

Rural Power

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Please send
your news
announcements to
ruralpower@kec.org.

Martie Floyd to be inducted into KCC Hall of Fame

MARTIE FLOYD, Pioneer Electric Cooperative board president, will be inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Kansas Cooperative Council, is valued for recognizing the contributions of co-op pioneers and honoring those who have gone "above and beyond the call" in advancing the cooperative philosophy.

Floyd has given decades of service to cooperatives and his community. A member of Pioneer's board since 1999, he has served as board president since 2019, and he is a board member for Sunflower Electric Power Corporation. He also has served as a board member of Johnson Cooperative Grain Co. and Skyland Grain, LLC.

He was nominated for his advocacy, innovation, and vision that has ensured the cooperative's relevancy, value, and ability to lead. Floyd has been an advocate of the cooperative principles.

"Martie has the wisdom and skills in management, as well as good ideas for the co-op," stated Pioneer Board Member **JIM BELL**. "His leadership has given us the ability to better plan for the future."

Fellow board member, **JOHN JURY**, agreed. "I have been ever impressed with his vision and leadership abilities as we have navigated through some uncharted waters within the electric



Martie Floyd

industry. (Floyd) is a natural, all-encompassing leader for our organization."

Floyd has provided guidance on the expansion of the grain cooperative across state lines, the construction of a storage facility, and several joint ventures with neighboring co-ops to share assets and expenses.

His personal accomplishments include working to develop plans to upgrade highways, streets, and signage; to evaluate the local high school facilities; and to address the housing shortage. Floyd and his wife, Diane, were instrumental in opening a local thrift store, a food pantry, and a shelter for battered women and their children.

Floyd will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at a date to be determined. Also to be inducted is **VERNON MAY**, who served on the boards of the National Society for Cooperative Accountants, and the cooperative councils for Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

The two inductees' biographical information will be placed alongside other honorees in the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame showcase display at the Kansas State Fairgrounds. Located in the Pride of Kansas Building, this permanent display highlights the achievements of Kansas' great co-op leaders and preserves co-op history. It also plays a significant role in educating others about the uniqueness of the cooperative business model.

Since established in 1999, 49 individuals from all types of co-ops have been inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame. Nominations for potential inductees are accepted each December.

KCRE and KEC to host virtual annual meetings this month

KEC is planning a series of virtual meetings to be held on the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 26.

The series of meetings will begin with the Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) Annual Meeting, followed immediately by the KCRE reorganization meeting. There will then be a short break with messages from the meeting sponsors. Next will be the KEC Annual Business Session, and the day's online event will

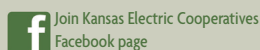
conclude with the KEC January Board Meeting.

The KEC Annual business meeting will feature a year-end report by KEC CEO **LEE TAFANELLI** and the announcement of the KEC Auxiliary Scholarship winners. The January Board Meeting will include the election of the 2021 KEC officers.

Meeting notices and log in information have been emailed to the members.



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Seats available for in-person board training

KEC is hosting a series of training sessions for a newly-developed directors course, Feb. 8-11. Space is still available for the in-person courses. However, the virtual course is full.

BRYAN SINGLETARY will facilitate *971.1 Governance Challenges of the Evolving Distribution Cooperative*. This course will be held at Victory's headquarters in Dodge City on Feb. 8, DSO's headquarters in Solomon on Feb. 9, and at 4 Rivers' headquarters in Lebo on Feb. 10. The virtual option on Feb. 11 has reached capacity.

This course focuses on different ways of thinking, data collection, and analysis at the board level so that boards are able to fulfill their oversight responsibilities and strategic vision.

Cost to attend the one-day training is \$300 per person. Seating is limited, and safety protocols will be followed. For more information, contact Shana Read at sread@kec.org.

insympathy

Larry Stainbrook

Larry Stainbrook, Heartland Board Member, died Jan. 17. He served from 2017-2021. His father, Bob Stainbrook, served on the board from 1991-2017.

Memorials may be sent to the Linn or Miami County 4-H or the Parker Elementary Library, c/o Schneider Funeral Home, P.O. Box 304, La Cygne, KS, 66040.

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.

- ▶ FreeState seeks a tree crew/groundsman.
- ▶ KEPCo seeks an administrative assistant - receptionist.
- ▶ Lane-Scott seeks warehouse position.
- ▶ Sunflower 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

JANUARY

- 26 **KCRE Annual Meeting and KCRE Executive Committee Meeting**, virtual, 8:30 a.m.
- 26 **KEC Annual Business Meeting and KEC January Board Meeting**, virtual, 10 a.m.
- 28 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.

FEBRUARY

- 8 **Board Leadership Course 971.1**, Victory Headquarters (pre-registration required)
- 9 **Board Leadership Course 971.1**, DSO Headquarters (pre-registration required)
- 10 **Board Leadership Course 971.1**, 4 Rivers Headquarters (pre-registration required)
- 11 **Board Leadership Course 971.1**, virtual (course is full and registration is closed)
- 16 **KEC's Day at the Capitol Program**, virtual
- 17 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays, TBD
- 18 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, virtual, 9 a.m.
- 23-26 **NRECA PowerXchange and NRECA TechAdvantage Experience**, week one, virtual
- 24 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.

KEC to host virtual *Day at the Capitol*

KEC invites co-op representatives to attend the virtual *Day at the Capitol*, scheduled for Feb. 16, 2021.

The event will include an update from the co-op lobbying team and conversations with key legislative leaders. There will also be structured time for cooperatives to schedule their own "virtual lunch" meeting with their local legislators.

"The virtual *Day at the Capitol* event is more important than ever, especially since KEC's annual Legislative Reception was canceled this year due to the pandemic," said **LESLIE KAUFMAN**, Vice President of Government Relations and Legal Counsel. "Although we can't physically fill the statehouse halls

with co-op leaders, we can still ensure there are meaningful engagements with our elected officials through virtual interactions. Co-op members have used Co-ops Vote activities to foster solid relationships with their legislators and we must ensure those relationships stay strong even when we are physically distanced"

KEC encourages cooperatives to contact their Senators and Representatives, inviting them to spend a few minutes with the co-op virtually. Those co-ops that share lawmakers may want to partner on a virtual meeting.

A detailed program and additional information will be emailed to the co-ops in the upcoming weeks.

KEC Auxiliary selects winners for \$1,000 scholarships

A dozen KEC youth program alumni applied for the inaugural KEC Auxiliary scholarship awards. On Jan. 14, KEC Auxiliary Chairperson **JOYCE BLANKA** reviewed the video submissions along with **CAROL DORR**, KEC. The winners will be announced during the KEC Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 26.

"We were very impressed with all the scholarship applicants did on their videos and how creative they were," Dorr said. "Many students showed how they were still actively involved with their local electric cooperative."

The new KEC Auxiliary scholarship program provides two \$1,000 scholarships to current college students who participated in either the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour or the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. Appli-



From left: KEC Auxiliary Chair Joyce Blanka and KEC's Carol Dorr meet to review the scholarship video applications on Jan. 14.

cants must have been sponsored by a KEC member-cooperative for one of the KEC 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 Youth (KEY) Leadership Conference planned for summer 2021

With the cancellation of KEC's regular youth programs, KEC is coordinating the 2021 virtual Kansas Electric Youth (KEY) Leadership Conference. Fourteen electric cooperatives in Kansas and Oklahoma will select local students for this exclusive leadership opportunity.

The online leadership event will take place during the week of June 21.



The conference will focus each morning on different aspects of leadership and will include engaging speakers, dynamic activities, and unique challenges. Networking is always a big part of the electric cooperative youth programs as delegates connect with like-minded, high-achieving teens. Through the 2021 virtual leadership experience, students

can get to know their peers across the state through mentor groups and off-line chats.

Students who participate in the 2021 virtual youth leadership conference will also be eligible to apply for future statewide and national scholarship awards specifically designed for the youth program alumni.

For more information or to enroll your cooperative in this program, email Shana Read at sread@kec.org or call 785-228-4620 (office).

Co-ops donate unused UOM school funds

Upholding the cooperative principle Commitment to Community, two electric cooperatives recently donated unused funds from the former Underground Overhead Metering (UOM) school to area non-profit organizations.

The regional training program had been held in Finney County for 46 years until 2020. The funds were divided equally among the three entities who coordinated the program: **PIONEER, WHEATLAND,** and the City of Garden City. Each received \$14,352 to donate.

Pioneer made donations to the Pheasant Heaven Charities program. PHC will use the donation to fund assistance opportunities for individuals dealing with medical needs. Additionally, the donations will support PHC's scholarship program and other organizations throughout southwest Kansas and the Oklahoma Panhandle.

Wheatland supported the Russell Child Development Center; Meals on Wheels; and Real Men, Real Leaders, all located in Finney County.

"It was fun seeing the faces light up when we donated to these worthy organizations," said Matt Scheeter, Wheatland's purchasing manager. "It was clear that they were very appreciative."

The City of Garden City gave their portion to the Finney County United Way.

FreeState to support small businesses through new directory program

FreeState is showing support to businesses across its service territory by launching the *Love Local Business Directory*. The directory, which will be posted to the co-op's website, is designed to connect FreeState's residential members with its business members. This new resource will officially launch on Feb. 1.

SARAH FARLEE, FreeState's public relations and marketing director, says the local directory is one way the co-op can help to strengthen communities within its service territory.

"The directory is an exploratory tool for our members to use," Farlee said. "We hope to help our business community by prompting our members to think local. We want to see what kind of feedback we get, and our own businesses seemed a great place to start."

Chamber leadership program seeks young professionals

Leadership Kansas has launched a new program aimed at the state's young professionals - Kansas Emerging Leaders.

"Similar to Leadership Kansas, KEL will provide young professionals the opportunity to learn about the many aspects of our great state and the many opportunities it offers. The program will focus on how past, present, and future challenges impact Kansas' regions and communities," said Leadership Kansas Executive Director **JEFF CHAPMAN**.

KEL was developed based on feedback from the more than 1,400 Leadership Kansas alumni who believed the state needed a leadership program for Kansans between 22-32 years old. Nominations for KEL's 2021 class may be submitted at www.LeadershipKansas.org/nominate-KEL until April 15.

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