

RuralPower

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

Gov. Colyer hosts ceremonial signing of Sub. SB 323

Kansas Governor Jeff Colyer hosted Kansas Legislators and electric cooperative representatives from across the state for a ceremonial signing of Sub. SB 323.

Key provisions of the bill will improve the opportunity for an electric cooperative to retain electric service to its territory when it is annexed by a municipality. The bill also enhances the compensation due to a cooperative if its certified territory is lost to an annexation.



Governor Jeff Colyer hosted Kansas Legislators and electric cooperative representatives for a ceremonial signing of Sub. SB 323. From left: Doug Shepherd, Mike Morley, Suzanne Lane, Leslie Kaufman, Kathleen O'Brien, Bruce Mueller, Rep. Joe Seiwert, Rep. Randy Garber, Sen. Rick Billinger, Bruce Graham, Sen. Rob Olson, Sen. Mike Peterson, Sen. Randall Hardy, Sen. Rick Wilborn, Sen. Tom Hawk, and Alex Orel.

Following the ceremony, cooperative participants were invited to sit down with Gov. Colyer for a short meeting.

"We appreciated the opportunity to thank Gov. Colyer for his support of our legislation and to make certain he values the structure and core principles

of electric cooperatives. We also had a chance to discourage the notion of retail wheeling and advocate for some future legislative initiatives," said Bruce Graham, KEC CEO.

KEC efficiency improvement project close to complete



KEC staff boxes up their temporary offices at FreeState this week.

The KEC headquarters efficiency improvement project is coming to a close, staying true to the construction time line that called for completion by June 2018.

After seven months of working from temporary offices graciously provided by FreeState, KEC staff has begun the process to return to the KEC headquarters this week.

KEC is planning an open house for Friday, August 3, for those who are traveling to the KEC Summer Meeting in Overland Park.

KEC to return \$1.65 million in patronage capital

The KEC Board, at its May meeting, reviewed and adopted a patronage allocation formula to return \$1,656,712.68 to the members. These excess funds were generated primarily by the July 2017 sale of KEC's Apparatus Testing division.

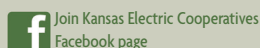
The KEC Board acted in December 2017 to authorize the retirement of patronage once the KEC headquarters efficiency project was completed. At that meeting, the Board determined that the headquarters project should be initially funded with cash and a mortgage be secured when finished to replenish those construction costs.

The sale of KEC's Apparatus Testing division fulfilled a Board directive to determine an exit strategy for this program, and proceeds of the sale will reimburse the membership for years of inventory, equipment, and facility investments.

Members will receive the proceeds following a KEC Membership Meeting which is required to approve a mortgage. That meeting will be held August 6 in conjunction with the KEC Summer Meeting in Overland Park.



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Directors training at KEC Summer Meeting

During the KEC Summer Meeting, co-op trustees will have several training options. All courses will run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Aug. 4, there will be a choice of a Board Leadership course (BLC) and a Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) course.

- Bob Patton will facilitate the CCD course **2620.1 BOARD OPERATIONS AND PROCESS.**

This course focuses on the legal requirements for holding board meetings and also on group processes that make such meetings productive and effective.

- Rod Crile will facilitate the **977.1 EQUITY MANAGEMENT AND BOARDROOM DECISION MAKING.** This class considers common board room decisions and how these decisions impact the cooperative's financial strength. Originally offered at the 2017 KEC Summer Meeting as a limited pilot course, this course has been updated and is now open to the group at large.

On Sunday, Aug. 5, there will be two BLCs.

- Bob Patton will facilitate **930.1 ETHICS AND GOVERNANCE: IMPLEMENTING THE NEW ACCOUNTABILITY.** This course explains the background of ethical issues and presents practical strategies to help electric cooperatives design and develop plans and programs that address new governance expectations.
- Jody Severson will facilitate the pilot course **905.1 ASSESSING GOVERNANCE: TAKING A CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT APPROACH TO GOVERNING YOUR CO-OP.** This course, which is limited to approximately 17 attendees, will walk directors through the governance assessment process. It covers a number of different areas including nominating and elections, member access to information, and board composition. It takes into consideration that there is no one-size-fits all and priorities vary.

co-opcalendar

MAY

30-6/1 REC Managers Association Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Wichita

JUNE

4 Retirement Reception for Ron Holsteen, Twin Valley Headquarters, Altamont, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

7-14 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, Washington, D.C.

10-13 CFC Forum, J.W. Marriott, Indianapolis, Indiana

15 Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays

28 MDM Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

JULY

4 Independence Day Holiday, KEC Office Closed

13-19 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, Steamboat Springs, Colorado

17 Lane-Scott Annual Meeting, Lane County Fairgrounds, 745 N. 7th, Dighton. Meal starts at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.

18-19 KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

20 Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays

26 MDM Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

KEC holds training sessions for HR and IT professional groups

KEC recognizes the value of employee education and recently held its annual HR Summit and IT Summit for its member cooperatives.

KEC's 6th annual **HR SUMMIT** was held on April 25 at the Wichita Marriott. Twenty-one employees representing 15 electric co-ops were at the training.

Speakers included **SUSAN M. LANG**, U.S. Dept. of Labor, **DR. LEANN BROWN**, FHSU, **PATTI KLEIN**, RUS, **BRIAN ALLEN**, Homestead Funds, and **MALACHI STURLIN**, NRECA. Topics included minimum wage and overtime issues performance management issues, retention requirements, Homestead Funds, and an NRECA benefit update.

On May 3 and 4, a group of 20 employees representing 16 electric cooperatives and one public power

district attended the **IT SUMMIT** at the Courtyard Marriott in Wichita.

Speakers included **ALVIN RAZON** and **DR. CYNTHIA HSU**, NRECA; **DR. COMFORT MANYAME**, Mid-South Synergy; **SCOTT KAYLOR**, NISC; **BRETT VANNOCKER**, Kansas Security; **SHANNON ROTHCHILD**, Nex-Tech; and **TODD WEDGE**, Siemens. Topics ranged from cybersecurity, communication networks, GIS drones, endpoint protection and incident detection, physical security, network segmentation, and NRECA's Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities Program (RC3).

Planning for next year's HR Summit and IT Summit is underway. If any co-op employee would like to serve on the planning committee, please contact Shana Read at sread@kec.org.

upcomingtraining

CFC Statewide Workshop

Kansas electric cooperative directors are invited to join CFC in Wichita for the Kansas Statewide Workshop at the Wichita Marriott, July 10-11.

This workshop provides a variety of finance-focused topics, designed specifically for directors of electric co-ops. CFC will also host a reception and dinner for attendees and guests on July 10. Sessions are led by CFC staff experts and address topics including capital

markets, strategic planning, electric rates, understanding financial statements, and an industry update.

A complete agenda, online registration, and hotel information, has been emailed to all cooperatives. A CFC web account is required to register.

For questions about this workshop, contact John Grant at 800-424-2954, ext. 1731, or john.grant@nrucfc.coop or Rodney Sanford at 800-424-2954, ext. 2734, or rodney.sanford@nrucfc.coop.

Radiant

Radiant's annual meeting was held on April 5 at the co-op headquarters in Fredonia. There were 180 registered members, and approximately 375 people enjoyed a meal prepared by member Rory Hamilton and desserts by members Kathy and Brian Mayeske.

Employment anniversary plaques were presented, Radiant staff received a No Lost Time Accident Award, and scholarship recipients were announced.

Additionally, trustees who had reached educational goals were honored: **NICK FRANKENBERY** and **CAROL WEHMEYER** earned their Credentialed CCD certificate, **SANDRA SMITH** earned the Board Leadership certificate, and **TOM AYERS** earned the Director Gold certification.

Re-elected to the board were **DAVID ENGLERMAN** and **CAROL WEHMEYER**.

Rolling Hills

Rolling Hills' 16th annual meeting commenced on April 6 at the corporate headquarters in Beloit. Despite cold, windy weather, more than 120 members were registered. Attendees enjoyed a meal and viewed photos and materials on display by the co-op's safety committee.

KEC's **LARRY DETWILER** gave a safety presentation, and Rolling Hills' linemen gave a high voltage safety demonstration.

Re-elected to the board via mail ballot in December 2017 were **BOB FREDRICKSON**, **PAUL WILSON**, and **JUSTIN TROST**.

CMS

CMS' 72nd Annual Meeting was held on April 12 at the South Central Middle School in Protection. More than 150 members and guests enjoyed a BBQ dinner from Hunny's of Guymon, Oklahoma.

Board President Linda Tomlinson introduced the scholarship winners and presented each with a certificate and gift recognizing their achievement.

Kirk Thompson honored retiring CMS Electric Board Trustee **CLIFFORD FRIESEN** and thanked him for his 27 years of dedicated service.

Re-elected were **ROCK ORMISTON II** and **DON NIGHSWONGER**. Newly elected was **JAMES MCKINNEY**.

Alfalfa

Alfalfa's 82nd annual meeting was on April 13 at the Cherokee High School in Cherokee. More than 620 members registered, and

more than 1,500 meals were served. Board member John Regier and several members were unable to attend as they were fighting grass fires fueled by high winds.

Prior to the meeting, members received capital credit checks that totaled more than \$1.7 million at registration, visited with co-op staff about services, and enjoyed the guitar and vocal talents of Kari Roberts. After the posting of the colors and the singing of the National Anthem by Alva third grader Kaycie Shelton, the members heard from two guest speakers: retired Vietnam Veteran **JIM WARNER** and World War II POW **R.D. LAWRENCE**.

Re-elected to the board were **DOUG MCMURTREY**, **JOHN REGIER**, and **STEVE ECK**.

Ark Valley

More than 600 members and guests attended Ark Valley's 79th Annual Meeting on April 17 at the Kansas State Fair's Sunflower Building in Hutchinson.

The guest speaker was the first-place youth winner **PAYTON TRUITT** who presented her winning essay to the members.

Re-elected to the Board were **STEVE SCHWEIZER** and **JUDY KINSLER**.

Victory

Victory held its annual meeting on April 17 at the Western State Bank Expo Building in Dodge City. A reported 967 members and guests were served a steak dinner.

Members heard presentations from Board President **JOHN LEIS** and the 2017 youth winners. The 2018 youth winners and the Lightner Community Spirit Scholarship winners were also introduced. Prizes and bill credits were awarded after the meeting.

Re-elected to the board were **DARYL TIEBEN**, **KEN SCHULTE**, **CEDRIC DREWES**, and **TERRI LARSON**.

Twin Valley

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative's annual meeting was held on April 19 at the Labette County High School in Altamont. The meal was catered by Pichler's Chicken Annie's of Pittsburg and was served by employees to more than 200 members and guests.

Manager **RON HOLSTEEN** announced his retirement and was recognized for his 14 years of service at Twin Valley. His strides to update and upgrade the co-op's electrical system during his tenure were listed among his many accomplishments.

Re-elected to the board were **BRYAN COOVER**, **DIANE MCCARTNEY**, and **JASON ZWAHLN**.

Additional annual meeting reports will be included in next month's issue of *Rural Power*.

Sunflower



Western Board Member Larry Evans (left) accepts a retirement plaque from Sunflower's Stuart Lowry at the Sunflower Board Meeting.

Sunflower's annual meeting and board meeting were held on May 18 in Wheatland's Garden City office.

Western Trustee Larry Evans received a plaque from Sunflower's President and CEO Stuart Lowry. Evans retired following 43 years of service on the Western board and 18 years on the Sunflower board. Lowry said, "You've served many years and have seen many changes. With that comes much wisdom from which we have all benefited."

KEPCo seeks Executive Director of Engineering

Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., seeks applicants to manage the engineering functions and department within KEPCo, including the planning, organizing, budgeting, staffing, directing and controlling the design and technical support functions.

This position also has primary responsibility for KEPCo Services, Inc. (KSI), a KEPCo subsidiary that provides engineering and technical services for member co-ops and others. For more information or to apply, visit <http://bit.ly/KEPCoEngineering>.

Heartland seeks Director of Finance and Administration

The Director of Finance and Administration is responsible for managing and directing the finance and administrative functions of Heartland, including managing the fiscal, fiduciary, and administrative responsibilities of Heartland with the CEO and the Board of Directors. For more information or to apply, contact Margaret Phillips, HR Partners, before June 15 at margaret@hrpartnersks.com.

KEC and Solomon co-sponsor State FFA Degree awards

Kansas Electric Cooperatives (KEC) and Solomon Corporation have a long history of supporting the Kansas FFA Association. Both organizations have been involved with the FFA for more than 30 years.

This year, the two organizations are co-sponsoring the State FFA Degree. It is the highest honor a state can bestow on a student, and only about 10 percent of FFA members earn the award. An estimated 300 Kansas youths will earn their State Degrees at the 90th Annual Kansas FFA Convention in Manhattan, Kansas, May 30 through June 1.

Solomon CEO Tom Hemmer was state FFA president in 1985. "We are delighted to join KEC in sponsoring the state FFA degree program. Both of our organizations are committed to the economic viability of rural communities in our state," he said. "What better way to express that commitment than to support the next generation of leadership for rural Kansas? These FFA members have worked hard and achieved

Lyon-Coffey hosts dedication of new headquarters

On April 23, Lyon-Coffey hosted a dedication and open house to celebrate its new headquarters located at the intersection of I-35 and 75 Highway (known as BETO Junction).

"It's an exciting time to be a part of rural Kansas and the electric industry," said Robert Converse, President of the Lyon-Coffey Board of Trustees. "For more than 63 years, the cooperative had called 1013 N. 4th Street in Burlington home. We feel that this facility will serve our members and our community today and for future generations to come."

The new facility is approximately 34,500 square feet, situated on twenty acres and includes warehouse space, drive through garage facilities, office space, meeting rooms, and a break room and kitchen area.

The dedication was marked by speeches given by Converse and Scott

Whittington, General Manager and CEO. The event was attended by many members, employees and guests.

Converse honored Whittington for his management of the building's design and for his team's daily oversight of construction. The team's management of the endless details and design decisions, led to a unique building with sloped roof lines and stone wall on the building's exterior.

"It was years in the design and planning, and it took a combined team effort to construct this multi-purpose building in what was essentially only 14 months," Whittington said.

During the ceremony, the co-op specifically recognized project architect Mike Dwyer for his ability to design a storm-hardened, energy efficient and functional structure while making it attractive and functional.



Lyon-Coffey hosted a dedication and open house last month to celebrate its new headquarters located at the intersection of I-35 and 75 Highway (known as BETO Junction).

Prairie Land hosts meeting with Sen. Jerry Moran

More than 40 area members and employees attended the town hall with Sen. Jerry Moran on May 1 at Prairie Land's headquarters in Norton.

Sen. Moran answered questions and shared insights regarding Immigration, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the Affordable Care Act. He also spoke about legislative work to enhance the Veterans' Affairs Choice Act program. Discussion on necessary funding for the opioid crisis and term limits rounded out the one-hour town hall.

"Who we are as people, friendships and relationships, are more important than politics," Sen. Moran said. "That's why I return home each weekend from Washington, D.C., and that is why I hold these town halls and listening tours across the state."

Sen. Moran will hold another town hall at Lyon-Coffey on May 29.