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## Yes, Burlington, there is a Santa Claus!

Mother Nature threatened to bring a cold and dark Christmas to the City of Burlington. A severe winter storm had passed through Coffey County, and much of the area lost power. KEC's Danny Seele joined Burlington city employees in laboring through a cold Christmas Eve to bring some cheer to the citizens of Burlington.

"Normally, we receive electricity from the Westar lines east of Burlington," said Burlington Electric Superintendent Alan Schneider. But he said that galloping lines caused outages, and the white-out weather conditions were too severe for the utility to dispatch crews safely. Schneider then started up the Burlington power plant, but realized they had a faulty breaker.

"We called in Kansas Electric Cooperative employees from Burlingame, who maintain our substation," Schneider said.

Despite the stormy weather, Danny Seele, KEC's director of Apparatus Testing, responded to the call.

"I got the call on Christmas Eve and it was all I could do to get to Burlington," Seele explained. "It was very eerie coming into town. In a whiteout condition, you just try to keep track of where you are. I knew when I crossed the bridge, but there were no street lights, no traffic lights, nothing."

He said that the electric co-op, the hospital and the school were the only buildings with back up generation to provide lights. Seele reached his destination and was able to spot the

problems at the substation.

"The city personnel knew how to troubleshoot the substation properly," Seele said. "But this breaker had three separate problems."

Schneider said the substation had recently been serviced. "It was just one of those things where it (the breaker) just didn't like the cold weather after being down so long," Schneider explained.

"We had lost all power and we knew we were on our own," said Becky Reeves from the *Coffey County Republican*. "Danny worked on it until about 3 a.m. and fixed whatever was broken. Otherwise, we would have been out of electricity until at least 6 p.m. on Christmas day."

Seele said that when he restored the power and left town, everything was lit up.

"That is what makes this job very satisfying... being able to drive out of town and see the lights on. I thought about it being Christmas and the kids and wanting them to have lights on their Christmas trees and mothers being able to prepare Christmas dinner."

Scott Whittington, Lyon-Coffey's general manager, said that the co-op weathered the storm pretty well.

"Our outages were mainly due to Westar and Kansas City Power and Light not being able to provide us power," he said. With only a few minor outages due to transformers and galloping lines, the co-op had restored power to all its members by 4 a.m. Christmas morning.

## Brown-Atchison employees spread some Christmas cheer

Employees of Brown-Atchison gathered snacks and co-op shirts and hats to send overseas to the National Guard Horton Battery B, 2nd Battalion of the 130th Field Artillery. The Horton Battery is serving in Egypt, and the co-op staff wanted to remember them during the holidays.

"Thank you and everyone at the office and shop," wrote Dave Wellman of the Horton Battery. "The hats, shirts, and goodies were great. The things that family and friends do while we are deployed makes being away from home a lot easier."

Wellman explained that the men customized his Brown-Atchison hat by writing "Egypt Electric" on it. That hat was sent to the co-op manager Rod Gerdes in thanks.



The Horton Battery, currently stationed in Egypt, enjoys a Christmas care package from Brown-Atchison employees at the NCO club.

**Gov. Parkinson reappoints Tom Wright to KCC**

Governor Mark Parkinson has reappointed Chairman Tom Wright to the Kansas Corporation Commission.

“Tom’s leadership has been instrumental in protecting Kansas consumers and moving our state forward in energy policy,” said Parkinson. “Tom has represented Kansas on a number of national organizations, bringing a Midwest voice on energy issues while working with other states. I am extremely grateful for his commitment to public service and look forward to continuing to work together.”

Wright was appointed to the Kansas Corporation Commission in May 2007 and was elected Chair in June 2007. He was recently named to the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Committee on International Relations and Committee on Electricity.

GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE – 1/08/10

**Vice President Biden kicks off \$7.2 billion recovery act broadband program**

Vice President Biden kicked off \$7.2 billion in Recovery Act broadband grant and loan programs to bring high-speed Internet to communities that currently have little or no access to the technology.

At an event in Dawsonville, GA, he announced an initial \$183 million investment in 18 broadband projects benefiting 17 states which has already been matched by over \$46 million in public and private sector capital. The awards are not only expected to provide initial job opportunities in infrastructure and manufacturing, but help bridge the digital divide and boost economic development for communities held back by limited or no access to the technology.

WHITE HOUSE NEWS RELEASE – 12/17/09

**JANUARY**

- 15 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 20-21 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 23 **Board Leadership Course 929.1 - Current Issues in Policy Development.** Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka.
- 24 **Board Leadership Course 933.1 - The Fiduciary Duty of Director and Employee Officers.** Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka.
- 25-26 **KEC Annual Meeting.** Maner Conference Center, Topeka.

**FEBRUARY**

- 14-17 **NRECA Annual Meeting.** Atlanta, Georgia.
- 19 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 25 **MDM Meeting.** KEC Office, Topeka, 10 a.m.

**MARCH**

- 3-4 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting.** Ramada Inn, Salina, 8:30 a.m.
- 17-18 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 19 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.

upcoming training

**Trustee training offered at 2010 KEC Annual Meeting**

The KEC Annual meeting will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka, on January 23 - 24, 2010.

Scheduled for Sat., Jan. 23 is the recently updated Board Leadership Course **929.1 Current Issues in Policy Development.** This course encourages attendees to view policies as proactive tools to establish a standard of board behavior required for governance in today’s electric cooperative board room.

The course on Sun. Jan. 24 is the new **933.1 The Fiduciary Duty of Director and Employee Officers.** This comprehensive one-day course focuses on the fiduciary duties, responsibilities and expectations of board officers, operating officers, and agents of an electric cooperative board.

Both of these courses will be facilitated by Bob Patton and will count as one credit each for the Board Leadership certificate. Trustees must have completed their CCD certificate and 10 Board Leadership credits to earn the Board Leadership certificate.

The courses scheduled for the KEC Summer Board Meeting July 31 - August 1 are **925.1 Co-op By-laws: Guiding Principles and Current Issues,** and the **939.1 Applying Governance Concepts to Real Boardroom Challenges.**

There will also be a slate of courses offered during the NRECA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA, on Feb. 11-14. Visit cooperative.com for course times and other details.

**KEC offers distributed generation interconnections and net metering web conference**

KEC and KSI are hosting a Distributed Generation Interconnections and Net Metering web conference on February 10 at 9 a.m.

This free webinar will focus on issues related to the interconnection of member-owned renewable generation under net metering riders and parallel generation laws. Stuart Lowry of KEC will discuss the net metering and paral-

lel generation riders developed for the cooperatives. Mark Barbee of KEPCo/KSI will discuss technical issues associated with member-owned renewable generation.

Information to access the conference will be emailed to all member systems. For more information, email Shana Holsteen, KEC, at sholsteen@kec.org or call 785-478-4554.

# Kansas Electric Cooperatives to host its 68<sup>th</sup> annual meeting

KEC's Annual Meeting will be held Jan. 25-26, 2010, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka.

Two NRECA Board Leadership courses will be offered prior to the meeting on Jan. 23-24. On Sunday, January 24, an ice-cream social will be offered to the Annual Meeting attendees and guests from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The KEC Annual Meeting will begin Jan. 25 at 8 a.m. Speakers at the meeting will include Rep. Lynn Jenkins; State Sen. Pat Apple; State Treasurer Dennis McKinney; Mike Williams, president and CEO of Texas Electric Cooperatives; Chris Roach, project development manager of Abengoa Bio-energy Hybrid of Kansas; and Gordon Hibbard, President of the Kansas 4-H Foundation.

Attendees will hear KCRE, Federated and NRECA reports. Safety awards will be presented by KEC's LCS&C Department, and the Cooperative Month Award presentation will be made by Leslie Kaufman, executive director of the Kansas Cooperative Council.

Also available to the meeting attendees on Jan. 25 is the

6<sup>th</sup> Annual KEC Expo. Breaks and door prizes will be given in the Exhibition Hall.

A photo area will be available in the Exhibition Hall on Monday from 3 - 5 p.m. for any trustee or manager who would like a new photo in the annual KEC Directory.

The Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) will host its annual silent auction on Jan. 25 and its annual meeting on Jan. 26. For more information or to donate items, please contact Scott Whittington, Lyon-Coffey; or Dave Holthaus or Carol Dorr, KEC.

The KEC Auxiliary will meet on Jan. 25. Speakers include chef Alli Winter and meteorologist Drew Switzer. A tour of the Hallmark Cards plant is scheduled from 1:45 - 3:30 p.m.

A special KEC Auxiliary silent auction item is a hand-made quilt donated by Carolyn McNickle, wife of Twin Valley director Ronald McNickle. This year's KEC Auxiliary raffle prize is a love seat with storage, hand-crafted by John Roniger, member of Flint Hills. Raffle tickets are on sale now and will be available at the meeting.

## Kansas women farm managers conference scheduled

Partners in agriculture, business managers, producers, farm homemakers, absentee landlords and helpers are encouraged to attend the Women Managing the Farm Conference Feb. 5-6, 2010, in Wichita.

"The conference is intended for women who are involved in agriculture," said Kristy Archuleta, Kansas State University faculty member, financial educator, and conference coordinator.

"While more women are choosing agriculture as a career, women also sometimes land in agribusiness unexpectedly, by marriage or a change in responsibilities in managing a family farm or agribusiness," she said.

The cost to attend the two-day conference is \$99 per person if registration is received before Jan. 25, (\$120 if received after Jan. 25).

The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Wichita, which is offering a conference rate of \$92 plus tax for single/double occupancy.

This year, the conference keynote speakers include: Author Ellie Kay, a mother of seven who worked to eliminate \$40,000 in consumer debt in 2-1/2 years and founder of the Shop, Save and Share Seminars. Roger A. McEowen, the Leonard Dolezal Professor in Agricultural Law at Iowa State University. Dr. Tana Goering, a physician who works

with KPTS Channel 8 and BIG TV to produce "On Call with Dr. Tana," a weekly, 30-minute health program.

In addition to the keynotes, conference attendees can attend breakout sessions on a wide range of topics including estate planning, trusts, long-term care insurance, coping with clutter, facilitating family meetings, water rights, farm safety, beef quality assurance, soil and crop rotation, and mental health.

"One of the key benefits of attending the conference is meeting others who share similar challenges and concerns," said Archuleta, who noted that the conference schedule includes time for meeting others, networking, and social opportunities, including a wine and chocolate reception with entertainment the evening of Feb. 5.

The conference is sponsored in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency, Farm Credit Associations of Kansas, Kansas Soybean Commission, Kansas Wheat Commission, ProAg Insurance, Kansas Agri-Women, the Kansas Department of Commerce, KFRM Radio and Kansas State University.

Registration and more information is available: [www.womenmanagingthefarm.info](http://www.womenmanagingthefarm.info). For questions about registration, call 1-320-224-0154 or e-mail: [wmf@ksu.edu](mailto:wmf@ksu.edu).

## Win this love seat

KEC Annual Meeting attendees have an opportunity to take home a hand-crafted love seat with storage on January 25.

The bench was handmade by John Roniger, member of Flint Hills.

Tickets are available for \$1 each, or 6 for \$5. Proceeds benefit KEC's youth programs.

For tickets, contact Carol Dorr at (785) 478-4554 or email [cdorr@kec.org](mailto:cdorr@kec.org).



## insympathy

### Charles "Charlie" Staudenmaier

Charles "Charlie" Staudenmaier, 58, Doniphan's board treasurer, died January 3, 2010.

Charlie had served on the Doniphan Electric Co-op Board since 1998.

Funeral services were held on January 11 at the St. Benedict's Catholic Church in Bendena. Memorials may be sent for the Charles Staudenmaier Scholarship Fund in care of the Harman-Rohde Funeral Home, PO Box 426, Wathena, KS 66090.

## Efficiency Kansas energy auditor training available

The Metropolitan Energy Center and Energy Training Center of Kansas City is partnering with technical colleges across the state to offer energy auditor training.

Individuals who successfully complete the training will be qualified to conduct energy audits on behalf of the Efficiency Kansas loan program administered by the State Energy Office at the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Efficiency Kansas is a new program offered by the State of Kansas to help homeowners and small business owners make cost-effective, energy-efficiency improvements to their property. There is growing demand for qualified energy auditors as a comprehensive energy audit is required for participation in the program.

The following classes will prepare students for certification, which requires one week of classroom and in-field training, successful completion of written and field exams, and submission of two practice audits for review.

January 25-29 - Wichita Area Technical College, contact Jennifer Folk at [jfolk@watc.edu](mailto:jfolk@watc.edu) or call 316-677-1417.

February 8-12 - Flint Hills Technical College, contact Bill Hanlon at [whanlon@fhct.edu](mailto:whanlon@fhct.edu) or call 620-341-1335.

The week of classroom and field training includes: building science fundamentals, Combustion Appliance Zone (CAZ) health and safety testing, REM (Energy Efficiency Modeling Software) training, basic weatherization techniques and furnace inspection, detailed energy performance data collection, and blower door guided air leakage testing and analysis.

"Participants can expect to learn how to establish the energy efficiency performance of a structure, determine and prioritize energy improvements based on computer modeling, and reliably predict savings through increased energy efficiency," said Ryan Freed, Energy Efficiency Programs Manager.

Cost for the training is \$1,595 and includes books, access to computer modeling software, a field exam, and two practice audit reviews. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. For information about scholarships or to apply, visit: <http://kcc.ks.gov/energy/scholarships.htm>.

## New Web sites launched

### Electric Co-op Today

NRECA's weekly publication Electric Co-op Today is now available online. It may be viewed at [www.ect.coop](http://www.ect.coop). While the publication previously required a subscription, this new site is open to all – no subscriptions are required.

### KDOT launches KanDrive

The Kansas Department of Transportation has launched its Web site [www.kandrive.org](http://www.kandrive.org) to update travelers on weather and road conditions. The site offers maps, live images of road conditions, and information on scenic byways.

## jobmarket

### Wyoming co-op seeks journeymen

High Plains Power has immediate openings for two qualified journeyman linemen.

The candidate must have a HS Diploma/GED, and a valid journeyman lineman certificate.

Requirements include a minimum of 4 years line experience in OH/UG electric distribution including all phases of line construction, maintenance, and troubleshooting. Knowledge of the RUS construction specifications and the National Electrical Safety Code would be a plus. Valid Class A CDL with excellent driving record required.

One position will be located at our headquarter office in Riverton, WY, and the other position will be located at our district office in Thermopolis, WY.

Compensation: \$30.68/hour and excellent benefit package. Background check and drug screen required.

Applications will be accepted until January 22, 2010.

To request a job application, call 307-856-9426 or fax 307-856-4207 (request Human Resources) or email [mamhpp@wyoming.com](mailto:mamhpp@wyoming.com)

For more information, visit <http://highplainspower.org>. EOE.

# RuralPower

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