

# Rural Power

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

## Co-op linemen deliver safety message at Kansas State Fair

Guided barn tours, laser light shows, and a butterfly house were just a few of the new features that were found at the 2018 Kansas State Fair. But one exhibit that continues to spark interest with fair-goers is the high-voltage line safety demonstration sponsored by Kansas electric cooperatives and Touchstone Energy cooperatives of Kansas.

Celebrating its 11th year, the safety demonstration ran from Sept. 10 through 14 in the Ad Astra Pavilion. Kansas electric cooperative linemen presented the interactive demonstration using real electric equipment and their “volunteer” stick man to show the importance of education and public safety around power lines. The presentation helped viewers learn safety precautions, what protective gear linemen use, and what can happen if a person comes in contact with an energized line.

Midwest Energy provided the demonstration materials, a narrator, and a trainer for each day of the safety presentation, while Flint Hills, Lane-Scott, Pioneer, Victory, and Wheatland volunteered linemen to operate the demonstration.

Midwest Energy volunteers included **ALEX BREEDING, BRIAN DREILING, NATE STRYKER, GREG SWOB,** and **JAMES WRIGHT.** They were joined throughout the week by **BRENT UNRUH** of Flint Hills, **KEVIN BRADSTREET** and **HENRY MORROW** of Lane-Scott, **TAVIS MACDONALD** of Pioneer, **JACOB LEDFORD** and **ROSS ACKERMAN** of Victory, and **CHRIS SHURLE** and **ADAM PARKER** of Wheatland.



Above: Nate Stryker, Midwest Energy, shows the importance of protective equipment at the high-voltage line safety demonstration at the Kansas State Fair. Right: A Kansas State Fair intern interviews Stryker (pictured far right) and Alex Breeding, also of Midwest Energy, about the safety demonstration. Interns take photos and write stories about the different activities throughout the week for the fair's publications.



## Kansas State Ag Forum


In addition to the high voltage safety demonstration, KEC also sponsored the WIBW broadcast of the Agriculture Forum from the Kansas State Fair on Sept. 8. This year's forum featured a debate between the candidates for Governor, moderated by **KELLY LENZ**, WIBW Farm Director.

## Social Media Promotion

To encourage cooperative members to attend the fair, KEC hosted a Facebook give-away for free State Fair admission tickets. Followers were asked to comment on the KEC Facebook page with the number of years they had been an electric co-op member. One winner was randomly drawn from among the 81 entries. The winner of the free tickets was **MARY WITTE**, who has been a member of Rolling Hills for nearly 42 years.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
 PO Box 4267  
 Topeka, KS 66604-0267  
[www.kec.coop](http://www.kec.coop)

 Join Kansas Electric Cooperatives Facebook page

## Retirement open house for Sedgwick County's Voss

Wayne Voss, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's Line Superintendent, has announced his retirement after 40 years of service.

Voss began his journey with the co-op on Nov. 13, 1978. Sedgwick



Wayne Voss

County is hosting an open house in his honor. Anyone in the cooperative family is welcome to stop by the co-op headquarters located at 1355 S 383rd St W. in Cheney on Friday, Nov. 16. The event will run from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

# 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.

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.

- ▶ FreeState seeks Journeyman Lineman (McLouth), Line Superintendent (Topeka), and Member Services Representative (Topeka)
- ▶ Lane-Scott seeks a Manager of Member Services
- ▶ Power System Engineering, Inc. seeks a Rate and Regulatory Consultant
- ▶ Sumner-Cowley seeks Warehouseman
- ▶ Sunflower has openings for a Communications Specialist, a Financial Analyst, a Journey Line Technician, and two summer intern positions: a Generation Engineer Intern and an Environmental & Science Intern

## SEPTEMBER

- 18 **Budget and Operations Committee Meeting**, Butler Electric Co-op, 216 S. Vine Street, El Dorado, 1 p.m.
- 18-20 **KEC Hot Line School**, Manhattan Vo-Tech, Manhattan
- 19-20 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 20 **Tri-County Annual Meeting**, Texas County Activity Center, 4th & Sunset Lane, Guymon, OK. Meal starts at 5:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:10 p.m.
- 21 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 25-27 **Region 7-9 Meeting**, Anchorage, Alaska
- 26-28 **KMSDA**, Courtyard by Marriott at Old Town, Wichita
- 26-28 **Line Supervisors Association Meeting**, Hotel Old Town, Wichita
- 27 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

## OCTOBER

- 3-4 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita
- 15 **Midwest Energy Annual Meeting**, FHSU Robbins Center, One Tiger Place, Hays. Meeting starts at 10 a.m.
- 17-18 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 19 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 24-26 **Kansas Accountants' Club Meeting**, Holiday Inn at the Campus, Manhattan
- 25 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

# upcomingtraining

## KMSDA plans writing workshop as part of fall meeting

The Kansas Member Services Directors Association 2018 Fall meeting will be held Sept. 26 - 28 in Wichita at the Courtyard by Marriott at Old Town.

There will be a writing workshop that will focus on grammar, AP style, using the active voice, and concise writing. Presentations will include NRECA's Lexicon project; training on

making digital content both shareable and findable; a Co-ops Vote and Kansas Legislative update; and updates from KEC, KEPCo, Lyon-Coffey, Touchstone Energy, Sunflower, and Wolf Creek. Attendees will learn about a new program that provides all-hours social media response. There will also be a KMSDA Bylaws discussion.

## KEC offers 2018 Attorney CLE

KEC's Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program will be held on Friday, Oct. 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the KEPCo headquarters in Topeka.

This day-long series of sessions will highlight important issues facing today's electric cooperatives and how the co-op attorney can help cooperative leaders increase regulatory compliance and

reduce potential liability exposure.

Materials, refreshments and lunch are included in the \$100 registration fee. Registration deadline is Oct. 19. The Kansas CLE Commission has approved this CLE for 6.5 hours including 1.0 hour of ethics (pending).

For more information, email Leslie Kaufman at [lkaufman@kec.org](mailto:lkaufman@kec.org).

## Directors CCD and Board Leadership courses set for January

Prior to the KEC Annual Meeting, three directors courses will be offered at the Capitol Plaza, Topeka, in January.

On Saturday, Jan. 26, directors will have a choice between a CCD course and a Board Leadership course. **KEVIN SUMP** will facilitate *2630.1 Strategic Planning*. This course teaches how to participate effectively in strategic thinking and planning processes. **SCOTT**

**LUECAL** will facilitate *975.1 Capital Credits Issues and Decisions*. This course helps directors understand the co-op's capital credits policy.

On Sunday, Jan. 27, Sump will facilitate the Board Leadership Course *955.1 Your Board's Culture: Its Impact on Effectiveness*. This course explains the concept of boardroom culture through an examination of case studies.



## KEPCo hires Cunningham as Senior Vice President, Regulatory and Government Affairs, and General Counsel

KEPCo has hired **SUSAN B. CUNNINGHAM** as Senior Vice President, Regulatory and Government Affairs, and General Counsel. Cunningham will replace William G. Riggins effective Oct. 1, 2018. Riggins is transitioning into a new role as President and CEO of Pegasus-Global Holdings, Inc.

Cunningham most recently was with the law firm Dentons US LLP. She has more than 28 years of experience in the electric utility industry, including General Counsel with the Kansas Corporation Commission. In her new role at KEPCo, Cunningham will act as general counsel and be responsible for all legal functions and the oversight of regulatory and government affairs functions.

Cunningham received her undergraduate degree from the Olivet Nazarene University and her juris doctorate degree from the Washburn University School of Law. She and her husband reside near Topeka and have two children.

“We are thrilled that Susan will be joining the KEPCo team. She not only brings years of industry experience and legal expertise, but she also possesses the leadership skills and personality traits that will add tremendous value to our staff and membership,” said Suzanne Lane, Vice President, Member Services and Government Affairs.

Lane assumes her new role of Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, effective Oct. 1, 2018.

## Electric co-ops to participate in Kansas Energy Efficiency Expo

Three electric cooperatives will participate in the Kansas Energy Efficiency Expo, to be held on the south lawn of the Kansas Statehouse on Oct. 5, 2018.

Bluestem, FreeState, and Lyon-Coffey staff will host a booth targeted toward residential energy efficiency. The co-op booth will feature the Touchstone Energy Efficiency modules, which showcases comparisons of different types of lighting and different types of

insulation, and a water heater display.

The Kansas Governor’s Office will issue a proclamation declaring Oct. 5 as Kansas Energy Efficiency Day, mirroring the National Energy Efficiency Day movement, whose theme for 2018 is “Save Energy, Save Money.”

The expo will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be demonstrations, displays, drawings, giveaways, and a food truck.

## Kansas Touchstone Energy to hold Annual Meeting

The Touchstone Energy Annual Membership Meeting will be held at Butler Electric Cooperative on Monday, Oct. 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**LYNN MOORE**, Touchstone Energy’s Executive Director, will report on the national program activities including the Best in Class, the use of Augmented Reality (AR), the Annual Report, Co-op Insights through the National Survey on the Cooperative Difference, and the long-range planning committee discussion on the national dues. The Kansas Touchstone Energy Executive Council will discuss statewide activities, set the 2019 dues assessment, and hold elections.

Please RSVP your attendance to Shana Read at [sread@kec.org](mailto:sread@kec.org) by Oct. 8.

## Congressman Roger Marshall visits Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



Congressman Roger Marshall spent the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 11, visiting with electric co-op leaders at Ark Valley Electric Cooperative. Pictured from left: State Senator Ed Berger; Leslie Kaufman, KEC’s Director of Government Relations and Legal Counsel; Penny Wood, Ark Valley Office Manager; Congressman Marshall; Jackie Holmberg, Ark Valley Manager; and Rep. and Ark Valley Board Member Joe Seiwert.

## Annual Golf Tournament raises funds for KCRE



The Pioneer team was the winner of the KCRE Golf Tournament. Pictured from left: Chris Wagner, Tolan Seger, Drew Peters, and Jacob Mendoza.

Kansas electric cooperatives raised approximately \$6,175 as 140 golfers competed in the 22nd annual KCRE Golf Open on the greens of Sand Creek Station Golf Course on Aug. 24.

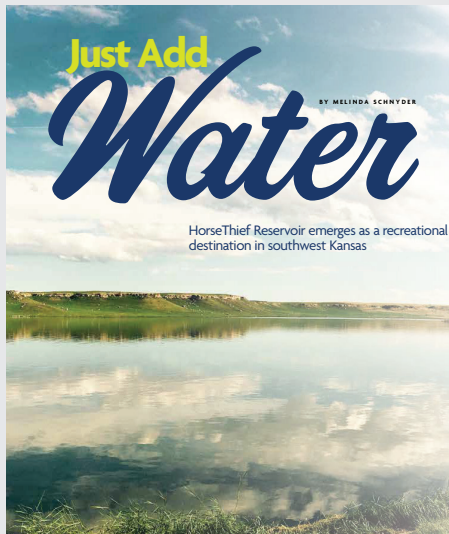
The Tournament Champions were Pioneer’s team of **JACOB MENDOZA**, **DREW PETERS**, **TOLAN SEGER**, and **CHRIS WAGNER**, posting the lowest score of 58 among the 35 teams.

The lowest scorers from each of the event’s five flights were: KEC, Federated, Midwest Energy, Prairie Land, and Bluestem. In addition, 19 hole prizes were awarded.

Next year’s tournament date is Aug. 23, 2019, and will be held at the Sand Creek Station in Newton.



## Sen. Roberts staff applauds *Kansas Country Living* article



**JOHN HOBBS** THINKS of the famous line from the movie "Field of Dreams" when he talks about the evolution of the new reservoir he manages in southwest Kansas. He admits, though, they had to go one step further than building the lake to get folks to come.

"We added water and they came," Hobbs said. "And that's no joke. Our campsites have been full every summer weekend since the lake filled completely."

About 100,000 visited HorseThief Reservoir for day use or overnight last year, the first complete year with a full lake. Hobbs said they're on pace to top that in 2018. The 450-acre lake surrounded by 1,400 wooded acres is about 22 miles north of Dodge City and 40 miles east of Garden City. The nearest town is Juntura, about 10 miles away.

HorseThief, a Victory Electric Cooperative member, pulls visitors from all of those communities and throughout western Kansas—a region thirsty for recreational water.

"What's really unique about us here in the south-west region is that we are a recreational lake, so you can boat recreationally, you can water ski and jet ski in addition to swimming and fishing," Hobbs said.

The reservoir also sees travelers from the panhandles of Texas and Oklahoma as well as eastern Colorado. Hobbs said it's more affordable for Coloradans to head east to HorseThief than venture to the lakes in Colorado that are often crowded with fishing, limit recreational use and full of cold water.

The Hart family from Syracuse, Kansas, near the Kansas-Colorado border, was one of the earliest users of HorseThief and soon preferred it over their usual lake destination, John Martin Reservoir State Park in southeastern Colorado.

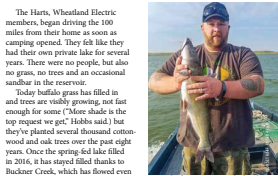
"HorseThief has a real family atmosphere with genuinely friendly people running it," said Sheila Hart, whose husband and their five children traveled by RV to enjoy boating, jet skiing and fishing.

Funded by sales tax collected in Ford, Finney, Gray and Hodgeman counties, work on the reservoir began in 2008 and the dam was completed in 2009. It filled halfway that fall and in 2010, HorseThief opened for day-use fishing. In 2012, they opened camping and in 2016 the lake filled completely.

"We added water and they came, and that's no joke. Our campsites have been full every summer weekend since the lake filled completely."



HorseThief Reservoir has 55 water/electric campers, four utility campers that also have sewer hookups and an unlimited amount of primitive sites available.



HorseThief Reservoir is stocked with crappie, large mouth bass, catfish, bluegill and bluegill.

The Harts, Wheatland Electric members, began driving the 100 miles from their home as soon as camping opened. They felt like they had their own private lake for several years. There were no people, but also no grass, no trees and an occasional sandbar in the reservoir.

Today buffalo grass has filled in and trees are visibly growing, not fast enough for some ("More shade is the top request we get," Hobbs said) but they've planted several thousand cottonwood and oak trees over the past eight years. Once the spring lake filled in 2016, it has stayed filled thanks to Buckner Creek, which has flowed even during recent drought years.

And there are people now: you'll find plenty of camping spots on weekends but you have to plan ahead if you want to camp on the weekend during the summer or around holidays. (Tip: Camping reservations for 2019 will open on Sept. 3.)

Once the water was there, Hart said, word spread quickly. Her family isn't able to get in as often as when it felt like their own private lake. They visit four times a year with a group of up to six other families from the Syracuse area. They also come on their own several times a year, including around the Independence Day holiday when Hart said HorseThief puts on one of the best fireworks displays in the state to go lake," she said. "We love

Mel Thompson, Kansas Agricultural Assistant for Sen. Pat Roberts, congratulated *Kansas Country Living* staff on the article about HorseThief Reservoir in the September issue. Thompson stated that Sen. Roberts was instrumental in obtaining the permits for the project, and they were pleased to read about the recreational value it offers western Kansas members. He requested extra copies of the magazine for the Senator and his staff.

## KEC requests co-op photos for headquarters

Nearly 40 images have already been submitted for KEC's call for photos.

KEC is putting the finishing touches on its headquarters efficiency improvement project and wants to showcase the talents of its members by using original photography throughout the updated building.

More than mere pictures hung on a wall, these photographs will play a key role in showcasing each of KEC's member-cooperatives and telling the story of the co-op history and mission.

Photos could feature a variety of themes including cooperatives and their members, the history of the rural electric network, landscapes and geographic features from within co-op service territories during different seasons of the year, new and innovative technologies,

pictures of equipment and plant, mutual aid and restoration efforts, and employees at work.

Co-ops are asked to search their photo archives or to shoot original photography in large-format, high-resolution quality. Each submission should include a title, the name of the photographer (if known), the co-op represented, who is pictured in the photo (if known or if applicable), and the location that the photo was taken.

For questions about submitting photos through the on-line submission form on KEC's website or for additional information, contact

Shana Read at [sread@kec.org](mailto:sread@kec.org) or call 785-478-4554.

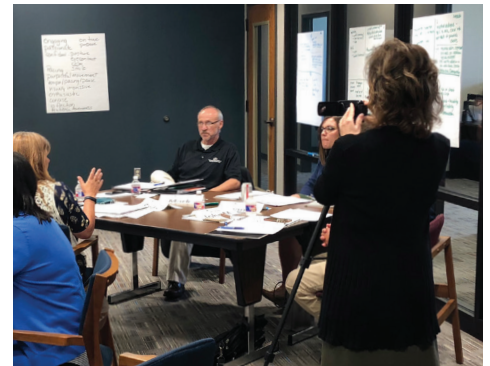
Nearly 40 images have already been submitted including the "Race to the Finish Line" by Wheatland (top) and "Ice Storm" by Victory.



## KEC hosts Dale Carnegie High Impact Presentations course

KEC hosted its inaugural workshop in the newly renovated training room at its headquarters. More than a dozen professionals, including four electric co-op employees, participated in the two-day Dale Carnegie course *High Impact Presentations* on Aug. 28 and 29.

*High Impact Presentations* was facilitated by Donna Forgy and Amy Gross. The training, which is often referred to as a public speaking mastery course, focused on structuring effective presentations that build credibility, enhance a client relationship, and clearly convey concepts. Attendees will explore the optimum use of voice and gesture to create a lasting impression as well as a variety of presentation styles.



Donna Forgy, a Certified Dale Carnegie Trainer, records the participants' speeches during the *High Impact Presentations* course. Each participant was able to view the presentation in a one-on-one setting and learn to improve their delivery, gestures, and use of voice during the workshop held at KEC's headquarters.

## insympathy

### Larry Meadows

Larry Meadows, FreeState board member, died on July 21. He joined the Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative board of trustees in 2006 and continued to serve when LJEC merged with Kaw Valley to become FreeState Electric Cooperative.

Funeral services were held July 26, 2018, at Tonganoxie High School Performing Arts Center, Tonganoxie. Burial was at Maple Grove Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to VFW Post 9271 or to the USD 464 Track and Field program, both in care of Quisenberry Funeral Home, 604 E 4th St., Tonganoxie, KS 66086.