

Rural Power

Co-ops hold transformer and metering workshop

A transformer and metering workshop provided a continuing-education opportunity to employees of 17 member co-ops and three area municipals hosted by KEC.

The workshop, held in November, took place at Kaw Valley. The event helped to further workers' careers to help them stay current in the industry.

"We had an excellent turnout," said Larry Detwiler, KEC's director of loss control, safety and compliance. "Based on the evaluations it was well-received, and the information was pertinent for the job classification and experience of the participants."

The hands-on transformer workshop took place Tuesday and Wednesday, while the metering workshop was held Thursday and Friday.

"Everybody at the co-op said this was a good class to come to," Kristen Hampton, Pioneer Electric, said. She was primarily at the event for the metering, but took the transformer class, as well.

Lane-Scott brought three students to the event including lineman Mark Lewis. Lewis



Norm McDugle, OAE, talks about single-and-three-phase load calculations at the transformer workshop.

stayed the entire four days and said the instructors were excellent.

"Having linemen from across the state learning together was really great," Lewis added.

The classes covered a variety of topics including transformer connections, three-phase metering, troubleshooting, and meter

installation. The instructors were brought from cooperatives from both in- and out-of-state.

"It is great for these guys to get together and get this training, and we're happy to provide the facility," Dan O'Brien, Kaw Valley's general manager said.

Kaw Valley began providing the facility for the event in 1991.



Kendall Manners, Twin Valley, (left) and Bryce Eitzmann, Rolling Hills, work at the three-phase transformer troubleshooting board at the workshop.

KEPCo's Bob Bowser announces retirement

Dr. Bob Bowser, KEPCo's vice president of technical services, will retire Jan. 3, 2011.



Bob Bowser

When Bowser began his career as a systems analyst at KEPCo in 1979, Jimmy Carter was president, the Dow was at 907, gasoline was

\$0.86 per gallon, and a stamp cost \$0.15.

As with the economy, things at KEPCo have also changed over the years.

"I remember when I started at KEPCo, there was little technology. It was pretty much pen and paper.

We were not selling energy yet, and we didn't establish a full rate until 1983. Prior to 1984, we were time-sharing computer services with

General Electric. In 1984, I bought KEPCo's first mini-computer. And in the 1990's, we were one of the first G&T's in the country, if not the first, to install a Local Area Network and put computers on everyone's desk. This is something I am very proud of," said Bowser.

Bowser and his wife, Marilyn, will retire in Kansas City where he will teach mathematics and statistics at a local university.

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GE demonstrates electric bus of the future

The hybrid systems research team at GE Global Research announced a significant breakthrough that could help accelerate the electrification of bus fleets, delivery trucks and other larger, heavy-duty vehicle fleets. The GE team successfully demonstrated a dual battery system that pairs a high-energy density sodium battery with a high-power lithium battery. GE researchers believe a dual system with high power and energy storage capacity could achieve the optimal electric driving range and acceleration requirements at a more practical size scale and cost for larger vehicles.

GE – 12/3/10

Student filmmakers invited to share vision for the future

Texas high school and college students can compete to win cash and grants totaling \$30,000 by submitting their video about the future of energy. It's part of the TXU Energy Light Up The Red Carpet Student Film Contest in conjunction with the DALLAS Film Society. 1st place prize is \$7,500; 2nd place prize is \$5,000; and 3rd place prize is \$2,500.

DALLAS FILM SOCIETY – 12/3/10

Electric vehicles seen as key to achieving energy independence

Seven out of ten Americans say that it is important to expand the use of Electric Vehicles as a way to reduce dependence on foreign oil, according to results from the latest Market Strategies International Energy + Environment Study. However, while 70 percent agree that it is important to expand the use of EVs, fewer than half (43 percent) see themselves personally driving one in the next ten years.

MARKETING NEWS - 11/30/10

DECEMBER

- 15-16 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 17 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 24&27 **Christmas Holiday**, KEC Office Closed.

JANUARY

- 19-20 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 21 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 22 **NRECA Board Leadership Course**, 974.1: Rate Strategies for 21st Century Challenges, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka.
- 23 **NRECA Board Leadership Course**, 903.1 The Role of the Board Chair in Conducting Effective Meetings, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka.
- 24-25 **KEC Annual Meeting**, Maner Conference Centre, Topeka.

upcoming training

Trustee training offered at 2011 KEC Annual Meeting

The KEC Annual meeting will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka, on January 24 - 25, 2011

Scheduled for Sat., Jan. 22 is the Board Leadership Course **974.1: Rate Strategies for 21st Century Challenges**, facilitated by Scott Luecal. In this course, trustees will discuss the complex issues that they must balance when they consider business plans, financial policies, alternative rate philosophies and strategies. Trustees will gain an understanding of how current rates methodologies affect rising power costs and discuss the focus on energy efficiency and conservation. Attendees will use case studies to analyze and discuss issues such as equity goals, long-range revenue requirements, achieving fairness for multiple rate classes, and dealing with proposed rate increases.

The course on Sun. Jan. 23 is **903.1: The Role of the Board Chair in Conducting Effective Meetings**, facilitated by Colette Trohan. The board chair has the responsibility for organizing the meeting, creating a productive atmosphere allowing for the free exchange

of opinion, presenting the issues to be resolved, bringing the decisions to resolution, and moving the cooperative forward. This course, open to all trustees and managers, focuses on the skills necessary to run an effective meeting, with group activities to practice handling common presiding problems.

Both of these courses will count as one credit for the Board Leadership certificate. Trustees must have completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate and 10 Board Leadership credits to earn the Board Leadership certificate.

The courses scheduled for the KEC Summer Board Meeting July 30 - 31 are **945.1: Reducing Risk by Connecting with Your Members** and **902.1: Understanding the Role of the Board Chair**, both facilitated by Greg Boudreaux. In addition, Bob Patton will teach the CCD Course **2620: Board Roles and Relationships**.

There will also be a slate of courses offered during the NRECA Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL in March. Visit cooperative.com for more details.

NRECA 2011 Annual Meeting

Online meeting registration and hotel reservations for the NRECA Annual Meeting are now available on Cooperative.com. Keynote speakers for this meeting include Scott Pelley, "60 Minutes" investigative reporter, and Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack. Entertainment night features Clint Black. Both CCD and BLC courses will be offered on March 3-6. Attendees may volunteer to preserve and revitalize Camp Boggy Creek, a year-round camp for seriously ill children in co-op territory on March 5. No special skills required. Transportation and lunch will be provided.

Keith Miller elected chairman for U.S. Meat Export Federation

Keith Miller, Midwest Energy trustee from Great Bend, was recently named chairman of the U.S. Meat Export Federation executive committee (USMEF).



Keith Miller

USMEF, which has members from different sectors of agriculture, strives to develop international markets for the U.S. red meat industry. Miller has been on the USMEF executive committee for five years, and was elected as chairman for a one-year-term by the members of the organization.

"I feel that what I'm trying to do is going to help all of the electric co-ops and the rural communities in western Kansas," Miller said. "It is a real privilege."

USMEF's goal is to create new

opportunities for U.S. red meat, and to continually develop international markets as meat exports dominate the growth and prosperity of the market. Miller says that his motivation to seek becoming chairman began because he could see the benefits the position could provide for Kansas rural communities.

"We get to work with governments all around the world. It is a very influential job," Miller said.

When he was appointed, Miller says he felt excited because of the opportunity but also nervous because of the amount of people that depended on what he would be doing.

The position involves a lot of travel, and Miller said he wants to do the best he can to deliver expectations of increasing Kansas' role in the meat industry.

Miller has been on Midwest Energy's board for 18 years and is currently the secretary.

congrats

Tony Haas joins Dreyer & Kelso

Tony Haas, former USDA Rural Development's Kansas field accountant, has joined Dreyer & Kelso on a part-time basis.

Haas has a wealth of knowledge from his 42 years of experience with RUS as a field accountant in the state. He will be primarily assisting with the fieldwork portion of audit engagements on the electric cooperatives.

Shawn Geil joins KEPCo

Shawn Geil has been hired as the new director of information services. Geil is replacing the soon-to-be retiring Bob Bowser.

Geil attended Washburn University where he earned both a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Administration in Computer Information Systems. Geil will also be completing his MBA from Washburn this December.

Prior to joining KEPCo, Geil worked for 14 years in Washburn University's IT Department. Geil and his wife, Robin, have a daughter.

Heartland selects Weimer as IT manager

Heartland has named Justin Weimer to the newly-created position of information technology manager. Weimer will head up the planning and implementation of new technology solutions and keep existing technology operating efficiently.

A graduate of Pittsburg State University with a degree in computer science, Weimer joined Heartland in May of 2009 as Operations Specialist.

insympathy

Robert Reedy

Robert D. Reedy, 84, former Twin Valley director, died on Nov. 20.

He served 19 years as a board member of Twin Valley, was a member of the Richland Grange, and was a 4-H leader for several years.

Memorials are suggested to Edna Fire Department First Responders and may be left at or mailed to David W. Barnes Funeral Home, 306 North Cline Road, Coffeyville, 67337.

Trustees earn credentials

Today's electric utility environment imposes new demands on electric cooperative trustees, and KEC applauds those who have shown their commitment to earn their credentials in 2010.

The Credentialed Cooperative Director program requires demonstrated understanding of basic competencies. Earning the CCD were: Carl Johnson, Caney Valley; Patrick Johnson, Heartland; Mark Wulfkuhle, Kaw Valley; Ed Gough, Craig Ramsey, and Bruce Wilkens, Lane-Scott; Ed Pratt, Midwest Energy; James Bell, Pioneer; Donald Solko, Prairie Land; David Engelman, Radiant; Charles Luetters, Western; and Vic Case, Wheatland.

The Board Leadership certificate recognizes individuals who continue their professional development. Earning this designation were: Bob Hall and Paul Penner, Ark Valley; Robert Lynch, Kaw Valley; Craig Ramsey and Richard Sorem, Lane-Scott; Jeanine Murphy, LJEC; Ralph Stoddard, Pioneer; Donald Solko, Prairie Land; Eddie Crittenden, Sumner-Cowley; Ronald McNickle, Twin Valley; Carl Hubbell, Milam Jones, Daryl Tieben and Kenny Wehkamp, Victory; Richard Schaus, Western; Woody Barnes and Dave Lowe, Wheatland.

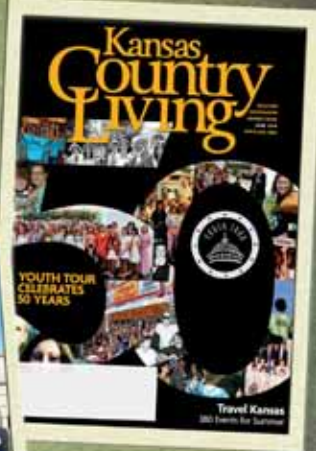
Twin Valley takes top honors



Twin Valley's parade entry won first prize at the Parsons Chamber of Commerce annual Christmas Parade float contest. Award winners were chosen from 75 entries that participated in the parade on Dec. 2. Lineman Adam Myers dressed as an elf and climbed the "utility" pole, while other employees distributed candy, rode on the float, or rode in the bucket trucks.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

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