

# Rural Power

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*Rural Power* will transition to a solely electronic newsletter at the end of the year. To ensure you continue to receive *Rural Power*, email us at [ruralpower@kec.org](mailto:ruralpower@kec.org).



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## Kansas youth learn about electric cooperatives at camp

"The leadership skills, communication, accountability, and positivity will be put into practice as I take on new challenges," said camper Allison Hepburn, sponsored by Butler REC.

KEC coordinated the trip to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO, July 12-18, for 33 Kansas youth and nine Oklahoma youth. Once the students arrived at camp they joined other youth from Colorado and Wyoming.

The main objectives of the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp are to help the youth gain a better understanding of how their electric cooperatives operate while also building the youths' leadership skills by running a "candy cooperative."

When the youth arrived at camp they paid membership dues, established a board of trustees, elected a general manager, and formed committees.

"Being a member on the board had a large impact on my camp experience. It gave me the opportunity to be even more involved, and it was a lot of fun! Together we made some big decisions for the camp," said Carolina Ramirez, sponsored by Victory.

The campers learned about electric cooperatives through many of the presentations and activities: Yampa Valley Electric's linemen gave a high voltage safety demonstration, the campers participated in competition to build a model transmission line out of craft supplies, and they toured Trapper Mine and Craig Power Plant.

"I learned how electricity is produced, and I also learned that for a team to work it takes everyone pitching in to make a goal a success," said Erin Caldwell, sponsored by Indian Elec-



Students from Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming attended the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp this month.

tric Cooperative, Cleveland, OK. The campers also hiked Fish Creek Falls; visited Steamboat Springs; went river rafting; and enjoyed activities such as volleyball, a dance, and a talent show.

At the end of the camp, the youth elected ambassadors –

students who return to the camp the following year as junior counselors. Next year's ambassadors include Chandler Huddleston, Pioneer; Isaiah Fabrizius, Western; and Madison Salmans, Victory.

"This trip has inspired me to try to make a difference in other people's lives. It has also taught me to serve others," said Huddleston.

In their ambassador roles, they will facilitate the camp activities and act as role models.

"What inspired me the most was our ambassadors. They encouraged everyone to go outside of their comfort zone and to experience new things. To be able to see leaders in action first hand was a blessing," said Paige Bomberger, sponsored by Flint Hills RECA.

Overall, the campers left with a new sense of what leadership means to them.

"What impacted me the most was seeing all the different skills and goals my fellow campers had. Both our similarities and differences drew us together, and the atmosphere of the camp made that happen. Camp reminded me that people should continually interact with each other and work together for a better good of the community," said Arthur Schwab, Tri-County.

At this year's camp, KEC hired a videographer and plans to have a promotional video available to all participating member cooperatives this fall. KEC will also provide a short media clip to post on social media sites.

## CMS Seeks Assistant District Manager

CMS is seeking an Assistant District Manager at its Coldwater office. Construction of a new district facility was completed in the fall of 2013, providing office space, material storage space, and truck storage for eight employees.

This position is a management-level position responsible for providing support to the District Manager in the areas of construction, operations and maintenance, member services and support, regulatory and compliance matters, and leadership and serving co-op members.

CMS seeks candidates with proven leadership skills, strong communications skills, ability to organize multiple projects, solve problems and work with a wide variety of people and issues. The position will have responsibilities both inside and outside of a traditional office setting.

Submit a resume, three references and a cover letter to Kirk Thompson, CMS General Manager, PO Box 790, Meade, KS 67864 by Aug. 15. For a complete position description, call (620) 873-2184 or email [kthompson@cmselectric.com](mailto:kthompson@cmselectric.com). EOE.

## Supervisory fast track

There are still a few seats left at the NRECA Supervisory Training fast track, coordinated by KEC, on August 18-22 at the Courtyard Marriott in Wichita.

This program, facilitated by Bryan Singletary, offers nine interactive half-day courses. Participants can register for some or all of the modules.

Registration information is open until July 28. For more information, contact Shana Read at [sread@kec.org](mailto:sread@kec.org).

# congrats

## KEC's Bruce Graham welcomes grandson

Bruce Graham, KEC's CEO, and his wife Kathy welcomed the birth of grandson Brogan James, son of Kevin and Allison Graham. Brogan was born July 1 and weighed 9 lbs 4 oz.

## AUGUST

- 2 **NRECA BL Course 935: Appraising & 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**, Overland Park Marriott
- 14 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 15 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 18-22 **Supervisory Fast Track**, Courtyard Marriott Old Town, Wichita
- 20-21 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 22 **KCRE Golf Tournament**, Salina

## SEPTEMBER

- 1 **Labor Day Holiday – KEC Office Closed**
- 3-4 **Retirement Planning Workshop**, KEPCo Headquarters, 600 SW Corporate View, Topeka (FULL)

## Sen. Jerry Moran to speak at KEC Summer Board Meeting

Senator Jerry Moran has confirmed that he will speak at the 2014 KEC Summer Board Meeting. The event will be held August 4 at the Overland Park Marriott.

Other speakers for this year's meeting include Jo Ann Emerson, NRECA's Chief Executive Officer, who will share her vision for the national association and its member cooperatives; and Denise Aranoff-Brown, Touchstone Energy's Chief Operating Officer, who will provide an update on brand initiatives. Midwest Energy's Mike Morley will report on Kansas' first community solar project. Kansas Department of Agriculture Secretary Jackie McClaskey will give a state ag industry report. CFC's Duc D. Lai will review cyber security threats and provide protection advice. Creative Business Solutions' Kristina Dietrick will highlight 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.

Also on Monday, the KEC Auxiliary Program will feature 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. Co-ops 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. Proceeds support KEC's youth programs.

Prior to the meeting, three trustee courses will be offered. 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.

## You're invited – AT's Open House on Friday, Aug. 1

KEC's Apparatus Testing Department invites those traveling to the KEC Summer Board Meeting to stop by the new facility from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 1.

The facility – located at 6910 W 229th St, Osage City – is just a few miles off the turnpike at the Admire Exit.

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.



## Pioneer Cemetery recipient of Joe Heinen's Power+Hope donation

Joe Heinen, Leavenworth Jefferson Electric Cooperative, Inc., retiree, was presented the Power+Hope award at the Kansas Electric Cooperative's 72nd Annual Meeting, held this past January. With this award he received a \$500 donation to the charity of his choice.

Heinen has been involved with caring for and maintaining Pioneer Cemetery for the past 30 years; therefore, he chose Pioneer Cemetery as the recipient of the donation.

Pioneer Cemetery originated in 1855 and is located just west of Valley falls. The last burial occurred in 1928, totaling 99 burial plots.

Pioneer Cemetery used the donation to build an informational display at the cemetery's location. The display was built locally and all of the labor was donated. Heinen's donation covered approximately half of the total costs, and the Knights of the Columbus covered

the rest.

"The display is important because most people did not know that the cemetery was there. The display—along with a new sign, made by LJEC members Pat and Vickey Langpon—have made more people aware of its existence. Most importantly, the display helps preserve local history," Heinen said.

"A lot of the historical information on the cemetery was scattered. This display makes all of the information



photo courtesy of Clarke Davis

Joe Heinen (standing) helps his brother Larry and great-nephew Jack install the latch of the informational display at Pioneer Cemetery.

available in one location for visitors to access," he added.

The display also includes an essay over Pioneer Cemetery, written by a Kansas University student.

Pioneer Cemetery has already received many compliments on the new display.

Heinen retired in 2014 as LJEC's Assis-

tant Manager and Director of Member Services. He had been an employee since 1992. Prior to his employment, he served as a member on the LJEC Board of Trustees for 19 years.

## Touchstone Energy honors Tri-County's Zac Perkins

On May 15, Zac Perkins, Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc., Assistant General Manager, was awarded the



Zac Perkins

2014 Brand Champion Award at the CONNECT '14 Conference for Cooperative Marketing, Communications & Member Services Professionals.

Perkins and ten other co-op employees received the 2014 Brand Champion Award. Erin Moore, Member Solutions Coordinator at TCEC, said Perkins was nominated for the award because, "He has been the catalyst for improvement in all aspects of operations of the co-op. Always with the member in mind, Zac embodies the Touchstone Energy values: accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community. He has a clear vision for TCEC, its employees, and members and is a true champion of the Touchstone Energy brand."

Perkins expressed his passion for working for a cooperative saying,

"Cooperatives are the backbone of the communities they serve providing more than power, and improving the quality of life for our members. To work for and be associated with such an organization is an honor." In response to receiving the award, he reflected with a communal tone: "To be recognized by my peers for this award is a privilege and a testament to our team of employees who strive to serve TCEC's members so faithfully."

To further cooperatives' success, Perkins says, "Touchstone Energy provides tools individual cooperatives could not create on their own. Touchstone Energy delivers upon the promise they were originally formed on: a unified voice for cooperatives."

TCEC is involved in many Touchstone Energy programs: Co-op Connections, Balanced Performance Scorecard, Co-op Web Builder, Discovery Energy Get Charged!, Service Excellence, and Kids' Super Energy Saver.

In addition, TCEC was chosen by Touchstone Energy in 2011 to film the "New Challenge" television commercial, which featured many of their linemen and service territories.

## insympathy

### Dal Schultz

Dal Schultz, grandson of Western's Don and Louise Schultz and nephew of Sunflower's Cindy Hertel, died July 22. Dal attended the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in 2009.

Memorials may be sent to the Dal Schultz Memorial Fund in care of Baalman Mortuary, PO Box 204, Oakley, KS 67748.

### Dow Morris

Dow Morris, Lane-Scott's Assistant Manager, died July 15. Morris began his duties as Assistant Manager in 2006. He enjoyed participating in co-op events and chaperoned the 2010 Youth Tour.

Memorials may be made to the Paris Challenger Baseball League or the D.O. it! Cancer Fund in care of the Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home, 303 East Wood St., Paris, IL 61944.

### Kelly Miller

Kelly Miller, son of retired Sunflower employee Steve Miller, died July 13. Send contributions to the Jonathan Miller Education Fund in care of Horan & McConaty, 11150 E Dartmouth Ave, Aurora, CO 80014.

## Lane-Scott holds annual meeting

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc., held its annual meeting on July 22 at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

The approximately 475 guests enjoyed a meal catered by Stan Hoss BBQ of Ness City.

A report was given by Stuart Lowry, President and CEO of Sunflower. Ed Gough, Paul Seib, Jr., and Richard Sorem were reelected to the board.

Many door prizes were awarded to the guests in attendance.

## Midwest Energy returns \$2.6 million in capital credits

Thousands of Midwest Energy members received a check or bill credit last month when their co-op returned \$2.6 million in capital credits.

Current members who've earned capital credits receive a bill credit; members who have moved out of the co-op's service area receive a check. This year, 6,107 members received bill credits earned in 1990-91; a total of 13,675 former members received checks. The average return was \$131.43.

## Touchstone Energy cooperatives host state ElectroRally races

It's all about strategy when racing at the Kansas ElectroRally.

Since 1999, Kansas electric cooperatives have sponsored both individual team and racing events. Nicole Pfannenstiel, Sunflower, said that they continue to see benefits for the teams that participate and want to keep allowing that to happen for the competing teams.

The Kansas ElectroRally is made up of a series of races held for electric vehicles (EV). Kansas high school teams design, build, and race EVs and compete to complete the most laps in one hour. The EVs are powered by batteries and are single-driver, lightweight, aerodynamic, and highly efficient.

Strategy is important when racing. Time and distance are key, but the race is won by who can complete the most laps in one hour. Teams must balance driving fast to complete as many laps as possible, with driving slower to

save battery enough to last the entire race. EVs can reach speeds of 30 mph.

There are four different classes in which teams can compete: novice, standard, solar, and an open class. The teams build the car from the ground up and are allowed flexibility in the design and composition of their vehicles as long as principle guidelines are followed. Typically the cars are built using light-weight components such as aluminum frames and bicycle wheels.

Through April and early May, ElectroRally races are held across the state, drawing an average of 13 high school teams to compete.

"This year a couple of new schools joined the program, so that was exciting," said Pfannenstiel. "There has been enough advancements that the competition is getting tighter and tighter among the teams. It's a lot of fun!"

For photos or details on the individual races, visit [www.kansaselectrorally.org](http://www.kansaselectrorally.org).



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