

## What's Inside?

Calendar .....p. 2

NRECA plans annual meeting.....p. 2

KEC Annual Meeting highlights .....p. 3

Harold Dowell retires from Rolling Hills board.....p. 4

## Have an idea or a story for Rural Power?

Call  
(785) 478-4554

Fax  
(785) 478-4852

or Email  
[ruralpower@kec.org](mailto:ruralpower@kec.org)



## Kansas line crews assist with Arkansas ice storm

Nearly 100 volunteer linemen and dozens of trucks from 20 Kansas electric cooperatives traveled to Arkansas to assist in recovery efforts from a winter storm that swept across the southern Plains last week.

Cooperative crews from Ark Valley, Bluestem, Butler, Caney Valley, CMS, DS&O, Flint Hills, Heartland, Kaw Valley, Lane-Scott, LJEC, Lyon-Coffey, Midwest Energy, Nemaha-Marshall, Ninnescah, Radiant, Rolling Hills, Sedgwick County, Twin Valley, and Victory, left last week to help restore power.

The Kansas crews will assist Carroll Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Berryville, Arkansas. This electric cooperative estimated they had tens of thousands of outages caused by the ice storm. Forty-eight counties throughout northern and central Arkansas have been declared to be in a state of emergency and therefore are eligible for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“Our crews will need to clear fallen trees and utility poles that snapped from the weight of the ice before power lines can be restrung,” said Stacey Marston, loss control, safety and compliance



Snapped utility poles, fallen trees, and downed lines make the storm recovery efforts challenging for the line crews in Arkansas.

instructor for KEC.

As the crews continue to work, more damage has been found and thousands of members continue to be without power. A second wave of Kansas linemen may be scheduled to replace the volunteers currently working in Arkansas.

Electric cooperatives have a long tradition of offering assistance to neighboring systems and to other states in times of crisis.

“Following our recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina, our linemen earned the nickname of the Kansas Cavalry Cowboys,”

Marston explained. “The dedication of these linemen is tremendous.”

Carroll Electric continues to post outage information and photos at [www.carrollecc.com](http://www.carrollecc.com).



Ice coats one of Carroll Electric's substations.

## In Brief

### Sunflower coal plant hearing set

A federal judge sets a hearing over whether to dismiss a lawsuit filed against the state over a decision not to allow two coal-fired plants in western Kansas.

U.S. District Judge Eric Melgren will hear oral arguments Feb. 5 on the state's motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed by Sunflower. The attorney general's office argues the federal court lacks jurisdiction because an appeal is pending before the Department of Administration's Office of Administrative Hearings. The Kansas Supreme Court has postponed its case until the department's administrative ruling.

Sunflower contends it is not asking the federal court to enjoin the state proceeding or make any ruling on Kansas law.

*Hays Daily News – 1/22/09*

### Key Kansas legislators want transmission lines built now

Key legislators said they want electric transmission lines built in Kansas. Now.

The House Energy and Utilities Committee considered several bills aimed at accelerating decisions on transmission lines, and granting a state authority the ability to charge ratepayers to build its own lines.

Committee chairman Rep. Carl Holmes said Oklahoma was moving faster in getting lines built, which would take away from building lines in Kansas that are needed to spur more wind development.

*Lawrence Journal – 1/20/09*

### EPRI evaluates adding solar thermal energy to coal plants

EPRI has launched the second of two projects to help electric power companies add solar energy to fossil-fueled electric power plants, reducing fuel costs and plant emissions. Tri-State G&T, Progress Energy and Southern Co. are participating in the project. Both this project and a parallel study launched in October 2008 at natural gas-fueled facilities involve adding steam generated by a solar thermal field to a conventional fossil-fuel-powered steam cycle to offset some of the fuel required to generate electric power.

*Solar Industry – 1/30/09*

## Cooperative Calendar

February	16-18	NRECA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana.
	20	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	26	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
March	4-5	KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Holiday Inn, Salina.
	18-19	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
	20	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	25-27	KMSDA Meeting, Hotel Old Town, Wichita.
	26	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
April	15-16	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
	17	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	23	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
	29-30	KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Wichita.

## NRECA Annual Meeting set for New Orleans

Thousands of cooperative leaders are expected in New Orleans, February 16-18, to set NRECA's policy agenda for the year at NRECA's 67th Annual Meeting.

Representing Kansas on the NRECA Youth

Leadership Council (YLC) is Jacob Wagner. Sponsored by DS&O and KEC, Wagner will join high school students from 44 other states in assisting with NRECA's annual meeting. He 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 he 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 Wagner carrying the

### Women's agriculture conference

The 2009 Women Managing the Farm Conference has been scheduled Feb. 12-14 at the Grand Prairie Hotel and Convention Center in Hutchinson.

The annual conference, sponsored in part by KEC, provides opportunities for women to network with others who have similar interests and challenges. For more information, visit [www.womenmanagingthefarm.info](http://www.womenmanagingthefarm.info) or call 1-866-327-6578.



*Jacob Wagner*

Kansas state flag to the stage during the Parade of States.

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 statewide associations in 45 states.

The theme of the 2009 NRECA Annual Meeting, "Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue with America," is taken from the cooperatives' campaign to ask their elected officials what they are doing to ensure that consumers have access to reliable and affordable electricity.

The political landscape will be the focus of the meeting's opening session, as NRECA CEO Glenn English outlines the many challenges facing co-ops. The political environment will also be discussed at the ACRE breakfast meeting.

Additionally, a series of forums will present participants an opportunity to delve into several critical areas. The annual meeting will be preceded by the TechAdvantage Expo, Feb. 12-15.

## In Sympathy

### Ray K. Davis

Ray Davis, son of Wheatland's board president Ron Davis, was killed in an airplane accident near Memphis on Feb. 1.

The memorial service will be held Feb. 4 in Tennessee. A memorial fund has been set up: Ray Davis Children's College Fund, c/o Bank of America, 304 New Byhalia Rd, Collierville, TN 38017.

# Highlights from KEC's 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

More than 200 electric cooperative trustees, managers and key staff attended the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on January 26-27, 2009, at the Maner Conference Centre in Topeka.

Two board leadership courses were offered to the Trustees prior to convening the annual meeting. Rod Crile facilitated both 968.1 Advance Rate Decisions for Experience Directors and 975.1 Capital Credits: Legal and Financial Issues.

Guest speakers for the meeting included Sen. Steve Morris and Rep. Mike O'Neal. Pat Parke, Midwest Energy, gave an overview of his cooperative's How\$martSM program, an energy efficiency program for residential accounts.

Nancy Jackson, Executive Director of Climate and Energy Project, reviewed environmentally-friendly energy efficiency programs, including the "Take Charge" challenge within six Kansas communities which is designed to reduce their electrical usage over a 12-month period.

Jerry Bingold, NRECA Principal of Commercial and Industrial Business Development, reported on best "green" practices implemented through large retailers, such as Walmart.

Tim Daugherty, Chief Executive Officer of the National

Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame, discussed the strategic direction of the museum including how it affects tourism, heritage, family entertainment and education.

Krista Gordon, Iberdrola Energy, highlighted the process and the economic development opportunities of constructing

a wind farm. Dave Holthaus, KEC, reviewed the energy bills that will be discussed in the upcoming legislative session.

Phil Irwin, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange's President and CEO, reported on the company's activities of 2008 and presented a check to KEC for \$96,940 for the 2008 Loss Control Contribution.

"Bill Clinton", as portrayed by comedian Damian Mason, entertained the attendees during the luncheon.

Leslie Kaufman, Kansas Cooperative Council, presented the Cooperative Month Award to Butler.

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 2008. Reports were also heard from NRECA and the KEC Auxiliary.

Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange and all Kansas electric cooperatives hosted a legislative reception for

*Continued on p. 4*



*Damian Mason (third from left), the luncheon speaker for the KEC Annual Meeting, has established himself as the most in demand Bill Clinton impersonator. Here "President Clinton" shakes the hand of Dave Holthaus while the "secret service" staff of Bob Rauckman, left, and Larry Detwiler look on. More photos are at [www.kec.org](http://www.kec.org).*

## Job Opportunities

### KEC offers communications internship

The KEC communications intern will work on a variety of hands-on, portfolio building projects that support the Kansas electric cooperatives. Responsibilities include assisting with the publication of a monthly magazine, designing print materials, providing event support for youth programs, and more.

If you know of a junior or senior in college who is majoring in communications, journalism, marketing, public relations, or a related field, have them contact Shana Holsteen, [sholsteen@kec.org](mailto:sholsteen@kec.org), for a complete position description. Deadline

is March 6.

Interviews will be held in Topeka during the week of March 16. Start and end dates will be based on the successful applicant's academic schedule.

### KEC seeks LCS&C instructor

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. is now accepting resumes for a loss control, safety and compliance (LCS&C) instructor. The position requires extensive travel and on-site safety training for line personnel in western Kansas.

Candidates must have a minimum of five years of journeyman lineman experience. Must be able to develop presen-

tations and use PowerPoint, facilitate discussion and answer questions on safety and regulatory topics related to distribution electric utilities. Must have basic computer skills and be able to work with various media equipment. Some heavy lifting is required. CLCP designation is preferred.

This position offers excellent benefits including competitive pay and benefit package. A company vehicle is provided.

For more information or to submit a resume, contact Larry Detwiler, KEC, PO Box 4267, Topeka, KS 66604, or email [ldetwiler@kec.org](mailto:ldetwiler@kec.org). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

## KEC Annual Meeting highlights, *continued*

Kansas elected officials, KEC trustees, managers and special guests. Over 400 people were in attendance.

The KCRE silent auction raised \$3,447. The KEC Auxiliary raffle and silent auction raised \$1,308 for KEC's youth programs.

Jocelyn Nittler, a former youth tour winner from Alfalfa, won the raffle for the love seat which was donated by John Roniger, former president of Flint Hills; and the throw which was donated by Alfalfa. Jim Imel, Victory, was the high bidder on the quilt donated by Carolyn McNickle, Twin Valley.

As an addition to the Annual Meeting, KEC hosted an Expo that featured 41 vendors. Attendees were encouraged to visit these vendors throughout the first day of the annual meeting. Available this year were three, 20-minute breakout sessions. The winner of the \$500 grand prize was Bill Chamberlin, DS&O.

More photos from the KEC Annual Meeting are available on the KEC website's Members Only section at: <http://www.kec.org/membersonly/>.



*Top: The 2009 KEC officers (from left): John Blackwell, secretary; Keith Ross, vice president; Joe Conley, president; and Ralph Phillips, treasurer. Right: Jim Imel, Victory, was the winner of the quilt which was donated by Twin Valley's Carolyn McNickle. Bottom: The trustees at the KEC Expo.*



### Dowell retires from board



*Doug Jackson, Rolling Hills manager (left), thanks Harold Dowell for his years of service to the cooperative board.*

Harold Dowell retired from the Rolling Hills Board at their December 30 meeting.

He was presented a meter lamp in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to the cooperative.

Dowell began serving as a Trustee for NCK in September 1989. During his tenure, he served as an alternate on the KEC Board for several years.

His retirement plans include spending more time with his family and relaxing.

Assuming the seat vacated by Dowell is Mark Gross. He lives on a farm near Norway with his wife, Lori, and their three children.

Gross attended the University of Minnesota where he attained a bachelor's degree in 1987 and his doctorate in 1995 in fish biology. In 1995, he and Lori moved to Norway where Gross joined the farming operation of Lori's father, Loren Hammer.

## RuralPower

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

**Electronic Edition**

*Rural Power is published every three weeks on Fridays. This electronic version is provided to you as a service of KEC. If you would like to receive personal e-mail notice of this publication in electronic format or discontinue such notice, please e-mail [sholsteen@cec.org](mailto:sholsteen@cec.org).*