

Rural Power

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

KEC's service territory bill now Kansas law

KEC's service territory legislation became law last week.

Sub. SB 323, which contains the KEC-supported service territory revisions, was published in the Kansas Register on March 8. Publication makes the law, which encompasses negotiated agreements on three electric utility-related bills important to the electric cooperatives, effective from the March 8 publication date forward.

"In December when the KEC membership settled on a new legislative course, our team immediately began work to get the bill drafted by the Revisors office, develop materials needed to communicate our position and craft our legislative strategy," said Bruce Graham, KEC CEO. "There were many long days just to be ready for this session and when you combine that with the grassroots work done by our members over the past couple years, it is extremely gratifying to see everyone's hard work pay dividends."

"A tremendous amount of work, over months and years, has gone into securing needed revisions to the service territory laws," said Leslie Kaufman, KEC Director of Government Rela-

tions and Legal Counsel. "That cannot be overshadowed by the pace at which the bill moved through the 2018 legislature."

The legislative timeline was unprecedented. "Senate Utilities Chairman Rob Olson brought the parties to the table, kept the negotiations going and had a vision to package components together," explained Kaufman. "Once each piece was agreed upon and folded into a single substitute bill, everyone at the table had a reason to support the measure. KMU was on a tight timeline to get the KCC jurisdictional piece passed and that provided impetus for advancing the bill as quickly as possible."

House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Chairman Joe Seiwert heard the bill the first full legislative business day after Sub. SB 323 was delivered to the House of Representatives. Once approved by the Committee, House leadership slated the bill for floor action and passed Sub. SB 323 ahead of the turn-around break. Governor Colyer signed the bill the day after he received it.

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Kansas Country Living staff completes review, names new printer

Kansas Country Living staff has completed the printing review that began in spring 2017. Staff announced at the KEC March Board Meeting that, effective with production of the April 2018 issue, the statewide publication will be printed with Quad Graphics in Oklahoma City.

Quad Graphics is the largest magazine printer in the country and is known for innovative technology. This printer is familiar with statewide publications as the company produces magazines for the Arkansas, Georgia, and Oklahoma electric cooperatives.

"Our decision was based on several factors," said Vicki Estes, Editor, listing Quad's experience with magazine version control throughout the production and mailing process; overall costs for paper, production, and mailing; and digital capabilities.

"Quad has an on-site expert who handles postal issues and will help move the magazine to full service returns with USPS at no charge," she continued. "And

we will be able to move mailing list processing to Quad which will streamline list uploading for our co-ops while adding another level of data security."

In preparation for the transition to the new printer, staff has already tested the upload process. Staff also presented a web conference to participating co-ops on March 1 to discuss changes to the monthly production process. Staff next plans to determine the costs per page after completing several production cycles with Quad.

"With three paper increases since Oct. 1, 2017, and a postal increase that was effective Feb. 1, 2018, the next 8 to 10 months of production and mailing with Quad will help us determine a more accurate cost per page to produce the magazine and the centerspreads," Estes explained. "At that point, we will review our current subscription rates, assess current and future needs as well as opportunities to enhance value, and report back to the Communications Committee and the KEC Board."

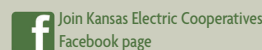


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Marcus Harris named ODEC President and CEO

MARCUS HARRIS has been named President and CEO of Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC), a generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Glen Allen, Virginia. He will officially begin at ODEC on April 2. Harris served as KEPCo's Executive Vice President and CEO since 2014.

On March 9, the KEPCo Board announced that **KEN MAGINLEY** has accepted the position of Interim CEO of KEPCo effective March 26.

jobmarket

FreeState seeks applicants

FreeState Electric Cooperative is currently accepting applications for the following:

- ▶ Apprentice 3 (East District)
- ▶ Journeyman Lineman (East District)
- ▶ Enterprise Applications Administrator
- ▶ Tree Crew/Groundsman (East District)
- ▶ System Engineer

To view a full job description or to apply, please visit www.freestate.coop under "Contact Us," "Employment Opportunities." For more information, contact Chelsea Renyer, HR Generalist, at chelsea.renyer@freestate.coop. Applications accepted until the positions are filled.

Victory seeks VP of Engineering

Victory Electric seeks a full-time vice president of engineering. Qualified applicants must have a degree in electrical engineering or similar field, plus at least seven years professional experience of which five is management related; hold a Professional Engineering (PE) license; and have a thorough working knowledge of distribution in electrical engineering systems.

Position responsibilities include mapping, line design, and substation placement; directing the development, approval process, and maintenance of engineering design, construction, equipment, and materials specifications and standards; and managing the 12-member department, which includes engineering, staking, construction, key accounts, metering, and substation personnel.

For a full job description visit www.victoryelectric.net/content/careers.

Legislation, continued from p. 1

"This truly was a team effort," Kaufman stated.

The new service territory legislation should foster improved negotiating environments for service territory discussions arising from municipal annexations.

"New provisions ensure incumbent providers are treated equitably in those discussions," she explained. "The new law is a valuable tool for our cooperative member systems."

Details about the legislation can be found in Capitol Connections on the KEC website.



While in Washington, D.C., for the spring meeting of the Rural Electric Statewide Managers Association (RESMA), KEC CEO Bruce Graham was able to attend an event headlined by Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts. After the lunch meeting, Graham had a chance to have a one-to-one conversation with Sen. Roberts to discuss the Farm Bill, RUS, and his picks for the NCAA basketball tournament.

co-opcalendar

MARCH

- 20-21 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, Hyatt Regency, Wichita
- 21-22 **CoBank Western Plains Customer Meeting**, Hyatt Regency, Wichita
- 27 **Leadership Skills for the Front-Line Employee**, Butler, El Dorado
- 29 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

APRIL

- 4-6 **Kansas Member Services Directors Association Meeting**, Courtyard Marriott in Old Town, Wichita

annualmeetings

MARCH

- 17 **Pioneer**, Grant County Civic Center, 1000 W. Patterson, Ulysses. Health fair starts at 7 a.m. Meal starts at 11 a.m. Meeting starts at 1 p.m.
- 19 **Lyon-Coffey**, Anderson Building, 2700 W. US Hwy. 50, Emporia. Meal starts at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.
- 20 **Ninnescah**, Pratt Municipal Building, 117 W. Third, Pratt. Meal starts at 6 p.m. Meeting following meal.
- 20 **Flint Hills**, Herington Community Building, 810 S. Broadway, Herington. Meal starts at 5:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.
- 22 **Caney Valley**, school gymnasium, 500 Dora, Cedar Vale. Meal starts at 5 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.
- 22 **Doniphan**, Troy Community Building, 1217 Last Chance Rd., Troy. Meal starts at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.
- 27 **Heartland**, Fort Scott Community College, 2108 S. Horton, Fort Scott. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.

APRIL

- 3 **Prairie Land**, Co-op Headquarters, 14935 U.S. Hwy. 36, Norton. Meal starts at noon. Meeting starts at 12:45 p.m.
- 3 **DS&O**, Webster Conference Center, 2601 N. Ohio Street, Salina. Meal starts at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:45 p.m.
- 3 **Sedgwick County**, The Cotillion Hall & Ballroom, 11120 W. Kellogg Dr., Wichita. Meal starts at 6:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.
- 5 **Radiant**, Co-op Headquarters, 9346 Jewell Rd., Fredonia. Meal starts at 5:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.
- 6 **Rolling Hills**, Co-op Headquarters, 3075B U.S. Hwy. 24, Beloit. Meal starts at 5:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.
- 12 **CMS**, South Central Middle School, 302 S. Jefferson, Protection. Meal starts at 5:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.
- 13 **Alfalfa**, Cherokee High School, 412 E. 5th St., Cherokee, OK. Meal starts at 5 p.m. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.
- 17 **Ark Valley**, Sunflower Building, Kansas State Fair, 2000 N. Poplar St., Hutchinson. Meal starts at 6:30 p.m. Meeting to follow meal.
- 17 **Victory**, Western State Bank Expo Building, 11333 Highway 283, Dodge City. Meal starts at 5 p.m. Meeting starts at 6 p.m.
- 19 **Twin Valley**, Labette County High School Cafeteria, 601 S. High School St., Altamont. Meal starts at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.
- 24 **FreeState**, Perry-Lecompton High School Theatre, 404 Lecompton Rd., Perry. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.
- 25 **Wheatland**, William Carpenter Building, 608 Fairground Rd., Scott City. Meal starts at 11:30 a.m. Meeting starts at 12:30 p.m.

Mid-Kansas Electric Company announces Johnson Corner Solar Project

Mid-Kansas Electric Company Inc., along with its sister company Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, announced on Feb. 27 its plan to purchase renewable energy from a 20-megawatt solar project scheduled for construction in southwest Kansas.

The cooperatively operated wholesale generation and transmission utility has signed a 25-year power purchase agreement with Lightsource BP, an independent power producer that will build, own, and operate the solar facility.

Kansas Lt. Gov. Tracey Mann and dignitaries from Mid-Kansas, Lightsource BP and National Renewable Cooperative Organization (NRCO) attended the event held at Mid-Kansas' headquarters.

"Kansans have a long history of capitalizing on opportunities that make the most of our abundant resources," said Lt. Gov. Mann. "Gov. Colyer and I congratulate Mid-Kansas, Lightsource BP, and NRCO on their successful collaboration to construct what will be the largest solar project in Kansas. The Johnson Corner Solar Project illustrates a commitment

to renewable energy resources that complement dispatchable energy resources."

Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2019.

"Harnessing the power of the sun is not a new concept. The economics are what have changed," said Steve Epperson, Mid-Kansas Chairman of the Board.

He continued, "The decreasing cost of photovoltaic technology, along with other industry dynamics, makes it the right time to bring solar energy into our generation mix."

The Mid-Kansas Board of Directors has championed a diverse energy generation portfolio to meet the needs of its six member owners and the thousands of Kansans they serve.



Steve Epperson, Mid-Kansas Chairman of the Board, discusses Johnson Corner Solar Project, a 20-megawatt solar array to be built in southwest Kansas. Construction is planned to begin in early 2019.

"Each generation fuel type has advantages, and the benefits of solar will add diversity to our existing energy generation portfolio," said Stuart Lowry, president and CEO of Mid-Kansas and Sunflower. "Along with other benefits, this solar facility will generate energy during our summer peak demand, providing protection against high market prices during times of increased energy demand."

Brown Atchison

Kicking off the Kansas annual meeting season, Brown-Atchison held its annual meeting on Feb. 22 in Horton. Approximately 90 members and guests enjoyed lunch and attended the meeting.

Phil Wages, KEPCo, was the guest speaker.

Re-elected to the board were **DAVID B. HINTON**, **DARYL SALES**, and **K. JOE TALIAFERO**.



Members braved winter weather to attend the Brown-Atchison Annual Meeting on Feb. 22.

Nemaha-Marshall

Nemaha-Marshall's annual meeting was held on Feb. 27 in Axtell.

Nearly 200 members and guests enjoyed a lunch and attended the

meeting. Guest speakers included Westar's Bill Birnel and the 2017 youth trip winners, Laurel Smith and Max Holthaus.

Re-elected to the board were **TOM L. NIEHUES** and **HARRY E. MOSER**. Newly-elected was **MELVIN D. KRUSE**. He replaces **MERLIN FRERKING** who chose not to run for re-election.

Bluestem

Bluestem held its 20th annual meeting on March 5 at the United Methodist Church Family Life Center in Clay Center. Approximately 250 members attended the meeting and the vendor-products fair.

Guest speakers included Marcus Harris, KEPCo's Executive Vice President/CEO, who discussed power supply issues and the Prairie Sky Farm solar array, and Bruce Graham, KEC's CEO, who addressed issues related to retail wheeling. A number of scholarship winners were also introduced.

Trustee elections were conducted by mail ballot last December. Re-elected

annual meetings

to the board were **BRUCE MEYER**, **GARY BUSS**, **HAROLD MCCARTER**, and **ERVIN GNADT**.

Sumner-Cowley

More than 260 members attended Sumner-Cowley's annual meeting on March 10 at the Wellington High School.

Guest speakers included the 2017 youth winners Veronica Smart and KyLee Pray. The 2018 youth winners were introduced and 21 scholarship winners announced. Each scholarship recipient received \$500. The co-op has given more than \$70,000 in scholarship money to date.

Re-elected to the board were **KEITH LEDDY** and **JOHN SCHON**. **GABE SCHLICKAU** was newly-elected, taking the place of **MAX LOWREY** who retired from the board.

Manager Cletas Rains thanked Lowrey for his 30 years of service to the board and presented him with a retirement gift.

Butler Electric Cooperative earns local business honors

Butler Electric Cooperative was honored with the Large Business of the Year award from the El Dorado Chamber of Commerce. Manager **DALE SHORT**

accepted a plaque at the chamber's annual meeting and dinner held Feb. 1.

The award is designated for local businesses with more than 25 employees that provide a valuable service or product. Selection is based on overall contributions to the community and an enjoyable work environment.



El Dorado Chamber President Bruce Carselowey (left) presents Butler Manager Dale Short with the Large Business of the Year Award.

The other nominees included Walmart, HollyFrontier, and Emprise Bank.

The chamber selected Butler because of their "outstanding contributions to improving the quality of life in the community."

"We are very pleased and honored to receive this award," said Dale Short, Butler's Manager. "Our goal is to not only provide reliable electric service, but to also live our core values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community every day."

insympathy

Pam Pickerell

Pam Pickerell, Doniphan Electric employee, died Feb. 28 surrounded by her family at Mosaic Life Care in St. Joseph. She worked as a billing clerk at the co-op for 42 years.

Funeral services were held on March 3 at Troy Christian Church in Troy.

Memorials may be made to:

- ▶ Troy Ambulance Fund,
- ▶ Troy Christian Church, or
- ▶ Flaming Spirit Camp.

Memorials may be sent in care of the Harman-Rohde Funeral Home, 310 Fremont St., Wathena, KS 66090.

Pioneer's Kris Wagner serves as Kansas Youth Leadership Council representative

From Feb. 24 through 28, Youth Tour alumnus **KRIS WAGNER** served as the Kansas Youth Leadership Council representative at the NRECA Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

All 44 Youth Leadership Council 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 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.

"The theme for the NRECA Annual Meeting was *Leading The Energy Future* and this theme couldn't have



Kris Wagner, sponsored by Pioneer, carries the Kansas State Flag at the 2018 NRECA Annual Meeting in Nashville.

been better directed at the youth of the convention," said Wagner. "Cooperatives are doing great things by sponsoring kids on life-changing experiences like the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, where kids connect with other youth and see how our nation's government works. These trips, as well as scholarships,

are a direct investment in our youth as we will grow and become local, national, and global leaders. We are the future of this industry."

The YLC members were selected from more than 1,800 state delegates during the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour last June, in part for their speaking and writing abilities. Sponsored on youth tour by Pioneer, Wagner was selected by

his peers as an alternate to the YLC. Wagner was able to attend when Butler's youth, Ben Black, who had been originally elected as the Kansas YLC, had another commitment.

"If there's one thing I've learned from my opportunity as a member of YLC, it's that the next generation is filled with amazing individuals who are already serving as leaders," Wagner said. "Thank you to the cooperatives for trusting us with the honor to serve on the YLC."

The YLC students also volunteered their time at the Second Harvest food bank. The youth packed 10,171 pounds of food, which equates to approximately 8,476 meals.



Wagner enters information at NRECA's Co-ops Vote booth.