

Rural Power

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

Kansans lead discussions at CFC's annual summit

Key cooperative staff from across the nation attended the 2017 CFC Independent Borrowers Executive Summit (IBES), held Nov. 12 through 15 in San Francisco. This annual conference provided CEOs, CFOs, and leaders of non-RUS borrower cooperatives with a unique opportunity to network, hear from prominent experts and gain insights on the latest industry, finance and management challenges and opportunities.

KEC's CEO Bruce Graham was part of a panel that discussed political activity by the Trump administration related to energy issues, the status of the clean power plan, the U.S. Department of Energy and FERC grid resili-



KEC's Bruce Graham (left) joins NRECA's Kirk Johnson at the CFC IBES to discuss the importance of the Co-ops Vote initiatives and the positive impact it has had in Kansas.

ency initiatives, regulatory reform, and progress to fill key appointments in federal agencies. Graham also spoke about the importance of initiatives such as Co-ops Vote and the positive impact it has had on communication regarding legislative issues in Kansas. Other panelists included NRECA's Kirk Johnson and Texas-based Golden Spread Electric Cooperative's CEO Mark Schwirtz.

KEPCo's CEO Marcus

Harris also moderated a discussion with Michael Haggarty, Associate Managing Director of Moody's Investors Service, on the current and future state of nuclear power locally and internationally in a session titled "The Future of Nuclear: The Global and U.S. Electric Utility Perspective."

Kaufman named KEC's Director of Government Relations and Legal Counsel

Leslie Kaufman has accepted the position as Director of Government Relations and Legal Counsel at Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Kaufman previously served as President/CEO of the Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC), the statewide trade association representing all forms of cooperative businesses – agricultural, financial, risk management, rural electric, telecommunications, credit unions and members of the Farm Credit system.

"The electric cooperatives



Leslie Kaufman

have worked with Leslie throughout her career at the Kansas Cooperative Council. Our members have been impressed with Leslie's public policy and legal work across a broad spectrum of interest areas including cooperatives, agribusiness, agriculture,

taxation, and other rural issues. She is well respected and will be an outstanding director of our regulatory and legislative initiatives," said Bruce Graham, KEC's CEO.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to join the KEC team," Kaufman said. "I have the utmost respect for the association and the

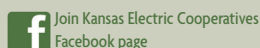
work they do for members. I'm a firm believer in the value of member-owned cooperatives and the benefits they bring to members. Most of my professional career has been in the co-op system, and I look forward to serving electric cooperatives and their members in this new role."

Kaufman joined the KCC staff in January 2004 as Government Relations Director and was later named Executive Director. She has served as President/CEO since 2010.

Kaufman will start with KEC on Nov. 27. She is a Kansas-licensed attorney and a graduate of Washburn University School of Law. She also holds a B.A. in history from MidAmerica Nazarene University.



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USDA announces State Directors

On Nov. 3, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced a slate of Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Rural Development (RD) State Directors, all serving as appointees of President Donald J. Trump. FSA State Directors help implement USDA policies in planning, organizing, and administering FSA programs in their respective states. They are also responsible for running the day-to-day activities of the state FSA office. Similarly, RD State Directors work to help improve the economy and quality of life in rural America.

For Kansas, **DAVID SCHEMM** was appointed as the FSA State Director. He has served as President of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers and President of National Association of Wheat Growers. **LYNNE HINRICHSEN** was appointed as the Rural Development State Director. She joined the Kansas Department of Agriculture in 2013 as the Agribusiness Development Director. Prior to serving in the public sector, Hinrichsen worked in sales, marketing, advertising, and human resource consulting.

"These state directors will help ensure that USDA is offering the best customer service to our farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agricultural producers across the country," Perdue said. "FSA and RD both play a critical role in helping the people of agriculture, and are able to connect with people in their home states. They are the initial points of contact for millions of our USDA customers. Our goal is to help rural America prosper, and these state leaders will be of great assistance in that task."

insympathy

Carroll Ginther

Carroll Ginther, retired manager of Northwest Kansas Rural Electric Cooperative in Bird City, died on Oct. 25, 2017, at Salina Regional Health Center. Ginther served as manager of the co-op, which is now part of Prairie Land, from 1971 to 1991.

Services were held on Nov. 4, at the Fairview Cemetery in Atwood. Memorial contributions may be made to the Atwood Junior Golf Program, in care of Carlson-Geisendorf Funeral Home, 500 S. Ohio, Salina 67401.

co-opcalendar

NOVEMBER

23-24 **Thanksgiving Holiday**, KEC Office Closed

30 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

DECEMBER

6-7 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita

7 **Youth Tour Coordinators Meeting**, 1 to 4 p.m., Marriott Hotel, Wichita

8 **Retirement Reception Honoring Ken Maginley**, lunch served from noon to 1 p.m., St. Bernard's Catholic Church; reception from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Bluestem's office, Wamego

11 **Retirement Reception Honoring Ken Maginley**, lunch served from noon to 1 p.m., United Methodist Church Family Life Center; reception 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Bluestem's office, Clay Center

13-14 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

14 **Touchstone Energy 2017 Annual Business Meeting**, Touchstone Energy Webex at 2 p.m. (pre-registration is required to join the Webex)

14-15 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Ambassador Hotel, 1111 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, MO

15 **Open House Retirement Party Honoring Bob Reece**, 1 to 3 p.m., Flint Hills office, Council Grove

25-26 **Christmas holiday**, KEC Office closed

JANUARY

1 **New Year's Day Holiday**, KEC Office closed

20 **KEC Directors Training**, 944.1 Giving and Receiving Effective Feedback and 2610.1 Understanding the Electric Business, Capitol Plaza, Topeka

21 **KEC Directors Training**, 974.1 Rate Making Strategies and Policy Decisions for Electric Cooperative Boards, Capitol Plaza, Topeka

22-23 **KEC Annual Meeting**, Maner Conference Center, Topeka

annualmeetings

KEPCo

KEPCo held its annual meeting on Nov. 15 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport. More than 150 trustees, guests, managers, staff, and spouses were in attendance.

During the business session the following day, the current officers were re-elected:

KEVIN COMPTON, President; **DALE SHORT**, Vice President; **DOUG JACKSON**, Secretary; and **DEAN ALLISON**, Treasurer.

Executive committee members elected were **STEVE FOSS**, **KIRK THOMPSON**, and

SCOTT WHITTINGTON.

Midwest Energy

Midwest Energy held its annual meeting on Oct. 23 at the Robbins Center at the Fort Hays State University Campus. More than 100 members were present.

The five 2017 Youth Tour winners gave a coordinated presentation, each speaking on a specific aspect of their trip to Washington, D.C.

Re-elected to the board were **CHUCK MOORE**, **GARY MOSS**, and **ED PRATT**.

upcomingtraining

KEC hosts Youth Tour Coordinators Meeting

KEC has scheduled a Youth Tour Coordinators Round Table Meeting from 1 to 4 p.m. on Dec. 7, 2017, at the Wichita Marriott.

Co-op employees who are responsible for promoting and coordinating the selection process for the "Electric Cooperative Youth Tour" to Washington, D.C., and the "Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp" to Steamboat Springs, CO,

are encouraged to attend.

Discussions will be structured to share best practices of how to promote both youth programs, how to select winners, and what to expect from your students. Topics will also include the new promotional campaign, online forms, and dates and deadlines.

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

Heartland names Mark Scheibe as new CEO

After a nationwide search, Heartland Rural Electric Cooperative announced that **MARK SCHEIBE** has officially accepted the CEO position. Scheibe will begin serving the cooperative in January 2018.



Mark Scheibe

The Heartland board contracted with NRECA Executive Search to fill the position.

"The Board worked hard through the search process and we are excited to have Mark join the Heartland family," said Board President Ernie Troth. "He will be a great addition to our team and leader for our future."

Scheibe previously worked at Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Anamosa, IA, where he served as the Director of Engineering. He is an electrical engineering graduate from Iowa State University.

"My wife and I are very impressed with the strength and strong values of both Heartland REC and the communities that it serves," says Scheibe. "We look forward to joining the Heartland family and to raising our children in Southeast Kansas."

Scheibe is filling the vacancy created by the upcoming retirement of Dale Coomes. Coomes has served as the CEO since 1989.

"I have great confidence that our members and employees will be served well by the leadership Mark brings to our organization," said Coomes.

Doniphan to subscribe to *Kansas Country Living*

Doniphan Electric Cooperative will begin subscribing in January to *Kansas Country Living* on behalf of its 1,122 members. This addition makes Doniphan the 24th subscribing co-op, bringing the magazine's circulation to more than 128,000 readers.

"One of the first directives the Board gave me when I was hired was to improve communication between the cooperative and our members. *Kansas Country Living* was the best first-step we could do. I've been a member of Brown-Atchison for years, and I always look forward to reading the magazine. We are proud to be able to offer this publication to our members," said Doniphan's manager James Lednický.

The magazine offers Kansas electric co-ops an additional communication channel in which to share news and to encourage feedback from members. *Kansas Country Living* also delivers monthly features on curbing electricity consumption costs, inspiring articles highlighting Kansas electric co-op members and businesses, and the latest in energy news and regulations.

For more information about the publication or to get a quote, please contact Vicki Estes at vestes@kec.org or call 785-228-4630.

KEC District Meetings featured strategy, safety, and social media

More than 200 managers, directors and key staff attended the KEC District Meetings held Nov. 1 in

Mayetta, Nov. 2 in Hays, Nov. 3 in Dodge City, and Nov. 6 in Parsons. This year's agenda covered a wide range of topics including strategic planning, the KEC budget review, a Kansas legislative outlook, and a variety of staff presentations.

Bruce Graham kicked off each meeting with the KEC year in review, listing accomplishments across all of the departments and the work done through the four mutual aid events in 2017. Throughout the day, he quizzed the attendees on various KEC services, offering prizes for correct answers.

Graham also reviewed the KEC Strategic Planning process in detail and shared the mission and vision statements, as well as listing the immediate priorities that were identified by the Strategic Planning Committee.

Bob Hall reviewed the KEC proposed budget and discussed the impact of KEC's Apparatus Testing Department sale.

Shana Read explained why it was important for cooperatives to be engaged with social media.



KEC's Larry Detwiler (right) demonstrates a blood-borne pathogen training using black gloves and shaving cream during the District 2 Meeting in Mayetta.

Alex Orel shared recent Co-ops Vote activities, discussed legislative issues, and distributed a handout listing 10 tips on how to be a good legislative advocate.

Larry Detwiler shared safety tips and best practices at home and on the

farm. With assistance from the attendees, he demonstrated how the linemen are trained to stay safe around blood-borne pathogens. He discussed step potential and showed the effects of electricity on the human body.

Doug Shepherd gave an overview of the local, regional, state and federal groups that KEC staff work with on behalf of the co-ops.

During the meetings, each District elected a representative to the KEC Executive Committee. Representing their respective districts are: **SHERRI CLAASSEN**, Butler, District 1; **RALPH PHILLIPS**, FreeState, District 2; **JOHN BLACKWELL**, Midwest Energy, District 3; and **PAT MORSE**, Victory, District 4.

Kansas Co-op Hall of Fame nominations sought

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2017-18 Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Kansas Cooperative Council, is important for honoring those who have gone "above and beyond the call" in advancing the cooperative philosophy. Established in 1999, individuals from all types of co-ops have been inducted.

To download the nomination form, visit www.kansasco-op.coop.

The web posting now includes a Word version of the nomination document.

The deadline for applications is Dec. 1.

Western Kansas legislators learn about electric industry, Co-ops Vote

On Oct. 3, KEC joined co-ops in western Kansas to host a Co-ops Vote event for 13 Kansas legislators. CMS, Lane-Scott, Midwest Energy, Pioneer, Prairie Land, Sunflower, Victory, Western, and Wheatland cooperatives participated in the event.

The legislators and co-op representatives toured the Sunflower facility in Garden City, as well as Holcomb Station. Participants also watched a safety demonstration. Stuart Lowry, Sunflower CEO and President, gave an update on the cooperative's projects and challenges.

"The electric industry is ever changing, and the changing nature of our business brings with it both opportunities and challenges," Lowry said. "Rural electric cooperatives have unique matters to address due to location and population density. It's important that we are proactive in addressing those matters so that we can continue to provide reliable energy to our members and those they serve."

Lowry reviewed the status of several projects and discussed the struggles associated with having more wind energy



Explaining the history of Wheatland, General Manager Bruce Mueller (left), discusses the co-op's historical photos displayed in the Garden City office. The office stop was part of a legislative tour, which included Sunflower's Holcomb Station and Garden City Complex. Sen. Rick Billinger, Sen. Bud Estes, Rep. Leonard Mastroni, Rep. Boyd Orr, and Rep. Russ Jennings were among the 13 legislators who attended the tour.

in the system than demand for electricity. He also noted that Sunflower and Mid-Kansas will continue to advocate on behalf of co-op members so that local ratepayers are not unduly burdened by the cost of transmission to move wind energy to other regions of the country.

After the tours, KEC coordinated the Co-ops Vote event, one of six such events involving 20 Kansas electric cooperatives. Although 2017 is not an election year, KEC continues to build on the success of last year's Co-ops Vote events to give co-op

staff opportunities to build relationships with legislators. During the Co-ops Vote event, legislators shared the issues they expect to be discussed during the 2018 legislative session.

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

Glenn English Foundation scholarships open Dec. 1

The Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation encourages educational advancement by awarding higher education scholarships. Applications for these scholarships open on Dec. 1.

The Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation awards one \$10,000 scholarship and four additional \$1,000 scholarships to Youth Tour alumni each year through the **YOUTH TOUR ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP**.

The foundation also awards at least two \$2,000 scholarships to college students seeking a career in the rural electric engineering fields through the **ENGINEERS FOR THE FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP**. These scholarships support future engineers who will help define and solve the electric utility challenges of the future. Applicants do not need to be former Youth Tour participants.

For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/NRECAscholarship>.

Western seeks general manager

The Board of Directors of Western Cooperative Electric Association, headquartered in WaKeeney, is seeking qualified candidates for the position of General Manager.

The successful candidate will have high integrity with broad electric utility management experience in such areas as strategic planning, member communications, RUS system of accounting, and board/member relations.

Candidates should have five years electric utility experience, preferably within the rural electric program, and at least five years supervisory experience at the senior management level. A bachelor's degree in an appropriate field is required.

Western offers an excellent retirement plan through NRECA, competitive benefit programs, and a competitive salary commensurate with qualifications.

Interested parties should direct their inquiries to NRECA Executive Search and submit a cover letter, a two to three page

resume, and a minimum of three professional references or letters of recommendation. Applications must be received by Jan. 6, 2018. Email Tammy Lehman, NRECA Executive Search, ExecutiveSearch@nreca.coop. EOE.

FreeState seeks applicants for engineering, lineman, and tree crew positions

FreeState Electric Cooperative is currently accepting applications for the following:

- Engineering Manager
- Apprentice 3 Lineman (McLouth)
- Tree Trimmer 3rd Year (Topeka)
- Tree Crew Groundsman (Topeka)

To view a full job description or to apply for one of these positions, please visit www.freestate.coop under "Contact Us", "Employment Opportunities."

If you would like additional information, please contact Chelsea Renyer, HR Generalist, at chelsea.renyer@freestate.coop. Applications accepted until the positions are filled.

jobmarket