

# Rural Power

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## Kansas youth tour visit Jenkins, Moran on Capitol Hill

Students from across Kansas traveled to Washington D.C., to meet government officials and visit national memorials as part of the 50th Annual Kansas electric cooperatives' "Government in Action" Youth Tour.

Thirty-one Kansas delegates participated in the week-long tour during June 10-17. The students began their trip touring the state capitol in Topeka followed by visits to Wolf Creek and Lyon-Cofey before flying to Washington, D.C.

The group learned about the U.S. government through visits with Congressman Jerry Moran and Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins, meetings with youth from other states and tours of museums, Capitol Hill, Arlington National Cemetery and the White House.

"What impacted me the most was the tour of Arlington National Cemetery," said Erica Wilt, sponsored by Midwest Energy. "I've heard the numbers, but actually seeing all the gravestones meant so much more. It really made me not take our freedom for granted, but to realize how large of a price it cost."

Kansas is one of 45 states to send a youth delegation to this annual youth tour. The youth delegates who attended the trip were selected through a competition and sponsored by their local electric cooperatives. To be selected, the

students either wrote an essay or were interviewed by a panel of judges.

Since 1960, Kansas' electric cooperatives have sponsored the trips of thousands of high school juniors and seniors to visit U.S. congressional members, energy and grassroots government education sessions and sightseeing in Washington, D.C. Past youth tour participants include business and political professionals.

Former United States Senator and Youth Tour participant, Sheila Frahm,

attended the trip to Washington D.C. in 1962 sponsored by Great Plains Electric REA, which is now Midwest Energy.

"The early morning breakfast with our elected Congressmen and Senators is a favorite memory of the trip," Frahm stated. "I was really impressed they gave a breakfast and joined

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Congressman Jerry Moran visits with Prairie Land's Mandi Diaz during the 2010 Government in Action Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.



Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins (first row, far right) poses with the student delegates from her district.



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## CFC, NRECA release new rates study

Electric rates are the basic financial underpinnings for cooperatives, and this study provides a comprehensive look at rate strategies for a changing industry. The guide, "Rate Strategies for 21st Century Challenges," developed by CFC and NRECA, is the first update of its kind in more than 20 years. Changes in the industry have created challenges for cooperatives. Increasing construction costs, possible climate change legislation and new demand-shaving innovations join a list of factors affecting rate making decisions.

CFC SOLUTIONS – 6/22/10

## Practical Energy and Climate Plan Act of 2010

On June 9th, Senator Lugar (R-Ind.) introduced the Practical Energy and Climate Plan Act of 2010 (S. 3464), a bill that ClimateWorks estimates will reduce U.S. energy consumption by 11% in 2030. At this legislation's core are several energy efficiency provisions targeting energy reductions across several sectors: vehicles, buildings, industry and electric utilities.

ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY – 6/10

## Federal regulators greenlight Oklahoma energy projects

FERC recently signed off on a cost-sharing plan for \$1.1 billion in transmission projects for Oklahoma and other states in the region. The plan means about \$500 million in high-voltage power line projects across Oklahoma. The "Highway/Byway" plan, means Southwest Power Pool members which include Oklahoma's two largest electric companies will split the costs of high-voltage transmission projects. Lower voltage projects will be paid by local power companies.

THE OKLAHOMAN – 6/28/10

## JULY

- 13 **Lane-Scott Annual Meeting**, Fairgrounds, Dighton.
- 14-15 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 15 **Midwest Annual Meeting**, Fort Hays University Campus, Robbins Center, Hays.
- 16 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 17-23 **Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp**, Steamboat Springs, CO.
- 29 **MDM Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
- 31-8/2 **KEC Summer Board Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park.

## AUGUST

- 18-19 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 20 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 26 **MDM Meeting**, Salina.
- 27 **KCRE Golf Tournament**, Municipal Golf Course, Salina.

## upcoming training

### Kansas co-ops to benefit from safety strategy labs

Twenty electric cooperatives, including Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC), attended "The Culture of Safety Strategy Labs," sponsored by Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange on June 29, 30 and July 1.

The labs focused on compiling overall perceptions of the safety culture among the different cooperatives and groups. Linemen, line superintendents and CEOs compared the effectiveness of their safety programs at their own co-ops against other industry incident rates at the local, state, and national levels.

By holding these sessions, Federated

hopes to increase "awareness of safety culture of the cooperatives and reduce losses," Mike Bird, Federated's loss control manager, said.

Kansas is the eleventh state to participate in the program and will be able to benefit from the discussions at the strategy labs.

"For us, perceptions of co-op personnel can be gained. We can get their perception of the safety programs not only for their own cooperatives, but also their statewide perceptions to use to improve the programs," Larry Detwiler, KEC's director of loss control, safety and compliance, said.

### Three training options for trustees at 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. This course is updated and revised from the previous 925 course, however, if trustees have already taken the "old" 925 course, they will not receive additional credit.

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 have received more detailed information and the registration forms. Registration deadline is July 9th. If you have any training questions, contact Shana Holsteen at 785-478-4554 or email [sholsteen@kec.org](mailto:sholsteen@kec.org).

To make a reservation with the \$98 room rate, call the Marriott toll-free at (800) 228-9290 before July 8.

Other group activities include a KC Royals vs. Baltimore Orioles baseball game at the Kauffman Stadium on July 31, and "The Buddy Holly Story" at the New Theatre Restaurant on Aug. 1.

## Crews complete co-op cabin renovations

After months of renovations, new windows, floors, beds and appliances now decorate the Co-op Cottage at the Rock Springs 4-H Center. The project's completion brings a new light to the cottage, originally built in 1959.

Twenty-three electric cooperatives donated to the renovation of the 50-year-old building – an action that has paid off. Rock Springs saw an increase in reservations that kept the cabin booked for the first couple of months after completing the updates.

The cabins typically house campers, families and conference attendees. With the improvements, the cabins currently consist of an additional 52 beds for conference housing, beneficial to the cooperatives.

The renovations feature a geothermal heating and cooling system that efficiently utilizes consistent temperatures from the earth to control the temperature within the cabin. Energy use will be 40 to 70 percent less than a typical heating and cooling system.

The Co-op Cottage was one of the first permanent, weatherized housing facilities at Rock Springs.

## Cooperative youth to attend Colorado leadership camp

Twenty-seven Kansas high school students will be joining youth from Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 17-23 in Steamboat Springs, CO.

During their week long stay, the students create a candy cooperative, establish a board of trustees and “hire” a general manager. At the end of the week, the group decides how to handle any profit margins.

The campers will also take part in legislative presentations, a light and high voltage display and a competition to build a transmission line. They will explore the Steamboat Village, Old Town Steamboat Springs and tour the Craig Power Plant and Trapper Mine.

The student delegates were selected through a competition by their local electric cooperative.

“The students are judged on the basis of academic achievements, activities, positive attitude and their overall abilities as leaders.” Shana Holsteen, KEC’s director of communications said. “During the week they will learn new leadership and teamwork skills, and about the work of their electric cooperatives.”

Selected to attend this year’s camp are: Lisa Giefer, Ark Valley; Samantha Claassen, Butler; Cathy Call and Sarah Tatum, Caney Valley; Jacquelyn Wagner, DS&O; Ethan Frantz and Nolan Litke,

Flint Hills; Kate Hagans and Morgan Lawrence, Lane-Scott; Michael Brunner and Daniel Sayles, LJEC; Michelle Peschel, Nemaha-Marshall; Daniele Wendland, Ninnescah; Josielyn Alcala and Kayla Norton, Pioneer; Brittany Gaines, Jacob Helm, and Trevor Reed, Prairie Land; Kara Cavalli and Alexandra Feldkamp, Rolling Hills; Levi Robert, Sedgwick County; Alexandria McChesney, Sumner-Cowley; Jennifer Nelson, Twin Valley; Kate Lock and Vanessa Nunez, Victory; Joseph Augustine and Taylor Hixon, Western.

The campers will be joined by additional youth who attended the camp in 2009 and were selected by their peers to return as ambassadors. This year’s ambassadors are Cale Ellis, Caney Valley; and Alexis Wingerson, Rolling Hills. Kansas chaperones are: Shana Holsteen and Randy Read, KEC; Natosha Ast, Sumner-Cowley; Justin Flagler, DS&O; and Mellissa Bosley, Victory.

## KEC is 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. Find our fan pages at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) by searching for Kansas Electric Cooperatives.

## Kansas State Fair: linemen volunteers needed

Kansas electric cooperatives and Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas are co-sponsoring a high-voltage line safety demonstration in combination with the Kansas State Fair, Sept 13-17. Cooperative linemen are asked to volunteer to help spread the message.

Linemen will demonstrate proper safety precautions and teach viewers what protective gear linemen use. The demonstration, which is part of “Kansas’ Largest Classroom,” is a half-hour in length and will incorporate a full-size electric safety demonstration, which is on loan from Midwest Energy.

The public demonstration will operate from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is free of charge for all fair attendees. The dem-

onstration will be located in the Beef Judging building, east of the Oz Gallery.

The Kansas State Fair is the largest event in the state and attracts over 350,000 people annually. The fair has approximately 1,000 commercial exhibits and over 30,000 exhibits for competition for attendees to experience.

To volunteer to help with the high-voltage line safety demonstration, please contact KEC’s summer intern, Cristy Tran by calling (785) 478-4554 or email [intern@kec.org](mailto:intern@kec.org).

If you have linemen who could volunteer to help, please let her know names, T-shirt sizes, and whether the linemen need lodging the evening prior to their shift.

## insympathy

### Raymond H. Heer

Raymond H. Heer, age 93, died June 14, 2010, at Manor of the Plains in Dodge City. Heer had worked for Wheatland where he managed generation assets. He then went to work for Sunflower where he was manager of power generation and distribution until his retirement in 1984.

He is preceded in death by his wife A. Jean Dunn on August 11, 2009. The family has requested memorials be given to the First United Methodist Church in Garden City or Manor of the Plains in Dodge City both in care of Garnand Funeral Home, 412 N. 7th St., Garden City, KS 67846.

## Kansas youth tour delegation, cont.

us also, all were introduced and we exchanged personal conversation.”

The trip Frahm attended in 1962 was very similar to the one students took this year, and interaction with elected officials continues to be a highlight.

“My most memorable part of the trip would be listening to the senators argue their views about the oil leak in the gulf,” said Becca Heeke, sponsored by Victory Electric Cooperative. “It was very persuasive and eye-opening to see our government in action.”

The memorials were also a highlight for many of the youth delegates.

“This has been an unforgettable experience, and I loved every minute of it,” expressed Emily Wolf, sponsored by DS&O. “My favorite memorials were by far the WWII and FDR memorials. The WWII Memorial is gorgeous at night and I absolutely love how beautiful the FDR Memorial is with the water falls. The Pentagon Memorial was also a personal favorite of mine because of what it represented. Reading all those names really hit me hard. And, of course, I can’t forget the people I met. Our chaperones were amazing and the friendships are unforgettable. I know some of these relationships will last forever.”

“My most memorable moment was the military drum and bugle corps performance at the Iwo Jima Memorial,” said Melinda Becker, sponsored by Prairie Land Electric Cooperative. “It was amazing to see the precision and dedication of the Marines.”

Becker was chosen to be the 2010 Youth Leadership Council representative for Kansas, and will be participating in NRECA’s annual meeting in



Melinda Becker

Orlando, Florida in 2011. She competed against other delegates for the honored position through an interview process where the students were evaluated on their leadership skills, personality and knowledge of rural electric cooperatives.

“This year’s student leaders were great representatives of both their electric cooperatives and their communities,” Shana Holsteen, Kansas Electric Cooperative’s youth director said. “They took advantage of the opportunities given to them in our nation’s capital.”

One non-scheduled event occurred when the Kansas group was visiting the Lincoln Memorial, Randy Read made a surprise appearance and proposed marriage to Holsteen. She accepted, and the Kansas youth delegation cheered.

For more information or to see photos of this year’s youth tour, please go to [www.kec.org](http://www.kec.org).



The 35 youth from Kansas traveled with four youth from Hawaii on the 50th Annual Government in Action Youth Tour.



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