

Rural Power

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

KEC's Bruce Graham interviews VP Dick Cheney

BRUCE GRAHAM, CEO of Kansas Electric Cooperatives, recently interviewed former Vice President **DICK CHENEY** about his career in public service and his views on the current state of politics in America.



Bruce Graham, KEC's CEO, interviews former Vice President Dick Cheney about his views on the current state of politics in America during the 36th NCSA Annual Meeting.

The June 13 interview took place during the 36th NCSA Annual Meeting and Luncheon, held in conjunction with CFC Forum 2017 in San Antonio, TX. The

program, in front of a lunch crowd of more than 1,500 people, was an hour-long Q&A format with topics that ranged from key moments in Cheney's career, memories of 9-11, advice for President Trump, and his health.

Cheney noted that the U.S. boasts tremendous energy reserves and needs to effectively use them to bolster national security and economic growth.

"Thanks to the fracking revolution, look at what we could accomplish by exporting liquefied natural gas to Europe," he stated. "We'd take away Russia's natural gas market—and a huge source of revenue from them. In an increasingly hostile world, energy can act like a deterrent."

Reflecting on the Trump administration, Cheney explained one of his main reasons for supporting the

president last fall was his stance on energy. "Fossil fuels have fundamentally transformed our country, bringing the American people great prosperity. Our energy development is one of history's great success stories."

Cheney, who briefly worked as an electric lineman during his college years, recalled how he went from that job—"one I liked very much, with

everything I owned in the back of a '58 Ford"—to becoming White House chief of staff within a decade.

"My girlfriend [soon-to-be wife Lynne] said she wouldn't marry me if I stayed in that field. So I enrolled at the University of Wyoming in political science and ended up in the nation's capital in 1968 as an American Political Science Association congressional fellow. While working as an aide for Congressman Bill Steiger (WI), I wrote a 10-page memo to [then U.S. Rep.] Don Rumsfeld, who had been named by President Nixon to head the Office of Economic Opportunity on how to run a federal agency."

He added "Rumsfeld was impressed and soon hired me as the OEO's congressional liaison. That memo opened lots of doors."

KEC helps transform 89th Kansas State FFA Convention

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. participated in a trio of events at the 89th Kansas FFA Convention from May 31 to June 2 at the Kansas State University campus. The theme for this year's convention was "transform."

Career Fair

The first of the three events was the FFA Career Fair. KEC's Communications Specialist **JACKIE KAMPHAUS** and Communications Intern **TRAE GREEN** greeted approximately 1,800 Kansas FFA students in attendance at the organization's

annual career fair. Representatives from across the state offered high school students expanded knowledge on prospective jobs in the agricultural industry.

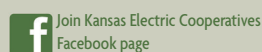
"Participating in this career fair allows us to further educate Kansas youth about their local cooperatives," Kamphaus said. "It also provides a great opportunity for students to begin thinking about their future career choices. These students may very well be the future of our cooperatives."

For the second year in a row, Kamphaus

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Doniphan selects Lednicky as new general manager

Doniphan Electric's board has hired a new general manager. **JAMES LEDNICKY** took his new position at the co-op on June 1.



James Lednicky

Lednicky replaces Jim Currie who has been serving as interim manager since October of last year. Currie has returned to managing only Brown-Atchison.

Previously, Lednicky has served as the general manager for Rainbow Communications, a telephone cooperative, since 1998.

"I am very excited to be part of Doniphan Electric Cooperative," Lednicky said. "I have a deep appreciation for the improvements that the cooperatives have accomplished in rural Kansas."

Co-ops aim for larger presence on social media

As more people gravitate toward digital mediums to consume information, several Kansas electric co-ops have now partnered with ARCmedia, an organization focused on connecting co-ops with their members via social media, while enhancing messaging and branding efforts.

"Social media allows the cooperative to communicate with its member-owners where they are with information that impacts them daily," ARCmedia's co-founder, Andy Neidert, said.

"Whether it be through safety, efficiency, policy or local news, there is always something a member-owner will benefit in knowing in the daily Facebook posts across the Kansas #RuralElectric family," he continued.

KEC partnered with ARCmedia earlier in 2017. Butler, Ninnescah, Bluestem, Wheatland and Rolling Hills have also signed on. Over the previous two months, KEC and the Kansas distribution co-ops working with ARCmedia have attained 1,500 new fans, 1.2 million impressions and 14,700 engagements.

JUNE

29 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

JULY

3-4 **Independence Day Holiday**, KEC Office Closed

13 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

14-20 **Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp**, Steamboat Springs, CO

19-20 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

21 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays

AUGUST

5-7 **KEC Summer Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park

10 **MDM Meeting**, location TBD

16-17 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

18 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays

25 **KCRE Golf Tournament**, Salina Municipal Golf Course, Salina

Sunflower holds 60th annual meeting in Dighton

Sunflower Electric Power Corporation held its 60th annual meeting in Dighton on May 19, 2017. The board of directors elected officers and received the annual report, which is available on Sunflower's website, sunflower.net.

STUART LOWRY, Sunflower's President and CEO, discussed the activities for the past year, along with future initiatives.

Following the board meeting, an organizational meeting was conducted by the board to elect leadership for the coming year.

WES CAMPBELL, Wheatland Electric, was elected as chairman of the board of directors. Campbell replaced

Chairman **CHARLES AYERS**, also of Wheatland, who retired after serving 17 years on the Sunflower board. **KENNY WEHKAMP**, Victory Electric, was elected vice chairman.

"We appreciate Charles Ayers' many years of service to electric cooperative members, both at Wheatland and those served by Sunflower's members across western Kansas. He epitomizes what it means to put community before self," Lowry said.

The board also re-elected **DAVIS ROONEY**, Sunflower Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, as treasurer and **MARK CALCARA**, Watkins, Calcara CHTD, as secretary.

Kansas 4-H winners honored at Emerald Circle Banquet

Kansas 4-H state project and scholarship winners were honored at the annual Emerald Circle Banquet, held May 31, 2017, in Manhattan.

A total of 32 state project winners were recognized for their citizenship, leadership, learning and participation within a specific 4-H project area. **GREYSON COLLINS** of Stafford County was this year's State Leadership Project winner, sponsored by KEC.

KEC is also sponsoring, through CoBank's Sharing Success grant program, the Kansas 4-H



Greyson Collins

Foundation's Regional Leadership Conferences. These conferences will take place in the fall.

In addition to the state projects, 69 current and former 4-H members received more than \$75,000 in scholarships. Scholarships are awarded based on involvement, leadership and citizenship as a member of Kansas 4-H.

The scholarships were provided through the Kansas 4-H Foundation which secures private support and services benefiting the state's 4-H program. The Foundation's projects include Rock Springs 4-H Center, as well as support for awards, scholarships, publications, financial services and 4-H alumni programs. The Foundation also owns the Clovia Scholarship House, a cooperative living facility at K-State.

Government officials, national monuments highlight 57th Youth Tour

Seven days of a packed schedule left little to be desired as 36 high school students from across the state of Kansas and four from Hawaii returned from the 57th annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 8-15.

This year, the students had the privilege of touring the White House. Typically, the White House requires a six-month lead time for group requests. However, with the assistance of Senator Jerry Moran's

staff and the efforts of all of the youth tour coordinators across the state, KEC staff was able to submit a request immediately after all of the student winners were selected. Staff learned that the tour was approved about a week before departure.

"The students were thrilled to be able to take the self-guided tour of this beautiful historical site," KEC's Director of Communications **SHANA READ** said. "As the tour was also on Flag Day, each student was given a flag while on the tour, fostering a strong sense of patriotism."

Prior to the flight to the nation's capitol, the "Hawaii-Kansas" itinerary began in Topeka with a night tour of the state capitol. State representatives **KYLE HOFFMAN** and **STEVEN JOHNSON**, along with Gov. Sam Brownback's chief counsel **BRANT LAUE**, split the students into three groups and escorted them through halls of the building the public rarely sees. Hoffman, Johnson, and Laue



The Youth Tour delegates celebrate Flag Day with a tour of the White House.

are all alumni of the program.

Next, the group embarked on its way to Washington, D.C., where the students were taken to eye-opening experiences such as the Iwo Jima Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Fort McHenry, the Korean, Lincoln, Vietnam and World War II memorials, as well as the Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Taking in all Washington, D.C., had to offer in the seven days, Youth Tour also included a Washington Nationals game, a dinner cruise, and a trip to the Smithsonian museums.

Perhaps most memorable for the group was the unprecedented access the students had to government officials. Students met with Congresswoman **LYNN JENKINS** and Congressmen **RON ESTES** and **ROGER MARSHALL**. Delegates also had the opportunity to speak with Senators **JERRY MORAN** and **PAT ROBERTS**.

"Meeting with my senators and rep-

resentatives has shown me that, although I am young, I can and will leave a positive impact on my community. My community has done so much for me. It is my turn to give back," said **TAYLR BAHR**, sponsored by Lyon-Coffey.

The Hawaii-Kansas delegation joined 43 other states with a record 1,800 high school students. During the Youth Day program, NRECA CEO **JIM MATHESON** told the students they can help make a differ-

ence by joining others in their communities engaged on civic issues and speaking up about what is important to them.

While on Youth Tour, **BEN BLACK**, sponsored by Butler, was elected to serve as the 2017-18 Kansas representative to the NRECA Youth Leadership Council.

Chaperones for this year's trip included **BRENT EDGECOMB** and **SARAH FARLEE** of FreeState Electric.



Ben Black, sponsored by Butler, was elected by his peers to serve on the NRECA Youth Leadership Council.

Winter storm delays Western Cooperative Electric's 72nd annual meeting

Due to restoration efforts following Winter Storm Ursa in the last weekend of April, Western was forced to delay its annual meeting from May 10 to June 7. Despite the date change, the 72nd annual meeting drew approximately 150 members, guests and employees.

Those in attendance were treated to a lunch from Bigge's Country Kitchen of Stockton prior to the meeting. Mail in ballot results for trustees were also announced. Re-elected to the board were **TERRY HOBBS**, **RICHARD SCHAUS**, and **DALE WEINHOLD**.

DARRIN LYNCH, Western's General Manager, reviewed financials for the previous year. **STUART LOWRY**, president and CEO of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, was the meeting's guest speaker.

EMMA KLEIN, a winner of the 2016 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Colorado, gave a presentation of her experiences.

Even with the delay in the meeting date because of excessive snow, prizes were still drawn, ice cream was enjoyed and each household received a registration gift.

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gave each passerby at KEC's decorated table a short introduction to their local electric cooperatives, as well as a variety of grab-bag items to take home.

"It is great to connect with students and educate them on the opportunities their local cooperatives provide," Kamphaus said.

FFA Feed the Funnel

A new item enlisted on the agenda for this year's convention served more than 32,000 families in need a healthy meal. KEC sponsored through the CoBank Sharing Success grant program the FFA's first Feed the Funnel project and encouraged cooperative personnel to partake in relieving hunger across the state of Kansas.

Alongside FFA members, co-op volunteers from across the state packed dry-ingredient meals in an assembly line fashion which were later delivered to local food banks.

Those who selflessly helped in the effort are listed by co-op: **TRICIA BLOOMDAHL, DALE** and **DEANNA HAMMOND** and **DEANNE KAMPHAUS**, from Bluestem; **CARRIE KIMBERLIN** and **SHANA READ** from KEC; **RITA PETTY** and **COLEEN WELLS** from KEPCo; **MIKE TWEEDY** from Lyon-Coffey; and **JILLANE KOOCHEL** and **TERESA MAZOUCH** from Wheatland.



Bluestem Electric volunteers work beside FFA students at the Feed the Funnel charity event, sponsored by Kansas Electric Cooperatives and CoBank's Sharing Success grant program.

FFA State Degree Ceremony

Rounding out the 89th FFA Convention on June 2, KEC's Manager of Creative Solutions **CARRIE KIMBERLIN** shook the hands of approximately 300 FFA students who earned the State Degree designation. KEC is a long-time sponsor of the state degree charms, while Kimberlin, a former FFA member, presented these honors.

"It's always an privilege to present the State Degrees," Kimberlin said. "I enjoy seeing many of our youth tour alumni who have earned this honor."

To be rewarded a State Degree, students must have completed the following requirements: Have earned a Chapter FFA Degree, been active in their local FFA chapter, participated in at least 10 parliamentary procedure motions, given a speech within the parameters of agricultural or FFA topics, worked at least 600 hours or contributed \$2,000 via the Supervised Agricultural Experience program, met the academic requirement of a "C" average or better, taken part in eight or more chapter level activities and completed 25 or more hours of community service.

Three FFA officers at the convention were affiliated with KEC's youth programs. Outgoing president, **ELIZABETH MEYER**, sponsored by Flint Hills, partook in the 2015 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp and served as a camp ambassador the following year. When the FFA announced its state officers for 2017-18, president, **ELI OHLDE**, sponsored by Prairie Land, was a 2016 Youth Tour delegate. FFA's reporter, **RILEY SLEICHTER**, sponsored by DS&O, attended the 2016 camp.



KEC's Carrie Kimberlin presents an FFA student with his state degree charm, sponsored by KEC.

KARL graduates include two electric cooperative staff

The Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership (KARL) board of directors, graduates and donors celebrated the commendation of the 30 newest alumni of the advanced state-wide leadership training experience. Among the graduates were Midwest Energy's **TIM FLAX** and Wheatland's **SHAWN POWELSON**.



Tim Flax



Shawn Powelson

"The Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program helped the Class XIII leaders find a way to change their world by building on their integrity, confidence, discipline, professionalism, self-development, global viewpoint, and servant ethos. Our newest graduates now possess a sense to serve and follow, in order to lead," said Al Davis, President of KARL, during the Power of One Seminar in Manhattan.

The KARL program offers intensive study, training and travel for emerging leaders in agriculture and rural communities.

"Our new leaders participated in nine in-state seminars. Study tours over the past two years included a national seminar entitled "Blue Chip," which is an executive review of a Fortune 500 corporation, a tour to Washington, D.C., to study decision making on the federal level, and an International Study Tour to Chile.

Board Vice Chairman Jerry McReynolds added a thank you to the more than 1,000 donors.

"More than \$500,000 was contributed as Fellowship support to supplement the tuition paid or raised by class members," McReynolds said. "This KARL training experience carried a value of over \$25,000 per person and four-fifths of that value was contributed through generous support of our not-for-profit charitable educational organization."

For more information regarding the KARL program, visit www.karlprogram.com.