

Rural Power

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Kansas youth delegates visit legislators on Capitol Hill

Kansas electric cooperatives sent 33 youth from across the state on the 52nd annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The tour, which was held June 14-21, taught the students about electric cooperatives and helped develop leadership skills. The trip also included an opportunity to meet government officials and visit national memorials.



Senators Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts visit with the Kansas youth tour delegates at the U.S. Capitol on June 19.

Kansas was one of 42 states to send a delegation to this annual youth tour.

During the trip, chaperones used social media to share photos to keep the student's families updated on all of the activities. As a result, Sen. Roberts began following the tour's "tweets", and Rep. Jenkins posted photos of the Kansas delegates

on Facebook and then joined the KEC Facebook page. There were many comments posted as the students kept busy on this educational tour.

"This trip has shown me so much history, good times, and how important my rural community is," said Katy Winkel, Rolling Hills. "I loved all the museums and really enjoyed the national aquarium. This trip was the trip of a lifetime!"

Winkel was chosen to be the 2012 Youth Leadership Council representative for Kansas, and will participate in NRECA's annual meeting in New Orleans, LA, in 2013.

For more information or to see photos of this year's youth tour, visit www.youthtour.org.

The group learned about the U.S. government through visits with Senators Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts, Congressmen Tim Huelskamp and Mike Pompeo and Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins. The students learned about cooperatives through a visit to Kaw Valley, and they toured many sites in Washington, D.C. including museums, the Capitol and Arlington National Cemetery.

"This trip has inspired me to do my part to change the world," said Dezirae Hamrick, Kaw Valley. "Anyone can be president, anyone can be a congressman or woman, anyone can be a senator, anyone can make a difference."



The students hosted a breakfast for the Kansas Congressional delegation. Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins (left photo, center), Congressman Tim Huelskamp (center photo) and Congressman Mike Pompeo (right photo) took the time to visit with the youth tour delegates and to pose for photos. More photos are available at www.kec.org.



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Farm bill passes in Senate with bipartisan effort

The Senate farm bill passed on a 64-35 vote with provisions addressing several legislative priorities for electric co-ops. The bill contains a Rural Energy Savings Program authorization that creates jobs and lower energy bills for families, farms and small businesses by promoting energy-saving improvements to homes and buildings in communities that electric co-ops serve.

Electric co-ops also won a big victory in protecting the RUS electric loan program. The Senate voted 45-54 to reject Sen. Jim DeMint's (R-SC) amendment that would have prohibited the Ag Department from making any type of loan guarantee. This is a big win because the proposal would have prevented RUS from lending to electric co-ops.

While there was bipartisan support for this legislation, the Senate vote does not demonstrate an overwhelming signal for the House to move quickly to take action. The House Ag Committee will not mark up its farm bill until after the July 4 recess.

GLENN ENGLISH – 6/22/12

DS&O and Rolling Hills consolidation study discontinued

After much consideration and study the past several months, boards of both DS&O and Rolling Hills have taken action to discontinue the consolidation effort.

Both cooperatives remain committed to explore all methods of cost control, while continuing to maintain excellent service to their members.

Feasibility reports and information gathered during the study will continue to be beneficial to the cooperatives during the exploration process.

DS&O, ROLLING HILLS

JULY

- 10 **Lane-Scott's Annual Meeting**, dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Lane County Fair Grounds, Dighton.
- 14-20 **Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp**, Steamboat Springs, CO.
- 17 **KEC Strategic Planning Committee**, Courtyard Marriott, Salina, 10 a.m.
- 18-19 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 20 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 26 **MDM Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
- 28-30 **KEC Summer Board Meeting**, Overland Park Marriott, Overland Park.

AUGUST

- 2-3 **Material Managers Meeting**, Hyatt Regency, Wichita.
- 3 **Max Ott Retirement Party**, Cherokee High School Cafeteria, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 15-16 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 23 **MDM Meeting**, Salina.
- 23 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.

Whittington seeks CoBank board seat

Lyon-Coffey manager Scott Whittington is seeking election to a four-year term for the Mid-Plains region on the CoBank board of directors.



Scott Whittington

Whittington, a graduate of the NRECA Management Internship Program, was recommended as a candidate by the CoBank Nominating Committee. He is the only candidate in the region – which consists of Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and New Mexico – who represents the Kansas electric cooperatives.

“My experience serving on several cooperative boards, both large and small, along with serving in leadership positions on these boards would bring benefit to the CoBank board,” Whittington stated. “I have over a decade of electric distribution cooperative experience that can be tapped when dealing with

this growing segment of CoBank's business. I am a team player and advocate a consensus and teambuilding approach to problem solving.”

CoBank stockholders will receive ballots in mid-July and will have approximately 60 days to return their ballots.

CoBank is governed by a 32-person board whose members come from locations throughout the U.S. and represent diverse industries and professions. Prior to the Jan. 1, 2012, merger with U.S. AgBank, CoBank was governed by a 16-member board but under the governance plan approved by the stockholders of both organizations, the CoBank and U.S. AgBank boards have been temporarily combined for a one-year transition period. In 2013, the size of the combined bank's board will be reduced to 24 elected directors from six geographical regions, along with a number of appointed directors.

For more information, visit www.whittingtonforcobank.com.

Governor Brownback names attorney to utility commission

Gov. Sam Brownback has named an attorney from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to a seat on the state commission that regulates utilities.

Brownback announced the appointment of Shari Feist Albrecht to the three-member Kansas Corporation Commission. She replaces Ward Loyd, an attorney and former Kansas

House member whose term expired this year.

Albrecht has worked for KDHE since 1993. She was a supervisor in its environmental protection division before becoming associate chief counsel. She previously served on the Corporation Commission staff in the division that regulates oil and natural gas companies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS – 6/26/12

Kansas Country Living: more than just a magazine

For more than 60 years, *Kansas Country Living* has served as an important method for Kansas' electric cooperatives to communicate with their consumer-members.

With its 32 pages full of topics relevant to rural Kansas and rural electrification, the magazine finds itself on the coffee tables of 122,000 Kansans and reaches more than 187,000 individuals each month, according to a recent readership survey.

That survey also revealed that 97% of members read each issue of the magazine, while 87% reported they are satisfied with the magazine's appearance and interesting content. What's more, a total redesign of the magazine was accomplished in 2009. Another readership survey is scheduled for next year, said editor Larry Freeze.

These recent improvements in design and content have been noted as well in national competitions. The magazine earned honors for the publication in 2008, for content in 2008-2010, and for best photo in both the 2011 and 2012 "Spotlight on Excellence" national awards program, sponsored by

the Council of Rural Electric Communicators and NRECA.

In each issue, 22 member cooperatives furnish their own local news section, or centerspread. Content focuses on issues affecting the co-op, as well as providing tips on electrical safety and wise energy use.

The magazine and the local centerspreads are compiled, designed and polished with the help of KEC's communications department and the local editors at the participating cooperatives.

Freeze, who has served as editor of *Kansas Country Living* for more than 30 years, says that the magazine is much more than just a means of communication.

"In addition to education and information, we promote things that are happening across rural Kansas," Freeze said. "We act as boosters of small towns across Kansas and help spur economic development. We want to keep rural Kansas strong and vibrant and help attract people to the areas that the co-ops serve."



Kansas Country Living has won multiple awards through NRECA's Spotlight on Excellence program. Shown are two recent award-winning covers.

Prairie Land, Wheatland join Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections Card

Members of Prairie Land and Wheatland will soon see another benefit of membership – the Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections Card. Through this program, members receive discounts on products and services from participating local and national businesses.

"Prairie Land provides our member-owners with safe, reliable power. Yet our service goes beyond the wires," said Allan Miller, Prairie Land's CEO. "It's also important that we offer additional value that has an enormously positive impact on all our members."

Prairie Land and Wheatland, in conjunction with the other Touchstone Energy co-ops including Alfalfa, Ark Valley, Butler, DS&O, Flint Hills, LJEC, Pioneer, Sunflower, Tri-County, and

Twin Valley, have launched this card-based member benefit program designed to deliver added value by offering valuable discounts.

"During these tough economic times, Wheatland is proud to offer our membership this money-savings tool," said Bruce Mueller, Wheatland's general manager. "Our hope is that local businesses participating in this program will also benefit from increased traffic."

A valuable feature of the card is the health discounts, featuring savings in pharmacy, vision, dental, lab services and more. The pharmacy discount has been widely used by members of Touchstone Energy co-ops across the country, resulting in combined savings of nearly \$20 million on prescriptions.

Victory Electric gets cooking

Victory Electric was host to British television crews on June 13. The crews were from a reality cooking show called *The Chef's Race*. They were filming an episode for the show that will air on BBC America this fall.

The premise for the show is competing cooking teams, one from the UK and one from the US. The chef teams cook their way across the US and use the money they raise to reach their next destination.

Members of the American team used Victory's grill to serve a traditional British meal to 50 of the cooperative's employees. Team USA also cooked an English meal at Boot Hill Museum, replacing the country-style dinner normally served. The public was invited to the Boot Hill event.

"The dinner proceeds helped Team USA travel to their next destinations – Wichita and then Oklahoma City," explained Terry Janson, Victory's manager. "I sit on the Boot Hill Board and thought this was pretty neat that small town America would be chosen for the show."

insympathy

Dora Boore

Dora (Autem) Boore, the first female Rural Electric Cooperative manager in Kansas, died June 14 at the Parsons Good Samaritan Society.



Dora Boore

A graduate of Parsons Business College, Boore began employment at Twin Valley Electric Cooperative in 1962 as a bookkeeper and later became manager. She retired in 1986.

Funeral services were held on June 19 at the Forbes-Hoffman Funeral Home in Parsons. Memorials are suggested to The 506 Foundation, Inc. to be used for music and journalism student scholarships or the Good Samaritan Society Garden Fund. These may be left at or mailed to Forbes-Hoffman Funeral Home, P.O. Box 374, Parsons, KS 67357. Online condolences may be left at www.forbeshoffman.com.

Kansas youth to attend cooperative youth leadership camp in Colorado

High school students from cooperatives around the state will be headed to Colorado for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. The week-long camp takes place from July 14-20 in Steamboat Springs, CO.

During their stay, the campers create their own candy cooperative. Goods - including gum, water, and candy - are sold at the canteen.

Along with campers from Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming, students establish a board of trustees and "hire" a general manager. At the end of the week, the group decides what to do with profit margins.

Each camper is placed on a committee where the campers are required to plan, organize and set up different

camp events. Last year, Luke Bellar of Caney Valley was on the talent show committee and also served as the general manager. Carrie Carlson of Flint Hills was on the volleyball committee. These were the two Kansans chosen during the 2011 camp to return to the 2012 camp as ambassadors.

In addition to learning about the cooperative business model, campers have an opportunity to explore energy issues and tour a power plant.

"I didn't realize how massive the equipment and power plants are for coal energy," said Carlson.

This year's campers and their sponsoring cooperatives are as follows: Barrett Simon, Butler; Justin Bryant and Kanyon Kelly, Caney Valley; Lance

Maine, DS&O; Kevin Lewis and Ryan Spinden, Flint Hills; Ruth Hair, Lane-Scott; Samantha Buchanan and Taylor Willits, LJEC; Megan Peabody, Nemaha-Marshall; Katie Francis, Ninnescah; Brett Doze and Patrick Weaver, Pioneer; Trenton Bortz, Emily Ross, and Krista Wilgers, Prairie Land; Marissa Bland, Rolling Hills; William Penner, Sedgwick County; Breanna Betts and Audrey Wheeler, Southern Pioneer; Denton McAdam, Sumner-Cowley; Lane Whitt, Twin Valley; Jaden Butcher, Josephine Hayes, and Kathryn Hibbert, Victory; and Hunter Storer and Noah Trapp, Western. Chaperones include Travis Griffin, Butler; Carrie Kimberlin, Shana Read and Randy Read, KEC; and Trish Hanes, Ninnescah.

New Kansas law requires voters to bring photo IDs to the polls this November

Kansas voters should remember their I.D.s when headed to the polls this November - it's the one thing that is required to vote. The Safe and Fair Elections law passed in April of 2011 went into affect Jan. 1 of this year. Kansas law now requires voters to show acceptable photographic identification when casting a vote.

The 'acceptable' I.D.s are as follows:

- ▶ Driver's license or nondriver's identification card issued by any state or district of the United States
- ▶ Concealed carry of handgun license issued by any state or district of the United States
- ▶ U.S. passport
- ▶ Employee badge/identification document issued by a municipal, county, state or

federal government office

- ▶ Military identification issued by the U.S.
- ▶ Student identification card issued by an accredited, Kansas postsecondary institution of education
- ▶ Public assistance identification card issued by a municipal, county, state or federal government office
- ▶ Identification card issued by an Indian tribe

Exceptions from the requirement are:

- ▶ Persons ages 65 and older may use expired photo ID documents
- ▶ Those who vote under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act are exempt from this law
- ▶ Participants in mail ballot elections

- ▶ Those who have been accepted to the permanent advance voting list
- ▶ Persons with religious beliefs that prohibit photo I.D.s who have completed a Form Declaration of Religious Objection

In the case that a registered voter does not possess an acceptable I.D.s, he or she may apply for a free nondriver I.D. card at the DMV with an affidavit stating that he or she is both registered to vote, and doesn't have a photo I.D. A fee waiver request can be found at all driver's license offices, all county election offices and on the Secretary of State's website. There is also a program in action under this law for free birth certificates. For more information on these requirements, please visit gotVoterID.com.



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