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Kansas Electric Cooperatives Annual Meeting

More than 200 electric cooperative trustees, managers and key staff attended the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., 66th Annual Meeting on January 28-29, 2008, at the Maner Conference Centre in Topeka.

Two board leadership courses were offered prior to the annual meeting. Ronald Matlock

and John Sturm facilitated *Advanced Energy Risk Management for Directors Making Power-Supply Decisions*. Mike Core facilitated *Understanding the New World of Power Supply*. The Saturday workshop attendees also heard from Sen. Pat Roberts, who stopped by the meeting and addressed those in attendance, thanking them for the NRECA Distinguished Service Award.

Max Lowrey, KEC President, convened the first general session during which KEC's Carol Dorr led a memorial service to remember those in the electric co-op program who had died in 2007.

Guest speakers for the meeting included Congressman Jerry Moran, who gave a state and congressional update. He stated that the electric cooperatives made more news this past year, starting with the ice storm in 2006. He thanked the employees for their commitment during the restoration efforts.

Ron Thornburgh, Kansas Secretary of State, discussed the national political campaigns and what Americans can expect over the next several months, predicting "tremendous voter fatigue" and low voter turn out. He delivered a message focused on opportunity, illustrating the need for change in government



Sen. Roberts (left) and Congressman Moran spoke to the cooperative representatives at the KEC Annual Meeting.



by reciting a letter written by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rep. Dennis McKinney, House Minority Leader, discussed the impact of the tornado that wiped out the town of Greensburg in May, 2007. Paul Unruh, Ninescah, spoke about his experience of living through and rebuilding after the F-5 tornado. Randy

Magnison, Southern Pioneer Electric Company, talked about the process of rebuilding a distribution system following the storm.

The group visited the KEC Expo and its 41 exhibitors. New this year were two Expo breakout sessions – Dan Otteson, Cooperative Response Center, discussed how recent weather events affected CRC's call-handling in Kansas; and Dan Lockman, Apogee Interactive, explained the latest web-based energy conservation tools that are available for cooperative websites.

Nola Ochs, "The Worlds Oldest College Graduate", gave an inspiring presentation on what motivated her to pursue her college degree at age 95.

Following lunch, Doug Jackson, KCRE/ACRE Chairman, facilitated the KCRE/ACRE Annual Meeting and recognized the systems that have 100% participation.

Marilyn Hurst, KEC Vice President, presided over the second general session. Kansas Corporation Commission Chairman, Thomas Wright, reported that KCC dockets that are online are now searchable by key word, and that a nuclear roundtable discussion has been scheduled for Feb. 29. KEC's Shana Holsteen gave a presentation on Touchstone Energy's

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In Brief

Wind Working Group Proposes Wichita As Wind Power Hub

Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson is laying out an ambitious agenda for Kansas to export thousands of megawatts of wind power to southeastern states and make Wichita a center for manufacturing windmills. "I think this is a perfect place for wind turbine manufacturing," he said. "If you can build airplanes, you can build turbines."

Parkinson outlined his proposals last month to the state Wind Working Group, a commission made up of about 40 government and utility officials and alternative-energy advocates. Gov. Sebelius appointed the group to work through the details of implementing her goal of getting 10 percent of the state's power from renewable sources by 2010 and 20 percent by 2020.

Wichita Eagle - 1/22/08

Europe May Raise Emissions Costs

Europe is proposing hitting industry with tougher caps on greenhouse-gas emissions, intensifying talk of a global environmental trade fight. A big change is that European governments would start charging companies for pollution permits that so far they have handed out mostly free. Analysts say the proposals would significantly raise the cost of coal-fired electricity.

If the proposals are adopted, they wouldn't take effect until 2013, and even then European industry is likely to fight them unless the world's other major emitters put constraints on their industries too. The U.S. and China so far have declined to mandate emission cuts.

Wall Street Journal - 1/23/08

MO Ethanol Mandate Kicks In Quietly

Although many pumps don't proclaim it, almost all the gasoline sold in Missouri has contained a 10 percent ethanol blend for at least the past several months.

The law makes Missouri the third state - behind Minnesota and Hawaii - to implement a wide-ranging ethanol mandate. Because ethanol is cheaper than gasoline, most of Missouri's gas stations quietly made the switch months in advance.

Topeka Capital-Journal - 12/31/07

Cooperative Calendar

February	12-14	Underground Overhead Metering School, Garden City.
	15	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	24-27	NRECA Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA.
	28	MDM Meeting, KEC Office, Topeka, 10 a.m.
March	5-6	KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Holiday Inn, Salina.
April	25	Kansas Line Superintendents Meeting, Salina.
	30-5/1	KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Dodge City.
May	6-8	Supervisor's Conference, Topeka.

NRECA Annual Meeting Scheduled for Anaheim

More than 10,000 key staff and locally-elected directors from the nation's cooperative electric utilities are expected in Anaheim, February 20-27, to set NRECA's policy agenda for the year.

Representing Kansas on the NRECA Youth Leadership Council (YLC) is Abbey Bannister. Sponsored by Sumner-Cowley and KEC, Bannister will join high school students from 44 other states in assisting with NRECA's annual meeting.

Bannister will work at the NRECA Congressional Action Center to encourage cooperative members to contact their Senators and U.S. Representatives on key co-op issues, and she will provide assistance to NRECA staff and participate in educational forums.

The YLC is a central part of the opening general session ceremony, which will showcase Bannister carrying the Kansas state flag to the stage during the Parade of States.

"I can't wait to go and serve my national cooperative. It's something so small in comparison to the opportunities they have provided me," Bannister said. "I have always wanted to travel to California. What better way than to go with an amazing cooperative and its staff."

The Youth Leadership Council is an extension of the "Government in Action" Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, a group of nearly 1,500 high school students who are sponsored jointly by NRECA, local electric cooperatives and state-wide associations in 45 states.

The theme of the 2008 NRECA Annual Meeting is "Striking the Right Balance."

The TechAdvantage 2008 Expo, NRECA's successful trade show, opens Fri., Feb. 22.

On Mon., Feb. 25, NRECA will present Rep. Earl Pomeroy (ND) and Sen. Craig Thomas (WY, posthumously) distinguished service awards. In addition, NRECA CEO

Glenn English will deliver his report to the membership, and Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, chair of the American Red Cross, will deliver the keynote address.

On Tues., Feb. 26, former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich will address the Cooperative Finance Corporation. On Wed., Feb. 27, Cokie Roberts, news analyst for ABC and National Public Radio, offers the keynote address at the closing session.

For more information about the NRECA annual meeting, visit cooperative.com.



Shannon Deip Photography

Abbey Bannister, sponsored by Sumner-Cowley, is the 2008 Kansas Representative to the NRECA Youth Leadership Council. She will carry the Kansas state flag during the Parade of States at the NRECA Annual Meeting opening session.

Rolling Hills' Dale Weinhold to Retire After 39 Years

"When I realized that I was cutting my finger on the edge of my door key, wore to a very sharp edge by years of use, I decided it was time to move on," said Dale Weinhold, Rolling Hills' director of member services, who will retire on Feb. 29.

Weinhold began his career working for Smoky Hill Electric Cooperative, now Rolling Hills Electric, as a lineman in 1968 and was promoted to journeyman lineman in 1971. Soon after, he transferred into the electrician department where he served as an apprentice electrician position from 1973-74 and was promoted to lead electrician in 1975. Weinhold remained lead electrician until he was moved into the Director of Member Services position in 1984.

"Back then, I was looking for more responsibility and the job in Member Services appealed to me," Weinhold said. "Over the years I've really enjoyed Member Services. It really allowed me to have more one-on-one time with our

members."

Over the nearly four decades he has served the cooperative, Weinhold has experienced many changes in the industry.

He has seen the electric rates rise and fall, energy shortages, the introduction of electronic metering and many natural disasters. The December 2007 ice storm brought back memories for

Weinhold. His curiosity was triggered, he looked back into the Board minutes of 1973 to make comparisons between the storms.

"In 1973, our Board was worried about how we were going to pay for the \$150,000 – \$200,000 in damages from the storm. The costs were almost completely covered by the cooperative, because we didn't have FEMA back then," Weinhold said. "Although the storms were almost identical in terms of damage, the 2007 storm will be at least seven times more expensive. After seeing those numbers, it really is amazing that our rates have not risen more than they have.

It certainly speaks well for the cooperative."

The most important change, according to Weinhold, has been in the technology used to perform the cooperative's business.

"When I first began working for the cooperative, we didn't know what a bucket truck was," Weinhold said. "We had to climb each pole. You went up very carefully beating off the ice with your trusty 12-inch crescent wrench as you went, all the way praying the pole didn't break. Now we have bucket trucks. Technology has certainly made our jobs easier."

Weinhold and his wife, Peggy, grew up in the Ellsworth area and wanted to raise their family in the community. He said that the electric cooperative provided him a great job and a stable environment for the past 39 years.

"I feel good about what I've done with the cooperative over the years. I have no regrets," he said. "I appreciate the opportunities and training I've received. Overall, I've really enjoyed my years at the cooperative."

After retirement, Weinhold plans to visit his son in Chicago and his daughter in Tucson, AZ, regularly. He said that immediately after retirement, he is looking forward to "not doing anything for awhile".



Dale Weinhold judging 4-H projects at the State Fair.

Midwest Energy and Sunflower Sign Contracts from Second Phase of Smoky Hills Wind Project

Both Midwest Energy and Sunflower have announced that they have signed contracts for the purchase of 24 MW each of energy generated by wind turbines at the second phase of the Smoky Hills Wind Project.

Midwest had previously purchased 25 MW and Sunflower had previously purchased 50.4 MW from the first phase of the wind project.

The new contracts between the electric cooperatives and a subsidiary of TradeWind Energy is a 20-year renewable energy purchase agreement. Construction should be completed prior to the end of 2008.

TradeWind Energy is developing Smoky Hills



New technology stands by old at the Smoky Hills wind farm.

II with an agreement to sell it to Enel North America, Inc. Enel purchased the first phase of the wind project from TradeWind in early 2007 and is now completing construction of the 100.8 MW project.

Upon completion, customers of Sunflower's member cooperatives will receive wind energy equal to 13 percent of the company's peak demand. This exceeds Sunflower's voluntary commitment to have at least 10 percent of their peak demand from wind resources by 2010.

Smoky Hills, Kansas' third wind farm, is located 25 miles west of Salina, just north of Interstate 70 between Ellsworth and Lincoln.

KEC Annual Meeting Highlights, *continued*

online tools that are focused on energy efficiency. Edward Torrero, NRECA, gave an overview of the programs available through the Cooperative Research Network.

Dave Holthaus, KEC; Larry Berg, Midwest Energy; Steve Miller, Sunflower; and Phil Wages, KEPCo; closed out the session with a legislative update.

In the third general session convened by Joe Conley, KEC Secretary, the attendees participated in a roundtable discussion in which they shared information on cooperative issues.

KEC's Loss Control, Safety and Compliance department recognized cooperatives that earned *No Lost Time Accident* awards and National Safety Accreditation certificates. A special presentation was also made to recognize the efforts of the Kansas Department of Emergency Management Electric Utility Team. Phil Irwin, Federated, reported on the company's activities of 2007, and presented *No Lost Time* awards.

Leslie Kaufman, Kansas Cooperative Council, presented the Cooperative Month Award to Butler, and an honorable mention to Pioneer. Reports were also heard from NRECA and KEC Auxiliary.

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 \$3,301. The KEC Auxiliary raffle and silent auc-

tion raised \$1,158 for KEC's youth programs. The winner of the hall tree raffle – donated by John Roniger, Flint Hills – was Paul Unruh, Ninnescah. The winner of the quilt auction – donated by Carolyn McNickle, Twin Valley – was Kevin Compton, Brown-Atchison.



Clockwise from top: The 2008 KEC officers: Joe Conley, president; Keith Ross, vice president; John Blackwell, secretary; and Ralph Phillips, treasurer. Max Lowrey (left) receives a meter lamp for his service to the board from Stuart Lowry. Paul Unruh wins the hall tree raffle. Nola Ochs tells about her experiences as the oldest college graduate.



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