

Rural Power

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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 January 26-29 to share experiences and discuss the tough choices facing cooperatives as they work to keep electricity safe, reliable and affordable. This meeting is the 71st annual meeting convened by Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC).

Topics at the meeting will include: reenergizing the cooperative culture with Adam Schwartz, The Cooperative Way; a rural development discussion by Patty Clark, USDA Rural Development for State of Kansas; the directors role in a culture of safety by Susan Olander, Federated; the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center by Brian Briggeman, Kansas State University; and a trustee roundtable discussion. Members of the Kansas legislature will also address the group.

Legislative Reception

The Legislative Reception will be held from 5:30-8 p.m. on Jan. 28, and is hosted by Federated and the Kansas electric cooperatives.

KCRE and Silent Auction

The Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) will host its annual silent auction on Jan. 28 and its annual meeting on Jan. 29. For more information or to donate items, please contact Carol Dorr, KEC.

A special KEC Auxiliary silent auction item is a hand-made quilt donated by Carolyn McNickle, wife of Twin Valley director Ronald McNickle. This year's KEC Auxiliary raffle prize is a "country cabinet" hand-crafted by John Roniger, member of Flint Hills. Raffle tickets are on sale now and will be available at the meeting.

Directors' Training

Two NRECA trustee courses will be offered prior to the meeting. Scott Luecal

will facilitate the CCD Course 2620 Board Roles and Relationships starting at 9 a.m. on Jan. 26 and the CCD Course 2640 Financial Decision Making starting at 11 a.m. on Jan. 27.

Expo

Also available to the meeting attendees on Jan. 28 is the 8th Annual KEC Expo. Breaks and door prizes will be given in the Exhibition Hall. Free access to high speed Wi-Fi is available at the Expo.

A photo area will be available on Monday from 10 a.m. - noon for anyone who would like a new photo in the annual KEC Directory.

"Catch" Breakfast on Tuesday

Something new this year will be the breakfast offered on Tuesday, Jan. 29. Breakfast will feature "Short Stack", a skilled pancake flipper from Criss Cakes of Wichita. Come get your hot cakes between 6:30 - 7:45 a.m.

Auxiliary

The KEC Auxiliary will meet on Jan. 28 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The agenda includes a presentation on gambling addiction by Jean Holthaus, Kansas Department for Aging & Disability Services; and a presentation on "The Untouchables" by Rachel Kilian, Topeka Zoological Park.



Tickets for the quilt and the cabinet are available for \$1 each, or 6 for \$5. Proceeds benefit KEC's youth programs. For tickets, contact Carol Dorr at (785) 478-4554 or email cdorr@kec.org.



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Co-ops energize KETA transmission line

ITC Great Plains, LLC, in conjunction with Sunflower Electric Power Corp. and Midwest Energy, Inc., has placed Phase II of the KETA high-voltage electric transmission project into service. This completes the 227-mile, 345,000-volt line that runs from Spearville to Axtell, NE.

ITC - 12/13/12

NextEra Energy Resources completes purchase of Kansas wind farm

NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, purchased approximately 165-megawatt Cimarron I Wind Energy Center from CPV Renewable Energy Company. The project, located in Gray County in southwest Kansas, is comprised of 72 Siemens 2.3-MW turbines spread across approximately 14,000 acres. All of the power from the project is being sold to the Tennessee Valley Authority under a 20-year power purchase agreement.

NEXTERA - 12/4/12

GE, MetLife and Union Bank invest nearly \$247 million in Kansas wind farm

A group comprising GE Energy Financial Services, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of MetLife, Inc., and Union Bank, N.A., has invested nearly \$247 million in Wind Capital Group's recently commissioned 201-megawatt Post Rock wind farm. Wind Capital Group, supported by its parent company, NTR plc, maintains a substantial equity stake and serves as managing member of the project, located 80 miles outside Wichita, in Ellsworth and Lincoln Counties. Additional details of the transaction were not disclosed.

WIND CAPITAL GROUP - 12/3/12

DECEMBER

- 21 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 24-25 **KEC Office Closed.** Christmas Holiday.

JANUARY

- 1 **KEC Office Closed.** New Years Holiday.
- 18 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 26-29 **KEC Annual Meeting.** Capitol Plaza/Maner Conference Center, Topeka.
- 29-30 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.

NRECA: Powering Communities, Empowering Members

The NRECA 2013 Annual Meeting online registration and hotel reservation is open at Cooperative.com.

This year's annual gathering of cooperative leaders from across the country is scheduled for Feb. 14-21 in New Orleans, LA. It's time to celebrate the strength of the cooperative network, to conduct important business of our association and to focus on how we as cooperatives can continue our mission of providing members with affordable and reliable electricity.

The annual meeting is Feb. 18-20, and the director education dates are Feb. 14-17. For a complete listing of

which courses are available, visit the annual meeting page on Cooperative.com. This year's TechAdvantage Expo will be Feb. 18-20, and the Tech Advantage Conference is Feb. 19-21.

For those arriving early, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are again sponsoring a Community Service Day on Saturday, Feb. 16. Volunteers will partner with Rebuilding Together New Orleans on a "Tip the Block" project which combines weatherization on some houses as well as installation of CFLs and distribution of info on energy efficiency to other houses. For more information, visit Cooperative.com.

KEC's Todd Bailey completes certificate program

Todd Bailey, Instructor for KEC's Loss Control Safety and Compliance Department (LCS&C), has completed NRECA's Safety Internship. Bailey is now a Certified Loss Control Professional (CLCP) instructor.



Todd Bailey

"This certification most benefits our membership and employees in providing a well-rounded instructor that has specific working knowledge and technical expertise in the utility industry," said Larry Detwiler, LCS&C Director.

In order to complete this training, Bailey had to complete four, one-week long seminars covering a variety of topics. Among these were state and federal regulations, environmental issues, violence in the workplace, disci-

plining safety violations and leadership principles.

Along with the seminars, Bailey had to develop a project and have it approved by an advisory committee. The topic he chose was on the proper maintenance and care of belts and hooks.

His project will be included in NRECA's library of over 250 topics to be used by CLCP participants. He also had to complete 10 and 30 hours of OSHA training, in addition to the seminars and project, to achieve the certificate.

"The most valuable part of this training was realizing all the different procedures that go into the electrical field," said Bailey. "I now understand why there are so many rules and regulations and why they're needed."

"The doors have opened up for me as far as networking goes," Bailey continued. "If I have questions regarding anything, I can call up someone from anywhere in the United States and find my answer."

Christmasactivities



1. Western's staking and records tech, Terry Long, portrays Santa at WaKeeney's annual Christmas Lighting Ceremony.
2. Justin Ellis, a lineman for CMS, hangs a lighted snowflake for the City of Protection.
3. LJEK employees and board members raised over \$3,000 for the Good Shepherd Thrift Shop in Tonganoxie. They help residents of both Leavenworth and Jefferson counties with utility assistance.
4. Victory sponsors and participates in the annual Parade of Lights in Dodge City. Steve Day, electrician, was Santa.
5. Wheatland hosted Santa in the Scott City office.
6. Butler's employees donated funds to both the Youth Horizons organization and the Salvation Army Angel Tree.
7. Flint Hills' employees donated more than \$500 of toys to two local charities: Care and Share and Toys for Tots in the Morris and Marion areas.
8. Victory's Dave Masden installs decorations in Ingalls.
9. Santa (aka Sedgwick County's foreman, Keith Jones) visits with Jacob & Jordan Stoehr.
10. Sedgwick County's linemen decorate the city of Cheney.
11. Sumner-Cowley employees enjoyed shopping for local families through the Cowley County Angel Tree.

Warm Wishes

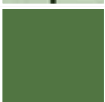


*Merry Christmas from the staff at
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.*



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