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## Congressional delegation working to keep electricity affordable

Members of the Kansas Congressional delegation have been at the forefront of legislative efforts to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from regulating greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act.

Senators Sam Brownback and Pat Roberts, and Representatives Lynn Jenkins, Jerry Moran, and Todd Tiahrt have co-sponsored joint resolutions that disapprove a rule submitted by the EPA relating to the endangerment finding for greenhouse gases under section of the Clean Air Act.

The issues raised in the resolutions will likely be key components in climate and energy legislation expected to be debated later. Several bills have been introduced to suspend or revoke any EPA authority.

A U.S. Supreme Court decision affirming the authority of the EPA to regulate carbon from mobile sources has been used as the basis for EPA's attempts at regulating emissions from stationary sources, such as power plants. NRECA and other industry groups are challenging the EPA efforts, noting that the Act has been used to regulate pollutants identified at the time of the enactment of the Act, but not carbon dioxide.

"Kansas electric cooperatives are appreciative of Senators Brownback and Roberts, and Representatives Jenkins, Moran, and Tiahrt for co-sponsoring these resolutions opposing EPA efforts to use the Clean Air Act to regulate carbon dioxide from power plants," said Stuart

Lowry, KEC Executive Vice President. "The Clean Air Act was not designed to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants."

The Clean Air Act, originally passed in 1970 and amended in 1977 and 1990, has not been used to regulate greenhouse gases. Instead, it has regulated common pollutants, including carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, lead, and particulate soot to address smog and acid rain.

Lowry expressed concern that EPA's approach could lead to higher costs, inconsistent policies and complicated litigation. Regulations will change over time, making it difficult to plan for future generation needs and compliance costs are ultimately borne by electric ratepayers.

"Compliance costs have a direct bearing on the affordability of electricity and affordability is a priority of electric cooperative members all over Kansas," said Lowry.

Kansas electric cooperative members can contact their members of Congress to express their thanks through the "Our Energy Our Future" link on KEC's Web site at [www.kec.org](http://www.kec.org). The site will automatically link to the individual's elected officials. The preprinted text in the "Editable Text to Recipients" section is managed by NRECA, but the message may be changed to a message of thanks to members of Congress for opposing the EPA initiatives. For questions about the site, please contact Shana Holsteen, KEC.

## Kansas Country Living seeks former Washington, DC, youth tour participants

2010 marks the 50th year of Kansas' participation in the "Government in Action" youth tour to Washington, DC.

To celebrate that milestone, *Kansas Country Living* will showcase this program in the June issue. We are looking to reconnect with winners who attended the tour in the 1960s-1990s.

If you know of any youth tour alumni, please have them contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at [sholsteen@kec.org](mailto:sholsteen@kec.org).



**FCC releases national broadband plan**

The FCC is developing a national broadband plan that will seek to ensure that every American has access to broadband capability. In the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 – known as the stimulus package – Congress charged the Commission with creating a national broadband plan. In a Notice of Inquiry adopted on March 16, the Commission begins a proceeding to create that national broadband plan, seeking input from all consumers, businesses, and all other interested parties.

FCC NEWS RELEASE – 3/16/10

**Midwest power companies pushing Senate for more allocations**

A group of 14 Midwestern electric utilities continued its push today for a different direction on global warming legislation, asking the Senate’s lead climate negotiators to get a full economic study on their bill for businesses and consumers in coal-dependent states. The Midwest Climate Coalition – an ad hoc group that includes Westar –requested the comprehensive economic report from all federal agencies that looks into the costs over the next 20 years from the legislation still being crafted by Senators John Kerry, Joe Lieberman and Lindsey Graham.

GREENWIRE – 3/15/10

**Berks selected as USDA Rural Development’s business and energy programs director**

USDA Rural Development has announced Karissa Berks as the new Business and Energy Program Director in Kansas. Berks previously served in a similar capacity in Nebraska and has over eight years of program experience with the agency.

USDA RELEASE – 3/15/10

**APRIL**

- 7 **Touchstone ElectroRally Race**, Scott City.
- 14-15 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 16 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 22 **MDM Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
- 22 **SPCC/PCB Workshop**, Country Inn & Suites, Salina, 8:00 a.m.
- 23 **Line Superintendents Meeting**, Salina.
- 28-29 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita.

**annualmeetings**

**APRIL**

- 6 **DS&O Annual Meeting**, Bicentennial Center, Salina.
- 6 **Ark Valley Annual Meeting**, State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson.
- 6 **Victory Annual Meeting**, Civic Center, Dodge City.
- 7 **Wheatland Annual Meeting**, County Fairgrounds, Leoti.
- 7 **Kaw Valley Annual Meeting**, Cooperative Office, Topeka.
- 8 **Radiant Annual Meeting**, Cooperative Office, Fredonia.
- 9 **Alfalfa Annual Meeting**, High School, Cherokee,OK.
- 10 **Sumner-Cowley Annual Meeting**, High School, Wellington.
- 13 **Sedgwick County Annual Meeting**, The Cotillion, Wichita.
- 15 **Twin Valley Annual Meeting**, Labette County High School, Altamont.
- 16 **Rolling Hills Annual Meeting**, NCK Tech School, Beloit.
- 21 **LJEC Annual Meeting**, High School, McLouth.
- 23 **CMS Annual Meeting**, Meade High School, Meade.

**2010 Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Brand Champion award**

Because of your cooperatives’ dedicated work, Touchstone Energy continues to make a difference. And now it is time to recognize some of your local brand champions.

Applications for the Brand Champion award are being accepted until April 8. The recipients will be recognized at the Connect Conference in Kansas City, May 10-13.

Eligible for this award is any individual who “goes the extra mile” in support of the Touchstone Energy brand. A brand champion could be an

employee who develops a new Touchstone Energy event, a CEO who uses creative ways to energize employees about the brand, or a director who works to communicate brand values.

A panel of Touchstone Energy cooperative representatives from across the country will make recommendations to the Touchstone Energy Board to approve the award winners.

To recognize your cooperative’s brand champion, contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at [sholsteen@kec.org](mailto:sholsteen@kec.org) for a nomination form.

**2010-2011 National Rural Education Association Mini-Grant Program**

The National Rural Education Association (NREA) is the leading national organization providing services which enhance educational opportunities for rural schools and their communities.

In keeping with this vision, the NREA is proud to provide services to help its members meet the needs of their rural schools and the needs of the children they serve.

For over 5 years, NRECA has funded the

Mini-Grant Program. This program is designed to fund special projects in rural K-12 classrooms in schools or communities served by an electric cooperative or whose students’ homes are served by a co-op.

Each year there are ten mini-grants of \$500 each to be expended during the following year for student-based projects. For guidelines and how to apply, visit [www.youthtour.coop/educators/minigrant.htm](http://www.youthtour.coop/educators/minigrant.htm). Deadline is May 15.

## Butler

Butler held its annual meeting on March 11 at the Circle High School in Towanda. 247 members attended the meeting and more than 800 meals were served.

KEPCo's Steve Parr spoke to the group about the state of the energy industry today, as well as the outlook for the future. Also discussed at the meeting were the new rates that were implemented in July, 2009.

Bryce Flaming was re-elected to the board. Newly elected to the board was Riley Walters, replacing Willis Long who stepped down due to his 12-year term limit.

## Doniphan

Doniphan held its 73rd annual meeting on March 25 at Midway School in Denton. There were 66 members registered for the meeting and approximately 150 members and guests were served a meal provided by the Doniphan West PTO.

Dave Holthaus, KEC, discussed the tax situation in the State legislature.

Milton Hartman, Jr. was re-elected to the board. Newly elected to the board was Patrick Pickman, replacing Charles Staudenmaier who passed away.

## Flint Hills

Flint Hills' 72nd annual meeting was held on March 23 at the Centre High School in Lost Springs. There were 174 members registered for the meeting and approximately 350 members and guests were served dinner.

A live band, "Bob and the Boys", provided entertainment.

Duane Carlson, Bill Hein, Duane Kaiser and Shawn Potts were re-elected members to the board. Also, the proposed bylaw change concerning trustee qualifications was passed.

## Heartland

Heartland held its annual meeting on March 23 at the Community



Energy expert Doug Rye hands a box of CFL bulbs to a member during Heartland's annual meeting.

College in Fort Scott. There were 113 members and guests who attended the meeting.

Guest speakers were Stuart Lowry, KEC, and Doug Rye who is a radio host and an energy efficiency expert.

Donald Davied, Dick Reinhardt, Bob Stainbrook, and Ron Taylor were re-elected to the board.

The members heard reports from Harry Oehlert, President; Dale Coomes, CEO; and Angie Erickson, finance director. The members also voted and approved a bylaw change to reduce the size of the Board.

## Lyon-Coffey

Lyon-Coffey annual meeting was March 29 at White Auditorium in Emporia. Approximately 600 people were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by a special color guard performance by the Topeka High School Marine Corps Jr. ROTC. Congressman Jerry Moran was a special guest at the meeting.

Bob Converse, George Zentner and Harvey Raaf were re-elected to the Board of Trustees. Richard Prather was recognized for his years of service on the Board of Trustees. He resigned from the Board after moving off the system.

## Ninnescah

Ninnescah's annual meeting was held March 30 at the Pratt Municipal Building. Over 350 meals were served to 135 registered members and their families. Re-elected to the board were Gordon Coulter, Glen Honeman and Paul Unruh.

Ed Wiltse reviewed the FEMA storm recovery projects and detailed other programs. Guest speakers included KEC's Doug Shepherd and KEPCo's Steve Parr. Last year's youth winners reported on their experiences on youth tour and the leadership camp.

## Pioneer

Pioneer's annual meeting was held on March 20 at the Grant County Civic Center in Ulysses. This year, 1,376 members and guests had their blood drawn at the health fair. There were 173 members who registered for the meeting, and 772 people went through the lunch line.

There was a 20-minute video shown in which Stuart Lowry, Earl Watkins, Randy Magnison, David Jesse, George Bushnell and Melvin Winger spoke. Clare Gustin, Sunflower, discussed the importance of approving the construction air permit in regards to the Holcomb expansion project.

Fred Claassen and Ralph Stoddard were re-elected to the board. Newly elected to the board was Jim Bell, replacing Melvin Webb who did not seek re-election.



Dave Jesse (right) presents Melvin Webb and his wife, Anna Marie, a plaque at Pioneer's annual meeting to recognize Melvin's service to the board. Melvin did not stand for re-election.

## Prairie Land

Prairie Land held its annual meeting on March 30 in Norton. Approximately 500 people attended. Alexa Whipple provided meeting entertainment and Sunflower's CEO Earl Watkins gave an update on the Holcomb project.

Re-elected to board positions were Bob Johnson, Gilbert Berland and Ivan Bohl. In a Board reorganizational meeting, the following officers were elected: president, Bob Johnson; vice president, Gilbert Berland; secretary, Ken Carter and treasurer, Bob Paxson.

## Kansas Member Services Directors Association members elect officers

Kansas electric cooperatives' member services and communications professionals elected new officers during the 2010 Kansas Member Services Directors Association (KMSDA) spring meeting on March 24-26 in Wichita. Elected were Rae Kirby, Pioneer, as president; Josh Schmidt, Victory, as vice president; and Ron Graber, Heartland, as secretary/treasurer.

The meeting focused on training. Tom Shine, Wichita Eagle, gave tips on how to be interviewed by the media; and Dan Close, Wichita State University,



The KMSDA officers for 2010-2011 are (from left): Ron Graber, secretary / treasurer, Heartland; Rae Kirby, president, Pioneer; and Josh Schmidt, vice president, Victory.

Bialick gave an update on many of their programs including the Together We Save campaign and the Cooperative Connections card. KEC, KEPCo and Sunflower also gave updates.

The next KMSDA meeting is scheduled for October.

highlighted ways that cooperative employees could conduct interviews.

On March 25, NRECA's Mike Core facilitated the 170.1 The Role of Renewables in Power Supply course.

On March 26, Touchstone Energy's Scott



NRECA's Mike Core facilitated the 170.1 The Role of Renewables in Power Supply course in conjunction with the KMSDA spring meeting.

## co-op training

### CONNECT conference to be held in Kansas City

The CONNECT '10 Conference & Expo will be held in Kansas City, May 10-13. CONNECT is the annual national conference for electric cooperative communication, marketing and member services professionals.

This conference will bring together more than 550 co-op professionals for sessions offering best practices; resources and creative tools to enhance member communication; the latest information on and access to new energy innovations; and outstanding networking opportunities.

Some of the high-value benefits this event offers includes the new master-level classes and advanced-level learning labs on using social media, writing speeches, newsletter design principles, and more.

There will be sessions on how to use IT to advance your co-op's member services, communication, and marketing programs; how to use behavior-modification techniques to influence your members' residential energy consumption; and case studies on how to master crisis communications.

The Expo will feature more than 40 vendors showcasing their cutting-edge products and solutions.

For more information and to register, visit the CONNECT '10 Conference & Expo Web site at [www.cooperative.com](http://www.cooperative.com).

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