

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
PO Box 4267
Topeka, KS 66604-0267
Phone: 785-478-4554
Website: www.kec.org

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| FIRST CLASS MAIL |
| U. S. POSTAGE PAID |
| PERMIT NO. 651 TOPEKA, KS. 66604 |

RURALPOWER

KANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, INC.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Vol. LII, No. 23

Cooperatives CAN Compete

November 8, 2002

What's Inside?

- Calendar p. 2
Workshops p. 2
Co-op News p. 3
Board Members
earn CCD p. 4

Strong Co-op Message at Region VII Meeting

NRECA's CEO Glenn English spoke at the Region VII meeting in Denver that was held Oct. 22-24. English told the members that the demise of Enron and the ensuing investigations of wholesale power markets have created an atmosphere of mistrust in the electric utility industry.

"Electric co-ops," he said, "can help restore consumers' faith."

Addressing more than 1,000 directors and key staff from co-ops in Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas and Wyoming, English stated that now is the time for electric co-ops to explain why we are different.

"We have a golden opportunity to tell the co-op story. American consumers are angry, many believe that they have been taken advantage of, and most are skeptical of big business," he said.

English believes electric co-ops are an attractive alternative to big business and a prime example of American private businesses that work.

"At the co-op, business-as-usual means accountability to member consumers," he said. "It means democratic control and oversight of a business that is owned and operated by those it serves and it means doing business in your community with folks you



Stuart Lowry, KEC, (left) discusses future co-op workforce challenges as part of a panel at the Region VII meeting.

know you can trust."

English urged co-ops to reach out to their members and to tell their story at the local level. He cited surveys that show strong loyalty among co-op consumers who know about their special relationship with the utility.

"The challenge is not to provide reliable service to satisfied customers," said English. "It is to inspire in them a sense of ownership and to involve them in the oversight of their electric cooperative. Many businesses can claim customer satisfaction," he said. "But few ever achieve loyalty."

English exhorted the crowd to demonstrate the cooperative difference, to communicate it to their communities and to earn the loyalty of their members. He said, "Electric cooperatives can help restore faith in American business if we are true to our principles and conscientious in our communications."



Have an idea or
a story for
Rural Power?

Call (785)478-4554

Fax (785)478-4852

or Email

sholsteen@kec.org

KEPCo Hires Finance and Benefits Analyst

Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (KEPCo) has hired Erika L. Weniger as Finance and Benefits Analyst.

Weniger was most recently an Internal Auditor with Westar Energy in Topeka. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Washburn University in December, 2000, with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting.

At KEPCo, Weniger will be responsible for financial and



Erika L. Weniger

regulatory reporting, financial data management, investments, as well as employee personnel matters and benefits support. She replaces Mindi Atchison who recently accepted a position with the Sports Car Club of America.

While at Washburn, Weniger was President of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, and earned Phi Theta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi academic honors. She is a native of Kingman, Kansas.

Upcoming Workshops

APLIC Short Course Enrollment

The Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) is sponsoring a two-day course, Nov. 18-19, at the KCP&L Pin Oaks Training Center, 5700 Eugene Field Road, in Kansas City, MO. The course will give an overview of laws and avian protection techniques. For more information, contact Terry Fletcher at (202) 508-5637.

HAZWOPER Training

KEC is conducting Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response refresher training at a number of locations in December (see calendar). Training is from 9:30 - 3:30. Cost is \$50 per participant. Class size is limited, so contact Judy Holliday at KEC before Nov. 22.

HIPAA Training Program

This NRECA conference on Jan. 23 in Arlington, VA, will provide co-ops information on the final HIPAA (The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) privacy regulations. HIPAA is a federal law that establishes new standards to protect the security and confidentiality of health care information. Final regulations on the privacy portion of the law will take effect in April 2003.

This conference will provide information to understand HIPAA and its impact on plan operations and individual participant rights. Specific discussion topics include: enhanced rights, required privacy procedures and policies, the role of the privacy officer, the interrelationship between HIPAA and other federal statutes, which plans are affected by the regulations, and other changes in plan administration. NRECA and CBA staff will be available during the conference to answer questions. For more information, or to register for this training program, visit www.cooperative.com.

Cooperative Calendar

| | | |
|----------|---|---|
| November | 8 | District 3 Meeting, KSU Agricultural Research Center, Hays, KS. |
| | 12 | District 2 Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka, KS. |
| | 13 | District 1 Meeting, Flint Oak Lodge, Fall River, KS. |
| | 18-19 | APLIC Short Course, KCP&L Pin Oaks Training Ctr., Kansas City, MO. |
| | 19-22 | Transformer Metering Workshop, Kaw Valley, Topeka, KS. |
| | 20 | KEPCo Annual Meeting – Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Meeting immediately following Dinner, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka. |
| | 21 | KEPCo Board Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, 8:30 a.m. |
| | 25 | Bluestem, Nemaha-Marshall and Rolling Hills Area Legislative Dinner, Clay Center Country Club, 6:30 p.m. |
| 28-29 | Thanksgiving Holiday - KEC Offices closed. | |
| December | 3 | HAZWOPER Training, Victory Electric, Dodge City, 9:30 a.m. |
| | 4 | HAZWOPER Training, Western, WaKeeney, 9:30 a.m. |
| | 4 | KEC Standing Committees, Holiday Inn Select, Wichita, 8:30 a.m. |
| | 5 | KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Holiday Inn Select, Wichita, 8:30 a.m. |
| | 5 | Women's Executive Committee, Holiday Inn Select, Wichita, 8:30 a.m. |
| | 5 | HAZWOPER Training, Rolling Hills, Belleville, 9:30 a.m. |
| | 6 | HAZWOPER Training, KEC, Topeka, 9:30 a.m. |
| | 10-11 | Mid-West Electric Consumers Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO |
| | 17 | HAZWOPER Training, Ark Valley, South Hutchinson, 9:30 a.m. |
| | 18 | HAZWOPER Training, Radiant, Fredonia, 9:30 a.m. |
| 19 | KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Hdqtrs., Topeka, 8:30 a.m. | |
| 19 | HAZWOPER Training, KEC, Topeka, 9:30 a.m. | |
| 20 | Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m. | |
| January | 12-15 | NRECA's CEO Leadership Conference, Tucson, AZ. |
| | 15-17 | New & Emerging Technologies Conference and Expo, Tucson, AZ. |
| | 23 | HIPAA Conference, Arlington, VA; teleconference at Hays and Topeka. |
| | 25-28 | KEC Annual Meeting, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka, KS. |
| February | 26-3/5 | NRECA Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN. |
| | 27-3/3 | TechAdvantage Conference & Expo, Nashville, TN. |
| March | 12 | KEC Standing Committee, Holiday Inn, Great Bend |
| | 13 | KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Holiday Inn, Great Bend, 8:30 a.m. |
| | 13 | KEC Women's Executive Committee, Holiday Inn, Great Bend, 8:30 a.m. |
| May | 5-9 | NRECA's Human Resource/Benefit Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC. |

News from Kansas Cooperatives

New Arrival at Sumner-Cowley

Sydney Faye was born on Sept. 17 to Suzie and Bryon Bacon. Sydney weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz. and was 19 1/2 inches long. Sydney has two brothers, Zachary (5) and Garrett (2). Suzie is Sumner-Cowley's manager of finance and accounting.

CFC Board Approves 21st Patronage Capital Distribution

In September, CFC's Board of Directors approved distribution to members of \$74 million in patronage capital. Distribution occurred on Sept. 4, 2002. The retirement represents 70 percent of the fiscal 2002 allocation a portion of allocations for 1991, 1992, and 1993.

This was the 21st consecutive year that CFC paid members cash to retire patronage capital. CFC retained its earnings during its start-up years to build up its equity base and develop its financial strength. CFC has retired more than \$781 million to members during its 33-year history.

Western Participates in National Cooperative Month

Pre-school and Kindergarten safety programs were conducted in Quinter and WaKeeney by Dennis Deines of Western Co-op Electric and Kathy Koehn of Midwest Energy. Western also worked with Midwest Energy and Rural Telephone for a cooperative safety program in those schools for grades 1-3. Topics covered included grain safety, anhydrous ammonia information, electricity, personal protective equipment and energy.

Rumpel Retires after 33 Years

Ray Rumpel, a lineman for Western, has retired after 33 years. Ray began working for Western in 1968 and over the years has seen many changes, including a wide array of equipment. Ray's duties included preparing staking sheets for jobs to be completed. Staking sheets are detailed plans of construction, materials, and location.

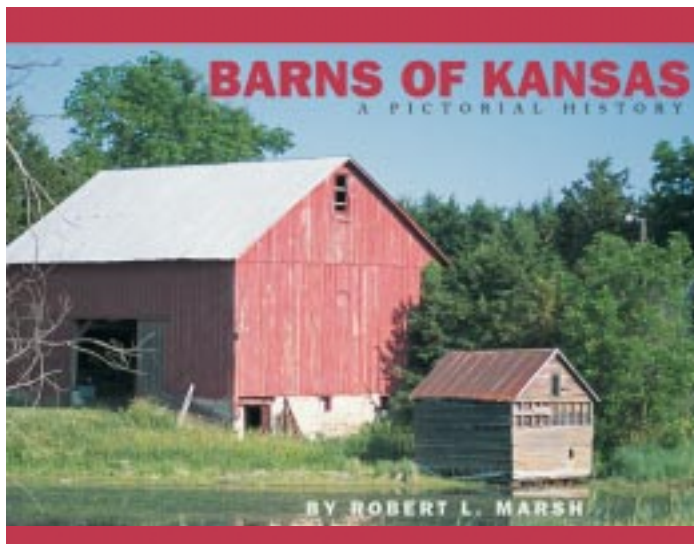
Sunflower Clears Obstacle

Though some hurdles remain, one was cleared for a \$900 million second power generating plant at Sunflower's Holcomb station. Sand Sage Power, a subsidiary of Sunflower, received its air quality construction permit for the planned 600-megawatt coal-fired plant, ending more than a year of work with the Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment and the EPA.

The permit is a first step before construction that is expected to have a \$2.5 billion impact on the area.

"Like everything, there are always hurdles you have to go across to turn over the first shovel of dirt," Sunflower spokesman Steve Miller said. "The issuance of the air permit is a huge one. Without it, nothing else can happen."

The second plant would be next to the 360-megawatt Holcomb plant that began operating in 1983. The 600-megawatt plant is expected to take about three-and-a-half years to build, and could start producing electricity in 2007.



KEC, in partnership with The Donning Company Publishers, has produced a beautiful 8 1/2" x 11" limited edition volume that features the unique and often simple elegance of rural Kansas barns, as well as including a brief history of rural electrification. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this book will benefit KEC's youth and education programs.

YES! I want to help support KEC's youth and education programs!

Price per book: \$44.02

Leather-bound books are also available at **\$86.55** each.
(prices include shipping & handling and tax)

Qty. of books: _____ @ \$ _____ ea. = Total \$ _____

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Please include payment with your order form and send it to:
Kansas Electric Cooperatives - Barn Books,
PO Box 4267, Topeka, KS 66604.

The expected release date for the book is late-November.

Kansas Trustees Earn CCD Credentials

Twenty-six trustees from among the Kansas electric co-ops recently received the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) or Board Leadership certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

The trustees were recognized in October at NRECA's Region VII meeting in Denver, CO, for their commitment to education and attainment of the certificates before an audience of more than 500 electric cooperative officials from four states, including Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming.

The CCD program requires demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in five courses: Director Duties and Liabilities, Understanding the Electric Business, Board Roles and Relationships, Business Planning, and Understanding Financial Planning. Those trustees who were recognized at the Region VII meeting include: **Ark Valley** - Paul Penner, **Butler** - Bob Nichols and Richard Pearson, **CMS** - Kirk Thompson, **DS&O** - Dean Allison and Harlow Haney, **Flint Hills** - John Roniger, **Heartland** - Ernest Troth, **Lane-Scott** - Richard Jennison, **Leavenworth-Jefferson** - Ralph Phillips, **Lyon-Coffey** - Robert Converse and George Zentner, **Prairie Land** - Keith Ross, **Rolling Hills** - C. Eric Andersen, Gary Frieling,



Glenn English, NRECA's CEO, presents certificates to Don Metzen, Ralph Phillips, Dick Jennison and Richard Pearson at the Region VII Meeting.

Duane McHenry, and Alan Shurts, **Sedgwick** - Donald Metzen, **Sumner-Cowley** - Ralph Ohl, **Victory** - Carl Hubbell and Jim Imel, and **Wheatland** - Jerome Berning, Wesley Campbell, and Patrick Riley

The NRECA Board Leadership certificate recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after receiving a CCD. Directors who have attained the Board Leadership certificate have completed 10 credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses. **Sumner-Cowley** trustees Francis Groene and Wesley Totten have completed the Board Leadership certificate.

A Board Leadership course will be offered at the KEC Annual Meeting in January 2003.

Kansas Co-ops Attend NRECA Region VII Meeting

More than 500 electric co-op officials from four states, including Kansas, convened at the Region VII Meeting to get information on competition and consumer protection in the electric utility industry. Attendees consisted of trustees and staff from 97 co-ops serving more than 1.9 million people.



(Left): The spouses attended a presentation about antique quilts. (Above): Rob Madden, NRTC, visits with Bob Hall, Don Hellwig, and H.B. Canida about AMR and SCADA. (Right): Perry Rubart moderates the general session at the Region VII meeting.