

Rural Power

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

Kansas electric co-op directors achieve credentials

Earlier this month, 19 locally-elected directors from electric cooperatives in Kansas received the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership Credential (BLC) certificates from NRECA.

These directors were recognized at NRECA's Region 7 & 9 meeting, held Sept. 29–Oct. 1, for their commitment to education and attainment of the certificates in front of more than 750 electric co-op officials from Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

"In today's electric utility environment, there are many demands for co-op directors to increase their knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, to develop new governance skills and represent the cooperative principles," said Bruce Graham, KEC's CEO. "The Kansas co-ops have shown their commitment to the continued education of their directors for the benefit of their members."

The CCD program requires demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies. The 11 directors who earned their CCD include: **JUDY**

KINSLER, Ark Valley; **SHERI CLAASSEN**, Butler; **DANE CLARK**, DS&O; **SHAWN POTTS**, Flint Hills; **DON MONTGOMERY**, Kaw Valley; **SANDRA SMITH** and **MICHAEL SPRINGER**, Radiant; **ROBERT FREDRICKSON** and **PAUL WILSON**, Rolling Hills; **JOHN WHITTINGTON**, Sumner-Cowley; and **JAMES OCHS**, Victory.

Four directors received the BLC, which recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a CCD. These individuals are: **BYRCE FLAMING**, Butler; **RAD ROEHL**, Lane-Scott; **MARK GRATNY**, Leavenworth-Jefferson; and **TERRI LARSON**, Victory.

Additionally, four directors earned *both* their CCD and BLC certificates: **WILLIAM PANN-BACKER**, Bluestem; **JAMES CLARK**, Caney Valley; **DUANE KAISER**, Flint Hills; and **MICHAEL CHRISTIE**, Ninnescah.

The Salt Lake City meeting was the third in a series of five regional meetings convened by NRECA in 2015. The regional meetings continue the cooperatives' grassroots policymaking process, which begins at the local co-op level and culminates at NRECA's 74th Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Feb. 14-17, 2016.

KEC District Meeting program to feature capital credits, economics

The agenda for KEC's annual series of District Meetings has been released. Each of the four meetings are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

The schedule for this year's meetings are as follows:

- **District 1**, Nov. 9 at Flint Oak Lodge, Fall River;
- **District 2**, Nov. 2 at Kansas Association of School Boards, Topeka;
- **District 3**, Nov. 4 at Fort Hays Robbins Center, Hays; and
- **District 4**, Nov. 3 at United Wireless Arena Conference Center, Dodge City.

The agenda will include a statewide review, legislative update, and budget presentation by KEC staff, and an update on the Clean Power Plan.

The District Meeting will also feature a presentation on capital credits by **SUSAN OLANDER**,

Federated's Vice President-General Counsel with a supporting video by **TY THOMPSON**, NRECA's Vice President and Deputy General Counsel.

"Ty Thompson has created a presentation that features capital credit litigation per state," Olander said. "The video is tailored to Kansas, but it will give a flavor of what's going on in our nation."

After the video, Olander will emphasize certain points and answer questions from the attendees.

The economic presentation for Districts 1 and 2 will be "**Economic Overview and Operating Benchmarks for Co-ops in a Rising Interest Rate Environment**" by CFC's **JOHN SUTTER**. The economic presentation for Districts 3 and 4 will be "**Equity Management: It's About the Members' Money**" by CoBank's **SETH HART**.



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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, 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 to fill a vacancy. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Council, please contact Bruce Mueller.

The Kansas Touchstone Energy Executive Council is also 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. Winners will be honored at the KEC Annual Meeting on Jan. 25 in Topeka.

To RSVP your attendance or to request a nomination form for the Power+Hope program, call Shana Read, KEC, at 785-478-4554 or email sread@kec.org.

insympathy

Edward Hollingdale

Edward Harold Hollingdale, brother of KEC's Carol Dorr, died on Oct. 3. Funeral services were held Oct. 8 at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home in Topeka.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 5375 SW 7th Street, Topeka, KS 66606.

Rita Holthaus

Rita Holthaus, mother of KEC's Dave Holthaus, died on Oct. 6. Mass of Christian Burial was held on Oct. 10 at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Seneca.

Memorial contributions may be made to Saints Peter & Paul School, in care of: Popkess Memorial Chapel, 814 Castle St., Seneca, KS 66538.

co-opcalendar

OCTOBER

- 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 State University, Memorial Union, Emporia
- 26 **Touchstone Energy Annual Membership Meeting**, 9:30 a.m., Marriott Hotel, Wichita
- 27 **Centerspread Editors Workshop**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

NOVEMBER

- 2 **District 2 Meeting**, Kansas Association of School Boards, 1420 SW Arrowhead, Topeka, 10 a.m.
- 3 **District 4 Meeting**, United Wireless Arena Conference Center, 4100 W. Comanche, Dodge City, 10 a.m.
- 4 **District 3 Meeting**, Fort Hays State University, Robbins Center, One Tiger Place, Hays, 10 a.m.
- 9 **District 1 Meeting**, Flint Oak Lodge, 2639 Quail, Fall River, 10 a.m.
- 12 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 12 **Youth Tour & Camp coordinators web conference**, 10 a.m.
- 18-19 **KEPCo Annual Meeting – dinner at 6 p.m.**, meeting at 4 p.m., Geary County Convention Ctr., 310 Hammons Dr., Junction City
- 20 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 23 **Attorney's CLE Meeting**, Courtyard Marriott at Old Town, 820 E. 2nd St. N., Wichita
- 26-27 **Thanksgiving Holiday**, KEC Office Closed

upcoming training

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 deadline is Oct. 16. For more information, email Carrie Kimberlin at ckimberlin@kec.org.

Director training offered at KEC Annual Meeting

At the KEC Annual Meeting, directors may take a new Board Leadership course, a CCD course, and a customized, half-day workshop.

On Sat., Jan. 23, **BRYAN SINGLETARY** will facilitate the new **BLC 963.1: Strategic Technologies and their Impact on the Cooperative**, and **TERRI SMILEY** will offer the CCD course **2620: Board Operations and Process**.

On Sun., Jan. 24 from 1–4 p.m., **ADAM SCHWARTZ** will facilitate **Doing the Right Thing—How to avoid complacency at your co-op**. This course highlights a few very high-

KEC's CLE program

KEC's Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program will be held Monday, Nov. 23 from 8:30 a.m.–4:20 p.m. at Courtyard Wichita at Old Town.

Topics include information on how to prevent loss, followed by the Choctaw Electric Story with **JOE HARRIS**, a national legal update by NRECA staff, a presentation on the KCC Complaint Process by **GLEND A CAFER** and **TERRI PEMBERTON**, a board issues presentation by **TIM LARSON**, and two hours of ethics credits presented by KEC's **KIM CHRISTIANSEN** and K-LAP.

Registration deadline is Nov. 16.

profile cases where cooperatives have engaged in behavior that was not in the members' interests. Sometimes the behavior has included criminal acts, and other times the activity was 'legal' but unethical.

In this seminar, directors will take a closer look at some case studies of co-ops that went bad, probing why and how it happened. They will also look at high-performing co-ops, asking the same questions why and how do good things happen. Participants will learn what to do to correct small problems before they become big problems.

2015 Kansas youth tour delegate wins nationwide grant contest

ASHLYN

TAYLOR, a 2015 Youth Tour delegate sponsored by Heartland, recently won a nationwide student service project grant contest coordinated by NRECA.

Taylor will use the \$500 student service project

grant to partner with the Erie FFA Chapter to build two swings for the local nursing home, and to construct a 4 ft. x 8 ft. flower bed for the nursing home residents to enjoy. The grant program was coordinated in partnership with generationOn, a global youth service organization.

"I believe that this project will have an impact on the residents of the local nursing home," Taylor said. "With a new outdoors area, the residents will be more encouraged to go outside and enjoy themselves. By providing them a beautiful area, they will be able to enjoy their surroundings instead of staying in their rooms. This will allow them to be more positive and possibly increase their health. These swings and gardens will stay and be maintained at the nursing home. Overall, this project will have a long-term effect."



Ashlyn Taylor, 2015 youth tour delegate, won a \$500 community service grant through NRECA.

For this project, Taylor and members of the Erie FFA Chapter will use the grant funds to buy metal that they will weld together to make frames for purchased wooden swings. They will also purchase materials and

flowers to construct a flower bed. As part of the grant requirements, Taylor's project must be completed yet this year.

"Students like Ashlyn are our hope for the future," said Dale Coomes, Heartland's Manager. "For more than 50 years, electric co-ops have invested in our students by hosting the annual youth tour to Washington, D.C., allowing some of our best and brightest students to gain first-hand insight. This grant program builds on that investment, and gives our students the tools to expand their resume while applying what they've learned to directly benefit their community."

A total of 23 grants were awarded as part of the grant program. Grant winners were chosen from a pool of applicants, all of whom participated in the 2015 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Ninnescah Board reviews plan to build new headquarters

A little more than a year ago, Ninnescah's Board and management began studying the possibility of a new facility to replace the current buildings on the west side of Pratt.

Driving factors for this study included security issues, a lack of warehouse space to store and layout material for daily jobs, not having enough garage space to keep its vehicles under cover, and an inability to easily access pole racks and transformers.

After conducting a study, the Board has entered into an agreement with Cooperative Building Solutions—a group that specializes in the design and building of electric cooperatives—to develop a plan for a building at a new location in Pratt County.

At its September meeting, the Board agreed to purchase property

that met their criteria which included staying within Ninnescah's service territory and not increasing outage response times. Another consideration of the new site was the usability and potential for development. Ninnescah's current facilities presented too many challenges in meeting the needs for storage of materials and vehicles.

The current facility has served Ninnescah for the past 60 years. The main building was completed in 1953 and, according to the records, the fleet of vehicles consisted of one car and five pickups—three of these pickups had gin poles to assist the linemen in their duties.

Over the years, the size of the fleet has continued to grow and the property configuration prevents the facility to grow with the co-op's needs.

Allan Miller recognized for 40 years of service to Prairie Land

ALLAN MILLER, Prairie Land's CEO, was recently recognized by his co-op for 40 years of service.

Miller began his career with Norton-Decatur on Oct. 1, 1975, and has held various positions prior to his appointment as CEO in January 1991.

"When I became CEO, we had 6,000 members and today we have more than 25,000," Miller said. "The merger of Northwest Kansas Electric Cooperative and Norton-Decatur in 1997, and the Aquila, Inc., acquisition in 2007, are two accomplishments of which I am very proud."

Miller was born and raised in Norton and is a Fort Hays State University graduate. Miller and his wife, Connie, have two boys, Matt, 23, who attends medical school at the University of Kansas, and Marc, 19, a sophomore at the University of Kansas.

In his spare time, Miller enjoys fishing, golfing and visiting his sons.



Allan Miller

CFC hosts Financial Workshop for Kansas directors

More than 40 Kansas co-op directors, staff and guests joined National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) for the Kansas Statewide Financial Workshop at the Wichita Marriott, Oct. 14-15.

This training was designed specifically for Kansas co-op directors to provide a variety of finance-focused topics. Sessions were led by CFC staff and addressed topics such as an economic update, financial statement analysis, capital credits and electric rates.

SHELDON PETERSEN, CFC's CEO, discussed the role of CFC within the cooperative network and provided some behind-the-scenes insight into how CFC fits into the world of finance and how they work with banks, investors and rating agencies to serve members.

In addition to the workshop sessions, CFC also hosted a reception and dinner on Oct. 14.

NRECA launches new Director Gold training credential

NRECA has announced a new Director Gold credential that will begin in January 2016. Director Gold recognizes directors who have already earned their Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) or Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) and who wish to continue on a path that recognizes continuing education and service on the board.

“The Director Gold credential is geared toward directors who are committed to continuing their education beyond CCD and BLC, and who desire a tangible credential that reinforces their stature as part of an elite group of experienced and educated directors,” said Bruce Graham, KEC’s CEO. “Director Gold will also demonstrate to co-op members those directors’ ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability.”

For a director to earn the Director Gold credential, they must have already earned the CCD and BLC and earn three additional credits from the BLC series of courses. Unlike the CCD and BLC certificates, Director Gold includes a continuing education requirement which calls for directors to earn three credits every two-years to maintain their Director Gold status.

In Kansas, there are already 91 directors who are eligible for Director Gold and can opt in to join the program this year. To opt in, directors can complete the form on www.cooperative.com/DirectorGold.

Director Gold emerged from NRECA’s comprehensive review of existing director education programs.

“Our goal is to analyze and rebuild director education programs that meet directors’ education needs based on ‘where they are’ in their tenure from potential board candidate to board retirement,” said Pat Mangan, NRECA’s Director of Governance Education.

“The training in our program is developed collaboratively to offer a range of governance resources and information to meet the diverse needs of a larger population of directors, and is based on a comprehensive mapping

of necessary director knowledge topics,” Mangan continued.

To conduct the program review, NRECA staff gathered written and verbal feedback from groups including Statewide Training Coordinators, NRECA instructors, electric cooperative administrative professionals, and co-op directors. Through the review process, NRECA determined that while all CCD courses will continue to be revised and updated, there will be no changes to the structure of the CCD program.

For the BLC program, NRECA staff identified four ways to help directors navigate the BLC series.

“First, we plan to designate five BLC courses as recommended in the BLC program. Second, the courses will be grouped into specialty areas such as governance, technology, and power supply. Third, we will take a tiered approach to some of the specialty areas by developing differentiated courses for directors at different knowledge levels. Finally, we will develop an online assessment tool,” Mangan explained.

If you have questions about the director programs, please call Shana Read at 785-224-7313 or email sread@kec.org.



jobmarket

KEC Seeks Communications Specialist

Due to upcoming retirements and pending promotions, KEC is now seeking an individual for the position of Communications Specialist. Responsibilities include designing publications, writing news articles, and advertising. The position also assists with coordination of the youth programs and other co-op activities. A college degree in communications, design, marketing or journalism preferred. Applicants should be familiar with Adobe InDesign and Photoshop, AP Styleguide, and meeting deadlines.

For a position description or to apply, email Shana Read at sread@kec.org by Nov. 20.

KEC staff members show commitment to community

Members of KEC’s staff recently showed their commitment to their community by helping both the homeless and victims of extreme weather.

The Topeka Rescue Mission was gifted several cases of Gatorade by KEC’s Loss Control, Safety and Compliance Department on Oct. 1.

“The Gatorade was left over from two of our lineman training workshops,” said **LARRY DETWILER**, LCS&C Director.

The Mission used the donated beverages for the group meal that evening.

DANNY SEELE, Director of Apparatus Testing Department, was spotted helping Osage City clean up after a microburst hit the town on Sept. 18.

According to Rodney Willis, Osage

City Manager, the storm completely knocked out power for the entire community. Seele volunteered his time and personal equipment to help remove tree limbs from the streets.

“There were limbs everywhere, and you couldn’t even drive through the street,” Seele recalled. “The City was in desperate need. I wanted to give back to the city for all they have done for KEC.”



Mission worker **Mikey Moore** (center) helps unload cases of Gatorade donated by KEC’s **Larry Detwiler** and **Stacy Marston**.