

RuralPower

NRECA offers Online Regional Week

Registration is now open for the NRECA Online Regional Week, which is scheduled for Oct. 12-16. This virtual event will replace the traditional in-person Regional Meetings. NRECA Online Regional Week brings together electric co-op CEOs, directors, voting delegates, and key staff virtually to engage with industry experts and colleagues who share common issues.

Each of NRECA region's resolutions committee and business meetings will be conducted during the week, along with joint general sessions for all regions. This format will maintain the regions' traditionally paired or stand-alone resolutions committee meetings and business meetings. CFC's district meetings are also being conducted as part of Online Regional Week.

- ▶ The Region 7 Nominating Committee Meeting will take place Oct. 9 at 10 a.m., and will be organized by NRECA's Office of General Counsel.
- ▶ The Region 7 Resolutions committee meeting will be Oct. 12 from 1-2:30 p.m. The purpose

of this meeting is to review the Compendium of Proposed Resolutions – a compilation of the proposed resolutions forwarded by the National Resolutions Committee and any additional resolutions or amendments from prior Regional Meetings. Attendees are encouraged to ask the committee questions or offer new resolutions sponsored by their cooperative's board or statewide association.

- ▶ The General Session for all regions will begin on Oct. 14 at 9:30 a.m. The featured speaker will be retired General Colin L. Powell who will draw on his experience as both a leader on the world stage and as eyewitness to leadership in action to illustrate precisely what it takes to be a leader. He will provide strategies for taking charge during times of great change, uncertainty, and crises.
- ▶ The Region 7 Business Meeting will be Oct. 15 from 2:30-4 p.m.

The full schedule and registration information is posted on Cooperative.com.

Kansas Co-ops Vote events resume

KEC staff has resumed Co-ops Vote visits during the general election cycle.

On Aug. 31, **TWIN VALLEY** hosted a Co-ops Vote event for both Twin Valley and **CANEY VALLEY** legislative visits. Upcoming September events will be hosted by **ARK VALLEY**, **BUTLER**, **DSO**, and **NINNESCAH**, with more visits being set for October and November.

"These events provide a great opportunity to get to know candidates, elected officials, and talk about issues of importance to the rural electric cooperatives and their 300,000 families and businesses across the state," said Tara Mays KEC director of government relations.



Rep. Ken Collins and Sen. Richard Hilderbrand join Twin Valley CEO Angie Erickson, and Caney Valley's General Manager Allen Zadorozny and Line Superintendent Craig Lampson.

Co-ops to sponsor ag forum senatorial debate

KEC is a sponsor of the U.S. Senate Debate on Sept. 19, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The forum will feature U.S. Congressman Dr. **ROGER MARSHALL** and state Senator Dr. **BARBARA BOLLIER**. **GREG AKAGI**, ag director at WIBW Radio/Kansas Agriculture Network, will moderate the event.

Normally held during the Kansas State Fair, this year's debate will be held at the WIBW Radio studios in Topeka. This event is not open to public attendance, but it will be livestreamed across the Kansas Agriculture Network and Kansas Information Network.

Listen to the forum at kansasagnetwork.com or wibwnewsnow.com, or watch the livestream on wibwnewsnow YouTube channel and Facebook pages.

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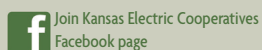
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announcements to
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Kansas Touchstone Energy to hold Annual Meeting

The Touchstone Energy Annual Membership Meeting will be held at Butler Electric Cooperative on Thurs., Oct. 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch will be provided.



Jana Adams

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

The Kansas Touchstone Energy Executive Council will discuss statewide activities, set the 2021 dues assessment, and hold officer elections. There is a vacancy for a trustee position. Members up for re-election include **LINDA TOMLINSON**, CMS; **STEVE FOSS**, FreeState; and **KEVIN HEPTIG**, Bluestem. 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.

Please RSVP your attendance and any dietary restrictions to Shana Read, KEC, at sread@kec.org by Oct. 15.

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.

- ▶ Flint Hills seeks an operations manager
- ▶ Prairie Land seeks an electrical/system engineer.
- ▶ 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

SEPTEMBER

- 16** **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters (Topeka) and virtually, 11:15 a.m.
- 18** **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters (Hays) and via teleconference, 8:30 a.m.
- 21-23** **NRECA PowerUp Conference**, Savannah, GA- **CANCELED**
- 22-23** **KMSDA Fall Meeting**, online
- 24** **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, TBD
- 24-25** **Kansas Line Supervisors Association Meeting**, Wichita - **CANCELED**
- 29-1** **NRECA Region 7-9 Meeting**, Omaha, Nebraska - **CANCELED** (See article on p. 1 for online meeting info)

OCTOBER

- 7-8** **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita
- TBD** **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters (Topeka) and virtually, TBD
- 16** **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters (Hays) and via teleconference, 8:30 a.m.
- 22** **Kansas Touchstone Energy Annual Meeting**, Butler Headquarters, El Dorado
- 29** **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, TBD

upcomingtraining

KMSDA to hold virtual fall meeting, Sept. 22-23

The Kansas Member Services Directors Association (KMSDA) 2020 Fall meeting will be offered online on Tues., Sept. 22 and Wed., Sept. 23.

Topics will include governance communications and reputation management by **STEPHEN BELL**, NRECA; assessing workplace safety and preventing violence by **TIM DAVIS**, Constangy Brooks, Smith & Prophete LLP;

a resource review by **ANNE HARVEY**, Touchstone Energy; Best practices for Operation Round Up by **SARAH FARLEE**, FreeState; and updates by KEC, KEPCo, and Sunflower staff.

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

KEC's IT Summit to be offered online

The 2020 KEC IT Summit will be offered online from Sept. 29 through Oct. 1.

Topics will include Microsoft licensing and Microsoft 365 product offerings, the benefits of software assurance, incident response and incident response planning, a review of emerging tech-

nologies in the modern workplace, and cybersecurity capabilities and resources offered through the Department of Homeland Security.

A complete schedule and log in information will be emailed to the cooperatives closer to the virtual meeting dates.

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 for the attendees. Each session will also be available on Zoom.

Hotel reservations must be made by Oct. 4, by calling the Holiday Inn at 316-322-7275. Mention the group code of KCA to ensure the group rate of \$79.

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

Co-op teams support KCRE at 24th Annual Golf Open

Kansas electric cooperatives competed in the 24th annual Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) Golf Open. The event took place on the greens of Sand Creek Station Golf Course on Aug. 28.

The tournament champion was the **PIONEER** team

which consisted of Tolan Seger, Drew Peters, Jacob Mendoza, and Chris Wagner. This group posted the lowest score among the 14 teams. Second place was a tie between **FREESTATE** and **KEC**. The FreeState team consisted

of Dan Weidmaier, Chris Parr, Nolan Lewis, and Randy Richards. The KEC team included Lee Tafanelli, Will Lawrence, Craig Hulse, and Kenny Wilk,



Clockwise from top: Teams from KEC, FreeState, and Pioneer were the top winners of the KCRE Golf Tournament. Next year's 25th Anniversary event will be Aug. 27 at the Municipal Golf Course in Salina.

all newcomers to the KCRE Golf Open.

The 25th anniversary of the tournament will be held Aug. 27, 2021, at the Municipal Golf Course in Salina.

The push to be counted - Census 2020

KEC continues to encourage rural Kansans to complete the 2020 census, through its social media channels and messaging in *Kansas Country Living* magazine before the close of the census on Sept. 30.

Census data impacts funding for rural schools, roads and a variety of needs within a community and ensures rural Kansas is adequately represented in elected offices.

Leslie Kaufman, KEC vice president of government relations and legal counsel, who serves on the Kansas Complete Count Committee, said KEC and the electric co-ops play a key role in getting the message out.

"Many areas in Kansas have and are experiencing significant out-migration. That makes it even more critical to ensure every individual living in Kansas is counted," Kaufman said.

Golfers raise funds during second annual Co-ops Care Charity Golf Tournament

More than 120 golfers turned out for the second annual Co-ops Care Charity Golf Tournament, co-hosted by Victory Electric and Wheatland Electric. The charity event was held at the Mariah Hills golf course in Dodge City on Aug. 28.

The tournament raised a total of \$16,138.42 which will support both Victory's Avenue of Flags, a program to honor veterans, and Wheatland's Cram the Van food drive.

To kick off the event, Wheatland CEO **BRUCE MUELLER** and Victory CEO **SHANE LAWS** welcomed the 31 teams to Dodge City and thanked the 49 sponsors. The Avenue of Flags Color Guard was then introduced. Each Color Guard member held an American flag while a bugler played "Call to the Colors."



Victory CEO Shane Laws welcomes golfers to the Co-ops Care Charity Golf Tournament while members of the Avenue of Flags Color Guard hold American flags.

annual meetings

Wheatland

Wheatland held its annual meeting on Aug. 26 at the Caldwell Community Building in Caldwell. The co-op simulcast the meeting to all seven districts. There were 227 members present in person, including the remote meeting sites, and 38 by proxy. Scholarship winners were announced and employees who reached service milestones were recognized.

Re-elected to the board were **STACEY ADDISON-HOWLAND**, **KATIE EISEN-HOUR**, and **JOHN KLEYTEUBER**. Newly-elected was **JOSH YOUNG**.

Pioneer

Pioneer's 76th Annual Meeting was held on Sept. 10 at the Grant County Civic Center parking lot in Ulysses. Nearly 180 members attended.

This year's meeting was conducted as a "drive-in" style meeting, with members remaining in their vehicles for the duration of the meeting. The meeting was broadcast to the members' vehicles through their radios with the assistance of a FM transmitter.

As members entered the parking lot, they were directed where to park and asked to remain in their vehicles. Co-op employees then traveled to each vehicle to register the members and to distribute ballots and meals. Employees collected the ballots, which included several bylaw changes and board elections, during the meeting.

Re-elected to the board were **MIKE BREWER** and **MARTIE FLOYD**. Newly-elected was **STEVE ARNOLD**.

Two Kansas ElectroRally races scheduled for fall

While the spring ElectroRally races in Kansas were canceled due to concerns with COVID-19, the two state races have been rescheduled for the fall. The High Plains Rally will be Sept. 24 in



Kansas high school students race hand-built electric vehicles in a prior ElectroRally event.

other safety precautions, we believe we should be able to have a safe and fun championship series.”

The ElectroRally invites high school teams to build vehicles from scratch using lightweight

Hays, and the Touchstone Energy ElectroRally will be Oct. 14 in Hoisington.

“The Kansas ElectroRally Board has had a chance to regather their thoughts on continuation of the championship series and we have commitment from schools to attend both events, so the championship series is back on the books for this fall,” said **NIKKI PFANNENSTIEL**, Sunflower’s manager of member services and board member for the Kansas ElectroRally.

Both of the fall events are scheduled in areas where social distancing can be accomplished.

“We have put safety measures in place to assure students stay with their teams, wear masks, and have plenty of hand sanitizer available. For food safety, we will provide box lunches for the participants,” she said. “With these and

components such as aluminum frames and bicycle wheels. Motors and controls are typically smaller versions of the same technology used in full-size electric vehicles.

The program involves physics, mathematics, electronics, auto technology and graphic design. As the teams create and race their vehicles, students have the opportunity to participate in different aspects, including design development, securing sponsorships, writing a paper, or being a driver or part of the pit crew. The competition is based on time and distance, and the race is won by the vehicle that completes the most laps in one hour.

Electric co-ops are encouraged to sponsor local teams or to volunteer at race events. For more information, visit kansaselectrorally.org.

Pandemic spurs changes to Co-op Month events

Every year, October marks a celebratory month for cooperatives. This year, Co-op Month may look a little different due to safety concerns relating to the pandemic.

“Normally, we sponsor a community college football game. But when football season was moved to the spring, we had to do something different,” said Butler’s **ANGIE CLEVELINGER**.

Butler now plans to host an outdoor event at Walter’s Pumpkin Patch. The business attraction is also a member.

“We’re going to offer half-priced admission, have games and prizes, and show our high voltage safety demonstration,” she said. “We weren’t able to have our annual meeting this year, and we’ve missed having that contact with our members. So it is a good way to see them safely in person.”

Other co-ops are adjusting in-person events to be offered in a different format.

“We’re hosting our first ‘Safety Fest in a Bag,’” said Pioneer’s **DREW WAECHTER**. “Normally, Safety Fest would be a block party, but not this year.”

The co-op is working with the local school district to donate backpacks to elementary school students. The backpacks will be filled with information, activity sheets, and items that would normally have been available at an in-person event.

“Many of our other programs – such as our youth poster contest, lunches at senior centers, and high school games – are being reviewed in hopes we can find a way to safely offer those programs,” Waechter said.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative (TCEC) spearheads an annual Pumpkins at the Park event. This year’s event will be replaced with a Co-ops Care campaign.

Co-ops Care is a joint effort by TCEC and the local telecom cooperative that benefits 100 local businesses and 100 members through a giveaway of 100 gift certificates in the amount of \$50 each.

“Anyone who lives in the co-op service area may enter the giveaway by sending a text. Drawings will be held throughout October,” said TCEC’s **JULIANN GRAHAM**.

PSE releases Client Rate Survey Report

For the past eight years, the Rates team at Power System Engineering (PSE) have been compiling data from cost-of-service (COS) studies from around the country to develop its Client Rate Survey Report.

“A significant point of discussion in the industry recently has been an electric utility’s ability to recover its fixed costs through the current rate design,” said **ELENA LARSON**, PSE manager of rates and regulatory services.

“Most of a utility’s distribution expenses are fixed, meaning they do not vary based on sales’ volume,” she continued. “By contrast, most of an electric utility’s revenue is variable, such

as recovered through an energy charge. This misalignment creates volatility in earnings, skewed price signals, and cost shifting between customers.”

The customer charge is the primary tool utilities use to recover the consumer costs for the residential customers. Forty-three of the sixty-six utilities included in PSE’s survey took steps to increase the customer charge to recover more of its fixed expense via a fixed charge. In 2019, the median customer charge has increased to \$30.50, recovering an average of 71 percent of the customer-related costs.

View the report by visiting this link: <https://lnkd.in/eumtjs7>.