

RURAL POWER

Electronic Edition



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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Rural Power is published bi-weekly on Fridays. This electronic version is provided to you as a service of KEC. If you would like to receive this publication in electronic format or discontinue it, please e-mail sholsteen@kec.org.

Vol. LIII, No. 3

Cooperatives: United We Stand

February 14, 2003

What's Inside?

Calendar p. 2

Co-op News p. 3

KEC Annual Meeting Update p. 4-5

Touchstone Energy p. 6

Sunflower Electric Wind Farm To Be Built

Sunflower Electric Power Corporation and Renewable Energy Systems (RES), an international wind farm developer, announced on Feb. 4, 2003, the construction of the Sunflower Electric Wind Farm that will be built in Wichita County, near Leoti, KS.

Sunflower will purchase the first 30 MW of the wind-generated energy produced by the project that has been designed to produce up to 100 MW as additional customers join the project. The first phase of construction is scheduled for completion by the end of 2003, but is subject to the approval of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC).

Central Plains Power, LLC, a subsidiary of RES North America, LLC, RES's U.S. development arm, working closely with the Wichita County Economic Development, Inc. (WCED), will build the facility. The project is expected to have a workforce of approximately 100 to 150 construction jobs, and as many as 10 permanent jobs.

Sharla Krenzel, Director of the WCED said, "We're very thankful for the cooperation between RES North America and Sunflower, and we're quite excited about the economic impact this project will bring."

Tom Fair, Development Director for RES North America said, "We couldn't be more pleased with Sunflower's commitment to renewable energy and with the strong support of the community for this project."

When fully developed, the wind farm will be comprised of between 60 and 75 wind turbines mounted atop tubular steel towers over 200 feet in height with blades 30 to 50 ft long, laid out in rows on a 6,000 acre project site. The site, located in eastern Wichita County, is entirely cultivated farmland.

Steve Miller, Sunflower's External Affairs, explained that the individual turbines that will be used are the very latest models available on the market.

"They will have a rated output of more than twice that of the Montezuma units on a turbine for turbine basis," Miller said. "These units will be in the range of 1.5 to 1.8 MW each vs. 660kW at Montezuma. However, physically the new turbines are not proportionately much larger."

Miller stated that the advantage of the bigger units is that more energy is generated from each unit, so less units are needed.

"Sunflower is very pleased to be able to include this renewable energy supply in its portfolio of generation assets," said Sunflower's President and CEO, Chris Hauck. "This long-term 30 MW renewable energy purchase is a significant commitment because it amounts to approximately ten percent of our average member system requirement."

Hauck continued, "We are honored that the wind farm has been named to reflect our position as host utility and because we expect it will be operated to the same high standards we demand of ourselves."



Have an idea or a story for Rural Power?

Call (785) 478-4554

Fax (785) 478-4852

or Email

sholsteen@kec.org

Cooperative Calendar

February	20	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo, Topeka, 8:30 a.m.
	21	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	26-3/5	NRECA Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN.
	27-3/3	TechAdvantage Conference & Expo, Nashville, TN.
March	12	KEC Standing Committees, 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.
	21	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
April	15-16	Energy Everywhere 2003 in Scottsdale, AZ.
	17	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headqtrs, Topeka, 8:30 a.m.
	18	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	24	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10:00 a.m.
	30	KEC Standing Committee Meetings Holiday Inn, Great Bend
May	1	KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Holiday Inn, Great Bend, 8:30 a.m.
	1	KEC Women's Executive Committee, Holiday Inn, Great Bend 8:30 a.m.
	3	ElectroRally Race, Dodge City.
	4-5	NRECA's National Orientation for New Communicators, Arlington, VA.
	5-9	NRECA's Human Resource/Benefit Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC.
	15	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, Holcomb Plant, Holcomb
	16	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	21-23	KEC Marketing Conference, Holiday Inn Select, Wichita.
22	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10:00 a.m.	

Marketing, Member Services & Communication Conference

Looking for cutting-edge solutions for your toughest challenges? Don't miss NRECA's MMS&C Conference, July 13-16, 2003, in Reno, Nevada. The Marketing, Member Services and Communication Conference attracts more than 500 marketing, key accounts, member services and communication professionals at electric cooperatives nationwide.

Find strategies to help you exceed member expectations, practical steps to cope with a changing marketplace and innovative techniques to effectively manage your key commercial and industrial customers.

Attend to learn about solid marketing and communication tools and methods from top professionals, to take away information that enables you to produce better results for your cooperative, and to build a peer network you can use long after the conference - giving you a big return on your investment.

Save the Date!

The KEC Marketing Conference will be held May 21-23 in Wichita, KS!

This conference is designed for managers, member services managers, and co-op employees.

KCCED holds 15th Annual Statewide Conference *Economic Development in Hard Times: Keeping Communities Strong*

The Kansas Center for Community and Economic Development (KCCED), a partnership of the Kansas Center for Rural Initiatives at Kansas State University and the Institute for Public Policy and Business Research at the University of Kansas will hold its 15th Annual Statewide Conference on April 9-10 in Hutchinson, Kansas.

People interested in community and economic development issues are invited to learn about the resources that are available to Kansas

Upcoming Workshops

41st Rural Energy Conference

The Midwest Rural Energy Council is co-sponsoring the 41st Annual Rural Energy Conference & Seminar in St. Paul, MN from March 5-7, 2003. For more information, visit www.mrec.org.

Energy Everywhere Conference

How electric power is being generated and delivered continues to change as new technologies enter the marketplace and new rules affecting utilities are developed on the state and federal level. Renewable energy is becoming more important in the utility business as technologies mature and demand rises.

Energy Everywhere 2003 in Scottsdale, AZ, April 15-16, 2003 is designed to give co-ops up-to-date information on business opportunities and technology development, with an emphasis on green power and propane. The conference is hosted by Energy Co-Opportunity (ECO), the national organization formed by electric cooperatives to help open access to new distributed generation technologies and alternative fuels.

For more information, go to www.eco.coop or contact Bob Gibson at (703) 709-6875.

communities. The Rural Resource Expo will attract 200 local and state leaders interested in building partnerships among these communities. This is an opportunity for participating organizations to publicize services, announce new programs or projects, and communicate with leaders from across Kansas.

To attend or participate as an exhibitor, contact Carol Gould at (785) 532-6868 or Aaron Handke at (785) 532-6896.

News from Kansas Cooperatives

Dale Short Becomes Director

Butler REC's General Manager, Dale Short, became a director on the Kansas Co-op Board last fall.

"I grew up on a farm near Danville so co-ops have always been a part of my life,"

Dale said. "I have come to realize just how much of a family all types of cooperatives really are, and how much benefit they bring to their members who might otherwise be underserved."



Dale Short

Midwest Energy Names CEO

Earnie Lehman has joined Midwest Energy, Hays, as vice president and chief operating officer. Lehman, a native of Pennsylvania, obtained his first utility experience as an economist at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Dave Holthaus, KEC's Manager of Government Relations, has known Lehman for the past 11 years.

"It was always reassuring to have him testifying on our behalf, because Earnie is knowledgeable, believable and entertaining," Holthaus said. "It's great to have him back in Kansas as a cooperative supporter."

Bluestem Trustee Elections Held

Dean Blanka was elected President; Bob Ohlde was elected Vice-President; Bruce Meyer was elected Secretary; and Harlan Sump was elected Treasurer.

Glenn Czirr went off the BEC board at the end of December 2002 as a part of the board downsizing related to consolidation. The BEC board is now at its final number of eleven.

As of January 20, 2003, the Bluestem Electric KEC Trustee is Delbert Eichman, and the Alternate Trustee is Kenneth Maginley.

In Sympathy

Mildred Murphy, mother of Twin Valley's interim manager Lester Murphy, passed away on January 20, at the age of 86. Services were held at First Christian Church in Grove, OK. Condolences may be sent to Lester and Anita Murphy, 8600 SW K 4 Highway, Topeka, KS 66614.

Résumés Received

KEC has received résumés from individuals seeking jobs. For more information on the following, please contact Leilani Todd at KEC.

Electrical Engineer position wanted. Knowledgeable of substation equipment of all types, generation, and some distribution. Have used Milsoft and Light Table for short circuit/fault and co-ordination studies. Very good at installation, startup, testing, and troubleshooting.

Management / Staff Assistant position wanted. Individual has 24 years of REC experience, including member service and material management. Has had experience with all aspects of the cooperative, as well as supervisory experience.

KEC Members' Annual Meetings

February	27	Brown-Atchison, Co-op Headquarters, Dinner at 11 a.m., Meeting at 12:45 p.m.
March	11	Nemaha-Marshall – Lunch at 11:30 a.m., Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Axtell American Legion, Axtell.
	20	Butler – Dinner at 5:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Andover Central High School, Andover.
	20	Doniphan – Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Midway High School, Denton.
	25	Flint Hills - Meeting at 5:30 p.m. at Centre High School, Lost Springs.
	25	Heartland – Dinner at 7:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:45 p.m. at Jayhawk-Linn High School, Mound City.
April	1	Ark Valley – Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting following dinner at Hutchinson Memorial Hall, Hutchinson.
	2	Wheatland – Dinner at 11:30 a.m., Meeting at 12:30 p.m., at Syracuse 4-H Building, Syracuse.
	3	Lyon-Coffey – Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Burlington High School, Burlington.
	4	CMS - Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at South Central Middle School, Protection.
	8	Bluestem - Meeting at 7:30 p.m., Rock Creek Jr/Sr High School, St. George
	8	Prairie Land – Dinner at 12:00 p.m., Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Co-op Headquarters, 1101 West Highway 36, Norton.
	10	Sedgwick County – Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Cotillion Hall, Wichita.
	12	Sumner-Cowley – Dinner at 11:30 p.m., Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Wellington Senior High School, 605 North A Street, Wellington.
	15	Victory – Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Knights of Columbus Hall, 800 W. Frontview, Dodge City.
	25	Twin Valley – Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Harrison Auditorium, Labette County High School, Altamont.
May	6	Caney Valley – Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Chautauqua County Fairgrounds, Sedan.
	14	Western – Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Cooperative Office, 635 S. 13th St., WaKeeney.
July	15	Lane-Scott – Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Lane County Fair Grounds, Dighton.
September	10	Leavenworth-Jefferson – Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

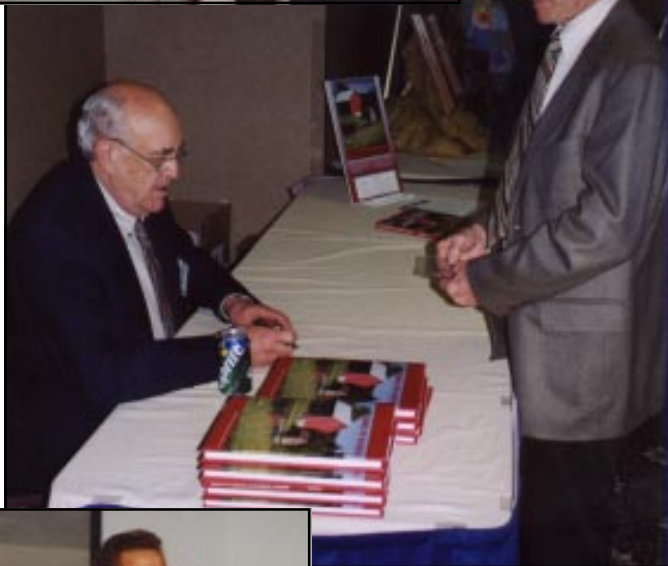
KEC Holds 61st Annual Meeting



The KEC 61st Annual Meeting was held Jan. 27-29, 2003, at the Capitol Plaza in Topeka, KS.

Glimpses of the KEC Annual Meeting

(Clockwise from upper left): Bryan Singletary facilitates the Board Leadership Course prior to the Annual Meeting; Dale Short and Sarah Madden of Butler REC pose with their awards for promoting Co-op Month; many of the meeting attendees and spouses participated in the excursion to the "Czars: 400 Years of Imperial Grandeur" exhibit; Barry Hart, KEC Executive Vice President, speaks to the membership; author Robert Marsh autographed the Barns of Kansas: A Pictorial History book during the meeting; KEC Trustees and managers visit with legislators at the reception held in their honor (l to r): Allan Miller, Rep. John Faber, Gilbert Berland, and Keith Ross.



Cooperatives: United We Stand

The Annual Meeting of Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., was held on January 28-29, 2003, at the Maner Conference Centre in Topeka, Kansas. There were approximately 250 registered for the meeting.

Prior to convening the annual meeting, the NRECA board leadership course entitled "Tomorrow's High-Tech Co-op Utility" was made available to the trustees. The instructor for the seminar was Brian Singletary.

Throughout the meeting, members heard from a variety of guest speakers who gave presentations under the meeting's theme, "Cooperatives: United We Stand." Dave Kerr, President of the Kansas Senate, spoke to the membership on legislative issues and the budget crisis facing the state. Larry Watkins, executive vice president and general manager of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives, spoke on the importance of the cooperative effort and on the strength of rural Americans. The membership heard from a panel of three employees from Missouri cooperatives regarding fiber optics as a diversification strategy. Colin Hansen, executive director of Kansas Municipal Utilities, highlighted projects where the electric cooperatives and the KMU membership were able to work together for the betterment of both entities.

The membership also heard reports from representatives among KEC and affiliated organizations. Phil Irwin, senior vice president, finance,

and CFO of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, addressed the membership on Federated's financial statistics and operating ratios. Chuck Banks, State Director of USDA Rural Development, talked about the cooperatives' participation in the



Barry Hart accepts an award from Rose Middleton of Federated.

rural economic development loan and grant program. Earl Steffens, General Manager of Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, discussed the creation of High Line Services and the need for line construction services that

necessitated the creation of the subsidiary business. Stuart Lowry, KEC Corporate Counsel, made a presentation on Senate Bill 480 and the legislative changes to the Retail Electric Suppliers Act in the state of Kansas. The National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative update was made by Rob Madden and William Johnson who spoke on the growth of NRTC membership, the financial condition of NRTC, new product offerings, and NRTC's efforts in connection with the DirecTV-EchoStar merger.

Entertainment speakers were also on the schedule. The luncheon speaker was Larry Hatteberg, a Wichita reporter from KAKE TV, who spoke on his travels across Kansas and the interesting individuals he

had encountered in those travels. Bob Marsh, author of Barns of Kansas, a Pictorial History, showed slides to the membership and autographed copies of the book.

KEC's member cooperatives and Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange sponsored the successful legislative reception for Kansas elected officials, KEC trustees and managers. Other sponsors for the annual meeting included TransWorld Network, NRTC, and Double LL Distributing.

Awards were given by the KEC Loss Control, Safety and Compliance Department for No Lost-Time to the following cooperatives: Ark Valley, Doniphan, Flint Hills, KEPCo, Kaw Valley, Lane-Scott, Rolling Hills, Sedgwick County, Victory, and Western. Brown-Atchison, CMS, and Kaw Valley received National Safety Accreditation certificates for 2002.

The election of KEC officers for 2003 was held during the Board of Trustees Meeting following the annual meeting. The following officers were elected: President, Donald Schultz; Vice President, John Peterson; Secretary, Max Lowrey; and Treasurer, Marilyn Hurst.

The Capitol Plaza Hotel was designated as the location for the 2004 KEC Annual Meeting.



The Womens' Executive Committee heard from guest speaker Helen Norris (second from left), the Chair of the Kansas Farm Bureau Women, who spoke of her work with women while touring in the Ukraine and Belarus.

KEC Annual Meeting Auction Results

The fundraising efforts of the Women's Executive Committee's (WEC) were greatly enhanced by the contributions from Flint Hills Board President John Roniger. Funds raised by the committee help to support the KEC Youth Tours.

This year, Roniger hand crafted and donated a solid-ash wood chest. It brought \$483 and was won by Cheryl Poe, an employee at Alfalfa Electric. The WEC also created a flower garden quilt to help raise funds for the youth tours. The quilt raised \$293 and was won by Ginger Roberts of Heartland Electric. In past years, Roniger donated hand-crafted items including a gun cabinet and a cedar chest. The committee also collected \$726

through its silent auction of craft items, bringing the total of \$1,502.

The Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) raised \$1,918.00 in the silent auction. The money will be used to promote the rural electric cooperatives through involvement in the political process in Kansas.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the WEC fund-raising events such a success.



Womens' Executive Committee Chairman Rosa Norwood (right) presents the hand-made quilt to raffle winner Ginger Roberts of Heartland Electric.

A Message from the Family of Eldon Johnson

Dear Friends of Kansas REC's:

We want to take this opportunity to say thank you for the outpouring of prayer and support from so many of you at Eldon's death and funeral. The REC program was very important to Eldon and he enjoyed being a part of it.

Thank you for the many messages of comfort as well as flowers and memorials. The Rural Electric community has made us part of their family and we are most grateful for those friends.

May God bless you all with His peace, joy and love.

The family of Eldon Johnson

New Television and Radio Ads

Touchstone Energy has created two new TV and radio spots. A "lineman" spot will highlight the responsiveness and reliability of local co-ops through the experience of a line worker. A "teacher" spot will focus on local co-ops' commitment to their communities. The ads will be produced in early February and will be unveiled on March 5, in Nashville.

Co-ops Help Community Schools

Electric co-ops eager to assist area schools with teaching about electricity and electric cooperatives are taking advantage of a new Touchstone Energy program. Through a partnership between Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and Discovery Channel School, co-ops have embarked on a campaign to ensure that middle and junior high school students in their communities receive a quality education on electricity and its importance in



today's world. Through this community outreach program called *Get Charged! Electricity and You*, Touchstone Energy co-ops provide middle schools with a kit of educational materials focusing on electricity, a component of the National Science Education Standards.

4th Annual NET Conference

The fourth annual Touchstone Energy New & Emerging Technologies Conference, an event that provides a venue for interaction and networking about new technologies and services, was held Jan. 15-17. The NET Conference featured experts in areas such as distributed generation, energy management solutions, energy supply side trends and technologies, system and cyber security, and strategic energy planning. KEC's Barry Hart gave a key account presentation at the conference that highlighted the electric cooperative dairy industry effort in western Kansas.