

# RURAL POWER

Electronic Edition



PO Box 4267  
Topeka, KS 66604-0267  
Phone: 785-478-4554  
Website: [www.kec.org](http://www.kec.org)

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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Cooperatives: United We Stand

October 31, 2003

## What's Inside?

Calendar p. 2

News from Kansas  
Co-ops p. 3

Order the Barns of  
Kansas book for  
holiday gifts p. 4

## Scholarships Honor Rural Electric Employees

Two long-time contributors to the rural electrification program in Kansas have been memorialized through scholarships established at the Manhattan Technical College.

The Bruce Peil Memorial Scholarship in Electrical Power & Distribution (EPD) was created in tribute to the man who started the EPD program at the college. He also started the International Lineman's Rodeo.

The Richard M. Shelley Memorial Scholarship honors a man who began his career in rural electrification with Twin Valley in 1955 and ended with Flint Hills.

The scholarships were awarded for the first time to Manhattan Area Technical College students in September. The Peil scholarship went to Matt Chaput and the Shelley scholarship was awarded to Jared Hagemann.

Peil began his career as a lineman in 1961 and was selected by what was then Manhattan Area Vocational Technical School in 1970 to create the Electrical Power and Distribution program.

Upon his death in 2000, his family established a scholarship to encourage and reward students who display excellence in the classroom and dedication during the

internship program.

"He was known for his demand for excellence in the classroom and safety on the job site," according to a statement from the Peil family.

"He was particularly proud of the high placement and retention rate that was enjoyed by his graduates," the statement added, "and by the high salaries that their training allowed them to receive."

Like Peil, Shelley also had an influence on young people, most notably his son, Phillip Shelley, and son-in-law, Brent Boring.

Phillip Shelley currently serves as the Director of Operations for Wheatland. He also serves as a technical instructor for electrical linemen schools throughout the midwest. Boring is the EPD instructor at Manhattan Area Technical College.

Richard Shelley, a U.S. Navy veteran, was buried in the Altamont cemetery with full military honors in 2002.

During his retirement party from Flint Hills REC, he said the thing he was most proud of during his career was: "I never had to tell a co-worker's family that their loved one wasn't coming home again. I only hope all of you can say the same thing when you retire."



Have an idea or  
a story for  
*Rural Power*?

Call (785) 478-4554

Fax (785) 478-4852

or Email

[sholsteen@kec.org](mailto:sholsteen@kec.org)

## Cooperative Calendar

November	5	District 3 Meeting, KSU Agricultural Research Center, 1232 240th Ave. Hays.
	6	District 4 Meeting, Knights of Columbus Building, 800 W. Frontview Dodge City.
	12-13	KEC Technical Workshop - Substation, KEC.
	13	District 1 Meeting, Flint Oak Lodge, Fall River.
	14	District 2 Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
	14	KEC Technical Workshop - Hazwoper, KEC.
	19	Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) Annual Meeting – Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Meeting immediately following Dinner, Holiday Inn, Salina.
	19-20	KEC Technical Workshop - Substation, Armory, Clay Center.
	20	KEPCo Board Meeting, Holiday Inn Holidome, Salina 8:30 a.m.
	21	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	24	Area Legislative Dinner, hosted by Bluestem, Nemaha-Marshall and Rolling Hills electric cooperatives; Country Club, Clay Center, 6:30 p.m.
	27-28	KEC Office Closed.
December	3	KEC Standing Committees, Holiday Inn Select, Wichita.
	4	KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Holiday Inn Select, Wichita, 8:30 a.m.
	8	Northeast Kansas Area Legislative Appreciation Dinner, hosted by Brown-Atchison and Leavenworth-Jefferson electric cooperatives, The Barn, Valley Falls, 6:00 p.m.
	9-10	KEC Technical Workshop - Substation, Radiant.
	11	KEC Technical Workshop - Hazwoper, Radiant.
	12	KEC Attorney's Meeting, KEC Office, Topeka.
	16-17	KEC Technical Workshop - Substation, Ark Valley.
	18	KEC Technical Workshop - Hazwoper, Ark Valley.
	18	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Hdqtrs, Topeka, 8:30 a.m.
	19	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	25-26	KEC Office Closed.

## Upcoming Conferences

### KEC District Meetings

The four KEC District Meetings will take place November 5, 6, 13, and 14 (see calendar for locations).

The purpose of these meetings is to present and discuss the 2004 KEC budget prior to the projected final action, which is to take place at the December 4 KEC Board of Trustees meeting at the Holiday Inn Select Hotel in Wichita.

### KEC Attorney's Meeting

KEC Attorney's meeting is scheduled for December 12 at KEC office in Topeka. This is a continuing legal education seminar that is coordinated for electric cooperative attorneys in Kansas. Included in the topics that will be addressed are presentations on corporate accountability for electric cooperatives after Sarbanes-Oxley act and the implications of FASB Statement No. 150.

## Western Cooperative Electric Teaches Safety



Western Cooperative marked National Cooperative Month by giving an electrical safety demonstration to elementary students. As part of a cooperative effort, Dennis Deines, Western's Member Services Director, worked in conjunction with representatives from three other co-ops - Rural Telephone, Midwest Cooperative, and Midwest Energy - as part of the presentation.

### Marketing Series on 'Responsive Employees' Coming Soon

A new series of marketing materials will be distributed this month to help Touchstone Energy co-ops promote the efforts and responsiveness of their employees. Co-ops will receive print ads in various sizes for co-op newsletters and local newspapers, bill stuffers, posters, a CEO column and a newsletter story, all of which support the messages and visual images presented in Touchstone Energy television and radio advertising. Complementing the previous marketing series, the upcoming materials will include a print ad featuring a lineman. For more information, contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at (785) 478-4554.

# News from Kansas Cooperatives

## Heartland Receives \$3.1 Million Grant for Upgrades

Heartland Rural Electric Cooperative received notice that a \$3.1 million grant application submitted to the Kansas Division of Emergency Management was approved.

The 75-25 percent matching grant program is available to local government, Indian tribes and private non-profit organizations in each state across the country as a part of a Hazard Mitigation Program.

Projects outlined by Heartland in the application include the upgrade of 72 miles of distribution line and approximately 500 utility poles. The application was submitted on behalf of Heartland by Girard area operations supervisor, Dale Peak, on December 16, 2002.

"We feel very fortunate to qualify for this grant," said Dale Coomes, Heartland's General Manager. "Our members will benefit greatly from the upgrades this grant will provide."

The upgrade is scheduled to take two years, with the completion date set as December 31, 2005.

"We appreciate the assistance we received from our local legislators – Sen. Jim Barone and Rep. Bob Grant. Without their assistance in helping us obtain the grant, we would not be upgrading these areas as quickly as we can now," concluded Coomes.

## KEC To Begin Substation Work at Fort Riley

KEC's Apparatus Testing Department will begin maintenance on switchgear in 11 substations for Fort Riley in December. This project will include testing and maintenance of the station battery, air circuit breakers, oil circuit breakers and protective relays.

Danny Seele, KEC Apparatus Testing Director, was asked to submit a bid for each Fort Riley substation.

"Soon after I submitted the bids, I was subsequently informed that we had the job," Seele said.

Seele explained that this is a good project for the Apparatus Testing Department for several reasons.

"It's a large job that wasn't originally budgeted for 2003, and it's coming during our slow months between December and March," Seele explained. "This time of the year is slow because of weather. Much of the testing has to be performed when it's 40 degrees or warmer."

The majority of the Fort Riley project is indoors, so the Apparatus Testing crew can continue during the winter months.

## In Sympathy

**Otes Allison** passed away on Oct. 26, 2003. Allison joined the rural electric cooperatives as the office manager for CMS in 1949. He served as manager of CMS between 1952 - 1980, and then served as manager of Sekan Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. (now Heartland Electric) between 1980-1988. The funeral was held Oct. 29. Memorials may be sent to the Stockton Methodist Church Building Fund, 708 E. Hwy 32, Stockton, MO 65785 or the Shriners Childrens Hospital, 2001 S. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63131.



the direction of Callaway-Jones Funeral Home in Bryan, TX. A memorial service was held Oct. 20, 2003, at the All Faith Chapel on the Texas A&M campus. Donations to help defray medical expenses may be made to the Levi Windle Fund at any Bank of America location.

**Levi Garrett Windle**, the grandson of Victory Electric and KEPCo Board Member Marvin Hampton, passed away Oct. 19, 2003, as the result of injuries sustained in an accidental fall. Funeral arrangements are under

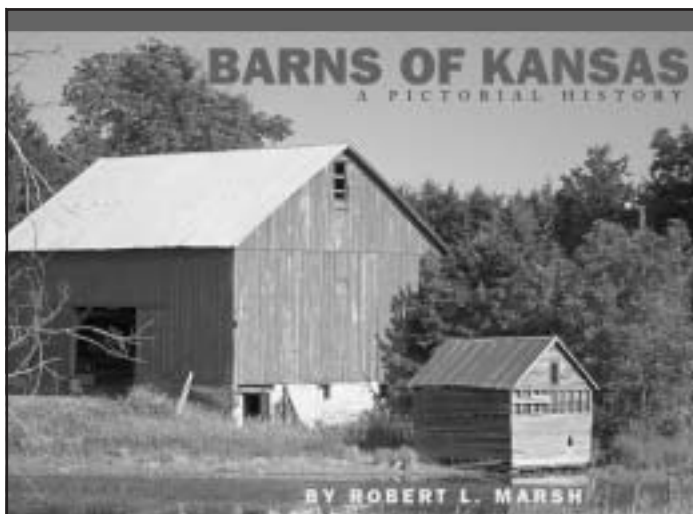
## Roniger Donates Hall Tree for KEC Raffle



John Roniger, Board President of Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative, is continuing his tradition of donating handcrafted wood furniture to the KEC Auxiliary. The KEC Auxiliary raffles his donations at the KEC Annual Meeting each January to raise funds for the KEC youth tour programs.

Over the past few years, John has made and donated a large cedar chest, a two-piece walnut gun cabinet, a solid ash chest, and this year a mirrored hall tree.

As in past years, all co-op staff members are eligible to win. If your cooperative would like to make these tickets available to your employees, please call Judy Holliday at the KEC office, (785) 478-4554.



Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., would like to extend the opportunity to help promote the history of rural Kansas. In partnership with The Donning Company Publishers, we have produced a beautiful 8 1/2" x 11" limited edition volume with over 160 pages and 275 photographs. This book features the unique and often simple elegance of rural Kansas barns, as well as including a brief history of rural electrification.

**Now is a great time to place your holiday orders!**

**Price per book:**

Hardcover books are **\$44.02** each.

A very limited supply of leather-bound books are also available at **\$86.55** each.

(prices include shipping & handling and tax)

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this book will benefit KEC's youth and education programs.

**BOOK ORDER INFORMATION**

**YES! I want to help support Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. youth and education programs!**

Qty. of books: \_\_\_ @ \$ \_\_\_ ea. = Total \$ \_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include payment with your order form and send it to:  
**Kansas Electric Cooperatives - Barn Books,  
 PO Box 4267, Topeka, KS 66604.**

## Senate Passes Bill with Temporary Exemption to "Hours-of-Service" Rules

The U.S. Senate voted 91-3 this week for a \$92.5 billion FY04 highway funding bill (H.R. 2989) that includes a one-year moratorium on Department of Transportation implementation or enforcement of "hours-of-service" truck driving rules for electric utility service vehicles.

The House passed a FY04 highway appropriations bill with similar language in September. The legislation must go to Senate-House conference committee to resolve differences on other issues before it can be sent to the President for his signature. A temporary exemption is needed to give us the time to work with House and Senate authorizing committees for a permanent exemption.

## Member Services Directors Attend Training

On Oct. 9 -10, 18 Kansas Member Services Directors Association (KMSDA) and Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) held a joint meeting for the cooperative communications, public relations, and marketing employees.

Among the topics discussed were the FISH! Philosophy, Touchstone Energy, and the Colorado "Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp." The KMSDA business meeting held for the Kansas participants featured updates from KEC, KEPCo and Sunflower.



Shana Holsteen, KEC, highlights the "Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp" during the KSMEDA/OAEC meeting.

## Kansas REC Accountants Club Holds Meeting

The Kansas REC Accountants Club meeting was held Oct. 22-24 in Hays. Topics for this meeting included the updates from CFC, RUS, NRECA Benefits, FASB Statement No. 150, and Kansas Sales tax.

The newly elected officers are: Ferne Walder, KEC,



president;  
 Deanna Walters, DS&O, vice president;  
 and Susie Bacon, Sumner-Cowley, treasurer.