

# Rural Power

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## Governor, legislators among invited annual meeting speakers

Final touches are being applied to the 2013 KEC Annual Meeting. The event will be held Jan. 26-29 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka.

Speakers for this year's meeting include several political leaders including Gov. Sam Brownback, Senate Majority Leader, Terry Bruce, and House Minority Leader, Paul Davis, will speak to attendees on Mon., Jan. 28.

Other speakers on Monday include Adam Schwartz, founder and principal of The Cooperative Way, who will talk about re-energizing a cooperative culture. Susan Olander, Federated's vice president and general counsel, will discuss the board's role in creating a culture of safety. Karissa Berks, USDA, and Michael Lewis, RUS, will give a rural development outlook for Kansas for the coming year.

On Tuesday, Jan. 29, Greg Lee, KEC's general counsel, will facilitate a trustee round-table discussion. Brian Briggeman, director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, will give an agricultural outlook for 2013. KEC's Loss Control, Safety and Compliance Department will recognize cooperatives who have earned safety

awards for "No Lost Time" and National Safety Achievement awards. Attendees will also hear reports from the Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE), CFC, NRECA, CoBank, and the KEC Auxiliary. There will be a special presentation to Lane-Scott's Paul Seib, Jr., by Leslie Kaufman, president / CEO of the Kansas Cooperative Council, for the Cooperative Hall of Fame.

In addition to the speakers, attendees will also enjoy the 8th Annual KEC Expo. During the expo, there will be vendors, snacks, prizes and two breakout sessions: N-Dimension Solutions will give a short session on cyber security related to the electric utility, and CoBank will discuss the economy and interest rates.

The KEC Auxiliary Spouses Program will be held on Monday. Speakers for this program include Jean Holthaus, manager of problem gambling services at the Kansas Department of Aging & Disability Services, who will discuss gambling addiction. Also, Rachel Killian of the Topeka Zoological Park will offer a hands-on presentation with "Untouchable Animals".

## KEC Annual Meeting attendees will "flip" for a pancake breakfast

Chris Cakes of Wichita will serve all-you-can-eat pancakes and other breakfast fixin's during the KEC Annual Meeting. The griddle will be hot on Tuesday, Jan. 29, from 6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. in Heritage Hall located outside the Maner Conference Center.

The cost of this breakfast feature is included in the meeting registration.

"Short Stack", otherwise known as Kathy Xenos, owns the Chris Cakes franchise in Wichita. Not only is she the sister of Bob Jennings, manager of publishing services at KEC, but will also serve as chef of the event.

A registered nurse, Xenos has a long history of serving others.

Chris Cakes started during the 1960s in Iowa, but has expanded across the United States, includ-

ing a Chris Cakes of Kansas City where Xenos started her pancake-flipping career. When Chris Cakes decided to open in Wichita, Xenos moved to the area in order to run the business out of her home.

With the help of her husband, "Half Stack", and son, "Hot Stack", Xenos has travelled around Kansas and to the surrounding states to flip flapjacks wherever she could. She even traveled to New York City where she fed

firefighters and emergency workers who helped with the 9/11 rescue efforts.

Besides serving in times of national need, Chris Cakes caters for events such as fundraisers, benefits, grand openings and open houses several times per week. All

attendees of KEC's Annual Meeting are encouraged to "catch" breakfast from this skilled pancake flipper.



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**BP opens giant Kansas wind farm**

The opening of the Flat Ridge 2 wind farm in Kansas represents the largest single-build facility of its kind in the United States. The 470 megawatt Flat Ridge 2 facility is spread out over four counties in Kansas and features 294 wind turbines. Electricity generated from the wind farm is sold to the Associated Electric Co-op, Arkansas Electric Co-op Corporation and Southwestern Electric Power Company.

BP WIND ENERGY – 1/7/13

**Leadership changes on Senate Ag Committee**

Sen. Pat Roberts was bumped from his place as ranking member of the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee. Sen. Thad Cochran (MS), who had timed out as ranking Republican on the Appropriations Committee, asserted his right to become the ranking Republican on the ag committee. Roberts will remain on the ag committee and said he will assert his seniority to become ranking member of the Senate Rules Committee. He also retains his place on the Senate Finance Committee.

WICHITA EAGLE – 1/3/13

**Georgia Power seeks approval to retire generating units at four plants**

Georgia Power expects to request approval from the Georgia Public Service Commission to decertify and retire 15 coal- and oil-fired generating units totaling 2,061 megawatts (MW). Several factors, including the cost to comply with existing and future environmental regulations, recent and forecasted economic conditions, and lower natural gas prices contributed to the decision to close these units.

GEORGIA POWER – 1/7/13

**JANUARY**

- 18 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 26-29 **KEC Annual Meeting.** Capitol Plaza/Maner Conference Center, Topeka.
- 29-30 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.

**FEBRUARY**

- 5-7 **Underground Overhead Metering (UOM) School.** Garden City.
- 14-22 **NRECA Annual Meeting.** New Orleans, LA.
- 15 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 28 **MDM Meeting.** KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.

**MARCH**

- 6-7 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting.** Marriott Courtyard, Salina.
- 15 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 20-21 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 28 **MDM Meeting.** KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.

**NRECA annual meeting, Emerson named as next CEO**

The NRECA 2013 Annual Meeting online registration and hotel reservation is open at Cooperative.com.

This year's annual gathering of cooperative leaders from across the country is scheduled for Feb. 14-21 in New Orleans, LA. This program is designed to celebrate the strength of the cooperative network, to conduct important business of our association and to focus on how we as cooperatives can continue our mission of providing members with affordable and reliable electricity.

The annual meeting is Feb. 18-20, and the director education dates are Feb. 14-17. For a complete listing of courses, visit the annual meeting page on Cooperative.com. This year's TechAdvantage Expo is Feb. 18-20, and the Tech Advantage Conference is Feb. 19-21.

For those arriving early, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are again sponsoring a Community Service Day. On Sat., Feb. 16, volunteers will partner with Rebuilding Together New Orleans on a "Tip the Block" project which combines weatherization of some houses as well as installation of CFLs and distribution of information on energy efficiency to others.

This will be the last annual meeting for retiring NRECA CEO, Glenn English. Effective March 1, U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) will

assume that role.

Emerson, who will become the fifth CEO in NRECA's 71-year history, officially joins the organization on Feb. 11, and she will be formally introduced to the membership at the NRECA Annual Meeting in New Orleans the following week.



Jo Ann Emerson

Emerson, first elected to the U.S. House in 1996, most recently served on the House Appropriations Committee and as chairman of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee.

In addition, she has taken a leadership role on agriculture, health care, and government reform issues during her congressional career and won recognition for her work on energy, including being presented with the NRECA Distinguished Service Award in 2006.

"NRECA is committed to the electric cooperatives of this great nation, and works hard every day to improve the quality of life for their consumer-members," says Emerson. "I am very honored to join an outstanding organization to work on their behalf."

# Lane-Scott's Paul Seib selected as 2013 Hall of Fame Inductee

Paul Seib, Jr., a board member at Lane-Scott, will be inducted into the 2013 Co-op Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Kansas Cooperative Council, is valued for recognizing the contributions of co-op pioneers and honoring those who have gone "above and beyond the call" in advancing the cooperative philosophy.

Seib has given decades of service to rural electric cooperatives as a board member for local and regional cooperatives. In addition to serving on the board of his local electric co-op, he joined Sunflower's board of directors in 1979.

"At every juncture, Paul has been willing to stand up for the principles of this corporation that he has shaped over these many years," wrote Earl Watkins, retired CEO of Sunflower.

"During his term as Sunflower's Board Chairman, the corporation began a new era as a cooperative that had survived what could have been an economic calamity for the ratepayers in western Kansas," Watkins continued. "Many would have shied away from this leadership position. But Paul knew what Sunflower and its member cooperatives stood for, and he was willing to do what was necessary to make sure the lights stayed on."

Seib's commitment to advancing rural electric cooperatives has been lasting.

"He served as Board Chairman during a challenging economic environment when future generation needs were at the forefront as they are today," said Stuart Lowry, Sunflower's CEO. "The decisions made by that board during his leader-



Paul Seib, Jr.

ship were difficult, but the benefits are enjoyed today by the central and western Kansas consumers served by Sunflower and provided a stable platform from which Sunflower was able to plan for further expansion."

In addition to serving on the Lane-Scott and Sunflower boards, Seib was one of the original members of the board of directors for the Washington, D.C.-based Western Power Producers, a cooperative organization of generation and transmission cooperatives formed in 1989 that worked to help its members find operational efficiencies and advocated for rural electric power.

Seib will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on March 20 at the Hyatt in Wichita.

After a reception and dinner, Seib will be honored for his commitment to the growth and development of the cooperative movement. His biographical information will be placed alongside

other honorees in the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame showcase display at the Kansas State Fairgrounds.

Located in the Pride of Kansas building, this permanent display highlights the achievements of Kansas' great co-op leaders and preserves our co-op history. It also plays a significant role in educating others about the uniqueness of the cooperative business model.

Since it was established in 1999, 31 individuals from all types of cooperatives have been inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame. Each December, the Council asks for nominations for additional inductees.

## KEPCo hosts its 38th annual meeting

Approximately 180 representatives from KEPCo member cooperatives, staff and guests attended the 38th KEPCo Annual Meeting, Nov. 14 at the Geary County Convention Center in Junction City.

A reception was held prior to the meeting. Afterward, Kirk Thompson, KEPCo president, reviewed the year and challenges ahead.

Stephen E. Parr, KEPCo executive vice president & CEO, welcomed the group, provided remarks about KEPCo's accomplishments and working with members on future issues.

## Donald L. Franz

Donald L. Franz, father-in-law of KEC's Bruce Graham, died Dec. 29, 2012.

The family is planning a celebration of life service later this month.

Memorials may be given to the First Mennonite Church Music Fund in care of Kaufman Funeral Home, 418 Chestnut Street, Halstead, KS 67056.

## Eileen R. Wages

Eileen R. Wages, mother of KEPCo's Phil Wages, died Dec. 7, 2012.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Dec. 12, 2012, at Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church. Burial was at Mt.

Hope Cemetery, Topeka.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church, 2014 NW 46th St., Topeka, 66618.

## Dean Edward Reese

Dean Edward Reese, board member at Brown-Atchison, died Dec. 19, 2012.

A celebration of Dean's life was held at the First United Methodist Church of Hiawatha on Dec. 22.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Brown County 4-H Development Program and may be sent in care of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home, 124 S 7th St., Hiawatha, 66434.

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## Electric co-ops greet members at Topeka Farm Show



Bluestem's Ron Dickey and LJEC's Jennifer Fisher greet members at the electric co-op booth at the Topeka Farm Show.

Five electric co-ops joined forces to sponsor a booth at the Topeka Farm Show this month.

Bluestem, Brown-Atchison, Kaw Valley, Lyon-Coffey and LJEC used the opportunity to interact with their members and the general public.

More than 300 exhibitors participated in the event at the Kansas ExpoCentre over Jan. 8, 9 and 10.

"We see a percentage of our members that we may not otherwise see," said Ron Dickey, member services manager from Bluestem.

The co-op's booth featured a drawing for an electric grill and a chance to talk with co-op representatives.

"It's a chance for us to see our members and talk about programs we offer and see what their concerns are," said Jennifer Fisher, PR/marketing specialist from LJEC.

## Electric cooperative members meet through Kansas Country Living

Thanks to the "Cook's Library" column in the November 2012 *Kansas Country Living*, a connection was made between two electric co-op members.

After reading the article, Carol Keighley, a member of Lyon-Coffey, ordered a copy of the newly-published cookbook, *A Gift of Love: From Heart and Home*, by Barbara Bausch, who has been a member of LJEC since 1949.

"I have quite an extensive collection of local cookbooks and would be delighted to add yours," Keighley wrote when placing the order. "I love recipes for tried-and-true foods that have lasted through generations."

That order turned out to be the 1,000th since the book was printed last July.

Bausch decided to award Keighley with a bouquet of flowers—and a free cookbook. The book contains 1,200 recipes Bausch has collected over 63 years.



Barbara Bausch, a member of LJEC (left), gifted Carol Keighley, a member of Lyon-Coffey, a copy of her cookbook. The women met because of an article in *Kansas Country Living*.

## Victory donates dictionaries to local third grade classrooms



Mrs. Koehn's third-grade classroom in Montezuma was given dictionaries by Victory employees.

Victory Electric teamed up with the Cimarron Rotary Club, Unruh-Foster and United Telephone to donate children's dictionaries to local third graders. The Rotary Club Dictionary Project is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. The goal of this program is to assist students in completing the school year as good writers, active readers and creative thinkers. The dictionaries are gifts to students to use at school and home for years to come.



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