

RuralPower

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

Industry leadership featured at KEC Summer Meeting

Hundreds of electric co-op trustees, managers and key staff heard from speakers at KEC's Summer Meeting in Overland Park on Aug. 3.

The meeting program featured Wallace Barron, President of Barron & Associates Corporate Solutions, who opened the meeting by discussing member self-generation and the paradigm shift. He urged cooperatives to engage in technology for improved communication with members.

"Our rates and pricing structures are largely dominated by the vertically integrated supply chain paradigm and they will have to evolve," Barron said. "In the past, the technology for member self generation was not cost effective, but that is rapidly changing. There is time for cooperatives in Kansas to position themselves to be players in the changing marketplace."

Joe Harris, former Interim General Manager of Choctaw Electric Cooperative, told the Choctaw Electric Story, describing the steps he took to help Choctaw navigate through a controversial past and rebuild member trust.

Dr. Kenneth Rose, Jr., Independent Consultant and Senior Fellow with the Institute of Public Utilities, presented his study of retail wheeling and compared deregulated states to regulated states in residential, commercial and wholesale electric rates.

Carl Monroe, Executive Vice President and COO, Southwest Power Pool (SPP), joined 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, and how working with the SPP helps G&Ts to integrate more renewable energy and meet the challenges of reliability and costs.



Wallace Barron, President of Barron & Associates Corporate Solutions, opened KEC's summer meeting in Overland Park on Aug. 3.

During the luncheon, Karen Kornacki, Sports Anchor at KMBC-TV Channel 9 in Kansas City, shared her journey from growing up in an era when school-sponsored sports for females were nonexistent to her role in paving the

way for female sports reporters and anchors.

Two breakout sessions were also offered to the attendees – an iPad tips and tricks session and a Trustee roundtable.

During the Kansas NRECA Membership Meeting, Keith Ross was re-elected as the Kansas representative to the NRECA Board.

The KEC Board of Trustees also met to conduct business and to review the nomination and voting process for the upcoming Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange Director election, as well as the NRTC Board. The board endorsed the re-election of Loren Dickens as the Kansas Director for Federated and Dale Short to the NRTC Board.

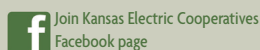
In other business, Dave Holthaus, KEC's Vice President of Government Relations, announced his intent to retire.

The KEC Auxiliary program featured 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. In addition, the Auxiliary hosted a silent auction that raised \$2,224 for KEC's youth programs.

Prior to convening the Summer Meeting, Bryan Singletary facilitated a new course on power supply called *Communicating the New Energy Landscape*. Wallace Barron facilitated a strategic planning course. Lynn Moore, Moore Innovative Solutions, facilitated *Why Satisfaction Matters-The Impact of Building Influence*.



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



KEC seeks Government Relations professional

KEC is has begun a search to fill a position in its Government Relations department in preparation for the retirement of Dave Holthaus, Vice President of Government Relations. The title of this position is dependent on the qualifications of the successful applicant. For a position description or to apply, contact Bruce Graham, CEO, at bgraham@kec.org.

LJEC seeks Tree Crew/ Groundsman

Leavenworth Jefferson Electric Cooperative, located in McLouth, seeks a full-time Tree Crew/Groundsman. This is a bargaining unit position with Local Union #304.

Candidates should have a high school diploma or GED, and maintain a Class A CDL. Knowledge of clearing and trimming techniques used to clear right-of-way, tree top and bucket rescue, chemical applications, CPR, and first-aid are preferred.

To apply, please send a resume and completed employment application to Lisa Scott, Director of Human Resources, at lisa.scott@kve.coop or call 800-794-2011. You can print an application at ljec.coop under About Us, Employment Opportunities. EOE.

Kaw Valley seeks Member Services Representative

Kaw Valley Electric, located in Topeka, seeks a full-time Member Services Representative-1.

This position is responsible for providing courteous member services through the collection of bills, routing of calls and the receipt of service orders, outages and other member/consumer information.

For a complete position description or to apply, send a resume and completed employment application to Lisa Scott, Director of Human Resources, at lisa.scott@kve.coop or call 800-794-2011. You can print an application at kve.coop under About Us, Employment Opportunities. EOE.

AUGUST

- 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
- 11 **REC Manager's Fall Meeting**, The Golf Club at Southwind Ballroom, 77 Grandview Drive, Garden City, KS
- 15-17 **KEC Hotline School**, Manhattan Vo-Tech, Manhattan
- 23-25 **KMSDA Fall Meeting**, Courtyard by Marriott Old Town, Wichita
- 24-25 **Line Superintendent's Meeting**, Wichita
- 29 **Region 7-9 Meeting begins**, Salt Lake City, UT

OCTOBER

- 7-8 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita
- 14-15 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 14-15 **CFC Financial Workshop for Directors**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita
- 16 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays

19th annual KCRE golf tournament to be held in Salina

On Aug. 28, co-op trustees, managers and suppliers will tee up for the 19th annual Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) golf tournament at the Salina Municipal Golf Course.

The fund raiser will begin with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. The registration fee per player this year is \$65. The tournament usually draws in about 130 participants to support KCRE, a political action committee that raises funds to help legislators, elected officials and candidates who support cooperative issues.

The annual golf tournament is run by co-op managers volunteering their time, and it accounts for a portion of KCRE's annual funding. Other funding comes from membership contributions and the annual silent auction.

The KCRE donations are important to candidates who are running for Kansas offices to assist them in getting their campaign message out to voters. No KCRE dollars are used for meals, entertainment or gifts.

To sponsor a hole, donate prizes, or play in the tournament, call Kirk Thompson at 620-873-2184.

upcomingtraining

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.

Centerspread Editor Training

KEC is offering a day workshop for employees responsible for coordinating the co-op newsletters and centerspreads. This training will be held in Topeka on Oct. 27.

The program will include an editorial review by KEC's Vicki Estes and Carrie Kimberlin, and a showcase of resources by staff representing NRECA, Touchstone Energy, Federated, and Safe Electricity.

A detailed agenda will be sent directly to the cooperatives as we near the date. For more information, email Carrie Kimberlin, ckimberlin@kec.org.

Volunteers needed for K-State's annual Electrical Power Affiliates Program Days

Engineering professionals are needed to connect with engineering students at K-State's annual Electrical Power Affiliates Program (EPAP) Days on Sept. 8-9, in Manhattan.

EPAP is designed to give engineering students practical experience and exposure to career opportunities in the utility industry and introduce students to sponsoring companies.

"The goal of EPAP Days is to encourage students to consider the electric cooperatives for career opportunities so they can fill the job market needs in Kansas," said Bruce Graham, KEC's CEO.

EPAP Days events include an opportunity to speak to undergraduate and graduate classes, conduct mock job interviews, and attend an industry reception. There will also be a speed networking session with students from 6-8 p.m. on Sept. 8.

More information about the EPAP program can be found at K-State's website at www.k-state.edu/epap.

For more information on EPAP Days or to volunteer to help with the speed networking session or the booth, please call Lana Rivers, Sunflower's HR Administrator, at 620-277-4516, or email or lbustamante@sunflower.net.

Nominations sought for Power+Hope program

The Kansas Touchstone Energy Executive Council is once again seeking nominations for the Power+Hope employee and trustee recognition program.

This award is designed to recognize those who have been generous, selfless and giving—someone who helps others while expecting nothing in return.

The deadline for nominations is Oct. 1. Nominations will be reviewed at the Kansas Touchstone Energy Annual Meeting.

The winner(s) will be honored at KEC's Annual Meeting in January. For a nomination form, email KEC's Shana Read at sread@kec.org or call 785-478-4554.

Magician and co-op linemen to deliver safety message at Kansas State Fair

Concerts, carnival rides, and cotton candy—the Kansas State Fair brings enjoyment for all ages. As part of the fair's activities, Kansas electric cooperatives and Touchstone Energy cooperatives of Kansas are once again co-sponsoring a high-voltage line safety demonstration, Sept. 14-18.

Located in the Ad Astra Pavilion (east of the Oz Gallery), the electric cooperatives will again be apart of the Kansas Energy Expo.

The Kansas Energy Expo is sponsored by the Kansas Corporation Commission and will incorporate interactive exhibits representing various Kansas utilities. Volunteers are still needed to help with the Energy Expo Information Booth.

New this year, KEC will sponsor the electrical safety magic show titled "Making Accidents Disappear." Award-winning magician Chris Dixon will perform Sept. 11-13 in the Ad Astra Pavillion.

"Magic's ability to hold their attention, make them laugh, make them listen, and make them amazed all while teaching something important is pretty powerful," Dixon said.

"Chris has developed an effective way to relate to a younger, more curious audience who may not have heard an electric safety message before," said Bruce Graham, KEC's CEO. "We are excited to bring his unique presenta-

tion to the State Fair with a goal to help parents, teachers, and youth make accidents disappear."

In addition, Kansas electric cooperative linemen will present the interactive demonstration using real electric equipment and their "volunteer" stick man to show the importance of education and public safety around power lines. The presentation will help viewers learn safety precautions, what protective gear linemen use, and what happens if a person comes in contact with an energized line.

"It is important we use electricity safely and that we teach our members the proper precautions to take around electricity," said Brian Dreiling, Manager of Energy Services at Midwest Energy. "That is what we encourage during the safety demonstration at the Kansas State Fair."

Midwest Energy will provide the demonstration materials, a narrator, and a trainer for each day of the safety presentation, while DS&O, Sedgwick County, and Wheatland have volunteered linemen to operate the demonstration.

The Midwest Energy volunteers include Brian Dreiling, Alex Breeding,

Les Loker, Nate Stryker, Greg Swob, and James Wright; the DS&O volunteers include Michael Gfeller and Phil Rock; the Sedgwick County volunteers include Marc Hansen and Trey Matchett; the Wheatland volunteers include Wade Grumbein, Jordan Hartwell, Larry Lubbers, Blake Reed, Tyson Ryff, and Dax Walk.

The high voltage safety demonstration coincides with Kansas' Largest Classroom lesson plan "Basics of Electricity: Completing the Circuit," making it a great stop for class field trips.

Teachers may pre-register for the demonstration to receive free Touchstone Energy and Discovery Channel School "Get Charged" (grades 5-9) or "Super Energy Saver" classroom CFL Charlie kits (grades K-5).

There are a limited number of State Fair admission passes available to cooperative board members and employees. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If you would like to receive free general admission passes to this year's State Fair, or if you could volunteer to help with the Energy Expo Information Booth, please call Shana Read, KEC, at 785-478-4554 or email sread@kec.org.



Kansas Country Living article sparks interest in Flint Hills Quilt Trail

"I can do that," thought Radiant Electric member Marvine Alvarez after reading an article in the March 2014 *Kansas Country Living* magazine about the Kansas Flint Hills Quilt Trail.

The article described a "barn quilt revolution" that was gaining momentum throughout the Flint Hills. The trail, which was formed the previous year, already displayed 55 block locations in 16 of the 22 Kansas Flint Hills counties.

Alvarez decided to bring the same idea to the barn of her childhood adventures, to the barn on her current property, and even to her neighbor's barn.

To date, Alvarez has completed five barn quilts, each measuring four-foot square and made from plywood. One of the first she finished hangs in the old barn of her childhood,



Inspired by an article in *Kansas Country Living*, Radiant member Marvine Alvarez created a barn quilt to adorn the barn from her childhood.

barn quilt crafted of red and blue stripes.

The barn quilt concept began with Donna Sue Groves whose goal was to honor her mother and her Appalachian heritage with a painted quilt hung on her barn in Adams County, OH. Groves' work with the Ohio Arts Council and other community organizations inspired her to alter her plans and suggest that a "sampler" of 20 quilt squares be created along a driving trail that would invite visitors to travel through the countryside.

The first quilt square—named The Ohio Star—on the American Quilt Trail was painted by local artists and installed on a building that allowed for a public celebration of the inauguration of the quilt trail. Visit barnquiltinfo.com/history for more information.

not far from her current home. She said it adds lively colors to the old, weathered wood building now surrounded by vegetation overgrowth.

For her two neighbors, Alvarez painted one John Deere inspired green, yellow and brown barn quilt and one patriotic themed

Jeardoes pitch at World Horseshoe Tournament

In July, Melvin Jeardoe, Rolling Hills' Line Superintendent, and his wife Ora Lee pitched in the World Horseshoe Tournament in Topeka.



Melvin and Ora Lee Jeardoe and their grandson Bryson pose with their trophies.

Ora Lee pitched in the top open women's class and placed 12th. She also qualified to compete in the Senior Women's Championship Class where she placed second. Melvin, who helped bring the World Horseshoe Pitching Championships back to Kansas, came in second in Class D1.

Their grandson, Bryson Smith, Jr., 13, has been pitching for five years. He also attended the World Horseshoe Tournament and placed seventh in his class of 12 juniors.

You can read more about their participation in the tournament in the September issue of *Kansas Country Living*.

Lyon-Coffey hosts "Fill the Bucket" school supply drives

Lyon-Coffey teamed up with local retailers to create the "Fill the Bucket" school supply donation drive. The co-op held events in Emporia on Aug. 6 and in Burlington on Aug. 13.

Lyon-Coffey, along with the Emporia Walmart and Burlington Shopko, led a campaign for school supply donations. The donated school supplies were delivered to the Lyon County School District and the East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation to be distributed to local

school children in need.

To encourage participation, anyone who donated items was entered into a drawing for a 32" flat-screen TV. At the Emporia event, Lyon-Coffey General Manager Scott Whittington and Emporia Mayor Danny Giefer drew the winning ticket. At the Burlington event, Whittington held the drawing with Burlington Mayor Stan Luke.

Lyon-Coffey hopes to make the school supply donation drive an annual event.

Victory Electric Participates in Dodge City Days Parade

Victory Electric joined the Dodge City community to celebrate a "Tribute to Fort Dodge" the theme for the 2015 Dodge City Days. This honored the 150th Anniversary of the Fort.

In the parade, Victory Electric had two line trucks, a float and a trailer for the employees and their families to ride on. In addition to the parade, Victory also grilled burgers for



Victory Electric's float gave "Tribute to Fort Dodge."

Salute the Troops, sponsored the rodeo, and displayed some trucks for the Touch-A-Truck Event.