

# Rural Power

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Please send your story ideas to [ruralpower@kec.org](mailto:ruralpower@kec.org).

## KEC prepares for annual meeting, legislative reception

Electric co-op representatives from across the state will gather at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka for KEC's Annual Meeting Jan. 26-29.

The agenda features a variety of speakers. **STEPHEN BELL**, NRECA, will report on the Lexicon Project which has guided development of a common language for co-ops to use when discussing priority issues. **SID SPERRY**, SPIDI Weather Solutions, will demonstrate how to use 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.

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**. **BRUCE GRAHAM**, KEC's CEO, will report on achievements and activities in the State of the Statewide presentation. There will also be an app presentation, a legislative briefing, and safety awards presentation by KEC staff.

### KEC Social Hour

A social hour will be held on Sunday, Jan. 27 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

### Legislative Reception

The Legislative Reception, co-hosted by Federated and the Kansas electric cooperatives, will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 28.

### Directors' Training

Three courses will be offered prior to the meeting. All courses will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Saturday, Jan. 26, directors will have a choice between a CCD course and a Board Leadership course. **KEVIN SUMP**

will facilitate 2630.1 *Strategic Planning*. This course teaches how to participate effectively in strategic thinking and planning processes. **SCOTT LUECAL** will facilitate 975.1 *Capital Credits Issues and Decisions*. This course helps directors understand the co-op's capital credits policy.

On Sunday, Jan. 27, Sump will facilitate the Board Leadership course 955.1 *Your Board's Culture: Its Impact on Effectiveness*. This course explains the concept of boardroom culture through an examination of case studies.

### Silent and Quilt Auctions

KCRE will host its annual silent auction on Monday, Jan. 28. To donate items, please contact KEC's Carol Dorr. At the Annual Meeting, attendees can text to bid on a quilt that was crafted and donated by Rolling Hills member **LUANN WILSON**. Throughout Monday, Jan. 28, bids can be placed by simply texting the bidder's name and bid amount to Shana Read at 785-224-7313. The text auction will end at 7:15 p.m.

### "Catch" Breakfast on Tuesday

Chris Cakes of Wichita will cater breakfast on Tuesday, Jan. 29 from 6:30 to 7:45 a.m.

### Spouses Program

The Spouses Program begins in the general session on Monday, Jan. 28 with a memorial program, the Statehouse 2019 presentation, and a KEC App demonstration. The spouses will then meet in the Pioneer Room where they will hear from **MARTIE RISON** with the Topeka History Geeks, **KIM TURLEY** with Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries, and **AL STRUTTMAN** of Moberuts.

All Annual Meeting attendees are encouraged to bring hygiene items to donate to the Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries, including shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, and toothpaste.



Annual Meeting attendees will be able to text to bid on this hand-crafted quilt donated by Rolling Hills member Luann Wilson. Bidders will text their name and bid amount to Shana Read at 785-224-7313 on Jan. 28.



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 Topeka, KS 66604-0267  
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 Join Kansas Electric Cooperatives Facebook page

## KEC launches new app

KEC recently launched its new app at the December Board meeting.

The app has several features and will continue to be developed by staff. Currently, the KEC App offers a directory feature for individuals, co-ops, and sponsors. It also links to the KEC calendar. In the future, staff plans to use the app for KEC's Annual Meeting and Summer Meeting.

To download the app, search for "Kansas Electric Cooperatives" using either the App Store or Google Play. Members will need to log in using the email they use for KEC.

Members are asked to click "always allow" for the app to access your location and "allow" for the app to send notifications. These features will be important to send updates during KEC events.

A KEC app presentation will be offered at the KEC Annual Meeting on Monday, Jan. 28. For more information, please contact Carol Dorr or Shana Read at 785-478-4554.

## 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@cec.org](mailto:ruralpower@cec.org). Positions will be posted on the website for one month, unless otherwise directed by the co-op.

- ▶ FreeState has openings for an Engineering Intern and a Member Services Representative for the Topeka office.
- ▶ Sunflower has openings for a Communications Specialist, a Project Management Intern, Journey Line Technician, Line Technician Apprentice, Lab Tech Trainee, Environmental & Science Intern, Transmission Engineer, Transmission Engineer Intern, Senior Transmission Engineer, Transmission Geotechnician, Instructional Designer, and an Operator Technician.
- ▶ Custer PPD in Nebraska has openings for an Operations Manager and an Engineering Assistant.

## co-opcalendar

### DECEMBER

24-25 Christmas Holiday – KEC Office Closed

### JANUARY

1 New Year's Day Holiday – KEC Office Closed

18 Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays

26-29 KEC Annual Meeting, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka

29 KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting (immediately following KEC Annual Meeting) KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

### FEBRUARY

5-7 Underground Overhead Metering School, Finney County Fairgrounds, Garden City

6 Day at the Capitol – Kansas Capitol

15 Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays

## KEC offers series of remote learning opportunities

KEC hosted a conference call on Nov. 29 that answered "What the Election Results Mean for Electric Cooperatives." This conference call was the first of the planned quarterly remote learning opportunities offered through KEC.

**KIRK JOHNSON**, NRECA's Senior Vice President of Government Relations, shared what the election results mean on the national level. He then recapped the big issues that Congress is facing yet this year, including Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) premium reform, funding for border security, legislation regarding tax cuts, and the farm bill.

After the federal recap, KEC's Government Relations team of **LESLIE KAUFMAN** and **TARA MAYS** gave a statewide review. They discussed the

turnover of the Kansas Congressional delegation, the make up of the Kansas Legislature, and the upcoming series of Co-ops Vote events. Lastly, they encouraged the cooperatives to participate in the "Day at the Capitol" event on Wednesday, Feb. 6.

A recording of this session can be found on KEC's Members Only portion of the website.

The next remote learning opportunity will be a webinar on March 5 at 10 a.m. **KRISTINA DIETRICK**, President of HR Partners, a Topeka-based human resources and management consulting firm, will discuss "Transitioning in the Workplace: Succession Planning with Multiple Generations." Webinar information will be emailed to the cooperatives in February.

## Kansas Electric Cooperatives to host Day at the Capitol

KEC invites cooperative representatives to attend the second annual "Day at the Capitol" event, scheduled for Feb. 6, 2019, 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.

"Policy makers use these occasions to gain information from the co-ops directly about the practical implications of the policy discussions happening at the statehouse," she continued.

KEC will send hotel information and other details directly to the cooperative 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.

For more information about the Day at the Capitol, contact Leslie Kaufman at [lkaufman@cec.org](mailto:lkaufman@cec.org) or Tara Mays at [tmays@cec.org](mailto:tmays@cec.org).

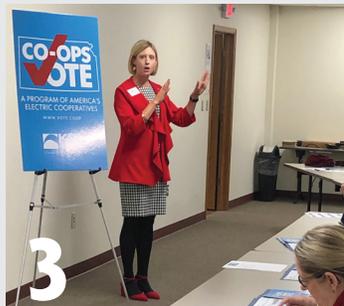
# KEC's Co-ops Vote event series concludes

Electric cooperatives hosted a series of Co-ops Vote events designed for legislators to learn more about the electric cooperative industry in Kansas. Nine events were held across the state between Nov. 13 and Dec. 14.

The programs included briefings by

KEC staff on cooperative issues likely to come before the 2019 Kansas Legislature and a discussion on what sets electric cooperatives apart from other business models.

For more information, please contact Leslie Kaufman or Tara Mays.



1. Mike Morton, Paul Wilson, Doug Jackson, Tim Powers, Rep. Steven Johnson, and Bruce Graham gather at the event in Clay Center on Nov. 26.
2. Legislators including Rep. Greg Lewis, Rep. Jack Thimesch, and Sen. Ed Berger attend the Pratt event on Nov. 28.
3. Suzanne Lane, KEPCo, describes the G&T role at the FreeState gathering on Dec. 4.
4. Tara Mays, KEC, speaks at the Dec. 7 event

5. Leslie Kaufman, KEC, visits with policy makers in Wichita on Dec. 10.
6. Stuart Lowry, Sunflower, addresses attendees at the Hays event on Dec. 11.
7. Shane Laws visits with Rep. Brad Ralph in Dodge City on Dec. 11.
8. Kathleen O'Brien visits with Sen. Dennis Pyle and Rep. Randy Garber at the Co-ops Vote event in Horton on Dec. 14.

# Allan Miller to retire from Prairie Land

**ALLAN MILLER**, CEO of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc., will retire on Jan. 4, 2019, after 43 years of service.

Miller began his career with Norton-Decatur Cooperative Electric Company, Inc. on Oct. 1, 1975, as an apprentice lineman. Throughout his tenure, he served as warehouseman, work order clerk, staff assistant, interim accountant, and office manager. He has served in his current management position since 1991.

Miller guided the co-op through both the merger of Northwest Kansas Electric Cooperative Association and Norton-Decatur in 1997 and the acquisition of Aquila, Inc., in 2007.

"When I became general manager, we had 6,000 meters and today we have nearly 25,000," Miller said.

For his part, Miller was reflective on his four-decades long cooperative career.

"The last 43 years have been rewarding," Miller said. "From day one, I never considered a different job or a different company. We have a great team of employees who work hard at providing our members with the best service possible."



Allan Miller

## insympathy

### Bob Bergland

Former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland died on Dec. 9 at the age of 90.

Bergland served as Secretary of Agriculture under the Carter administration from 1976 to 1980. The former Minnesota congressional representative was then named the third Executive Vice President and General Manager of NRECA, serving from 1984 to 1994. He was inducted in the Cooperative Hall of Fame in 1994. He also received the Clyde T. Ellis Award, the highest honor bestowed on an individual by America's electric cooperatives.

Bergland died at a nursing home in his hometown of Roseau, Minnesota.

# Electric cooperatives show their Christmas spirit

The Kansas electric co-ops have a tradition of showing Christmas spirit to their communities. That spirit may take the form of an employee who plays the part of Santa, co-ops participating in local Christmas parades, or employees adopting a family for Christmas.

The employees at **KEPCO** adopted an elderly lady and a family consisting of a father and two small children for Christmas. The adoptions were part of the United Way of Greater Topeka's Christmas Bureau. Staff made both monetary and time donations to help shop, wrap, and deliver gifts.

**SEDGWICK COUNTY** linemen kicked off the season by helping to install Christmas wreaths along Main Street in Cheney.

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Wheatland employees present a CoBank Sharing Success grant and gifts for 65 local children to support the St. Francis Ministries' Christmas for Kids Campaign.

For the second year in a row, **WHEATLAND** partnered with St. Francis Ministries for its annual Christmas for Kids campaign. This program ensures that more than 3,200 children in foster care throughout the Midwest receives Christmas gifts. Nearly 40 Wheatland employees signed up to purchase

gifts for 65 children in the Garden City, Holcomb, Leoti, Scott City, Syracuse, and Tribune communities.

"Wheatland looks forward to making Christmas a little brighter for children in the communities we serve," said **BRUCE MUELLER**, Wheatland's General Manager.

Wheatland also contributed \$1,000 to St. Francis Ministries through CoBank's Sharing Success matching grant program.



Sedgwick County linemen Chandler Gechter (left) and Victor Ayala (right) help install Christmas wreaths in downtown Cheney.



WE WISH  
— YOU A VERY —  
**MERRY**  
**CHRISTMAS**

— AND A HAPPY —  
NEW YEAR



**Q** I'm a new electric cooperative manager in Kansas. In what areas does the Kansas Corporation Commission regulate cooperatives, and what is the procedure for changing electric rates?

**A** The KCC retains jurisdiction over self-regulated cooperatives for service territory, transmission rates, sales for resale, wire stringing rules and transmission line siting. The decision to change rates is made by your member-elected board of trustees in a meeting open to the membership. State law requires that you provide notice to your membership at least 10 days prior to the meeting where the board will discuss and vote upon a proposal to change rates. It's also important that you... [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**