

# Rural Power

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## NRECA honors Midwest Energy for energy efficiency program

Midwest Energy was awarded with the NRECA 2012 National Community Service Award for Energy Efficiency on March 5. The cooperative was recognized for its innovative energy efficiency investment program, How\$mart.

For years, Midwest Energy had been providing energy audits to its consumers, making recommendations that were often not followed through. The cooperative identified that there were significant barriers to implementing energy efficiency upgrades for many of its consumers, including the high cost of some of the improvements and lack of incentive for landlords to make improvements for tenants who pay the electric bill.

To overcome these barriers, Midwest Energy devised its How\$mart program. Participating customers receive an energy audit, and Midwest Energy develops a conservation plan for the home. Once customers have chosen which recommendations they would like to implement, Midwest Energy hires the contractor to complete



Midwest Energy is awarded the National Community Service Award. (From left): NRECA CEO Glenn English; Midwest Energy president and general manager Earnie Lehman; Midwest Energy board chairman John Blackwell; NRECA board chairman Mike Guidry.

them and recovers the cost on the consumer's electric bill. The charges to customers for repayment must be less than the customers' savings.

Midwest Energy began implementing its program four years ago, and in that time, the program has received four national recognitions and inspired similar programs in other states. More than 650 homes and businesses have participated in the program,

saving 1.4 million kWh and a net cost of \$65,000 annually, or about \$8 per customer per month even after the repayment charge on the bill.

The program has the added benefits of improving safety of homes and businesses as outdated and unsafe appliances are replaced. In addition, the program provides business for local contractors who install the efficiency upgrades, many of whom are the program's best marketing tools.

To see a video detailing Midwest Energy's program, go to KEC's homepage at [www.kec.org](http://www.kec.org) and click the link at the bottom of the page.

## International Year of Cooperatives featured at NRECA's Annual Meeting

The annual meetings of NRECA, CFC, Federated, NRTC and NISC were held in San Diego, CA, March 5-7. More than 100 representatives from Kansas cooperatives joined nearly 5,000 annual meeting attendees.

Speaking before co-op leaders from around the nation, NRECA's Glenn English focused on the



Audrey Boeken, Rolling Hills, served on the NRECA Youth Leadership Council.

state of the cooperative movement and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The global theme was highlighted in a keynote address by Dame Pauline Green, president of the International Cooperative Alliance, based in England, who spoke about the International Year of Cooperatives.

Roy Spence, CEO of a Texas ad agency, took a domestic focus, emphasizing the need for electric co-ops to recommit to the movement's original mission. Peter Diamandis, founder and CEO of California's X PRIZE Foundation, called for the replacement of traditional thinking and risk aversion—"a company's biggest enemies"—with

*continued on p. 2*



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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## inbrief

### Experts form center to correct misstatements about nuclear energy

Prompted by recent published misstatements about nuclear energy, a group of technical experts have formed the Energy Information Center (EIC) to communicate technically-accurate information about energy issues to the public. Some of the mis-characterizations have been intentionally orchestrated by traditional opponents of nuclear energy. But some stem from honest misunderstandings unintentionally reported in the press.

EIC – 3/15/12

### New Western Energy Corp. acquires 1,700-acre oil and gas lease in Kansas

New Western Energy Corp., an independent energy company engaged in the development, production and exploration of oil, gas and other minerals in North America, announced that it has acquired a 90 percent working interest in the B&W Ranch Oil and Gas Lease in Chautauqua County, KS. According to a 2011 report, there is potential for discovery of three to four oil formations, as well as three to four gas formations throughout the lease.

NWEC – 3/8/12

### David and Susan Barton Cooperative Scholarship

The Arthur Capper Cooperative Center announced a new cooperative scholarship, The David and Susan Barton Cooperative Scholarship. The fund was started by the contributions of CEOs and cooperatives from across the nation as a way to honor Dr. David Barton for his service to the cooperative community. The Scholarship fund will be administered by the ACCC with the other cooperative scholarships.

ACCC – 3/17/12

## co-opcalendar

### APRIL

- 10-12 **National Electric Safety Code (NESC)**, KEC Office, Topeka.
- 17-19 **National Electric Safety Code (NESC)**, Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc., Dodge City.
- 18-19 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, Eisenhower Presidential Library, Abilene.
- 20 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 20 **Line Superintendents Meeting**, Western Sizzlin, Salina.
- 25-27 **KMSDA Meeting**, Hotel Old Town, Wichita.
- 26 **MDM Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
- 29 **NRECA 2012 Grassroots Summit – Legislative Conference**, Washington, D.C.

## annualmeetings

### MARCH

- 24 **Sumner-Cowley**, lunch at 11:30 a.m., meeting at 1 p.m., High School, East U.S. Highway 160, Wellington.
- 27 **Heartland**, meeting at 7 p.m., Ft. Scott Community College, Ellis Family Fine Arts Center, 2108 S. Horton, Fort Scott.
- 27 **Prairie Land**, lunch at noon, meeting at 12:45 p.m., co-op headquarters, 14935 U.S. Hwy 36, Norton.
- 27 **Ninnescah**, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Municipal Building, 117 West Third, Pratt.
- 29 **Radiant**, dinner at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., co-op headquarters, 9346 Jewell Rd, Fredonia.
- 29 **Doniphan**, dinner at 6:30 p.m. meeting at 7:30 p.m., Doniphan West Middle School, Highway 20 East, Denton.
- 30 **Alfalfa**, dinner at 5 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Cherokee High School Gym, 412 E. 5th, Cherokee, OK.

## Highlights from NRECA's Annual Meeting, cont.

innovative thinking and big ideas. The closing general session featured astronaut Mark Kelly, a veteran of four space shuttle missions.

Representing Kansas on the NRECA Youth Leadership Council (YLC) was Audrey Boeken. Sponsored by Rolling Hills and KEC, Boeken joined high school students from 44 other states in assisting with NRECA's annual meeting.

Presentations, handouts and more photos are available at [www.cooperative.com](http://www.cooperative.com).



Clockwise from top: Vicki and Max Ott, Alfalfa, pose with astronaut Mark Kelly; Midwest Energy board members Dale Unruh and Keith Miller; Les Evans, KEPCo, (center) enjoys the CFC break with Don and Agnes Metzen, Sedgwick County; Victory's Terry Janson visits with Bluestem's Mike Morton; and Keith and Charlene Ross, Prairie Land, pose with the Kansas Youth Leadership Council member, Audrey Boeken, Rolling Hills.



## KEC welcomes Gary DePriest

Gary DePriest joined KEC on March 12 as a temporary accounting assistant.

DePriest has been training with KEC's Angela Howard to fill in during her maternity leave later this spring. He will work with accounts payable and revenue billing.

DePriest grew up in Ottawa, KS, and has served as an accountant at various businesses for more than 25 years.

When he's not filling in for businesses in need of a temporary accountant, he enjoys working on his house, working out and playing sports.

He can be reached at KEC at 785-478-4554, or by email at [accounting@kec.org](mailto:accounting@kec.org).



Gary DePriest

## KEC offers CPR and first-aid refresher course for employees

The KEC Loss Control, Safety & Compliance and Apparatus Testing staff renewed their CPR and first-aid certificates in a safety training meeting on March 9th.

The training, held at KEC's headquarters, was geared toward employees who had already completed the initial training. This course concentrated on first-aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and automatic external defibrillation (AED's).

"It's important for all of us to know how to be first-responders," KEC's Larry Detwiler said. "This review helps us learn and practice life-saving techniques."

One new technique that was taught was a hands-only version of CPR.



KEC employees Andy Harris, Chuck Fagan, Roger Kibbee, and Carol Dorr get a refresher on first-aid skills at a workshop on March 9.

"This is taught as an option for those who are concerned about infections, or if personal protective equipment such as one-way resuscitation mask is not available at the rescue scene," explained Detwiler.

The training was conducted by the Kansas Chapter of the American Red Cross. The refresher training for First-aid/CPR/AED is good for two years before training is again required.

## annual meetings

### Nemaha-Marshall

Nemaha-Marshall held its annual meeting on March 6 at the American Legion in Axtell.

Approximately 400 attendees enjoyed lunch catered by Ricky's Cafe.

Re-elected to the board were Merlin Ferking, Larry Donahue, and Tom Niehues.

### Bluestem

Bluestem held its 14th annual meeting on March 12 at the Wamego Middle School in Wamego. Approximately 250 members, trustees, seven scholarship winners, employees and vendors attended the meeting and the vendor-products fair held prior to the meeting.

Trustee elections were conducted by mail ballot last December. Re-elected to the board were Gary Buss, Ervin Gnad, and Bruce Meyer. Newly elected to the board was Harold McCarter.

### Butler

Butler held its annual meeting on

March 15 at Circle High School in Towanda. 192 members were registered and a meal was served to over 400 people.

Shawn Wiebe and John Worrell were re-elected to the Board of Trustees. Richard Pierson did not stand for re-election due to term limits. Kent Webber was elected to fill the vacant position.

Chase Johnson, 2011 Youth Tour participant, spoke to the crowd via recorded video. Other guest speakers included Alyssa Scott, Colorado Energy Camp participant and Steve Parr, KEPCo. Entertainment was provided by the Headliners of Butler County Community College.

### Pioneer

Approximately 152 members and guests attended Pioneer's annual meeting on March 17 at the Grant County Civic Center in Ulysses. A meal was served before the meeting.

Perry Rubart and Alfred Alexander were re-elected to the board. John Jury was newly-elected to the board to

fill the vacancy left when Gene Wright retired.

The membership also voted on a bylaws change regarding capital credit allocations and retirements from G&T cooperatives.

Pioneer Electric and Pioneer Communications Cooperatives jointly hosted a health fair the day of the respective annual meetings.

More than 1,450 complimentary blood profiles were taken during the health fair.

## insympathy

### Don A. Kraus

Don A. Kraus, Flint Hills board member, died March 9. He had served on the Flint Hills board since 2005.

The funeral Mass was held March 13 at St. John Nepomucene Church, Holy Family Parish at Pilsen, and interment was in Marion Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for Fr. Kapaun Fund or the Marion Library, and may be sent to Zeiner Funeral Home, 205 Elm, Marion, KS.

## Alfalfa seeks general manager

Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Cherokee, OK, serves 8,200 consumer-members in southern Kansas and north central Oklahoma. AEC Services, an AEC subsidiary, offers sales, services and installation on gas and electric heating and cooling equipment and geo-thermal heat pumps.

The ideal candidates will show progressively responsible assignments directing engineering, construction, operations, maintenance, finance, financial reporting, accounting, rate making, customer service and overall administration. A Bachelor's degree in accounting, business, economics, engineering or other related fields of study is highly preferred. Previous electric utility experience is preferred. Exposure to the oil and gas industry is a plus.

Candidates will have experience directing organizations similar in size and scope including reporting to or regularly interacting with similar governing bodies or Boards of Directors. Previous experience with multi-state operations is beneficial. Candidates must possess exemplary leadership and interpersonal skills. Success in building credibility with governing bodies, management, staff, front line personnel, legislators, regulators, customers, and the public is essential.

For more information or to apply, contact Kip Moore, Mycoff, Fry & Prouse LLC, 12935 US Highway 285, Conifer, CO 80433; or call (800) 525-9082; or email [kmoore@mfpllc.us](mailto:kmoore@mfpllc.us).

## Highschoolers prepare for Touchstone Energy ElectroRally

Kansas Touchstone Energy is sponsoring an ElectroRally at the North Central Kansas Technical College on April 17.



Student racers line up for the race in Beloit in 2011. This year's Touchstone Energy ElectroRally will return to Beloit on April 17.

The event will allow local high school students to race electric cars that they've built themselves. Each member of the winning team will receive a \$500 scholarship, and each member of the second place team will receive a \$200 scholarship.

Volunteers from local cooperatives will attend the event, which is open to the public and offers a free lunch.

The race will be held in Beloit, and will be the second of three state competitions. The first one will be held at Scott City on April 11, and the final state race will be in Clearwater on May 5. Points will be awarded to teams based

on the best two out of three race placings and a report the teams completed at the beginning of the season

detailing their electric car program. The top three teams will be recognized for each race division. The two divisions are standard and experimental. Both types of cars have to follow national design guidelines, but experimental cars can also incorporate solar panels to recharge the battery.

"There's so much more value to it than a trophy," said Dennis Deines, western manager of member services/compliance.

"The whole program gives students hands-on experience and helps them develop the ability to work as a team, demonstrating the importance of a cooperative effort," Deines said.

## Kansas Member Services Directors Association to meet April 25-27

The KMSDA Spring Meeting will be held April 25-27 at Hotel Old Town in Wichita.

On Wednesday, April 25, NRECA's Megan McKoy-Noe will facilitate a pre-conference workshop on social media.

On Thursday, April 26, the meeting will begin with a welcome by KEC's

Bruce Graham. Also on the agenda is a session on Straight Talk, print design, and sponsor presentations. The business meeting and elections will conclude the agenda on Friday, April 27.

If you have any questions, please contact Shana Read, KEC, at [sread@kec.org](mailto:sread@kec.org) or 785-478-4554.



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