

# Rural Power

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

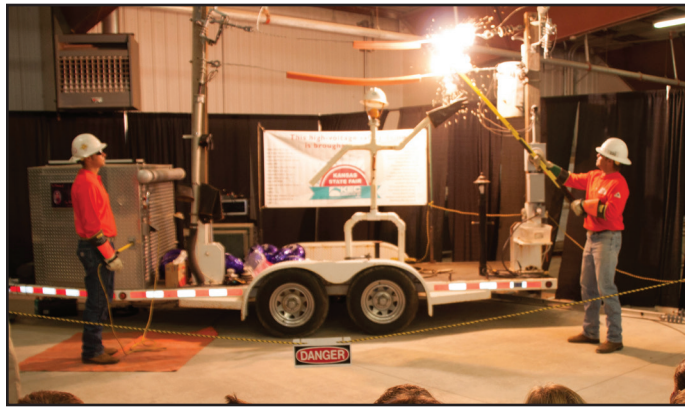
## Magician, co-op linemen deliver safety message at State Fair

Corn dogs, concerts, and carnival rides—the Kansas State Fair brings entertainment and education for all ages. As part of the fair's activities, Kansas electric cooperatives and Touchstone Energy cooperatives of Kansas once again co-sponsored a high-voltage line safety demonstration.

Located in the Ad Astra Pavilion, the electric cooperatives were a part of the second annual Kansas Energy Expo. The Expo, which boasted more than 30 interactive displays across nearly 14,000 square feet, was sponsored by the Kansas Corporation Commission and incorporated hands-on exhibits representing various Kansas utilities. It was organized into five sectors: Transportation, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Utilities, and Oil and Gas.

New this year, KEC sponsored the electrical-themed safety magic show titled "Making Accidents Disappear." Award-winning magician Chris Dixon performed this show Sept. 11-13.

During one show, as a grade schooler named Mason waved a magic wand, Dixon promised to pull three scarves out of a seemingly empty bag. With each wave, he produced scarves that read "Stop," "Look," and "Think." This was the message he gave



Midwest Energy's Nate Stryker (right) and Alex Breeding present the High Voltage Safety Demo at the Kansas State Fair.

to the students about keeping safe around electricity.

"Magic's ability to hold their attention, make them laugh, make them listen, and make them amazed all while teaching something important is pretty powerful," Dixon said. Following his appear-

ances at the State Fair, Dixon then presented his safety magic show to more than 20 schools within electric cooperative services areas. Those shows were sponsored by Pioneer and Victory electric cooperatives, and Southern Pioneer.

Also at the fair, Kansas electric cooperative linemen presented an interactive demonstration using real electric equipment and their "volunteer" stick man to show the importance of education and public safety around power lines from Sept. 14-18. The presentation helped fairgoers learn safety precautions, what protective gear linemen use, and what happens if a person comes in contact with an energized line.

"It is important we use electricity safely and that we teach our members the proper precautions to take around electricity," said Brian Dreiling, Manager of Energy Services at Midwest Energy.

The high voltage safety demonstration coincided with Kansas' Largest Classroom lesson plan, "Basics of Electricity: Completing the Circuit," which made it a great stop for class field trips.

Midwest Energy provided the demonstration materials, a narrator, and a trainer for each day of the safety presentation, while DS&O, Sedgwick County, and Wheatland volunteered linemen to operate the demonstration.

New at the Expo was the Energy Lab where teachers could bring their classrooms to

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## Kansas Touchstone Energy to hold Annual Meeting

The Touchstone Energy Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Wichita Marriott on Oct. 26 from 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Anne Harvey, Touchstone Energy, will give an update on the national program activities. The Touchstone Energy Executive Council will discuss statewide activities, set the 2016 dues assessment, select the Power+Hope winner(s), and hold elections.

The committee members whose terms expire this year include Bruce Mueller and Travis Griffin. The committee will also elect a new trustee person to fill a vacancy. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Council, please contact Bruce Mueller.

Please RSVP your attendance to Shana Read, KEC, before Oct. 19.

## jobmarket

### KEC seeks Government Relations professional

KEC has begun a search to fill a position in its Government Relations department in preparation for the retirement of Dave Holthaus, Vice President of Government Relations.

For a complete position description or to apply, contact Bruce Graham, CEO, at [bgraham@kec.org](mailto:bgraham@kec.org).

### Heartland seeks Member Service Manager

Heartland Rural Electric Cooperative seeks applicants for a Member Service Manager position. The person hired for this new position will oversee Heartland's Member Service Representatives, evaluating programs and interactions with members to ensure that the co-op provides superior member service.

The successful applicant must be courteous, helpful, and able to resolve member concerns. Strong computer skills are mandatory. The successful applicant must become proficient in the software that handles membership data. Should have a minimum of five years of office experience with an emphasis on working with the public by phone or in person.

Send resume to [hr@heartland-rec.com](mailto:hr@heartland-rec.com).

## co-opcalendar

### SEPTEMBER

- 23-25 **KMSDA Fall Meeting**, Courtyard by Marriott Old Town, Wichita
- 24-25 **Line Superintendent's Meeting**, Wichita
- 24 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 29-30 **Region 7-9 Meeting begins**, Salt Lake City, UT

### OCTOBER

- 1 **Region 7-9 Meeting continues**, Salt Lake City, UT
- 7 **KEC Committee Meetings**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita
  - 10 a.m. Apparatus Testing
  - 12:30 p.m. Loss Control, Safety and Compliance
  - 1:30 p.m. Communications
  - 2:30 p.m. Regulatory Review and Tax
  - 3:30 p.m. Joint Legislative and ACRE/KCRE
- 8 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita
- 14-15 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 14-15 **CFC Financial Workshop for Directors**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita
- 16 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 19 **Midwest Energy Annual Meeting**, 10 a.m., FHSU Campus Robbins Ctr., One Tiger Place, Hays
- 22 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 22-23 **Kansas Accountants Club Meeting**, Emporia
- 26 **Touchstone Energy Annual Membership Meeting**, 9:30 a.m., Marriott Hotel, Wichita
- 27 **Centerspread Editors Workshop**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

## Electric cooperative employees learn supervisory skills

Thirty co-op employees representing 14 electric cooperative systems and the Kansas Cooperative Council attended KEC's supervisory training Aug. 24-28 in Wichita.

This program delivered instruction on core competencies required of supervisors in the areas of leadership, communication, and basic administrative skills. NRECA developed the curriculum based on a set of supervisory competencies identified by new and

experienced supervisors, and CEOs.

NRECA's Bryan Singletary facilitated nine interactive, co-op-specific modules including: time management, communication, resolving conflict, motivating employees, human resources, and occupational health and safety for supervisors.

The next supervisory fast track will be offered the week of Aug. 22, 2016, at KEPCo's headquarters in Topeka. Singletary is scheduled to facilitate.

## upcomingtraining

### CFC Financial Workshop for Directors

Join CFC for the Kansas Statewide Financial Workshop at the Wichita Marriott, Oct. 14-15. Designed specifically for Kansas co-op directors, this workshop provides a variety of finance-focused topics. CFC will also host a reception and dinner on Oct. 14, plus a box lunch will be provided on Oct. 15.

Sessions will be led by CFC staff and will address topics such as an economic update, financial statement analysis, capital credits and electric rates.

Registration information has been emailed to all member cooperatives.

### Centerspread Editor Training

KEC is offering a one-day workshop for employees responsible for coordinating the co-op newsletters and centerspreads. This training will be held in Topeka on Oct. 27.

The program will include an editorial review by KEC's Vicki Estes and Carrie Kimberlin, and a showcase of resources by staff representing NRECA, Touchstone Energy, Federated, and Safe Electricity.

A detailed agenda has been sent and registration is due Oct. 16. For more information, email Carrie Kimberlin, [ckimberlin@kec.org](mailto:ckimberlin@kec.org).



# Electric co-ops represented at K-State's Electrical Power Affiliates Day

Kansas electric cooperatives participated in the 6th annual Electrical Power Affiliates Program Day at Kansas State University on Sept. 8-9. KEC, KEPCo, Midwest Energy, and Sunflower are sponsors of EPAP.

EPAP Days events included opportunities to speak to undergraduate and graduate classes, conduct mock job interviews, and attend an industry reception. There was also a speed networking session with students. Sunflower coordinated the electric co-op information booth.

During the event, Mark Barbee, KEPCo's Vice President of Engineering, spoke to approximately 140 students in two classes. He presented an introduction to electric cooperatives, giving a brief history and pointing out what makes electric cooperatives different from others in the utility industry.

"I was certain many of the students had never heard of an electric cooperative before," Barbee stated. "I wanted them to hear about our segment of the utility business.

"The K-State engineering leadership mentioned that they receive many, many requests from people like us who

want to get in front of the classrooms. However, the professors don't typically allow that because they need to get through the curriculum. This is one of those rare times we could get in front of the students," Barbee said.

Barbee explained why it was important for electric cooperatives to participate in programs like EPAP.

"We're going to need to replace a substantial number of employees due to retirements in the coming years, so it's good to build these relationships with the university who might supply some of these future employees," he explained.

Other cooperative employees also took part in EPAP Day. Thomas Ortiz, Generation Engineer at Sunflower,



Thomas Ortiz (center), Generation Engineer at Sunflower, visits with an engineering student at the co-op booth during Kansas State University's EPAP Day.

participated in the speed networking session and answered questions from students at the co-op booth. Carl Koch, Line Superintendent at Nemaha-Marshall, networked with students at the booth. Tonya Hines, Human

Resource Technician at Sunflower, met with students and volunteered to conduct practice interviews with them.

Bruce Graham, KEC's CEO, also participated in the event. He was part of the leadership group that met to brainstorm on opportunities to improve the mission, value and effectiveness of the EPAP program.

More information about EPAP can be found at K-State's website at [www.k-state.edu/epap](http://www.k-state.edu/epap).

## Co-ops golf, raise funds in KCRE tournament

Thirty teams took to the golf course and raised approximately \$4,700 during the 19th annual Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) golf tournament. The event was held August 28 at the Salina Municipal Golf Course.

The KCRE golf tournament raises an amount of money approximately equal to 188 memberships and provides KCRE with necessary funds to help candidates who support electric cooperative issues.

A total of 130 golfers participated in the tournament. Flight winners included the teams from Solomon, Kaw Valley, Nemaha-Marshall, Pioneer, Rolling Hills



The winning team of the KCRE Golf Tournament was Solomon Corp., which consisted of (from left): Tim Power, Eric Holmes, Ken Holmes and Tom Hemmer.

and Butler. Early bird and top prize drawings were also given to competitors along with 19 hole prizes.

The tournament planners—Kirk Thompson, CMS; Scott Whittington, Lyon-Coffey; Bob Reece, Flint Hills; Ken Maginley, Bluestem; and Dale Short, Butler—gave special thanks to the sponsors who supported this event.

The 20th Annual KCRE Golf Open is scheduled for Aug. 26, 2016.

## State Fair, continued

participate in hands-on experiments related to energy generation, and the KansasWorks Mobile Workforce RV that promoted available job openings in the energy sector. The Expo also featured the new mascot Energy Expert Professor Max Powers. Professor Powers appeared on signs throughout the Expo to help navigate students through the many available learning opportunities.



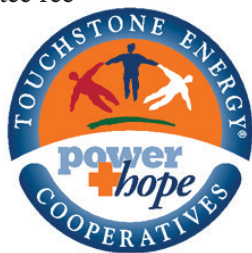
Students react to the electric cooperatives' High Voltage Safety Demo at the Kansas State Fair.



## Nominations sought for Power+Hope program

The Kansas Touchstone Energy Executive Council is once again seeking nominations for the Power+Hope employee and trustee recognition program.

This award is designed to recognize those who have been generous, selfless and giving—someone who helps others while expecting nothing in return.



The deadline for nominations is Oct. 1. Nominations will be reviewed at the Kansas Touchstone Energy Annual Meeting on Oct. 26.

The winner(s) will be honored at KEC's Annual Meeting in January. For a nomination form, email KEC's Shana Read at [sread@kec.org](mailto:sread@kec.org), or call 785-478-4554.

## TCEC holds annual meeting

Tri-County Electric Cooperative (TCEC) held its annual meeting on Sept. 10 at the Texas County Activity Center in Guymon, OK. More than 700 members attended the meeting.

Members were encouraged to take advantage of the free mobile apps that were designed to help members save money and energy, pay their electric bill, and stay safe in severe weather. The Cooperative Connections Card and a list of local retailers offering discounts were also promoted.

In his address to the membership, CEO Jack Perkins provided an update on community solar, the investment in the cooperative's infrastructure and the cooperative's financials.

TCEC members re-elected board members Larry Hodges, CJ Mouser, and Ronny White at the TCEC district meetings held in July.



Approximately 1,400 Tri-County Electric Cooperative members and guests enjoyed a barbecue dinner at the annual meeting on Sept. 10.

## Electric co-op employees judge 4-H State Fair projects

Cooperative employees from around the state volunteered to judge 4-H Energy Management projects on Friday, Sept. 11 at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson.

Judges included Scott Ayres and Andy Riggs, Sedgwick County; Steve Hausler, Sunflower; Dennis Deines, Western; Joe Birzer and Randy Rogers, Wheatland; and retired Bluestem employee Ron Dickey. They were joined by Pat Murphy, K-State, and Bob Blume, Hutchinson Community College.

There were approximately 60 entries in the Energy Management category, ranging from the fundamentals of making an extension cord to condensed versions of an entire electrical system within a house.

Projects were judged by several categories, including overall workmanship, neatness, and creativity. But one of the most important things judges look for is the educational value of the project and what the participant learned from putting it together.

"On behalf of all the judges, it was a privilege to be involved and witness all the entries. It's important for us to be involved in the 4-H judging based upon two of the cooperative principles: 'Education, Training, and Information'



PHOTO BY LORIBETH REYNOLDS, HUTCHINSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dennis Deines, Western's Manager of Member Services, checks the wiring on a 4-H lamp on Sept. 11, 2015, at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson. A team of representatives from electric utilities across the state were involved in judging the 4-H electricity projects on the opening day of the state fair.

and 'Concern for Community,'" said Deines.

To see results from the Energy Management category and all other 4-H projects, visit [www.kansas4-h.org](http://www.kansas4-h.org).

## Kaw Valley employees deliver Meals on Wheels to members

As a part of demonstrating the cooperative principle "Commitment to Community," the dedicated employees of Kaw Valley Electric are taking part in the Meals on Wheels program.

Co-op volunteers deliver meals twice a month to provide their home bound, senior, and disabled members the ability to live independently.

"I enjoy working with Meals on Wheels because it not only is helping those in need in the community, but it allows me to make a



Sarah Broxterman (left), Financial Accounting Assistant, and Mary Barker, Administrative Assistant, deliver Meals on Wheels to Topeka-area members.

connection with residents in the area," said Sarah Broxterman, Financial Accounting Assistant. "Delivery day is enjoyable on so many levels, but knowing you're delivering a hot meal and even a smile that can make a difference is rewarding."

Broxterman is often joined by fellow employees on her delivery route. "It's great to get other employees out to

help," she said. "It's a great feeling to get others involved in something I'm passionate about and enjoy doing."