

# Rural Power

Electronic Edition

A newsletter for and about Kansas Electric Cooperatives

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## KEC Members Receive Amended Property Valuations

In a time when many costs are rising, several Kansas electric co-ops are getting some tax relief following successful appeals of their property tax valuations.

Working through Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC), Flint Hills, Lyon-Coffey, Ninnescah, and Twin Valley electric cooperatives had their valuations lowered by more than a combined \$1 million. This lower valuation will result in annual property tax savings of approximately \$41,000.

These cooperatives requested conferences with the Kansas Department of Revenue's Property Valuation Division (PVD) to appeal their appraised values. Doug Shepherd, KEC's Vice President of Member Services, represented these cooperatives at the informal conferences. All four of these cooperatives received amended notices lowering their appraised value.

"These cooperatives initially had higher

values as a direct result of the PVD's forecast of net operating income," said Shepherd. "Three of the cooperatives' incomes were overstated due to the repair and restoration efforts following the January 2005 ice storm."

He explained that electric utility values in Kansas are highly correlated to income. "As a utility's income increases, so does its value," he stated.

"It's important to understand if the operating statement includes any abnormalities, and whether the income forecasted by the PVD is reasonable," explained Shepherd. "Cooperatives should also make sure the appraisal report accurately reflects the submitted information because mistakes can easily be made."

Each year, Shepherd has spearheaded appraisal appeals that have saved millions in property taxes for the electric distribution cooperatives in Kansas.

## Ferne Walder Retires From KEC

Ferne Walder, KEC's Coordinator of Rural TV and Accounting Assistant, retired on June 2, 2006.

Walder has served the Kansas electric cooperatives for 20 years.

Initially hired at KEC in 1986 as KEC's receptionist, Walder's position evolved over the years, and her titles included that of secretary, data processing, TVRO, Rural TV, and assistant utility rate analyst.

"I have enjoyed working



Ferne Walder

with Ferne and must come to terms with the ever-evolving changes life brings our way," said Leilani Todd, KEC's Director of Finance. "All of the staff at KEC wish Ferne and her husband Cliff great happiness and health for years to come."

A retirement reception for Walder is scheduled for Friday, June 16 from 2-5 p.m. at KEC's headquarters in Topeka. All cooperative friends are welcome to attend.

## KEPCo's Bill Goshorn Retires

Bill Goshorn, KEPCo's Manager of Power Supply, will retire on June 30, 2006.



Bill Goshorn

Goshorn has worked at KEPCo for the past 21 years.

"I enjoyed a very rewarding career at KEPCo. I was able to spend my career with talented colleagues in an industry that means a lot to me," Goshorn said. "I will miss all of my co-workers and my friends from the co-ops and Wolf Creek."

## Cooperative Calendar

June	8-15	"Government In Action" Youth Tour, Washington, D.C.
	16	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	22	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
	30	KEC LCS&C Committee Meeting, Highland Hotel, Great Bend.
July	11	Lane-Scott Annual Meeting. Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:30 p.m., Dighton Fair Grounds.
	15-21	Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, Steamboat Springs, CO.
	19-20	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
	21	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	27	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
	29-31	KEC Summer Board Meeting, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park.
August	10-11	Kansas Material Managers Meeting, Topeka.
	16-17	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
	18	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	24	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.

## KEC Hires Two New Employees

Kim Friedli joined Kansas Electric Cooperatives' Apparatus Testing department as a testing assistant on June 5, 2006.

As an assistant, he will begin working on the oil circuit recloser (OCR) mobile trailer. He will serve in this capacity the majority of the time, filling in as an assistant on technical projects as needed.

Friedli will travel extensively throughout Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Oklahoma, while working on the OCR trailer servicing reclosers.

A Kansas native, Friedli was previously employed as a small engine mechanic. He and his wife, Gay, have lived in the Burlingame area for the past 30 years.



Kim Friedli

Angela Seele will become the new KEC Accounting Assistant on June 12, 2006.

Previously, she worked at Kansas Gas Service as a Budget Analyst in Overland Park. Seele, the daughter of KEC's Danny Seele, stated that she was pleased to join KEC.

"I know KEC is a good company," she said. "I am looking forward to working for a smaller organization closer to home and being able to use more of my accounting skills."

Seele earned her Associates of Accounting from Allen County Community College, and she said that she is nearly finished with her Bachelors of Science in Business Management from Friends University.



Angela Seele

### Summer Board Training

KEC is offering training at the KEC Summer Board Meeting.

On Saturday, July 29, Bryan Singletary will facilitate the new Board Leadership Course 923.1 **New and Emerging Technologies: What Every Director Needs to Know**. This course focuses on advancements in distribution system automation and information technology tools and how they help cooperatives deliver superior service to their members.

On Sunday, July 30, Dennis Eicher and Doug Larson of Power Systems Engineering will offer the course **What every trustee should know about the Federal PURPA Standards**. This course is designed to provide information on the PURPA Compliance Standards and possible avenues for handling the standards.

### DG Interconnection Workshop

KEC is conducting a technical, distributed generation course on August 21 at the Marriott in Wichita.

Bob Saint, Principal Engineer for NRECA's T&D Engineering Committee, will cover key points in the newly revised guide – The Application Guide for Distributed Generation Interconnection, the NRECA Guide to IEEE 1547.

This one-day workshop is designed for distribution cooperative engineering and operations personnel. For more information, contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at (785) 478-4554 or [sholsteen@kec.org](mailto:sholsteen@kec.org).

### KEC Offers Energy Auditing Training

KEC will host the NRECA Residential Energy Auditing Course, August 29-31, at KEC's headquarters in Topeka. This workshop is \$400 per registrant, and includes meals and materials.

Jim Heritage, CEM®, ICC Certified Mechanical Inspector, will be facilitating this 2½ day course. Space is limited, so register online at [https://www.cooperative.com/events/training/KeyAccount-ManagerTraining/workshop\\_TopekaKS.htm](https://www.cooperative.com/events/training/KeyAccount-ManagerTraining/workshop_TopekaKS.htm) before June 29<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at (785) 478-4554 or [sholsteen@kec.org](mailto:sholsteen@kec.org).

## Job Opportunities

### Butler Seeks Member Services and Public Relations Representative

Butler Rural Electric Cooperative is seeking a self-motivated, organized individual with excellent communication and analytical skills who enjoys working with people.

The position is responsible for marketing products, promoting city relations, and coordinating Butler's annual meeting

and youth tour competition. Individual will assist both business and residential customers, as well as other duties.

Resumes may be sent to Butler Rural Electric Cooperative, Attn: Zita Wallace, PO Box 1242, El Dorado, KS 67042 or [zwallace@powwwwer.net](mailto:zwallace@powwwwer.net). Deadline to apply is June 16, 2006.

## In Brief

### Judge Allows Aquila to Fire Up Cass County Plant

Aquila Inc. got clearance to turn its contested Cass County power plant back on, just in time for the hot summer months.

Cass County Circuit Court Judge Joseph Dandurand lifted a \$20 million bond against the plant and allowed Aquila to begin operating it. In January, Dandurand had directed Aquila to get state or local approval by May 31 or demolish the \$150 million plant and substation, which were built last year without local zoning approval.

The Missouri Public Service Commission granted Aquila retroactive approval for the plant May 23, clearing the way for Dandurand's decision.

*Kansas City Business Journal, 5/26/2006*

### Enron Quietly Fades Away

On the same day its former top executives were convicted of multiple crimes, Enron quietly announced the sale of its last major asset for \$2.9 billion — all but ending the Houston company's tumultuous 21-year existence.

The once-powerful gas and power trader that employed 21,000 people and became the nation's seventh-largest corporation now consists of only "300 employees working to unwind the company," said Enron's Tori Pennington.

*Megawatt Daily, 5/30/2006*

### Rail Problems Cost Millions

Minneapolis-based Xcel Energy has incurred "tens of millions of dollars" in costs related to problems shipping Powder River Basin coal by rail to its power plants, a company executive told the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee last month.

David M. Wilks, energy supply chief for Xcel, called for legislation to improve freight rail service by enhancing rail competition and directing federal regulators to policy monopoly abuse by rail carriers.

*Electricity Daily, 5/30/2006*

### Sumner-Cowley Hires Former Youth Winner as Intern

Sumner-Cowley has hired former Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp participant, Valerie Strickland, as a summer intern.

Strickland will serve as the cooperative's WildBlue intern for the summer.

"Valerie is going to help us market and sell our WildBlue Internet Services," said Nancy Cole, Sumner-Cowley's Information System Specialist / Accounting Assistant. "She is so excited about it and is doing a great job."

Strickland attended the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in 2004, and returned in 2005 as an Ambassador.



Valerie Strickland

### NRECA Unveils New Youth Tour Web Site

This week, 28 Kansas youth are embarking on the Rural Electric Youth Tour to see cooperative principles in action. The Kansas delegation will be joining a record number of 1,462 youth representing electric co-ops from 43 states.

More than 40,000 students from rural America have participated in this program since the early 1960s. To attract today's tech-savvy students to electric co-ops, NRECA launched a new Youth Tour Web site on May 26.

On this site, you can view photos from youth tour, and Youth Tour alums can share stories. The site also offers information for parents and educators.

Visit the Youth Tour web site at <http://youthtour.coop>.

### Mutual Service Cooperative Fund Announces Grant Program

Grant applications are now being accepted by the Mutual Service Cooperative (MSC) Fund of the Cooperative Development Foundation for cooperative development initiatives that will enhance the quality of life of seniors living in rural America. This will be the second year that the MSC Fund has focused its grant making on this specific area.

"Cooperatives are well-suited to meet the needs of the nation's growing "over 50" population and nowhere is that need more critical than in rural America," stated CDF Executive Director, Liz Bailey. "The 2005 grant program laid some important groundwork, including a public forum in Washington, DC that profiled how cooperatives in urban and rural areas are already meeting the needs of seniors for home care services, housing and health care."

Gap Kovach, chairman of the MSC Fund trustees, stated that the trustees are pleased with the results from the Fund's focus on seniors in 2005. "Not only did the Forum on Cooperative Solutions for Seniors raise public awareness, but we funded several innovative programs in

the field and the Fund's participation in the White House Conference on Aging also gave us the opportunity to reach many of the gerontology professionals and advocates for seniors who are looking for the kind of senior solutions that cooperatives can provide." Copies of the Forum report and the list of 2005 grantees are available at [www.cdf.coop](http://www.cdf.coop).

For the 2006 grant awards program, the Fund is looking for project proposals that will:

- \* Contribute to the development of systemic approaches to replicate successful cooperative models that already serve seniors in rural areas.

- \* Provide technical assistance to aid in the development of co-op ventures that will serve seniors living in rural areas.

- \* Provide a better understanding of lessons learned from co-ops that have served or are currently serving seniors living in rural areas.

The deadline for 2006 applications is July 28, 2006. Information on eligibility and grant guidelines, as well as the application, is available at [www.cdf.coop](http://www.cdf.coop). Grant awards will be made in the Fall.

## KEC Sponsors Annual Kansas FFA Convention



KEC's Carrie Kimberlin (in white) congratulates a student during the 2006 Kansas FFA Convention on June 2 in Manhattan.

More than 2,000 students and faculty advisors attended the 78<sup>th</sup> annual event. As part of the meeting, KEC sponsored the State Degree Ceremony. Kimberlin, KEC's Communications Specialist and former FFA member, helped to distribute the degree charms to more than 175 students.

"It is an honor to sponsor the State FFA charms. The members receiving the awards have worked hard to receive the State FFA Degree, which is the highest degree you can achieve at the state level," Kimberlin explained.

## Cooperative Hall of Fame Accepting Nominations

Cooperative Hall of Fame is now accepting candidates for induction. Nominations are due August 1, 2006.

Established in 1974 by the National Cooperative Business Association, the Cooperative Hall of Fame serves to honor those distinguished individuals whose contributions to cooperative business have been genuinely heroic. Inductees are limited to a prestigious group carefully selected to preserve the nature of this distinction.

Nominations to the Cooperative Hall of Fame are made by individuals and organizations in the cooperative community. Two committees of national co-op leaders then select the inductees. The dinner and induction ceremony take place at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, and are attended by cooperative leaders from across the country.

Please see [www.coopheroes.coop](http://www.coopheroes.coop) for information about the induct-

ees and the ceremony. This web site contains the Hall of Fame nomination form.

The administration of the Cooperative Hall of Fame is entrusted to the Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF). Nominations are received annually from the cooperative community and reviewed by a screening committee and a selection committee (appointed by the chair of the CDF Board of Directors), each composed of current leaders from the various sectors of the U.S. cooperative movement. The nominees selected are presented to the Board of Directors of the National Cooperative Business Association for approval and induction into the Cooperative Hall of Fame.

To make a nomination or for more information, go to [www.coopheroes.coop](http://www.coopheroes.coop) or contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at (785) 478-4554 or email [sholsteen@kec.org](mailto:sholsteen@kec.org).

### Former Western Manager and Wife Celebrate 55 Years of Marriage

Former Western Manager, Harlen McGinness, and his wife, Audrey Ann, are celebrating their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They extend an invitation to all cooperative friends to a reception from 2 - 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 11, at Western's headquarters.

Harlen began working for Western as the office manager in 1954. He was

promoted to manager in 1969, and retired in 1990. Audrey was active in the KEC Ladies Executive Committee, and their daughter Connie served as KEC's Director of Legislative Relations from 1987 to 1989.

Well wishes may be sent to the McGinness' at 100 N 11<sup>th</sup> St., WaKeeney, KS 67672.

# RuralPower

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