

Rural Power

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Kaw Valley's general manager Dan O'Brien retires

After 32 years of service to the members of Kaw Valley, Dan O'Brien is retiring.

O'Brien came to work for the cooperative in 1979. He began his career at the cooperative as a manager of member services enjoying helping the members.

Ten years later, he applied for the position of general manager. Despite not having any electric cooperative managerial experience, O'Brien was selected by his board from more than 50 applicants.

"He impressed the board with his knowledge of the electric cooperative principles and his passion to make the cooperative the best it could be," said Kaw Valley's board president, Dallas Caster.

Over the past 22 years, O'Brien has managed Kaw Valley with the cooperative's best interests at heart. He created the *Light Talk* publication, and enjoyed keeping the members informed of the ever-changing dynamics in the areas of purchasing and distributing electricity. During his tenure, Kaw Valley grew from approximately five thousand meters in the late 1980's to more than nine thousand meters in 2010.

"It is hard to believe that my career at Kaw Valley is coming to an end," O'Brien said. "I leave Kaw Valley with pride on the accomplishments of the cooperative over the past 32 years. Kaw Valley is fortunate to have a board and employees who are dedicated to the cooperative."



Dan O'Brien was honored with a retirement party by his staff, board, peers and family on March 11 at Kaw Valley.

Kaw Valley's board has named Jerry Manning as O'Brien's successor. Manning began his career with the cooperative 28 years ago as a member services electrician, and has since worked as the member services manager and assistant manager.

"I personally have been fortunate to have worked for 28 years directly with Dan from the first day of my Cooperative career," Manning stated. "I've seen firsthand Dan's steady resolve with all issues the board and cooperative has faced during his tenure as general manager. What Dan has taught me and what I will always remember is that we work for the best

interest of the membership."

At his retirement party on March 11, 2011, the Kaw Valley staff presented O'Brien with a limestone post rock, a "bar tab" to the Spring Creek Golf Course in Seneca, and a scrapbook highlighting his time with Kaw Valley. The board presented him with a gift card to Dick's Sporting Goods.

The retirement party was attended by more than 80 of O'Brien's employees, peers, and family.



Kaw Valley staff presented O'Brien with a limestone post rock as a retirement gift.



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Study: stalled energy projects costing American economy \$1.1 trillion and nearly two million jobs

As part of its Project No Project initiative, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce released a first-of-its-kind study identifying 351 stalled energy projects nationwide that are costing the American economy \$1.1 trillion in GDP and 1.9 million jobs a year that could be created during the construction phase alone. The study estimates the potential loss of investment and jobs in proposed projects that have been delayed or cancelled due to "Not in My Back Yard" activism, a broken permitting process, and a system that allows for limitless lawsuits by opponents. The findings are detailed at www.projectnoproject.com.

US CHAMBER - 3/11/11

New association launched for smart grid and demand response professionals

The Demand Response Coordinating Committee announced that it is changing its structure and will now provide as a professional membership society. Reflecting this new focus, the DRCC has changed its name to the Association for Demand Response & Smart Grid (ADS).

ADS - 3/14/11

FPL unveils world's first hybrid solar energy center

Florida Power & Light Company celebrated the first hybrid solar power plant in the world. Spanning 500 acres in Florida, the hybrid facility connects a field of more than 190,000 solar thermal mirrors with an existing combined-cycle natural gas power plant. Innovative technology enables the mirrors to track the sun over the course of a day to harness the sun's rays to directly offset the use of fossil fuels.

FPL - 3/7/11

MARCH

- 18 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 23-24 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting.** Marriott Courtyard, Salina.
- 31 **MDM Meeting.** KEC Headquarters, Topeka.

APRIL

- 15 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 20-21 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 22 **Line Superintendents Meeting.** Western Sizzlin, Salina.
- 28 **MDM Meeting.** KEC Headquarters, Topeka.

annualmeetings

MARCH

- 21 **Lyon-Coffey,** dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Burlington High School, 830 Cross Street, Burlington.
- 22 **Prairie Land,** lunch at Noon, meeting at 12:45 p.m., co-op headquarters, 14935 U.S. Hwy 36, Norton.
- 24 **Doniphan,** dinner at 6:30 p.m. meeting at 7:30 p.m., Doniphan West School, Highway 20 East, Denton.
- 25 **Rolling Hills,** dinner at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. NCK Technical School Gym, 3033 U.S. Highway 24, Beloit.
- 26 **Pioneer,** meeting at 10 a.m., lunch at 12 p.m., Civic Center, 1000 W. Patterson Avenue, Ulysses.
- 29 **Ninnescah,** dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Municipal Building, 117 West Third, Pratt.
- 29 **Heartland,** meeting at 7 p.m., Ft. Scott Community College, Ellis Family Fine Arts Center, 2108 S. Horton, Fort Scott.

upcomingtraining

Three trustee training courses offered at KEC summer meeting

KEC will offer two Board Leadership courses and one Certified Cooperative Director (CCD) course at its summer board meeting in Overland Park, KS, July 30-31.

On Saturday, July 30, trustees will have their choice between the CCD course or a Board Leadership course.

NRECA's Bob Patton will facilitate the CCD course **2620.1 Board Roles and Relationships.** The success of the cooperative is based on its ability to nurture and maintain effective relationships with consumers, community leaders, media, public officials, and others. This course explains how the director and the full board each play a key role in developing plans and in implementing actions to maintain and manage these relationships.

Also on July 30, NRECA's Greg Boudreaux will facilitate the Board Leadership course **945.1 Under Scrutiny: The Board's Role in the Age of the Internet, Consumer Activism and Transparency.** Everything that the board or the organization does sends a

message. Directors must be prepared to deal with increased scrutiny from members, the public, news media, legislators, regulators and others. This scrutiny can come from any direction, and a failure to address it only produces more. This course will help directors discuss and analyze how to best position their system at a time of public demands for accountability, ethics and transparency.

On Sunday, July 31, Boudreaux will facilitate the Board Leadership course **902.1 Understanding the Role of the Board Chair.** Board chairs have a critical role in leading the board. They must work closely with the CEO to ensure that meetings are well organized and focused on strategic issues. They must maintain order while encouraging group participation, help the board make good decisions at a time of increasing industry complexity, must ensure that the board remains unified even when directors have differing opinions.

Registration information will be sent to the member cooperatives as we near the meeting dates.

Highlights from NRECA's 2011 Annual Meeting

The annual meetings of NRECA, CFC, Federated, NRTC and NCSC were held in Orlando, FL, March 3-9. Approximately 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 gave his outlook on the future of energy in the U.S. and how grassroots action must serve as a foundation for the success of our rural electric systems.

Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack delivered a message about the current administration and how electric cooperatives fit into our nation's future. Scott Pelley, "60 Minutes" investigative reporter offered inspiring stories via a multi-media trip around the world.

Representing Kansas on the NRECA Youth Leadership Council (YLC) is Melinda Becker. Sponsored by Prairie Land and KEC, Becker 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.



(Clockwise from top): Melinda Becker, sponsored by Prairie Land and KEC, served as the Kansas representative to the NRECA Youth Leadership Council at the NRECA Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL. Dallas and Patty Lawrence, Alfalfa, attend the First General Session. Scott Whittington (left) and Mark Doebele (right), Lyon-Coffey, visit before the session. Fred and Ann Claassen, Pioneer, visit with the Kansas YLC Melinda Becker. Charlene and Keith Ross, Prairie Land, pose backstage with country singer Clint Black.

KMSDA offers training at spring meeting

The Kansas Member Services Directors Association 2011 Spring Meeting will be held March 30 through April 1, and will be at the Home-wood Suites in Wichita.

On Wednesday, March 30, Jennifer Rowe, an associate professor at the University of Missouri, will facilitate a preconference workshop on sharpening editing skills and on design principles. Registration for this workshop is required, and lunch is included. Cost is \$50 for KMSDA members and \$100 for non-KMSDA members. All cooperative employees are invited to attend.

On Thursday, March

31, the meeting will begin with an update on legislative issues by Sunflower's Clare Gustin. This presentation will be followed by an introduction to the new KEC Grassroots Program. Also on the agenda is a session on Safe Electricity by Molly Hall, and a session on technology for member home & usage.

A short business meeting and officer elections will conclude the meeting on Friday, April 1.

If you have any questions, or would like to attend the KMSDA Spring Meeting, please contact Shana Read, KEC, at sread@kec.org or 785-478-4554.

Lane-Scott junior board visits wind farm



Front row from left: Chad Myers, John Clark, Sarah Mulville, Alyssa Scheuerman and CJ Shaffer. Back row from left: Rebecca Campbell, Dar-rick York, Austin Vieux and Westar's Rick Mastell.

Lane-Scott's Junior Board of Trustees traveled to Central Plains Wind Farm near Merinthal last semester.

General manager Earl Steffens and employee Rebecca Campbell escorted the students, who were then greeted by Rick Mastell, Westar Energy's site manager. Mastell educated the youth about the 99-megawatt facility. The students were also given an opportunity to go into the base of one of the turbines.

Brown-Atchison

Brown-Atchison held its annual meeting on February 24th at the cooperatives headquarters in Horton. In attendance were more than 100 registered members and their families who were served a meal.

Les Evans of KEPCo spoke on power supply issues and Shana Read of KEC spoke on the "Our Energy, Our Future" campaign.

James Buttron, Kevin Compton and Gary Schlaegel were elected as trustees of the cooperative for 2011.



Brown-Atchison linemen serve lunch to the membership at the annual meeting in Horton.

Nemaha-Marshall

Nemaha-Marshall held its annual meeting on March 1st at the American Legion building in Axtell.

In attendance were 334 people who were served a meal before the meeting. Stuart Lowry spoke to the group about the KEC grassroots advocacy campaign.

The 2010 youth tour participants, Emily Cox of Sabetha, who attended the DC trip; and Michelle Peschel of Axtell, who attended camp, spoke about their experiences.

Robert Rottinghaus, Galen Bauman

and Robert Voet were re-elected to the board.

Bluestem

Approximately 240 members and guests attended Bluestem's 13th annual meeting on March 14th in Clay Center. A vendor-products fair was held prior to the meeting. Steve Parr from KEPCo and Dave Holthaus from KEC were guest speakers at the meeting.

Trustee elections were conducted by mail ballot last December. Re-elected were Alice Kimble, Don Sutter and Dan Pollock. William E. Pannbacker was elected replacing Dale Keesecker. Keesecker had served on the C&W board

from 1970 to 1998 and then on the initial Bluestem board from 1999 to 2011 for a combined total of forty years of service.



The Nemaha-Marshall annual meeting drew a large crowd for lunch in Axtell.

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 state-wide. Find our fan pages at www.facebook.com by searching for Kansas Electric Cooperatives.



jobmarket

Central Wyoming cooperative seeks journeyman

High Plains Power has an immediate opening for a qualified journeyman lineman. Requirements include a HS Diploma/GED, successful completion of an apprenticeship program, involving a minimum of four years line experience in OH/UG electric distribution including all phases of line construction, maintenance, and troubleshooting. Valid

Class A CDL with excellent driving record required.

Compensation: \$30.99/hour and excellent benefit package. Technical skills testing and a drug screen required. Applications will be accepted until March 25. To request an application, call HR at 307-856-9426 or email mamhpp@wyoming.com. EOE.



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