

Rural Power

A newsletter for and about Kansas Electric Cooperatives

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Cooperatives: Power for Generations

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(785) 478-4554

Fax
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or Email
ruralpower@kec.org

KEC's 63rd Annual Meeting Highlights

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., held its 63rd Annual Meeting on January 24 - 25, 2005, at the Maner Conference Centre in Topeka, Kansas.

Prior to convening the annual meeting, managers and trustees attended the NRECA board leadership course entitled "Rules and Procedures for Effective Board Meetings" and a special workshop called "Dealing with the Controversial Board Member."

John Peterson, KEC President, convened the First General Session with an Invocation and Memorial Service to remember those participants in the

electric co-op program who had passed away in 2004. The service was led by Doug Jackson, Rolling Hills. His daughters, Jenna and Jillea, sang as part of the Memorial Service.

Guest speakers for the meeting included Sen. Steve Morris, President of the Kansas Senate, and Rep. Doug Mays, Speaker of the House, who spoke on the pending legislative issues. Rob Madden, NRTC, reviewed the Wild Blue program and a new voice dispatch system. Robert Patton, NRECA, presented a discussion on expectations of today's co-op board. Psychologist Mark Hood created an interactive session to develop an optimistic attitude.

Federated's CEO, Frank Fraas, concluded his report by presenting a check to KEC in the amount of \$72,066 for Loss Control Contributions. Carol Williams, Executive Director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, discussed the evolution of legislative races, and the requirements for state and elected officials. Dr. David Barton, Professor of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University, presented a discussion on cooperative board governance.



Jenna (left) and Jillea Jackson, daughters of Rolling Hill's manager Doug Jackson, lent their vocal talents during the KEC Annual Meeting Memorial Service.

Stuart Lowry, KEC, reported to the membership and introduced the KEC staff. Doug Shepherd explained how equity management planning at cooperatives gives a better picture on how board decisions on financing, rates, and capital credits impact equity levels.

Harold Foley, CFC District 7 Director-Director, presented KEC with a check in the amount of \$11,700 from the CFC Education Grant for KEC's youth programs.

The KEC Loss Control, Safety and Compliance Department

recognized cooperatives that earned No Lost Time Accident Awards, and those who received National Safety Accreditation for 2004. Larry Detwiler reported on the effect of the January ice storm and thanked those who participated in the mutual aid program.

As an addition to the Annual Meeting, KEC hosted an Expo that featured 14 vendors from 8 states.

Monday evening, Federated and Kansas electric cooperatives hosted a legislative reception for Kansas elected officials, KEC trustees, managers and special guests. Over 400 people were in attendance.

The KCRE silent auction raised \$1,997 for the PAC. The KEC Auxiliary silent auction raised \$517 and the raffle raised \$356 for a total of \$873 benefiting KEC's youth programs. The winner of the game table raffle was Bruce Spare, DS&O.

During the KEC Annual Business Session, the Capitol Plaza was designated as the location for the 2006 KEC Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for January 21-24, 2006.

Cooperative Calendar

February	11	KEC Annual Attorneys Meeting, KEC Hdqtrs, Topeka.
	12	CCD Workshop, Airport Hilton Hotel, Wichita, 9:00 a.m.
	18	Sunflower Board Meeting, Holcomb Station, Holcomb, 8:30 a.m.
	23-3/2	NRECA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
March	9-10	KEC Board Meeting, Holiday Inn, Salina.
	16-17	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Hdqtrs, Topeka, 8:30 a.m.
	18	Sunflower Board Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
April	15	Sunflower Board Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	20-21	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Hdqtrs, Topeka 8:30 a.m.
	27-29	Kansas Member Services Directors Association (KMSDA) meeting, Wichita.
	28	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
May	1-4	NRECA Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.
	4-6	KEC Supervisory Workshop, Best Western Inn, Wichita.

KEC Members' Annual Meetings

February	17	Brown-Atchison - Lunch at 11:00 a.m., Meeting at 12:45 p.m., co-op headquarters.
March	8	Nemaha-Marshall - Lunch at 11:30 a.m., Meeting at 1:00 p.m., Axtell American Legion.
	12	Pioneer - Lunch at 11:30 a.m., Health Fair 7:00 a.m. til noon, Meeting at 10:00 a.m., Grant County Civic Center, Ulysses.
	17	Doniphan - Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m., Midway High School, Denton.
	19	Sumner-Cowley - Lunch at 11:30 p.m., Meeting at 1:00 p.m., Wellington High School, Wellington.
	29	Bluestem - Meeting at 7:30 p.m., Clay Center Community High School.
	29	Heartland - Dinner at 7:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:45 p.m., Girard High School, Girard.
April	1	Alfalfa - Dinner at 5:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m., Cherokee High School, Cherokee, OK.
	5	Ark Valley - Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m., Hutchinson Memorial Hall, Hutchinson.
	5	DS&O - Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m., BiCentennial Center, Salina.
	5	Ninnescah - Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m., Pratt Municipal Building.
	6	Wheatland - Dinner at 11:30 a.m., Meeting at 12:30 p.m., Leoti Community Building at the Fairgrounds, Leoti.
	7	Lyon-Coffey - Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m., Burlington High School.
	8	Rolling Hills - Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m., NCK Vocational Technical School, Beloit.
	14	Flint Hills - Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Centre High School, Lost Springs.
	12	Sedgwick County - Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m., Cotillion Ballroom, Wichita.
	22	Twin Valley - Meeting at 7:00 p.m., Labette County High School, Altamont.
May	3	Caney Valley - Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Chautauqua County Fairgrounds, Sedan.
	11	Western - Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m., co-op headquarters, 635 S. 13th St., WaKeeney.
September	14	Leavenworth-Jefferson - Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m., McLouth High School Purple Gymnasium, McLouth.
November	16	Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) - Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Meeting immediately following Dinner, Capitol Plaza, Topeka.
	22	Midwest Energy - Meeting at 1:30 p.m., Sternberg Museum, Hays.

KEC Offers CCD Course

KEC is offering the CCD course - 2610.1 Understanding the Electric Business - on Saturday, February 12, at the Hilton Wichita Airport.

This course provides an understanding of the key components of the electric utility industry, and will be taught by NRECA's Bryan Singletary.

This course will count for one of the five Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) curriculum courses designed to provide minimum knowledge and skills required of cooperative trustees.

Deadline to register is February 5th. To register or for more information, contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at (785) 478-4554 or sholsteen@kec.org.

Upcoming Conferences

KEC Annual Attorneys Meeting

The KEC Annual Attorneys meeting is scheduled for Feb. 11 at the KEC Headquarters in Topeka, Kansas. The agenda will be mailed to member system managers and attorneys closer to the date.

NRECA/RUS Workshop - Managing Physical & Cyber Security

Choose from seven workshops offered throughout the country between Jan. - Mar. to review the tools and information you need to comply with the new RUS Final Rule on Emergency Restoration Plans (ERP) and learn best practices for physical and cyber security. Contact Barry Lawson, NRECA, at 703-907-5781 or barry.lawson@nreca.coop.

NRTC's InfoComm 2005

NRTC's InfoComm will be at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas on April 25-27. Each year, this event brings together members with experts in rural telecommunications technology, business planning, marketing, and regulation. NRTC is planning meetings for members involved in the satellite and Internet businesses.

Rolling Hills Downsizes with Trustee Election

Rolling Hills held a mail ballot election for all of the Trustee positions last month for its final consolidation to a ten-member board.

After the election, a reorganization meeting was held to select the following officers: Gene Meitler, President; Jay Overmiller, Vice Pres; Kevin Cromwell, Secretary, and Sonny Bohnen, Treasurer. Other board members are: Kenneth Becker, Bryan Boyles, Harold Dowell, Melroy Kopsa, Leon Eck, and Gary Frieling.

Before the election, the co-op had 22 Trustees resulting from the merger of three cooperatives. Jewell-Mitchell (Mankato), NCK (Belleville), and Smoky Hill (Ellsworth) came together on Jan. 1, 2002, to form Rolling Hills.

Job Opportunities

Apprentice Lineman Seeks Position

KEC has received a resume of an apprentice lineman seeking work in Kansas. He will graduate in May from Pratt Community College's Electrical Power Technology program, and has attended KEC's Hotline School. To receive a copy of the resume, contact Leilani Todd, KEC, at (785) 478-4554 or email ltodd@kec.org.

Co-op Seeks Journeyman Lineman

Leavenworth-Jefferson, McLouth, KS, is seeking a journeyman. The position requires four years experience in electrical construction, the equivalence of a high school diploma, and certification from an approved lineman training course. For a copy of the complete job description or to apply, contact Russ Denney, Operations Manager, Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric, PO Box 70, McLouth, KS, 66054, by Feb. 18.

Images from the January Ice Storm



(Above) Heartland's Mike Southard photographs line crews repairing Butler's downed lines. (Left) Bill Wessel, Flint Hills, shows the ice-coated lines. (Below) Leavenworth-Jefferson's Operations Manager Russ Denney captures their restoration efforts.



Best Wishes

Leonard Allen Resigns from KEC

Leonard Allen, KEC's Communications Specialist, has accepted a position with the Kansas Securities Commissioner as Director of Investor Education.

Leonard has been working on the centerspreads in *Kansas Country Living* while at KEC, and he has shared his many talents in other areas such as graphic design and digital photography. He will continue to assist as needed with the centerspread until a replacement has been hired.

Leonard will be missed, but he leaves KEC with our thanks and best wishes.

Hilda Legg Resigns from RUS

Hilda Legg, Rural Utilities Service Administrator, announced her resignation on Jan. 5, 2005.

Appointed by President Bush and confirmed by a unanimous vote of the U.S. Senate on Sept. 27, 2001, she is the 15th Administrator of RUS and the first woman to serve in that position.

Legg stated that she was resigning so that she could spend more time with her four-year-old son.

Co-ops Earn Safety Recognition

As part of the KEC Annual Meeting, the KEC Loss Control, Safety and Compliance (LCS&C) Department recognized the member systems that earned the National Safety Accreditation for 2004: Butler Rural Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.; Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Radiant Electric Cooperative, Inc.; and Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.

The LCS&C Department also recognized those cooperatives that had earned No Lost Time Accident Awards.

No Lost-Time Accident Awards

Cooperative	Date of Last Lost Time	Hours as of 12/31/04
Ark Valley	July 21, 2000	156,416
Brown-Atchison	March 29, 2002	77,625
Butler	September 24, 2003	63,799
Caney Valley	October 10, 2000	183,782
CMS	March 21, 2003	110,901
Doniphan	November 15, 1994	152,533
High Line Services LLC	August 14, 2003	39,205
Kaw Valley	May 10, 1994	709,205
KEPCo	October 1, 1984	947,505
Lane-Scott	January 20, 1999	245,451
Lyon-Coffey	December 4, 2003	69,662
Nemaha-Marshall	October 10, 2002	64,515
Ninnescah	December 31, 2003	34,652
Radiant	January 30, 2001	131,996
Sedgwick County	December 18, 1995	295,260
Sumner-Cowley	March 20, 2003	59,423
Victory	December 3, 2002	120,812
Total Hours Worked		3,462,742

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Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
PO Box 4267
Topeka, KS 66604-0267

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