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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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Vol. LIII, No. 9

Cooperatives: United We Stand

May 16, 2003

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Tornados Tear Through Co-op Territory

In the first full week of May, members of Twin Valley, Heartland, and Lyon-Coffey rural electric cooperatives sustained devastating loss of lives and property from a series of tornados.

On May 4, Twin Valley was affected by two tornados. The majority of the damage centered in the Bartlett area. Twin Valley lost approximately 20 poles as well as a couple transformers and meters. One house was completely destroyed and two others damaged. A second tornado touched down northeast of Parsons, and it caused three poles on new 3-phase construction to lean. The storm then continued on its destructive path through Heartland's service area.

The tornado, measured between an F3 and F4, and described as between a 1/4 and 1/2 mile wide, carved a path north of McCune, south of Girard and concentrated on the town of Franklin before crossing the state line into Missouri. A short time after the first tornado was reported, a second tornado touched down south and east of Columbus and continued through the town of Crestline before also crossing the state line.

Reports of tornado sightings continued throughout the evening, and a total of six Heartland members lost their lives as a result.

The storms continued to rage while co-op crews worked throughout the night and morning to restore power. Co-op employees

were called-in from Iola and Mound City to assist with Heartland's restoration efforts. Despite miles of power line on the ground, Heartland's system was back up on May 5. The damage in Twin Valley's service area was cleaned up by the following Thursday.

After rebuilding much of its system following the devastating 2002 ice

storm, employees of Lyon-Coffey found themselves rebuilding much of the same line after a series of tornados came through on May 8.

"Many of the same poles were blown down as in the ice storm," said Larry Scott, Lyon-Coffey manager. "In many cases the conductor was no where to be found this time, so it was like starting over again like last year."

The tornado ripped through parts of Osage County, taking down several miles of power line, and more than 130 poles.

Linemen from Radiant Electric and Butler REC assisted in restoring services, and Lyon-Coffey had the last of its system back up on May 10.



The banner yet waves... A flag blows in gentler winds on top of a house near Girard that was destroyed in the May 4 tornado.



Have an idea or
a story for
Rural Power?

Call (785) 478-4554

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Cooperative Calendar

May	21-23	KEC Marketing Conference, Radisson Broadview, Wichita.
	22	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10:00 a.m.
	31	Touchstone Energy ElectroRally, Forbes Field, Topeka.
June	5-6	Kansas REC Managers Association Meeting, Red Coach Inn, Salina.
	12-19	"Government In Action" Youth Tour, Washington, D.C.
	17-18	Retirement Seminar, Salina, KS.
	19	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10:00 a.m.
	24-25	Administrative Workshop, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
July	13-16	MMS&C Conference, Reno, NV
	15	Lane-Scott Annual Meeting – Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Lane County Fair Grounds, Dighton.
	17	KEPCo Board Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka, 8:30 a.m.
	18	Sunflower Board Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	19-25	Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, Steamboat Springs, CO.
	24	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10:00 a.m.
	27-30	NRECA / ECA Tax, Accounting & Finance Conference, Chicago, IL.
August	2-4	KEC Summer Board Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park.
	7-8	Kansas Material Managers Assoc. Meeting, Country Inn & Suites, Salina.
	15	Sunflower Board Meeting, Sunflower Hdqtrs, Hays, 8:30 a.m.
	21	KEPCo Board Meeting, KEPCo Hdqtrs, Topeka, 8:30 a.m.
	28	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10:00 a.m.
September	10	Leavenworth-Jefferson Annual Meeting – Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at McLouth High School Purple Gymnasium, McLouth.
	11-12	Kansas REC Managers Association Meeting, Garden City.
	13	Kansas Electric Cooperatives State Fair Day.
	18	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
	19	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	25	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10:00 a.m.
	25-26	Kansas Line Supervisors Meeting, Manhattan.
29-30	Kansas Wind Energy Conference, Airport Hilton, Wichita.	
October	1	KEC Standing Committees, Holiday Inn Select, Wichita.
	2	KEC Board Meeting, Holiday Inn Select, Wichita.
	6-8	Region VII Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park.
	22-24	Kansas Accountants Club Meeting, Holiday Inn, 3606 Vine St., Hays.
	23	Eastern MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10:00 a.m.
November	5	KEC District 3 Meeting, Location TBA.
	6	District 4 Meeting, Dodge City.

NRECA Retirement Planning Seminar

Holiday Inn Salina, KS - June 17 & 18, 2003

KEC is sponsoring a two-day comprehensive "NRECA Retirement Planning Seminar" specifically for co-op employees and spouses to help participants plan effectively for retirement. Topics include financial, legal, medical, pension and recreational aspects of retirement. Speakers will include Insurance Financial & Services (IF&S) staff and outside experts.

Any employee age 50 or older, or anyone within five years of retirement, is encourage to attend. Spouses are welcome. Space is limited, so please sign up quickly. See your system's manager or benefits administration to register for this workshop. Attendees will receive an individualized retirement projection packet. For additional information, contact Heather Cronin, NRECA, at (703) 907-6084, or Leilani Todd, KEC, at (785) 478-4554.

Upcoming Workshops

KEC Marketing Conference

Attend the KEC Marketing Conference and Trade Show, May 21-23 in Wichita, KS. Call Shana Holsteen at KEC for more info.

Summer School for Directors

Summer School is a great way to learn about roles and responsibilities, governance issues and board-manager relations: June 6-11 in VA; July 18-23 in WY; and Aug. 15-20 in MO. Develop your schedule by selecting courses from both the CCD series and the Board Leadership series. For more info, contact Shana Holsteen.

NRECA's MMS&C Conference

Attend the Marketing, Member Services & Communications Conference, July 13-16 in Reno, NV to learn about marketing and communication tools. For more info, go to www.cooperative.com.

CKAE Fast Track Workshop

The NRECA Certified Key Accounts Executive (CKAE) fast track is scheduled the week of October 20-24, 2003, in Tampa, FL.

Bryan Singletary will be teaching all three of the Key Accounts courses, and the exam will be given on Oct. 24th.

If you have cooperative employees that are interested in this course of study, please refer them to Johnny Latimer, NRECA, for registration at 703-907-5916. For specific information regarding the CKAE certification, they may contact Matt Rhoades, NRECA, at 703-907-5722.

The 2003 CKAE Fast Track Workshop will be held at the Hyatt Regency, Two Tampa City Center, Tampa, FL 33602, 813-225-1234. Room Rate until Sept. 22 is \$142 single/double.

Kansas Co-op Annual Meeting Highlights

Bluestem Electric Co-op, Inc.

Approximately 225 members and guests attended the 5th Annual Membership Meeting of the Bluestem Electric Cooperative, Inc.(BEC), held at the Rock Creek High School on April 8, 2003.

Stephen Parr, KEPCo, provided remarks about the strength of the electric cooperatives in Kansas. Special recognition was given to J. Wendell Eggerman and Glenn Czirr, past Trustees of Bluestem Electric Cooperative. President Dean Blanka presented them with plaques that recognized their respective years of service as Board Trustees.

Radiant Electric Co-op, Inc.

Radiant Electric held their 55th Annual Meeting on April 3, 2003, at Fredonia High School. The 113 registered attendees were given a \$5.00 bill, and all ladies received a red carnation. Entertainment was provided by the Fredonia High School Jacket Review.

Special guests included Barry Hart, KEC; Bob Bowser and Edgar Benoit, KEPCo; and former Radiant Electric Managers, Howard Sell and Max Cain. A plaque was presented to Loren Dickens for serving 11 years on the Radiant Board. \$1,000 scholarships were presented to Thomas Felts, Kendra Cody, Jena Leck, Bethany Powers, and Shannon Timmons. Elected to three-year terms are Tom Ayers and Larry Felts.

Kaw Valley Electric Co-op, Inc.

Over 1,100 meals were served at Kaw Valley's Annual Meeting held on April 9. Alvin Fishburn, Joe Conley and Shirley Henderson were re-elected to the Board. A bylaw amendment was adopted that removed trustee term-limits. Certificates were presented to Youth Tour winners Christa Fritz and Kelli Kirkwood.

Rolling Hills Electric Co-op, Inc.

Representatives from the nominating committee and two trustees (not up for election) from each district, met at each district office on April 1 to count the 1,070 returned ballots. Gene Meitler, Harold Ehler, Leon Eck, George Dugan, Jay Overmiller, Beryl Roberson, Harold Dowell, Lawrence Morgan, and Eric Andersen were re-elected.

Twin Valley Electric Co-op, Inc.

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative held their annual meeting on April 25 in the Labette County High School. The 99 members registered at the meeting re-elected Bryan Coover, Ron McNickle and Robert Webster, Jr. to the board of trustees. Following the meeting, the employees served ice cream and cookies to approximately 150 people in attendance. At its reorganizational meeting on April 28 the board elected Bryan Coover, president and Daniel Peterson, vice president. Re-elected were Norman Liesitkow, secretary; and Larry Hubbell, treasurer.

Doniphan Electric Co-op Assn.

Doniphan Electric's 66th annual meeting was held on March 20 at Midway High School in Denton. The Midway PTO served 154 members, guests and employees a roast beef dinner, including homemade pie. Guests included Doug Shepherd, KEC; Suzanne Eristurk, Westar Energy; and cooperative friends from Nemaha-Marshall and Brown-Atchison. 75 members voted on three trustee positions and approved two by-law changes. Incumbent trustees re-elected were Dennis Ruhnke, Quentin Herring, and Jack Denton. Dennis Ruhnke has been a trustee since 1982; Quentin Herring since 1979 and Jack Denton since 1988.

Sedgwick County Electric Co-op

On April 10, Sedgwick County held its 65th Annual Meeting. 245 members registered and 515 meals were served. President LeRoy Boerger and General Manager Alan Henning addressed the membership. Speakers included Barry Hart, KEC, and Steve Parr, KEPCo.

2002 youth tour winners, Jannessa Rausch and Kami Wetta, gave short reports on their respective trips to Steamboat Springs, CO, and Washington, D.C. Both young ladies also shared their appreciation of the \$250 scholarship.

CMS Electric Co-op, Inc.

The 57th Annual Meeting of CMS Electric was held on April 4 in Protection. Attendees were treated to a BBQ meal, and were entertained by the South Central High School Forensics Club. The 71 members present re-elected Clifford Friesen and Darrol Miller to the board. General Manager Kirk Thompson discussed the new rates that will take effect on July 1. This is the first rate increase in 12 years.

At the meeting, Rock Ormiston, was recognized with a plaque for his 12 years of service on the board. Rock did not seek re-election to his position. Scholarship winners were recognized: Tami Dreitz, Amanda Chalker, and Whitney Schuck.

At the board organizational meeting, the following officers were re-elected, Linda Tomlinson - President, Cliff Friesen - Vice President, Michael Johnson - Sec./Treas. The board also appointed Jeff Headrick, Kismet, to fill the vacant seat on the board.

Topeka to Host the Touchstone Energy ElectroRally

The Kansas ElectroRally has announced its spring race schedule for participating high schools. For schools with race experience, experimental teams with cars powered by the sun, and novice schools racing for the first time, the two-race series for the state championship began in Dodge City on May 2.

The final state championship race is the Touchstone Energy ElectroRally on Saturday, May 31 at Forbes Field in Topeka.

Car inspections will start at 9:00 a.m. and the combined Experimental and Novice Classes Race will begin at 12:00 p.m. The Advanced Class teams will race at 1:30 p.m.

This event involves teams from high schools throughout Kansas that have spent this past school year designing, raising funds, and building electric race cars. Schools may enter more than one car. More than 400 students racing over 50 cars are expected to participate in the race.

Over the past several years, Kansas has hosted the largest high school electric car race in the nation.

"The race showcases to the state and the nation, some of the brightest and most creative young people and teaching professionals," race president Jerry Lonergan said.

Teams in the advanced class will attempt to unseat the defending state champions from Scott Community High School. The championship presently belongs to the western Kansas school with multiple titles in both advanced and experimental races.

The Kansas race is sanctioned by the national oversight body Electrathon America. The cars are built under rules and guidelines established by the national organization:

The cars are described as:

- single person, lightweight, aerodynamic, high efficiency electric

vehicles

- three or four wheels of at least 16 inches in diameter
- powered by deep-cycle lead acid battery packs not exceeding 64 pounds.

Every effort is made to keep rules at a minimum to allow for maximum freedom for students to be innovative and creative in design of the cars.

Most of the remaining rules are designed to insure the safety of the driver and all participants in the program. All cars are subjected to a strict safety and rule compliance inspection before being certified as race ready.

To help ensure a level competitive field, schools are asked to raise and spend no more than \$2,500 on individual cars; although

competitive cars have been built for as little as \$500. The activity puts a premium on innovative design, construction, and team race-day strategy.

All teams are required to submit a written report detailing the teams' efforts to build the car, including fundraising methods and community involvement. The written reports are reviewed and scored by a committee of volunteers made up of teachers and business professionals, and count for 10% of the team score. The top report earns the team the pole position at the start of the race.

The state championship will be determined by the combined scores of both the May 2 Dodge City Race and the May 31 Touchstone Energy ElectroRally in Topeka.



Volunteers needed for the Touchstone Energy ElectroRally

How many laps around a track can a fleet of student-built electric vehicles make in an hour? That is what the Touchstone Energy ElectroRally will find out on Saturday, May 31, 2003, at Forbes Field in Topeka, KS.

Touchstone Energy ElectroRally needs volunteers!

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 9-12 Inspectors | 4-8 Course Marshals |
| 1 Racetrack Entrance Monitor | 2 Registration Table Volunteers |
| 1 General Entrance Information /Direction Volunteer | |

To sign up for this fun event, please contact Jeff Simpson, Kansas ElectroRally, at (913) 422-3567, email: jsgoev@earthlink.net.

News from Kansas Cooperatives

In Sympathy

Sumner-Cowley CEO Cletas Rains' father, **William C. Rains**, passed away on May 5. Services were held May 8 in Wellington. Memorials may be sent to the Shiloh Rains Memorial Fund in care of Panhandle Federal Credit Union, 403 N. Washington, Wellington, KS 67152.

Ninnescah Manager Walker Parris' father passed away on May 8. Memorial Services for **Olin Parris** will be Saturday, May 17 at 3:30 p.m. at First Southern Baptist Church, North Highway 61, Pratt. Contributions may be made in his name to Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Rd., Pratt, KS 67124.

Lyon-Coffey Board Meets for Reorganization

Prior to their April board meeting, the Lyon-Coffey board held their annual reorganization meeting to elect officers for the coming year. The same was done by the board for Lyon-Coffey's subsidiary, LCEC Services, Inc.

During the cooperative's reorganization meeting Robert Converse was elected President, replacing Richard Prather who had previously served as board president for the past 20 years. David Kunkel was elected Vice President replacing R.D. Speece. Wayne Van Gundy was re-elected Secretary. Harvey Raaf was elected Treasurer, replacing Kunkel. Speece and Prather will continue as trustee representatives to

KEPCo and KEC respectively.

During the subsidiary's reorganization meeting Donna Williams was re-elected President. Also re-elected were David Kunkel, Vice-President; Harvey Raaf, Secretary; and George Zentner, Treasurer.

Lyon-Coffey's subsidiary LCEC Services, Inc., is composed of three divisions, JEM LP Gas, a propane company; a 24/7 call center LCEC Communications (Professional Services) which currently serves five co-ops with after-hours call services and over 60 other businesses; and Rural Water District Accounting Services, which currently serves two Kansas rural water boards.

Sunflower Electric DOE Project Receives Praise

Congressman Jerry Moran and representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) joined with approximately 50 officials from Sunflower Electric Power Corporation and guests on April 16, 2003, to dedicate a project between Sunflower and DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL).

Sunflower is participating in a Power Plant Improvement Initiative project which provides financial assistance to electric

generating companies who install new technologies that reduce emissions and increase generation. The total project cost is estimated to be \$5,880,000 with the DOE-NETL providing \$2,800,000 in funding.

In his remarks, Congressman Jerry Moran said, "We need to make certain good things can happen in Kansas because we can provide energy."

Moran noted that the cooperation among Sunflower and agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDOHE) are the model of performance. "This is the way government should be operating," Moran said.

L. Christian Hauck, President and CEO of Sunflower Electric, also took note of the importance of the partnership between Sunflower and the federal government.

"This project helps Sunflower continue to fulfill our mission of providing reliable, low-cost power to rural electric cooperative consumers in western Kansas." Hauck said, "Without the Department of Energy, we would not be able to install these new technologies."

Tom Sarkus, DOE-NETL complemented Sunflower saying, "This important project is a win-win proposition for DOE and the Nation. It will increase efficiency and decrease NOx emissions at a much lower cost

than competing technologies, like SCR. This allows us to continue to utilize coal, America's most abundant and lowest cost fossil energy resource, in an environmentally responsible manner."

Others on the agenda included Art Spratlin, EPA, Ron Hammerschmidt, KDOHE, and Dave Witsken, General Electric Energy and Environmental Research Corporation. Guests at the ceremony included Reps. Ward Loyd, R-Garden City, and Gary Hayzlett, R-Lakin, as well as Finney County Commissioners Cliff Mayo and Alan Fankhauser, Holcomb Mayor Dennis Luer and representatives of Sens. Sam Brownback, R-Topeka, and Pat Roberts, R-Dodge City.

The audience of state legislators and local officials were shown the details of this project and learned that it could provide emissions reductions and increased generation possibilities for not only Sunflower, but also for other coal-fired generating units in the United States that burn coal from the Powder River Basin in Wyoming.

The project integrates high tech combustion modifications and control systems to demonstrate how new technologies can reduce air emissions and save costs for ratepayers.



Tom Sarkus, DOE-NETL, praised the Sunflower project at the April ceremony.

NRECA 2003 Legislative Conference

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and its statewide and Generation and Transmission affiliates convened May 4-7 at the 2003 Legislative Conference in Washington D.C.

More than 2,000 co-op attendees from all over the country participated in one

of NRECA's biggest grassroots activities held while Congress is in session. During the Legislative Conference, cooperative electric advocates discussed legislative priorities with Members of Congress and congressional staff. Conference participants also attended various workshops to learn key political, media, and technical skills.

This year, the Kansas delegation – as representatives of their communities – visited with Kansas Senators and Congressmen to advocate that locally-owned, locally-controlled electric cooperatives are attempting to do everything they can



Members of the Kansas electric cooperative delegation pose with Rep. Todd Tiahrt after discussing electric utility issues as part of the Legislative Conference.

prudently do to ensure that rural areas do not fall behind the rest of the economy.

Attending from Kansas were Joe Conley, Kaw Valley Trustee; Don Hellwig, DS&O Manager; Dean Hillman, Sedgwick Trustee; Kirk Thompson, CMS Manager; Cliff Friesen, CMS Trustee; Doug Jackson, Rolling Hills Manager; Bruce Graham, KEPCo VP of External Affairs; Harold Haun, KEPCo VP and General Counsel; Terry Jansen, Victory Manager; Jerry King, Victory Director of Marketing; Perry Rubart, Pioneer Trustee; Charles Ayers, Sunflower Chairman; Earl Watkins,

Sunflower Exec. VP and General Counsel; Barry Hart, KEC Exec. VP; Stuart Lowry, KEC Corporate Counsel, and Shana Holsteen, KEC Dir. of Communications.

The delegation met with Sen. Sam Brownback,

Sen. Roberts, and Congressmen Jim Ryun, Dennis Moore, Todd Tiahrt, and Jerry Moran. The Kansas delegation covered three main issues: the national energy policy, the clean air act, and the refinancing of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

National

Energy Policy - The co-op delegation asked Members of Congress to support a national energy policy bill, but to oppose enactment of the electricity title of H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2003. The co-op representatives asked the Senators to oppose increased federal regulation of electric co-ops and incentive rates for transmission, and to support participant funding only for distant loads and incentives (not mandates) for renewable fuels.

The Clean Air Act - The co-op delegation asked Members of Congress to oppose any efforts to regulate CO₂, and to amend the President's "Clear Skies Act" to make it more workable. The act would be more workable if it would be amended to provide fair allocation of emissions credits for units owned by multiple owners; eliminate any mandatory auction of emissions credits, and improving regulatory certainty by addressing current Clean Air Act programs; and streamline scientific research and increase public access to EPA data and science.

RUS Refinancing - The co-op delegation asked the Congressmen to support \$4 billion in RUS electric loan program levels for FY 2004.



Staff members of Sen. Brownback meet with the Kansas electric cooperative delegation in the Hart Senate Building.

Cooperatives: United We Stand



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Sign up now to be an important part of the **KEC Marketing Conference and Trade Show**

May 21-23, 2003, at the Radisson in Wichita, KS.

You are invited to attend the 2003 KEC Marketing Conference and Trade Show, May 21-23, 2003, at the Radisson Broadview Hotel in Wichita, KS.

The theme for the 2003 KEC Marketing Conference and Trade Show is "Cooperatives: United We Stand." This theme encompasses the electric cooperatives' role in supporting rural living through economic development projects, and by providing excellent service to our members by sharing our resources and standing together.

The featured key note speaker is Doug Rye. Anyone who has ever met Doug Rye knows that the man is never at a loss for words, especially



Keynote Speaker Doug Rye

when it comes to energy efficiency. That's why Doug Rye is known as "The King of Caulk and Talk" and is an authority on everything from heat pumps to insulation. He also produces a weekly radio show now carried by a growing list of radio stations in ten states, including Ark Valley.

The KEC Marketing Conference Trade Show offers cooperative personnel access to vendors who can provide quality services to the co-ops and its members.

The vendors scheduled to be at the trade show include: Central Fiber Corporated, Comfort Products, CRN, Double LL Distributing, Eastern Kansas Economic Development Group, Enertech, Inc., Federated, High Line Services, LLC, Image Resources, Imaging Solutions Company, InfiniTec, KDW, Inc., Marathon Water Heaters, National Child Identification Program, National Rural Economic Development, NISC, NRTC, Touchstone Energy, TWACS by Distribution Control Systems, Inc., and USDA.

Contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at (785) 478-4554 or email sholsteen@kec.org for more information.

Earning your trust every day.



That's the cooperative difference

Members of your local Touchstone Energy electric cooperative trust their cooperative to provide reliable and affordable electric power. That's because members own the co-op and have a voice in how the business is run.

Plus, electric cooperatives work for members, not for profits
— another value of co-op membership.