

Rural Power

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Governor Brownback holds ceremonial signing of bill at Holcomb Station

On April 23, Governor Sam Brownback held a ceremonial signing of HB 2636 at Holcomb Station. The bill authorizes the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to consider costs and available technology when implementing the EPA rules on greenhouse gas emissions.

"This bill gives legislative direction to KDHE and EPA that when Kansas develops the regulations, we are going to care about how it impacts the rate payer," said Dave Holthaus, KEC's Vice President of Government Relations. Legislators agreed that instead of adopting a one-size-fits-all-states regulation, Kansas can and should have an individual plan to meet the EPA's requirements.

Clare Gustin, Sunflower's Vice President of Member Services & External Affairs, agreed. "The bill clarifies the legislative intent," she said. "That may not sound like a big



Governor Sam Brownback signs HB 2636 into law. Pictured with Brownback are (from left): Sunflower's Kyle Nelson, candidate Alan LaPolice, Sunflower's Steve Ricard and Clare Gustin, KEC's Dave Holthaus, Rep. Russ Jennings, Sen. Garrett Love, Wheatland's Bruce Mueller, and Lane-Scott's Ed Wiltse and Paul Seib.

deal, but today when KDHE carries out the requirements, there's not a place where they stop to consider the costs or grid reliability. The way that these regulations are developed can really help, or really hurt, the rate payer. For Kansas to be in the driver's seat on this is very important for rate payers."

The Governor fittingly selected Holcomb Station as the location of the signing due to the cooperatives' involvement with the bill.

"KEC and Sunflower led the effort," said Stuart Lowry, Sunflower's President and CEO. "This is another example of how cooperatives work to keep rates as low as possible for our members."

More than 100 people, including legislators, co-op employees and guests, were in attendance at the Holcomb Station for the signing. After the ceremony, Governor Brownback took a brief tour of the plant.

Rural Utilities Service Administrator John Padalino makes Kansas stop

RUS Administrator John Padalino visited KEC on March 24 to listen to concerns of the electric co-ops, get feedback on programs, and encourage a review of the agency's new Energy Efficiency and Loan Conservation Program.

Participating in the visit were KEC's Bruce Graham and KEPCo's Chuck Terrill, as well as Padalino's staff members Patty Clark, Jacki Ponti-Lazurek, and Michael Lewis.

"Mr. Padalino believes strongly in the mission of the RUS and genuinely wants to hear how the agency can provide better service," said Graham. "We appreciated his interest in voices from Kansas and his enthusiasm for the new Energy Efficiency and Loan Conservation Program."

The new program has \$250 million available to help consumers and businesses install

and adopt efficiency measures across rural America. One of the program inspirations is the successful HowSmart program created by Midwest Energy.

The Energy Efficiency and Loan Conservation program will allow members to make qualifying improvements without having an upfront capital investment. Co-ops can act as intermediaries, using a program loan, to relend to members for energy efficiency, small distributed generation, energy audits and small renewable systems. The loans are paid back to the cooperative, often using the savings achieved from the efficiency project.

A program toolkit has been posted online. Visit http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/SupportDocuments/UEP_EE_Toolkit.pdf for more information.



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OSHA sets final rule on electrical safety

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced a final rule to update protections for workers performing construction or maintenance at power plants or on power lines, closing out more than a decade of rulemaking. The new standards take effect April 1, 2015.

The new rule brings OSHA's electricity construction standard in line with present industry consensus standards, replacing OSHA rules adopted in 1972 and 1994.

OSHA is revising the 40-year-old construction standard for electric power line work. The agency is also making some revisions to the construction and general industry requirements. The updated standards include new or revised provisions for host and contract employers to share safety-related information with each other and with employees, as well as for improved fall protection for employees working from aerial lifts and on overhead line structures.

OSHA DEFENDERS – 4/1/14

APRIL

- 25 **Rolling Hills Annual Meeting**, dinner at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m., NCK Technical College, East U.S. Highway 24, Beloit
- 28 **KEC HR Summit**, Wichita Marriott

MAY

- 4-7 **NRECA Legislative Conference**, Washington, D.C.
- 8-9 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita
- 14-15 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, Courtyard by Marriott, Junction City
- 16 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting and Annual Meeting**, Victory Headquarters, Dodge City
- 22 **MDM Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka
- 26 **Memorial Day**, KEC Office Closed

KEC to host a retirement planning seminar in Topeka

KEC is hosting a two-day Retirement Planning Seminar on Sept. 3-4, 2014. The seminar will be at the KEPCo office, 600 SW Corporate View, Topeka. One-on-one retirement projection reviews with a professional investment advisor will be scheduled the evenings of Sept. 3-4, and on the morning of Sept. 5.

This two-day comprehensive retirement planning seminar is geared toward employees who are within 10 years of retirement and their spouses. The program has been custom-tailored to meet the unique needs of NRECA's member systems and employees in order to help participants plan effectively for their retirement.

Managers and insurance/benefit adminis-

trators are also welcome to attend.

Topics covered on the first day of this seminar will include investment basics, retirement benefits from NRECA, and calculating retirement needs. The second day will explore legal affairs and estate planning, protecting assets, and financial products and services. Lunch will be provided both days.

For member co-ops, the cost is \$25 per employee and \$25 per spouse. For those systems that do not participate in either of NRECA's pension programs, there is a flat fee of \$100 per person.

For more information, contact Angela Howard at ahoward@kec.org.

upcoming training

KEC's HR Summit

KEC has scheduled the 2014 HR Summit at the Wichita Marriott on Monday, April 28.

Topics include a review of health care reform by Wichita attorney Steven Smith, compliance issues by Kristina Dietrick of Creative Business Solutions, a review of case studies by William Birkeness of Federated, and a discussion of pension plan issues and the Region 7 audits by NRECA's Steve Newton.

For more information, contact Shana Read at sread@kec.org.

Supervisory Fast Track

KEC is offering the NRECA Supervisory Training courses on August 18-22 at the Courtyard Marriott in Wichita.

This program covers core competencies required of supervisors in the areas of leadership, communication,

and basic administrative skills. NRECA developed the curriculum based on a set of supervisory competencies identified by new cooperative supervisors, experienced supervisors, and CEOs.

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, NRECA, will facilitate these courses.

Registration information will be emailed a few weeks before the date of the training. For more information, contact Shana Read at sread@kec.org.

Budget Pro Workshop

KEC has scheduled a CFC Budget Pro and Cash Flow Pro workshop. This two-day training will be held June 24-25 at the Wichita Marriott.

The purpose of the workshop is to help attendees learn how to prepare a 12-month operating budget for a distribution cooperative using a CFC-created spreadsheet template.

The course will be facilitated by Adam Johnson, CFC's Senior Consultant, Financial Advisory Services.

The Budget Pro model will be provided to attendees at the beginning of the workshop along with operating instructions on a flash drive. Attendees should have a basic understanding of the RUS Uniform System of Accounts and the operation of Microsoft Excel. No other preparation is necessary. Please bring a laptop computer to the workshop.

Registration information will be emailed a few weeks before the date of the training. For more information, contact Shana Read at sread@kec.org.

Ark Valley

Ark Valley hosted its 75th annual meeting on April 1 on the Kansas State Fair Grounds.

More than 250 members attended, and 600 people enjoyed dinner served by Ray's Countryside Catering, Inc., from Colwich.

Brianna McNickle was awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship and a trip to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs. McNickle then read her winning essay to the membership.

Dan Schnurr and Keith McNickle were reelected and Larry Froese was newly elected to the Board.

Kaw Valley

Kaw Valley's annual meeting was held on April 2 in Topeka. The meeting was attended by approximately 1,000 individuals who enjoyed dinner prior to the meeting.

Board President Dallas Caster talked about changing technology and how it affects energy. Manager Jerry Manning provided information to members about the cooperative's expenses.

Taylor Fuller and Katherine Moore thanked the membership for sending them to Washington, D.C., on the 2013 Youth Tour. Caleb Lovejoy and Zach Wilson were recognized as winners of the 2014 Youth Tour.

Reelected to the Board were Pete Allen, Dallas Caster and Lloyd Wulfkuhle.

Wheatland

Wheatland Electric's annual meeting was held on April 3 at the Holcomb Community Center. A BBQ lunch was served prior to the meeting.

The 2014 Youth Tour winner, Bailey Harris, and her parents were recognized. She will attend the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour in June.

General Manager Bruce Mueller spoke regarding Wheatland's upcoming

self-regulation vote and an update on the co-op's 2013 activities. Stuart Lowry, Sunflower Electric, was a guest speaker.

Trustees Katie Eisenhour, Vic Case, and Patrick Riley were reelected to the Board.

Radiant

Radiant held its annual meeting at the co-op headquarters on April 3. More than 500 enjoyed a meal prior to the meeting. Guest speakers included KEC's Dave Holthaus and KEPCo's Bill Riggins.

Elections were held prior to the meeting via a mail in ballot. Reelected to the Board was Loren Dickens. Newly elected were Michael Springer and Nick Frankenbery.

Alfalfa

Alfalfa Electric held its 78th Annual Meeting on April 4. Hundreds of members came for a night filled with food and entertainment.

The meeting was held at Cherokee High School. The members and guests were treated to a meal and were entertained by Taylor Mason. Mason is a ventriloquist, musician, and comedian.

Incumbent Trustees Joe Waggoner and Joe Hise were reelected to the Board without opposition.

Summer-Cowley

A barbecue lunch was served to more than 600 members and guests at Summer-Cowley's annual meeting at the Wellington High School on April 5. Lunch was served by Chris Lathem and his staff from Hog Wild Pit Bar-B-Q.

Special guests included Mike Zamrazla from Sen. Moran's office, KEC's Larry Freeze, and KEPCo's Coleen Wells and Shari Koch.

Co-op staff presented \$11,500 worth of scholarships and announced Mikala Bradbury as the winner of the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

Reelected to the Board were Edmond Gardiner, Charles Riggs, and Gene Beard.

DS&O

DS&O's annual meeting was held on April 8 at Sterl Hall in Abilene.

Dinner was served to more than 400, with 207 members registered for the meeting. KEC's Bruce Graham was the guest speaker at the meeting.

More than 700 mail-in ballots were counted prior to the meeting. Chad Lorson was newly elected to the Board. Ron Seyfert, Ken Hedberg, and Bruce Spare were all reelected.

Sedgwick County

Sedgwick County held its 76th annual meeting the evening of April 8 at the Cotillion in Wichita. Dinner was served prior to the meeting.

Guest speakers included 2013 Youth Tour winner Clayton Baughn who gave an inspirational speech on what Youth Tour had taught him.

Les Evans of KEPCo, and Shana Read of KEC, also spoke to the membership during the meeting.

All three incumbents, Rex Smith, Alan Smarsh, and Cindy Foster, were reelected to the Board of Trustees.

CMS

More than 200 were served a dinner BBQ meal prepared by Kim's Ribs of Guymon, OK, at CMS's 68th annual meeting on April 10.

Special guests included KEC's Bruce Graham, and KEPCo's Chuck Terrill and Phil Wages.

Representatives from Sen. Moran and Rep. Huelskamp's offices were also recognized.

Scholarships winners in attendance were also recognized and awarded a certificate and a pen and pencil set.

Gary Warden, Linda Tomlinson, and Keith Randall were reelected to the Board of Trustees.

Victory Electric's Shane Laws attends NRECA's New CEO Orientation

Cooperative CEOs representing 14 states – including Kansas – visited Northern Virginia for NRECA's 2014 New CEO Orientation. From April 8-10, Shane Laws of Victory Electric participated in the training at NRECA's headquarters.



Shane Laws

Sessions provided an in-depth

focus on key electric industry and cooperative management issues. The attendees also met with the leaders of NRECA, CFC, and NRTC.

"One of the greatest takeaways was the discussion regarding safety," Laws said. "I enjoyed learning how other utilities ensure that their employees work safe and get home to their families every day."

Co-op attorneys attend KEC's Continuing Legal Education program

Thirty-eight cooperative attorneys, managers, and staff were present at KEC's Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program held on April 14.

The session was held at KEPCo's office in Topeka.

"Originally, the workshop was going to be hosted at KEC's headquarters," said Melissa Skelton, KEC's Manager of Government Relations, who coordinated the event. "However, registration numbers exceeded our capacity. A big thank you to KEPCo and Rita Petty for accommodating the CLE training."

Topics included ethics tips from Angel Zimmerman, a legislative update by Sen. Terry Bruce, discussion on legal and bylaw issues by NRECA's Ty Thompson, and pending cases and how they affect co-ops by Leslie Kaufman of the Kansas Cooperative Council.

"We had a wide variety of topics, and our presenters were fantastic," Skelton said. "It was a great opportunity for those involved in our electrical legal matters to hear from the speakers and discuss current issues within the electrical sector."

Wheatland awards grant to Bad Boyz Boxing Club

Last month, Wheatland's Sharing Success Fund awarded a \$1,000 grant to Bad Boyz Boxing Club of Garden City.

Club Director Robert Gonzales – who has mentored and coached youth for more than 30 years – submitted the request to purchase headgear for all of the participants.

The club provides a way to engage kids, who might otherwise gravitate toward gangs and anti-social behavior. The club encourages personal discipline, responsibility and a team atmosphere. Its primary focus is the importance of education and developing life skills.



Wheatland's Bruce Mueller presents a check to the coach and youth of Bad Boyz Boxing Club.



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