

Rural Power

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

Governor Colyer proclaims October as Co-op Month in Kansas

On Oct. 1, Governor Jeff Colyer signed a proclamation in his ceremonial office recognizing October as Co-op Month in Kansas. KEC's **BRUCE GRAHAM, LESLIE KAUFMAN**, and **TARA MAYS** joined other cooperative representatives for the signing ceremony.



KEC's Bruce Graham, Leslie Kaufman, and Tara Mays joined other cooperative representatives for Gov. Colyer's signing of the Co-op Month proclamation in the ceremonial office on Oct. 1.

Many electric cooperatives are marking Co-op Month with community events designed to communicate the cooperative difference including Butler's customer appreciation week, FreeState's Energy Fair and member

In addition to Co-op Month, the Governor's Office also issued proclamations declaring Oct. 5 as Kansas Energy Efficiency Day, and Oct. 15-19 as Careers in Energy Week in Kansas.

appreciation event, Pioneer's Safety Fest and senior center lunches, Prairie Land's safety poster contest and food drive, Radiant's open house, Rolling Hill's Co-opportunity Picnic, Victory's Pumpkin Painting and Carving Festival, and Wheatland's Cram the Van food drive.

Co-op officials represent Kansas at the NRECA Region 7 Meeting

More than 750 co-op directors, managers, and staff attended the NRECA Region 7 & 9 Meetings in Anchorage, AK, Sept. 25-27. The co-op officials gathered to discuss challenges facing the electric utility industry and determine the policies and priorities to be implemented by NRECA in the coming year.



Keith Ross, NRECA Kansas Director, serves as the presiding officer for the second General Session at the NRECA Region 7 & 9 Meeting on Sept. 26.

BRUCE GRAHAM, KEC, and **KIRK THOMPSON**, CMS, served on the Resolutions Committee in which Thompson was chair for the second consecutive year. **KEITH ROSS**, NRECA Kansas Director, served as the presiding officer for the second general session. **CHUCK GOECKEL**, Flint Hills, represented Kansas on the Nominating Committee. **BRIAN LANG**, DS&O, was newly-elected to serve on the Cooperative Manage-

ment, Employment, and Community (CMEC) Committee as part of the NRECA resolutions process. Graham is currently serving on the Legislative Committee.

Approximately 50 Kansas cooperative representatives attended the meeting that covered topics including electric vehicles, the "Commitment to Zero Contacts" initiative, cybersecurity, and the Lexicon Project. There were a series of breakout sessions, committee meetings, and directors courses. In addition to the NRECA program, ACRE hosted a breakfast meeting, and CFC and Federated Rural Electric Insurance held their district meetings.

Additionally, trustees who had completed the requirements for the Credentialed Cooperative Director, the Board Leadership Certificate, and the Director Gold credentials were recognized at the Regional meeting.

The Anchorage meeting was one of five NRECA regional meetings.

These meetings continue the co-ops' grassroots policy making process, which culminates at NRECA's 77th Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL, March 7-13, 2019.



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Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame nominations sought

Nominations are now being accepted for the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Kansas Cooperative Council, is important for honoring those who have gone “above and beyond the call” in advancing the cooperative philosophy. Established in 1999, individuals from all types of co-ops have been inducted.

To download the nomination form, visit www.kansasco-op.coop. The deadline for applications is Dec. 1.

invitation

Retirement open house for Sedgwick County's Voss

WAYNE VOSS, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's Line Superintendent, has announced his retirement after 40 years of service. Voss began his journey with the co-op on Nov. 13, 1978.

Sedgwick County is hosting an open house in his honor. Anyone in the cooperative family is welcome to stop by the co-op headquarters located at 1355 S 383rd St W in Cheney on Friday, Nov. 16. The event will run from 2 to 4 p.m.

jobmarket

KEC helps to promote co-op careers by listing openings on the careers section of the KEC website.

Visit <https://www.kec.coop/careers> to learn more about the following positions.

Send your open position listings to ruralpower@kec.org. Positions will be posted on the website for one month, unless otherwise directed by the co-op.

- Sunflower has openings for a Communications Specialist, a Project Management Intern, Journey Line Technician, Line Technician Apprentice, Lab Tech Trainee, Environmental & Science Intern, Transmission Engineer, Transmission Engineer Intern, Senior Transmission Engineer, Transmission Geotechnician, Instructional Designer, and an Operator Technician.

co-opcalendar

NOVEMBER

- 14 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, Courtyard by Marriott, Junction City, 1 p.m. (reconvenes on November 15 at 8:30 a.m.)
- 14 **KEPCo Annual Meeting (business meeting)**, Courtyard by Marriott, Junction City, 4 p.m.
- 14 **KEPCo Annual Meeting reception (5 p.m.) and dinner (6 p.m.)**, Courtyard by Marriott, Junction City
- 16 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 16 **Sedgwick County Open House honoring Wayne Voss**, 1355 S 383rd St W, Cheney, 2-4 p.m.
- 22-23 **Thanksgiving Holiday – KEC Office Closed**
- 27-28 **Transformer Workshop**, FreeState Headquarters, 1100 SW Auburn Rd., Topeka
- 29 **MDM Meeting – KEPCo Headquarters**, Topeka
- 29-30 **Metering Workshop**, FreeState Headquarters, 1100 SW Auburn Rd., Topeka

DECEMBER

- 5-6 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita

Rolling Hills Electric co-hosts Co-opportunity Day

Rolling Hills Electric, Farmway Credit Union and Central Valley Ag co-hosted their annual Co-opportunity Day in Beloit on Oct. 5. The three co-ops have been sponsoring the yearly appreciation luncheon for 22 years.

Rolling Hills linemen grilled burgers, and attendees were served sides and dessert. Nearly 300 members and community residents attended the luncheon event held at Rolling Hill's Beloit facility. Attendees were also encouraged to donate non-perishable items for the local food pantry.



Hungry members and guests line up for a free lunch sponsored by Central Valley Ag, Farmway Credit Union and Rolling Hills to celebrate Co-op Month.

upcoming training

Directors CCD and Board Leadership courses set for January

Prior to the KEC Annual Meeting, three directors courses will be offered at the Capitol Plaza, Topeka, in January.

On Saturday, Jan. 26, directors will have a choice between a CCD course and a Board Leadership course. **KEVIN SUMP** will facilitate *2630.1 Strategic Planning*. This course teaches how to participate effectively in strategic thinking and planning processes. **SCOTT**

LUECAL will facilitate *975.1 Capital Credits Issues and Decisions*. This course helps directors understand the co-op's capital credits policy.

On Sunday, Jan. 27, Sump will facilitate the Board Leadership course *955.1 Your Board's Culture: Its Impact on Effectiveness*. This course explains the concept of boardroom culture through an examination of case studies.

Save-the-Date: 2019 HR Summit

KEC has planned the next HR Summit for April 24 at the Wichita Marriott. This event will be a one-day training.

To make a hotel reservation, call the Wichita Marriott at 316-651-0333, and ask for the “KEC HR Summit” rate of \$124. The room block expires on April 9, 2019.

Detailed program information will be emailed closer to the meeting date.

Save-the-Date: 2019 IT Summit

The next KEC IT Summit will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 2, and from 8 a.m. to noon on May 3 at the Courtyard by Marriott at Old Town in Wichita.

To make a hotel reservation, call 866-522-8909 by April 10. Ask for the “KEC IT Summit Block” rate of \$145 (which includes breakfast and parking).

Detailed program information will be emailed closer to the meeting dates.

Kansas electric cooperatives plan post-election Co-ops Vote events

Electric cooperatives will soon be hosting a series of Co-ops Vote events designed for legislators to learn more about the electric cooperative industry in Kansas.

Currently, nine events running from Nov. 13 through Dec. 14 are scheduled for co-op staff and trustees to host newly elected legislators and returning lawmakers. These events will include briefings by KEC staff on cooperative issues likely to come before the 2019 Kansas Legislature, and what sets co-ops apart from other business structures. Depending on the location, attendees will be able to tour the host facility, as well.

“These Co-ops Vote events are a great opportunity to engage legislators while educating them about the important work that electric cooperatives across Kansas do and the issues that are most important to our cooperatives and their members,” said Tara Mays, KEC’s Manager of Government Relations.

Each Co-ops Vote event is hosted by multiple co-ops. The schedule includes the following (some dates still tentative):

- ▶ **NOV. 13:** Radiant, Lyon-Coffey, and Flint Hills (Lebo)
- ▶ **NOV. 26:** Rolling Hills, DS&O, Bluestem, and Nemaha-Marshall (Clay Center)

- ▶ **NOV. 28:** Midwest Energy, Ninnescah, and Ark Valley (Pratt)
- ▶ **DEC. 4:** FreeState and KEPCo (Topeka)
- ▶ **DEC. 7:** Heartland, Caney Valley, and Twin Valley (Girard)
- ▶ **DEC. 10:** Sedgwick County, Sumner-Cowley, and Butler (Wichita)
- ▶ **DEC. 11:** Sunflower, Prairie Land, and Western (Hays)
- ▶ **DEC. 11:** CMS, Pioneer, Wheatland, Victory, and Lane-Scott (Dodge City)
- ▶ **DEC. 14:** Brown-Atchison, Doniphan, and Nemaha-Marshall (Axtell)

Midwest Energy holds Annual Meeting

Midwest Energy held its annual meeting Oct. 15 at the Robbins Center at Fort Hays State University. Nearly 100 people attended the meeting.

The five winners of the 2018 Youth Tour, **SAM BRETZ, CADEN PFEIFER, TIFFANY PFEIFER, PARKER VULGAMORE, and GAGE WINGER** spoke about their trip to Washington, D.C., this past summer.

Re-elected to the board were **LOUISE BERNING, JUANITA STECKLEIN, and DALE UNRUH.**

Co-ops host consolidation information meetings

In preparation for the proposed consolidation between Lyon-Coffey and Radiant, the cooperatives jointly hosted a series of eight Town Hall Meetings for their members this month.

Board members and staff were on hand to answer questions prior to the vote at a special membership meeting scheduled for Nov. 5. The cooperatives have also created an informational website: VoteYesNovember5.com.

If approved on Nov. 5, the effective date of the consolidation will be Jan. 1, 2020, and the new consolidated cooperative will be known as **4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

The consolidation would provide a forecasted cost savings of almost \$9 million over a 10-year period for the nearly 13,000 member accounts across 14 Kansas counties.

Electric co-ops participate in Kansas Energy Efficiency Expo

Kansas homeowners were invited to discover how to save energy and make their homes more efficient at the Kansas Energy Efficiency Expo on Oct. 5, 2018.

Four electric cooperatives participated in the event that took place on the south lawn of the Kansas Statehouse. Representatives from **BLUESTEM, BROWN-ATCHISON, FREESTATE, and LYON-COFFEY** electric cooperatives were on hand to share their knowledge about residential energy efficiency.

The co-op booth featured interactive energy efficiency displays that showcased comparisons of different types of lighting and insulation options, and included a water heater cross section.

Despite the rain, several hundred people attended the event.

“They loved the hands-on displays,”

commented Mike Tweedy, Lyon-Coffey. “There were also a lot of questions about ground source heat pumps.”

Other vendors at the expo included the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation, Kansas Spray Foam Insulation, Topeka Metro, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for Region 7, Westar Energy, and a variety of interior design and architecture companies.

The event was sponsored by the Kansas Corporation Commission and the Kansas Energy Program through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Kansas Governor’s Office issued a proclamation declaring Oct. 5 as Kansas Energy Efficiency Day, mirroring the National Energy Efficiency Day movement, whose theme for 2018 was “Save Energy, Save Money.”



Representing the electric cooperatives at the Kansas Energy Efficiency Expo (from left): Kevin Hepfig, Bluestem; Alan Baker, Brown-Atchison; Mike Tweedy, Lyon-Coffey; Matt Lambert, FreeState; and Frank Ortega, FreeState.

Kansas Electric Cooperative staff accepts new challenges

KEC is pleased to announce that several staff members are taking on new responsibilities as an effort to meet changing needs.

VICKI ESTES has been promoted to Director of Communications and will retain her duties as Editor of *Kansas Country Living*. Estes has been with KEC since 2015, in which time she has led the magazine's request for proposal (RFP) initiative, along with the subsequent selection and transition to a new printing vendor and an in-depth study of the magazine's processes that has led to improved workflows.

Under her direction, the magazine has diversified its content, joined other statewide magazines in an annual audit by the Alliance of Audited Media to increase exposure to advertisers, and continues to build goodwill and improve engagement with Kansas electric co-op members.

SHANA READ has been named Director of Education and Training,

and will continue her work with KEC's youth programs, *Rural Power*, and Touchstone Energy.

Read joined KEC in 2002, in which time she has enriched and increased the participation of the youth programs and created the successful Communications Internship program that has resulted in several co-op placements. She has served on both the Certified Cooperative Communicator (CCC) Program Board and NRECA's Council of Rural Electric Communicators (CREC), and was honored as a Touchstone Energy Brand Champion. Read will now focus more of her time in the development of training opportunities for electric cooperative board members, managers and employees.

Several additional KEC staff members are also accepting new duties.

CAROL DORR, Executive Secretary, is further developing her communication skills by helping to design centerspread layouts, as well as updat-

ing KEC's website and members-only section.

ANGELA HOWARD, Staff Accountant, has taken on the additional responsibilities of KEC's information technology needs—both internally and for KEC's annual and summer meetings. She is applying her attention to detail as a proofreader for *Kansas Country Living*, as well as creating reports and handling returns for the magazine. Also, Howard is increasing her benefits administration responsibilities.

CARRIE KIMBERLIN, Manager of Creative Solutions, continues to manage all publishing services jobs and the KEC website. She is now the primary contact for the co-op centerspread editors and manages the production of the cooperatives' centerspreads.

KEC applauds these employees for their willingness to challenge themselves with new and changing duties to best meet members' growing needs and expectations.

insympathy

Steve and Kathy Jimmerson

STEVE JIMMERSON, Journeyman Tree Trimmer at Victory, and his wife Kathy both died Oct. 4 in a head-on collision. Steve had served at Victory for the past 10 years.

A celebration of life was held Oct. 12 at Victory's warehouse. The co-op greeted mourners with two digger trucks raising the American flag. Steve's work truck, along with photos, were on display at the memorial. Approximately 200 people were in attendance. The co-op hosted a barbecue dinner following the event.

Memorials may be made to the Trinity Manor's Memorial Funds, 510 West Frontview St., Dodge City, KS 67801 or the Pet Miracle Network, 11451 East US 50, Dodge City, KS 67801.



Kansas Touchstone Energy holds annual membership meeting

Fifteen trustees, managers, and brand managers representing a dozen Kansas Touchstone Energy cooperatives attended the Touchstone Energy Annual Membership Meeting at Butler Electric on Oct. 15.

As part of the business portion of the meeting, the membership approved the 2019 budget and member assessment.

Re-elected to the Executive Council for a three-year term were **BRUCE MUELLER**, Wheatland, (manager position); and **TRAVIS GRIFFIN**, Butler, (brand manager position). **ERIC ANDERSEN**, Rolling Hills, was elected to the vacant trustee position, and **STEVE FOSS**, FreeState, to the vacant manager position. Officers are Mueller as Chairperson, Foss as Vice



Dennis Deines, Western, joins the other meeting attendees in learning about the augmented reality options offered through the Touchstone Energy Experience app. The app was featured during the national program review at the Touchstone Energy Annual Membership Meeting held at Butler Electric on Oct. 15.

Chair, and **DENNIS DEINES**, Western, as Secretary/Treasurer.

ANNE HARVEY, Touchstone Energy, gave an update on the national program activities. She encouraged all Touchstone Energy cooperatives to complete the inventory checklist so they can best

understand the value of the program for their individual co-op.

RON GRABER, Heartland, spoke about his experience at the Regional Member meeting. **SHANA READ**, KEC, presented the state program review, highlighting the Kansas State Fair. **NIKKI PFANNENSTIEL**, Sunflower, gave an update on the Kansas ElectroRally and called for volunteers for future events.