

# Rural Power

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

## KEC coordinates Co-ops Vote Legislative Connections Tour

Building on the success of last year's Co-ops Vote events, KEC is now coordinating a series of co-op visits in September and October that includes six events involving 20 electric cooperatives in Kansas.

"The Co-ops Vote Legislative Connections Tour is all about outreach and building relationships with our legislators," said Kim Christiansen, Director of Government Relations and Legal Counsel at Kansas Electric Cooperatives. "We reach out to our legislators now so that we can be more effective during session."

Christiansen advocates for being proactive throughout the year, not just during the legislative session.

"This summer was not part of an election cycle, so we are more focused on education," she explained. "And through this tour, we are working on getting our member-cooperatives more involved."

The tours offer an opportunity for the legislators to learn more about cooperatives, as well as a demonstration of the equipment it takes to keep the linemen safe on the job. Nemaha-Marshall, Brown-Atchison, and Doniphan hosted an event on Sept. 13. FreeState and KEPCo held a tour and a discussion of FreeState's new solar array on Sept. 19.

Sunflower Electric and its member-cooperatives are joining forces with CMS and Midwest Energy for a meeting on Oct. 3 that will include a Holcomb Station tour. Butler will give a tour of its new headquarters on Sept. 27. Caney Valley, Heartland, Radiant, and Twin Valley will host a joint meeting on Sept. 28. Lyon-Coffey will host the final event in the series with a tour of its new building and education center once it is completed.

Christiansen explained that the events are all about the co-ops' visibility, vision and voice. "There's no doubt that we've increased co-ops' visibility," she said. "We are able to share our vision, and our voice keeps getting stronger."

Alex Orel, KEC's Manager of Government Relations, stated, "These events are a chance to give legislators more information on our issues. It's all about getting our legislators to visit our member-cooperatives. Legislators are still surprised to learn that we are not-for-profit utilities, and that electric cooperatives are a unique business model."

Last year, KEC coordinated 20 meet-and-greet events across the state for co-op staff and member-owners to meet the candidates. The non-partisan events were voter-focused and provided open discussion between the members and the legislators.

"We try to host at least three different types of events throughout the year for our legislators," Christiansen said. "We will host another cycle of meetings for co-op managers and senior staff later this fall, and we are already planning a Day on the Hill in February."

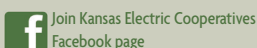
For more information, contact Kim Christiansen at [kchristiansen@kec.org](mailto:kchristiansen@kec.org).



Top: KEPCo's Marcus Harris and FreeState's Steve Foss host area legislators for a tour and demonstration of FreeState's new solar array on Sept. 19. Right: (From left) James Lednicki, Doniphan; Kathy O'Brien, Nemaha-Marshall; Rep. John Eplee; and Jim Currie, Brown-Atchison, visit about co-op issues during their event on Sept. 13.



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



## Kansas Touchstone Energy to hold Annual Meeting

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

**LYNN MOORE**, Touchstone Energy's Executive Director, will report on the national program activities. The Kansas Touchstone Energy Executive Council will discuss statewide activities, set the 2018 dues assessment, and hold elections.

The committee members whose terms expire this year include **LINDA TOMLINSON**, **SCOTT WHITTINGTON**, and **DENNIS DEINES**. There is also a vacancy on the council. If interested in serving on the council, please contact Bruce Mueller.

There is a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in El Dorado for \$94.99/night, which includes a continental breakfast. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 316-322-7275. Ask for the KEC rate.

Please RSVP your attendance to Shana Read at [sread@kec.org](mailto:sread@kec.org) before Oct. 3.

## Touchstone Energy hosts photo contest as a part of the second annual Co-op Connections Day

Touchstone Energy has named Oct. 6 as the second annual Co-op Connections Day. This day is designed for co-ops to connect with their member-owners and local business partners.

On that date, participating cooperatives can celebrate National Cooperative Month by providing members with additional savings and deals through the Co-op Connections Card. Touchstone Energy will secure national flash sales and unique offers that day, which will be featured on [connections.coop](http://connections.coop).

In addition to the deals, Touchstone Energy is also hosting a social media photo contest. Running now through Oct. 8, co-op employees and members are eligible to win a prize if they share their experience on social media. They simply have to take a photo featuring their Co-op Connections Card and post it on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag #ImConnected. The top five entries will get a \$100 Visa gift card.

For more information about Co-op Connections Day, contact [Scott.Bialick@nreca.coop](mailto:Scott.Bialick@nreca.coop).

## co-opcalendar

### SEPTEMBER

**27-29 Line Supervisors Association Meeting**, Holiday Inn Select, Wichita

### OCTOBER

**4-5 KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita

**9-13 NRECA Cooperative University**, Denver

**10-11 National Electric Safety Code (NESC) Workshop**, DoubleTree, Wichita

**11-12 KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

**12-13 Work Order Training**, Butler Electric Cooperative, El Dorado

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

**16-18 Region 7 & 9 Meetings**, NRECA, CFC, and Federated, Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver

**18 Rate and Cost of Service Seminar**, Courtyard Marriott, Salina

**19-20 Accountants Club Meeting**, Courtyard Marriott, Salina

**19 MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

**23 Midwest Energy Annual Meeting**, FHSU Campus, Robbins Center, One Tiger Place, Hays, meeting 10 a.m.

**24-25 Work Order Training**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

### NOVEMBER

**1 District 2 Meeting**, Prairie Band Casino, Mayetta

**2 MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

**2 District 3 Meeting**, FHSU Robbins Center, Hays

**3 District 4 Meeting**, United Wireless Arena, Dodge City

**6 District 1 Meeting**, Southeast Agricultural Research Center, Parsons

## upcomingtraining

### Second Work Order training date offered Oct. 24-25

KEC has scheduled a second Work Order training due to member demand. The original date, Oct. 12-13 at Butler Electric Cooperative in El Dorado, is now full. The repeat class is Oct. 24-25 and will be held at KEPCo's headquarters in Topeka.

**TONY HAAS**, UtiliBiz Solutions, will deliver instruction on work order procedures common to electric cooperatives.

Key topics include the purpose and objectives of work orders, phases involved in plant changes, types of construction activity, Construction Work Plan (CWP), RUS Form 740c coding and budget, and work order financing.

This training is designed for line crews, staking personnel, engineers, work order clerks, materials management personnel, accounting clerks, and any other cooperative employee who touches a work order.

Cost to attend this training is \$275 per person and will include course materials and snacks.

For more information, contact Shana Read at [sread@kec.org](mailto:sread@kec.org).

### Rate and Cost of Service seminar

Power System Engineering and KEC are hosting a Rate and Cost of Service seminar on Oct. 18 at the Courtyard Marriott in Salina. This training, which is being held the day before the Kansas REC Accountants Association Meeting, is designed for CEOs, CFOs, assistant managers, office managers, accountants, member services, billing and CSRs, key account managers, and engineers.

Attendees will gain a better understanding of the data requirements and process for a cost of service (COS) and rate study; they will learn how to use the COS results to evaluate, design, and communicate rates; and they will gain insights on ratemaking and policy solutions to current and future industry challenges and opportunities, including reduced sales growth, infrastructure investment, distributed generation penetration, and community solar.

Cost to attend this seminar is \$395 and will include course materials and lunch. For more information, contact Elena Larson at [larsone@powersystem.org](mailto:larsone@powersystem.org) or call 785-224-3065.



## Solomon Corporation to host open house

Solomon Corporation invites all Kansas electric cooperative trustees, managers and employees to an open house on Nov. 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.



A L L I A N C E

The facility is located at 103 W. Main Street in Solomon.

The open house is designed to celebrate Solomon's new alliance with KEC and introduce the electric cooperatives to the Solomon

facility and family.

The open house activities will include lunch, tours, and a happy hour.

For more information, or to RSVP, please email Macey

Birdsall, Solomon, at mbirdsall@solomoncorp.com before Oct. 20.

Invitations will also be sent to cooperatives via email (see right).



**Open House**  
November 8th  
11:30 - 5:00  
Hosted by  
Solomon Corporation  
103 W Main Street  
Solomon, KS 67480

We are pleased to welcome all Kansas electric cooperative trustees, managers and employees to the open house for lunch, tours, and happy hour.  
Solomon is looking forward to the opportunity to celebrate our new alliance with KEC and introduce you to our Solomon facility and family.  
Please RSVP by emailing mbirdsall@solomoncorp.com by October 20.

## Annual Golf Tournament raises funds for KCRE



The KCRE Tournament is coordinated by (from left): Kirk Thompson, Ken Maginley, Bob Reece, Scott Whittington, Mike Morton, Roger Davis, and Phil Wages.

Kansas electric cooperatives raised approximately \$6,500 as 136 golfers competed in the 2017 edition of the Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) golf tournament on Aug. 25 in Salina.

Staff from Flint Hills and Lyon-Coffey electric cooperatives teamed up to take the tournament crown. **BOB REECE**, Manager of Flint Hills; **SCOTT WHITTINGTON**, Manager of Lyon-Coffey; **MARK DOEBLE**, Director of Line Operations at Lyon-Coffey; and **CHUCK GOECKEL**, Assistant Manager of Flint Hills posted the lowest score among the 34 teams.

The lowest scorers from each of the event's five flights were: Victory Electric, Rolling Hills No. 2, Twin Valley, Federated and Rolling Hills No. 3. In addition, 19 hole prizes were awarded.

Next year's tournament date is Aug. 24, 2018, and will be held at the Salina Municipal Golf Course.

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

Corn dogs, concerts, and cooperatives—the Kansas State Fair brings entertainment and education for all ages. As part of the fair's activities, Kansas electric cooperatives and Touchstone Energy cooperatives of Kansas once again co-sponsored a high-voltage line safety demonstration, Sept. 11-15.

Located 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 Radiant, Sedgwick County, Victory, and Wheatland volunteered linemen to operate the demonstration.

Midwest Energy volunteers were **BRIAN DREILING**, **ALEX BREEDING**, **LES LOKER**, **NATE STRYKER**, **GREG SWOB**, and **JAMES WRIGHT**. They were joined throughout the week by **JEFF REED** and **ALLEN MILLER**

of Radiant, **CHANDLER GECHTER** and **MARK HANSEN** of Sedgwick County; **JACOB LEDFORD** and **KYNDELL PENICK** of Victory; and **TYLER GOEHRING** and **QUINTEN WHEELER** of Wheatland.

The Kansas electric cooperatives and Touchstone Energy cooperatives of Kansas have been sponsoring the high-voltage safety demonstration since 2007.

KEC also sponsored the WIBW broadcast of the Agriculture Forum from the Kansas State Fair on Sept. 9. This year's forum featured U.S. Senator and Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee **PAT ROBERTS** and U.S. Congressman and House Agriculture Committee member **DR. ROGER MARSHALL**.

Next year's State Fair demonstration dates will be Sept. 9-14.



Above: Alex Breeding and Nate Stryker, Midwest Energy, show the result when something touches a power line at the high-voltage line safety demonstration at the Kansas State Fair.

Left: Young fairgoers react to the electric safety presentation.





## Lyon-Coffey honors former trustee at benefit golf event

Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative sponsored a banner in memory of former trustee **JOHN P. EVANS** at the third annual Coffey County Cancer Support Group golf tournament on Aug. 19.

Evans served on the Board of Lyon-Coffey Electric, many years as treasurer, from 2013 until his death in May of this year. He also served on the board of the Coffey County Cancer Support Group.

Lyon-Coffey sponsored a team for the benefit event that included **ANDY LAWRENCE, SCOTT WHITTINGTON, MIKE TWEEDY, and MARK DOEBELE.**



Joining the fight against cancer, Lyon-Coffey's team pose with a banner honoring former trustee John P. Evans.

## Key accounts, changing energy landscape topics at KMSDA Meeting

The Kansas Member Services Directors Association's fall meeting was held Sept. 6-8 in Wichita. Nearly 20 co-op representatives attended the "Building a Key Accounts Culture" pre-conference session with **SCOTT BIALICK**, Touchstone Energy.

The program included **JOE MOTULIAK**, ACES Power Marketing, who discussed America's rapidly evolving power portfolio and the energy landscape. KEC's Government Relations staff gave

an update on legislative issues, the co-ops' role in garnering grass-roots support and a report on the Lesser Prairie Chicken.

**SID SPERRY**, Oklahoma Association-



From left: April Engstrom, Radiant; Cindy Kill, Sedgwick County; and Colleen Bushnell, CMS; discuss key account strategies during the KMSDA Fall meeting in Wichita.



This image, which is being used by electric cooperatives nationwide to promote this year's Co-op Month, was taken by KEC's Carrie Kimberlin of her father and son during the 2010 harvest.

## Kansas Cooperative Council promotes Co-op Month selfie contest

To help celebrate Co-op Month in October, the Kansas Cooperative Council challenges co-ops of all kinds to "commit" to the #coopselfie challenge.

This social media event is designed to help raise awareness for Co-op Month by snapping a selfie at your cooperative and sharing it on social media.

The selfie can include cooperative members, employees and others in your community, and should include a caption of how the cooperative shows its commitment. Photos should be tagged with #coopselfie and uploaded to Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter.

For more information, visit the KCC website at [www.kansasco-op.coop](http://www.kansasco-op.coop).

## KEC Member Directory to be shipped this month

Printed copies of the 2017-2018 Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., Member Directory will be mailed to cooperatives, advertisers and affiliated organizations in late September.

The KEC Directory requires considerable time and effort to prepare and we certainly appreciate all the assistance received again this year from our member co-ops to complete this task.

Members may also download a PDF version of the directory.

For more information, contact KEC's Carrie Kimberlin at [ckimberlin@kec.org](mailto:ckimberlin@kec.org).

