

Rural Power

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Please send any story ideas to ruralpower@kec.org.

Kansas youth tour students visit legislators at U.S. Capitol

Teaching 37 high school students about electric cooperatives, introducing them to government officials, and helping to develop their leadership skills, were important objectives of the 55th annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 11-18.

The trip, sponsored by Kansas' electric cooperatives, began in Topeka with several guest speakers at the kick-off banquet. KEC's **BRUCE GRAHAM** led the event and introduced **BRANT LAUE**, Chief Counsel for Gov. Sam Brownback, who attended youth tour in 1978; **STEVEN JOHNSON**, Kansas House of Representatives District 108, who attended in 1983; and **KYLE HOFFMAN**, Kansas House of Representatives District 116, who attended in 1989.

Before leaving Kansas, the students visited Kaw Valley where they learned how electric cooperatives work and rode in a bucket truck. They also experienced a tour of the Kansas State Capitol led by Rep. Johnson.



Senator Jerry Moran and Senator Pat Roberts pose with the Kansas youth tour delegates inside the U.S. Capitol building on June 16.

Once in Washington, D.C., the group visited with **SENATORS JERRY MORAN** and **PAT ROBERTS**, and **CONGRESSMEN TIM HUELSKAMP** and **MIKE POMPEO**, and **CONGRESSWOMAN LYNN JENKINS**, allowing the students to learn about the nation's government.

For many students, the meetings were inspiring and motivated them to set leadership goals.

"Taking to our Kansas congressional Representatives and Senators inspired me to want to have an impact our nation. Having the opportunity to meet with them made me realize that I want to be a part of our government and help improve change," said **EMMA DEMARANVILLE**, a youth delegate sponsored by LJEC.

"When our Senators and Representatives talked to us to answer our questions and just take the time to meet with us, it showed me that they really care about us," said **FAITH TUTTLE**, sponsored by Western. "It helped me realize that politicians are actual people."

"Senator Moran has told us how impressed he is with the Youth Tour



(From left): Gov. Brownback's Chief Counsel Brant Laue, KEC's Bruce Graham, Rep. Steve Johnson, and Rep. Kyle Hoffman spoke at the youth tour banquet.

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Patrice Klein named as Kansas General Field Representative

Patrice Klein has joined the Rural Utilities Service in the Office of Loan Origination and Approval, as the General Field Representative for Kansas on April 6, 2015.

Klein previously served as a board member of the Kansas Development Finance Authority and the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation. She also served the state's utility rate commission for more than eight years. She brings a diverse blend of finance, legal, and energy experience.

Klein is a graduate of the 2013 Leadership Kansas Class and holds a J.D. from Washburn University, an MBA from Arizona State, and a Bachelors of Business Administration in Finance from Wisconsin.

Contact Klein at 785-221-5440, or email patrice.klein@wdc.usda.gov.

upcoming training

Supervisory Fast Track

KEC is offering the NRECA Supervisory Training courses on Aug. 24-28 at the Courtyard Marriott in Wichita.

This "fast track" offers all nine interactive, half-day courses in one week. Participants can register for some or all of the modules they need to fulfill their Supervisory Training certificate. Bryan Singletary will facilitate the supervisory courses.

CFC Financial Workshop for Directors

Join CFC for the Kansas State-wide Financial Workshop at the Wichita Marriott, Oct. 14-15. Designed specifically for Kansas co-op directors, this workshop provides a variety of finance-focused topics. CFC will also host a reception and dinner on Oct. 14, plus a box lunch will be provided as you depart for home on Oct. 15.

Sessions will be led by CFC staff and will address topics such as an economic update, financial statement analysis, capital credits and electric rates. Registration information has been emailed to all member cooperatives. For more information, contact Shana Read at sread@kec.org.

co-opcalendar

JUNE

25 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

JULY

3 **Independence Day Observed – KEC Office Closed**

11-17 **Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp**, Steamboat Springs, CO

15-16 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

17 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays

21 **Lane-Scott Annual Meeting**, dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m., Fairgrounds, 745 N. 7th, Dighton

23 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

AUGUST

1-3 **KEC Summer Board Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park, Kansas

6-7 **Material Manager's Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park

19-20 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

21 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays

24-28 **Supervisory Fast Track**, Courtyard Marriott Old Town, Wichita

28 **KCRE Golf Tournament**, Salina

SEPTEMBER

9-11 **KEC Hotline School**, Pratt Vo-Tech, Pratt

10 **Tri-County Annual Meeting**, dinner at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m., Texas County Activity Ctr., 5th & Sunset, Guyman, OK

KEC prepares for Summer Meeting in Overland Park

Final preparations are being made for the 2015 KEC Summer Meeting, which will be held Aug. 3 at the Overland Park Marriott.

Speakers for this year's meeting include **WALLACE BARRON**, President of Barron & Associates Corporate Solutions, who will discuss member self-generation and the paradigm shift; **JOE HARRIS**, former Interim General Manager of Choctaw Electric Cooperative who will tell the Choctaw Electric Story; and **DR. KENNETH ROSE, JR.**, Independent Consultant and Senior Fellow with the Institute of Public Utilities, who will give a presentation on retail wheeling.

CARL MONROE, Executive Vice President & COO Southwest Power Pool (SPP), will join **MARCUS HARRIS**, KEPCo's Executive Vice President and CEO, and **STUART LOWRY**, Sunflower's President and CEO, in providing an update on the evolution of the SPP.

There will be a Kansas NRECA Membership Meeting to elect the Kansas representative to the NRECA Board. And the KEC Board will meet to review the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Director election process and conduct other business as needed.

Two breakout sessions will be offered concurrently. The first option will be iPad tips and tricks (spouses are welcome to attend), and the second option will be a Trustee roundtable.

Also on Monday, the KEC Auxiliary Program will feature a story of love, acceptance and hope by **BRANDI WINANS**; a presentation by "The Marble Lady" **CATHY RUNYAN-SVACINA**; and a display of the traveling button museum by **LISE MCINTYRE**. The KEC Auxiliary will also host the 3rd Annual Silent Auction. Co-ops and individuals are encouraged to consider donating items for the auction.

Prior to the meeting, three trustee courses will be offered. On Sat., Aug. 1, a new Board Leadership course and a Certified Co-op Director course will be offered from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. **BRYAN SINGLETARY** will facilitate the new BLC on power supply called **964.1 Communicating the New Energy Landscape**. **WALLACE BARRON** will facilitate the CCD course **2630 Strategic Planning**.

On Sun., Aug. 2, there will be a half-day workshop from 1-4 p.m. **LYNN MOORE**, Moore Innovative Solutions, will facilitate **Why Satisfaction Matters - The Impact of Building Influence**.

KEC sponsors State Degree at Kansas FFA Convention

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., presented the State Degrees to 218 members at the 87th Kansas FFA Convention. The convention was located at Kansas State University in Manhattan on May 29.

Sponsored by KEC annually, the Kansas State FFA Degree is the highest honor an FFA member can receive. To achieve this award, the member must meet seven crucial requirements. The member must have received their chapter FFA Degree and been an FFA member and agricultural education student for a minimum of two years. They must have earned at least \$2,000 or worked 600 hours in their Supervised Agricultural Experience program. The recipient must give a six-minute speech about agriculture or FFA-related topic and must

participate in eight different leadership activities. The student needs to earn a letter grade of a "C" average or above in high school while showing a record of outstanding leadership and community involvement.

During the award ceremony, KEC's Communications Specialist Carrie Kimberlin presented each of the students with a gold charm.



FFA President and KEC youth tour alumni, Taylor Green (left) and KEC's Carrie Kimberlin (center) present a State Degree charm to an FFA member during the FFA State Convention.

Rolling Hills Board approves new headquarters design

After years of careful consideration, the Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative Board voted to accept Cooperative Building Solutions' final design and approved the construction of a centrally located main office facility in Beloit.

During the process and study, the co-op's strategic plan titled "Building for the Future" was based on the co-op's strengths, capitalized on opportunities and addressed weaknesses. Throughout the summer of 2013, the co-op held informational meetings in several locations throughout its service territory, members voted via mail ballot to centralize its office location to obtain long-term cost savings and operational efficiencies, and the co-op's centerspread included articles explaining the issues and the strategic plan.

The co-op purchased land near the intersection of state highways 9 and 24 for the centralized facility in Beloit last fall.

The Board selected a "design-build" process—a state-of-the-art, best practices method of project execution. Based on the Board's consideration, the design-build team of Cooperative Building Solutions, M+H Architects, and Paric Corporation were selected. This is the same team that built the new facilities for both DS&O and Twin Valley in 2014.

The Board approved contracts for the construction of the new facility totaling approximately \$6.4 million. Rolling Hills will schedule a groundbreaking within the next couple of weeks. The new headquarters is projected to be completed in May 2016.



Above is the artist rendering of the proposed Rolling Hills headquarters in Beloit.

KEC honored as sponsor at 4-H Emerald Circle Banquet

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., was recognized as a Patron Sponsor at the Kansas 4-H Foundation's annual Emerald Circle Banquet on May 28 in Manhattan.

As a sponsor, KEC helps provide funding to present medallions to the state project awards, and support trip scholarships for state project winners to attend the National 4-H Congress. KEC's Vicki Estes attended the banquet.

At the banquet, 4-H members from around the state were recognized as state project winners in areas including beef, clothing and textiles, communications, and leadership. For the third year, KEC sponsored the Leadership Project. This year's winner was **AMBER KELLY**, a 17-year-old from Atchison County.

Kelly received the 4-H Leadership Project medallion for developing and directing a state-wide project that brought together many clubs and organizations across Kansas.

As a result of her project, 451 dresses were sent to Africa, through the Little Dresses for Africa campaign. These dresses not only clothe the young girls, but give them hope of an education and better life.

Kelly was also the Sewing and Buymanship project leader, Atchison County 4-H Council Secretary, Club Parliamentarian, Camp Corral Counselor, and 4-H Ambassador. She applied her 4-H leadership skills in making improvements in her local school and raising money to travel to Europe.

In 2014, Kelly received the Citizenship Project award, also sponsored by KEC, for her participation in the Little Dresses for Africa campaign, where she used her passion for sewing to organize clubs to complete 148 dresses.

Additionally, she has mended clothes for seniors, sewed backpacks for campers, and taught crafts at the country Christmas celebration.



Amber Kelly received the 4-H Leadership Project medallion, which was sponsored by KEC, at the Emerald Circle Banquet.

Co-ops help get database to fight metal thefts

An improved law to fight copper theft is coming to Kansas, thanks in part to electric cooperatives. The state attorney general will establish and maintain a statewide database of scrap metal sales, accessible to law enforcement, under a new law taking effect July 1. All Kansas scrap metal dealers must register and pay a fee, that will fund the database services.

The dealers must keep a detailed register of their purchases in the database, which will be available statewide to law enforcement. Information they'll need to gather includes sellers' names, addresses, drivers and vehicle license numbers, as well as a description of the metal. Photos will be taken of both the seller and the goods, and the seller must sign a statement indicating where he/she got the metal and that it "is not stolen."

The new law also singles out "property owned and marked by a telephone, cable, electric, water or other utility provider" as being unlawful for a dealer to purchase unless certain conditions are met. Those conditions include obtaining proof that the seller is authorized to actually sell the items. The definition of "damages" will include costs to repair equipment, loss of production and sales and damages suffered after the theft.

"We have been working to make the scrap metal law tougher for seven years. These changes, including stiffer penalties and assistance through the database, should enable law enforcement to pursue those who commit these thefts on a consistent basis," said Dave Holthaus, KEC's Vice President of Government Relations.

The legislation resulted from the work of an appointed interim study group of the Legislature's Judicial Council where Holthaus represented not only cooperatives but all Kansas electric and gas utilities.

The bill, signed June 12 by Gov. Sam Brownback, was also welcomed by Sedgwick County District Attorney Marc Bennett. He told *The Wichita Eagle* that he hopes the database will give authorities the ability to "track some of these people who are habitually selling scrap metal across different yards around one jurisdiction to the next."

ECT, MICHAEL KAHN

Victory Electric creates Vittles for Vets food drive

Recently, volunteers of the Kansas State Soldiers Home noticed a need among the 200 veterans who live at Fort Dodge, and started a small food pantry for the residents. In support of this initiative, Victory Electric has launched the "Vittles for Vets" food drive to help keep the food pantry well-stocked.

The co-op has posted a list of needed items on its website. Members are entered to win a \$100 bill credit for donating items. A total of six bill credits will be awarded between July and Dec.

Army veteran **ESTHER SORDEN** said, "The pantry helps me out with groceries a lot. There are times I can't make it

to the store and being able to walk up here and grab what's needed has been a blessing."

Sorden served in the Army and now resides at Fort Dodge with her dog Laffy Taffy. Sorden and other veterans like her—representing each military branch and each war from World War II, Korean, Vietnam, and Desert Storm—live on the property and may retrieve anything they need from household goods to clothing to small food items.

"The food pantry is a way for the veterans to keep their independence," said Fort Dodge Administrator **ANDREA FOLEY**. "We're in the business to help."

Youth Tour, continued

program and the potential he sees in the youth that participate. This time he told the whole country stories of the impact of our leadership program and I hope everyone will view his remarks," said Bruce Graham, KEC Chief Executive Officer. The link to his full speech can be found on KEC's Facebook page and on KEC's website.

"Electric Cooperatives are more than just poles and wires. They're about people and communities," Sen. Moran stated in his speech. "Recognizing that youth are the future of those communities is what the rural electric cooperative program is all about."

The youth toured the U.S. Capitol, Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Smithsonian museums, Mt. Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, several memorials, along with seeing the Broadway musical *Newsies* at the National Theatre and attending a professional ballgame at the Nationals Stadium. The delegates also attended the NRECA Youth Day that brought together 1,700 youth from 43 states.

EMMA DEMARANVILLE was selected by her peers to be the 2015 Youth Leadership Council representative for Kansas, and will participate in NRECA's 2016 Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

This year's trip was chaperoned by Butler's Travis Griffin and his wife, Amanda, and KEC's Shana Read, and her husband, Randy.



The youth tour delegates met with members of the Kansas Congressional delegation. Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins (top), Congressman Mike Pompeo (middle) and Congressman Tim Huelskamp (bottom) pose with students from within their respective districts.