

RuralPower

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

Kansas youth learn cooperative principles at camp

Kansas high school students joined youth from Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp July 11-17.

As part of the week-long adventure, the students established a candy cooperative business, in which they elected a general manager and board of directors, participated in daily membership meetings and paid their dues membership of 50 cents to the newly established co-op business.

"This camp is specifically designed to empower student leaders and help them better understand the cooperative business model," said Shana Read, KEC's Director of Communications. "This camp not only highlights the co-op's commitment to their communities, but it also helps teach the students to become community leaders."

"One of the many things that inspired me was the legislative activity. I knew political censuses were difficult, but I didn't understand the extent until that activity," said Carissa McAfee, sponsored by LJEC. "I also learned the commitment that the many people working for an electric cooperative have for their community."

When not tending to their candy cooperative, the students learned about electric co-ops, witnessed a high-voltage safety demonstration and built a transmission line from craft supplies.

Dean Masters, sponsored by Western, stated, "I will always remember the tours of the Trapper Mine and Craig Power plant. I had no idea how much work went into creating electricity. Also, after hearing from linemen I have much more respect for them. I will no longer be upset when



Students from Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming attended the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, CO, July 11-17.

the power goes out because I now know how much work goes into turning it back on."

The youth toured Fish Creek Falls, Trapper Mine, Craig Power Plant and a solar array; visited Steamboat Springs; experienced the adrenaline rush of river rafting; and enjoyed traditional camp activities, such as volleyball, swimming, dancing, and competing in a talent show.

At the end of the week, the students voted how to spend their capital credits. They donated nearly \$300 to an education fund designated for the children of a Colorado co-op lineman who lost his life the week of camp.

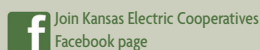
Camp participants were chosen by their local electric cooperatives through an application and interview process based on academic achievements, positive attitudes and the youths' involvement within their communities.

Every year, campers elect students to return to the following year's camp to help with coordination and facilitation of leadership activities. These ambassadors then serve as role models for the new campers. Kansas youth elected to serve as ambassadors for next year are George Ibarra, Southern Pioneer, and Liz Meyer, Flint Hills.

KEC first began sending Kansas youth to the camp in 1977 and continues to coordinate the camp as part of its efforts to provide educational and leadership opportunities for Kansas youth.



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KEC makes final preparations for Summer Meeting

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

The Board Business Session has been moved to Monday afternoon following adjournment of the Summer Meeting (previously scheduled for Monday morning after the NRECA Director Election).

Also, at 10 a.m. on Sunday, August 2, KEC members have volunteered to lead a brief non-denominational praise and worship service. Visit <http://bit.ly/KECSM2015> to view the program.



insympathy

Betty Manning

Betty Manning, mother of Kaw Valley's Jerry Manning, died July 6.

Services were held July 10 at Penwell-Gabel Southeast Chapel in Topeka.

Memorial contributions may be made to Grace Hospice, 3715 S.W. 29th St., Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66614.

Melvin Guy Hight

Melvin Guy Hight, father of KEC's Michael "Chip" Morris, died July 20 at an Osage City nursing home. A memorial service was held July 25 at the Carbondale Church of Christian Fellowship, Carbondale.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Scranton V.F.W. Post # 2709, sent in care of Carey Funeral Home, P.O. Box 196, Burlingame, KS 66413.

Dean Hillman

Dean Hillman, retired Sedgwick County board member, died July 22.

Services were held July 25 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cheney.

Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Paul's Lutheran Church of the Lutheran Hour, 639 N. Lincoln St., Cheney, KS 67025.

co-opcalendar

AUGUST

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

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. This program covers core competencies required of supervisors in the areas of leadership, communication, and basic administrative skills.

Participants can register for some or all of the modules they need to fulfill their Supervisory Training certificate. Bryan Singletary will facilitate this training. For more information, contact Shana Read at sread@kec.org.

CFC Financial Workshop for Directors

Join CFC for the Kansas Statewide 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 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.

Tri-County to send *Kansas Country Living* to its Kansas members

Tri-County Electric Cooperative will begin subscribing in August to *Kansas Country Living* on behalf of approximately 1,060 members.

This addition makes the Hooker, OK-based cooperative, which serves the Elkhart, KS, area, the 24th subscribing co-op. This new subscription will bring the magazine's circulation to more than 128,000, the most in the publication's 66-year history.

TCEC added the magazine to its member communication strategy after hosting a focus group of its Kansas members.

"We feel sending our Kansas members *Kansas Country Living* will help further bring home the co-op message. They will learn more about electric cooperatives and rural life in their home state. We want to engage our members in as many ways as possible, and we feel that *Kansas Country Living* will reach them in the ways they want to be reached," said JuliAnn Graham, TCEC's Communications Coordinator.

Kansas Country Living delivers original content not found in other statewide magazines, including monthly features on curbing

electricity consumption costs, new energy-conserving products and time-saving ideas. Other reader-favorite content includes inspiring articles highlighting Kansas electric co-op members and businesses, unique recipes, and the latest in energy news and regulations that affect members' pocketbooks. The magazine offers Kansas electric co-ops an additional communication channel in which to share news, updates and ideas, and to encourage feedback from members.

"We want to hear the good and the not-so-good so we can continually improve the content and give readers information they find valuable," said Vicki Estes, Editor. Estes invites all of KEC's member co-ops to contact her with ideas, suggestions, or concerns. Email Estes at vestes@kec.org or call 785-228-4630.



KEC hosts discussion to evaluate WAFWA's Lesser Prairie Chicken conservation plan

On Tuesday, July 7, a meeting was held at Kansas Electric Cooperatives headquarters with other industries to discuss the impact of the Endangered Species Act listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken.

"Without a doubt, the listing is having an economic impact in the habitat areas. Electric cooperatives are evaluating the conservation plan put forward by WAFWA and taking steps to voluntarily preserve the species. Other industries are doing the same and I thought we might benefit from a joint meeting to discuss ways we could pool our economic and political resources toward a solution that allows economic development in habitat areas," said Bruce Graham, KEC Chief Executive Officer.

During the meeting the group of 20 in Topeka and others on the phone heard an update from Jim Pitman, Conservation Delivery Director for WAFWA on the progress of plan enrollments and efforts being made to amend the plan to address stakeholder concerns. WAFWA is the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and is the group that created the conservation plan preferred by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The meeting was well timed. Before adjourning, the group learned that the Kansas Congressional Delegation



Bruce Graham visits with representatives from other industries to discuss the impact of the Endangered Species Act listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken at a meeting held at KEC on July 7.

would be leading an effort to amend the FY16 spending bill that funds the Interior Department and EPA to block funding of action to implement or enforce the listing. KEC drafted a letter of support that was endorsed by the groups at the meeting and forwarded to the Delegation.

KEC also worked on talking points for Congressman Yoder in support of his

efforts. While the amendment was approved on a voice vote, the bill's progress has been stymied by other provisions.

There are additional court and Congressional initiatives underway and the political efforts have been bolstered by a report that drought relief has resulted in a significant recovery of the species. A new population count was just released and it shows a 25 percent increase in the species population over last year. That follows a 20 percent increase from the year before. This observation took place across five states; Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. The population trends are encouraging and demonstrate that the decision by USFWS was premature.

Among those attending the meeting were representatives of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, WAFWA, several Kansas electric cooperatives, Kansas Municipal Utilities, the Wind Coalition, Kansas Farm Bureau, KIOGA, and the independent telephone association.

Rolling Hills hosts ground breaking for new headquarters

Rolling Hills held its official ground breaking ceremony for a new centrally-located main office facility in Beloit on July 22.

Those in attendance included Glenn Rodden, Beloit City Administrator; Mike Lewis, CFC; Curtis Frasier, Solomon Valley Economic Development (SVED); Bruce Graham, KEC; Marcus Harris, KEPCo; William Lowery, Paric Corporation; Michael Braun, Construction Superintendent; Michael Dean, M+H Architects; Stuart Porter, PE Schwab Eaton; Dave Brown and Bryan Mason, Kriz-Davis; and John Sherman, attorney for Rolling Hills.

"This was an exciting day for our board and employees as bucket trucks formed a horseshoe, the digger truck with gold-painted auger was in place, as were 10 gold-painted shovels," said Linnea Beebe, Rolling Hills Member Services Director.

To open the ceremony, Curtis Frasier, SVED President, welcomed the participants and indicated that the new Rolling Hills facility will be a great asset to the community.

During the ceremony, Bruce Graham and Marcus Harris both spoke to congratulate Rolling Hills' board and management for their dedication to reduce expenses for the members and prepare for the future.

After comments by several of the attendees, Manager Doug Jackson asked the Board of Directors to grab their



Several members of the Rolling Hills Board join General Manager Doug Jackson to break ground on July 22 for their new headquarters.

shovels and hard hats to commence with digging in and turning the soil.

Jackson thanked everyone for their support of the centralized facility.

Dirt work for the new headquarters began this week. The projected completion date is May 2016.

Powelson earns Certified Cooperative Communicator designation

Shawn Powelson, Manager of Member Services and Corporate Communications at Wheatland Electric Cooperative, has earned recognition as a professional communicator by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators.



Shawn Powelson

Powelson has met the requirements to become a Certified Cooperative Communicator (CCC). To earn the CCC credential, Powelson submitted a portfolio of his work that was reviewed by an independent communications professional and passed a rigorous four-hour exam.

"The skills he learned during his

training will allow him to develop better communication programs for the Wheatland membership," said Wheatland Manager Bruce Mueller. "Wheatland Electric is proud of Shawn achieving his CCC."

The CCC Program, which is affiliated through NRECA, was created to strengthen and enrich the professional skills and abilities of electric co-op communicators, to help them successfully fill their crucial roles in ensuring the best possible future for electric cooperatives.

Powelson joins other KEC members who have earned their CCC designation: KEC's Bruce Graham, Bob Jennings, Carrie Kimberlin, and Shana Read; Midwest Energy's Patrick Parke; Pioneer's Rae Gorman; Sunflower's Cindy Hertel; Victory's Jerri Imgarten; and Tri-County's JuliAnn Graham.

Lane-Scott holds annual meeting

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative held its annual meeting on Tuesday, July 21, at the Lane County Fairgrounds in Dighton.

Roughly 500 guests enjoyed a beautiful 80-degree summer night with a meal catered by Stan Hoss BBQ of Ness City and enjoyed a night filled with carnival rides. Throughout the annual meeting, guests were awarded with a variety of door prizes.

During the meeting Kim Christiansen, Manager of Government Relations at KEC, spoke about the Lesser Prairie Chicken, Waters of the U.S. and EPA 111(D) rules. The youth tour and camp winners also shared their trip experiences.

Reelected to the board were Richard Jennison, Harold Hoss, and Craig Ramsey.

Flint Hills donates \$2,000 to local 4-H clubs

Flint Hills RECA, in partnership with CoBank, has donated \$2,000 that has been equally split between Morris, Marion and Chase county 4-H clubs.

This is Flint Hills' fourth year participating in the CoBank Sharing Success matching funds program.

The program is designed to highlight the critical role that cooperatives play in U.S. rural communities. The grant matched a cash donation, dollar-for-dollar, to a local non-profit organization.

A proud supporter of the local 4-H clubs for many years, Flint Hills' donation helps club members pay their way to the Rock Springs Summer Camp.

"We know that young people who participate in 4-H programs will likely contribute to their communities in the future," said Bob Reece, General Manager. "We are proud to support the local 4-H clubs that include so many of our local youth."

CoBank is a national cooperative bank serving industries across rural America. They provide loans, leases, and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water, and communications providers in all 50 states.

DeMaranville represents Kansas on Youth Leadership Council

Earlier this month, Emma DeMaranville represented Kansas at NRECA's Youth Leadership Council (YLC).

DeMaranville, sponsored by LJEC, was selected by her peers during Youth Tour to serve as the Kansas YLC.

She spent July 18-22 with students from 42 other states who also participated in the NRECA's 15th annual Youth Leadership Conference. As part of the YLC, students return to our nation's capital for leadership training at the NRECA Headquarters.

The youth also toured CFC's headquarters, met with Christine Heggem, former NRECA lobbyist and now senior

staff for House Agriculture Committee Chairman Michael Conaway (TX), and attended a Washington Nationals' game.

After attending Youth Tour, DeMaranville said, "I am proud that cooperatives nationwide have a deep concern for communities and meeting their needs."

"Youth Tour has filled me with a greater purpose and a desire to think more deeply, love others without reservation or judgment and to face each day with strength," she added.

DeMaranville will travel to New Orleans, LA, for the NRECA Annual Meeting from Feb. 11-18, 2016.



Kansas' Emma DeMaranville poses with other members of the NRECA Youth Leadership Council.