

Rural Power

Electronic Edition

A newsletter for and about Kansas Electric Cooperatives

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KEC Hosts 65th Annual Meeting

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., held its 65th Annual Meeting on January 22-23, 2007, at the Maner Conference Centre in Topeka.

Two board leadership courses were offered to the Trustees prior to convening the annual meeting. Bryan Singletary facilitated 924.1 – When Disaster Strikes, Continuity Management and Emergency Response Planning for Directors. Bob Miller facilitated 935.1 – Appraising and Compensating the CEO. The Saturday workshop attendees also heard from Sen. Pat Roberts, who stopped by the meeting and addressed the electric cooperative Trustees in attendance.

Marilyn Hurst, KEC Vice President, convened the first general session. The KEC Annual Meeting opened with Carol Dorr, KEC's Executive Secretary, leading the Invocation and Memorial Service to remember those participants in the electric co-op program who had died in 2006.

Guest speakers for the meeting included Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson who outlined the energy policy goals for the State of Kansas. Joe Harkins, Special Assistant to Governor Kathleen Sebelius, discussed the purpose and history of the Kansas Energy Council, and reviewed the Council's policy initiatives. Sunflower's Bob Johnson and KEPCo's Les Evans reported on integrating wind energy into the generation portfolio of Kansas electric cooperatives.

Trevor McKeeman of the National Institute for Strategic Technology Acquisition, explained how his organization is working with both Sunflower and the Kansas Bioscience Authority to implement the Sunflower Integrated Bioenergy Center. Mitch Holthus, the "Voice of the Kansas City Chiefs", gave a



Senator Pat Roberts addresses the electric cooperative Trustees at the Capitol Plaza in Topeka on Jan. 20, 2007.

humorous and inspiring multi-media presentation on the values by which he lives his life.

Following lunch, Doug Jackson, KCRE/ACRE Chairman, facilitated the KCRE/ACRE Annual Meeting and recognized the systems that have 100% participation.

Sue Nathan, KCP&L's Manager of Marketing and Product Management, reviewed their energy efficiency programs. Dave Holthaus, KEC; Larry Berg, Midwest Energy; and Phil Wages, KEPCo; formed a legislative briefing panel.

In the third general session, the attendees participated in a roundtable discussion in which they shared information on issues at their cooperatives.

The KEC Loss Control, Safety and Compliance Department recognized cooperatives that earned No Lost Time Accident Awards, and those who received National Safety Accreditation for 2006. Phil Irwin, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange's President & CEO, explained his vision for Federated's future, reported on the company's activities of 2006, and presented "No Lost Time" awards.

Leslie Kaufman, Executive Director, Kansas Cooperative Council, presented the Cooperative Month Award to Butler Rural Electric. Reports were also heard from CFC, NRECA,

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In Brief

Midwest Energy Donates Building

Midwest Energy's Board recently donated the cooperative's former office building in Ellis to the Community Foundation of Ellis. The building will be named the Midwest Energy Community Center. It will be used to combine the working locations of various groups in Ellis, including the Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce.

Appointments Made to Kansas Energy Council's New Committees

Ken Frahm, the Kansas Energy Council's co-chair, made appointments to two new standing committees. Included among these appointments are Stuart Lowry of KEC and Michael Volker of Midwest Energy, who will serve on the Energy Conservation and Efficiency Committee. The other new committee is the Goals Committee.

FPL Buys Wind-Energy Forecaster

FPL Energy, the largest owner of wind farms in North America with 49 projects in 15 states, has purchased WindLogics Inc., a Minneota firm that uses detailed weather modeling to advise companies on where to place their turbines. WindLogics gets some of its data by tapping into National Weather Service satellites.

Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal - 1/19/07

Tri-State Raises Rates, New Coal-Based Power Plants Planned

Tri-State has raised its rates 11.8 percent. The rate hike comes in response to increasing power demand among its 44 cooperatives and the fact that existing baseload power plants are running at full capacity. Tri-State's purchased power costs are expected to increase from \$204 million in 2006 to nearly \$247 million in 2007. Because of the increase, Tri-State's wholesale rate went from 5.1 cents per kWh to 5.65 cents per kWh on Jan. 1. In 2005, the Tri-State board authorized a resource development plan, which included building additional plants in western Kansas and southeastern Colorado.

The Watch News - 1/19/07

Cooperative Calendar

February	7-8	New and Emerging Technologies (NET) Conference, Tampa, FL.
	12-14	NRECA Directors Conference, San Antonio, TX.
	14-15	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
	16	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	19-23	CCD Fast Track
		Feb. 19 - 2600.1 Director Duties & Liabilities, Harrah's, Topeka.
		Feb. 20 - 2620.1 Board Roles & Relationships, Harrah's, Topeka.
		Feb. 21 - 2610.1 Understanding the Electric Business, Harrah's, Topeka.
		Feb. 22 - 2630.1 Strategic Planning, Harrah's, Topeka.
		Feb. 23 - 2640.1 Financial Decision-Making, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
	22	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, 10 a.m., Topeka.
March	7-8	KEC Committee and Board of Trustees Meeting, Holiday Inn Hotel, Salina.
	14-20	TechAdvantage Conference & Expo, Las Vegas, NV.
	20-22	NRECA Annual Meeting, General Sessions, Las Vegas, NV.
	23	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	29	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, 10 a.m., Topeka.
April	11-13	New Chief Executive Officers Orientation Session, Arlington, VA.

KEC Members' Annual Meetings

February	22	Brown-Atchison - Lunch at 11 a.m., Meeting at 12:45 p.m., co-op headquarters.	
March	6	Prairie Land - Lunch at noon, Meeting at 1 p.m., co-op headquarters, Norton.	
	6	Nemaha-Marshall - Lunch at 11:30 a.m., Meeting at 1:00 p.m., Axtell American Legion.	
	12	Bluestem - Meeting at 7:30 p.m., Riley County High School.	
	15	Flint Hills - Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Centre High School, Lost Springs.	
	22	Doniphan - Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Midway High School, Denton.	
	22	Butler - Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Andover Central High School.	
	24	Pioneer - Lunch at noon, Health Fair 7 a.m. til noon, Meeting at 10 a.m., Grant County Civic Center, Ulysses.	
	27	Heartland - Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:15 p.m., Allen County College, Iola.	
April	3	Ark Valley - Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Hutchinson Memorial Hall.	
	3	Ninnescah - Dinner at 6:15 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Pratt Municipal Building.	
	4	Kaw Valley - Dinner at 5 p.m., Meeting at 6:30 p.m., co-op headquarters, Topeka.	
	4	Wheatland - Dinner at 11:30 a.m., Meeting at 12:30 p.m., Holcomb Recreation Ctr.	
	5	Radiant - Meeting at 7 p.m., Fredonia High School.	
	7	Summer-Cowley - Lunch at 11:30 p.m., Meeting at 1 p.m., Wellington High School.	
	9	Lyon-Coffey - Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Burlington High School.	
	10	Victory - Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, Dodge City.	
		10	Sedgwick County - Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Cotillion Hall, Wichita.
		10	DS&O - Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Bicentennial Center, Salina.
	13	Alfalfa - Dinner at 5 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Cherokee High School.	
	20	CMS - Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Meade High School.	
	20	Twin Valley - Meeting at 7 p.m., Labette County High School, Altamont.	
May	1	Caney Valley - Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Sedan Fair Grounds.	
	9	Western - Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., co-op headquarters, WaKeeney.	
	18	Sunflower - 8 a.m., location TBD, Hays.	
September	12	Leavenworth-Jefferson - Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., McLouth High School.	
November	14	Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) - Dinner at 6 p.m., Meeting immediately following Dinner, Hotel Old Town, Wichita.	
	19	Midwest Energy - Meeting at 1:30 p.m., Sternberg Museum, Hays.	

Coal-Fired Plant Moratorium Bill Likely to Fail

Earl Watkins and Wayne Penrod of Sunflower Electric Power Corp. testified on Monday, Jan. 29, before the House Energy and Utilities Committee against House Bill 2219. This proposed bill would declare a two-year moratorium on coal-fired plants.

The bill was introduced by Rep. Vaughn Flora, D-Topeka, at a time when state officials are considering Sunflower's plan to build three 700-megawatt coal-fired plants as part of its Holcomb expansion project.

If passed, HB 2219 would declare a two-year moratorium on construction of generation facilities that burn coal. During those two years, the state would

conduct studies on the health effects of emissions from coal-fired plants, as well as the depletion of groundwater.

Opponents of Sunflower's expansion project also testified, claiming that the additional plants would be harmful to the health of Kansans and the environment by adding to global climate change through carbon dioxide emissions.

Also testifying was Earnie Lehman of Midwest Energy, who commented on the effect the bill would have on Midwest members' cost of power.

After the hearing, several of the committee members said the chance of the legislation passing was doubtful and that it would most likely fail in committee.

USDA Rural Development Hosts Annual Energy Conference

USDA Rural Development hosted its 4th Annual Kansas Energy Conference on January 30-31, 2007, at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

The conference was designed to address the key points of USDA's Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Program, and to provide attendees information about other energy programs. Presentations were also heard from leaders in rural renewable energy efforts. Among the presenters was Ron Dickey, Bluestem, who spoke about energy efficient homes.

The expanded energy conference

focused on both federal and state programs that can assist agricultural producers, business owners, local governments, school districts, rural housing interests and energy contractors. The programs on Jan. 30 consisted of general renewable energy and energy efficiency presentations. The agenda for Jan. 31 consisted of breakout sessions.

USDA's "Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Program" offers grant assistance – up to 25% for eligible expenditures – for businesses or agricultural producers interested in undertaking efficiency or renewable projects.

Victory Members Approve Bylaws

Victory held a special membership meeting on Dec. 20, 2006, in Dodge City to consider several bylaw amendments. Over 248 members attended the meeting.

The members approved bylaw changes modifying the quorum requirement, increasing the number of Trustees and creating a board district for the city of Dodge City, and establishing voting procedures for elections.

Victory's Board recommended the amendments in anticipation of the acquisition of members in the Aquila transaction. The transaction will close in 2007, and those Aquila consumers will become cooperative members after the closing.

NRECA Annual Meeting

NRECA's 65th Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 20-22, 2007, in Las Vegas, NV. This year the meetings are pushed back to Tuesday-Thursday.

The procedure for lodging has also changed. Attendees must make the meeting and room reservations at Cooperative.com. Kansas is assigned to the Hilton, which also serves as the NRECA headquarters hotel. The hotel cut-off date is Feb. 9.

Speakers for the meeting include James Woolsey, former Central Intelligence Agency Director; and Mike Ditka, legendary NFL football coach.

Retirements

Lyon-Coffey's Danford Retires



Scott Whittington (left), Lyon-Coffey Manager, congratulates Frank Danford, Crew Foreman, on his retirement from the cooperative on January 5, 2007.

Frank Danford, Crew Foreman for Lyon-Coffey, retired on Jan. 5, after 43 years with the cooperative.

Danford has worked for Lyon-Coffey since 1963, and has served as Crew Foreman since 1973. The methods of building and maintaining electric lines have changed during those 43-plus years, but Danford's dedication to the cooperative have stayed the same.

"A lineman's job is not a cushy one, and takes it's toll on backs, knees, and shoulders," said Scott Whittington, Lyon-Coffey's Manager. "We have been damaged by two major ice storms in the last five years, and Frank has always done whatever needed to be done. We wish him good health, prosperity and joy!"

Bluestem's Rundle Retires

Larry Rundle, who began working for C&W Rural Electric Cooperative in 1971, has announced his retirement. He served as Operations Superintendent for C&W



Larry Rundle

until it consolidated with PR&W Electric Cooperative, Inc., in 1998. Rundle then continued his career as Operations Superintendent for Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Bluestem's Board of Trustees, management staff and fellow employees honored him with a community coffee on February 2, 2007.

Kansas Electric Cooperatives Hosts 65th Annual Meeting, cont.

and KEC Auxiliary.

As an addition to the annual meeting, KEC hosted an Expo that featured 21 vendors. The \$250 door prize winners at the Expo were Shirley Davies, Doniphan, and David Reichenberger, Sedgwick County. The winner of the \$500 grand prize was John Leis, Victory.

Federated and Kansas electric cooperatives hosted a legislative reception on Monday for Kansas elected officials, KEC Trustees, managers and special guests. Over 400 people were in attendance. The KCRE silent auction raised \$2,418. The KEC Auxiliary raffle raised \$1,774 for KEC's youth programs. The winner of the "ice box" raffle was John Payne, KEPCo.

During the KEC Annual Business Session, the Capitol Plaza was designated as the location for next year's KEC Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for Jan. 26-29, 2008.

Clockwise from right: Flint Hills Board President, John Roniger, was recognized by the KEC Auxiliary. Trustees visit with vendors at the KEC Expo. Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson addressed the attendees.



Job Opportunities

DS&O Seeks Journeyman Lineman

DS&O, a fast growing electric cooperative near Salina, KS, has openings for qualified lineworkers.

Successful candidates shall be Journeymen with experience in construction and maintenance of overhead and underground distribution, transmission and substation systems.

For more information, or to apply, contact Wayne Stull, DS&O, PO Box 286, Solomon, KS 67480, or call (785) 655-2011.

Victory Seeks Lineworkers

Victory seeks electrical lineworkers with experience working on energized overhead and underground construction, operation, and maintenance in transmission, substation, and distribution systems.

Contact the cooperative for a complete position listing and benefit summary. Applications accepted until position is filled. Mail resumes to Victory, PO Box 1335, Dodge City, KS 67801; or fax (620) 227-8819; or email monica@victoryelectric.net. EOE.

SD Cooperative Seeks Engineers

Due to rapid system growth, East River Electric is expanding its engineering workforce with these positions: Electrical Engineer, System Operations/Protection Engineer, Construction/Civil Engineering Supervisor, and Engineering Assistant.

Review detailed information and access application information at www.eastriver.coop/careers, or call (605) 256-4536, or email hr@eastriver.coop. Application screening begins Feb. 16. EOE

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