

Rural Power

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Lane-Scott hires Ed Wiltse as new general manager

Ed Wiltse has been named general manager of Lane-Scott Electric in Dighton.

Wiltse will begin his duties on Dec. 3, and comes to Lane-Scott after working for Ninescah Electric and Pioneer Electric. Experience with electric cooperatives as the general manager at Ninescah and as the manager of member services at Pioneer provides a solid understanding of utility operations and maintenance, customer and member services, and financial management.



Ed Wiltse

Wiltse currently serves as treasurer of the Kansas Electric Cooperatives board and president of the Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE).

He also serves as a board member of Pratt County Community College, Pratt County Economic Development Corp, and has served on the boards of Western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance and numerous civic and religious organizations, including former mayor and councilman of the city of Ulysses.

Lane-Scott's board president, Richard Jennison, said that the board selected Wiltse

following a national search conducted by the NRECA management consulting group.

"Ed brings a wealth of experience to Lane-Scott at a time when we are experiencing load growth opportunities," Jennison said. "We look forward to having Ed join the outstanding team of employees that keep the lights on for our cooperative members every day."

"I am honored to be selected for this position," Wiltse said. "There are exciting opportunities ahead for Lane-Scott, and I look forward to working with the staff and cooperative members. Lane-Scott is a solid cooperative, and Lisa and I are pleased to soon become a part of the Lane-Scott community."

KEC launches new director & employee orientation

The inaugural class for the KEC New Director & Employee Orientation met for the one-day training on Nov. 12 at the Wichita Marriott. Seven employees and 13 directors from across the state registered for the class.

The workshop was designed for any board member or co-op employee who is new to the electric cooperatives. It offered the attendees the chance to: meet experienced electric co-op staff and directors in key leadership positions, learn the history of the electric co-ops and their grassroots beginnings, understand the language and the structure of electric utilities and co-ops, and learn about affiliated organizations.

Presentations included an update on KEC services, understanding cooperative financing, Touchstone Energy, current state and federal issues and the importance of political engagement. Participants also learned about KEPCo, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation and cooperative partners such as Federated Rural

Electric Insurance, RUS, CoBank, CFC and other important industry allies.

Speakers included John Blackwell, KEC Board President; Paula Bolder, Federated; Clare Gustin, Sunflower; Mike Lewis, RUS; Amy Rosier, Touchstone Energy; Keith Ross, NRECA Kansas Director; Phil Wages, KEPCo; and several KEC staff members.

This training was created following the KEC Organization Assessment process which identified the need for a statewide orientation program.



John Blackwell (standing) welcomes the directors and employees to the orientation program on Nov. 12.



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Kaw Valley appears on PBS

As part of the International Year of Cooperatives, Kaw Valley was recently highlighted on "I've Got Issues," a weekly community affairs show on the local public television station. The segment ran on KTWU-TV, Topeka, as part of an overall episode highlighting the contributions of local co-ops, including Kaw Valley, several food co-ops and a farm co-op. The show's producer approached Jerry Manning, Kaw Valley's general manager, about sending a crew to film the annual meeting earlier this year. View the segment at <http://www.ktwu.org/productions/ive-got-issues/international-year-of-the-co-op/>.

ECT - 11/27/12

Power line shortage in Oklahoma hampers oil production

Producers have found a large amount of oil in northern and northwestern Oklahoma, but a shortage of power lines has threatened to slow development of the area. Producers are trying to recover oil and natural gas from northwest Oklahoma and western Kansas, but their efforts are being slowed by insufficient access to electricity. Western Farmers supplies the electricity needs of more than two-thirds of mostly rural Oklahoma through its 19 electric cooperatives throughout the state. The utility is building 135 miles of new transmission lines in northern Oklahoma to help meet some of the sudden new power needs.

NEWSOK - 11/26/12

Moran to Head NRSC

Sen. Jerry Moran became National Republican Senatorial Committee chairman as both parties returned their Senate leadership team. Sen. John Cornyn, the outgoing NRSC Chairman, was elected Senate minority whip.

NATIONAL JOURNAL - 11/14/12

DECEMBER

- 5-6 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita.
- 19-20 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 21 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 24-25 **KEC Office Closed**, Christmas Holiday.

JANUARY

- 1 **KEC Office Closed**, New Years Holiday.
- 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.

NRECA offers midwest Smart Grid peer-to-peer workshop

NRECA, in partnership with U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, is offering a free Midwest Smart Grid Peer-to-Peer Workshop in Ames, IA, on Dec. 12-14.

The workshop brings together

staff from utilities planning smart grid projects with front-line technical staff already engaged in deploying communication and automation technologies funded by DOE smart grid grants.

For more information, visit <https://peer.smartgrid.gov/midwest-workshop>.

jobmarket

Ninnescah seeks general manager

The Ninnescah Electric Cooperative Board is seeking a qualified individual to fill the position of general manager. Applicants should possess a broad knowledge of electric distribution system management, including the areas of long-range planning, and construction work plans in all key areas of operations, financial management, budgeting, wholesale power supply, staffing, human resources, information technology and member and public relations.

Send application along with a cover letter,

resume, salary history, and three business and three personal references, no later than February 1 to: Ninnescah Electric Co-op Assoc., Attn: Rob Eisenhauer, Corporate Attorney, P.O. Drawer 825, 113 East Third, Pratt, KS 67124.

KEPCo seeks SCADA/meter technician

KEPCo is seeking a qualified SCADA/Meter Technician. This position serves an area from Wichita west to Liberal. For more information please contact Mark Barbee at 785-271-4849 or mbarbee@kepc.org.

insympathy

Richard Joseph Schmidt

Richard Joseph Schmidt, a Lyon-Coffey Electric board member, died on Nov. 24.

Schmidt had served on the Lyon-Coffey board since 2005.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Nov. 29 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Olpe. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary Catholic Church and may be sent in care of Jones Funeral Home, PO Box 277, Burlington, KS 66839.

Dorothy Mae O'Brien

Dorothy Mae O'Brien, mother of retired Kaw Valley general manager Dan O'Brien, died Nov. 26.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 30 at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Marion, IA, with interment at Calvary Cemetery in Ryan, IA. Memorials to the American Diabetes Association or to Hospice Compassus may be sent in care of Murdoch Funeral Home, 3855 Katz Drive, Marion, IA 52302.

Kansas youth race in Touchstone Energy ElectroRally

The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas sponsored the High Plains Rally on September 27 in Hays. Lane-Scott, Midwest Energy, Prairie Land, Southern Pioneer, Sunflower Electric, Victory, Western and Wheatland also sponsored cars participating in the race.

Student teams from a dozen schools across the state designed, built and raced 36 electric vehicles. The results were as follows: Great Bend won the Spirit Award; Dighton and Hays won the Experimental Class; Beloit High, Stockton, Scott City, Great Bend, Clearwater and Hoisington won the Standard Class.



The Great Bend crew, sponsored by Wheatland, prepare their vehicle before the race.

Sumner-Cowley raises funds for Kansas Honor Flight

Sumner-Cowley recently honored those who have served our country by making two donations to the Kansas Honor Flight program—a program that raises funds to send American Veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the war memorial in their honor.

“We feel, as a co-op, it is important to donate to such a worthy cause like the Kansas Honor Flight program,” said Cletas Rains, CEO. “We support our veterans and if there is something more we can do to honor them, we are happy to do what we can.”

A \$1,300 donation came from the co-op’s Employees Organization Fund, and it was matched by the Cooperative General Fund. The \$2,600 will be put toward sending four local veterans to



Herb Duncan (left), Kansas Honor Flight lead volunteer, thanks Cletas Rains, Sumner-Cowley CEO, during the Fall Festival for the cooperative’s generous donation.

Washington, D.C.

“Many of our electric, telephone and agricultural cooperatives were once formed, directed and managed by members of the Greatest Generation,” said Mike VanCampen, president of Kansas Honor Flight.

“These very individuals that served our country 70 years ago, came

home, took off their uniforms, and went straight back to work,” VanCampen continued. “Kansas Honor Flight is able to give back to the veterans by showing them the gratitude they deserve by providing them with a memorable trip to Washington, D.C.”

To apply for the Kansas Honor Flight program, call 620-456-2400 or visit www.kansashonorflight.org to download an application.

Touchstone Energy Executive Council holds elections

The Kansas Touchstone Energy executive council met for its annual meeting on Nov. 13 in Wichita.

Re-elected to the council were Leon Eck, Rolling Hills, and Travis Griffin, Butler. Bruce Mueller, Wheatland, was elected to fill the seat vacated by Al Henning’s retirement.

The officers remained the same: Don Hellwig, chair; Leon Eck, vice chair; and Dennis Deines, secretary/treasurer.

The guest speaker was NRECA’s Amy Rosier who reviewed the national Touchstone Energy program.

Rosier commended the Kansas cooperatives that had recently joined. She discussed the new online training and reviewed the online resources available, including Together We Save and the kids learning zone featuring CFL Charlie.

Rosier reported on the amount of savings in Kansas through the Cooperative Connections Card program - Twin

Valley, Sumner-Cowley and Western had the most money saved from members using the card on prescriptions. Rosier offered to pull the reports for individual co-ops upon request to show the benefit.

Rosier distributed the most recent issue of the *Touchstone Energy Extra*. She then explained the Power+Hope program for member-cooperatives to recognize employees, directors and/or members who are doing good things.

Shana Read and Dennis Deines gave a report on the 2012 programs and activities, including the State Fair, the ElectroRally and the youth tour programs.

There was discussion about increasing the number of Touchstone Energy events in Kansas. The council approved funds for regional events within KEC’s four districts.

Before adjournment, the council also approved the 2013 budget and statewide assessment.

Midwest Energy holds annual meeting

Midwest Energy’s annual meeting was held at the Robbins Center at Fort Hays State University, Hays, on Nov. 19. Over 90 members attended.

The group heard reports from John Blackwell, Chuck Moore, Louise Berning, and Earnie Lehman. The group also heard a youth tour report from four of the students who represented the co-op this summer.

Re-elected to the board were Dale Unruh, Juanita Stecklein, and Louise Berning.



The youth tour winners drew names for the door prizes at the meeting.

KEC promotes cooperative careers at KU internship fair

On Nov. 13, Kansas Electric Cooperative employees attended the University of Kansas Internship Fair. At the event, staff informed students about cooperatives and available internships. Decks of cards, flash drives and soup bowls were popular giveaways among the students.

The event gave students of all major fields of study the opportunity to learn what KEC does and the different careers offered by electric cooperatives.

"Attending career fairs is a great way to connect with students and inform them about KEC internships and other cooperative careers," said Carrie Kimberlin, KEC's communications specialist.

Assisting Kimberlin was Amber Sheley, KEC's communications intern.



KEC's Carrie Kimberlin visited with students at the University of Kansas Internship Fair on Nov. 13. Students were given information, as well as decks of cards leading them to the Touchstone Energy jobs website.

Record attendance at KEC linemen workshops

KEC's Loss Control, Safety and Compliance Department conducted two workshops this month at Kaw Valley in Topeka. Approximately 110 linemen from across the state attended the two, two-day workshops.

"These were the two largest groups we have ever had," said Stacey Marston, LCS&C instructor. "It's great to see so many new linemen coming in to get the training they need. Cooperatives really see value in sending their employees to these workshops."

Attendees received both hands-on training and technical knowledge of transformer and metering installations.

"These workshops were both very well-organized and put together," said



From left: Montana Johnson, Caney Valley; Tyler Rutherford, Prairie Land; and Andy Riggs, Sedgwick County, apply the knowledge learned at the KEC workshop.

Tyler Rutherford, Prairie Land, who attended both workshops.

"Having hands-on training is extremely important. It makes learning easier and is a great way for beginners to get involved."

"The participants that came out to these workshops were fantastic. They were very receptive and showed a lot of interest. They were willing and ready to learn," said instructor Norman McDugle, Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives.

"Not only do the linemen benefit from these workshops, but the communities as well" McDugle continued. "The more knowledge they know, the more they're going to be able to help the community."

Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame nomination sought

Nominations for 2013 are now being accepted for the Kansas Cooperative 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.

Since it was established in 1999, 36 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.

To download the nomination form, visit www.kansasco-op.coop. The nomination deadline is Dec. 3, 2012.



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