

# Rural Power

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Please send your story ideas to [ruralpower@kec.org](mailto:ruralpower@kec.org).

## KEC prepares for Summer Meeting in Overland Park

Final preparations are being made for the 2017 KEC Summer Meeting, which will be held Monday, Aug. 7 at the Overland Park Marriott.

Speakers for this year's meeting include **JOHN CASSADY**, Vice President of Legislative Affairs at NRECA, who will share an update on the political landscape for electric cooperatives; **BUD BRANHAM**, Director of Safety for NRECA, who will show how to lead with safety; **DON HELLWIG**, retired DS&O manager who will discuss lessons learned while interim manager at Macon Electric Cooperative; and **TOM HEMMER**, President and CEO of Solomon Corporation, who will discuss the Solomon Corporation alliance with KEC.

In a session focused on investing in Kansas leaders, attendees will hear from co-op graduates of the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership program, **SHAWN POWELSON** of Wheatland, and **SARAH FARLEE** of FreeState. Also, **BETH GAINES**, Executive Director of the Kansas FFA Foundation; and **JAKE WORCESTER**, Kansas 4-H Foundation President and CEO, will discuss their efforts to support Kansas youth.

The featured luncheon speaker will be **MARK MAYFIELD** with his message "Mamma Told Me There'd Be Days Like This."

**MARCUS HARRIS**, KEPCo's Executive Vice President and CEO, and **STUART LOWRY**, Sunflower's President and CEO, will provide an update on power supply issues. There will also

be an optional trustee roundtable session offered from 3-4 p.m.

There will be a Kansas NRECA Membership Meeting to elect the Kansas representative to the NRECA Board. The KEC Board will meet following the adjournment of the Summer Meeting.

Also on Monday, the KEC Auxiliary Program will feature fun activities including an apron artwork challenge from the Culinary Center of Kansas City and a cookie decorating activity that will then be donated to local youth.

The KEC Auxiliary will also host its annual Silent Auction. Co-ops and individuals are encouraged to consider donating items for the auction.

Prior to the meeting, four trustee courses will be offered. On Sat., Aug. 5, two Board Leadership courses and a Certified Co-op Director course will be offered from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**BETH KNUDSON** will facilitate the new Board Leadership Course **943.1 Conversation Skills Outside the Boardroom**, **JOHN PENRY** will facilitate the pilot Board Leadership Course **977.1 Equity Management and Boardroom Decision Making**, and **BOB PATTON** will facilitate the CCD course **2600 Directors Duties and Liabilities**.

On Sun., Aug. 6, **KNUDSON** will facilitate Board Leadership Course **919.1 Cooperative Structure: A Strategic Advantage** from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

## Midwest Energy selects Patrick Parke as President and General Manager

Midwest Energy's Board of Directors has chosen Patrick Parke, currently Vice President Customer Service, as its next President & General Manager.

Parke will succeed Earnie Lehman, who is retiring after serving as Midwest Energy's President & General Manager for 15 years. Lehman will mentor Parke until his retirement on Feb. 1, 2018.

Midwest Energy's Board conducted an exhaustive nationwide search for candidates, with more than 100



Patrick Parke

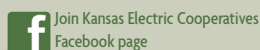
applying for the position.

"The Board recognized Pat's many accomplishments in his more than 33 years with Midwest Energy and his strong management and leadership abilities," said Keith Miller, Midwest Energy's Board Chair. "We're confident that his knowledge of Midwest Energy and its employees will allow him to take the cooperative to new heights."

In accepting the Board's offer, Parke said, "I am grateful to have this opportunity. The choice of an internal candidate sends a strong message about our entire workforce. We have the knowledge and skills needed to serve our customers well in a rapidly changing industry."



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## Ben Black represents Kansas on Youth Leadership Council

Earlier this month, Ben Black represented Kansas at NRECA's Youth Leadership Council (YLC).

Black, sponsored by Butler, was selected by his peers during Youth Tour to serve as the Kansas YLC.

He spent July 15-19 with students from 42 other states who also participated in the annual Youth Leadership Conference.

The youth met with NRECA leadership, attended educational sessions on co-ops and leadership, toured CFC's headquarters, and visited the National Harbor.

Black will travel to Nashville, Tennessee, for the NRECA Annual Meeting in February. While there, he will work at NRECA's Congressional Action Center encouraging attendees to contact their representatives about co-op issues. He will also have educational forum opportunities and be recognized in front of thousands of electric cooperative representatives from around the country.



Ben Black

## New deal: Westar, Great Plains to merge as equals

Westar Energy and Great Plains Energy announced a renegotiated deal on July 10 that company leaders are calling a "merger of equals" involving no debt and no cash exchange. They're hopeful the stock-for-stock deal will meet the stringent requirements of the Kansas Corporation Commission, which in April refused to approve GPE's purchase of Westar.

The two will merge to create a new holding company, as yet unnamed, in a deal with an equity value of \$14 billion. Westar will own 52.5 percent of the combined company, with GPE owning 47.5 percent. Corporate headquarters would be in Kansas City, Missouri, but Topeka will host an operating headquarters with 500 positions maintained there for five years.

The new deal will require shareholder approval from both companies and a new filing with the KCC.

CJ ONLINE – 7/10/17

## co-opcalendar

### AUGUST

- 5-7 **KEC Summer Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park
- 14-18 **NRECA Supervisory Training**, Courtyard Marriott at Old Town, Wichita
- 16-17 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 18 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 24 **MDM Meeting**, Salina
- 25 **KCRE Golf Tournament**, Salina Municipal Golf Course, Salina

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 **Labor Day Holiday**, KEC Office Closed
- 6-8 **Kansas Member Services Directors Association Fall Meeting**, Hotel at Old Town, Wichita
- 7-8 **REC Managers Association Meeting**, Fire Keeper Golf Course on the 7th, Meeting at Prairie Band Casino on the 8th, 12305 150th Rd., Mayetta
- 12-17 **Hot Line School**, Manhattan Vo-Tech, Manhattan
- 14 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 15 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 19-21 **Hot Line School**, Pratt Vo-Tech, Pratt
- 20-21 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

## 21<sup>st</sup> annual KCRE Golf Open to be held in Salina

The Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) announced its 21st annual Golf Open will be held on the greens of the Salina Municipal Golf Course on August 25. Registration for the four-person teams begins at 7:30 a.m. at a cost of \$70 per participant. The tournament begins at 8:30 a.m.

Included in the registration fee are green fees, the use of a cart, mulligans, lunch, and a chance to win a golf bag.

New to the tournament this year will be a putting challenge with a chance to win cash. Offered again this year is the John Daly Drive, where for \$10 the whole team hits its second shot on No. 3 from the 330-yard mark. Also returning,

golfers can test their accuracy by hitting their tee shot into the painted circle on the green of No. 15.

A shotgun start will commence the event supporting KCRE, a political action committee that raises funds to help legislators, elected officials and candidates who show continuous support of electric cooperative issues. No KCRE dollars are used for meals, entertainment or gifts.

To donate prizes, sponsor a hole, or play in the tournament, contact Kirk Thompson at 620-873-2184 or Ken Maginley at 785-456-2212. Registrations received by Friday, Aug. 18, are eligible for a \$25 cash drawing.

## upcoming training

### Supervisory Fast Track

NRECA's Supervisory Fast Track will be Aug. 14-18 at the Courtyard by Marriott Old Town in Wichita.

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

This "fast track" offers all nine interactive, co-op specific half-day courses in one week. Participants can register for some or all of the courses needed to

complete their certificate.

**NRECA will be retiring the Supervisory Training Certificate in 2018. This program will be replaced by the new Supervisor and Manager Development Program. While the title of the certification will change, credits earned with the current program will count toward the new program.**

Hotel reservations can be made by calling Courtyard by Marriott Old Town directly at 866-522-8909. Ask for the KEC-Fast Track rate.

For more information or to register, contact Shana Read at [sread@kec.org](mailto:sread@kec.org).

# Solomon Corporation forms partnership with Kansas Electric Cooperatives

As part of a large-scale expansion project, Solomon Corporation announced the formation of a strategic alliance with Kansas Electric Cooperatives. After building relationships with cooperatives in Kansas for decades, an alliance between the organizations came together quickly as both sides recognized the value of this opportunity.

Under terms of the agreement, Solomon acquired the assets of the KEC Apparatus and Testing Department, located in Osage City, on June 30. This department offers sale and repair of regulators, reclosers and breaker products, as well as in-field and in-house dissolved gas analysis sampling.

"The electric cooperatives in Kansas look forward to working more closely with Solomon Corporation to bring benefit to customers of both companies," said **BRUCE GRAHAM**, KEC's CEO. "The fact that the two companies are both Kansas based and jobs will stay in

Osage County was also important."

Adding capacity, inventory and qualified personnel, Solomon Corporation is excited about additional resources this acquisition brings the organization.

Apparatus Testing will continue to operate under its current name and Solomon Corporation will work to retain all current KEC customers using pricing, service, and quality standards to which they are accustomed. Most importantly, the company adds highly skilled technicians who have helped build and maintain the business.

"It is very difficult to find the level of talent that is present at the KEC facility elsewhere in the market," said **MITCH SWEIGART**, Business Development Manager for Solomon Corporation.

"Adding these people to the Solomon team will be an incredible benefit to our customers."

**The partnership will allow us to serve KEC members with a higher level of service, quality, and value.**

**TOM HEMMER**

"Solomon Corporation is proud to be affiliated with KEC in such a significant way. The partnership will allow us to serve KEC members with a higher level of service, quality, and value," said **TOM HEMMER**, CEO of Solomon Corporation.

Solomon Corporation is based in Solomon, Kansas and also operates manufacturing facilities in Decatur, Tennessee; Grand Junction, Colorado; Georgetown, Texas; and Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. It specializes in repair, remanufacture and disposal of transformers and other electrical equipment for utilities and industry nationwide.

## Kansas 4-H introduces first distinctive license plate

Kansans will soon have the opportunity to show support for the Kansas 4-H program by purchasing a distinctive clover license plate.

The winning design, which was determined by Kansas 4-H clubs voting among four different options, is now in the production process thanks to the

support of alumni, parents and friends.

Kansas 4-H alumnus Rep. Ken Rahjes from District 110 introduced the bill, and Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council member Marissa Randel provided testimony at the House Transportation Committee hearing.

"Having a distinctive license plate allows 4-Hers and 4-H alumni to show their support for a great organization and also help promote 4-H across the state," said Randel who is also a 2016 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour alumna



Displaying the 4-H license plate design is Kansas state representative Ken Rahjes and Kansas 4-H Youth Council Member Marissa Randel.

sponsored by Nemaha-Marshall. "I believe it will help youth show that they're proud of the organization that helped build their character and make them into the outstanding individual they are today.

"It was a privilege and honor to have represented Kansas 4-H," she continued. "I'm excited

to have been a part of making history for Kansas 4-H, and the funds generated from the plate will go to helping Kansas 4-H'ers."

Plates will be available for purchase for \$50 on or after Jan. 1, 2018, through local county treasurers' offices. Once available, \$10 of every plate purchased will go to the county 4-H program where the plate was purchased, and \$30 will go to the state 4-H program.

For more information, visit [www.kansas4hfoundation.org/clovertag](http://www.kansas4hfoundation.org/clovertag).

## insympathy

### Dorothy Petty

Dorothy Petty, mother of KEPCo's Rita Petty, died on July 9.

A Celebration of Life service was held July 12 at the First United Methodist Church in Hiawatha.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Midland Hospice or Hiawatha Cemetery in care of the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home, 124 S. 7th St., Hiawatha, KS 66434.

### Don Schultz

Donald L. Schultz, retired Western Cooperative Electric trustee and former KEC President, died on July 5 at Sheridan County Long Term Care. Funeral services were held on July 10 at the Grainfield United Methodist Church.

Schultz served on the Western Board from 1979-2016. He also served on the KEC Board and was President from 2002-2004. He is survived by his wife, Louise, who served as the Chairperson for the KEC Auxiliary for many years.

Memorial contributions may be made to Grainfield United Methodist Church and sent to Schmitt Funeral Home, 901 South Main, Quinter, KS 67752.



# Kansas youth hone leadership abilities at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

High school students from Kansas developed leadership skills at the 41st annual Cooperative Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, from July 14-20. Joining their peers from Colorado, Oklahoma, and Wyoming, approximately 100 youth learned about the cooperative principles at the week-long educational event.

The Kansas participants met as they boarded the bus along its route to Colorado. When the bus reached Denver, the group bonded during a snorkeling experience at the Downtown Denver Aquarium.

When the group arrived at Glen Eden Resort, nestled in the Rocky Mountains, the campers immediately formed a candy cooperative and selected a general manager and board of directors. The experience also gave participants an authentic camp feel with river rafting, a volleyball tournament, swimming, a dance, and a talent show that showcased the campers' varied skills.

Several demonstrations and presentations enhanced students' knowledge of the cooperative business model and cooperative careers. Campers competed to build a model transmission line from craft supplies, toured Trapper Mine, Craig Power Plant, and experienced a high-voltage safety demonstration.

Many of the campers took home leadership lessons.

"I was inspired during the leadership seminar when the speaker said that being humble isn't thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less," said Megan Ernzen, sponsored by FreeState. "It's important because putting service for others over yourself is what being a leader is all about."



The Kansas and Oklahoma students pose in front of the Molly Brown, a dragline at Trapper Mine in Clark, Colorado. The coal from Trapper Mine is dedicated for use at the adjacent Craig Station.

Through their cooperative, the campers raised \$390 in margins which they opted to donate to the NRECA International Foundation.

By the camp's end, students demonstrated the leadership skills they attained by running for an ambassador position for next year's camp. Elected by their peers as ambassadors for the 2018 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp were **PAIGE CLAASSEN**, Pioneer; **MAX HOLTHAUS**, Nemaha-Marshall; and **RAELYN SCOTT**, Flint Hills. As ambassadors, the elected students will return to camp as junior counselors and facilitate camp leadership activities, while serving as role models for the incoming campers.

"We all are leaders in our schools and communities but come from diverse backgrounds," said Hannah Kornele, who was sponsored by Alfalfa. "This diversity helped me learn from a different perspective to grow in my

own leadership abilities."

Each youth participant was selected through their local electric cooperative. Representing KEC member cooperatives were: **HANNA KORNELE** and **BRYLEE BURNETT**, Alfalfa; **MICHAEL GIEBLER**, Butler; **KINSEY WISEMAN** and **CASSANDRA WITTMEIER**, Caney Valley; **HANNA FELDMAN**, DS&O; **RAELYN SCOTT** and **MAYA EIDMAN**, Flint Hills; **MIA BOND** and **MEGAN ERNZEN**, FreeState; **MARIO LUNA** and

**MADISON SEERY**, Lane-Scott; **MAX HOLTHAUS**, Nemaha-Marshall; **KARA BOWER**, Ninnescah; **PAIGE CLAASSEN** and **MELANY JACOME**, Pioneer; **KATIE JOHNSON**, **RACHEL KELTZ**, and **ALEX KAUFMANN**, Prairie Land; **KENDYL ZORN**, **ROLLING HILLS**; **CHAYAN FOX**, Sedgwick County; **MAKALAH HENKE** and **CHRISTIAN HERNANDEZ**, Southern Pioneer; **KYLEE PRAY**, Sumner-Cowley; **RUBY VENZOR** and **STACY JIMENEZ**, Tri-County; **KALEIGH BENNING**, Twin Valley; **SYDNEY FOSTER** and **HAYLEE BROWN**, Victory; **EMILY ROY** and **HALEY THORNTON**, Western; and **JUSTIN BROWN** and **ROSSIEL REYES**, Wheatland.

Kansas counselors included **KENT** and **LINNEA BEEBE**, Rolling Hills, and **SHANA READ**, KEC.

## 2018 Camp Ambassadors



Paige Claassen



Max Holthaus



Raelyn Scott