

# Rural Power

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## Kansas youth delegates visit legislators on Capitol Hill

Students from across Kansas traveled to Washington D.C., to meet government officials and visit national memorials as part of the 51st Annual Kansas electric cooperatives' "Government in Action" Youth Tour.

Thirty-four Kansas delegates participated in the week-long tour during June 9-16. The students began their trip touring the state capitol in Topeka followed by visits to Wolf Creek and Lyon-Coffey before flying to Washington, D.C.

The group learned about the U.S. government through visits with Senator Jerry Moran, Congressmen Tim Huelskamp and Mike Pompeo and Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins, and tours of museums, Capitol Hill and Arlington National Cemetery.

"I liked talking with our Congress members and being able to hear their opinions on certain issues," said Dylan Geiger, sponsored by Brown-Atchison. "I enjoyed seeing all of the historic sites and learning about their importance."

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 wrote essays or were interviewed by a panel of judges.

Since 1960, Kansas' electric cooperatives have sponsored the trips of thousands of high



Senator Jerry Moran visits with the Kansas youth tour delegates at the U.S. Capitol on June 14.

school juniors and seniors to visit U.S. congressional members, energy and grassroots government education sessions and sightseeing in Washington, D.C.

"My favorite part of youth tour was the evening tour of the memorials," said Rolling Hills' Audry Boeken. "It was so amazing to see them with the lights! I feel that touring them at night made more of an impact on me."

Boeken was chosen to be the 2011 Youth Leadership Council representative for Kansas, and will participate in NRECA's annual meeting in San Diego, CA, in 2012.

For more information or to see photos of this year's youth tour, go to [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop).

## Thompson takes seat on Cooperative Finance Corporation board of directors

Kirk Thompson, general manager of CMS, took his position on the board of directors of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) at its annual meeting on March 7, in Orlando, FL. Thompson was elected to the board at the CFC District Meeting in Denver last fall.

Following an orientation in April, the board had its first meeting in May. Thompson was appointed to the Audit and the Corporate

Relations committees. The next board meeting is in July.

"It is an honor to serve on the CFC Board, representing the member-owners of District 7. I am looking forward



Kirk Thompson

to working with the other Board members from across the country," Thompson said.

Thompson has served as general manager of CMS Electric Cooperative since 1991. He also serves as board president for KEPCo, board president for High Plains Energy LLC, and is an alternate board member for KEC.

CFC is governed by a democratically elected, 23-member board of directors. The board is elected from 11 geographically defined districts in the United States and one at-large position.

Directors are elected for a three-year term and can serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.



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## inbrief

**DOE announces \$70 million to reduce geothermal costs**

DOE announced the availability of up to \$70 million in new funding over three years for technology advancements in geothermal energy to accelerate development of this promising clean energy resource. By targeting funding to research and develop innovative technologies, the Department aims to reduce the upfront cost of geothermal energy systems, expand their use, and enable the United States to tap the huge potential of this renewable energy resource.

DOE - 6/9/11

**Carbon capture technology deployed at coal-fired plant**

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America, Inc. announced the start of operations of a 25 Megawatt carbon capture facility owned and operated by Alabama Power. This facility is the world's largest Carbon Capture and Sequestration facility attached to a coal-fired power plant. It will capture approximately 150,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually for permanent underground storage.

MITSUBISHITODAY.COM -  
6/14/11**FPL demolishes 1960s-era stacks and boilers for high-efficiency plant**

After serving Floridians for almost half a century, two 300-foot-tall stacks and 7,500-ton boilers at Florida Power & Light Company's power plant were taken down in preparation for the construction of FPL's Next Generation Clean Energy Center. Scheduled to open in 2014, the power plant will use high-efficiency, combined-cycle natural gas technology to produce up to 1,250 megawatts of electricity. FPL is investing more than \$1 billion to build the new facility.

FPL - 6/20/11

**JUNE**28-30 **2011 Safety Conference**, Hilton President Hotel, 1329 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO.**JULY**13-14 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.15 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.28 **MDM Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.30-AUGUST 1 **KEC Summer Board Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park.**AUGUST**4-5 **Material Managers Meeting**, Hyatt Regency, Wichita.17-18 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, Hyatt Regency, Wichita.19 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.25 **MDM Meeting**, Salina.**KCC Leadership Roundtable and K-State Symposium**

Electric cooperative trustees and employees are invited to attend the Kansas Cooperative Council's Leadership Roundtable on Monday, Aug. 29, and the K-State Symposium on Tuesday, Aug. 30.

The cost to attend the roundtable is \$50, which included materials and an evening reception. The cost to attend the symposium is \$145, which includes materials and lunch.

This educational program addresses two of the key issues facing cooperatives today, social technology and cooperative financial strategies.

On Aug. 29, the KCC will present the Leadership Roundtable focusing on social technology and media. Social technology and social media will be defined, useful strategies on how to incorporate social media into your business will be given and case studies on how cooperatives and producers are using social media will be presented. Strategies for monitoring social media sites and managing your business reputation will be highlighted as well.

The day concludes with a retirement reception honoring the service of Dr. David Barton to the cooperative community. Dr. Barton is stepping down from his full-time faculty position after 35 years and from his appointment as Director of the The Arthur Capper Cooperative Center (ACCC) for the last 27 years. He is moving to a part-time position and Emeritus status.

On Aug. 30, the K-State Symposium will focus on describing sound financial strategies for cooperative businesses and introducing newer innovative strategies that have been proven effective. These strategies include income distribution alternatives and equity redemption alternatives coordinated using balance sheet management. One new strategy is how to best capture the benefits of Section 199 based on your co-op's unique situation. Many unusual and interesting financial strategies are being proposed by so-called "experts" but some are ineffective, even dangerous. Come learn what works and what doesn't work based on the best research and best implementation experience.

Also, the new ACCC Director, Dr. Brian Briggeman, will share his vision for the ACCC's future educational programs during the lunch session.

These joint programs will be held at the K-State Alumni Center in Manhattan. Registration is now open at: <http://www.agecon.ksu.edu/accc/symposform.htm>. The meeting registration deadline is Aug. 16 for both programs. Room blocks under the "K-State Symposium" have been made at both the Holiday Inn, 785-539-7531, and the Clarion Hotel, 785-539-5311.

For more information, call Seise Barrett, ACCC educational program manager, at 785-532-1522 or email [sbarrett@ksu.edu](mailto:sbarrett@ksu.edu).

## DS&O signs franchise agreement with City of Lindsborg

On June 6, DS&O signed a franchise agreement with the City of Lindsborg. This agreement ended a feud that had spanned two decades between the cooperative and the city.

"The city came to us after all these years and asked us to submit a franchise," said DS&O's manager Don Hellwig. "After 20 years of fighting with them, we're now a partner with them."

This 10-year franchise will allow DS&O to continue serving all of its members. Before it was signed, Lindsborg could annex areas served by DS&O into its city limits and refuse to let DS&O operate in the newly-annexed area. Lindsborg has its own municipal utility, so it uses its own power system and employees to provide energy for the area within city limits.

DS&O does not expect the change to have much of a short-term affect on its members, impacting only one or two households. According to Hellwig, it should have a long-term benefit for the cooperative.

"It will keep us from getting smaller," said Hellwig. "It will keep the City from taking our members away

from us through annexation."

Because the franchise protects the area already served by DS&O, it will impact what Hellwig estimates to be a few hundred members in the long term as the City of Lindsborg grows.

The Lindsborg City Council's unanimous decision to grant the franchise was a long time in the making.

Four years ago, DS&O sued Lindsborg for failing to grant a franchise under state law. The case is back in district court.

In 2004, the electric

cooperatives in Kansas asked the state legislature to change the annexation statutes. They cited the City of Lindsborg as an example of why change was needed. DS&O had also been refused a franchise by Salina but succeeded just a few years ago in obtaining a franchise with Junction City to serve the troops entering the new area at Fort Riley.

After DS&O submitted the franchise proposal to Lindsborg, there were a few months spent working out the technical issues.

Finally, DS&O has the comfort of knowing that its members will continue to remain its own.

**After 20 years of fighting with them, we're now a partner with them.**

**DON HELLWIG  
DS&O GENERAL MANAGER**

## Shelby Brokaw joins KEC

Shelby Brokaw, a journalism student at the University of Missouri, recently joined KEC as the Communications Intern.

Brokaw is originally from Silver Lake

and is served by Kaw Valley. Her first encounter with KEC was as a participant in the "Government in Action" Youth Tour in high school. This summer, she will



Shelby Brokaw

assist the communications staff in preparation for that tour. She will also help produce the Kansas Country Living magazine, create various designs, and partake in other projects.

"When I discovered the Communications Internship at KEC, I jumped on the opportunity. I know from experience that KEC is a company that cares about its employees and its mission. I'm really excited about the variety of projects I will be able to complete as an intern," she said.

Brokaw fell in love with journalism and communications in high school. At MU, she designs regularly for the student newspaper. Next year, she will be the webmaster for the Mizzou Ballroom Dance Club and a member of the marketing committee for the student government.

"This experience will definitely help me in the future," said Brokaw. "It will help me as I take on greater responsibilities on campus. It will help me as I decide what type of journalism to make into a career. It will even help me after my time at MU."

## jobmarket

### Wyoming cooperative seeks general manager

Niobrara Electric Assoc. is seeking qualified candidates to replace the general manager who will retire at the end of the year.

The board seeks candidates with management experience including such areas as finance, planning, communications, operations and board relations. The successful candidate should have at least a Bachelor's degree, be a community leader, have excellent communication skills, and show a strong commitment to teamwork. Knowledge in the Wyoming, Nebraska and South Dakota electric industry is preferred.

Candidates should submit a resume along with three professional references and salary expectations by July 30 to

Skavdahl & Edmund Law Office, PO Box 156, Harrison, NE 69346. For more information, call 308-668-2466 or email selaw@qwestoffice.net.

### Wisconsin co-op seeks director of operations

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative (SREC), headquartered in Lancaster, WI seeks a qualified director of operations. View complete position listing here: [http://www.jobtarget.com/c/job.cfm?site\\_id=227&jb=8138109](http://www.jobtarget.com/c/job.cfm?site_id=227&jb=8138109).

Submit cover letter, resume and post-high school transcripts by email to [hpierce@srec.net](mailto:hpierce@srec.net), or mail to Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative ATTN: H. Pierce, 231 N. Sheridan St., Lancaster, WI 53813. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. EOE.

## insympathy

### Darlene Hellwig Sinclair

Darlene Hellwig Sinclair, the mother of DS&O's Don Hellwig, passed away on June 1. The funeral was held on June 4 in Oswego.

Memorials may be sent to St. Paul's Lutheran Church c/o Derfelt Funeral Home, 203 Illinois, Oswego, KS 66735.

# KEC assists Nebraska public power district with hot line safety

In mid-May, KEC loss control, safety & compliance director Larry Detwiler and instructor Stacy Marston traveled to Grand Island, NE, to participate in a hot line school. They were accompanied by Kaw Valley lead lineman John Burton.

The school was conducted for Southern Public Power District that serves south central Nebraska. The PPD invited Detwiler, Marston and Burton as instructors, as they do annually.

Linemen of all experience levels attended the hot line school, which guided the linemen through the proper techniques for working on high voltage lines over a two and a half day period.

The instructors talked about proper personal equipment, safe attire, grounding of equipment, how to use new technology properly, and a variety of other topics.



Back row from left: Stacey Marston, KEC; John Burton, Kaw Valley; and Larry Detwiler, KEC; teach the annual hot line school at Southern PPD in Nebraska.

“There’s no classroom work,” said Detwiler. “It’s all out in the field, doing hands-on work.”

In addition to sending its representatives to Nebraska, KEC also hosts its own annual hot line school. Rather than serving as the invited instructors, KEC invites instructors from throughout Kansas.

They utilize the vo-tech schools in Manhattan and Pratt. These schools already have the lines and equipment necessary.

Detwiler, who has helped with the hot line schools for almost 20 years and attended them when he was a lineman himself, noted his appreciation for the contribution of this equipment.

“This is one of the schools that we couldn’t put on without the assistance of our member systems providing instructors and equipment,” Detwiler said. “I think that’s important.”

## Rolling Hills storm recovery



Ellsworth linemen work in flood waters, replacing power poles after receiving seven inches of rain from a spring storm.

## Norman announces retirement, Wheatland begins manager search

After 33 years of service, Wheatland’s general manager, Neil Norman, has announced his retirement at the end of 2011.

“I have enjoyed working alongside the board and employees on our members’ behalf for the past 33 years,” Norman said. “I started as an electrical engineer in 1978, moved to the director of operations position in 1987 upon the retirement of Andrew Flower and then to the manager’s position in 1990 when Lewis Mitchell retired.”

Norman pointed out that Wheatland has had only four general managers since beginning business in 1948.

“These managers were Frank Arthur, Bill Dobson, Lewis Mitchell, and myself,” Norman explained.

Ken Holmes, NRECA’s executive search consultant, has been hired to assist the Wheatland board in finding the cooperative’s fifth manager. Applications will be accepted through mid-September. Holmes and the board will then screen qualified candidates and will offer the finalists an interview in November.

“I wish the company continued success as in providing electricity, water, Internet services and USDA Rural Development loans and grants,” Norman said.



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