

Rural Power

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

LJEC's Ambrose Dempsey inducted into Cooperative Hall of Fame

AMBROSE DEMPSEY, LJEC, was posthumously inducted into the 2016 Kansas Cooperative Council Hall of Fame on March 15 in Wichita.

The induction occurred during a ceremony held in conjunction with the Kansas Cooperative Council annual meeting.

Dempsey was nominated for this honor by LJEC's **JOE HEINEN** and **STEVE FOSS**.

"Ambrose was a leader among the electric cooperatives for more than 40 years," said Bruce Graham, KEC's CEO. "He served on the co-op board and as a legislator in the Kansas House of Representatives. He firmly believed that the co-op movement had done the right things to



Attending the induction into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame included both family and representatives from the electric cooperatives. From left: Steve Foss, LJEC; Dale and Mary Kurtenbach (Ambrose's niece); Ken Doege (Ambrose's step-son); and Joe Heinen, LJEC retiree.

improve the lives of people on the farm and in small towns. He never missed the opportunity to educate his urban colleagues in the legislature about the importance of cooperatives."

The KCC Hall of Fame committee elected to induct Dempsey,

as well as Larry Sevier, the former CEO and General Manager of Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech.

Dempsey and all other inductees are honored in the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame showcase display at the Kansas State Fairgrounds. This permanent display, located in the Pride of Kansas Building, highlights the achievements of Kansas' co-op leaders while also educating others about the co-op business model.

Kansas employees attend NRECA's New Co-op Communicators Orientation

Six Kansas co-op communicators attended NRECA's 2016 New Cooperative Communicator Orientation (NCCO): **ALLI CONINE**, Member Services Representative at Wheatland; **VICKI ESTES**, *Kansas Country Living* Editor at KEC; **SARAH FARLEE**, PR and Marketing Specialist at LJEC and Kaw Valley; **JACKIE MOORE**, Communications Specialist at KEC; and **KENNEDY ST. GEORGE**, Communications Specialist at Victory. Shawn Powelson, Manager of Member Services at Wheatland; was part of the 2015 NCCO class, and returned as an instructor.

At NCCO, new communicators gained knowledge of the resources and tools provided to them by NRECA, Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), and Federated.

"NCCO broadened my understanding of the breadth of resources available to communicators in the electric cooperative industry," said Moore. "Furthermore, it allowed us to build relationships with others within our cooperative community, which is perhaps one of our most valuable resources."

The conference gave the communicators an opportunity to make connections with fellow rural electric com-



Kansas co-op employees participated in NRECA's New Co-op Communicator Orientation, April 5-8. From left: Vicki Estes, KEC; Kennedy St. George, Victory; Jackie Moore, KEC; Shawn Powelson, Wheatland; Sarah Farlee, LJEC; and Alli Conine, Wheatland.

municators from nearly 20 states across the U.S.

"When you are new to co-op communications, there's a level of comfort in discovering that others share the same challenges and have the same questions as you," said Estes. "NCCO provides the answers to many of those questions and helps foster a fellowship among the attendees, which develops into a key peer group for problem-solving, idea exchange and discussion of best practices."



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inbrief

AECI board selects next CEO and General Manager

Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Board President Emery "Buster" Geisendorfer recently announced the selection of **DAVID J. TUDOR** as AECI's next CEO and General Manager, effective May 16. He will succeed Jim Jura who has served as AECI's CEO and General Manager since 1991.

Tudor has more than 30 years of experience in the energy industry, including electric generation assets, wholesale commodity trading and utility management. Previously, Tudor was president and CEO of ACES Power, a cooperative-owned risk management company. Tudor currently is a director of Western Gas Partners and Western Gas Equity Partners.

Wildlife Symposium

Burns & McDonnell is offering a Wildlife & Energy Interaction Symposium June 13-14 at its headquarters in Kansas City. Biologists, developers, and regulators will hear talks from industry leaders and gain a larger perspective on the ways projects come into contact with and alter the environments in which they exist. For more information, contact Rachel English at renglish@burnsmcd.com or 816-349-6718.

insympathy

Harlen L. McGinness

Harlen L. McGinness, retired General Manager of Western Cooperative Electric, died on March 23, 2016.

McGinness was hired as the office manager at Western in 1954. He became General Manager in 1969 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1990.

Funeral services were held on March 29 at the WaKeeney Presbyterian Church.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Presbyterian Church of WaKeeney. Please send contributions to Schmitt Funeral Home, 336 North 12th, WaKeeney, KS 67672.

co-opcalendar

APRIL

- 15 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 20-21 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 26-28 **Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange**, Culture of Safety Strategy Labs, Hotel at Old Town, Wichita
- 29 **Line Superintendents Meeting**, DS&O Headquarters, Solomon
- 29 **MDM Meeting**, D'Mario's Pizzeria and Bowling Alley, Cheney

MAY

- 1-4 **NRECA Legislative Conference**, Washington, D.C.
- 11-12 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita
- 17-18 **RESAP Observer Training**, Hilton DoubleTree, Wichita Airport
- 18-19 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, Drury Plaza Broadview, Wichita
- 20 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting (Annual Meeting)**, Western Cooperative, WaKeeney, Meeting 8 a.m., meal 12 p.m.
- 24-25 **KEC IT Summit**, Courtyard Marriott Old Town, Wichita

annualmeetings

APRIL

- 15 **Rolling Hills**, NCK Technical College, E. US Hwy. 24, Beloit, meal 5:30 p.m., meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 16 **Sumner-Cowley**, Wellington High School, 1700 E. 16th Street, Wellington, meal 11:30 a.m., meeting 1:15 p.m.
- 19 **LJEC**, McLouth High School, 217 Summit Street, McLouth, meal 5:30 p.m., meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 19 **Kaw Valley**, Cooperative Headquarters, 1100 Auburn Rd., Topeka, meal 5 p.m., meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 19 **Ark Valley**, Fair Grounds, Sunflower Bldg., 2000 N. Poplar St., Hutchinson, meal 6:30 p.m., meeting after meal
- 20 **Wheatland**, Greeley County 4-H Building, 905 Ingalls Ave., Tribune, meal 11:30 a.m. MDT, meeting 12:30 p.m. MDT

MAY

- 10 **KAMO**, Chateau on the Lake, 415 State Hwy. 265, Branson, MO, meal 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.
- 11 **Western**, Cooperative Headquarters, 635 S. 13th Street, WaKeeney, meal 12 p.m., meeting 1 p.m.
- 20 **Sunflower**, Western Cooperative Electric, 635 S. 13th Street, WaKeeney, meal 12 p.m., meeting 8 a.m.

upcomingtraining

2016 IT Summit

The 2016 IT Summit is scheduled for May 24-25 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Old Town, Wichita. This day-and-a-half training is designed for employees who manage their co-op's information technology needs.

On Tuesday, May 24, the afternoon training will include Microsoft licensing, Office 365, Skype for business, and Two-Factor Authentication.

On Wednesday, May 25, topics include business transformation planning, a SonicWall demonstration, technology planning, cyber security policy, and a roundtable discussion.

To make a hotel reservation, call the Marriott Reservations Desk at 866-522-8909 and ask for the KEC rate of \$139 which includes breakfast and parking.

Hotel cut-off date is May 3.

For more information, contact Carrie Kimberlin at ckimberlin@kec.org.

Supervisory Fast Track

NRECA's Supervisory Fast Track will be offered the week of Aug. 22 at KEPCo in Topeka.

BRYAN SINGLETARY will facilitate this program and will deliver instruction on core competencies required of supervisors in areas of leadership, communication, and basic administrative skills. NRECA developed the curriculum based on a set of supervisory competencies identified by supervisors and CEOs.

For more information, contact Shana Read at sread@kec.org.

Bluestem

Approximately 275 members attended Bluestem's 18th annual meeting on March 7 at the United Methodist Church Family Life Center in Clay Center.

Guest speakers included Marcus Harris, KEPCo, and Bruce Graham, KEC. Several local vendors also attended the meeting and provided information regarding their products and services at the vendor fair prior to the meeting.

Trustee elections were conducted by mail ballot last December.

ROBERT OHLDE, DEAN BLANKA, and **RICHARD RIDDER** were re-elected to the board.

Butler

Nearly 200 members attended Butler's annual meeting at Circle Middle School in Benton on March 10.

The Butler Community College Headliners performed, and KEC's Kim Christiansen spoke to the membership.

BRYCE FLAMING and **RILEY WALTERS** were re-elected to the board.

Pioneer

Pioneer's 72nd annual meeting was held on March 19 at the Grant County Civic Center in Ulysses. More than 140 members attended the afternoon meeting, while almost 1,200 people attended the Pioneer Electric sponsored health fair held that morning.

Trustee President Melvin Winger and CEO Steve Epperson spoke to the members on how the cooperative has changed through the years.

FRED CLAASSEN, JIM BELL, and **CHARLES MILBURN** were re-elected to the board.

Heartland

Heartland held its annual meeting at Fort Scott Community College in Fort Scott on March 23.

Approximately 120 members and guests attended the meeting. KEPCo's Marcus Harris was the guest speaker.

RICHARD REINHARDT, who was recognized by the Heartland Board for his 15 years of service, resigned his seat on the board and was replaced by **H.H.**

STOCKEBRAND.

Re-elected to the board were **ROBERT STAINBROOK, RONALD TAYLOR,** and **DONALD DAVIED.**

Lyon-Coffey

Lyon-Coffey held its annual meeting at the Emporia Civic Center in Emporia on March 28. Approximately 600 people attended the meeting, of which 280 were members.

Featured speaker **SENATOR JERRY MORAN** discussed the importance of cooperatives and the affects the Clean Power Plan will have on electric cooperatives. KEPCo's Marcus Harris also spoke on generation issues. **ROBERT CONVERSE, JOHN EVANS,** and **RANDALL BUNNEL** were re-elected to the board.



Senator Jerry Moran spoke to the members during the Lyon-Coffey Annual Meeting.

Ninnescah

Ninnescah held its annual meeting at the Municipal Building in Pratt on March 29. Approximately 300 people attended the meeting with 122 members present.

President Ronald Schultz read a note from a member affected by the Anderson Creek wildfire that thanked the Ninnescah lineman and staff. KEC's Bruce Graham and KEPCo's LEs Evans were featured speakers.

GLEN HONEMAN, RUTH TEICHMAN, and **PAUL UNRUH** were re-elected to the board. **LORI JOHNSON** was elected for a one-year period to complete the remaining term of **CURT DURALL.**

Doniphan

More than 130 members and guests attended the Doniphan annual meeting on March 31 at the Doniphan West

Middle school in Denton. KEC's Bob Hall was a featured guest.

RICHARD LEMKE and **KENNY SMITH** were re-elected to the board. **MILTON HARTMAN** resigned his seat which remains vacant.

Caney Valley

Caney Valley's 68th Annual Meeting was held April 1, 2016, at the school gymnasium in Cedar Vale. There were 360 members registered, and nearly 550 were served a hamburger supper.

Special guests included KEPCo's Marcus Harris and Phil Wages, and KEC's Bruce Graham. Debbie Wall was recognized for 35 years' service to the cooperative. The scholarship and youth tour winners were also announced.

Re-elected to the board were **KENNY BATES, CARL JOHNSON, JR.,** and **JIM CLARK, JR.**

Prairie Land

Prairie Land held its annual meeting on April 5 at its headquarters in Norton. Approximately 400 members and guests attended the meeting.

CEO Allan Miller presented Board President **ROBERT JOHNSON** with a meter clock, and Sunflower's Stuart Lowry presented Johnson with a plaque, to honor his retirement and 47 years of service to Northwest Kansas Electric Cooperative, Norton-Decatur Cooperative Electric, Prairie Land Electric, and Sunflower Electric.

Trustee elections were conducted by mail ballot last February. **IVAN BOHL** and **GILBERT BERLAND** were re-elected to the board.

Sedgwick County

Sedgwick County held its 78th annual meeting on April 5 at the Cotillion Ballroom in Wichita. There were 309 members present, and a meal was served to 720 members and guests prior to the meeting.

Guest speakers included KEC's Alex Orel and the 2015 youth winners, Leah Gorges who attended the DC trip, and Ravhanna Chrisco who attended the leadership camp.

Re-elected to the board were **MARGIE CONYAC, STAN THEIS,** and **DANIEL THIMESCH.**

Construction Begins on Ninnescah's New Headquarters



An artist's rendering of Ninnescah's new headquarters.

Ninnescah's current facilities have served the co-op for more than 60 years, but with a growing fleet, the need for added security and additional resources, the Board has planned for a new headquarters.

After months of study and consideration, the Board approved the construction of a new facility to be located north of Pratt on the south side of NE 20th Street approximately one mile west of Highway 61. Construction will begin this spring.

The Board retained the services of Cooperative Building Solutions (CBS) who built new headquarters for a number of cooperatives in Kansas. CBS anticipates that the co-op staff should be ready to move in to the new facility sometime in January 2017.

KEC's youth tour video earns Spotlight on Excellence award

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., communications staff received recognition in the 2015 "Spotlight on Excellence" national awards program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators and NRECA.

KEC's communications staff received a "silver" award in the category of Best Digital Storytelling for Kansas Electric Cooperative Youth Tour video featuring the 2015 youth winner of the Washington, DC, trip.

You can view the video by visiting <http://bit.ly/dcytvideo2015>.

In addition, Victory's Manager of Marketing and Communications **JERRI**

IMGARTEN won a "silver" award in the Best Graphic Design category for her safety scratch pads.

"Competition was fierce this year," said Carol Crabtree, Spotlight on Excellence Administrator. "Several winners won by a single point. The judges remarked that the competition was extremely tight in many categories."

The annual Spotlight awards competition recognizes the top-rated communication and marketing efforts by electric cooperatives. Electric co-op communicators submitted more than 735 entries in the Spotlight on Excellence program, now in its 28th year.



Videographer Serena Kefayeh films the 2015 youth tour students in front of the White House. The promotional video recently won an NRECA Spotlight on Excellence Award.

KMSDA elects officers



The Kansas Member Services Directors Association elected officers at its 2016 spring meeting in Wichita. From left: **RON GRABER**, Heartland, Treasurer; **STEVE HAUSLER**, Sunflower, Secretary; **JENNIFER WINTERS**, Twin Valley, Vice President; and **SHAWN POWELSON**, Wheatland, President. The meeting featured a variety of topics including a Touchstone Energy web builder presentation with **JASON MC-GRADE**, a copyright discussion with **NICK PASCALE**, and an Active Shooter training session with **LT. CHRISTOPHER BOWLING** of the Kansas Highway Patrol. There was also a writing workshop, iPad tips and tricks, and a presentation on how utilities can take advantage of drone technology. The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 7-9, 2016.

KEC holds training for cooperative HR professionals

Twenty-eight co-op employees representing 20 KEC member-systems attended the KEC HR Summit on April 13 at the Wichita Marriott. This training was designed for electric cooperative human resources professionals, benefits administrators, and supervisors.

Speakers for this one-day training included **KRISTINA** and **JOHN DIETRICK**, Creative Business Solutions, who discussed top HR trends and employment laws including the National Labor Relations Act and the National Labor Relations Board, the importance of employee handbooks, FLSA/FMLA, EEO issues, and the need to review and update company policies.



KCC Special Investigator Gary Goeller reviews the requirements of the DOT Driver Qualification Files at the HR Summit on April 13 in Wichita.

MICHELLE PAGE, NRECA Field Representative, and **JEFF KRAMER**, NRECA Senior Principal of Business Development, showed trends in medical benefits and provided an NRECA update. **GARY GOELLER**, KCC Special Investigator, reviewed the requirements of the DOT Driver Qualifications Files.

To serve on the planning committee for the 2017 HR Summit, please contact Shana Read at sread@kec.org.