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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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Midwest Energy Joins KEC

On June 2, 2004, at a special Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) membership meeting, the KEC members unanimously accepted Midwest Energy's application for membership in Kansas Electric Cooperatives.

Midwest Energy applied for KEC membership following a Board of Directors meeting last month.

"Midwest Energy sees great mutual value in belonging to KEC," said Midwest Energy's President and General Manager, Earnie Lehman. "We want to build strong alliances and partnerships with progressive organizations that share our commitment to our customer owners. We also want to work more effectively with our utility neighbors to control costs and maintain reliable service."

KEC offers a variety of programs for its members including Governmental Relations, Management Consulting, Communications,



Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. staff present a KEC membership certificate to Midwest Energy on June 3, 2004, in Hays. (From left, front row): Stuart Lowry, Incoming KEC Executive Vice President / General Counsel; Earnie Lehman, President / General Manager of Midwest Energy; and Barry Hart, KEC Executive Vice President. (Back row): Dave Holthaus, KEC Manager of Government Relations; Ed Pratt, John Blackwell and Keith Miller, members of the Midwest Energy Board of Directors.

Regulatory Compliance, and Consumer Services.

Stuart Lowry, KEC's incoming Executive Vice President / General Counsel, was enthusiastic about Midwest Energy rejoining the statewide association.

"We have known many of the talented Midwest employees over the years and we are really excited to welcome them to the KEC family," Lowry said.



Have an idea or a story for Rural Power?

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Lowry Named as KEC Executive Vice President

Following a special Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) board meeting on June 2, 2004, Stuart Lowry was named as KEC's Executive Vice President / General Counsel.

Lowry will now serve as the seventh executive officer in the 63-year history of the association.

Lowry has worked at KEC as Corporate Counsel since 1991. Much of Lowry's law practice was devoted to the representation of electric cooperatives.

"Working with the managers and board members at the electric cooperatives in Kansas for nearly 19 years has been the best experience I could have to prepare me for the work ahead," said Lowry. "It will be a privilege and honor to continue



Stuart Lowry

Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. Hart has served at KEC since July of 2001.

working with the cooperatives in this new capacity."

Lowry said he thought the Kansas electric cooperatives had formed a strong team.

"The KEC members consistently show what has been called the 'cooperative difference,'" he said, adding that the cooperatives have addressed such diverse issues as power supply, economic development, and educational opportunities.

Lowry is expected to take his new position on June 21, 2004, replacing Barry Hart who has accepted the Executive Vice President / CEO position at the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. Hart has served at KEC since July of 2001.

Cooperative Calendar

June	13-18	NRECA HR/Benefits Update Conference, San Diego, CA.
	14	Sunflower Board Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	24	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
	30	LCS&C Committee Meeting, Holiday Inn, Great Bend, 10:00 a.m.
July	5	KEC Office Closed, Independence Day.
	13	Lane-Scott Annual Meeting – Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Lane County Fair Grounds, Dighton.
	14-15	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Hdqtrs, Topeka, 8:30 a.m.
	16	Sunflower Board Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	17-23	"Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp," Clark, CO.
	22	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
31-Aug. 2	KEC Summer Board Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park.	
August	12-13	Kansas Material Managers Association Meeting, Best Western Airport Red Coach Inn, 6815 W. Kellogg, Wichita.
	18-19	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Hdqtrs, Topeka, 8:30 a.m.
	20	Sunflower Board Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.

Upcoming Meetings

KEC Summer Board Meeting

The KEC Summer Board Meeting will be July 31 - Aug. 2 at the Overland Park Marriott. Training includes the Board Leadership Course Co-op Bylaws for an Industry in Transition, and CFC courses Understanding Financial Statements and Effects of Board Decisions on Your Financials.

Environmental Health Workshop

"From Farm to Family: Linking Landscape Use to Public Health" is scheduled from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 10 at Washburn University, Topeka. Cost is \$40 for registrations by July 1 or \$50 at the door. Contact Dena Anson (785) 231-1010 ext. 1711, www.washburn.edu/nursing-conference.

US Congress Update

The Kansas Congressional Delegation recently expressed 100% support on the electric cooperatives' position on RUS loan levels.

Reps. Jerry Moran, Jim Ryun and Dennis Moore signed the Emerson/Boyd letter that was sent to Agriculture Appropriations subcommittee chairman Henry Bonilla. Rep. Todd Tiahrt personally contacted chairman Bonilla since he sits on the committee.

Sen. Pat Roberts is the chief author of the letter being sent to the Senate Agriculture Appropriations subcommittee chairman Robert Bennett. Sen. Sam Brownback has signed Sen. Robert's letter. In addition, Barry Hart, KEC Executive VP, has been contacted by Sen. Brownback's staff who have expressed that Sen. Brownback is willing to argue the electric cooperative position when the Appropriations bill is marked up.

"We are very thankful that the entire Kansas delegation has taken a leadership role in the RUS debate," said Hart. "Not only are they signing the letters of support but also are arguing our electric cooperative position with the committee chairmen."

News from Kansas Cooperatives



25 Kansas youth will be attending the 44th Annual "Government in Action" Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 10-17, 2004. The Kansas youth will be joined by three students from Hawaii. The Kansas / Hawaii delegation will be joining more than 1,400 high school students from across the nation. These students will learn about cooperatives, history and U.S. government. They attend educational seminars, visit with elected officials, and see the sights around our nation's capitol.



2003 Youth Leadership Council representatives Jessica Jacinto, Hawaii, and Christa Fritz, Kansas.

Sunflower Announces Staffing Changes

Sunflower Electric Power Corporation announced several staff changes: **L. Earl Watkins** was promoted to President & CEO. Earl has been with Sunflower since Nov. 2001. **Sid Severson** was promoted to Executive Vice President & CFO. Sid has been with Sunflower since Oct. 1983. **Jim Hanks** was promoted to Senior Vice President, Administration. Jim has been with Sunflower since July 1984. **Kyle Nelson** was promoted to Senior Manager, Generation Engineering. Kyle has been with Sunflower since Jan. 1989. **Clare Gustin's** title was changed to Manager, Economic Development and Member Services, and she was transferred to the President's department. Clare has been with Sunflower since Oct. 1997. **Noman Williams**, Senior Manager, Transmission Services, will be transferring to the Hays office from Sunflower's Garden City office. Noman has been with Sunflower since May 1988. **Keith Overland's** title was changed to Senior Manager, Corporate Security & Transmission Operations & Maintenance. He will be transferring to the Garden City office. Keith has been with Sunflower since March 1987. **Maree Percival** has accepted the position of Corporate Services Specialist in the Administration department. Maree has worked at Sunflower in the Hays office since April 1991.

Prairie Land Recognizes Employees

Prairie Land Electric recently recognized two employees for their years of service.

Barry Madden started as a summertime tree trimmer before coming to work full-time in 1974 as a construction lineman. He was promoted to Lead Lineman for the Norton County maintenance district in 1978. In 1980 he took the office position of Member Services Director and Purchasing Agent. Madden currently serves as the Director of Operations.

Kirk Girard came to work in 1994 as Norton-Decatur's Accountant. In 2002 he was promoted to Office Manager of Prairie Land.

Congratulations to Madden for 30 years of service and to Girard for 10 years of service at Prairie Land Electric.

Congratulations

Don and Louise Schulz welcomed a new granddaughter on May 27. Tyra Rose weighed 9 lbs. 3/4 oz.

Safety Testing



Dave Campbell, Instructor for KEC's Loss Control Safety & Compliance Department, conducts a conductivity test on fiberglass equipment used by Western's linemen. If a piece of this equipment fails the test because of residue or foreign materials, a thorough cleaning usually is the answer. If a material fault is detected such as a crack or break, that section of the fiberglass is replaced. Western continues to provide a safe working environment for their linemen.

Sunflower's Chris Hauck Retires After 16 Years of Service

A retirement farewell celebration was held May 20, 2004, at Holcomb Station to honor Chris Hauck, Sunflower's President & CEO who retired on June 1 after 16 years of service.

More than 250 people attended the picnic-style meal consumed under a large tent erected in the parking lot of the power plant.

Prior to the meal, many people spoke in honor of Chris for his accomplishments. First, Sunflower's new President and CEO, Earl

Watkins, delivered a personal tribute to Chris. He thanked Chris for their close personal relationship and he presented him with a chair adorned with the Sunflower logo.

Sunflower's Chairman, Charles Ayers expressed his admiration for the work Chris has accomplished at Sunflower, and presented him with a wooden chalice that was inscribed

with a message from the Board of Directors.

Other industry representatives; Dennis Mesa of Senator Sam Brownback's office; and Kirk Johnson, State Director for Congressman Jerry Moran, also delivered congratulations.

Ron Davis, Wheatland Electric's President, presented on behalf of the Wheatland Board of Trustees a check in Chris' name in the amount of

\$10,000 to the Interchange Freedom Initiative of the Prison Fellowship Ministries, an organization headed nationally by Chuck Colson. Chris and his wife, Rita, have been active in the ministry program for several years.

Chris came to

Sunflower in May of 1988 from Colorado-Ute Electric Association in Montrose, CO, where he was vice president and general counsel. Chris began his utility career in 1964 with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. He has worked for Southern California Edison Company, Florida Power and Light and Colorado-Ute Electric Association. He also served as attorney for several Lockheed Aircraft Corporation units.

Chris accepted the CEO position with Sunflower because he and Rita decided the wholesome Kansas environment had a lot to offer their family. Chris always claimed the next best thing to being a Kansas native is being a "Kansan by choice."



Sunflower's new President and CEO, Earl Watkins, (left) thanked Chris Hauck for their close relationship before presenting him with a chair with Sunflower's logo carved in it.



More than 250 people attended the May 20 celebration honoring Chris Hauck, such as co-op managers, trustees, and government officials including the late Sen. Stan Clark and Reps. Ward Loyd and Gary Hayzlett.

Cooperative Development Funds Available from the MSC Fund

Grant applications are now being accepted for the Cooperative Development Foundation's (CDF) MSC Fund. This fund supports the growth and development of cooperatives, with a focus in the agribusiness arena.

The MSC Fund was established as an endowment fund of the CDF earlier this year. It has awarded more than \$1 million in grants to co-ops over the last three decades.

The fund is particularly interested in proposals that:

- * Increase understanding of cooperatives and the role they play in the economy.
- * Produce new information about emerging issues and opportunities in the cooperative community.
- * Educate current and future cooperative leaders.

* Assist new or growing cooperative enterprises and nonprofit organizations engaged in cooperative development.

The deadline for applications is June 30, and awards will be made in the fall. Any cooperative is eligible to apply. Other organizations can apply for grants for research or education on co-op-related topics. Individuals can apply for scholarships for co-op-related training. Complete information on eligibility and grant guidelines, as well as copies of the application is available at www.cdf.coop.

The Cooperative Development Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization promoting community, economic, and social development through cooperative enterprises.