

RuralPower

INSIDE

- 2 | Calendar
- 2 | Midwest Energy's James Wright serves as VP of WKREDA
- 3 | Member co-op annual meetings
- 3 | KEC hires summer interns

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

KEC to celebrate 80th anniversary at Summer Meeting

KEC will celebrate the 80th Anniversary of its charter at the 2021 Summer Meeting in Overland Park. The meeting will be held on Monday, Aug. 2, at the Overland Park Marriott. Two days of directors training will be held prior to the meeting on July 31 and Aug. 1.

Meeting Speakers

GOV. LAURA KELLY has been invited to join with KEC in celebrating the statewide association's 80th Anniversary. **SEN. JERRY MORAN** will visit with the attendees and give an update on congressional activities. Kansas utility/energy chairs **STATE SEN. MIKE THOMPSON** and **STATE REP. JOE SEIWERT** will share expectations for the coming session.

ROBERT BRYCE, who is sponsored by CFC, will share his thoughts on renewables, hydrocarbons, and nuclear energy, and he will discuss the February weather event in Texas. **TERI VISWANATH**, CoBank's lead economist of power energy and water, will share how co-ops should prepare for the energy consumer of the future.

The luncheon will include a leadership presentation by **GEN. PAUL E. FUNK II**.

Attendees will also hear from the **KANSAS YOUTH SPOKESPERSON**, who will be selected next week during KEC's virtual Kansas Electric Youth (KEY) Leadership Conference.

Vendor Trade Show

The KEC Summer Meeting Platinum Sponsors include Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, LLP; Border States Electric; CFC; CoBank; Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange; GridLiance; ITC Great Plains; MarksNelson; Sunbelt-Solomon Solutions; Toth and Associates, Inc.; Walker and Associates; and Water-Furnace. During the Monday meeting, attendees will have the opportunity to visit a vendor trade show in the hallway outside of the hotel meeting room during the breaks.

Spouses Program

Also on Monday, the spouses will be invited to meet between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. This summer's KEC Spouses Program will feature music bingo.

Directors Courses

Prior to the meeting, two trustee courses will be offered.

On Sat., July 31, a Board Leadership course and a Certified Co-op Director course will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Scott Luecal will facilitate **2630.1 STRATEGIC PLANNING**. Mike Marsch will facilitate

943.1 CONVERSATION SKILLS OUTSIDE THE BOARDROOM.

On Sun., Aug. 1, there will be two Board Leadership courses offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Scott Luecal will facilitate **974.1 RATE MAKING STRATEGIES AND POLICY DECISIONS FOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BOARDS**. Mary McLaury will facilitate the brand-new **953.1 IMPROVING BOARD DECISION-MAKING QUALITY**.

For more information about the directors courses or individual credential levels, call Shana Read at 785-228-4620 or email sread@kec.org.

NRECA Director Election

The NRECA Kansas Director election will be held at the conclusion of the KEC Summer Meeting on Mon., Aug. 2. Voting credentials need to be returned to Carol Dorr by July 26.

KEC August Board Meeting

Upon adjournment, the KEC Board will convene its August Board Meeting.

Registration

Registration for the KEC Summer Meeting and the directors courses has been emailed to the member cooperatives and should be returned to Carol Dorr at cdorr@kec.org by July 15. The registration cancellation deadline is July 21.



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

Join Kansas Electric Cooperatives
Facebook page

Wright appointed VP of rural economic development board

JAMES WRIGHT, Midwest Energy's key accounts and member services manager, was recently installed as vice president of the Western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance (WKREDA). This coalition of people in 55 western Kansas counties seek to improve the lives of residents in those areas by serving as an economic development resource.

The organization is governed by a 12-member Board of Directors, with subcommittees focused on agriculture, community development, legislative, marketing, professional development, and workforce.

Wright has represented Midwest Energy as a member of WKREDA since 2017.

"I have large shoes to fill, but everyone in the organization seems to step up and help each other out so that Western Kansas as a whole benefits from our effort," Wright said.

In this leadership position, Wright will assist the WKREDA president with the planning of quarterly conferences as well as an annual conference. After his one-year term as vice president, Wright will transition to the role of president in 2022.

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.

- ▶ Doniphan seeks a general manager.
- ▶ KEPCo seeks an information systems specialist II.
- ▶ Sumner-Cowley seeks member services/communications specialist.
- ▶ Sunflower has multiple openings.
- ▶ Western seeks billing specialist.
- ▶ Wheatland has multiple openings.
- ▶ Niobrara Valley (Nebraska) seeks a general manager.

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

JUNE

- 18 **Sunflower Board Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, 8:30 a.m.
- 21-25 **Kansas Electric Youth (KEY) Leadership Conference**, virtual.
- 21 **Flip the Switch**, 4 Rivers, Studebaker Sun Farm, Fredonia, at 4:30 p.m. Will also be streamed via Facebook live.
- 23 **Flip the Switch**, Butler, DeGraff Sun Farm at 10 a.m., Harvey County Solar Farm Flip the Switch at 2 p.m.
- 24 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, 10 a.m.

JULY

- 5 **4th of July Holiday**, KEC office closed.
- 13 **Twin Valley Annual Meeting**, Oswego Community Center, Oswego. Meal at 6 p.m. Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- 14-15 **KEPCo Board Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, 2 p.m.
- 17 **Sumner-Cowley Annual Meeting**, Wellington High School. Meal at 11:30 a.m. Meeting at 1:15 p.m.
- 20 **Lane-Scott Annual Meeting**, Lane County Fairgrounds, Dighton. Meal at 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- 21 **Sunflower Board Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, 8:30 a.m.
- 22 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, 10 a.m.
- 31 **KEC Summer Meeting Directors Training**, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park.

AUGUST

- 1 **KEC Summer Meeting Directors Training**, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park.
- 2 **KEC Summer Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park.
- 5 **Caney Valley Annual Meeting**, Cedar Vale High School, Cedar Vale. Meal at 5:30 p.m. Meeting at 6 p.m.
- 12 **Doniphan Annual Meeting**, Troy Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 13 **KEPCo Board Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, 8 a.m.
- 23 **Sunflower Board Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, 8:30 a.m.
- 25 **HR Summit Roundtable**, virtual, 10 a.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 9 **Pioneer Annual Meeting**, Grant County Civic Center, Ulysses. Time TBD.
- 20-22 **IT Summit**, Courtyard by Marriott at Old Town, Wichita.

upcomingtraining

HR Summit virtual roundtable

Following KEC's HR Summit, attendees indicated they would like to continue the virtual roundtable on a quarterly basis. The first of these virtual meetings is now scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 25, 10-11 a.m.

This session will be facilitated by **RUTH BEALER**, Midwest Energy, and will cover the following topics: how co-ops are preparing for upcoming retirements and retaining the institutional knowledge of those retirees, what specific activities co-ops engage in to retain current employees, and how co-ops promote the positive side of co-op culture to employees or potential employees. There will be a brief discussion about the 2022 HR Summit. Attendees will also be asked to share their favorite book or resource.

Meeting information and registration has been emailed to the participating cooperatives. There is no cost to attend this virtual event.

2021 IT Summit, Sept. 20-22

The IT Summit Planning Committee asks members to save the dates of Sept. 20-22 for the fall meeting. The 2021 KEC IT Summit will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sept. 20, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sept. 21, and from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Sept. 22. The Courtyard by Marriott at Old Town in Wichita is the host site.

To make a hotel reservation, call 866-522-8909 by Aug. 30. Ask for the "KEC IT Summit Block" rate of \$145 which includes breakfast and parking. Detailed program information will be emailed closer to the meeting dates.

Save the Dates: KMSDA Meeting

The KMSDA Fall Meeting is scheduled for Oct. 27-29, and will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott at Old Town in Wichita.

More information and program details will be sent to the members as we near the meeting dates.

annualmeetings

Sunflower

Prairie Land hosted Sunflower's annual meeting at Holcomb Station on May 19. During the meeting, the Sunflower Board elected **WES CAMPBELL**, Wheatland, as chair; and **KENNY WEHKAMP**, Victory, as vice chair.

4 Rivers

4 Rivers held its annual meeting on May 22 at the Burlington High School. The meeting was originally planned as a drive-in event, but was moved to the high school gym due to inclement weather. During the meeting, the members approved the proposed bylaws and heard cooperative reports. There were 94 members registered for the meeting including by proxy. 55 members and guests were in attendance.

A mail ballot to elect board members had been held in the spring, and the results were announced at the meeting. Re-elected to the board were **LARRY FELTS**, **NICK FRANKENBERY**, **EUGENE HUSTON**, **WARREN SCHMIDT**, and **MICHAEL SPRINGER**.

Ninnescah

Ninnescah's annual meeting was held June 8 at the Pratt Municipal Building. Approximately 135 members and guests attended the meal held prior to the meeting.

The cooperative awarded five scholarships. Scholarship recipient **CALI NEWDIGGER** gave a presentation about personal growth and agriculture advocacy. Re-elected to the board were **MICHAEL CHRISTIE**, **RON SCHULTZ**, and **BRUCE WARREN**.

insympathy

Bob Ohlde

Robert M. "Bob" Ohlde, former Bluestem board member, died May 23, 2021. He served as C&W Trustee from 1976 to 1999, and as Bluestem Trustee from 1999 to 2018 when C&W and PR&W merged. Ohlde also served on the KEPCo board from 1993 to 2017.

Services were held on May 26 at the Zion Lutheran Church in Linn. Memorials may be sent to the Linn Lutheran School Endowment Fund or Lutheran Hour, c/o Ward Funeral Home, 418 4th St, Linn, KS 66953.

KEC hires Enzbrenner, Scheer as summer interns

PAYTON

ENZBRENNER, a Strategic Communication student at the University of Kansas, and **ALEXA SCHEER**, a Political Science and International Studies student at Kansas State University, recently joined KEC for a summer internship.



Payton Enzbrenner

"Both students are working on projects for several departments at KEC," said Carol Dorr, KEC's manager of administrative services, who is supervising this summer's interns. "They are helping with community engagement programs including Co-ops Vote and the KEY Leadership Conference, and learning about how our cooperatives communicate with their members."

Enzbrenner said, "I am so excited to have the opportunity to work closely with the communications department while gaining firsthand experience in producing *Kansas Country Living*. I look forward to learning the ins and outs of how the magazine is produced and how the



Alexa Scheer

co-ops communicate with their consumer-members. As a Strategic Communications major, it is crucial that I understand how to successfully create a line of communication between an entity and its consumers. I am very grateful that I have the opportunity to aid in its publication.

Scheer said, "As a student, I study the dynamic that exists between governments and their constituents and consider how individuals can act collectively to achieve a common good. I am thrilled to apply this passion to support Kansas co-ops. I hope to obtain experience with the power of collective action and the capabilities of local democratic organizations. I love to work on projects that assist KEC to advocate for the policy positions of the electric co-ops and rural Kansans. Working on projects that strengthen effective communication between individuals and their representatives will make my internship experience invaluable."

KEC shows support for Kansas State FFA virtual convention

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. continued its long-standing support of the Kansas FFA Convention. For the second year, the convention was held online. This year's Kansas FFA Convention, which ran June 2-4, was the 93rd celebration of the association and the achievements of Kansas FFA members.

The theme of this year's convention was "Rise."

"This year, we have seen a variety of people rise to the occasion – farmers, healthcare workers, community leaders, teachers, advisors, and FFA members. Our students have shown resilience, inspired others, and exhibited strength," stated **ABBY JOHNSON**, 2020-2021 Kansas FFA vice president and 2019 Youth Tour alumna sponsored by DSO. "Now we have the opportunity to showcase those traits of Kansas FFA members as we rise together, celebrating accomplishments and actions at our



Hannah Graybill, 2020-2021 Kansas FFA state sentinel, announces the 209 state degree winners at the 93rd FFA Convention, held virtually June 2-4.

state convention."

KEC continued its long sponsorship of the State FFA Degrees which is the highest degree any state association may bestow on its members. The golden charm of the State FFA Degree is the symbol of growth and development. This year, the names and photos of the 209 Kansas high school students who earned this honor were displayed during the virtual ceremony.

The recorded convention may be viewed at <http://convention.ksffa.org/>.