

Rural Power

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Senators, industry leadership featured at KEC Summer Board Meeting

Hundreds of electric co-op trustees, managers and key staff heard from a variety of speakers at KEC's Summer Board Meeting in Overland Park on Aug. 4.

Senator Jerry Moran opened the meeting by sharing his belief that rural America is something worth fighting to preserve, which is his motivation for being in a public office.

He detailed several rural issues and complimented the electric cooperatives for their selection of student delegates on the annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

"When I need a new perspective, I run to the World War II Memorial. We need to be motivated and follow the lead of those who made the ultimate sacrifice rather than focus on whether the Republicans score points or the Democrats score points," Moran stated. "We have to get back where the focus is not the game of politics, but to what these youth tour students represent. There is no other better group of kids."

Senator Pat Roberts also stopped by the training workshop held on Saturday, Aug. 2 to say hello to the attendees.

The lunch speaker was NRECA's Jo Ann Emerson who discussed NRECA program changes in response to member requests and how Kansas co-ops are affected by regulatory overreach.

Emerson said, "It's critical for us to tell our story as often as we can. Your voices do make a difference."

Denise Aranoff-Brown, Touchstone Energy, detailed the mission of the Touchstone Energy brand and reviewed the various programs available to member-cooperatives.

"Touchstone Energy exists to demonstrate and to enhance the value of the cooperative difference," Aranoff-Brown stated.

Duc D. Lai, CFC, explained why co-ops should be concerned about cyber security and



Senator Jerry Moran and Jo Ann Emerson, NRECA CEO, were among the presenters at the 2014 KEC Summer Board Meeting.

encouraged the co-ops to develop policies for cyber security and social media.

"Cyber means having to do with computers," Lai explained. "But cyber

security has more to do with people than with computers."

Jackie McClaskey, Kansas Department of Agriculture, stated that agriculture is the key to growing the Kansas economy, discussed how the agency is preparing for agricultural emergencies, and reviewed the Governor's vision for water resources in Kansas.

Kristina Dietrick, Creative Business Solutions, provided an overview of the recent employment law changes and reviewed other relevant human resources topics.

Charles Terrill, KEPCo, reported on the SPP Day Ahead Markets. He compared real time and day ahead pricing and explained how Kansas G&Ts are affected. Stuart Lowry, Sunflower, reported on EPA's proposed carbon dioxide restrictions for new and existing units.

Midwest Energy's Mike Morley reported on the co-op's community solar project, and KEC's Shana Read reviewed the summer's youth tour programs.

The KEC Auxiliary program featured entertainment by Curtis Waltermire; gardening tips from Meg Mullett, Johnson County Extension Master Gardener; and a presentation by Karen Kornacki, Sports Anchor at KMBC. In addition, the Auxiliary hosted a silent auction that raised \$2,266 for KEC's youth programs.

Prior to convening the summer board meeting, Mike Core facilitated the CCD Course "Understanding the Electricity Business." In addition, Ken Holmes and Mike Core facilitated two Board Leadership courses "Appraising and Compensating the CEO" and "Risk Oversight - The Board's Role in Risk Management."

Nominations sought for Power+Hope program

The Kansas Touchstone Energy Executive Council is once again seeking nominations for the Power+Hope employee recognition program. This program honors Kansas electric co-op staff who have gone the extra mile to help others.

The Kansas Touchstone Energy Power+Hope award is designed to recognize those who have been generous, selfless and giving—someone who helps others while expecting nothing in return.

The deadline for nominations is Oct. 1. Nominations will be reviewed at the Kansas Touchstone Energy Annual Meeting on Oct. 7.

The winner(s) will be honored at KEC's Annual Meeting in January.

For a nomination form, contact KEC's Shana Read at sread@kec.org or call 785-478-4554.



Volunteers needed for K-State's annual Electrical Power Affiliates Program Day

Engineering professionals are needed to connect with engineering students at K-State's annual Electrical Power Affiliates Program (EPAP) Day on Sept. 10.

KEC, Sunflower, KEPCo and Midwest Energy are new sponsors of the established program. The goal of EPAP day is to encourage students to consider the utility industry for career opportunities so they can fill the job market needs in Kansas. Four to eight volunteers are needed for this event.

EPAP day events include an opportunity to speak to undergraduate and graduate classes, conduct mock job interviews, and attend an industry reception in the afternoon. More information about this program can be found at K-State's website at <http://www.k-state.edu/epap/>.

For more information or to volunteer, please call Lana Rivers, Sunflower's HR Administrator, at (620) 277-4516.

co-opcalendar

AUGUST

- 18-22 **Supervisory Fast Track**, Courtyard Marriott Old Town, Wichita
- 20-21 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 22 **KCRE Golf Tournament**, Salina

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **Labor Day Holiday – KEC Office Closed**
- 3-4 **Retirement Planning Workshop**, KEPCo Headquarters, 600 SW Corporate View, Topeka (FULL)
- 4 **Tri County Annual Meeting – Texas County Activity Building**, dinner at 5:30 p.m. meeting at 6:30 p.m., Texas County Activity Building, 5th & Sunset, Guymon, OK
- 9-11 **KEC Hot Line School**, Pratt Vo-Tech, Pratt
- 16-18 **KEC Hot Line School**, Manhattan Vo-Tech, Manhattan
- 17-18 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 18-19 **CFC Budget Pro Workshop**, Ambassador Hotel, Wichita
- 19 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 25 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 25-26 **Line Superintendents Meeting**, Holiday Inn Select, Wichita

18th annual KCRE golf tournament to be held in Salina

On Aug. 22, co-op trustees, managers and suppliers will tee up for the 18th annual Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) golf tournament at the Salina Municipal Golf Course.

The fund raiser will begin with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. The registration fee per player this year is \$65. The tournament usually draws in about 130 participants to support KCRE, a political action committee that raises funds to support candidates' campaigns.

The annual golf tournament is run by co-op managers volunteering

their time, and it accounts for a large portion of KCRE's annual funding. Other funding comes from the annual membership dues and the annual silent auction.

The KCRE donations are important to candidates who are running for Kansas offices to assist them in getting their campaign message out to voters. No KCRE dollars are used for meals, entertainment or gifts.

To sponsor a hole, donate prizes, or play in the tournament, call Kirk Thompson at 620-873-2184.

upcomingtraining

Budget Pro workshop

KEC has re-scheduled the CFC Budget Pro workshop. This two-day training will be held Sept. 18-19 at the Ambassador Hotel in Wichita.

The purpose of the workshop is to learn how to prepare a 12-month operating budget for a distribution co-op using a CFC-created spreadsheet template. The course will be facilitated by CFC's John Grant and Johnny Vaughn.

The workshop is Sept. 18 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Lunch is provided and there will be a dinner reception from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. On Sept. 19, the workshop will run from 8 a.m. – noon. A box lunch will be provided. There is no registration fee for this event for KEC members.

Attendees will need to bring a laptop with Microsoft Excel 2010 or higher - OR - Microsoft Windows XP or higher. The laptop should have memory of two gigabytes or higher, as well as a USB port. A flash drive will be provided at the workshop.

This program will provide a maximum of nine CPE credits in Specialized Knowledge & Applications.

Room reservations can be made by calling the Ambassador Hotel at (316) 239-7100. Ask for the KEC block to get the group rate of \$129 + tax. Deadline for the room block is Sept. 3, 2014.

Registration for the workshop is due by Sept. 12. For more information, contact Shana Read at sread@kec.org.

Trustees, managers tour KEC Apparatus Testing Department

On Aug. 1, KEC's Apparatus Testing Department held an open house from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at their new facility in Osage City. Approximately 40 people attended the event, many of them traveling to the KEC Summer Board Meeting in Overland Park.

At the open house, Danny Seele, Director of Apparatus Testing, expressed the department's appreciation for the new facility.

"Because of the additional space that the new location provides, we have been able to hire an additional technician," said Seele. "In our previous space, we were only able to work on one project at a time. Now, our workspace is more streamlined and efficient."

At the open house there were refreshments and a drawing for door prizes. The door prize recipients were Doug Lindahl, DS&O; Dave Childers, Sedgwick County; and Paul Unruh, Ninnescah.

"We would like to thank those who

attended. It was really nice to see the interest that people had. We hoped to provide the board members with a better understanding of what we do and the services we provide." Seele added, "Our doors are always open. We welcome people to stop by for a tour."



Danny Seele gives a tour of the AT Department's new facility at the open house on Aug. 1.

Wheatland's employee honored for volunteerism

Wheatland's Manager of Member Services, Shawn Powelson, has been named the 2014 Scott Community Volunteer of the Year.



Shawn Powelson

Powelson was nominated for his community involvement with Wheatland, the Chamber, and the Celebrate Recovery program that he helped implement.

"I'm fortunate that Wheatland has a philosophy of allowing their people to be involved in the community. A lot of things I'm able to do because they allow me the time," he said.

Powelson is the second Wheatland employee to be honored. Marcia Matthies, Wheatland's CSR, received the award in 2012.

Co-op linemen to deliver safety message at Kansas State Fair through the Kansas Energy Expo

Concerts, carnival rides, and cotton candy —the Kansas State Fair brings enjoyment for all ages. As part of fair's activities, Kansas electric cooperatives and Touchstone Energy cooperatives of Kansas are once again co-sponsoring a high-voltage line safety demonstration, Sept. 8-12.

Located in the recently renovated Ad Astra Pavilion (east of the Oz Gallery), the electric cooperatives will be joined by the Kansas Energy Expo which is new to this year's State Fair.

The Kansas Energy Expo is sponsored by the Kansas Corporation Commission and will incorporate interactive exhibits representing various Kansas utilities. Volunteers are still needed to help with the Energy Expo Information Booth.

To kick off the first year of the Kansas Energy Expo, KEC is sponsoring the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon. The balloon is scheduled to fly one day between Sept. 8 - 10, in accordance to the weather. On Monday, Sept. 8, LED Lucy will be present to welcome the fair audience to the high voltage safety demonstration.

Kansas electric cooperative linemen will present the interactive demonstration using real electric equipment and

their "volunteer" stick man to show the importance of education and public safety around power lines. The presentation will help viewers learn safety precautions, what protective gear linemen use, and what happens if a person comes in contact with an energized line.

"It is important we use electricity safely and that everyone knows the proper precautions to take," said Brian Dreiling, Manager of Energy Services at Midwest Energy. "That is what we encourage during the demonstration at the State Fair."

Midwest Energy will provide the demonstration materials, a narrator, and a trainer for each day of the safety presentation, and DS&O, Wheatland, and Heartland have volunteered their linemen to operate the demonstration. The Midwest Energy volunteers include Brian Dreiling, Nate Stryker, Les Loker, Alex Breeding, and Greg Swob; the DS&O volunteers include Aaron Taylor and Mike Ecton; the Wheatland volun-

teers include Matt Hosler, Trent Suchy, Kyle Strickert, and Curtis Peterson; the Heartland volunteers include Brian Combs and Cody Conwell.

The high voltage safety demonstration coincides with Kansas' Largest Classroom lesson plan "Basics of Electricity: Completing the Circuit," making it a great stop for class field trips. Teachers may pre-register for the demonstration to receive free Touchstone Energy and Discover Channel School "Get Charged" (grades 5-9) or "Super

Energy Saver" classroom CFL Charlie kits (grade K-5).

There are a limited number of State Fair admission passes available to cooperative board members and employees.

If you would like to receive free general admission passes to this year's State Fair, or if you could volunteer to help with the Energy Expo Information Booth, please call Shana Read, KEC, at 785-478-4554 or email sread@kec.org. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.



Kansas co-ops' support sends EPAP students to Chicago

As a result of the KEC, KEPCo, Sunflower, and Midwest Energy partnership with Kansas State University's Electrical Power Affiliates Program, 19 engineering students participated in the IEEE PES Transmission and Distribution Conference and Exposition in Chicago in April.

At the conference students had the opportunity to visit with the 800 exhibitors, participate in student programs, such as the poster session; interact with K-State alumni and other power engineering professionals; and learn more about the future of power engineering.



EPAP students were thankful for the support provided by the Kansas electric cooperatives for allowing them to have a strong presence at the Chicago conference this spring.

KEC and CoBank "Share Success" to support FFA

At the 86th Annual Kansas FFA State Convention, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., sponsored the Top Individual in Agricultural Mechanics award at the State Career Development Events in Agriculture. KEC sponsored the award with the help of CoBank's "Sharing Success" grant program. The award was given to Nicholas Meyer, a member of Flint Hills.



Nicholas Meyer

As a Top Individual, Meyer participated in a team multi-system agricultural problem solving activity, and he competed in individual problem solving and skill development activities which included a written examination. He was selected for the award based on his overall score.

At the Kansas FFA State Convention, Meyer was also honored with a State Degree—also sponsored by KEC—

and was elected as the 2014-15 Sentinel state officer.

"I define leadership as influencing others and encouraging them to do and be their best," Meyer said.

Not only is Meyer an active leader in FFA, he has also gained leadership experience through KEC's Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. He returned to camp in July as an ambassador. Each year, campers elect ambassadors to attend the next year's camp to serve as role models.

"An important part of being an ambassador is to encourage the new campers to take on leadership roles," Meyer added.

"KEC takes pride in its support for student and youth leadership programs. We know it is a great investment and it is particularly gratifying when youth like Nicholas Meyer provide a return on that investment by making a difference in their communities and in other leadership roles," said Bruce Graham, KEC's Chief Executive Officer.



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