

RuralPower

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Please send your story ideas to ruralpower@kec.org.

Governor Kelly proclaims October as Co-op Month in Kansas

On Oct. 11, Governor Laura Kelly signed a proclamation in her ceremonial office recognizing October as Co-op Month in Kansas.

KEC's **BRUCE GRAHAM** joined other cooperative representatives for the signing ceremony.

In addition to Co-op Month, the Governor's Office also issued proclamations declaring Oct. 2 as Kansas Energy Efficiency Day, and Oct. 14-20 as Careers in Energy Week in Kansas.

Many electric cooperatives are marking Co-op Month with community events designed to communicate the cooperative difference: FreeState continued its annual energy fair and member appreciation event; Lyon-Coffey and Radiant provided information about 4 Rivers at a



KEC's Bruce Graham joined other cooperative representatives for Gov. Kelly's signing of the Co-op Month proclamation in the ceremonial office on Oct. 11.

member tailgate; Pioneer planned a variety of activities including senior center lunches, treats at local football games, Trick-or-Treat Trail, and Safety Fest; Prairie Land hosted its annual safety poster contest; Radiant held an open house, Rolling Hills

celebrated a Co-opportunity Picnic, Tri-County offered Pumpkins at the Park; Victory held a Pumpkin Painting and Carving Festival; and Wheatland continued its Cram the Van food drive and Fall Finale event complete with face painting and hayrack rides (*see more on page 3*).

In addition, eight co-ops are connecting their consumer-members and policymakers through Co-ops Vote events this month. These non-partisan events focused on educating elected officials on issues important to rural Kansans and electric cooperatives.

KEC member co-ops invited to District Meetings

KEC staff is putting the final touches on the presentations planned for this year's series of District Meetings, scheduled Nov. 1, 5, 6, and 7.

The District Meeting agenda will include an update on electric cooperative work with the Kansas Legis-

lature and in Congress and a review of customer choice issues through an interactive Retail Wheeling Jeopardy game. KEC staff will provide "what if" exercises related to cooperative governance and related communications challenges

to help start dialogue between cooperatives and their membership. Staff will also sift through uncommon

areas where Kansas law may impact cooperative operations. The proposed 2020 Budget will also be reviewed. Presenters at the District Meetings will include KEC's Vicki Estes, Bob Hall, Bruce Graham, Leslie Kaufman, Tara Mays, and Doug Shepherd. A key lawmaker per district

has been invited to speak at each of the meetings.

Each District Meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude by 3 p.m. Lunch will be served. All member cooperative trustees, managers and key staff are welcome to attend. Manag-

ers are asked to register their co-op attendees with KEC's Carol Dorr, 785-478-4554 or email cdorr@kec.org.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
PO Box 4267
Topeka, KS 66604-0267
www.kec.coop

Join Kansas Electric Cooperatives Facebook page

Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame nominations sought

Nominations are now being accepted for the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Kansas Cooperative Council, is important for honoring those who have gone “above and beyond the call” in advancing the cooperative philosophy. Established in 1999, 47 individuals from all types of co-ops have been inducted.

To download the nomination form, visit www.kansasco-op.coop. The deadline for applications is Dec. 2.

Kansas Touchstone Energy to hold Annual Meeting

The Touchstone Energy Annual Membership Meeting will be held at Butler Electric Cooperative on Wednesday, Oct. 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ANNE HARVEY, Touchstone Energy's Director of Member Relations and Communications, will report via Webex on the national program activities including new campaigns, the new National Survey on the Cooperative Difference data, the Co-op Community Contest and other programs featured in the Best in Class Model, and the national dues realignment.

The Kansas Touchstone Energy Executive Council will discuss statewide activities, set the 2020 dues assessment, and hold officer elections. There are vacancies for a trustee position and a member services position.

Please RSVP your attendance to Shana Read at sread@kec.org by Oct. 23.

jobmarket

KEC promotes co-op careers by listing openings on the careers section of the KEC website: <https://www.kec.coop/careers>.

- ▶ KEC has an opening for the CEO position.
- ▶ FreeState has multiple openings.
- ▶ Prairie Land has openings for a system engineer and an electric engineer.
- ▶ Sunflower has multiple openings.

Send your open position listings to ruralpower@kec.org.

co-opcalendar

OCTOBER

- 21 **KEC Budget and Operations Committee Meeting**, Butler Headquarters, El Dorado – 10:30 a.m.
- 21 **Midwest Energy Annual Meeting**, The Venue, 2704 Vine, Hays – 10 a.m.
- 23 **KEC Sales Tax Workshop**, The Venue, 2704 Vine, Hays, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- 24-25 **Kansas Accountants Club Meeting**, The Venue, 2704 Vine, Hays
- 24 **Co-ops Vote**, Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, 1511 1400 Rd., Altamont – 11:30 a.m.
- 26 **KEC Co-op Attorney CLE**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka - 8 a.m.
- 29 **Co-ops Vote**, Heartland Rural Electric Cooperative, 110 N. Enterprise Dr., Girard – 11:30 a.m.
- 30 **Kansas Touchstone Energy Annual Meeting**, Butler Headquarters, El Dorado - 10 a.m.
- 30 **Co-ops Vote**, Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative, 1564 S. 1000 Rd., Council Grove – 11:30 a.m.
- 31 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

NOVEMBER

- 1 **District 1 Meeting**, Teradyne Country Club, 1400 Terradyne St., Andover
- 4 **Co-op's Vote**, Butler and Sedgwick County Electric Cooperatives, Flint Hills National Golf Club, #1 S. Flint Hills National Drive, Andover – 11:30 a.m.
- 5 **District 4 Meeting**, United Wireless Arena, 4100 W. Comanche, Dodge City
- 6 **District 3 Meeting**, Rose Garden Banquet Hall, 2350 E. 8th St, Hays
- 7 **District 2 Meeting**, Prairie Band Casino & Resort, 12305 150 Road, Mayetta
- 8 **Co-ops Vote**, Caney Valley Electric Cooperative, 401 Lawrence, Cedar Vale – 11:30 a.m.

upcomingtraining

KEC to host Sales Tax Workshop prior to accountants meeting

KEC has developed a Sales Tax Workshop to be held Wednesday, Oct. 23, at The Venue in Hays. This event will precede the Accountants Club meeting that is set for Oct. 24-25 at the same location.

The workshop will run from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

Featured speakers include **CARL YORK**, a tax specialist with the Kansas Department of Revenue, and **DOUG SHEPHERD**, KEC's Vice President of Management Consulting Services.

Topics will cover sales tax basics, as well as issues specific to electric coop-

eratives including the original construction exception, mutual aid, holiday refunds vs. bill credits, exempt uses of electricity such as consumed in production or agriculture use, pole attachments, and exemption certificates and record keeping.

Attendees will also be able to share experiences regarding recent audits.

To register for this workshop or the Accountants Association meeting, please contact Ashley Garrett, President of the Kansas REC Accountants' Association at AshleyG@westerncoop.com. For questions about the workshop, please contact Doug Shepherd at dshepherd@kec.org.

Save-the-Date: 2020 HR Summit

KEC has planned the next HR Summit for April 21-22 at the Wichita Marriott. This event will include a full day of training on April 21, and a half-day on April 22.

To make a hotel reservation, call the Wichita Marriott at 316-651-0333, and ask for the “KEC HR Summit” rate of \$137. The room block expires on April 6, 2020. Detailed program information will be emailed in March.

Save-the-Date: 2020 IT Summit

The next KEC IT Summit will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 30, and from 8 a.m. to noon on May 1 at the Courtyard by Marriott at Old Town in Wichita.

To make a hotel reservation, call 866-522-8909 by April 9. Ask for the “KEC IT Summit Block” rate of \$136 (which includes breakfast and parking).

Detailed program information will be emailed closer to the meeting dates.

Co-ops participate in Kansas Energy Efficiency Expo

Staff from **BLUESTEM** and **LYON-COFFEY** electric cooperatives participated in the 2nd annual Kansas Energy Efficiency Expo on Oct. 2 in Manhattan.

This event, coordinated by the Kansas Corporation Commission and the K-State Engineering Extension's Kansas Energy Program, was held in observance of the 4th annual Energy Efficiency Day. The U.S. Senate passed Resolution 347 officially designating Oct. 2 as Energy Efficiency Day "in celebration of the economic and environmental benefits" driven by efficiency.

The event drew private citizens looking to reduce energy consumption by increasing the energy efficiency of their

home or transportation.

Despite stormy weather, the family-friendly event featured live music, food trucks, and a variety of vendors. The electric cooperative booth focused on residential energy efficiency and featured the Touchstone Energy Efficiency modules, which showcased comparisons of different types of lighting and different types of insulation, and a water heater display.

Other vendors specialized in

replacement windows, insulation, lighting, energy audits, programmable thermostats, and efficient heating/cooling. The Manhattan Area Transportation Agency also gave talks about public transportation.



Lyon-Coffey's Mike Tweedy (left) and Bluestem's Kevin Heptig (third from left) share cost-saving residential energy tips with attendees at the Kansas Energy Efficiency Expo in Manhattan on Oct. 2.

Pioneer celebrates 75th anniversary with Co-op Month events

In recognition of its 75th anniversary, Pioneer organized special celebratory events including senior center lunches, football game tailgating parties, coloring contests, Trick-or-Treat Trail, and Safety Fest.

The annual Safety Fest hosted local

businesses and services to promote healthy living and safety practices. The linemen also offered bucket truck rides during the event.

Pioneer has also been giving away a \$75 energy credit every month in honor of its 75th anniversary.



Above: Young attendees show off their hard hats and safety gear at the Safety Fest event.

Above right: Pioneer's Anita Wendt distribute giveaways during Pioneer Electric's Co-op Month Senior Center Lunches.

Right: Pioneer staff present the Sullivan Elementary third grade class with the Co-op Coloring Contest top award.



Rolling Hills co-hosts Co-opportunity Day



From left: 107th District Representative Susan Concannon and 36th District Senator Elaine Bowers join Farmway Credit Union President Joe Deneke during the free community picnic sponsored by Central Valley Ag, Farmway Credit Union and Rolling Hills to celebrate Co-op Month.

Rolling Hills Electric, Farmway Credit Union, and Central Valley Ag co-hosted their annual Co-opportunity Day in Beloit on Oct. 4. The three cooperatives have been sponsoring the annual appreciation luncheon for 23 years.

Rolling Hills linemen grilled burgers, and attendees were served sides and dessert. Nearly 400 members and community residents attended the picnic event held at Rolling Hill's Beloit facility. Attendees were also encouraged to donate non-perishable items for the local food pantry.

FreeState holds 11th Annual Health Fair

FreeState Electric Cooperative hosted its 11th Annual Health Fair and Member Appreciation Day Oct. 1. The event included a soap drive to assist area food pantries with gathering personal care items.

The fair brought in more than 200 members and guests to visit with co-op staff and local vendors that provided information on physical, mental, and financial health.



FreeState's Desiree LaForge greets members who were then treated to a meal and demonstrations by local vendors.

Decorated Pioneer Electric Cooperative Trustee, Perry Rubart, retires

To be a part of a cooperative is to take up the mantle of servant leadership. For 34 years, there wasn't a better example of this than the service of **PERRY RUBART**. A veteran, businessman, and Pioneer Electric board member, Rubart has made community service a pillar in all that he does.

Last month, he closed his story of service to Pioneer, headquartered in Ulysses, when he stepped down from the co-op board. For Rubart, the move serves as an opportunity to be closer to family.

Rubart joined the board in 1985. He witnessed many changes to the cooperative: the construction of Pioneer's current headquarters, the implementation of digital metering, the devastation of past ice storms, and the growth of the cooperative.

He served as the president of the Kansas Electric Cooperatives (KEC) Board from 1996-1998, and as the Kansas representative to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Board (NRECA) from 1998-2010.

Rubart's commitment to advancing rural electric cooperatives reached beyond state lines to those in under-developed

nations. As a member of the NRECA board, Rubart served on the International Foundation committee, an effort by the electric co-ops to build electric co-op systems in third world countries. He traveled to Nicaragua, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and the Philippine islands to share his experience with cooperative governance.

Rubart published a memoir in 2011 entitled "Dare to Dream...Dare to Make the Dream Come True." The novel includes his depression-era childhood and his young adulthood in the Korean war.

In 2012, his continued commitment to service and community earned him induction to the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Kansas Cooperative Council, recog-



Pioneer staff honor Perry Rubart and his family at his final board meeting. Rubart leaves the co-op after 34 years of service.

nizes the contributions of co-op pioneers and honoring those who have gone "above and beyond the call" in advancing the cooperative philosophy. His biographical information was placed alongside other honorees in the Kansas Cooperative Hall of

Fame showcase display at the Kansas State Fairgrounds.

Mid-Kansas Electric Company honored the Pioneer trustee in 2014 by naming its generating station located near Ulysses as Rubart Station.

"Perry has been a part of the electric cooperative leadership since I started my co-op career and it has been a privilege to work with him. On behalf of KEC, we thank Perry for his dedication to everything electric cooperative," said Bruce Graham, KEC's CEO.

KEC unveils new camp video

KEC is pleased to announce that the new Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) promotional video is ready and available for cooperatives to promote the program.

The two-and-a-half minute video features the benefits of camp as seen through the eyes of the students. Cooperatives are encouraged to share the video on their website, social media platforms, and at local schools and community organizations.

To view the video, visit <http://bit.ly/cylcvideo>.



The video features interviews with the 2019 camp ambassadors (from left) Adison Hampton, Jaqueline Salgado, and Hannah White.

Q We've been asked to give a safety talk to a group of students. Do we have access to safety videos designed for that age group?

A Yes! There is a library of online safety videos and resources at Safe Electricity. You may want to consider the "Birds on a Wire" video or the newest Safety Sadie animated video about cord and outlet safety.

KEC subscribes to Safe Electricity for all of our member-cooperatives. To log on, visit www.safeelectricity.org/register to create a personalized account. Safe Electricity, a program of the Energy Education Council, provides resources on electrical safety, energy efficiency, renewable energies, and youth education. Content includes social media and web resources, radio and television public services announcements, videos, news releases and articles, and youth activities.

Need help with the best ways to use the Safe Electricity resources? Sign up for the next member webinar, scheduled for Nov. 13 at 10 a.m. (link is on the Safe Electricity Member Site home page). For more information, email info@SafeElectricity.org or call 217-546-6815.

Each issue of *Rural Power* will feature an answer to a question or a solution to a problem provided by KEC to a member cooperative. Past answers are listed on [KEC's website](http://www.kec.org).

Asked & Answered