

Rural Power

INSIDE

- 2 | Calendar
- 2 | KCC to host Legislative Action Day
- 3 | KEPCo elects new officers at Annual Meeting
- 4 | So God Made a Farmer's Daughter

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

KEC prepares for annual meeting, legislative reception

Representatives of rural electric co-ops from across the state will gather at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka from Jan. 21-24 for the 75th annual meeting convened by Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

The agenda features a national industry update by **JIM MATHESON**, CEO of NRECA, and K-State's **BRIAN BRIGGEMAN**, Ph.D., will give an agriculture and economy outlook. There will be a discussion on "Lessons to Learn" by **DON HELLWIG**, retired DS&O Manager who served recently as Interim Manager at Macon Electric Cooperative. Filmmaker **DAVE**



Jim Matheson

KENDALL will share stories about producing the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve documentary. There will also be a legislative briefing and safety awards presentation by KEC staff.

The luncheon program features the inspirational **COACH JERRY KILL**, former college football coach and player and current Associate Athletic Director for Administration at Kansas State University. In addition, **ANDY NEIDERT**, ARCmedia, will discuss social media opportunities. The program also includes Federated's **PHIL IRWIN**, an educational fund presentation by CFC's **MIKE LEWIS**, and a Trustee Roundtable discussion.

KEC Welcome Reception

A welcome reception with light snacks and beverages will be held on Sunday, Jan. 22 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Music will be provided by **BRYTON STOLL**, 2012 youth tour delegate from Nemaha-Marshall.

Legislative Reception

The Legislative Reception, hosted by Federated and the Kansas electric co-ops, will be from 5:30-8 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 23.

Directors' Training

Three courses will be offered prior to the meeting. All courses will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Saturday, Jan. 21, **BRYAN SINGLETARY** will facilitate the revised BLC 924.1 *When*

Disaster Strikes: Continuity Management and Emergency Response Planning for Directors, and **WALLACE BARRON** will offer the CCD course 2630.1 *Strategic Planning*.

On Sunday, Jan. 22, **BRYAN SINGLETARY** will facilitate the new BLC 961.1 *The Evolution of Electric Cooperative Power Supply*. This course focuses on strategies boards can pursue in the face of a rapidly evolving energy landscape including understanding what members want, working closely with power suppliers, communicating with members and being their trusted energy adviser.

KCRE Silent Auction & Auxiliary Raffle

KCRE will host its annual silent auction on Monday, Jan. 23. To donate items, please contact KEC's Carol Dorr. The KEC Auxiliary will also raffle a handmade quilt donated by **CAROLYN MCNICKLE**, Twin Valley, and two child rocking chairs (to be raffled separately) donated by **DAVID MUELLER**, DS&O Director.

"Catch" Breakfast on Tuesday

Chris Cakes of Wichita will cater breakfast on Tuesday, Jan. 24 from 6:30 to 7:45 a.m.

Auxiliary

The KEC Auxiliary will meet from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 23.



Tickets for the quilt and two rocking chairs (to be raffled separately) are available for \$1 each or six for \$5. Proceeds benefit KEC's youth programs. For tickets, contact Carol Dorr at 785-478-4554 or cdorr@kec.org.



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Join Kansas Electric Cooperatives Facebook page

Federated's Stan Bray announces retirement

After working 44 years in the electric cooperative industry, Stan Bray, Safety and Loss Prevention Consultant at Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, has announced his retirement scheduled for June 16, 2017.

Bray first joined the electric cooperatives as an apprentice lineman at Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative in 1972. He joined Federated in October of 2004.

"It has been an honor to meet so many great cooperative people. I have had the privilege to visit more than 170 different cooperatives in 19 states," Bray said. "I will continue my work with Federated until June, so I hope to see most of you again before I finish this stage of my career."

When he retires this summer, Bray plans to stay put for a few months and complete some house projects.

"I'm thinking of taking up the game of golf," he commented.



Stan Bray

Kansas Cooperative Council to host Legislative Action Day

The Kansas Cooperative Council, along with the Kansas Grain and Feed Association and Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association, are joining forces to host the 2017 Legislative Action Day on Jan. 18 in Topeka.

The day begins at the Topeka Country Club with a briefing on legislative issues impacting Kansas cooperatives and agribusinesses, as well as a preview from legislative leaders on the 2017 Session. After lunch, attendees will head to the Kansas Capitol for committee hearings and personal legislator visits followed by a reception with policy-makers back at the Topeka Country Club.

To register or for more information, contact the KCC by calling 785-233-4085 or email lisa@kansasag.org.

The hotel reservation deadline is Jan. 3. Call the Capitol Plaza Hotel at 800-579-7937. Rooms are blocked for this event under the name KCC/KGFA/KARA at \$94/night.

co-opcalendar

DECEMBER

23-26 **Christmas Holiday**, KEC Office Closed

JANUARY

2 **New Year's Holiday**, KEC Office Closed

20 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays

21 **NRECA BLC Course 924.1**, When Disaster Strikes: Continuity Management and Emergency Response Planning for Directors, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

21 **NRECA CCD Course 2630**, Strategic Planning, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

22 **NRECA BLC**, Course 961.1, The Evolution of Electric Cooperative Power Supply, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

21-24 **KEC Annual Meeting**, Capitol Plaza Hotel/Maner Conference Center, Topeka

24 **KEC Co Board of Trustees Meeting**, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Lunch is in Emerald II, Meeting is in Emerald III-V, Topeka (following KEC Board of Trustees Meeting)

Co-op attorneys attend continuing legal education event

Electric cooperative attorneys from across the state attended the Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminar hosted by KEC at Courtyard by Marriott in Wichita on Nov. 21.

Kansas attorneys are required to participate in continuing legal education events. While the seminar is specifically designed for co-op attorneys, co-op managers were also invited to attend. In total, 34 co-op representatives attended this year's seminar.

"It's good for us to discuss common matters," said **KIM CHRISTIANSEN**, KEC Director of Government Relations and Legal Counsel. "I would like to thank all of the speakers and attorneys who made this event possible."

The seminar included seven presentations on co-op issues ranging from ethics to legal issues concerning drones. Other topics included information on Federated insurance presented by **SUSAN OLANDER**, Vice President/General Counsel of Federated, service territory issues presented by **JIM MCVAY**, and an update for the co-op attorney from **MARK CALCARA**, both are attorneys at Watkins and Calcara, a review of labor and employment law by **D. ALBERT BRANNEN**, Regional Managing Partner at Fisher Phillips, and a discussion on privacy from **GREG LEE** at Sloan Law Firm.

The next CLE is planned for Nov. 2017.

upcomingtraining

Key accounts training

KEC is offering a two-day NRECA key accounts course on Feb. 16 and 17 at the Courtyard Wichita at Old Town.

The course, **487.2 MANAGING YOUR ELECTRIC CO-OP'S KEY ACCOUNTS**, provides an exploration of key accounts fundamentals, including best practices for building and managing a program that targets the strategic and operational concerns of key accounts.

BRYAN SINGLETARY will facilitate this course that also counts toward the NRECA Key Accounts Certification.

Make your reservations at Courtyard Wichita at Old Town for the KEC group rate of \$139/night (which includes breakfast and parking) by calling 866-522-8909. The room block

expires on Jan. 25.

Registration information has been emailed to all cooperatives. For more information, contact Shana Read at sread@kec.org.

2017 IT Summit

KEC has planned the next IT Summit for May 4 and 5 at Courtyard Wichita at Old Town.

To make a hotel reservation, call 866-522-8909, and ask for the KEC group rate of \$144 (which includes breakfast and parking). The room block expires on April 13.

Registration will be sent out in a few weeks. For more information, contact Carrie Kimberlin at ckimberlin@kec.org.

KEPCo elects officers at annual meeting

KEPCo's 42nd Annual Meeting was held Nov. 16 in Mayetta.

During the meeting, Scott Whittington, KEPCo President, provided remarks and thanked the Board of Trustees for their dedicated service. Marcus Harris, KEPCo Executive Vice President and CEO, reviewed the 2016 accomplishments and possible changes in federal policies due to the change in administration.

The KEPCo Board of Trustees elected officers and Executive Committee members for 2016-2017. The officers are Kevin Compton,

Brown-Atchison, President; Dale Short, Butler, Vice President; Doug Jackson, Rolling Hills, Secretary; and Dean Allison, DS&O, Treasurer. Elected to the Executive Committee are Steve Foss, FreeState; Kirk Thompson, CMS; and Scott Whittington, Lyon-Coffey.



Newly-elected KEPCo officers are (back row, from left) Kevin Compton, President; Dale Short, Vice President; Dean Allison, Treasurer; and Doug Jackson, Secretary. The Executive Committee members are; (front row, from left) Steve Foss, Kirk Thompson, and Scott Whittington.

Electric co-ops educate young members on electric safety

Electric cooperatives focus a lot of energy into educating the public about electric safety. Two Kansas cooperatives recently brought electric safety training to some of their youngest members.

In October, CMS gave a safety presentation at the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day program in Ashland, and Wheatland's linemen spent their day educating students about electrical safety at the Progressive Agricultural Safety Day in Tribune and presented a safety demonstration for Harper Elementary School.

These programs feature an open trailer outfitted with actual equipment necessary to distribute electricity, such as poles, wires, transformers, and meters.

The trailers are used to provide a reminder that electricity is a safe form of energy, but only

when treated with respect. The presentation vividly shows the effects when an item, such as a stick or a piece of fruit, makes contact with electricity.

Hundreds of fourth and fifth grade students got a close-up look at various conductors and components of the electrical distribution system and gained a clearer understanding of how the distribution system operates.

Electric cooperatives are dedicated to educating the public about and promoting electrical safety.

"It's important to help kids learn how dangerous electricity can be if not respected," said Bruce Mueller, Wheatland's General Manager. "The impor-

tance of being aware of both overhead and underground lines is taught along with how to avoid electrical accidents."



CMS Electric Cooperative Linemen Scott Vanderpool and Jared Weber demonstrate electrical safety at the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day program in Ashland.

Butler gets new name, new look

Butler's Board of Directors recently decided to update the cooperative's name and logo.

"Trustees and employees unanimously agreed to drop the Rural from our business name. With less than half of our membership considered 'rural,' the name tended to be misleading and confusing," explained Dale Short, Butler's manager.



Short also stated that the old name and logo were sometimes mistaken for the local recreation departments.

"Our hope is that by removing the word Rural from the name, our identity will become clearer to our members," Short stated.

Along with the new name, the Board also wanted a new logo. They worked with KEC Publishing Services to give the old logo a fresh look, while still maintaining brand recognition.

insympathy

Joe Mueller

Joe William Mueller, father of Wheatland's General Manager Bruce Mueller, died on Nov. 27.

The Mass of Christian Burial was held Dec. 1 at Holy Family Catholic Church, Victoria, TX.

Memorials may be made to the American Legion Post, 1402 E Santa Rosa St., Victoria, TX 77901.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at Bruce and Sharon Mueller, PO Box 230, Scott City, KS 67871.

Christy Deines Purcell

Christina "Christy" Bea Deines Purcell, daughter of Western's Dennis Deines, died on Nov. 20.

Funeral services were held Nov. 26 at United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, KS.

A go fund me account has been created for the family and can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/2wfuxwcs>.

Merry Christmas

from the staff at
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

So God Made a Farmer's Daughter – article written by Kansas Youth Tour alumna goes viral

It's not uncommon for millennials to share their thoughts online and to have their friends "like" what was posted. However, **WHITNEY TUREK** was more than a bit surprised when the article she wrote for her university's online platform "Odyssey" was shared by individual readers more than 186,000 times.

"Farming is a great industry. I could not be more proud to come from an agricultural background," said Turek, a 2012 youth tour alumna sponsored by Sumner-Cowley and 2016 summer KEC intern. "Women are becoming more and more prominent in the agriculture industry. I think it is about time we recognize them, as well."



Whitney Turek

So God Made a Farmer's Daughter by Whitney Turek

Paul Harvey had it right with "So, God Made a Farmer," but now I'm going to tell you about the farmer's daughter.

And on the ninth day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need someone to have a kind heart full of compassion and a spirit as free as a wild mustang and as old as time." *So, God made a farmer's daughter.*

God said, "I need somebody to sit on the armrest of the tractor while her father runs the disc, get up before school to feed the animals and listen to her teachers' lessons, bring the cattle in from pasture, help her

mother cook supper and then go to town to her high school FFA meeting and stay up past midnight working on homework." *So, God made a farmer's daughter.*

I need somebody with a strong mind and gentle soul. Strong enough to hold a kicking calf to tag, yet gentle enough to calm a heifer delivering her first baby and get it to nurse. Somebody to call in cattle by yelling "boss," lighten the mood between tired farm hands after a long day, come home to hug her mother and help with her siblings and set the table and clean the dishes. *So, God made a farmer's daughter.*

God said "I need somebody who gets knocked down by a horse and stands up, dusts off the dirt from her jeans and the tear from her eye and climbs back in the saddle. Someone to return to the field after school to plant seeds, drive from field to field with only a farmer's driving permit and a phone book to sit on. And who, during harvest season, will sacrifice nights out with friends and days by the pool to help her dad cut crops, sweep out grain bins in triple digit heat, deliver meals to the field, and finish a 40-hour week by Tuesday noon. *So, God made a farmer's daughter.*

God had to have somebody patient enough to halter break a new colt and spend countless hours training a show steer for months to prepare for the county show, and still be understanding enough to accept the way of life as she loads him into the buyer's trailer, gives him one last pet, and wipe the tears off her face as she watches the headlights disappear down the road. *So, God made a farmer's daughter.*

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to build fence, heave bales and yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend to the calf who lost his mother and his foot to that winter's frost...and who will stop the combine for an hour to mend the baby deer hiding in the wheat field despite knowing her father will be yelling on the two-way to keep the machinery running. *So, God made a farmer's daughter.*

I need someone who won't back away from a challenge and will face her fears head on and learn from failures and not give up. Somebody unafraid of getting dirty and cleans up well before going to church and volunteer for the town's pancake feed. And who keeps involved in her community and knows her priorities and stays disciplined enough to know her chores must be done before the evening activities. *So, God made a farmer's daughter.*

It had to be somebody who'd keep on the straight and narrow, not cut corners, and stay hard-working and determined and restore faith in her generation into the minds of elders. Somebody to speak, share, and advocate for agriculture and farmer's rights ...and show the world the truth behind the lies of animal activists groups. Somebody not easily discouraged and mindful of others and who'd bond a community together with the heart of sharing and compassion for thy neighbor, who'd laugh and then sigh...and then tell her dad with bright eyes and a proud smile, she wants to spend her life "supporting what dad does." *So, God made a farmer's daughter.*