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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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Cooperatives: Power for Generations

August 6, 2004

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## KEC Summer Board Meeting Highlights

The KEC Board of Trustees met in Overland Park, Kansas on Monday, August 2, 2004.

Prior to this meeting, managers, employees and trustees attended two separate pre-meeting workshops. Bob Patton and Ty Thompson presented NRECA's Board Leadership course "Co-op Bylaws for an Industry in Transition." Steve Beck, CFC, presented two workshops titled "Understanding Financial Statements" and "Effects of Board Decisions on Your Financials."

### Following is a summary of the Summer Board Meeting:

After the KEC staff reports, updates were given from the following committees: Executive; Loss Control, Safety and Compliance; Apparatus Testing; Budget and Operations; Communications; and KCRE.

Frank Fraas, CEO of Federated, reported on the Electric Safety Outreach Program and introduced the Federated staff.

Association updates were given by Harold Foley, CFC Director-Director; Perry Rubart, Kansas State Director to NRECA; and Rob Madden, National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative Regional Business Manager.

The luncheon featured author and humorist, John Madden, who shared tips for stress reduction through humor. At the lunch, Stuart Lowry and John Peterson presented a certificate of appreciation to Barry Hart for his service to the Kansas electric cooperatives, and a fishing rod.

Bob Clements, Impact Training Solutions,



(Above): Sen. Sam Brownback speaks to the attendees at the KEC Summer Board Meeting on Aug. 2, 2004, in Overland Park. (Right): Stuart Lowry, KEC's Executive Vice President / General Counsel addresses the audience.



humorously explained the different ways people learn, and he challenged the co-ops to achieve higher levels of success within our organization.

Senator Sam Brownback took some time from his busy campaign to stop by the KEC Summer Board Meeting to talk about legislative issues.

Earl Watkins, President and CEO of Sunflower, and Steve Parr, CEO of KEPCo, explained what the formation of a regional transmission organization would mean for Kansas in their annual report on power supply issues.

Dave Jesse and Stuart Lowry recognized Heartland with a Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Certificate.

Victoria Martinez, NRECA Youth Leadership Council delegate, shared her experiences of the "Government in Action" Youth Tour.

The next board meeting is scheduled for September 28-29 at the Marriott Hotel in Wichita.



Have an idea or  
a story for  
Rural Power?

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## Cooperative Calendar

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.
	26	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
	27	KCRE Golf Tournament, Municipal Golf Course, Salina.
September	6	KEC Office Closed, Labor Day.
	9-10	Kansas REC Managers Association Meeting, Capitol Plaza, Topeka.
	15	Leavenworth-Jefferson Annual Meeting – Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at McLouth High School Purple Gymnasium, McLouth.
	15-16	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Hdqtrs, Topeka, 8:30 a.m.
	17	Sunflower Board Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	23	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, 8:30 a.m.
	23-24	Kansas Line Supervisors Association, Holiday Inn Select, Wichita.
	28	KEC Committee Meetings, Marriott Hotel, Wichita Apparatus Testing, 10 a.m. Communications, 11:30 a.m. Loss Control, Safety and Compliance, 1:00 p.m. Strategic, 2:30 p.m. Policies and Bylaws, 4:30 p.m. Legislative / KCRE, 5:30 p.m.
	28-29	KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Wichita, 8:30 a.m.
	29	Executive Committee Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Wichita, 7:00 a.m.
	October	6-8
15		Sunflower Board Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
20-21		KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Hdqtrs, Topeka, 8:30 a.m.
20-22		Kansas Accountants Club Annual Meeting, Harrah's Prairie Band Casino Hotel and Convention Center.
27		KEC District 1 meeting, TBD.
28		Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
November	3	KEC District 3 meeting, KSU Research Center, Hays.
	4	KEC District 4 meeting, Dodge City.
	17	KEPCo Annual Meeting – Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Meeting immediately following Dinner, Marriott Hotel, Wichita.
	17-18	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, Wichita, 8:30 a.m.
	19	Sunflower Board Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.

## Employment Opportunity

### KMU Seeks Electric Services & Safety Specialist

Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU), a progressive statewide association of 165 municipal electric, gas and water utilities, seeks an Electric Services & Safety Specialist to implement a comprehensive safety and regulatory compliance program for 12 member communities.

This position is responsible for developing and delivering technical, safety and regulatory training for electric lineman and other municipal employees and involves significant travel to 12 communities.

The successful candidate will have 3 or more years of practical training experience in utility safety and regulatory compliance. Electric distribution experience required, college degree preferred. Effective oral and written communications skills a must.

Send resume and salary history by August 31 to Colin Hansen, Executive Director, KMU, 101 ½ N. Main, McPherson, KS 67460; or [kmu@kmunet.org](mailto:kmu@kmunet.org). Position will remain open until filled. EOE.

## The Ornament Collection Continues!

The 2004 "Willie" globe ornament measures 2-5/8" and is packaged in a gift box. Also, new this year is the Willie figurine ornament. Both ornament styles are the perfect gift idea for all the folks on your holiday list! These ornaments make a fun party favor or a decorative flourish to your holiday packages.

KEC will be placing a "bulk order" to get the ornaments at a reduced price, around \$10 each. If you would like either the "globe" or the "figurine" ornament, please contact Shana Holsteen at KEC, or email [sholsteen@kec.org](mailto:sholsteen@kec.org), with the quantity you would like of each style.

As these ornaments are available on a first-come, first-served basis, **please place your order by August 27, 2004.**



# News from Kansas Cooperatives

## Cooperative Employees Share Safety Messages With Youth



**Above:** Radiant's Safety Coordinator, Larry McVey, demonstrates to the Fredonia Girl Scouts the hazards of coming into contact with an electric power line. **Right:** Brown-Atchison linemen, Allen Baker and Darren Thorson, talk safety with the fifth graders at Everest Middle School.



Electric cooperatives in Kansas understand the importance of keeping safe around electricity. Several cooperatives are proactively teaching their members to be concerned about electrical safety. Co-ops send out this message in radio spots, print ads, safety messages in the co-op newsletter, and through safety demonstrations within their communities.

Recently, two co-ops presented their safety demonstrations to youth groups. Radiant's Safety Coordinator, Larry McVey, gave a safety presentation

to the Fredonia Girl Scouts.

Brown-Atchison linemen, Allen Baker and Darren Thorson, gave a presentation to the fifth grade classes at Everest Middle School and at Jackson Heights.

## Natural Gas Hedging Program Approved

The Kansas Corporation Commission has approved a natural gas hedging program for Midwest Energy. The plan calls for Midwest Energy to protect a portion of the natural gas it purchases for heating customers from the volatility of the open market during three months of the winter.

"This program will involve the use of a gas hedging program to cap the price of natural gas when it is most volatile," said Bill Dowling, Vice President of Energy Supply. "We will still have the ability to allow customers to take advantage in case the price falls. In other words, it is a way of purchasing insurance against high prices."

"We aren't speculating that we can beat the market," Dowling continued. "But we are trying to cap the price, so we aren't as exposed to the huge spikes during the heating season."

All heating customers will see a charge for the program beginning with bills issued in August. The charges will average approximately \$1 per month. However, the summer months will be less and the winter months will be more.

The KCC and local natural gas companies from across the state are conducting research to determine how much customers are willing to pay for the gas cost volatility protection. If customers are willing to spend more than one dollar per month, Midwest Energy will be able to cap the price on more of the gas it purchases.

## Cooperative Communicators Take Honors

Communicators from Kansas electric cooperatives recently took honors in the 2004 "Spotlight on Excellence" awards program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators (CREC).

Tom Spurgeon, Heartland Rural Electric, earned an Award of Excellence for Best Photo Essay titled "Devastation Hits the Heartland," and Shana Holsteen, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. won an Award of Merit for Best Photo titled "Red Hat Auxiliary."

Awards were presented during a special luncheon at the 2004 National Rural Electric Association's (NRECA) Marketing, Member Services and Communication Conference. All winning entries were displayed at the conference in Columbus, OH, from July 18-21.

The Spotlight awards competition is an annual event recognizing the top-rated communication and marketing efforts by electric cooperatives. Cooperative communicators submitted a record 745 entries in the Spotlight on Excellence program, now in its 16th year.

CREC was organized in 1982, and seeks to advance the recognition, education, and professionalism of electric cooperative communicators and their affiliated organizations. It is a volunteer association working on behalf of approximately 1,300 electric cooperative communicators across the United States.

## Kansas Youth Attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

Mike Beying, a delegate to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, is very familiar with the electric cooperative youth programs. His brothers and sister have won past trips, and they encouraged him to apply.

“I wanted to have the same experiences in meeting people and representing my co-op,” he explained. “The best part is getting to meet the other winners from Kansas and the other states.”

Beying, along with 24 other Kansas youth, joined high school students from Colorado, Oklahoma, and Wyoming at the leadership camp that was held July 17 – 23 at the Glen Eden Resort near Steamboat Springs, CO.

During their weeklong stay in Colorado, the students created a mock cooperative, attended sessions featuring legislative simulations, and visited the Craig generation plant and Trapper Mine.

“These students were outstanding representatives of their co-ops,” said Shana Holsteen, KEC’s Director of Communications. “It’s a great opportunity for the students to learn about cooperatives and to consider our industry as a possible career path.”

The youth who attended and their sponsoring Kansas electric cooperatives included: Jared Ackerman and Brian Spade, **Alfalfa**; Nicholas Carr, **Butler**; Heath Elliott, **DS&O**; Shaina MaKovec, Clint Schneider, and Sarah Davidson (Ambassador), **Flint Hills**; Oryan Galemore (Ambassador), **Heartland**; Marc Ramsey, **Lane-Scott**; Mike Beying, **Leavenworth-Jefferson**; Bryan Kracht, **Nemaha-Marshall**; Salena Strate, **Ninnescah**; Veronica Alvarado and Jordan Light, **Pioneer**; Lacey Ninemire and Nick Evans, **Prairie Land**; Ashley Bechard and Darah Dorhman, **Rolling Hills**; Jordan Daerr, **Sedgwick County**; Valerie Strickland, **Sumner-Cowley**; Tedman Schinstock and Kimberly Fredrick, **Victory**; and Emily Deines and Blake Connelly, **Western**.

Each year, Kansas sends chaperones to assist with the camp. This year’s chaperones included Dennis Brauer and Jerry King, Victory, and Shana Holsteen, KEC.

Students from Kansas cooperatives filled many of the



The Kansas and Oklahoma delegates and chaperones build a human pyramid on top of Mount Werner near Steamboat Springs, CO, during the "Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp."

leadership positions at the camp. The camp’s 11-member board included Emily Deines (treasurer), Kimberly Fredrick, Clint Schneider, Brian Spade (vice president), and Salena Strate (secretary). The board selected Marc Ramsey as the camp’s general manager.

“The best part about camp was the legislative sessions,” Ramsey said. “They were fun for me, because I have an interest in politics. I would recommend this camp to anyone because it’s one of those atmospheres where you’re learning a lot but don’t even realize it because you’re having so much fun.”

In another leadership role, eight students are selected as ambassadors. Their peers from each of the following states select two ambassadors: Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Wyoming. These students return to camp the following year as junior counselors. This year’s Kansas Ambassadors are Veronica Alvarado and Mike Beying.

Alvarado said, “I first applied because I had heard from students from past years that it was unlike any other leadership camp they had been to; that you would stay at an awesome resort, be in beautiful Colorado and make great friends. What can I say? They were right!”

“We learned more about leadership, electricity and cooperatives, and we had the time of our life,” she continued. “During this trip I met so many awesome people, everyone is as excited about things as you are. The beautiful atmosphere and relaxing resort combine learning with fun in a way you never thought possible. The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs is an experience you will never forget!”