

# Rural Power

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## Brown-Atchison hires Bob Perry as general manager

Bob Perry was recently selected to be the next general manager of Brown-Atchison. Perry started his new position on April 9.

Perry has 17 years of experience working for electric cooperatives. He first worked in the member services department at Central Indiana Power in Indiana. Then, after earning a master's degree in management from Indiana Wesleyan University, he served as general manager at Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative in New York for three years.

Perry said he was happy to move to Kansas



Bob Perry

as it puts him closer to his family in Arkansas.

Perry and his wife, Linda, will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in December. They enjoy square and round dancing. Perry also enjoys amateur radio, shooting sports, fishing and motorcycling.

Perry said "It was great to have the opportunity to move to Kansas as Linda and I both enjoy living in the Midwest and we love the Midwest culture."

Perry takes the place of Rod Gerdes who had managed Brown-Atchison since 1993. Gerdes retired on March 31.

## Midwest employees certify with Energy Star

Two Midwest Energy employees are now certified with Energy Star.

Brian Dreiling and Greg Swob recently received their certification.

In order to receive this designation, Dreiling and Swob had to first become registered as energy raters, and then undergo the additional training. This credential allows them to inspect homes and qualify them for the energy star program.

The Energy Star program hasn't seen a lot of participation in western Kansas. The raters' certification, however, could help

change that. In order to maintain their certification, some Energy Star homes must be built in the area, which means the raters are actively seeking to build relationships with entities that can take part in this process.

"We're trying to get the homebuilders on board as well as the heating and cooling guys," Dreiling said.

The Energy Star qualification is beneficial for homes, as well. The process of qualifying for the home is like a building qualification. Raters look at a variety of factors including how the roof is installed and how rain water will flow away from the home.

"It's not just the insulation; it goes above and beyond—it's the entire package of the house," Swob said.



Brian Dreiling



Greg Swob

## Pioneer trustee inducted into KCC Hall of Fame



From left: Moran Thomson, Dorothy Rubart, George Bushnell, Rubart, Chantry Scott, Steve Epperson and Anita Rock.

Pioneer board member Perry Rubart was inducted into the Co-op Hall of Fame on March 28 in Wichita.

Rubart was recognized for his decades of service and leadership roles in the electric cooperative industry.

His biography will now be part of the permanent Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame display at the Kansas State Fairgrounds. The display honors all 36 inductees and highlights Kansas co-op history.



A Traditional Electric Cooperative

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**NRECA CEO expresses disappointment with proposed EPA greenhouse gas regulation**

NRECA CEO Glenn English made the following statement on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) proposed greenhouse gas regulation:

*NRECA and its member co-ops are extremely disappointed to learn that the Obama Administration, in a New Source Performance Standard issued today by the EPA, has jettisoned American coal from the President's all-of-the-above energy strategy. Because commercially viable carbon capture and storage technology is still years away, the rules issued by EPA have the practical effect of outlawing coal as a fuel source for the next generation of power plants. Alternatively, America's co-ops support an energy policy that maximizes energy efficiency and truly embraces all domestic fuels: nuclear, natural gas, renewable and coal.*

NRECA – 3/27/12

**Duke Energy and Sumitomo to jointly own Kansas wind farms**

Sumitomo Corp. of America (SCOA), part of Tokyo-based Sumitomo Corp., will become a 50-50 equity partner in two large-scale wind farms Duke Energy Renewables is building in Kansas.

SCOA is buying a 50 percent stake in the 131-megawatt (MW) Cimarron II Windpower Project in Gray County and the 168-MW Ironwood Windpower Project in Ford County.

Duke Energy and SCOA will complete construction of both wind farms later this year. Duke Energy will operate and maintain Cimarron II and Ironwood once they are in service, with SCOA actively involved in management of the projects.

DUKE ENERGY – 3/27/12

**APRIL**

- 17-19 **National Electric Safety Code (NESC)**, Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc., Dodge City.
- 18-19 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, Eisenhower Presidential Library, Abilene.
- 20 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 20 **Line Superintendents Meeting**, Western Sizzlin, Salina.
- 25-27 **KMSDA Meeting**, Hotel Old Town, Wichita.
- 26 **MDM Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
- 29 **NRECA 2012 Grassroots Summit – Legislative Conference**, Washington, D.C.

annualmeetings

**APRIL**

- 12 **CMS**, dinner at 5:30 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., South Central Middle School, 310 S Jefferson, Protection.
- 19 **Twin Valley**, dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Labette County High School Cafeteria, 601 S. High School, Altamont.
- 20 **Rolling Hills**, dinner at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. NCK Technical School Gym, 3033 U.S. Highway 24, Beloit.
- 24 **LJEC**, meeting at 7 p.m., McLouth School Auditorium, 217 Summit Street, McLouth.
- 25 **Wheatland**, lunch at 11:30 a.m., meeting at 12:30 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, 723 Main St., Great Bend.

**KEC offers NRECA supervisory training May 22-23 in Wichita**

KEC is offering the last four of the NRECA Supervisory Training courses on May 22-23, 2012, at the Hotel Old Town in Wichita.

This program delivers instruction on 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.

Bryan Singletary, NRECA, will facilitate these courses. To earn the supervisory certificate, all nine interactive, co-op specific half-day courses must be completed. All co-op employees are welcome to attend these training dates, regardless if they attended the first half of the training in December. If



Bryan Singletary (right) facilitated the first half of the certificate program in December. All co-op employees are welcome to attend the second half of the supervisory training in May.

there is enough interest, KEC will offer repeat supervisory courses.

Registration is \$975 per attendee, which includes workshop materials and lunch on both days. Registration deadline is April 20.

Make room reservations by calling Hotel at Old Town at 877-265-3869. Ask for the KEC block to get the group rate of \$119 + tax for a single or double. A hot breakfast located in the hotel's atrium is included in the room cost. Deadline for the room block is April 20.

If you have questions, contact Shana Read at 785-478-4554 or sread@kec.org.

**Kansas Member Services Directors Association to meet April 25-27**

The KMSDA Spring Meeting will be held April 25-27 at Hotel Old Town in Wichita.

On Wed., April 25, NRECA's Megan McKoy-Noe will facilitate a preconference workshop on social media.

On Thurs., April 26, the meeting will begin with a welcome by KEC's

Bruce Graham. Also on the agenda is a session on Straight Talk, print design, and sponsor presentations. The business meeting and elections will conclude the agenda on Fri., April 27.

If you have any questions, please contact Shana Read, KEC, at sread@kec.org or 785-478-4554.

## Sumner-Cowley

Sumner-Cowley held its annual meeting on March 24 at Wellington High School.

Lunch was served to 243 members in attendance. 2011 youth trip winners Seth Tracy, who participated in the Leadership Camp, and Abby Koester, who attended Youth Tour, spoke to the board. The 2012 trip and scholarship winners were presented their awards.

For the first year, mail-in ballots were used for the trustee elections. Trustees Max Lowrey and John Schon were re-elected to the board. They were joined by newcomer Keith Leddy who took the seat vacated by Ralph Ohl's retirement.

## Heartland

Heartland held its annual meeting on March 27 at the Fort Scott Community College campus. Approximately 112 people attended the meeting and enjoyed an ice cream social afterward.

All four incumbents ran unopposed. Re-elected to the board were Ronald "Pete" DeLange, Bernard O'Brien, Harry Oehlert and Ernest Troth.

## Prairie Land

Bigge's Country Kitchen of Stockton served lunch to 454 members and guests at Prairie Land's annual meeting on March 27 at the co-op's headquarters in Norton.

Attendees also heard an executive report from manager Allan Miller and an update on the Holcomb Expansion Project from Sunflower CEO Stuart Lowry. Despite legal hurdles, Lowry said the construction timetable is still in place. He also emphasized that Sunflower is seeking to keep its members power costs in check by providing a balanced energy portfolio.

## Ninnescah

Ninnescah held its annual meeting on March 27 at Pratt. There were 109 members registered for the meeting, and approximately 250 members and guests were served dinner.

Michael Christie, Bryan Francis and Ronald Schultz were reelected to the board.

Shawn Geil of KEPCo and Doug Shepherd of KEC spoke to the membership. Ed Wiltse,

manager, reviewed the cooperative's operations for 2011. Also speaking were Savannah Smith and Levi Hirsh, last year's Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp winners.

## Radiant

Radiant held its 64th annual meeting on March 29 at its co-op headquarters in Fredonia.

The meeting was preceded by a barbecue dinner served to 412 guests. Approximately 176 members attended the meeting where Shana Read of KEC and Les Evans of KEPCo were guest speakers. Four local students were awarded scholarships.

Incumbents David Engelman and Larry Felts were re-elected to the board via mail-in ballot.

## Doniphan

Approximately 131 people attended Doniphan's 75th annual meeting at the Doniphan West Middle School in Denton on March 29.

Betty Denton and her family were honored with the plaque commending the late Jack Denton's service to the board.

Craig Kostman was re-elected to the board. Newly elected were Tyler Keebler who replaced Lawrence Blanton, Jr., and Bill Becker who replaced Jack Denton.

## Alfalfa

Alfalfa held its annual meeting on March 30th at the Cherokee High School gym.

A meal was served prior to the meeting and "The Gerber Family" played for early arrivals. Tim and Amanda Cowles also performed. Approximately 550 members were in attendance and given a small American flag.

Doug McMurtey and John Regier were re-elected to the board and Steve Eck was elected to fill the seat vacated by Dallas Lawrence's retirement.

## Lyon-Coffey

Lyon-Coffey held its annual meeting on April 2 in the Emporia Civic Auditorium. The meeting was attended by 202 members.

High school students Sadie Cope and Breck Dakin sang and played guitar for approxi-

mately 550 guests at the meal preceding the meeting.

Steve Parr, KEPCo, spoke to the membership regarding power supply issues facing electric cooperatives.

Incumbents David Kunkel and Donna Williams ran unopposed and were re-elected to the board.

## Ark Valley

Ark Valley held its 73rd annual meeting on April 3 at the Sunflower Building in Hutchinson.

Approximately 600 people attended the dinner preceding the meeting, catered by Ray's Countryside Catering. The meeting was attended by 279 registered members.

Incumbent Steve Schweizer was re-elected to the board, and Judy Kinsler was newly elected.

## DS&O

DS&O held its 75th annual meeting on April 3 at the bicentennial Center in Salina.

Approximately 405 guests enjoyed a meal served before the meeting, which was attended by 191 members. The 2011 Youth Tour winner, Tionna Trarbach, spoke to the board about her trip. Bylaw changes were made to the balloting procedure to allow balloting by mail and electronic methods.

Incumbents Dean Allison, William Chamberlain and Randy Cooper were all re-elected to the board. Dane Clark was newly elected to take the seat vacated by John Peterson's retirement.

## Kaw Valley

Kaw Valley held its annual meeting on April 4 at the co-op headquarters in Topeka. More than 1,400 enjoyed a meal.

General Manager Jerry Manning gave an overview of the annual Kaw Valley budget. Bruce Graham spoke about KEC services and how the organization's services assist members and help control costs. Kayla Harden and Rachel Brokaw, 2011 Youth Tour winners, thanked the membership for sending them to Washington, D.C.

Joe Conley, Shirley Henderson and Mark Wulfkuhle were all re-elected to the Board.

## Join Kansas Electric Cooperatives on Facebook

If you are a member of the fastest growing social networking site – Facebook, join us in becoming a fan of Kansas Electric Cooperatives. The fan page will keep you up-to-date on happenings at the Kansas statewide. On the site, you can find links to event information, articles, youth program information and more.

You can also become a fan of *Kansas Country Living* on Facebook. This fan page will offer sneak peaks to the upcoming issue, show extra photographs from the articles, and archive the recipes from past issues.

If you are not on Facebook, you can find the fan pages at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) by searching for Kansas Electric Cooperatives.

## congrats

### Howards welcome new addition



Congratulations to KEC's Angela Howard and her husband Jake on their new arrival, and to KEC's Danny Seele on his new granddaughter. Addison Leigh was born April 6. She weighed 6 lbs and 7 oz.

## Imgarten elected to co-op communicator board

Jerri Imgarten, Victory's communications specialist, was elected this month to the Certified Cooperative Communicator (CCC) Program Board. Serving as a voting member for a two-year term, she joins other cooperative communicators elected to the 10-member national board.



Jerri Imgarten

"The CCC program opened many doors for me to learn about areas of the cooperative I hadn't got to experience previously," she said. "When applying for my CCC, I found my co-workers to be supportive, allowing me to forge a line of communication necessary to my

everyday communication efforts."

The newly-elected members will join the board at the May CCC Board meeting in New Orleans prior to the NRECA Connect Conference. Imgarten will serve until 2014 when she will be eligible for re-election. Board members are limited to three consecutive two-year terms. There are nearly 200 cooperative communicators nationwide who have achieved the CCC designation.

Imgarten is one of six co-op communicators in Kansas who have earned the CCC designation. Others include Midwest Energy's Bob Helm; and KEC's Bruce Graham, Bob Jennings, Carrie Kimberlin, and Shana Read.

The CCC certification program offers co-op communicators the opportunity to earn a credential that signifies professional competence in the commu-

## KEC's Carrie Kimberlin named as NRECA Straight Talk STAR

The Straight Talk team recently announced that KEC's Carrie Kimberlin will be among the participants in the 2012 NRECA Straight Talk Ambassador Recruiting (STAR) program.

These STARS will help spread the word about Straight Talk – a communicator's resource – at the CONNECT '12 Conference & Innovative Showcase in May and will act as an advisory committee for the rest of the year.

STAR creates a peer-to-peer support team for the CONNECT conference. This year, 14 co-op representatives from eight of NRECA's 10 regions will work with the Straight Talk team, serving as

an advisory group and speak at regional meetings about this important resource.

"As a STAR, I will help with the Straight Talk booth at the CONNECT Conference in May to talk to other co-op communicators about this powerful resource," said Kimberlin. "We will also wear an "Ask Me About Straight Talk" button and sign people up for NRECA's monthly mailing."

She added, "I'm most looking forward to a special dinner with the other STARS, RE Magazine and ECT staff."

Kimberlin has served as KEC's communications specialist since 2005.



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