

Rural Power

Kansas youth tour students visit legislators on Capitol Hill

Teaching 35 high school students about electric cooperatives, as well as helping to develop their leadership skills, was an important objective of the 54th annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 12-19.

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; Kyle Hoffman, Kansas House of Representatives District 116, who attended in 1989; and Travis Couture-Lovelady, Kansas House of Representatives District 110, who attended in 2000.

Before leaving Kansas, the students visited Kaw Valley where they learned how electric cooperatives work and rode in a bucket truck. They also toured the Kansas State Capitol.

Once in Washington, D.C., the group visited with Senators Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts, and Congressman Tim Huelskamp (see photo on page 3), allowing the students to learn about the nation's government and talk with their elected officials. For many students, meeting their representatives was inspiring and motivated them to set leadership goals.

"When Senator Pat Roberts talked about tomorrow's leaders, it hit me that we are those leaders, and I want to strive to fulfill one of those leadership roles," said Antony Furse, a youth delegate sponsored by Lyon-Coffey.

Despite flight delays and cancellations upon departure, the youth were still able to tour the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Smithsonian museums, Mt. Vernon, Arlington National Cem-



Senators Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran visit with the Kansas youth tour delegates at the U.S. Capitol on June 17. A film crew from NRECA accompanied the Kansas youth during their Capitol Hill visit with the Senators and Congressman Tim Huelskamp.

etry, several memorials, along with seeing the Broadway musical Disney's *The Lion King* at the Kennedy Center. The delegates also attended the NRECA Youth Day, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of NRECA coordinating the Youth Tour trip.

This year's trip was chaperoned by Wheatland's Shawn Powelson and his wife, Lisa.

"KEC promotes this trip as the trip of a lifetime, and that certainly isn't an exaggeration by any means," Powelson said. "Despite a challenging start to the trip, the overall experience is one I will not soon forget. Kansas and its electric co-ops were represented well. I can't imagine a better investment than in these young people, the future leaders of Kansas and our country."

Jacob Rose, a youth delegate sponsored by DS&O, added, "Everything in Washington, D.C., is inspiring. It fills your chest with pride. It makes you want to do better as a person so someone else can be moved by your work."

Rose was selected by his peers to be the 2014 Youth Leadership Council representative for Kansas, and will participate in NRECA's 2015 annual meeting in Orlando.

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(From left): Rep. Kyle Hoffman, Rep. Steve Johnson, KEC's Bruce Graham, Rep. Travis Couture-Lovelady, and Gov. Brownback's Chief Counsel Brant Laue spoke at the youth tour banquet. Laue also gave a special tour of the Governor's office to the youth the following day.

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KEC hosts OSHA workshops

Cooperative employees learned about the revisions made to the Construction Standard and General Industry Standard for Electrical Workers on June 10 and 11, at Kansas Electric Cooperatives' regional Occupational Safety and Health Administration Workshops in Topeka and Dodge City. The workshops were well attended, totaling 33 attendees in Topeka and 32 in Dodge City.

Larry Detwiler, KEC's Director of Loss Control, Safety and Compliance, designed the workshop to cover the new revisions published on April 11. The regulations are a modification of the Construction Standard, which had not been updated since 1974, to be compatible to the General Industry regulations that were adopted in 1994. From the proposed rule to the final rule, it took nine years for OSHA to complete the revisions.

Detwiler focused on four major revisions that affect the cooperatives: transferring information between host employers and contract employees, provisions on the use of fall protection systems, requirements for minimum approach distances, and requirements for protecting employees from the hazards associated with electric arcs.

"Due to the technology already available in the industry, OSHA has given a short time frame and is implementing the new regulations promptly in April 2015," Detwiler said. "Therefore, I intend these informational workshops to assist our members in reviewing, interpreting, an implementing equipment, work procedures/safety rules to meet the new regulations."

KEC's LCS&C department's ongoing goal is to provide educational opportunities to help KEC's member cooperatives meet compliance regulations and implement work practices and procedures to provide them with a safer work place.



Larry Detwiler teaches the OSHA workshop at KEC's headquarters in Topeka.

JULY

- 4 **Independence Day – KEC Office Closed**
- 12-18 **Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp**, Steamboat Springs, CO
- 16-17 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 21 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 22 **Lane-Scott Annual Meeting**, Lane County Fairgrounds. Events start at 6:30 p.m., with a meal catered by Stan Hoss, and the business meeting to follow at 7:30 p.m.
- 24 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

AUGUST

- 2 **NRECA BL Course 935: Appraising and Compensating the CEO**, Overland Park Marriott, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- NRECA CCD Course 2610: Understanding the Electric Business**, Overland Park Marriott, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- 3 **NRECA BL Course 921: Risk Oversight – The Board's Role in Risk Management**, Overland Park Marriott, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- 4 **KEC Summer Board Meeting**, Overland Park Marriott, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- 5 **Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange Outreach Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park
- 14 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

NRECA leadership among KEC Summer Board Meeting speakers

Final touches are being applied to the 2014 KEC Summer Board Meeting. The event will be held August 4 at the Overland Park Marriott.

Speakers for this year's meeting include NRECA leadership. Jo Ann Emerson, NRECA's Chief Executive Officer, will share her vision for the national association and its member cooperatives. Denise Aranoff-Brown, Touchstone Energy's Chief Operating Officer, will provide an update on brand initiatives.

Other speakers include Midwest Energy's Mike Morley who will report on Kansas' first community solar project. Kansas Department of Agriculture Secretary Jackie McClaskey will give a state the ag industry report. CFC's Duc D. Lai will review cyber security threats and provide protec-

tion advice. Creative Business Solutions' Kristina Dietrick will highlight important human resources issues. KEPCo's Charles Terrill and Sunflower's Stuart Lowry will give an update on G&T views of the new carbon rules and the day ahead market.

The KEC Auxiliary Program will be held on Monday. Speakers for this program include mentalist Curtis Waltermire, master gardener Meg Mullett, and KMBC's sports anchor Karen Kornacki.

The KEC Auxiliary will also host the 2nd Annual Silent Auction. Cooperatives and individuals are encouraged to consider donating items for the auction. Bidding opens on Monday at 8 a.m. and closes the same day at 1:30 p.m. Every dollar raised will support KEC's youth programs.

Directors training offered at KEC's Summer Board Meeting

Three courses will be offered at KEC's Summer Board Meeting.

On Sat., Aug. 2, Mike Core will facilitate the CCD Course 2610 - Understanding the Electric Business, and Ken Holmes will facilitate the Board Leadership Course 935 - Appraising and Compensating the CEO.

On Sun., Aug. 3, Mike Core will also facilitate the new Board Leadership Course 921 - Risk Oversight - The Board's Role in Risk Management.

AT's Open House on Aug. 1

KEC's Apparatus Testing Department invites those traveling to the KEC Summer Board Meeting to stop by the new facility – located at 6910 W 229th St, Osage City – from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 1.

The open house is a come-and-go event. There will be refreshments and drawings for two \$100 gift cards.

If you are unable to make it on Friday, call Danny Seele at 785-640-3963 to arrange for a tour on Saturday morning.

Kim Christiansen hired as KEC's Manager of Government Relations

Kim Christiansen has accepted the position as KEC's Manager of Government Relations. Christiansen will begin her duties July 14 and takes the place of Melissa Skelton, who is moving to Seattle, WA.



Kim Christiansen

Christiansen's primary responsibilities will be in legislative, regulatory and grassroots initiatives. She received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Kansas and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Fort Hays State University, as well as a Master of Arts in Education from Wichita State University.

In addition to her educational background, Christiansen brings a strong professional portfolio to the position. She previously worked as the Executive Director of the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). Prior to the KCC, Kim served as Assistant Secretary and Chief Counsel for the Kansas Department of Agriculture. At both the Department of Agriculture and the Kansas Corporation Commission, Kim provided leadership in personnel issues, governance and administration matters, legislation, and contracts.

In addition, Christiansen held positions as General Counsel for the Kansas Water Office, Director of Human Resources for the Dodge City Public Schools, General Counsel and Executive Assistant to the President of Fort Hays State University, and Instructor at the College of Business and Leadership at Fort Hays University.

"Kim has held key agency roles that required building relationships with the Kansas Legislature and other state and federal agencies. I have watched her appear before legislative committees with confidence and expertise that will continue KEC's tradition of credibility on critical issues," said Bruce Graham, KEC's CEO.

Youth Tour, continued



Congressman Tim Huelskamp visited with the Kansas delegation during the 54th Annual Youth Tour. To view more photos of the students' trip, visit <http://photos.youthtour.org/2014-Youth-Tour/KansasHawaii/>.

KEC honored as 4-H sponsor at the Emerald Circle Banquet

Kansas Electric Cooperatives was recognized as a Patron Sponsor at the Kansas 4-H Foundation's annual Emerald Circle Banquet on June 4 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.

At the banquet, 32 4-H members were recognized as state project winners in areas including beef, clothing and textiles, communications, and leadership. For the second year, KEC sponsored the winner of the Leadership Project, Ryal Mitchell, Douglas County; and the winner of the Citizenship Project, Amber Kelly, Atchison County.

Mitchell has participated in the leadership project for five years. To receive the award she organized county-

wide sewing service days to make pillows for infants at her local hospital, and she also taught youth at the Kansas 4-H State Sewing Camp.

Kelly received the Citizenship Project award for her participation in the Little Dresses for Africa campaign, where she used her passion for sewing to organize clubs to complete 148 dresses. She also has mended clothes for seniors, sewed backpacks for campers, and taught crafts at the country Christmas celebration.

"KEC and many of our electric cooperatives support 4-H initiatives at the local and state level" said Bruce Graham, KEC's Chief Executive Officer. "4-H is a perfect program to demonstrate our Commitment to Community. It was clear at the banquet that these youth are ready and willing to be leaders for rural Kansas."

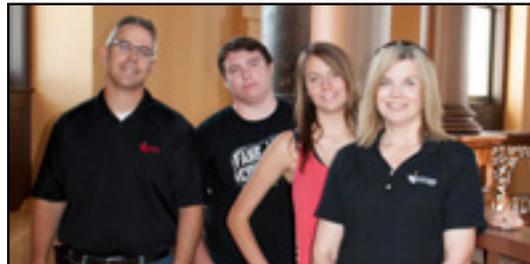
Wheatland Electric hosts high schoolers for day tour of Topeka

On May 20, Wheatland sponsored two youth for a day tour of Topeka.

The Wheatland trip included tours of the Kansas State Capitol and Kansas Museum of History; a visit to

the Brown v. Board of Education site; and a trip to Ward-Meade Park, which included a schoolhouse session in a one-room schoolhouse.

Dave Holthaus, KEC's Vice President of Government Relations, spoke to the students at the Capitol about KEC's involvement in state legislation and the importance of the rural representation.



(From left): Shawn Powelson, Skyler Hembree, Danica Mercer, and Sheila Helm pause for a photo on their climb to the top of the Kansas State Capitol dome during the Wheatland tour of Topeka.

Attending the tour were Skyler Hembree of Leoti and Danica Mercer of Conway Springs. Both were recommended by their high schools to apply for the Youth Tour. While they were not

selected, the Wheatland board offered this trip in consolation.

Wheatland employees Sheila Helm and Shawn Powelson chaperoned. Powelson said, "Wheatland got to know the students during the Youth Tour process and rewarded them with a tour of Topeka to give them a taste of the legislative process and Kansas history."

KDHE issues addendum to air permit for Sunflower's Holcomb expansion

On May 30, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment issued the air quality permit addendum for Sunflower Electric Power Corporation's Holcomb Expansion Project (HL2).

While issuance of the air permit addendum is a big step forward in proceeding with the 895 megawatt project, Sunflower's main priority is reviewing the addendum, said Cindy Hertel, communications manager at Sunflower.

"We appreciate the work done by KDHE to have an open and transparent public comment process and ensure the air permit for the Holcomb Expansion Project meets strict state and federal requirements," Hertel said. "We will continue to evaluate the project in the best interest of our member cooperatives and those they serve."

The KDHE addendum follows a history of setbacks: in 2007, the KDHE denied the air permit a building permit for two 700 megawatt units due to concerns regarding greenhouse gases. Following a compromise in 2009 with

the State of Kansas to build one 895 megawatt unit, Sunflower submitted a refreshed air permit application, which KDHE issued in December 2010.

Sunflower's progress was again blocked when the December 2010 air permit was challenged by the Sierra Club.

Understanding the many benefits of the project, Sunflower remained dedicated to preserving the option of expanding Holcomb Station.

"Sunflower's board recognizes the importance of a diverse generation portfolio. This project would add more base load energy that is essential to providing affordable, reliable energy to our six members and those they serve," Hertel said.

Sunflower's expansion will not only provide affordable electricity for Kansas' rural electric cooperative members, but it will also significantly benefit the economy of both the local and surrounding communities in southwest Kansas. Construction of the project

will create a growth in employment, housing, restaurants, retail, and hotel rooms.

Latest estimates indicate that the construction of HL2 will create 1,900 construction jobs at peak build-out, generating approximately \$250 million of labor income. Once construction is complete, an estimated 261 new jobs will be added to the market, 88 of them located at Holcomb Station.

These jobs will generate more than \$17 million in annual labor income and result in more than \$200 million in total income annually. The expansion will also increase annual state and local revenue by \$41 million, with a more than \$20 million increase to federal tax revenue.

When completed, the \$2.2 billion expansion will serve more than two million cooperative members in seven states. In addition, Sunflower's members will also earn an estimated \$400 million for operation and maintenance fees during the course of 30 years.



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