

Rural Power

Kansas electric co-op directors achieve credentials

Earlier this month, 15 locally-elected directors from electric cooperatives in Kansas received the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership Credential (BLC) certificates from NRECA.

These directors' names were announced at NRECA's Region 7 and 9 meeting, held Oct. 4 to 6 to the co-op officials representing thirteen states. Even though most of the directors were unable to attend the meeting, NRECA's CEO Jim Matheson acknowledged their commitment to education and attainment of the certificates.

The CCD program requires demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies. The seven directors who earned their CCD are: **GERALD STAAB**, Butler; **KEITH RANDALL**, CMS; **RANDALL BUNNEL** and **JOHN EVANS**, Lyon-Coffey; **JOHN GEORGE**, Rolling Hills; **CLINT DEVORE**, Sedgwick County; and **JEFF SWANSON**, Sumner-Cowley.



Jeff Swanson, Sumner-Cowley (left), receives his CCD pin from NRECA's Jim Matheson and Tracey Steiner at the Region 7 and 9 meeting.

Three directors received the BLC, which recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a CCD. These individuals are: **JUDY KINSLER**, Ark Valley; **DON MONTGOMERY**, Kaw Valley; and **MICHAEL BREWER**, Pioneer.

Five directors earned *both* their CCD and BLC certificates: **JACK NEWCOMB**, Caney Valley; **KEN HEDBERG** and **BRUCE SPARE**, DS&O; **MICHAEL ROGERS**, Prairie Land; and **ALAN SMARSH**, Sedgwick County.

Additionally, 64 Kansas cooperative directors earned their Director Gold Credential in 2016.

This meeting was the third in a series of five regional meetings convened by NRECA this fall. The regional meetings continue the cooperatives' grassroots policymaking process, which begins at the local co-op level and culminates at NRECA's 75th Annual Meeting in San Diego, Feb. 23 to March 1, 2017.

KEC District Meetings to feature legislative updates, leadership workshops

The agenda for KEC's annual series of District Meetings has been released. District 1, 2 and 4 meetings will begin at 10 a.m. District 3 will begin at 9:30 a.m.

The schedule for this year's meetings are as follows:

- **District 1**, Nov. 4 at Flint Oak Lodge, Fall River;
- **District 2**, Nov. 3 at Prairie Band Casino & Resort, Mayetta;
- **District 3**, Nov. 2 at Fort Hays Robbins Center, Hays; and
- **District 4**, Nov. 1 at United Wireless Arena Conference Center, Dodge City.

The agenda will include a statewide review, an industry update, a Co-ops in Politics rec-

ognition, the KEC proposed budget review, and a transmission presentation. The District 3 meeting will also have a solar presentation. Several legislators have also been invited to speak during lunch at each meeting.

The District Meeting agenda will also feature a leadership workshop by **GORDON HIBBARD**, President/CEO, Dale Carnegie Training-Kansas Heartland.

The leadership workshop, titled "Foundation for Success," will show how both individual and organizational success stories do not happen by chance. This special professional development opportunity is for career and volunteer leaders to become more effective both in their professional and personal lives.

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



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Tallgrass Prairie documentary premiere

KEC is proud to help sponsor a new documentary "Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve: A Flint Hills Love Story." A project by Kansas based documentarian, **DAVE KENDALL**, the film focuses on the historical, environmental, and social significance of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Chase County.

Kansas co-op staff, managers and trustees are invited to watch the film and meet the filmmakers at two public premieres: 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12 at the Granada Theatre in Emporia; and 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 20 at the Wareham Opera House in Manhattan.

Register online at PrairieHollow.net or call 785-587-2729, ext. 211. The event is free and open to the public.

insympathy

John Tilley

John Tilley, Ninnescah's Manager of Operations, died on Oct. 6.

Tilley's dedicated career spanned 35 years of service to the cooperative. He joined Ninnescah on March 1, 1982, as a Lineman and served as Manager of Operations for the past 10 years.

A memorial service was held on Oct. 15 at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt, KS 67124. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society in care of Larrison Mortuary.

James Ruddy

James "Jimmie" Ruddy, retired Doniphan Board Member, died on Oct. 11. Services were held on Oct. 14 at the St. Charles Catholic Church in Troy.

Memorials may be made to the Troy Ambulance Fund or the St. Charles Catholic Church.

Louis Rice

Louis Rice, grandfather of KEC's Angela Howard, died on Oct. 4.

Services were held on Oct. 14 at Church of Christian Fellowship in Carbondale. Memorials may be made to Grace Hospice, 3715 SW 29th Street, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66614.

co-opcalendar

OCTOBER

- 26 **Kansas Touchstone Energy Annual Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita
- 26-28 **Kansas Accountants Club Meeting**, Clarion Inn, 1911 E. Kansas Ave., Garden City
- 27 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

NOVEMBER

- 1 **District 4 Meeting**, United Wireless Arena, Dodge City
- 2 **District 3 Meeting**, Fort Hays University, Robbins Center, Hays
- 3 **District 2 Meeting**, Prairie Band Casino & Resort, Mayetta
- 4 **District 1 Meeting**, Flint Oak Lodge, Fall River
- 14-15 **CFC COMPASS & KRTA Training**, Hilton Kansas City Airport, 8801 NW 112 Street, Kansas City, MO
- 15-16 **KEC Transformer Workshop**, Kaw Valley, Topeka
- 16 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, Prairie Band Casino & Resort, Mayetta, 1 p.m. (reconvenes on Nov. 17 at 8:30 a.m.)
- 16 **KEPCo Annual Meeting (business meeting)**, Prairie Band Casino & Resort, Mayetta, 4 p.m.
- 16 **KEPCo Annual Meeting reception and dinner**, Prairie Band Casino & Resort, Mayetta, 5:00 p.m.
- 17-18 **KEC Metering Workshop**, Kaw Valley, Topeka
- 18 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 24-25 **Thanksgiving Holiday**, KEC Office Closed

upcomingtraining

Kansas Touchstone Energy to hold annual meeting

The Kansas Touchstone Energy Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Wichita Marriott on Oct. 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

EDDIE MCKNIGHT will report on the national program activities. The Touchstone Energy Executive Council will discuss statewide activities, set the 2017 dues assessment, discuss the Power+Hope program, and hold elections. The members whose terms expire this year include **PERRY RUBART**, **DAVE CHILDERS**, and **RON GRABER**. The committee will also fill a trustee vacancy.

CFC to offer COMPASS and KRTA training

CFC is offering the COMPASS 4.0 and KRTA 1 and 2 training on Nov. 14 and 15 at the Hilton Kansas City Airport Hotel.

This training is designed for CFOs and accountants. To register, visit the CFC member page (www.nrucfc.coop) and log in. Click on the events tab, then the training tab and register. There is a block of rooms reserved at the hotel.

MIKE LEWIS, CFC's Regional Vice President, is available to visit with co-op staff on site to assist with the completion of the financial forecast.

Key accounts training

KEC is offering a two-day NRECA key accounts course on Feb. 16 and 17 at the Courtyard at Old Town, Wichita.

The course, **487.2 MANAGING YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S KEY ACCOUNTS**, provides a practical exploration of key accounts fundamentals, including best practices for building and managing a program that targets the strategic and operational concerns of key accounts.

BRYAN SINGLETARY will facilitate this course that also counts toward the NRECA Key Accounts Certification.

Make your reservations at the Courtyard Wichita at Old Town for the KEC group rate of \$139/night (which includes breakfast and parking) by calling 866-522-8909. The room block expires on Jan. 25.

2017 IT Summit

KEC has planned the next IT Summit for May 4 and 5 in Wichita at the Courtyard at Old Town.

To make a hotel reservation, call 866-522-8909, and ask for the "KEC IT Summit Block" rate of \$144 (which includes breakfast and parking). The room block expires on April 13. Detailed program information will be emailed closer to the meeting dates.

Doniphan Electric's Arlan Mitchell to retire

After nearly 30 years at Doniphan Electric, **ARLAN MITCHELL** has announced his retirement effective Oct. 24.

Mitchell first served as a member of the Doniphan Board for 11 years before being selected as general manager on May 4, 1998. He filled the position vacated by retiring manager Jerry Jarrett.

Prior to his time at the cooperative, Mitchell worked at the Troy Grain Company and was a service engineer for Dow Chemical in Denver, CO. He also served as president of Doniphan County's Rural Water District.

Mitchell has been battling cancer, and members of the Kansas electric cooperative family can send him get well cards to his home at: 802 Port William Rd., Wathena, KS 66090.



Arlan Mitchell

Kansas well-represented at the NRECA Regional meeting

Several Kansas co-op officials took leadership roles at the NRECA Region 7 and 9 meeting in Reno, NV, held Oct. 5 and 6, 2016.

KEC's CEO **BRUCE GRAHAM** served on a panel for the session titled "Making the Most of Meetings with Local Federal Agencies" where he highlighted different situations in Kansas and the benefits of engaging with agency officials to build long-term relationships.

"Our work to establish relationships with FEMA and officials engaged with the Lesser Prairie Chicken issue caught the attention of NRECA meeting planners," said Graham. "I also discussed the value of building relationships with state and local officials and even how the Youth Tour has created some important and influential connections for our industry."

Graham, along with CMS Manager **KIRK THOMPSON**, were appointed to the Resolutions Committee that reviewed member directives. A new resolution

on "Stranded Assets and Economic Impacts" was introduced, and there were revisions offered to the proposed "Distributed Generation" and "Wildlife" resolutions.

Thompson also moderated the CFC business meeting. **DALE COOMES**, Heartland REC Manager, presented the Kansas report at the ACRE breakfast.

In addition, nearly every Kansas cooperative was recognized as a Co-ops Vote 5-Star Cooperative. KEC produced special name badge ribbons for Kansas cooperative representatives to wear.

"The latest national list has a total of about 100 cooperatives and 29 are from Kansas," said Graham. "This is a direct result of the work of our members to engage in the KEC Candidate Meet and Greet initiative."

The Region 7 and 9 meeting was also the first opportunity for Kansas representatives to hear from and meet new NRECA CEO **JIM MATHESON**.



Dale Coomes, Heartland, presents the Kansas ACRE report at the NRECA Region 7 and 9 meeting.



Kirk Thompson, CMS, reports at the CFC business meeting.

Graham serves as panelist at Montana statewide meeting

KEC's CEO **BRUCE GRAHAM** was part of a of statewide managers addressing the members of the Montana Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting on September 28. The topic of the panel discussion was "Beyond Montana's Borders: Co-op Issues Across America."

Graham and his counterpart from Louisiana, **RANDY PIERCE**, centered discussion on the political landscape of each state, current issues and the challenges and opportunities for the electric cooperative industry.

"It was a privilege to be asked to



From left: Dave Wheelihan, CEO of the Montana Electric Cooperative Association; Randy Pierce, CEO of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, Inc.; and Bruce Graham, CEO of KEC; discuss issues and challenges faced by cooperatives of each of their states.

participate in this creative program idea. In addition, it was interesting to observe the structure and features of another statewide association annual meeting," Graham said.

KEC recognized as Partner Level Contributor to MATC

The Kansas Board of Regents recently recognized KEC for its contribution to Manhattan Area Technical College (MATC). KEC was awarded the Partner level recognition.

To achieve this status, KEC's **LARRY DETWILER**, **STACEY MARSTON**, and **BRUCE MCANTEE** serve as liaisons to the Vo-Tech Advisory Committee. Also, KEC provided a "Sharing Success" grant through CoBank this year to support the college's programs and to help recruit the next workforce generation.

MATC is located in Manhattan, KS, and offers an Electric Power & Distribution program, which is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills required to succeed in the electrical distribution industry. The program is one of the few electric power programs that has open admission to the public.

2012 Youth Tour Delegate Bryton Stoll to open for Clint Black

When **BRYTON STOLL**, a 2012 Youth Tour delegate sponsored by Nemaha-Marshall, learned that he would be opening for country music legend Clint Black, he was a little surprised.

“In a word, I was star-struck,” Stoll described. “It didn’t seem real at first. Honestly, it didn’t seem real for the first few months.”

After impressing judges at a college talent show, Stoll was asked if he would

open for a male country artist that couldn’t be revealed until the official announcement. Much to Stoll’s amazement, Clint Black was announced as the artist performing at the University of Kansas Lied center this weekend.

Stoll, a Marysville native, was taught to play the bass guitar by his dad when he was 11 so that he could complete a

family band that was made up of his brother, dad, and uncle.

“We started playing in the basement at night, whenever we felt like it, just before my sister had to go to bed,” Stoll recalled. “My mom would always

come down and tell us to stop when it was bedtime. That was when I really got started, and I have been going ever since.”

The young musician eventually learned how to play the six-string

guitar, mandolin, and harmonica. He also picked up how to record and write music. By the time Stoll was selected as a Youth Tour delegate, he had recorded his first CD and shared it with the other students.

“I really did that simply as a way for the other Youth Tour members to remember me by, but got some great

feedback from it,” Stoll explained. “I remember one person saying that there was one song in particular that they enjoyed the most. It was a song that I did not think was one of the better songs on the CD, so it was nice to know that all of the songs I had created had worth, as long as I found the right people to listen.”

After growing tired of hearing the same country songs on the radio, Stoll tries to write about his Midwestern life in his music.

“Instead of saying that growing up in rural Kansas has directly affected my writing, I would say that it has affected my lifestyle, and my lifestyle has affected my writing,” Stoll clarified. “The great thing is that Marysville was not small-minded like many people and many country songs would have you believe. It was a great place to grow up full of art, events, and yet still small-town charm.”

Stoll will be opening up for Clint Black on Oct. 22 at the Lied Center in Lawrence. Tickets are available online at lied.ku.org. If you miss that performance, Stoll will also perform at the KEC Annual meeting in January.



Photo courtesy of Sonia Stoll

Bryton Stoll will open for country music singer Clint Black on Oct. 22 at the Lied Center, Lawrence. Stoll will also perform at the KEC Annual meeting in January.

jobmarket

Kaw Valley seeks tree trimmer

Kaw Valley seeks a Tree Trimmer 2nd Year to efficiently conduct all right-of-way clearing and spraying in a safe and professional manner. This position is a vital part of the maintenance program to ensure quality electric service.

Applicants must have a high school diploma/GED and a Class A CDL. Applicants should have at least two years’ experience working in right-of-way clearance and working around power lines and utilities. A Certified Line Clearance Arborist is preferred. Must be trained in administering CPR, first aid, and tree top and bucket rescue. Should be knowledgeable of clearing and trimming techniques.

To apply, send a resume and application to Desiree Outersky, Director of HR, at desiree.outersky@freestate.coop. Applications are available online at www.kve.coop under “About Us,” “Employment Opportunities.” Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

KEC staff donate more than 7,000 items to Silverbackks

KEC staff showed their generosity in September by collecting more than 7,000 items to donate to the Silverbackks program.

The donation drive was organized by a committee made up of employees from both the Topeka and Osage City KEC offices. The items collected include toiletries, water bottles and other supplies.

The KEC employee group that organized the drive was formed not only to create charitable and staff events, but to also build stronger relationships between the two KEC offices.

“The Apparatus Testing department is out of the office so much, this group is a good way to get to know each other,” explained Alex Orel who chairs the committee. “It’s an effort to make each office closer.”

Silverbackks Inc. is a Topeka-based charity organization that focuses on providing meals and essential items to those less fortunate. Silverbackks began in 2011 as founder Jude Quinn distributed cold water bottles to others on a hot day. The program has grown to serve lunches and essential items to those in need.



KEC employees collected toiletries, water, and other supplies for the charitable Silverbackks organization. KEC employees pictured from left: Alex Orel, Jackie Moore, Carol Dorr, and Kayeloni Davidson.