

Rural Power

Ambrose Dempsey to be inducted in Cooperative Hall of Fame

The late **AMBROSE DEMPSEY**, former Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative Board of Directors President, will be inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Kansas Cooperative Council, is valued for recognizing the contributions of co-op pioneers and honoring those who have gone “above and beyond the call” in advancing the cooperative philosophy.

Cooperative Involvement

Dempsey was a charter member of LJEC. In the 1930s, Dempsey personally visited neighbors throughout the Leavenworth and Jefferson counties to encourage the formation of LJEC. When residents asked, “What is in it for you?” Dempsey answered, “Nothing is in it for me, but electric cooperatives are important in rural areas and we need this to move forward and evolve.” Seventy-five years later, LJEC is still an integral part of rural life in these counties and will continue to serve its members.

As a member of LJEC, Dempsey served on the Board of Directors from 1946 to 1987 and was President from 1974 to 1982.

“Dempsey knew the importance of cooperatives to the agriculture industry,” said **STEVE FOSS**, General Manager of LJEC. “He was a firm believer that rural and urban Kansans needed each other, and he worked tirelessly to spread that mentality throughout Topeka.”

Political Achievements

Dempsey also served in the Kansas House of Representatives from 1954 to 1985. Over his 30 years in the Kansas Legislature, Dempsey was well respected and held multiple influential roles.

As a member of the Kansas Legislature, Dempsey helped lead the fight for territorial protection for Kansas electric cooperatives.

“Dempsey served as a mentor regarding issues affecting rural Kansas,” said Foss. “He provided constituents, colleagues, and others

with valuable information to make decisions that would affect Kansans, cooperatives, and rural communities.”

“Dempsey never missed an opportunity to educate his urban colleagues in the legislature about the importance of cooperatives,” added Foss. “He firmly believed the cooperative improves the lives of those who live on a farm and in small towns. He was an advocate for improving the quality of life in rural Kansas. He had an interest in rural Kansas with a deep respect for the values one learns working on a farm.”

In addition, Dempsey was instrumental in establishing the State Milk Inspection Fund, now known as the Dairy Inspection Program, which regulates the production, transportation, processing and distribution of dairy products across the state of Kansas.

Along with former Governor John Carlin, Dempsey promoted innovation and worked diligently to relocate Kansas State University’s dairy unit in an effort to help the dairy industry expand and grow.

“Getting the state resources to move the milking operation at Kansas State University from right on campus to a more appropriate location with modern facilities was one of our proudest moments,” recalled Carlin.

Building Rural Communities

Dempsey continually used his leadership roles as a platform to be an advocate for Kansas rural communities and electric cooperatives. He made a significant contribution to the creation of the National Agriculture Center and Hall of Fame, serving as a member of the Board of Governors and the Board of Directors.

In 1982, after 17 years of planning and visionary work, groundbreaking on a Rural Electric Conference Center began. This facility provided the National Agriculture Center and Hall



Ambrose Dempsey will be posthumously inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame on March 15 in Wichita.

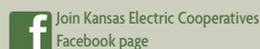
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Please send any story ideas to ruralpower@kec.org.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
PO Box 4267
Topeka, KS 66604-0267
www.kec.coop



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NRECA offers \$10k scholarship for youth tour alumni

NRECA offers an annual scholarship for former Electric Cooperative Youth Tour participants to strengthen their commitments to the seven cooperative principles and prepare them for leadership roles.

Students who have previously attended Youth Tour and are at least college freshmen working on their first undergraduate degree are eligible for the \$10,000 Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation scholarship. In addition, four \$1,000 scholarships will also be awarded.

Named for former NRECA CEO Glenn English, the foundation oversees an endowment created in his honor.

The recipient will be selected from applicants sponsored by local electric cooperatives.

Applications will be accepted through April 1. As part of the application, students must submit a video testimonial explaining how they have demonstrated one of the seven cooperative principles.

The application is available online at NRECA.coop/GEScholarship.

co-opcalendar

MARCH

- 18 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 23-24 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 30-4/1 **KMSDA Spring Meeting**, Courtyard by Marriott, Old Town, Wichita
- 31 **REC Managers and Legislative Committee Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita

APRIL

- 13 **KEC HR Summit**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita
- 15 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 20-21 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 26-28 **Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange**, Culture of Safety Strategy Labs, Hotel at Old Town, Wichita
- 29 **Line Superintendents Meeting**, DS&O Headquarters, Solomon
- 29 **MDM Meeting**, TBD

MAY

- 1-4 **NRECA Legislative Conference**, Washington, D.C.
- 11-12 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita
- 17-18 **RESAP Observer Training**, Hilton DoubleTree, Wichita Airport

annualmeetings

MARCH

- 19 **Pioneer**, Grant County Civic Center, 1000 W. Patterson, Ulysses, meal 12 p.m., meeting 1 p.m.
- 22 **Heartland**, Fort Scott Community College, 2108 S. Horton, Fort Scott, meeting 7 p.m.
- 28 **Lyon-Coffey**, Emporia Civic Center, W.L. White Arena, 111 E. 6th Ave., Emporia, meal 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.
- 29 **Ninnescah**, Municipal Building, 117 W. Third, Pratt, meal 6 p.m., meeting after meal
- 31 **Doniphan**, Doniphan West Middle School, Hwy. 20 E., Denton, meal 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:30 p.m.

upcomingtraining

KMSDA

The Kansas Member Services Directors Association's 2016 spring meeting is March 30-April 1 at the Courtyard by Marriott Old Town in Wichita. The meeting kicks off with an iPad workshop on increasing efficiency led by Apple-Certified Instructor **CYNDI DANNER-KUHN**. On March 31, Touchstone Energy's **JASON MCGRADY** will showcase the web builder platform and website best practices. NRECA's General Counsel **NICK PASCALE** will detail how to protect the cooperative and the staff from copyright infringement. Both of these speakers will also touch on the co-op websites' ADA compliance issue. There will be a presentation from Federated staff on the new electrical safety training kit available for first responders. KEC's **VICKI ESTES** and **JACKIE MOORE** will host a writing workshop, followed by a presentation from Westar on how utilities can take advantage of drone

technology in their operations.

A roundtable discussion will be held on April 1, as well as an Active-Shooter Training session by **LT. CHRISTOPHER BOWLING** of the Kansas Highway Patrol. The meeting will adjourn following the business meeting.

For more information about the KMSDA meeting, contact Jackie Moore at jmoore@kec.org.

2016 HR Summit

The 2016 HR Summit is scheduled for April 13 at the Wichita Marriott. Speakers for this one-day training will include **KRISTINA** and **JOHN DIETRICK**, Creative Business Solutions, who will discuss top HR trends and employment laws including the National Labor Relations Act and the National Labor Relations Board, and the need to review and update company policies. **MICHELLE GORDY**, NRECA Field Representative, and **JEFF KRAMER**, NRECA Senior

Principal of Business Development, will cover trends in medical benefits and provide an NRECA update. **GARY GOELLER**, KCC Special Investigator, will review the requirements of the DOT Driver Qualifications files.

For more information, contact Shana Read at sread@kec.org.

Supervisory Fast Track

NRECA's Supervisory Fast Track will be offered the week of Aug. 22 at KEPCo in Topeka.

BRYAN SINGLETARY will facilitate this program that will deliver 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.

For more information, contact Shana Read at sread@kec.org.

Co-op volunteers lend a hand at annual Touchstone Energy Community Service Project

One hundred volunteers from 40 co-ops broke out circular saws, nail guns, and paint rollers Feb. 13 at the eighth annual Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Community Service Project held in conjunction with the NRECA annual meeting in New Orleans, LA.

Ed Wiltse, Lane-Scott's General Manager, volunteered for the project.

"I think it's always important to help those in need," said Wiltse. "The seventh cooperative principle is Concern for Community."

Wiltse stated that the word "community" could be defined both locally and nationally.

"It's important to help both your local community, but it's important to help nationally, too," he explained. "I've always believed that one should try to volunteer for community efforts if they are able."

Working with Rebuilding Together New Orleans (RTNO), volunteers repaired five houses belonging to elderly or disabled homeowners who can't perform the upkeep on their own.

Wiltse joined other co-op volunteers to paint the exterior of a house.

This event marked the third time in recent years that the service project teamed up with RTNO.

"We are pleased to be working with our dedicated electric cooperative volunteers and RTNO in order to give back to the



Ed Wiltse, left, joins other co-op volunteers to repaint houses during the eighth annual Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Community Service Project held in conjunction with the NRECA annual meeting in New Orleans, LA.

area," said Mary McLaury, Chief Operating Officer of Touchstone Energy. "A strong commitment to local communities is at the core of the cooperative advantage, and this is a great way for us to demonstrate that commitment in this beautiful city."

Thanks to all the co-op volunteers and CoBank for helping make this project a success.

insympathy

Brad House

Brad House, father of KEC's John House, passed away on February 19. Funeral services were held February 27 at Lawrence Heights Christian Church.

Memorials may be sent in his honor to the American Cancer Society.

congrats

KEC's Kayeloni Davidson, her husband, Stephen, and big sister, Peyton, welcomed a new addition to their family. Brogyn Marlene Davidson was born on February 27.



Brown-Atchison

Brown-Atchison held its 78th annual meeting on February 18 at its Headquarters in Horton. More than 100 members attended the meeting and enjoyed barbeque from Whiting Café. The guest speaker was KEPCo's Marcus Harris.

Kevin Gigstad, Harrison Idol Jr. and Wayne Pagel were re-elected to the board.

Nemaha-Marshall

Nemaha-Marshall held its annual meeting March 1 at the American Legion Building in Axtell. There were 116 registered members present, and lunch was served to more than 300 people.

2015 youth program winners Nolan Brey and Kennah Roberts spoke about their experiences. KEC's Shana Read spoke about the statewide association's role in looking out for co-ops and its members.

Re-elected to the board were Jim Borgerding, Dave Koch, and Dean Becker.

annualmeetings

Flint Hills

More than 170 members attended Flint Hills' annual meeting on March 3 at the Herington Community Building.

Guest speakers included six-year-old Macey Hensley who shared her presidential trivia knowledge and her experiences on the *Ellen Show*. Congressman Tim Huelskamp spoke about the Clean Power Plan and how the Supreme Court decision could affect members.

Shawn Potts and Duane Carlson were re-elected to the board.



Presidential trivia expert, Macey Hensley, quizzes Flint Hills' President Roger Zimmerman during the meeting.

Dempsey, continued from page 1

of Fame with sophisticated equipment to assist in telling the story of American agriculture.

“He was a tireless advocate for improving the quality of life in rural Kansas,” said Jim Slattery, former Member of Congress.

“While I did not have the privilege of knowing Mr. Dempsey, it is clear that he knew how to get things accomplished,” said Bruce Graham, KEC’s CEO. “It is also clear that he got things done by earning the respect and trust of many of the state’s political leaders of the time. His letters of reference are remarkable and demonstrate that Ambrose was a statesman and a leader the cooperatives should be proud to have known,” added Graham.

The Hall of Fame awards ceremony will be held on Tuesday, March 15, at 5 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita.

Joe Heinen, retired LJEC assistant manager, nominated Dempsey for the Hall of Fame.

Co-op staff participates in Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership

Shawn Powelson, Wheatland’s Manager of Member Services, is finishing his first year as a member of Class XIII in the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership (KARL) program. This two-year course offers study, training, and travel for rural Kansas professionals.

“KARL encourages participants to be engaged, active leaders in their communities and to be in tune with the issues affecting rural Kansas,” Powelson explained.

Over the course of the program, the 30 class members attend seminars in Kansas, as well as out of state.

“One of the best parts of this program is the exposure and access we have to state and local leaders,” said Powelson. “We’ve met with the Kansas State Attorney General, the Secretary of State and a Kansas Supreme Court Justice.”

This month, Powelson’s class will conclude their first year with a week-long trip to Washington, D.C., where they will meet with government agencies including the EPA and USDA.

Sarah Farlee, LJEC’s Marketing Specialist, was a member of the 2013-2015 class.

“I think programs like these are vital to rural Kansas because it allows leaders to engage with other like-minded individuals who often have the same challenges,” Farlee explained. “These types of programs facilitate problem-solving and idea exchanges that help address challenges and allow innovative ideas to take shape. After completing the program, I look at leadership with a new perspective.”

In addition to their local travels, every KARL class participates in an international study tour, where members travel to another country to learn from other agricultural communities. The current class will visit Chile in July 2017.

“During our time in Chile, we will visit the U.S. Embassy, learn about the Chilean education system and spend the bulk of our time studying and observing the Chilean agriculture industry,” said Powelson. “This is an incredible opportunity to learn and observe, and to bring back a few new ideas to try here in Kansas.”

KARL is now accepting nominations for the 2017-2019 class of participants. To nominate an individual, email karl@ksu.edu. For more information, visit karlprogram.com.

Emma DeMaranville serves as Kansas representative to Youth Leadership Council

Youth Tour alumni Emma DeMaranville served as the Kansas Youth Leadership Council (YLC) representative at the NRECA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, from Feb. 11-18.

All 43 YLC members appeared together carrying their state flags during the traditional parade of the states at the beginning of the first general session.

Throughout the event, these students gained hands-on experience with virtually every facet of the meeting. The students helped board members communicate with their legislators at the Co-ops Vote booth, served as pages during the business session, and provided assistance during the educational forums.

“I learned a lot in the forums, like how cooperatives are moving more toward renewable energies,” said DeMaranville. “I was also able to attend the International Business Lunch where I sat with people from other states and learned how co-ops work in other parts of our country.”

“Being a part of the YLC has given me the opportunity to network with people who I couldn’t have met before,” she continued. “I’ve enjoyed learning about potential cooperative careers and seeing new opportunities of what I can do with my future.”



Emma DeMaranville, sponsored by LJEC, poses with the Kansas State Flag at the 2016 NRECA Annual Meeting.

The YLC members were selected from more than 1,700 state delegates during the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour last June, in part for their speaking and writing abilities. Sponsored on Youth Tour by LJEC, DeMaranville was selected by her peers to the YLC.

“Emma has known since she was selected by the Kansas Youth Tour delegation last summer that she’d have the opportunity to attend NRECA’s annual meeting,” said Shana Read, KEC’s Director of Communications. “There is so much happening during the annual meeting, having this group of motivated young adults available really helps things run smoothly. The YLC students may have been among the youngest co-op consumer-members attend-

ing NRECA’s annual meeting, but they may have also been among the busiest.”

Bruce Graham, KEC’s CEO, said, “Emma and her fellow YLC members bring energy and enthusiasm to the meeting and are key to the event’s success. These young people have grown up on co-op lines and are already strong electric cooperative advocates. The really exciting part about their involvement is they learn more about our industry issues and initiatives and become even stronger voices for the future.”