 316-321-9600.

Kansas Touchstone Energy to hold hybrid meeting

The Touchstone Energy Annual Membership Meeting will be held at Butler Electric Cooperative on Thurs., Oct. 22, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. There will also be a virtual attendance option. Lunch will be provided for those who attend in person.

JANA ADAMS, Touchstone Energy's new executive director, will report virtually on the national program activities.

The Kansas Touchstone Energy Executive Council will discuss statewide activities, set the 2021 dues assessment, and hold officer elections. Members up for re-election include

LINDA TOMLINSON, CMS; **STEVE FOSS**, FreeState; and **KEVIN HEPTIG**, Bluestem.

There is a vacancy for a trustee position. If you are interested in running for a council position, please contact Bruce Mueller, chairperson of the Touchstone Energy Executive Council.

This meeting will follow recommended safety protocols, and masks are encouraged. Seating will be spaced to allow for six feet between attendees. Virtual attendees will be emailed a link to join the meeting.

Please RSVP your attendance preference to Shana Read, KEC, at sread@kec.org.

Members reject proposed consolidation between Doniphan and Nemaha-Marshall

A proposed consolidation between Doniphan and Nemaha-Marshall electric cooperatives has been rejected by co-op members.

After completing an in-depth strategic planning process, the Boards of Trustees for each cooperative had unanimously approved submitting the proposed consolidation to their respective members. The proposed consolidation plan was reviewed extensively with co-op members and employees during special meetings.

The Oct. 1 vote was held in-person at both Doniphan and Nemaha-Marshall, as well as by mail at Nemaha-Marshall.

The first vote was held in the morning at Nemaha-Marshall where the membership approved the consolidation. Out of the 489 ballots cast, those

in favor exceeded the 326 required for approval. The second vote was held in the evening at Doniphan where the members rejected the consolidation.

"We are disappointed with the outcome. The Boards of Trustees have worked diligently on this issue. However, these are member owned and member driven electric cooperatives. The members have spoken with this vote," said **DAN O'BRIEN**, Doniphan's general manager.

"Our organization appreciates the work by both Boards of Trustees, the consultants, and key employees who have worked to develop this proposal," said **KATHLEEN O'BRIEN**, Nemaha-Marshall's general manager. "Going forward, we will continue to provide our members with best-in-class electric service."

Butler seeks CEO as longtime leader plans retirement

Butler Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees has announced that CEO **DALE SHORT** will retire in February 2021 after 31 years of service to cooperative members.

"We have some very big shoes to fill," said Gerald Staab, board president. "Dale has left his mark not only on our cooperative, but on the



Butler CEO Dale Short announces his planned retirement for Feb. 2021 after 31 years of co-op service.

larger cooperative world in Kansas and nationally."

Short joined Butler in 1989 and became general manager and CEO in 2000. In addition to his CEO duties, he is president of the board of directors of the Kansas Electric Power Co. (KEPCo), and serves as District 7 representative to the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) Board of Directors.

Butler has retained the services of CarterBaldwin Executive Search to conduct a national search. To apply or for more information, please email ButlerCEO@carterbaldwin.com.

KMSDA holds Fall 2020 meeting virtually

The Kansas Member Services Directors Association (KMSDA) 2020 Fall meeting was offered online Sept. 22-23.

Topics of the virtual event included governance communications and reputation management by **STEPHEN BELL**, NRECA; hot topic legal issues by **TIM DAVIS**, Constangy Brooks, Smith & Prophete LLP; a program resource review by **ANNE HARVEY**, Touchstone Energy; best practices for launching Operation Round Up by **SARAH FARLEE**,

FreeState; and updates by KEC, KEPCo, and Sunflower staff.

In addition, **CARRIE KIMBERLIN**, KEC, pre-recorded Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, and PhotoShop tips and tricks prior to the meeting, and hosted a live Q&A session.

Recordings and resources from this meeting can be found on the members only side of the KEC website. The next KMSDA meeting will be scheduled in the spring of 2021.

KEC promotes National Voter Registration Day

To promote National Voter Registration Day (NRVD) on Sept. 22, Kansas Electric Cooperatives joined other associations and local election officials to host a virtual meeting.

KEC partnered with the Kansas Cooperative Council and Heartland Credit Union Association. They were joined by Kansas Secretary of State **SCOTT SCHWAB** and Shawnee county election official **ANDREW HOWELL** to provide statewide information on how to get registered, how ballots can be cast in Kansas this year, and how people can get certified to work the election. The discussion was livestreamed on KEC's Facebook page.

In addition to the virtual event, KEC's **LESLIE KAUFMAN** and **TARA MAYS** were the Sept. 22 guests on Ag Issues – WIBW 580 Radio's show. The 6 a.m. broadcast was hosted by **GREG AKAGI**. Topics discussed included NRVD, response to the pandemic, RUS repricing legislation, the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), and the importance of completing the census.

To round out the day, NRECA hosted a virtual National Voter Registration Day Dance Party for youth program alumni. The event reached 400 youth in 16 states with information on how to register to vote.

KEC held online IT Summit

The online 2020 KEC IT Summit was Sept. 29 through Oct. 1.

Topics included incident response planning by **DONOVAN FARROW** of Alias Forensics; cybersecurity capabilities and resources of the Department of Homeland Security by **GEOFF JENISTA** of Department of Homeland Security; emerging technologies in the modern workplace by **BEATRICE BACIU** and **GEOFF HOPKINS** of RSM; Microsoft licensing, Microsoft 365 products, and benefits of software assurance by **KRISTOFER PARKER** of ConvergeOne; remote working tips by **TIFFANY JERVIS** of Sunflower; and a round table discussion. Recordings and resources from this meeting can be found on the members only side of the KEC website.