

# Rural Power

## INSIDE

- 2 | Calendar
- 3 | Victory holds 6th annual health fair
- 3 | KEC plans District Meetings
- 4 | Kansas co-ops "Share Success"

## Kansans achieve credentials in today's electric utility competencies

This week, 38 locally-elected directors and employees from Kansas electric cooperatives received the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and/or the Board Leadership (BLC) certificates from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Recognized at the NRECA Region 7 and 9 meeting for their commitment to education and attainment of the CCD certificate were Keith McNickle, Ark Valley; Dean Blanka and Mike Morton, Bluestem; Wayne Pagel and Daryl Sales, Brown-Atchison; Bryce Flaming, Richard Jimenez, Dale Short, Riley Walters, and Ben Whiteside, Butler; Coral Magnus, Caney Valley; James Christopher, Randy Cooper, Brian Lang and Ronald Seyfert, DS&O; Joseph Conley, Kaw Valley; Rad Roehl, Lane-Scott; Bryan Francis, Edwin Lenkner, and Kenneth Unruh, Ninnescah; Jerry Gallagher, Ronald Griffith, Robert Johnson, Otto Levin, and William Peterson, Prairie Land; Bryan Boyles and Jim Ehrlich, Rolling Hills; Daniel Thimesch, Sedgwick County; Keith Leddy, Sumner-Cowley; and Gary Gillespie, Randy Quint, and Ken Schulte, Victory. Their names were called in front of more than 750 electric cooperative officials from Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana,

Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Additionally, Keith McNickle, Ark Valley; Dean Blanka and Mike Morton, Bluestem; Kevin Compton, Brown-Atchison; Richard Jimenez and Dale Short, Butler; Randy Cooper and Brian Lang, DS&O; Gary Burton, Flint Hills; Donald Davied, Heartland; Joseph Conley, Kaw Valley; Donna Williams, Lyon-Coffey; Bryan Francis, Edwin Lenkner, and Kenneth Unruh, Ninnescah; Jerry Gallagher, Ronald Griffith, Robert Johnson, Otto Levin and William Peterson, Prairie Land; Daryl Donohue, Radiant; Bryan Boyles, Rolling Hills; and Robert Hiss, Wheatland; received the BLC certificate, which recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a CCD. Directors who have attained the Board Leadership certificate have completed 10 credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses.

The Portland meeting is the fourth in a series of five regional meetings convened by NRECA in 2013. The regional meetings continue the co-ops' grassroots policymaking process, which begins at the local co-op level and culminates at NRECA's 2014 Annual Meeting, to be held in Nashville, TN, Feb. 27 – March 6, 2014.

## Nominations sought for new Touchstone Energy employee recognition program

The Kansas Touchstone Energy Executive Council announced a new recognition program for those who work at Kansas electric cooperatives. The Kansas Touchstone Energy Power & Hope Employee Recognition Program honors co-op staff who have gone the extra mile to help those in need.

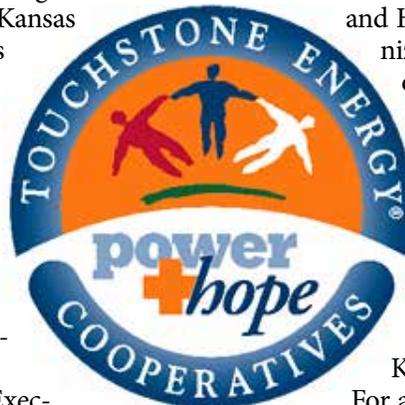
"We have employees from across the state who really make a difference at their co-ops or within their communities," said Don Hellwig, Chair of the Kansas Touchstone Energy Executive Council. "We encourage managers, trustees, or other employees to nominate these

individuals for this award."

The Kansas Touchstone Energy Power and Hope 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 Nov. 15. Nominations will be reviewed at the Kansas Touchstone Energy Annual Meeting on Nov. 19. The winner(s) will be honored at KEC's Annual Meeting in January.

For a nomination form, contact KEC's Shana Read at [sread@kec.org](mailto:sread@kec.org) or call 785-478-4554.



PO Box 4267  
Topeka, KS 66604-0267  
[www.kec.org](http://www.kec.org)

Join Kansas Electric Cooperatives  
Facebook page

## IKEA to sell solar panels

IKEA, the world's biggest furniture retailer, is to sell solar panels at its British stores, the first time it has offered the devices and marking an attempt to tap growth in the heavily subsidized green energy market. The Sweden-based company, best known for cheap basics such as its Billy bookcases and Ektorp sofas, plans to offer solar panel packages at all of its 17 British stores within the next 10 months. It said the move follows a successful pilot project at its store east of London, which sells one photovoltaic system almost every day.

RUETERS - 9/30/13

## FEMA aid rejection stuns electric cooperatives

Stunned officials from Iowa's electric cooperatives are reeling from a federal rejection of \$20 million in disaster aid to replace electric systems in northwest Iowa badly damaged during an April storm. Iowa's six-member congressional delegation has signed a letter to FEMA seeking a meeting between FEMA officials and co-op managers to review the denial. FEMA officials said the policy requiring electrical systems to be tested prior to disasters has been in place since Sept. 2009.

DES MOINES REGISTER - 9/20/13

## YLC students embrace co-op principles

The 2013-2014 Youth Leadership Council members are truly embracing the co-op principles learned on Youth Tour.

When the father of Kansas YLC, Catie Crosley (sponsored by Pioneer), passed away last week, they sprang into action. Determined to find a way to help their friend, they designed t-shirts to sell. The proceeds go to the college fund set up for Catie and her brother.

To order the shirt, or to make a contribution to the scholarship fund, visit the Team Crosley page on Facebook.

## OCTOBER

- 21 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 21 **Midwest Energy Annual Meeting**, FHSU Robbins Center, One Tiger Place, Hays, 10 a.m.
- 23 **KEC Budget and Operations Committee Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
- 23-24 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 23-25 **Accountant's Club Meeting**, Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview in Wichita
- 24 **KEC's Centerspread Editors Webconference**, 10 a.m.
- 31 **MDM Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka

## NOVEMBER

- 4 **District 2 Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
- 6 **District 3 Meeting**, FHSU Robbins Center, Eagle Communications Hall, One Tiger Place, Hays, 10 a.m.
- 7 **District 4 Meeting**, Victory Headquarters, Dodge City, 10 a.m.
- 8 **District 1 Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, 9100 E. Corporate Hills Drive, Wichita, 10 a.m.

## Electric cooperative employees learn supervisory skills

Thirty-three co-op employees representing 14 cooperative systems attended KEC's supervisory training this week at KEPCo's headquarters in Topeka.

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 cooperative supervisors, experienced supervisors, and CEOs.

NRECA's Bryan Singletary facilitated this "fast track" that offered nine interactive, co-op specific modules.



NRECA's Bryan Singletary teaches the Supervisory Fast Track to Kansas cooperative employees from Oct. 14-18.

The topics of the training included: Getting Started as a Supervisor, Personal Time Management, A Supervisor's Role in Managing Change, Maximizing Effectiveness Through Communication, Resolving Conflict Through Negotiation, Motivating Employees, The Supervisor and Human Resources, Tools for Effective Performance Management, and Occupational Health and Safety for Supervisors.

## Kansas co-ops hold food drives during Co-op Month

October is national "Co-op Month" and Governor Sam Brownback has proclaimed it "Co-op Month" in Kansas, as well. Cooperatives across the state and throughout the nation will be celebrating all month long.

This year, co-ops are demonstrating "concern for their community," one of the seven cooperative principles, by donating to local food banks and charities providing nutritional support to those in need.

The theme for the Kansas cooperative initiative to fight hunger, "Cooperatives...Pounding Out Hunger," is modeled after the pioneer tradition of "poundings," where community

members would shower new residents or newlyweds with staple food items, which in those days were generally sold by the pound.

The Kansas Cooperative Council's Board of Directors kicked off their food drive effort with a challenge to all member co-ops. The KCC board members were asked to bring at least one case of non-perishable food items to their September board meeting in Manhattan. The KCC worked with Harvesters Community Food Network and their Manhattan area partner, Flint Hills Breadbasket, and the 443 pounds of canned and boxed food goods donated will go toward feeding the hungry in Riley County.

## More than 1,000 people flock to Victory Electric's 6th Annual Community Health Fair

More than 1,000 people received free medical services and advice at the 6th Annual Victory Electric Community Health Fair on Oct. 5.

The event has grown over the years, and Victory Electric moved this year's health fair to the Western State Bank Expo Center.

"We are pleased with the large turnout at the health fair," said Jerri Imgarten, Victory Electric's communications specialist and health fair coordinator. "The goal was to provide an environment where citizens of Dodge City and the surrounding communities could come receive vital health care information and services at little to no charge, and I believe we accomplished that goal."

The health fair featured \$10 blood screenings and \$15 flu shots, as well as a multitude of free services. More than



During Victory Electric's 6th Annual Health Fair on Oct. 5, Dr. Ryan Lehmkueller (right) and Dental Assistant Bianca Madariaga (standing) conducted oral cancer screenings for all ages.

70 doctors and health care professionals performed 330 blood draws, 363 flu shots, 75 pap smears, 164 skin cancer screenings, 67 breast exams, 138 oral cancer screenings, 141 fluoride treatments, 90 vision screenings, 91 bone density scans, 59 hearing tests, four car seat installations, 144 blood pressure checks, and 124 blood sugar checks.

"The doctors and health care professionals are the heart and soul of this event, and we wouldn't have such success without the dedication and time of these individuals," said Imgarten. "We want to thank them and the

90 volunteers who donated their time to come help."

Victory Electric partnered with Dodge City Medical Center, Western Plains Medical Complex, USD 443, and others to sponsor this community event.

### KEC plans District Meetings

KEC is planning the annual series of District Meetings. Each of the four meetings are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. This year's meetings are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

**District 1**, Nov. 8 at Marriott Hotel, 9100 E. Corporate Hills Drive, Wichita.

**District 2**, Nov. 4 at KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.

**District 3**, Nov. 6 at FHSU Robbins Center, Eagle Communications Hall, One Tiger Place, Hays.

**District 4**, Nov. 7 at Victory Headquarters, Dodge City.

The agenda will include a departmental and budget presentation by KEC staff, as well as a legislative update, a discussion on KEC's grassroots program, and a safety presentation.

The feature presentation will be on "day-ahead" (or "Day 2") markets. Shawn Geil, KEPCo's Director of Information Systems, will give this presentation for Districts 1 and 2, and Don Gulley, Sunflower's Vice President of Regulatory & Market Affairs, will present at Districts 3 and 4.

### CMS to host open house at its new Coldwater facility on Oct. 25



CMS will celebrate Cooperative month by hosting an open house at its new facility located at 603 N. Central in Coldwater. The celebration will be held Oct. 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Kansas Touchstone Energy to hold Annual Meeting

The Touchstone Energy Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Wichita Marriott, Salon 1, 9100 E. Corporate Hills Drive, on Tuesday, Nov. 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Amy Rosier, Touchstone Energy, will give an update on the national program activities. The Touchstone Energy Executive Council will discuss statewide activities, set the 2014 dues assessment, and hold elections.

The committee members whose terms expire this year include Perry Rubart, Pioneer; Don Hellwig, DS&O; and Jerry King, Victory. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Council, please contact Don Hellwig.

Please RSVP your attendance to Shana Read, KEC, before Oct. 25.

### insympathy

#### Dale Bodenhausen

Dale R. Bodenhausen, former Brown-Atchison board member, died Monday, Sept. 23, 2013, at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kan., following a farm accident.

Bodenhausen served on Brown-Atchison's board from 1972-2009. He served on KEPCo's board from 1978-2009, and was President for two years.

Funeral services were held Sept. 26. Memorial contributions are suggested to Camp Creek United Methodist Church or the Gideon's and may be sent in care of Becker Dyer Stanton Funeral Home, 800 Kansas Ave., Atchison, KS, 66002. Condolences to the family may be left online at [www.beckerdyer.com](http://www.beckerdyer.com).

## Kansas co-ops “Share Success” through CoBank’s matching grant program

Kansas electric cooperatives are “Sharing Success” with their communities through a grant program sponsored by CoBank.

Wheatland Electric donated \$5,000 to the Scott Community Foundation through the Sharing Success Fund. The program highlights the critical role that cooperatives play in the U.S. rural economy. The grant matches a cash donation, dollar-for-dollar from a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum of \$5,000, to a local

non-profit organization of the co-op’s choice.

CoBank matched Wheatland’s donation to give the fund a balance of \$10,000 to distribute to local non-profits. Last year, Wheatland distributed 10 grants totaling \$8,250 to non-profits across its service territory.

Flint Hills is also participating in the grant program. For the second consecutive year, Flint Hills was proud to present a \$2,000 check to the Kansas 4-H Foundation.

“We know that young people who participate in 4-H programs will likely contribute to their communities in the future,” said Bob Reece, Flint Hill’s General Manager. “We are proud to support the local 4-H clubs that include so many of our local youth.”

The cash donation was split equally and sent to each of the Marion, Chase, and Morris county 4-H clubs to use toward camp fees at the Rock Springs 4-H Camp.



Wheatland presents a check to the Scott Community Foundation. Pictured from left: Alli Conine, Community Development Manager, Scott Community Foundation; Ryan Roberts, Executive Director, Scott Community Foundation; Shawn Powelson, Member Services, Wheatland.



Flint Hills and CoBank present a \$2,000 check to the Kansas 4-H Foundation. From left: CoBank representatives Erin Bodien and Seth Hart; Michelle Schrader, Kansas 4-H Foundation, Diann Diehl, Flint Hills Member Service Manager, and Flint Hills General Manager Bob Reece.



# Rural Power

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. • PO Box 4267 • Topeka, KS 66604-0267

*Rural Power* is published every three weeks on Fridays. This electronic version is provided to you as a service of KEC. If you would like to receive personal e-mail notice of this publication in electronic format or discontinue such notice, please email [sread@kec.org](mailto:sread@kec.org).