

Rural Power

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

Government, leadership featured at KEC Summer Meeting

Hundreds of electric co-op trustees, managers and key staff attended this year's KEC Summer Meeting in Overland Park on Aug. 6.

KEC's Summer Meeting program featured **LYNNE HINRICHSEN**, Kansas Director for USDA Rural

Development, who shared the key prosperity factors identified through the recently released Rural Prosperity Report.

"Government is not business as usual," Hinrichsen stated, and then explained that USDA is now focused on a three-prong business model of infrastructure, partnership, and innovation. She challenged the cooperatives to be creative and to consider how different utilities could work together to benefit rural Kansas.

"When I took this job, I challenged myself to push Kansas to be more upfront about asking for project funding," she stated. She reviewed several USDA programs including investments in business, community, and family housing, and promoted the loans and grants available to build, maintain, upgrade, and modernize electric power systems. "The money is sitting there and we pounce on that funding because we know there is a need," she said.

LESLIE KAUFMAN, KEC's Director of Government Relations and Legal Counsel moderated a panel with Kansas Senator **ROB OLSON** and State Representative **JOE SEIWERT**. Panel topics included the process and activity surrounding Substitute SB 323 that relates to service territory protection, as well as upcoming legislative challenges and the newly-created Statewide Broadband Expansion Planning Task Force. KEC's **DOUG SHEPHERD** was named to represent the



KEC's Doug Shepherd, Bruce Graham, and Leslie Kaufman presented Sen. Rob Olson and Rep. Joe Seiwert a token of appreciation for their leadership on cooperative issues on behalf of the KEC membership.

electric cooperatives on the task force.

"At the end of the day, we worked really hard getting the cooperatives involved with the task force so they could help answer the questions of what was needed," said Rep. Seiwert who will co-chair this

group with Sen. Olson. "We want to get high-speed data to everyone."

"It's going to take everyone as a team to get broadband to every household in Kansas," added Sen. Olson.

DAVID TUDOR, CEO and General Manager of Associated Electric, spoke about his experience with retail wheeling when he served as President and CEO of Champion Energy Services headquartered in Houston, Texas.

"Once a state deregulates, it's hard to go back," cautioned Tudor, who then explained how California's deregulation created an energy crisis.

"Consumers like choice," he stated. "They like having a choice once, but then it becomes a hassle." He went on to describe the many consumer complaints that result from poor decisions that are often very costly.

DIANE DEBACKER, Executive Director of Business and Education Innovation for the Kansas Department of Commerce, discussed how to bridge the gap between skills needed in the workforce and skills taught through the education system. **PAUL BRULL**, Kansas representative to NRECA Youth Leadership Council, shared his experiences on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Luncheon speaker **DAN MEERS**, who works as the mascot for the Kansas City Chiefs, shared how he nearly lost his life while practicing a

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KEC Member Directory to be shipped next month

Printed copies of the 2018-2019 Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., Member Directory will be mailed to cooperatives, advertisers and affiliated organizations in late September.



The KEC Directory requires considerable time and effort to prepare and we certainly appreciate all the assistance received again this year from our member co-ops to complete this task.

Members may also download a PDF version of the directory on the members-only section of the KEC website.

For more information about the directory, contact KEC's Carrie Kimberlin at ckimberlin@kec.org.

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.

- ▶ FreeState seeks Journeyman Lineman (McLouth), Line Superintendent (Topeka), and Member Services Representative (Topeka)
- ▶ Lane-Scott seeks a Manager of Member Services
- ▶ Power System Engineering, Inc. seeks a Rate and Regulatory Consultant
- ▶ Sumner-Cowley seeks Warehouseman
- ▶ Sunflower has openings for a Communications Specialist, a Financial Analyst, a Journey Line Technician, an EMS/SCADA Trainee, and an EMS/SCADA Administrator

co-opcalendar

SEPTEMBER

- 3 **Labor Day Holiday – KEC Office Closed**
- 11-13 **KEC Hot Line School**, Pratt Vo-Tech, Pratt
- 18 **Budget and Operations Committee Meeting**, Location TBD, 1 p.m.
- 18-20 **KEC Hot Line School**, Manhattan Vo-Tech, Manhattan
- 19-20 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 20 **Tri-County Annual Meeting**, Texas County Activity Center, 4th & Sunset Lane, Guymon, OK. Meal starts at 5:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:10 p.m.
- 21 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 25-27 **Region 7-9 Meeting**, Anchorage, Alaska
- 26-28 **KMSDA**, Courtyard by Marriott at Old Town, Wichita
- 27 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

upcomingtraining

Last chance to register for the High Impact Presentations course

KEC is offering the Dale Carnegie course *High Impact Presentations*. This two-day training is scheduled for Aug. 28 and 29 at KEC's headquarters in Topeka.

High Impact Presentations focuses on structuring effective presentations that build credibility, enhance a client relationship, and clearly convey concepts. Attendees will explore the

optimum use of voice and gesture to create a lasting impression as well as a variety of presentation styles.

Registration is typically \$2,000 for this course, but KEC is able to offer a registration fee of \$1,100 per attendee.

To register for this training or for more information, call Lindsey Solida at 785-320-2753 or email Lindsey.Solida@DaleCarnegie.com.

KEC offers 2018 Attorney CLE

KEC's Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program will be held on Friday, Oct. 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the KEPCo headquarters in Topeka.

This day-long series of sessions will highlight important issues facing today's electric cooperatives and how the co-op attorney can help cooperative leaders increase regulatory compliance and reduce potential liability exposure.

Materials, refreshments and lunch are included in the \$100 registration fee. Registration deadline is Oct. 19. The Kansas CLE Commission has approved this CLE for 6.5 hours including 1.0 hour of ethics (pending).

An agenda and registration information has been emailed to the cooperatives. For more information, email Leslie Kaufman at lkaufman@kec.org.

KMSDA plans writing workshop as part of fall meeting

The Kansas Member Services Directors Association (KMSDA) 2018 Fall meeting will be held Sept. 26 - 28 in Wichita at the Courtyard by Marriott at Old Town.

There will be a writing and grammar workshop. Presentations will include NRECA's Lexicon project; training on making digital content both shareable and findable; a Co-ops Vote and Kansas Legislative update; and updates from KEC,



KEPCo, Lyon-Coffey, Touchstone Energy, Sunflower, and Wolf Creek. Attendees will learn about a new program that provides all-hours social media response.

There will also be a KMSDA Bylaws discussion.

For hotel reservations, call 866-522-8909. Ask for the "KMSDA block" for the group rate of \$144, which includes breakfast and parking.

Lane named as KEPCo's Executive Vice President and CEO

Kansas Electric Power Cooperative's (KEPCo) Board of Trustees has selected **SUZANNE LANE** as the new Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the organization.



Suzanne Lane

KEPCo's Board President Kevin Compton stated, "Suzanne possesses the knowledge and talent

to continue to move the cooperative forward to meet the energy needs of our member-owners. We look forward to working with her in her new position as we strive to meet future energy requirements in today's challenging energy markets."

Lane has 20 years of leadership experience in the utility business, working at Westar Energy for most of her career, and then joining the KEPCo

team in 2017. Her work responsibilities and experiences have included wholesale power marketing, transmission and distribution operations and key account management. Most recently, she has served as the Vice President of Member Services and Government Affairs for KEPCo.

"KEPCo has a long-standing, strong presence in Kansas as a not-for-profit, member-focused organization that works hard to provide its members with the most reliable, cost-effective power," Lane stated. "I am honored and privileged to have been selected for this role, and I look forward to working side-by-side with the Board of Trustees and staff to continue that mission."

Lane received her Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from Fort Hays State University and her Master of Business Administration from Washburn University. She and her husband, Martin, have two daughters and reside in the Topeka area. She will assume the duties of the Executive Vice President and CEO on Oct. 1.

KEC requests co-op photos to display at headquarters

KEC is putting the finishing touches on its headquarters efficiency improvement project and wants to showcase the talents of its members by using original photography throughout the updated building.

More than mere pictures hung on a wall, these photographs will play a key role in showcasing each of KEC's member-cooperatives and telling the story of the co-op history and mission.

Photos could feature a variety of themes including cooperatives and their members, the history of the rural electric network, landscapes and geographic features from within co-op service territories during different seasons of the year, new and innovative technologies, pictures of equipment and plant, Mutual

Aid and restoration efforts, and employees at work.

Co-ops are asked to search their

photo archives or to shoot original photography in large-format, high-resolution quality. Each submission should include a title, the name of the photographer (if known), the co-op represented, who is pictured in the photo (if known or if applicable), and the location that the photo was taken.

Digital images can be submitted in the standard formats, such

as PDF, JPG, TIFF, EPS, and NEF, with a DPI of at least 300.

For questions about submitting photos or for additional information, contact Shana Read at sread@kec.org or call 785-478-4554.

Photos could feature a variety of themes:

- co-ops and members,
- historical photos,
- landscapes,
- innovative technologies,
- equipment and plant,
- restoration efforts, and
- employees at work.

Kansas Touchstone Energy to hold Annual Meeting

The Touchstone Energy Annual Membership Meeting will be held at Butler Electric Cooperative on Monday, Oct. 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

LYNN MOORE, Touchstone Energy's Executive Director, will report on the national program activities including the Best in Class, the use of Augmented Reality (AR), the Annual Report, Co-op Insights through the National Survey on the Cooperative Difference, and the long-range planning committee discussion the national dues.

The Kansas Touchstone Energy Executive Council will discuss statewide activities, set the 2019 dues assessment, and hold elections.

The committee members whose terms expire this year include **BRUCE MUELLER** and **TRAVIS GRIFFIN**. There is also a board member vacancy on the council. If interested in serving on the council, contact Bruce Mueller at bmuller@weci.net.

Reserve a room at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in El Dorado for \$94.99/night, which includes breakfast. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 316-322-7275. Ask for the "Kansas Electric Cooperatives" rate.

Please RSVP your attendance to Shana Read at sread@kec.org by October 8.

KEC's Bruce Graham meets with Vice President Mike Pence



BRUCE GRAHAM (pictured at left) attended an ACRE sponsored event for Congressman **KEVIN YODER** on July 11 in Kansas City which was headlined by Vice President **MIKE PENCE**. Graham had a chance to get reacquainted with the former Indiana Congressman and Governor. The two worked together on several issues while Graham was CEO of Indiana Electric Cooperatives.

Showcasing the cooperative difference at regional meeting

Touchstone Energy understands the Cooperative Difference and demonstrates it in how we treat our members, how we collaborate, and how we build our communities, and this year is highlighting all three characteristics at each of the NRECA Regional Meetings.

“Touchstone Energy is celebrating its 20th anniversary, and we wanted to celebrate by giving back with a service opportunity at every regional meeting,” said **LYNN MOORE**, Touchstone Energy’s Executive Director. “We are leveraging the power of human connections in our partnerships with the host statewide organizations and their community partners to bring volunteers together for unique projects that will leave a positive impact on the communities we are visiting.”

All regional meeting attendees and their guests are welcome to attend the “come-and-go” service project located near the NRECA Regional Meeting registration area in the conference hotel. Volunteers can stop by the Touchstone Energy engagement station, open on Tuesday, Sept. 25 from noon to 4 p.m. (or until all projects are completed).

For the Region 7 & 9 meeting, volunteers will assemble reflective safety kits that will help illuminate the dark journeys to and from school for thousands of Anchorage elementary and middle-schoolers. The United Way of Anchorage will then distribute the reflective safety kits to local schools within its Community PLUS Schools program.

Volunteers are welcome for the entire service project or only for a few minutes, whatever time schedules allow. Photos of the activity will be posted on social media using #CoopsServe to help make a positive impact in the host community during the regional meeting.

For more information about the Touchstone Energy community service project at the regional meeting, please contact Anne Harvey at Anne.Harvey@nreca.coop.

Kansas electric cooperatives at the Kansas State Fair

From safety demonstrations to agriculture forums, Kansas’ electric cooperatives are proud sponsors of the 2018 Kansas State Fair scheduled for Sept. 7 -16 in Hutchinson.

Kansas State Ag Forum

KEC is sponsoring the Kansas State Ag Forum on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The forum will feature a debate between the candidates for Governor, moderated by **KELLY LENZ**, WIBW Farm Director.

The Kansas Agriculture Network and WIBW 580 are set to broadcast the forum. To view the event live, visit kansasagnetwork.com or wibwnewsnow.com.

High-Voltage Safety Demonstration

From Sept. 10 - 14, Kansas electric co-ops and Touchstone Energy co-ops of Kansas celebrate 11 years of sponsoring the high-voltage safety demonstration in the Ad Astra Pavilion.

ALEX



BREEDING, BRIAN DREILING, NATE STRYKER, GREG SWOB, and JAMES WRIGHT of Midwest Energy, along with **BRENT UNRUH** of Flint Hills, **KEVIN BRADSTREET** and **HENRY MORROW** of Lane-Scott, **TAVIS MACDONALD** of Pioneer, **JACOB LEDFORD** and **ROSS ACKERMAN** of Victory, and **CHRIS SHURLE** and **ADAM PARKER** of Wheatland will showcase the high-voltage safety display from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The live-wire demonstration includes a stick man made of wire and plastic piping to show the importance of staying safe around power lines.

This event is part of the State Fair’s “Kansas Largest Classroom” program, which invites Kansas teachers to bring their students to this event at the fair.

Admission Tickets

KEC has a limited number of gate admission tickets to the fair. To request tickets, email your mailing address to [Shana Read at sread@kec.org](mailto:sread@kec.org). Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

KEC’s Summer Meeting, *continued from p. 1*

stunt and the important lessons that he learned during his long recovery.

BUD BRANHAM, Director of Safety for NRECA, introduced the new tool kit: Commitment to Zero Contacts and distributed certificates to the co-ops who have already made that commitment.

PETER MUHORO, Ph.D., Vice President, Strategic Industry Research and Analysis at the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), spoke about the new and emerging technologies that are driving innovation within the industry.

There were also presentations by the platinum-level sponsors including CFC, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, and NextEra Energy Marketing.

The KEC Spouses Program featured a painting activity by Grapes & Paints, followed by fun, science-based projects demonstrated by **BETSY ZADOROZNY**, Caney Valley.

In addition, the KEC Auxiliary hosted a silent auction that raised \$1,923 for KEC’s youth programs.

Prior to convening the summer meeting, **BOB PATTON, ROD CRILE, and JODY SEVERSON** facilitated director training courses. Co-op representatives and their families enjoyed a performance of “Mamma Mia” at the New Theatre Restaurant on Aug. 5.

KEC held an open house on Friday, Aug. 3, to show the improvements made through the KEC Headquarters Efficiency Project. Approximately 50 members and guests attended.