

Rural Power

Kansans join electric co-op delegates nationwide for legislative conference

Electric cooperative delegates from across the nation congregated in Washington, D.C., from May 2-5 for the NRECA Legislative Conference.

Every May, NRECA welcomes co-op grassroots advocates to Washington for the annual conference. Nearly 30 Kansas trustees and staff traveled to our nation's capitol to join more than 3,000 co-op advocates representing the electric cooperatives.

The Kansas delegation was able to visit personally with Sen. Brownback and Rep. Moore during office visits, and with Rep. Tiahrt during a reception honoring RUS for 75 years of service. The group also met with key staff during office visits and during a luncheon hosted by the Kansans.

"One of the issues discussed during office visits was the Rural Energy Savings Act, the energy efficiency bill modeled after Midwest Energy's How\$mart program," said Stuart Lowry, KEC's executive vice president / general counsel. "Following our office visit, Rep. Dennis Moore agreed to co-sponsor the bill."

The Kansas delegation was tasked to communicate the challenge created by the Environmental Protection Agency using the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gases from stationary sources. Other key national issues included the need to maintain RUS funding.

"I want to express my thanks to the KEC



Top: The Kansas delegation pose on Capitol Hill during the Legislative Conference in Washington, DC.



Left: Mike Rogers and Allan Miller, Prairie Land, discuss issues. Right: Kirk Thompson, CMS, (left) and his son Benjamin (right) take a photo with Rep. Dennis Moore.



Legislative Committee and other trustees and managers who participated in the NRECA Legislative Conference," Lowry commended.

Spring storms bring damaging tornados and winds to Kansas

Tornadoes and powerful thunderstorms cut their way across parts of Kansas and Oklahoma last week, knocking out power to more than 65,000 homes and businesses.

On May 7, Rolling Hills experienced high winds and hail that severely damaged property. Numerous broken poles were replaced in the storm damaged area.

On May 10, Wheatland, Sunflower, Southern Pioneer, Lane-Scott, Nemaha-Marshall and Alfalfa all suffered damage or outages from storms. Sunflower reported that they lost 11

H-structures in the Finney County line area.

"We had poles scattered around the country and other problems, such as building debris and tree limbs blowing in the line," said Phil Shelley, Wheatland's director of operations.

DS&O, Bluestem, Brown-Atchison, Nemaha-Marshall and Kaw Valley provided mutual aid assistance to Rolling Hills.

This storm was reported to have created at least 40 tornadoes which touched down in both Kansas and Oklahoma, killing five people. Most outages in both states were restored the next day.

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Legislative session ends

The 2010 Legislature adjourned on May 11. Legislators returned for the Veto Session on April 28 and took 10 days to finish this year's business, concluding on day 89 of the 90-day session. Before concluding the Veto Session, the House and Senate passed a budget that was \$300 million underfunded. To fill the budget hole, a "revenue enhancement" package was adopted that includes a one-cent sales tax increase beginning July 1, 2010.

KCC UPDATE - 5/14/10

98-year-old Nola Ochs earns masters degree

Age is just a number to Nola Ochs (mother of Victory trustee Loren Ochs).

Prior to enrolling in classes at Fort Hays State University, she celebrated birthdays, but never talked about her age. Then, in 2007, word got out that a 95-year-old woman was about to set a world record as the oldest college graduate.

And the spotlight will turn on Ochs again this weekend. She will graduate from FHSU with a master's degree in liberal studies with a history concentration — at the age of 98.

ASSOCIATED PRESS - 5/11/10

Small explosion occurs at Holcomb Station

An explosion and subsequent fire occurred at approximately midnight in the coal-handling section of Sunflower's Holcomb Station located ten miles southwest of Garden City on April 28. No injuries occurred.

The explosion occurred on the north coal belt in the crusher house where upgrades were being made to reduce dust accumulation. Preliminary information is that a smoldering conveyor belt was the likely source of the event.

SUNFLOWER - 4/28/10

MAY

- 21 **Sunflower Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting.** Western Headquarters, WaKeeney, 8:30 a.m..
- 27 **MDM Meeting.** KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
- 31 **Memorial Day,** KEC office closed.

JUNE

- 3-4 **REC Managers Meeting.** Holiday Inn At The Campus, 1641 Anderson Avenue, Manhattan.
- 10-17 **"Government in Action" Youth Tour.** Washington, DC.
- 11 **KEC Annual Attorneys Meeting.** KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
- 18 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 24 **MDM Meeting.** KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
- 29-7/1 **Federated Culture of Safety Strategy Labs.** Marriott Hotel, Wichita.

JULY

- 13 **Lane-Scott Annual Meeting.** Fairgrounds, Dighton.
- 14-15 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.

annualmeetings

CMS

CMS held its annual meeting on April 23 at the Meade High School. There were 113 members in attendance and 260 meals were served.

Guest speaker Steve Parr, KEPCo, discussed the different ways in which power is generated as well as the Iatan 2 coal plant.

Ron Oliver and Michael Johnson were re-elected to the board. Newly elected to the board was Joe Murphy, replacing his father, Tom Murphy.

Caney Valley

Caney Valley held its annual meeting on May 4 at the school gymnasium in Cedar Vale. Those attending were treated to supper prepared by the Cedar Vale Lions Club. Entertainment was provided by the Country Posse.

Special guests in attendance were Bob Bowser, KEPCo, and Bob Rauckman, KEC.

Cathy Call and Sarah Tatum were selected to represent Caney Valley Electric at the KEC Youth Leadership Camp.

Kenny Bates and Carl Johnson Jr. were re-elected to the board. Newly elected to the board was George Tolbert.

Tri-County

Tri-County held its annual meeting on May 7 at the Texas County Activity Center in Guymon, Oklahoma. There

were 621 members registered for the meeting and approximately 1500 people enjoyed a barbeque dinner.

Western

Western held its annual meeting on May 12 in WaKeeney. Don Schultz, Frank Joy, and Charles Luetters were re-elected to the Board of Trustees.

General Manager Dave Schneider provided a report to the members on the operation of the cooperative, including the newly acquired service territories. Earl Watkins, Sunflower, and Stuart Lowry, KEC, also provided reports to the members.

insympathy

Nola Whittington

Nola Whittington, mother of Lyon-Coffey's manager Scott Whittington, died unexpectedly on May 13 while visiting Scott and his family for Logan's graduation.

The memorial service was Monday, May 17 at the Maison-Dardenne-Walker Funeral Home, 501 Conant St., Maumee, OH. Memorials to any organization supporting veterans may be sent in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent to Scott & Cyndy Whittington at 1106 Sage Brush Court, Burlington, KS 66839.

Kansas Electric Cooperatives staff honored with three Spotlight on Excellence awards

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. received recognition in the 2010 "Spotlight on Excellence" national awards program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators (CREC) and NRECA.

KEC's communications staff received Awards of Excellence for both the Total Communications Program category for the Government in Action youth tour to Washington, DC; and for the Best Wild Card category for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp program. They also received an Award of Mention for the Best Magazine for *Kansas Country Living*.

Specifically honored for these awards were Larry Freeze, editor; Carrie Kimberlin, communications specialist; and Shana Holsteen, director of communications.

"The judges noted the emphasis on being good stewards of each cooperative's resources, while still doing the vital job of communicating with members," said Maggie Tilley, administrator of Spotlight on Excellence.



KEC's Bob Jennings, Carrie Kimberlin and Shana Holsteen receive honors at the Spotlight on Excellence award celebration at the Connect 2010 Conference on May 12. (Not pictured is Larry Freeze).

A special luncheon honored the award recipients during the NRECA Connect 2010 Conference held in Kansas City on May 12. Winning entries were displayed during the event.

The annual Spotlight awards competition recognizes the top-rated communication and marketing efforts by electric cooperatives and related organizations. Participants competed with electric cooperatives of similar sizes in 19 categories.

Electric cooperative communicators submitted more than 804 entries in the Spotlight on Excellence program, now in its 22nd year. Faculty members from the University of Missouri and the University of North Carolina judged the entries.

The Council of Rural Electric Communicators was organized in 1982, and seeks to advance the recognition, education, and professionalism of electric cooperative communicators. KEC's Holsteen serves as CREC secretary, and Jennings serves on the Certified Cooperative Communicator program board.

Griffin receives Touchstone Energy Brand Champion Award

Travis Griffin, Butler's member services & public relations manager, was honored by Touchstone Energy last week with a Brand Champion Award.

A total of 30 awards were given at the Connect Conference to spotlight dedicated employees who have shown exceptional leadership, effectiveness, innovation and consistency while locally or regionally building the brand.

Griffin spearheaded his cooperative's efforts in developing a multi-faceted program that highlights the core values of the Touchstone Energy



Travis Griffin, Butler, was recognized for his achievements to promote Touchstone Energy.

program. He serves on the Executive Council of the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas, and has implemented various programs, including the Cooperative Connections Card.

Touchstone Energy's success is attributed to individuals such as these award winners who truly live the "power of human connections".

Created in 2005 by the Touchstone Energy board of directors, the Brand Champion Award recognizes outstanding contributions and effectiveness by electric co-op CEOs, employees and directors.

co-op training

Trustee training offered at KEC's Summer Board Meeting

On Saturday, July 31, trustees will have the option of attending either a Board Leadership Course or a CCD Course. The Board Leadership Course scheduled is **925.1 Co-op Bylaws: Guiding Principles & Current Issues**, and will be facilitated by both Bob Patton and Ty Thompson.

The CCD course scheduled is **2600.1 Director Duties and Liabilities**, facilitated by John Mashaw.

On Sunday, August 1, trustees may attend the Board Leadership Course **939.1 Applying Governance Concepts to Real Boardroom Challenges**, facilitated by Bob Patton.

Cooperative managers will receive more detailed information and the registration forms. If you have any questions, please contact Shana Holsteen at 785-478-4554 or email sholsteen@kec.org.

Kansas Electric Cooperatives help with a shrimp peel and a good cause

Every year, members of the Kansas Legislature and their families gather outside the walls of the state house to raise money for the Special Olympics.

On the last Wednesday in April, before going back in session for the final days, retired and current legislators, lobbyists and other staff members take the opportunity to get together for a shrimp peel and a good cause.

A 28-member planning committee including KEC's Dave Holthaus, organizes the annual shrimp peel and both a live and silent auction. All of the items up for auction, as well as the food and beverages, are donated by house members and sponsors. Volunteers come from across the state to help the committee conduct the auction and prepare the meal.

This year, the event was held on April 28 at Heritage Hall in Topeka. More than 600 people attended. Within two hours time, the attendees created a new record by donating over \$23,000.

"This is a legislative effort to keep the Special Olympics going for the kids who otherwise wouldn't have the oppor-



Members of the planning committee prepare for the event: Tom Day, KCC; Dave Holthaus, KEC; Scott Jones, KCPL; Phil Wages, KEPCo; and Wes Ashton, Black Hills Energy.

tunity to participate in the events," said Holthaus, KEC's manager of government relations and 15-year member of the planning committee.

Among the items included in the auction were dinner for four with Turner Gill, KU's new head football coach; items autographed by Tom Watson, professional golfer; two gift certificates worth over \$1,000 from Herman's Meats; and many college autographed memorabilia.

"Everything is free-will donation, and one hundred percent of the proceeds go to benefit the Special Olympics," Holthaus explained.

More than a dozen Special Olympics participants attended the fund raiser to show their appreciation.

Dave Heineman, a legislator from Garden City, started the shrimp peel 27

years ago. "It began as a hog roast, but I wanted to do something different so I changed it to a shrimp peel and mountain oyster roast," he remarked. "After a while, the Special Olympics were added into the event and it took on a life of its own."

This year's menu included jumbo shrimp, roasted mountain oysters, fruit and vegetable trays and beverages.

"The event is a great way to raise money for a good cause, and for everyone to have a fun and a relaxing time before they go back into session," said Holthaus.



Volunteers prepare nearly 400 pounds of shrimp, as well as other menu items, to raise money for the Special Olympics.



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