

Rural Power

A newsletter for and about Kansas Electric Cooperatives

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Cooperatives: Power for Generations

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Lane-Scott Educates Youth Through Junior Board

“Youth is the future,” said Earl Steffens, Manager of Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Dighton, KS. “That’s why we started an educational program to encourage the youth of our community to learn about cooperatives.”

This leadership program is called the Lane-Scott Junior Board of Trustees. High school students representing the cooperative’s service area have been serving on this junior board since the cooperative started the program in January of 2002.

“When I was growing up, I was on the junior board of my electric co-op in Minnesota,” Steffens explained. “Even though these students might not have anything to do with the co-ops through school or even their first job, they will remember what the co-ops are and why they are important to rural communities,” he said

The junior board members serve for a term of two years or until they graduate from high school, whichever comes first. At the end of the term, each of the Lane-Scott Trustees appoints a high school student from his district to succeed the junior board member.

To be eligible to serve, the student’s parent must be a cooperative member and a resident of the county that the student is to represent.

The cooperative educates these students through field trips and boardroom discussions about electric cooperatives.

“We will typically meet three times in the summer and once during the school year because these kids are so active,” Steffens stated. “Sunflower always offers us a Holcomb tour so the students can see what a generation plant is like. We’ve also toured the Wolf Creek nuclear plant and the Western Area Power Administration in Colorado Springs, CO.”

In addition to the tours, the junior board members spend a day at the cooperative where they learn about the industry and the products and services offered. Linemen take the students



Above: Junior board members toured the Holcomb Plant with Sunflower’s Clare Gustin. Right: Marc Ramsey, 2003-2004 junior board member, tightens a bolt on a training pole.



to a substation to learn about the transmission of electricity, and offer the students a bucket truck ride.

Steffens noted, “These kids seem to be most interested in the trips sponsored by the cooperative and the youth tours coordinated by the statewide.”

Steven Frank, a junior board member, agreed. “Holcomb Station had to be the most interesting thing I saw,” he said. “To follow the process all the way from coal to electricity was fascinating. Not only does the plant produce electricity but it does so with very little interference to the environment.”

Rane Nolan, a past junior board member, said that the most significant thing he learned was “how involved Lane-Scott and all other local cooperatives are in not only buying electricity and selling it to members, but also in a larger sense of being members of a G&T and regional, state, and national cooperatives.”

The 2004-2005 Lane-Scott Junior Board of Trustees are: Camron Shay, Seth Scheurman, Ashley Ming, Steven Frank, Ian Huck, Traci Goebel, Joanna Fay, and Ellen Huschka.

Cooperative Calendar

September	6	KEC Office Closed, Labor Day.
	10-19	Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson, KS.
	9-10	Kansas REC Managers Association Meeting, Capitol Plaza, Topeka.
	14-16	KEC Hot Line School, Pratt Area Vo-Tech School, Pratt.
	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.
	21-23	KEC Hot Line School, Manhattan Area Technical Center, Manhattan.
	23	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, 8:30 a.m.
	22-24	Kansas Line Supervisors Association (KLSA), 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	Region VII Meeting, Lincoln, Nebraska.
	11-13	Kansas Member Services Directors Association (KMSDA) Meeting, Lawrence.
	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, Terradyne Country Club, Andover.
	28	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
	29	KEC District 2 Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
November	3	KEC District 3 Meeting, KSU Research Center, Hays.
	4	KEC District 4 Meeting, Knights of Columbus, Dodge City.
	10-11	Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas Annual Meeting, TBD.
	16-17	KEC Transformer School, Kaw Valley Headquarters, Topeka.
	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.
	18-19	KEC Metering School, Kaw Valley Headquarters, Topeka.
	19	Sunflower Board Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	25-26	KEC Office Closed, Thanksgiving Holiday.

Kansas Energy Council Adopts Recommendations

The Kansas Energy Council adopted two recommendations on wind energy from the Wind and Prairie Task Force (WPTF) at its August 30 meeting in Topeka. One recommendation urged landowners, wind developers, and local units of government use the siting guidelines developed by the WPTF, and the second recommendation urged the use of lease guidelines developed by WPTF. The council (which refers to itself as the “other KEC”) was created by the Governor to study the range of energy issues that would make up a state energy plan.

The recommendations adopted were part of a report from the WPTF, a subcommittee formed by the council to study wind energy issues. The WPTF delivered alternative recommendations on how to best balance the development of wind energy and the valuable natural resources, and how to regulate siting of wind power units.

Bruce Graham, KEPCo, served as an advisory member of WPTF. “The adoption of these two of the task force recommendations is a good step toward the sensible development of wind energy in Kansas,” he said.

Upcoming Conferences

KLSA 2004 Annual Meeting

The Kansas Line Supervisor's Association annual meeting is scheduled for September 22 – 24 at the Holiday Inn Select in Wichita, KS.

The meeting's agenda features a presentation of easements and right-of-way by Stuart Lowry, KEC; an RUS update by Howard Barnes; Harmonic Presence & Solutions by Al Tamimi; GIS and Stakeout by Phil Shelley; and a presentation from Rich Park of Blue Diamond Parts, LLC.

For more information contact Greg Underwood, Victory, at 1-800-279-7915.

KMSDA Fall Meeting

The Kansas Member Services Directors' Association (KMSDA) Fall Meeting will be Oct. 11 - 13 in Lawrence, KS.

Program highlights include Jody Severson's review of the NRECA Communications Toolkit, Charlie Gloeckner's discussion of Touchstone Energy's new Cooperative Connection card, and Leonard Allen's newsletter training session. Agendas will be mailed to each electric cooperative in September.

For more information, contact Darlene Lucas, Pioneer, (620) 356-1211, or email dllucas@pld.com.

Employment Opportunity

Manhattan Area Technical College Seeks Instructor

Full-time, salaried position for an electric power and distribution instructor to begin January 2005. To receive application and position description contact Nancy Rewerts, Administrative Assistant, at Manhattan Area Technical College, 3136 Dickens Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66503, (785) 587-2800; or go to Employment Opportunities, Jobs at MATC at www.matc.net. EOE. Applications accepted until position is filled.

KCRE Hosts its 8th Annual Golf Open

The Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) hosted its 8th Annual KCRE Golf Open on August 27 at the Salina Municipal Golf Course.

More than 100 golfers formed 26 teams and raised approximately \$6,500 for KCRE.

1st Flight winners were the Brown-Atchison team of Rod Gerdes and Kevin Compton, Darren Thorson, and Dave Olson. 2nd Flight winners were Mark Barbee (KEPCo), Ken Bazil (Lyon-Coffey), Stan Bray (Lane-Scott), and Greg Herrmann (Sales and Service). 3rd Flight winners were Jarod Scheve, Josh Schmidt, and Jerry King (Victory); and Dave Holthaus (KEC). 4th Flight winner was the Solomon/DS&O/Midwest Energy team of Joe Hemmer and Tom Hemmer (Solomon), Judy Barten (DS&O), and Bob Bieker (Midwest Energy).

Dwight Williams (Prairie Land) won the golf bag and Don Schultz (Western) won the early bird drawing. The putting contest winner was Craig Clark (Rolling Hills).

The KCRE Open is a fundraiser, and

is vital to the success of KCRE's legislative efforts. Thanks to all the sponsors and participants for helping make this year's KCRE Open a success.

For more information about KCRE, contact Kirk Thompson, P.O. Box 790, Meade, KS, 67864, (620) 873-2184.



From left: Doug Jackson, Rolling Hills, and Kirk Thompson, CMS, measure the distance to determine the putting contest winner.

KEPCo Services Holds Seventh Annual Meeting

KEPCo Services, Inc. (KSI) held its Seventh Annual Meeting on August 19. KSI Engineering is the principal operating activity of KEPCo Services, Inc. President Robert Reece announced that KSI Engineering is now listed as the official engineering consultant for eight electric cooperatives in Kansas. He also noted accomplishments over the past year and new services offered.

An election for Manager Board positions was conducted in a separate meeting on August 19 with the following results: Allen Zadorozny, District 1; Robert Reece, District 2; Bob Hall, District 3; and Dale Short, District 4. In further business, the KSI Board met and re-elected Robert Reece as chairman of the Board; Charles Riggs as Vice Chairman; Dale Short as Secretary/Treasurer; Stephen E. Parr as President; Harold Haun as Vice President and Assistant Secretary; and Mark Barbee as Vice President of Engineering.

NRECA Seeks Applications for Community Service Awards

NRECA is sponsoring the annual National Community Service Awards competition to recognize the efforts of electric cooperatives that make significant enhancements to their community.

This year the categories have been streamlined into two areas that encompass most of the community service programs. These categories are **Community Investment** and **Youth Programs**.

Winning cooperatives will be honored guests at the Celebration Luncheon during the NRECA Annual Meeting in San Diego. Winners will be notified in early January.

Download an application form at www.cooperative.com. Applications must be postmarked by November 1, 2004.

For more information, contact Lyle Piper, NRECA, at lyle.piper@nreca.coop or (703) 907-5998.

Kansas Electric Cooperatives at the Kansas State Fair

It's going to be a "wild ride" for the Kansas electric cooperatives members at this year's Kansas State Fair, September 10 – 19, 2004, in Hutchinson, KS.

The Kansas State Fair will have a new look this year, with an updated slogan of "It's a Wild Ride, Baby!" KEC has a limited supply of free fair passes that will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis.

This year, the Kansas electric cooperatives and the Touchstone Energy cooperatives of Kansas are co-sponsoring "Oscar the Robot," a sophisticated, robotic people magnet. Radio controlled with an advanced two-way audio system, Oscar actually listens and responds to captivated audiences. Oscar stands 5 feet tall and weighs 200 pounds. He will be present every day of the fair from open to close to spread the cooperative message.

To kick off our sponsorship of Oscar, the state fair planning committee and other cooperative representatives are meeting at the fair on Friday, September 10th to take photos with Oscar. The committee also placed an ad in the September issue of *Kansas Country Living* encouraging our members to take a photo with Oscar at the fair and mail it in to the magazine for possible publication.

For more information about the fair or Oscar the Robot, or for free fair passes, contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at (785) 478-4554, or email sholsteen@kec.org.

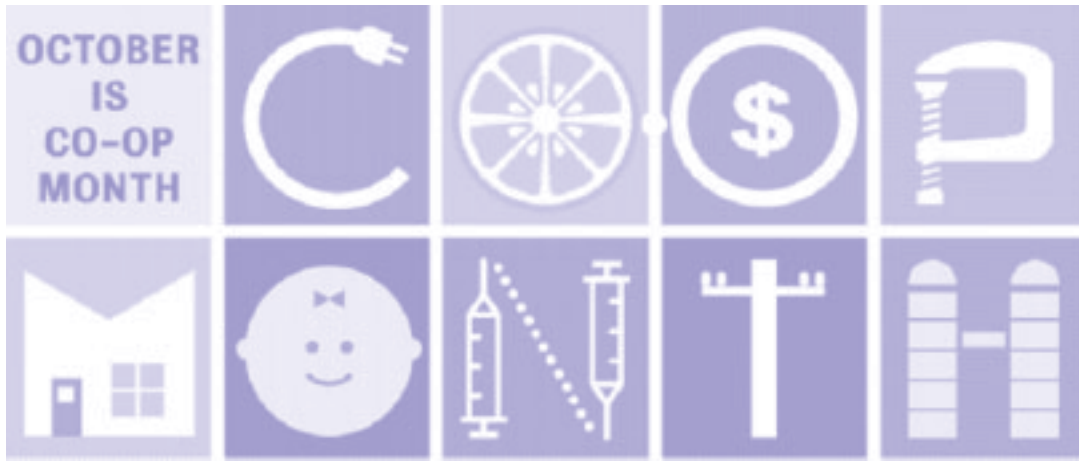


Co-op Month Observances to Focus On Commitments to Communities

Cooperatives nationwide will use October to highlight economic and charitable contributions to their communities under plans for the annual observance of Co-op Month laid out by the event's sponsors.

Using the theme "Cooperatives: Owned by Our Members, Committed to Our Communities," the National Cooperative Month planning committee encourages local co-ops to stress community involvement, employment and other identifiable community contributions in their celebrations and observances for the month, marked annually since 1930.

The co-op month committee has developed materials to help co-ops promote Co-op Month on their website at www.co-opmonth.coop. On this website, co-ops can download print ads; case studies; tips for celebrating Co-op Month; sample news stories, opinion articles and news releases; a searchable online directory; and a community



commitment gallery that allow co-ops to post press releases, photos and materials from their own community projects.

Participating co-ops will be encouraged to reach out to media and local officeholders with information on charitable contributions, community investments, employment and other beneficial impacts.

Cooperatives are businesses that are owned and democratically controlled by those who use their services or buy their goods. They are motivated by member service rather than by profit.

Cooperatives operate in every industry and range in size from small storefronts to Fortune 500 companies. In all, U.S. cooperatives serve 120 million members, or four in 10

Americans.

Last year, with attention focused on corporate scandals, the co-op month committee commissioned a nationwide survey finding that consumers overwhelmingly preferred

businesses that are owned and governed by their customers. Among other things, the survey found that consumers feel co-ops are more trustworthy than investor-owned businesses and more likely to have their best interests in mind.

This year, the co-op month committee is focusing on local level activities. The committee contracts with the National Cooperative Business Association to coordinate work on Co-op Month.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the National Cooperative Business Association represents cooperatives across all economic sectors, including agriculture, food distribution and retailing, childcare, credit unions, housing, healthcare, energy, and telecommunications.

RuralPower

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