

RuralPower

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

KEC staff to relocate to FreeState during office renovation

At the October Board Meeting, the KEC Board of Trustees approved plans for renovation and efficiency improvements to KEC's headquarters in Topeka.

"KEC's headquarters has served us well since it was built in 1990. We have been fortunate to avoid major expenses during that time but there is a need to do some updates to the mechanical system and an opportunity to gain some additional efficiencies throughout the building," said Bruce Graham, KEC CEO.

In addition, the remodel will improve the layout of the offices and provide functional meeting space.

"Our staff and members have noted clearly that KEC's existing conference space is not an option that affords privacy and functionality for those attending a meeting nor for those working in the office while a meeting is underway," Graham added.

KEC will vacate the building during the renovation process which is expected to begin in December. During that time, FreeState Electric

Cooperative has offered space in their Topeka office for KEC employees to work.

"We certainly appreciate the generosity of this offer from FreeState and they have been great to work with as we prepare to convert their conference room into our workspace. Plus it will save the KEC membership money that would have been spent to rent temporary facilities," Graham said.

Staff will relocate its server and computers to FreeState on Thursday, Oct. 26, and will begin operating out of FreeState by Friday, Oct. 27. Over the course of the next month, staff will also be working to sort, shred, and store files as well as box up all other office materials for temporary storage.

The contractor estimates that it will take approximately five months to complete the project. KEC staff will continue to be available using the same phone numbers and email.

The project was designed by ArchitectOne and will be completed by Mohan Construction, both Topeka-based companies.

KEC member co-ops invited to District Meetings

KEC staff is putting the final touches on the presentations planned for this year's series of District Meetings, scheduled Nov. 1, 2, 3, and 6.

"It has been a significant year in KEC's history," said Bruce Graham, KEC's CEO.

"Coming off of the celebration of our 75th Anniversary in August of 2016, the months that followed have marked some important events such as the sale of Apparatus Testing, national recognition of our Co-ops

Vote initiatives, strategic planning for the first time in more than a decade, and more."

The District Meeting agenda will include a Strategic

Planning Committee report, the KEC budget review and a discussion of the impact of KEC's Apparatus Testing sale, a Kansas legislative outlook, and presentations covering safety, social media, and regulations. Speakers will

- **NOV. 1 – DISTRICT 2** meeting will be at the Prairie Band Casino in Mayetta.
- **NOV. 2 – DISTRICT 3** will be at Fort Hays State University's Robbins Center in Hays.
- **NOV. 3 – DISTRICT 4** will be at the United Wireless Arena in Dodge City.
- **NOV. 6 – DISTRICT 1** will be at the Southeast Agricultural Research Center in Parsons.

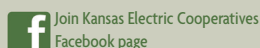
include KEC's Larry Detwiler, Bob Hall, Bruce Graham, Alex Orel, Shana Read, and Doug Shepherd.

Each District Meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude by 3 p.m. Lunch will be served. All member cooperative trustees, man-

agers and key staff are welcome to attend. For more information, please call KEC's Charlotte Provo at 785-478-4554 or email cprovo@kec.org.



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Nebraska Rural Electric Association names Kim Christiansen as manager

The Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) has announced the appointment of **KIM CHRISTIANSEN** as the new General Manager and Executive Vice President. She will assume responsibilities on Nov. 13, 2017.



Kim Christiansen

Christiansen currently serves as Kansas Electric Cooperatives' Director of Government Relations and Legal Counsel. She joined KEC as Manager of Government Relations in 2014 and was promoted in 2016.

Kansas co-op invited to Solomon open house

Solomon Corporation invites all Kansas co-op trustees, managers and employees to an open house on Nov. 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The facility is located at 103 W. Main Street in Solomon. The open house is designed to celebrate Solomon's new alliance with KEC and introduce the electric co-ops to the Solomon facility and family. The open house activities will include lunch, tours, and a happy hour.

Please RSVP to Macey Birdsall, Solomon, at mbirdsall@solomoncorp.com by Oct. 20.

insympathy

Steve Miller

Stephen J. "Steve" Miller, retired Sunflower employee, died Oct. 18, 2017, at the Hays Medical Center.

Miller served in communications at Sunflower Electric Power Corporation from 1983 until his retirement as Senior Manager of External Affairs in 2012.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. on Oct. 24, 2017, at the First United Methodist Church, 305 W. 7th Street, Hays.

Memorials may be sent to the First United Methodist Church or Full Chord Press in care of Hays Memorial Chapel, 1906 Pine Street, Hays, KS 67601.

co-opcalendar

OCTOBER

- 23 **Midwest Energy Annual Meeting**, FHSU Campus, Robbins Center, One Tiger Place, Hays, meeting 10 a.m.
- 24-25 **Work Order Training**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

NOVEMBER

- 1 **District 2 Meeting**, Prairie Band Casino, Mayetta
- 2 **District 3 Meeting**, FHSU Robbins Center, Hays
- 3 **District 4 Meeting**, United Wireless Arena, Dodge City
- 6 **District 1 Meeting**, Southeast Agricultural Research Center, Parsons
- 8 **Solomon Corporation Open House**, 103 W. Main Street, Solomon, 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 12-15 **CFC IBES**, Marriott Marquis, San Francisco, CA
- 15 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, DoubleTree by Hilton, Wichita Airport, 1 p.m. (reconvenes on November 16 at 8:30 a.m.)
- 15 **KEPCo Annual Meeting (business meeting)**, DoubleTree by Hilton, Wichita, 4 p.m.
- 15 **KEPCo Annual Meeting reception (5 p.m.) and dinner (6 p.m.)**, DoubleTree by Hilton, Wichita
- 17 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 23-24 **Thanksgiving Holiday**, KEC Office Closed
- 30 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

DECEMBER

- 6-7 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita
- 13-14 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 14-15 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Kansas City

jobmarket

KEC seeks Director of Government Relations

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., announces a career opportunity as Director of Government Relations. This full-time position as KEC's lead lobbyist is responsible for promoting and influencing legislation, rules, regulations and actions impacting rural electrification and related programs at the state and national levels. This is a department head position reporting directly to KEC's CEO. Department staffing resources include a Manager of Government Relations as a full-time position and office support.

At least five years of progressively responsible work in government relations is required. Experience working with the public and with a Board of Directors, is preferred. A Juris Doctor from an accredited law school, currently admitted in good standing with the Bar of the State of Kansas, would enhance value to the association and the corresponding salary range, but is not required.

KEC offers competitive salary and an

outstanding benefit and retirement plan. Please submit resume and a cover letter of interest electronically to careers@kec.org. KEC will forward a detailed job description to qualified applicants.

FreeState seeks applicants for engineering, lineman, and tree crew positions

FreeState Electric Cooperative is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- Engineering Manager
- Apprentice 3 Lineman (McLouth)
- Tree Trimmer 3rd Year (Topeka)
- Tree Crew Groundsman (Topeka)

To view a full job description or to apply for one of these positions, please visit www.freestate.coop under "Contact Us", "Employment Opportunities."

If you would like additional information, please contact Chelsea Renyer, HR Generalist, at chelsea.renyer@freestate.coop. Applications accepted until the positions are filled.

Kansas cooperatives well-represented at the NRECA Regional meeting

Several Kansas co-op officials took leadership roles at the NRECA Region 7 & 9 meeting in Denver, CO, held Oct. 16-18, 2017.

KIRK THOMPSON, CMS, served as the chair for the Resolutions Committee, and KEC's **BRUCE GRAHAM** served as vice chairman. Graham was also elected by Region 7 to serve on the NRECA Resolutions Legislative Committee. **DOUG JACKSON**, Rolling Hills, represented Kansas on the Nominating Committee.

Other Kansas cooperative officials also served as speakers during the conference. **MARCUS HARRIS**, KEPCo, and **DALE SHORT**, Butler, anchored a breakout session entitled "The Evolving G&T/Distribution Cooperative Relationship: Exploring Interrelationship Opportunities." **MARCIA KAMPLING**, Sedgwick County, was part of a panel discussion on board oversight duties and good monitoring practices. Kansas cooperatives were also invited to a small group discussion with NRECA CEO Jim Matheson.

Approximately 80 Kansas cooperative representatives attended the meeting which covered topics including how to create a leadership legacy and the best possible future for your co-op, improving employee safety, and cybersecurity awareness. 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.

BRUCE MEYER, Bluestem Director, was elected to the



From left: Monica Schmidt, NRECA; Rhonda Apodaca, Wheatland Rural (Wyoming); Rachael Black, Nebraska Rural Electric Assn.; and Marcia Kampling, Sedgwick County, discuss the importance of board oversight duties regarding fraud detection, prevention, and mitigation.

Director/Director position for Federated representing Region 7. The special election was held to officially fill the position left open by Radiant's Loren Dickens due to cooperative term limits.

Additionally, the 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. Several Kansas trustees were in attendance and received their certificates from Matheson.

The Denver meeting was one of five NRECA regional meetings. More than 750 co-op officials from Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming were present. These meetings continue the co-ops' grassroots policy making process, which culminates at NRECA's 76th Annual



Meeting in Nashville, TN, on Feb. 26-28, 2018.

From left: Venkat Banunaryanan, NRECA, Dale Short, Butler, and Marcus Harris, KEPCo, explore innovative electric co-op business approaches for serving a constantly changing member base.

Kansas Touchstone Energy member cooperatives hold annual meeting

The Kansas Touchstone Energy Annual Membership Meeting was held at Butler's headquarters in El Dorado on Oct. 11.

LYNN MOORE, Touchstone Energy's Executive Director, reported on national program activities and mentioned that Touchstone Energy is undergoing a strategic plan to better identify how to engage with members and tell the co-op story.

She shared studies that spoke to the co-ops' credibility and trustworthiness, and visited about best practices and case studies that are available to cooperatives.

Moore announced the new program titled "Roadmap to Best in Class." Lastly, she stated that Touchstone Energy is focusing its messaging on four areas: cooperative performance, digital engagement, cooperative culture, and member relations.

RAE GORMAN,

Pioneer, spoke about her experience at the Regional Member meeting. **TRAVIS GRIFFIN**, Butler, shared his co-op's success with the ACSI scores.

SHANA READ,

KEC; **DENNIS DEINES**, Western; and **NIKKI PFANNENSTIEL**, Sunflower; presented a review of the state activities in 2017, including the Kansas State Fair, the key accounts training workshops, and the growth of the ElectroRally program.

The members re-elected **LINDA TOMLINSON** (trustee), **SCOTT WHITTINGTON** (manager), and **DENNIS DEINES** (member



Lynn Moore, Touchstone Energy's Executive Director, tours Butler's remodeled facility prior to the Annual Meeting on Oct. 11.

services) to the executive council for a three-year term, and elected **STEVE EPPERSON**, Pioneer, to the vacant manager position, and **DAN PETERSON**, Twin Valley, to the open trustee position.

Officer positions re-elected were **BRUCE MUELLER**, Chairman, **SCOTT WHITTINGTON**, Vice Chairman; and **DENNIS DEINES**, Secretary/Treasurer.

Co-ops show commitment to community through local health fairs

Two Kansas electric cooperatives recently demonstrated the cooperative difference through community involvement. Both **FREESTATE** and **VICTORY** electric cooperatives held health fairs to benefit their members and communities.

Approximately 200 members attended FreeState's 9th Annual Community Health Fair and Member Appreciation Day on Sept. 26 in McLouth.

With more than 25 businesses, organizations and governmental entities participating, area residents and FreeState members had the opportunity to speak with vendors on information regarding their mental, physical and financial health over a provided meal by Ross' Catering.

FreeState also collected for their Cooperative Soap Drive where donations will be divided and given to local food pantries.

Victory hosted its 10th annual Community Health Fair on Sept. 30 in Dodge City. More than 50 doctors, health care professionals and vendors from the area donated their time and expertise. Approximately 800 attendees benefited from free services, including breast exams, pap smears, hearing tests, blood pressure checks, and car seat safety inspections and installations. Community members were also able to receive flu shots and complete blood screens for a minimal fee.

For the second year, Victory partnered with the "Walk to End Alzheimers" during the health fair. New this year, United Healthcare of Dodge City hosted a community baby shower at the event for new and expecting mothers.



A Victory Electric member has her blood drawn by a medical volunteer at the 10th Annual Community Health Fair in Dodge City.

Rolling Hills co-hosts Coopportunity Day

Rolling Hills Electric, Farmway Credit Union and Central Valley Ag co-hosted their annual Coopportunity Day in Beloit on Oct. 6. The three co-ops have been sponsoring the yearly appreciation luncheon for 21 years.

"Coopportunity is a way to celebrate Co-op Month," said Linnea Beebe, Rolling Hills Member Services. "We invite the entire community to lunch."

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.

"This is a great example of cooperatives representing different industries



Rolling Hills' Doug Jackson (middle) poses with Art Duerksen and Carl Dickinson, both of Central Valley Ag, during the 21st Annual Coopportunity Day in Beloit on Oct. 6.

working together to demonstrate one of our seven core cooperative principles—Cooperation among Cooperatives," explained Beebe.

Co-ops place in International Lineman's Rodeo

"Many employees strive to prove their skills through awards or certifications. For linemen, it's called a rodeo. There is no bronc or bull riding, but ropes are still used—just not for lassoing livestock," said Jerri Imgarten, Victory's Manager of Marketing and Communications.

The International Lineman's Rodeo, held Oct. 14, gave linemen—including teams from two Kansas elec-

tric co-ops—the opportunity to test their skills against more than 1,000 elite utility linemen. In its 34th year, the rodeo attracted 238 three-man journeyman teams and 313 apprentice linemen from co-ops, IOUs, municipal systems, and contractors in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

The competition included events such as a hurt-man rescue, an insulator change out, and a pole climb that required linemen to descend while holding a raw egg in their mouth.

Midwest Energy entered three journey-



TOP (from left): Victory's Marlon Hernandez, Joel Daniels, and Felix Strauss. BOTTOM: Midwest Energy's Bill Nowlin, Michael Stremel, and Cliff Townsend took 3rd place in the senior division and 87th in the Best of the Best division.

man teams: **SHAWN SLAUBAUGH**, **BUTCH HAMEL**, and **BRIAN LEGLEITER** placed 73rd; **CHRIS TRAYLOR**, **NATE STRYKER**, and **ALEX BREEDING** placed 78th; and **MICHAEL STREMEL**, **BILL NOWLIN**, and **CLIFF TOWNSEND** placed 87th out of 238 teams who competed for "Best of the Best."

Apprentices, who have less than four years of utility experience,

compete separately. Midwest Energy's **BENN KIRMER** and **BROCK MORGAN**, as well Victory's **MARLON HERNANDEZ** and **FELIX STRAUSS** competed against more than 300 other apprentice linemen. Victory's Crew Chief **JOEL DANIELS** served as a judge. This was Victory's first year to participate in the rodeo.

"The competition is a great opportunity for families and the public to see what linemen face on a daily basis," Strauss said. "It's not every day do you get a chance to compete with the best of the best."