

# Rural Power

## Board names Bruce Graham to lead KEC

The Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Board of Trustees announced the selection of Bruce Graham to become the eighth executive officer in the 70-year history of the association.

The board completed interviews of the candidates the first week of January.

"I want to thank the KEC Board of Trustees for this opportunity," Graham said. "KEC has a history of extraordinary leaders and leadership in the state of Kansas. I am privileged to be asked to work with the Board, the membership and the professional staff toward a common goal of outstanding service to our member cooperatives and our member consumers."

Keith Ross, KEC's Board President, said that the KEC board selected Graham following a national search conducted through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Executive Search.

"We're excited to have Bruce as our statewide manager. His cooperative background and the industry experience he received in Indiana are going to be very useful to us," said Ross. "We have a great staff, and we know that Bruce will keep us going in the right direction."

As the executive vice president, Graham will oversee and direct a 22-person staff that assists member cooperatives with a variety of specialized services, including government relations, safety and regulatory compliance, and youth and education programs.



Bruce Graham

Graham has served as CEO of the Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., the trade association for Indiana's 39 electric cooperatives, since 2006. During his leadership, association membership grew to include all Indiana electric cooperatives, and participation increased with the regulatory and training programs.

Graham said, "I very much appreciated the occasion to lead the Indiana Statewide Association for the past six years. During that time, we expanded and improved many association services, and I'm proud of those accomplishments. I am excited though to return to Kansas to best utilize my knowledge of the industry in the Sunflower State."

Prior to his time in Indiana, Graham was KEPCo's vice president of member services and external affairs. During his 17-year career at KEPCo, he was responsible for communications and government relations at both the state and

federal level. He also supervised and directed KEPCo's marketing and economic development efforts.

Graham is a past president of NRECA's Council of Rural Electric Communicators (CREC). He has also been active in Touchstone Energy, the national electric cooperative brand and standards program. Graham is a Certified Cooperative Communicator and is a graduate of Leadership Topeka.

Graham is expected to take his new position by March 1, 2012, replacing Stuart Lowry who has accepted the CEO position at Sunflower Electric Power Corp. Lowry has served at KEC since June of 2004.

Graham grew up in Manhattan and attended Kansas State University. His wife, Kathy, is a native Kansan, grew up in Sedgwick County and also attended K-State. They have two sons: Chris lives in Birmingham, AL, and Kevin lives in the St. Louis area.

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BRUCE GRAHAM

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**Repayment for energy efficiency improvements through utility bills a growing trend**

On-bill financing, an innovative tool that allows customers to pay for energy efficiency investments through utility bills, is becoming more widely available, according to a new study. The study was released by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy and profiles 19 existing programs in 15 states. The study finds that these programs are poised to address financing gaps that have not been historically addressed by other energy efficiency financing mechanisms.

ACEEE - 12/9/11

**Co-ops disappointed in the Administration's actions on Utility MATS rule**

NRECA's Glenn English expressed disappointment in the final Utility Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (Utility MATS) issued by the EPA. NRECA expressed doubt the utility industry as a whole could meet the new standards in three years. The deadline creates special problems for cooperatives. Often, small systems must compete with larger utilities for the limited number of engineering experts and equipment vendors.

NRECA - 12/21/11

**Consumer Interest in Plug-in Electric Vehicles Declines**

As public awareness of electric vehicles continues to build with the increase in model launch activity, a new survey finds that consumer interest in purchasing PEVs has gradually declined over the past two years. In the 2009 edition, 48% of respondents stated that they would be "extremely" or "very" interested in purchasing a PEV. In 2011 it fell to 40%.

PIKE RESEARCH - 1/6/12

**JANUARY**

- 18-19 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 20 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 21-24 **KEC Annual Meeting**, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka.
- 21 **Certified Cooperative Director Course (CCD)**, 2630.1 - Strategic Planning.
- 22 **Board Leadership Course (BL)**, 901.1 - Rules and Procedures for Effective Board Meeting.

**FEBRUARY**

- 15-16 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 17 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.

**MARCH**

- 5-7 **NRECA Annual Meeting**, San Diego, CA.
- 13-14 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Courtyard, Salina.
- 16 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.

**KEC to host its 70<sup>th</sup> annual meeting**

KEC's Annual Meeting will be held Jan. 21-24, 2012, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka.

Two NRECA trustee courses will be offered prior to the meeting on Jan. 21-22. On Jan. 23-24, a breakfast buffet is offered from 6-7:30 a.m. in the Emerald Ballroom.

The KEC Annual Meeting will begin Jan. 23 at 8 a.m. Attendees will hear presentations by Sen. John Vratil, vice president of the Kansas Senate; Rep. Arlen Siegfried, Majority Leader of the House; David Kensinger, Governor's chief of staff; Robin Jennison, Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism; Jeff Lanza, retired FBI agent; Larry Bryant, Touchstone Energy; and Leslie Kaufman, Kansas Cooperative Council. Attendees will also hear reports from KCRE, CFC and NRECA. There will be a trustee roundtable and safety awards.

Also available to the meeting attendees on Jan. 23 is the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual KEC Expo. Breaks and door prizes will be given in the Exhibition Hall.

A photo area will be available in the Exhibition Hall on Monday from 3-5 p.m. for any trustee or manager who would like a new photo in the annual KEC Directory.

The Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) will host its annual silent auction on Jan. 23 and its annual meeting on Jan. 24. For more information or to donate items, please

contact Carol Dorr, KEC.

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

The KEC Auxiliary will meet on Jan. 23 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. The agenda includes speaker Colonel Gary LaGrange and a tour of Cedar Crest. Donations of school supplies will be accepted for the *Help Us Learn...Give Us Hope* program.

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 an outdoor, oak bench hand-crafted by John Roniger, member of Flint Hills. Raffle tickets are on sale now and will be available at the meeting.

**insympathy**

**Lucille Lumley**

Lucille Lumley, wife of former Lyon County manager Richard Lumley, died Dec. 23.

Lucille's late husband served 35 years with the Kansas electric cooperatives, including 11 years as the manager of Lyon County (now Lyon-Coffey).

Memorial contributions to the Sacred Heart School can be sent to the Roberts-Blue-Barnett Funeral Home, PO Box 175, Emporia, KS 66801.

# Pioneer's Perry Rubart selected as 2012 Hall of Fame Inductee

Perry Rubart, a board member at Pioneer, will be inducted into the 2012 Co-op Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Kansas Cooperative Council, is valued for recognizing the contributions of co-op pioneers and honoring those who have gone "above and beyond the call" in advancing the cooperative philosophy.

Rubart has given decades of service to rural electric cooperatives as a board member for local and regional cooperatives and represented Kansas electric cooperatives on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association board.

"He is a great advocate for the members of Pioneer Electric," said Steve Epperson, Pioneer's CEO. "His wisdom, commitment and dedication leaves a positive impact on each board on which he serves."

Rubart's commitment to advancing rural electric cooperatives reaches beyond state lines to those in under-developed nations, as well.

"As a member of the NRECA board, Perry served on the International Foundation committee, an effort by the US electric cooperatives to build electric cooperative systems in third



Perry Rubart

world countries," explained Stuart Lowry, Sunflower's president and CEO. "Perry travelled to Nicaragua, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Guatemala and all over the Philippine islands with other cooperative members and shared his experience of cooperative governance."

Rubart will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on March 28 in Wichita. Also to be inducted is Pete Anderson, who's been a member of the co-op family for more than 35 years as a local manager of a farmer's cooperative. Anderson was a leading force in the Kansas Cooperative Council's work with Kansas State University to establish the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center.

After a reception and dinner, Rubart and Anderson will be honored for their commitment to the growth and development of the cooperative movement. Rubart is sponsored by Pioneer, and Anderson is sponsored by CoBank, Wichita.

The two inductees' biographical information will be placed alongside other honorees in the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame showcase display at the Kansas State Fairgrounds. Located in the Pride of Kansas Building, this permanent display highlights the achievements of our state's great co-op leaders and preserves our co-op history. It also plays a significant role in educating others about the uniqueness of the cooperative business model.

Since it was established in 1999, 29 individuals from all types of cooperatives have been inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame. Each December, the Council asks for nominations for additional inductees.

## Sedgwick County energizes new substation

Sedgwick County energized its new Maize Substation last month. The substation has a 25 MVA transformer and will provide power to the eastern edge of the co-op's service territory.

The total cost of this new substation, located in Sedgwick County, is estimated around \$1,360,000.

The co-op is also building 3.75 miles of new electric distribution line to connect this substation to its existing electric plant.



The Maize Substation was energized last month.

## Electric co-ops participate in Topeka Farm Show

Five electric co-ops co-sponsored a booth at the Topeka Farm Show. Bluestem, Brown-Atchison, Kaw Valley, Lyon-Coffey and LJEC joined together to educate and talk with their members and the public.

The event lasted three days and over 300 exhibitors were in attendance. An estimated 30,000 people – most of them from rural communities served by electric cooperatives – attended the show.

The co-ops' booth included a display of the electric usage of CFL and incandescent light bulbs, as well as a ticket booth to win an electric barbecue



Farm show attendees visit with electric cooperative staff at the Topeka Farm Show, Jan. 10-13. Working the booth was Ron Dickey, Bluestem; Kevin Gregg, Kaw Valley; and Joe Heinen, LJEC.

grill.

"The electric cooperatives enjoy the opportunity to have a booth at the farm show," said Ron Dickey, Bluestem. "It helps us keep the members better informed about the services we provide, and we can answer any questions they may have."

## Sunflower schedules LIDAR analysis

Sunflower has scheduled a Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) analysis for approximately 1,900 miles of its transmission lines.

The helicopter flyover was originally scheduled to begin Dec. 27, however due to the snow storm that hit most of the western part of the state and a maintenance issue with the aircraft, the start date was delayed.

The flyover, which will be conducted seven days a week, is now scheduled to begin flying over the transmission system on Jan. 22, and will last seven to eight weeks contingent on the weather.

The testing will ensure that Sunflower has accurate images of the current transmission system.



The helicopter is scheduled to fly over Sunflower's transmission lines on Jan. 22.

## Victory Electric employees give the gift of words

Victory Electric has teamed up with its community Rotary clubs, as well as other local businesses, to donate a children's dictionary to every third grader in its service territory.

The donations are made through the Rotary Club Dictionary Project.

"The goal of the program is to



Victory employees join local business to donate dictionaries to Cimmaron third graders.

assist these students in completing the school year as good writers, active readers and creative thinkers by providing students with a personal dictionary," said Victory's Jerri

Imgarten. "These dictionaries are a gift to students to use both at school and at home for years to come."

## Brian Litzenberger's photos selected for CFC headquarters

In September 2011, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp. (CFC) opened its new headquarters in Dulles, VA. CFC asked its members to submit photographs to be displayed in the new headquarters.

Hundreds of submissions from across the country were received, but only 30 were selected for display. Three of those selected were taken by Brian Litzenberger, Sunflower's computer system administrator.

Each of the selected photographs—which range from lineman, sunsets, facilities, and terrain—is displayed as a 5-by-5 foot image.



"Pushing Coal" was taken by Litzenberger in the early morning to avoid excessive dust in the air. The photo is on display at CFC's headquarters.

"I want to keep photography primarily as a hobby, so it keeps it fun. The reward is when someone says 'Wow,' or asks for a print to hang on the wall," Litzenberger said.

See all three of Litzenberger's photos at [www.sunflower.net](http://www.sunflower.net).



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*Rural Power* is published every three weeks on Fridays. This electronic version is provided to you as a service of KEC. If you would like to receive personal e-mail notice of this publication in electronic format or discontinue such notice, please email [sread@kec.org](mailto:sread@kec.org).