

# Rural Power

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Please send your story ideas to [ruralpower@kec.org](mailto:ruralpower@kec.org).

## KEC to host the 2019 Summer Meeting on August 5

KEC will host the 2019 KEC Summer Meeting on Monday, Aug. 5 at the Overland Park Marriott.

The featured luncheon speaker will be **SCOTT DAVIS**, better known as the electric safety magician. He will entertain the group with his comedy and magic.

Other speakers for this year's meeting include author and lecturer **ROBERT BRYCE** who will share his thoughts on utility issues such as electricity poverty, the future grid, and why electric co-ops still matter. **ADAM SCHWARTZ** of The Cooperative Way will discuss how co-ops can anticipate and react to the changing market and member expectations. **DAVID TOLAND**, Kansas Secretary of Commerce, and **ZACHARY MANNHEIMER** of McClure Engineering will focus on rural revitalization and creative placemaking in rural communities. **DAVID CARTER**, Kansas State University's Energy Specialist, will review K-State's Energy Program and the KidWind Challenge. **SUSAN OLANDER**, Federated, will discuss several fiduciary hot topics, including cybersecurity, the Form 990, and transparency.

KEC staff will give an ACRE/KCRE update, and there will be presentations by the platinum level sponsors including Federated, CFC, NextEra and UAV Recon.

Following adjournment of the summer meeting, a Kansas NRECA Membership Meeting

and a KEC Board Meeting will be held.

The KEC Spouses Program on Aug. 5 will include a commitment to community project that will benefit veterans recovery home, a chocolate presentation by Russell Stover Chocolates, and music bingo.

There will not be an Auxiliary silent auction this year.

A series of directors' workshops will be offered August 3-4. Bob Patton will facilitate the **925.1 CO-OP BYLAWS: GUIDING PRINCIPLES & CURRENT ISSUES**. Rod Crile will facilitate the day and a half course **2640 FINANCIAL DECISION MAKING**. Molly McPherson will facilitate the **914.1 CO-OP COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OPINION: THE DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE**. The 914.1 course is full.

On the afternoon of Aug. 4, Adam Schwartz will present **PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS**. This workshop will incorporate two panel discussions. The first will be made up of three Youth Leadership Council students: **BRAYDEN SCHMIDT**, 2019 YLC, sponsored by Alfalfa; **KRIS WAGNER**, 2017 YLC, sponsored by Pioneer; and **EMMA DEMARANVILLE**, 2015 YLC, sponsored by Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative (now FreeState). The second will consist of young board members: **CHRIS KELLEY**, Caney Valley; **GABE SCHLICKAU**, Sumner-Cowley; and **MATT TURECEK**, FreeState.

## CFC panel presentation focuses on cooperatives' loss of service territory

Wheatland Electric Cooperative's General Manager **BRUCE MUELLER** was part of a panel presentation at the CFC Forum on July 3. The session, titled *Fight for Your Right to Serve*, focused on the challenges cooperatives have with loss of service territory.

The panel also included **MARK SNOWDEN**, CEO of Cimarron Electric Cooperative in Oklahoma. **CHRIS MEYERS**, CEO of the Oklahoma



Bruce Mueller (left) discusses annexation issues during the July 3 CFC panel presentation.

Association of Electric Cooperatives, served as moderator.

In his presentation, Mueller outlined the significant threat co-ops

in Kansas face with municipal annexation, the effort to gain cooperative support for a legislative solution, and the outcome of that successful effort.

Oklahoma has ongoing territory challenges that are being reviewed by the courts.

Cooperatives in many other states face territory loss, which prompted a number of questions about KEC's legislative approach to the issue.



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## KEC Member Directory now available

The 2019-2020 KEC Member Directory is now available to members in three formats:

- **Print:** Printed copies will be shipped to cooperatives, advertisers and affiliated organizations in early August.
- **PDF:** Members may download a PDF version of the directory on the Members Only site at <https://members.kec.coop/directory>.
- **KEC's App:** The directory section on the KEC app offers easy access to directory information. To download the app, simply visit the Apple or android stores and search for Kansas Electric Cooperatives.

The KEC Directory requires considerable time and effort to prepare. KEC staff appreciates all the assistance received again this year from our member co-ops to help complete this task. For more information about the directory, contact KEC's Carrie Kimberlin at [ckimberlin@kec.org](mailto:ckimberlin@kec.org).



## jobmarket

KEC helps to promote co-op careers by listing openings on the careers section of the KEC website.

- Visit <https://www.kec.coop/careers> to learn more about the following positions.
- Heartland has an opening for a Journeyman Lineman.
  - Sunflower has openings for a Journey Line Technician, Line Technician Apprentice I-IV, Relay Supervisor (Substation Automation and Protection Supervisor), Senior Manager of Application Integration Management, Transmission Engineer I and II, and a System Operations Engineer I and II.

Send your open position listings to [ruralpower@kec.org](mailto:ruralpower@kec.org). Positions will be posted on the website for one month, unless otherwise directed by the co-op.

## co-opcalendar

### AUGUST

- 1-2 **Kansas Material Managers Association Meeting**, Courtyard Marriott Old Town, Wichita
- 3-5 **KEC Summer Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park
- 14-15 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 16 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 19-23 **Supervisor and Manager Development Program courses**, Drury Inn, Wichita
- 22 **MDM Meeting**, Newton
- 23 **KCRE Golf Tournament**, Sand Creek Station Golf Course, Newton

## KCRE to host 23rd annual Golf Open on Aug. 23

The Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) will host its 23rd annual Golf Open on Aug. 23 at Sand Creek Station Golf Course, located at 920 Meadowbrook Dr. in Newton.

Registration for the four-person scramble begins at 7:30 a.m. at \$70 per participant. Included in the registration fee are green fees, the use of a cart and the driving range, mulligans, lunch, and a chance to win a prize.

The tournament begins at 8:30 a.m.

A shotgun start will commence the fundraising event for KCRE, a political action committee that supports state legislators, elected officials, and candidates who support issues of concern to electric cooperatives and rural Kansans.

To donate prizes, sponsor a hole, or play in the tournament, contact Kirk Thompson, CMS Electric, at 620-873-2184.

Registrations received by Aug. 16, are eligible for a \$25 cash drawing.

## upcomingtraining

### KEC to host Supervisor and Manager Development Program courses a Strong Team

For the week of Aug. 19, 2019, KEC will offer five of the new Supervisor and Manager Development Program (SMDP) courses.

The following courses will be led by NRECA's **BRYAN SINGLETARY** and will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Each of these new courses counts as one credit toward the SMDP certification:

- Aug. 19 - 710.1 Stepping into Your Supervisory Role: Learning to Lead
- Aug. 20 - 711.1 Everyone Communicates; Few Connect: Tools for Bridging the Gap
- Aug. 21 - 712.1 You Can't Do It Alone: Building

► Aug. 22 - 713.1 Engaging and Developing High-Performing Employees

► Aug. 23 - 714.1 Change is Hard: Guiding Your Team through Complex Times

This program is designed for employees considering a supervisory role, new and experienced supervisors, and mid-level managers.

Registration is open through July 31. Cost for KEC members is \$550 per course, or \$2,500 for all five courses. For more information, contact Shana Read at [sread@kec.org](mailto:sread@kec.org) or 785-478-4554.

### Power System Engineering to offer Distribution Line Design course

Power System Engineering, Inc. will offer the second of its three-module course on Distribution Line Design. on Sept. 10-12 at the Courtyard by Marriott Wichita at Old Town. To make an online hotel reservation, visit <https://bit.ly/2JOZGm5>.

This course is designed for utility staff responsible for designing and constructing overhead distribution lines,

underground lines, and new services. There will be a mix of lectures, group exercises, and participant discussions revolving around real life design situations.

The cost to attend the course is \$1,200 per person. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/2YnfaFJ>. For more information, email Kahara Franze at [franzek@powersystem.org](mailto:franzek@powersystem.org), or call 608-268-3521.

## Butler holds open house for Pony Meadows Solar Farm



Butler Electric Cooperative held an open house for its Pony Meadows Solar Farm, located in Rose Hill, on July 25. Special guests included Senate Utilities Chairman Ty Masterson; Jamie Porges, Radiance CEO; and Mark Barbee, KEPCo Senior Vice President of Engineering and Operations. Following the dedication, the Butler Board of Directors celebrated with a ribbon cutting.

## Linemen volunteers needed for Kansas State Fair exhibit

Kansas electric cooperatives and the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas are co-sponsoring a high-voltage line safety demo at this year's Kansas State Fair, Sept. 9-13.

This sponsorship will incorporate the full-size, electric safety demonstration—on loan from Midwest Energy—with the fair's "Kansas' Largest Classroom." The half-hour safety demonstration will be repeated from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. from Sept. 9-13 in the Ad Astra Pavilion building.

Midwest Energy will supply a narrator and trainer for each day. However, we need two linemen per day to run the demonstration. Currently, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday are available.

- Monday, Sept. 9 - Midwest Energy
- Tuesday, Sept. 10 - AVAILABLE
- Wednesday, Sept. 11 - Wheatland
- Thursday, Sept. 12 - AVAILABLE
- Friday, Sept. 13 - Pioneer Electric

Volunteers will receive general admission passes to the fair, an FR shirt to wear while they are volunteering at the demonstration, and lodging the night before, if needed.

Available days will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Hotel room requests must be received by Friday, July 26.

If you have linemen who could volunteer to help, please call Shana Read at 785-478-4554 or email [sread@kec.org](mailto:sread@kec.org).

## Lane-Scott Annual Meeting

Lane-Scott's 69th annual meeting gathered 442 members and guests at the Lane County Fairgrounds in Dighton on July 16.

Special guests at the meeting included KEC's Bruce Graham, Sunflower's Stuart Lowry, and Reid Petty of Sen. Jerry Moran's office. 2018 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp winners Trinity Pierce and Gentry Shapland, and 2019 Youth Tour winners Caitlin Smee and Kiley Whipple, spoke about their trips.

**ERIC DOLL, RAD ROEHL, and CHAD GRIFFITHS** were re-elected to the board. Prior to the meeting, attendees enjoyed carnival rides and a barbeque dinner.



Caitlin Smee (left) and Kiley Whipple pose before giving their Youth Tour speeches at the Lane-Scott Annual Meeting on July 16.

**Q** I've heard our cooperative's property tax referred to as an income tax. What does income have to do with it and what is a "cap" rate?

**A** Property taxes in Kansas are definitely a tax levied against the value of property, but income is a driver in determining the value of income producing properties. At the simplest level, property taxes are determined by... [READ MORE.](#)

Asked & Answered

## Co-ops asked to support National Voter Registration Day

National Voter Registration Day is a national holiday celebrating our democracy. Electric cooperatives, through the Co-ops Vote initiative, are strong supporters of this day.

This holiday was first observed in 2012 and has been growing in popularity every year since. Held on the fourth Tuesday of September, this year's National Voter Registration Day will take place on September 24. This year's goal is to register 250,000 people.

KEC staff encourages member cooperatives to promote this event so Kansas will be a recognizable segment in the day's registration count.

Co-ops are encouraged to organize an in-person voter registration event at their

offices or at another location with visitors and daily foot traffic. Co-ops are also encouraged to promote National Voter Registration Day through marketing and communication efforts online and on social media.

National Voter Registration Day is a non-partisan effort. All partners are asked to refrain from partisan candidate or issue advocacy messaging activity in communications about National Voter Registration Day, and to focus instead on the common goal of helping people register to vote.

If you have questions or need additional information, please email Tara Mays, KEC's Director of Government Relations at [tmays@kec.org](mailto:tmays@kec.org), or call 785-969-9270.

# Students develop leadership, team working skills at the 2019 CYLC camp

Stepping out of one's comfort zone can be daunting for today's youth. Pushing past feelings of anxiety can be challenging for anyone, especially high school students. The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, aims to bring hand-selected students together in a collaborative

setting to learn the cooperative principles while cultivating leadership and teamwork skills.

This year's CYLC hosted 36 Kansas high school students and other hand-picked scholars from Colorado, Oklahoma, and Wyoming from July 12-18.

At CYLC, the youth gained a greater understanding of how their electric cooperative operates by creating a candy cooperative. The students learned leadership and teamwork skills while participating in daily membership meetings, establishing committees, and electing a general manager and board of directors.

**HAYLEY KELLER**, sponsored by Western, was elected by her peers as the Board President. "From day one, the passion for leadership, finding opportunities in cooperatives and with electricity, and overall this camp's ability to connect youth to each other had an incredible impact on me," Keller said. "The privilege of being the Board President was an extraordinary opportunity, which improved my leadership abilities and also my understanding of cooperatives."

The campers also learned about power generation by touring both Trapper Mine, a surface coal mine, and neighboring Craig Station Power Plant.

"Seeing engineers working at the power plant and coal mine reaffirmed my interest in engineering," said **ELIZABETH FUNK**, sponsored by FreeState.



Students representing Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Wyoming pose during the 2019 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. Visit: <https://photos.youthtour.org/2019-Youth-Tour/CYCL2019/> for more camp photos and videos.

During camp, students participated in group activities and educational sessions while learning the importance of inclusivity and collaboration. Featured speakers were Rodd Welker, who taught the students through leadership activities about the "three Cs," connectedness, cooperation, and compassion; and Craig Hillier, who shared life tips focused on resilience, respect, and responsibility.

"This trip inspired me to consider what the best way to lead is and how to lead in various situations," said **DAVID ENTZ**, sponsored by Butler. "It also gave me lots of good ideas to bring home and utilize in my own school and community."

**LANDRY HINKSON**, sponsored by Flint Hills, agreed. "I was really inspired by the motivational speaker. He told a story from his teen years about his cruise ship leaving him behind because he thought he had a lot more time to stay on land and shop. Then he related the story to our lives in the fact that lots of times we think we have all kinds of time to accomplish things, but in reality, we are never guaranteed that time. That hit hard."

Springs, hiked Fish Creek Falls, enjoyed an evening dance, and relaxed by swimming.

**KELLIE RHOADES**, sponsored by Victory, served as the Board Treasurer. She said that she wished she had known how difficult it was going to be to leave camp. "I thought there's no way I can feel so much passion for the ninety-plus people in just a few days. But boy, was I wrong. It's so important to cherish every moment like it's the last, because it comes faster than you think."

At the end of the camp, the students dissolved their cooperative. They elected to donate their candy cooperative "capital credits" to support the efforts of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation. The campers also raised \$293.13 that will be used to purchase backpacks and school supplies for students who attend school in Sillab, Guatemala.

Chaperones for this year's camp included **KITTY SWEANEY**, Caney Valley Electric Cooperative; **SHANA READ**, Kansas Electric Cooperatives; and **ARMANDO ALVAREZ** and **GARY GARCIA**, Tri-County Electric Cooperative.



Campers select student ambassadors to return to camp as junior counselors. Elected from Kansas cooperatives to return in 2020 are (left) David Entz, sponsored by Butler; and Caleb Haggard, sponsored by Twin Valley.