

Rural Power

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Kansas cooperative leaders prepare for legislative conference

While the Kansas Legislature is wrapping up its session, electric cooperative delegates will fly to Washington, D.C., for the NRECA Legislative Conference.

Every May, NRECA welcomes co-op grassroots advocates to Washington for the annual conference. Nearly 30 Kansas trustees and staff will join more than 3,000 co-op advocates on May 2-5.

“There is an old saying in politics,” said Dave Holthaus, KEC’s manager of government relations. “If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu! That means that you have to be actively involved in politics. You can’t sit on the sidelines. Only by participating in the process do we have an opportunity to make a difference.”

The Kansas delegation’s major issue is communicating the challenge created by the Environmental Protection Agency using the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gases from stationary sources. Other key national issues include sup-

porting the Rural Energy Savings Program and the need to maintain RUS funding.

All the challenges must be met in a difficult political climate where key decision makers are determined to use the law and regulations to transform both the way the nation generates and uses electricity. Electric cooperatives want to engage policy makers in order to protect consumers.

Electric cooperatives are working to meet the enormous demands for new generation, efficiency programs, renewable power and R&D to develop technologies

that will reduce carbon emissions while providing consumers with safe, reliable electric power in the most cost-effective manner possible.

“We as electric cooperatives are facing enormous challenges on Capitol Hill,” Holthaus explained. “The *Our Energy, Our Future* campaign allows us to send letters and emails to members of Congress, but nothing is more effective than face-to-face meetings with our delegation.”

“Only by participating in the process do we have an opportunity to make a difference.”

DAVE HOLTHAUS

Jennings re-elected to Cooperative Communicator Program Board

Bob Jennings, KEC’s manager of publishing services, was re-elected this week to NRECA’s Certified Cooperative Communicator (CCC) Program Board. Serving as a voting member for a two-year term, he remains on the 10-member national board.



Bob Jennings

In his first year, he served as chairman of the marketing committee. Jennings currently serves as secretary of the board and chairman of the elections committee.

“My time during the first two years on the CCC board was largely spent on reorganization of the program,” he said. “Working as a team, the CCC board has totally revised and updated virtually all aspects of the program, including the CCC bylaws and the program’s strategic plan. Now, with this complete I look forward to implementing our efforts over the next two years

to make the CCC program even more beneficial to our members and potential members.”

The returning and newly-elected members will join the board at the May CCC Board meeting in Kansas City, MO, prior to the Connect Conference.

“Serving on the CCC board is a great opportunity to work with people from all over the country. After 30 years at KEC, it kind of gives you a new perspective of the electric cooperative program,” Jennings said.

There are nearly 200 cooperative communicators nationwide who have achieved the CCC designation. Jennings is one of four in Kansas who have earned the CCC designation. The other three are Bob Helm, Midwest Energy, and Shana Holsteen and Carrie Kimberlin, KEC.

The CCC certification program offers professionals in mass communication and marketing communication the opportunity to earn a credential that signifies professional competence in the communication profession.



A Time of Day Electric Cooperative

PO Box 4267
Topeka, KS 66604-0267
www.kec.org

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Governor Declares April 'Safe Digging Month'

Governor Mark Parkinson signed a proclamation April 14 declaring the month of April "Safe Digging Month". The proclamation was requested by the KCC, the Common Ground Alliance, and Kansas One-Call to increase awareness of safe digging practices and to promote 811, the call-before-you-dig number.

Designated by the Federal Communications Commission in 2005, 811 provides a number to reach local one-call centers to request utility line locations be marked for free. When you call 811, you will be routed to the Kansas One-Call Center.

GOVWIRE - 4/14/10

SPP filing is one step closer to new transmission in Kansas

This week the Southwest Power Pool Board filed approved tariff language with FERC marking an important step in the process for bringing new transmission to Kansas. The tariff is the agreement between the Southwest Power Pool and the transmission owners regarding the terms and conditions of transmission service, including cost allocation.

The V-Plan is a 200-mile, 765kV transmission project that will run from Spearville to Wichita and connect with another transmission line running into Oklahoma.

GOVWIRE - 4/20/10

KCC to swear in new commissioner

Kansas Corporation Commission's (KCC) newest commissioner, Ward Loyd, will be sworn in during a ceremony on April 23. Commissioner Loyd was appointed by Governor Mark Parkinson on February 24 and confirmed by the Senate on March 10. Loyd's term will expire on March 15, 2012.

KCC RELEASE - 4/20/10

APRIL

- 23 **CMS Annual Meeting**, Meade High School, Meade.
- 23 **Line Superintendents Meeting**, Salina.
- 28-29 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita.

MAY

- 2-5 **NRECA Legislative Conference**, Washington, D.C.
- 4 **Caney Valley Annual Meeting**, School-Gymnasium, Cedar Vale.
- 4-6 **Supervisors Conference**, Prairie Band Resort and Casino, Mayetta.
- 7 **Tri-County Annual Meeting**, TX County Activity Center, Guymon, OK.
- 10 **Touchstone Energy Brand Leadership Summit**, Kansas City.
- 10-13 **NRECA Connect Conference**, Kansas City.
- 12 **Western Annual Meeting**, Cooperative Office, WaKeeney.
- 19-20 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, Hyatt Regency, Wichita.
- 20 **KAMO Power Annual Meeting**, Hilton Southern Hills, Tulsa, OK.
- 21 **Sunflower Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting**, Western Headquarters, WaKeeney, 8:30 a.m..
- 27 **MDM Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
- 31 **Memorial Day**, KEC office closed.

annualmeetings

Alfalfa

Alfalfa's annual meeting was held on April 9 at the Cherokee High School in Oklahoma. There were 595 members registered for the meeting and approximately 1,200 meals were served.

The evening began with third and fourth graders who sang the national anthem.

Local musicians, Ruff Cutts, provided music for the evening. Gene "Bubba" Wright, who provided a variety of entertaining acts, did a demonstration in which he and more than 20 kids fit inside of a balloon at the same time.



Gene "Bubba" Wright, provided a variety of entertaining acts at Alfalfa's annual meeting, including a demonstration in which he and more than 20 kids fit inside of a balloon.

took place throughout the year as well as last year's youth tour winner.

Joe Seiwert was re-elected to the board. Returning to the board is Budd Fountain, replacing Charles Gabehart who stepped down due to his 12-year term limit.

DS&O

DS&O held its annual meeting on April 6 at the Bicentennial Center in Salina. There were 239 members registered for the meeting and 483 meals were served.

Brian Lang and Doug Lindahl were re-elected to the board. Newly elected to the board was James Christo-

pher, replacing Glenn Oleen who did not seek re-election.

Ark Valley

Ark Valley's annual meeting was held on April 6 at the State fairgrounds in Hutchinson. There were 267 members registered for the meeting and approximately 540 meals were served.

There was a slide show presentation with photographs featuring events that

Kaw Valley

Kaw Valley held its annual meeting on April 7 at the cooperative's headquarters in Topeka. In attendance were approximately 1000 members and guests

who were served dinner.

The membership heard from last year's youth tour winners who reported on their experiences in Washington, D.C.

Larry Butel, Robert Lynch and Robert Sage were re-elected to the board.

LJEC

LJEC held its first spring annual business meeting on April 21 in McLouth. LJEC traditionally has held a fall annual meeting but changed the date to allow for the review of year-end financial and operating reports. Attending were 131 people, including 89 members. No meal was served and the cooperative plans to hold a member appreciation day and barbeque meal June 5 in connection with the McLouth Barbeque Blowout this summer.

Board President Bill Pohl and General Manager Steve Foss reviewed cooperative activities and discussed and answered questions about a recent rate change. A resolution from one member requesting additional board study of rates and a member referendum on the board's action was defeated by the members.

Jeanine Murphy and Ralph Phillips were reelected in contested elections and Harlan Hunt won an unopposed election.

Radiant

Radiant's annual meeting was held April 8 at the cooperative's headquarters. More than 450 people, including 158 members, attended the meeting and enjoyed dinner.

The membership approved a by-law amendment which addressed the procedure to be followed in the case of a tie vote in the election of trustees.

Doug Shepherd, KEC, and state representative Forrest Knox were guest speakers. The keynote speaker was Congressman Jerry Moran. Trustee Loren Dickens encouraged members to join the "Our Energy, Our Future" campaign.

Chad Estes and Lee Bracken were re-elected to the board. Radiant presented \$4,000 in academic scholarships to area college and high school students during the meeting.

Rolling Hills

Rolling Hills held its annual meeting on April 16 at the NCK Technical School

in Beloit. Approximately 400 people, including members and guests, attended the meeting and enjoyed Butch's Bar-B-Q for dinner.

Steve Bahan presented the cooperatives financial report and Doug Jackson reported on the cooperatives operations for the year. Steve Parr of KEPCo and Stuart Lowry of KEC were guest speakers.

Sedgwick County

Sedgwick County's annual meeting was held on April 13 at The Cotillion in Wichita. Approximately 650 meals were served to members and guests.

Steve Parr, KEPCo, was a guest speaker. The membership also heard from Elliott Dreiling and Kim Fredrichs who were last year's youth tour winners.

Margie Conyacy, Dean Hillman and Stan Theis were re-elected to the board.

Sumner-Cowley

Sumner-Cowley held its annual meeting on April 10 at the Wellington High School. More than 600 people, including 218 members attended the meeting and enjoyed lunch.

The membership heard from last year's youth winners who reported on their experiences on the youth tour and the leadership camp.

Eddie Crittenden and Ron Jeffries were re-elected to the board. Newly elected to the board was Ken Adamek, replacing Francis Groene.

Twin Valley

Twin Valley's annual meeting was held on April 15 at the Labette County High School in Altamont. There were 106 registered members in attendance and over 200 meals were served.

Guest speakers Mark Doljac, KEPCo, and Dave Holthaus, KEC, gave short reports on wholesale power supply and legislative issues. The members also heard from Tricia Cares, last year's youth winner, on her experiences on the youth tour.

Providing entertainment for the evening was Labette's High School Choir.

Larry "David" Hubbell, Bryan Hucke and Dan Peterson were re-elected to the board.

Victory

Victory's annual meeting was held on April 6 at the Civic Center in Dodge City. There were 336 registered members for the meeting and approximately 575 meals were served.

Max Jantz, Richard Lightner, Pat Morse, and Loren Ochs were re-elected to the board.

Wheatland

Wheatland held its annual meeting on April 7 at the County Fairgrounds in Leoti. In attendance were more than 100 registered members and guests who were served a meal.

Corey Linville of Sunflower presented a detailed report on the Holcomb expansion project and the resource analysis undertaken by Sunflower for new generation resources. Stuart Lowry, KEC, spoke on the net metering rider adopted by the cooperative.

Woody Barnes, Wes Campbell, Bob Hiss, Lawrence Houston, and Edwin Wasinger were re-elected to the board.

co-op training

Trustee training offered at KEC's Summer Board Meeting

On Saturday, July 31, trustees will have the option of attending either a Board Leadership Course or a CCD Course. The Board Leadership Course scheduled is **925.1 Co-op Bylaws: Guiding Principles & Current Issues**, and will be facilitated by both Bob Patton and Ty Thompson.

The CCD course scheduled is **2600.1 Director Duties and Liabilities**, facilitated by John Mashaw.

On Sunday, August 1, trustees may attend the Board Leadership Course **939.1 Applying Governance Concepts to Real Boardroom Challenges**, facilitated by Bob Patton.

Cooperative managers will receive more detailed information and the registration forms. If you have any questions, please contact Shana Holsteen at 785-478-4554 or email sholsteen@kec.org.

Worthy joins Twin Valley as director of operations

Twin Valley welcomes William Worthy as its new director of operations.

Worthy brings 25 years of experience in the cooperative world. He began his career as a groundsman on

a line construction crew and worked his way through an apprenticeship program to journeyman lineman.

“Through training, hard work, and determination, I became one of the youngest operations managers in Texas,” Worthy stated.

He left the cooperatives for a brief stint with an engineering firm where



William Worthy

he oversaw designers and engineers working for investor-owned utilities, municipals, and cooperatives.

“I helped manage the deployment of over 200 men and women into the city of Houston for damage assessment of the electric utility following the devastation of Hurricane Ike,” he explained.

Worthy said that safety will be his first priority, and system reliability a close second.

“Cutting overhead costs will be something I hope to do, as well. Doing due diligence researching equipment, training of employees, and finding other ways to save the cooperative money is also high on my priority list,” he stated.

“I look forward to serving the membership of Twin Valley,” Worthy said.

Join Kansas Electric Cooperatives on Facebook

If you are a member of the fastest growing social networking site – Facebook, join us in becoming a fan of Kansas Electric Cooperatives. The fan page will keep you up-to-date on happenings at the Kansas statewide. On the site, you can find links to event information, articles, youth program information and more.

You can also become a fan of *Kansas Country Living* on Facebook. This fan page will offer sneak peaks to the upcoming issue, show extra photographs from the articles, and archive the recipes from past issues.

If you are not on Facebook, you can find the fan pages at www.facebook.com by searching for Kansas Electric Cooperatives.

High school teams compete at the Touchstone Energy ElectroRally in Scott City

Ten high school teams raced dozens of electric vehicles as Scott City hosted the Touchstone Energy ElectroRally on April 6.

The ElectroRally is an event where high school teams design, build, and race electric vehicles. However, it's not all about speed or endurance. Students must prepare a written report, documenting the car's design, tests, publicity, any problems faced, and the funding process.

Teams have to decide between using speed or conservation of the battery to earn the most laps. The car finishing the most laps in that amount of time wins.



Teams wait for the green flag to drop to start the race on April 6.

The cars are built and designed by the students. To make the race consistent for all racers, drivers must weigh at least 180 pounds, or include enough ballast to bring the weight up to 180 pounds. The batteries cannot weigh more than 67 pounds.

There are four classes: novice, standard, experimental, and open. The experimental class allows teams to have an additional power source, such as solar.

The next race is scheduled for Clearwater on May 1. To learn more about the ElectroRally program, visit www.kansaselectrorally.org.

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Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. • PO Box 4267 • Topeka, KS 66604-0267

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