

# Rural Power

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## Summer Board Meeting will feature KEC Auxiliary Silent Auction

The KEC Auxiliary invites creative donations for their first silent auction to be held in conjunction with the KEC Summer Board Meeting in Overland Park on Aug. 5. The Auxiliary raises funds to support KEC's youth programs, specifically the "Government in Action" Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, CO.

"Be imaginative," said Carol Dorr, KEC staff liaison to the KEC Auxiliary. "We hope that each electric co-op in Kansas, as well as individuals, will contribute an item or two for the auction."

These items will be displayed during the KEC Summer Board Meeting. Bidding will open at 8 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 5 and close at 1:30 p.m. Winners will be announced at the close of the KEC Auxiliary program and at the end of the Summer Board Meeting later that afternoon.

"We hope that people will consider donating items that will generate a bidders' interest and that everyone attending will participate in bidding on favorite items," Dorr said.

Items can be delivered to the Overland Park Marriott prior to the start of the KEC Summer Board Meeting.

"Every dollar raised will help the KEC youth programs," Dorr explained. "The KEC Auxiliary donates a specific amount each year to each Kansas youth to help offset costs associated with activities."

In the past, the Auxiliary has sponsored the Kansas students to attend theater events or a nice meal during the youth events.

Other activities at the Summer Board Meeting include training courses for directors. On Sat., Aug. 3, Wallace Barron will facilitate the CCD Course 2610 Understanding the Electric Business and Jody Severson will facilitate the Board Leadership Course 913 Cooperative Foundations: Co-op Legacy, Principles and Impact on Communities. On Sun., Aug. 4, Wallace Barron will also facilitate the Board Leadership Course 955 Your Board's Culture: Its Impact on Effectiveness. KEC's Carrie Kimberlin will offer BoardPaq instruction Sunday afternoon. That evening, there will be a dinner theater performance of the *Buddy Holly Story*.

The KEC Summer Board Meeting agenda and the KEC Auxiliary Program and silent auction will follow on Mon., Aug 5.

## Former youth tour winner elected as 2013-2014 Kansas State FFA President

Lindy Bilberry, a participant in the 2012 Washington, D.C. youth tour sponsored by Victory Electric Cooperative, was recently elected as the Kansas State FFA President.

After three days of interviews, tests and public speaking demonstrations, Bilberry was elected from among 14 candidates to serve the more than 8,000 Kansas FFA members as their 2013-2014 president.

"This goes to prove the level of talent and leadership all of our current and former youth tour students possess," said Terry Janson, Victory CEO. "The purpose



The passing of the gavel to the newly-elected Kansas State FFA President, Lindy Bilberry (left), who participated in the 2012 "Government in Action" Youth Tour.

of the youth tour program is to recognize leadership potential and to foster those skills."

Bilberry said that Youth Tour encouraged her to open her mind to other leadership possibilities.

"At the time, I didn't realize the impact the trip would have on my life," Bilberry said. "Now I look back and know I was able to experience something that

changed my whole outlook on life. Youth Tour helped me gain a perspective of the big picture. I experienced a different place and different people. I realized I wanted to step up and make a difference."



A Taste of Kansas Cooperatives

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## Seven-year study details wind power affect on greater prairie chickens

Wind power development does not ruffle the feathers of greater prairie chicken populations, according to the results of a seven-year study from a Kansas State University ecologist and his team.

The researchers – led by Brett Sandercock, professor of biology – discovered that wind turbines have little effect on greater prairie chickens, and that these grassland birds are more affected by rangeland management practices and by the availability of native prairie and vegetation cover at nest sites. Unexpectedly, the scientists also found that female survival rates increased after wind turbines were installed.

SCIENCE DAILY – 7/10/13

## jobmarket

### Lyon-Coffey seeks member service representative

Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative is seeking a full-time member service representative at its Burlington office to build and strengthen member relations.

Must have a thorough knowledge and technical understanding of electrical energy. Will provide assistance to members regarding energy use, technical advice and written materials. Will advise members of co-op service programs. Will respond and resolve member inquiries and complaints. Will develop, research and prepare educational programs for local schools and civic groups.

Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree, or related experience and training, or equivalent combination of education and experience.

View a complete position description at [www.lyon-coffey.coop](http://www.lyon-coffey.coop). Deadline to apply is Aug. 2. Resumes can be submitted by mail at Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 229, Burlington, KS 66839-0229 or by email to [hr@lyon-coffey.coop](mailto:hr@lyon-coffey.coop).

## JULY

31 **MDM Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.

## AUGUST

3-5 **KEC Summer Board Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Overland Park, Kansas

14-15 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

16 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays

22 **MDM Meeting**, Salina

23 **KCRE Golf Tournament**, Salina

## SEPTEMBER

2 **Labor Day**, KEC Office Closed

10 **KEC Legislative Committee Meeting**, 9:30 a.m. – Noon, Marriott Courtyard, 3020 Riffel Drive, Salina

10 **KEC Strategic Planning Committee Meeting**, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., Marriott Courtyard, 3020 Riffel Drive, Salina

10-12 **KEC Hotline School – Pratt Community College/Vo-Tech**, Pratt

17-19 **KEC Hotline School – Manhattan Vo-Tech**, Manhattan

18-19 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

## 17th annual KCRE golf tournament to be held in Salina

On Aug. 23, co-op trustees, managers and suppliers will tee up for the 17th annual Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) golf tournament at the Salina Municipal Golf Course.

The fundraiser will begin with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. The registration fee per player this year is \$65. The tournament usually draws in about 130 participants to support KCRE, a political action committee that raises funds to support candidates' campaigns.

"KCRE is very important to legislators, as it allows them to build effective campaigns and hopefully support electric cooperative ideals once they are in office," said KCRE Secretary Treasurer Kirk Thompson.

The annual golf tournament is run by co-op managers volunteering their

time, and it accounts for about one half of KCRE's annual funding. The other half comes from a silent auction and annual membership dues.

"Each KCRE member taking part in this tournament, whether through the organizing, golfing, hole or green sponsorships, and the beverage cart drivers is appreciated and their contribution will insure a successful event," said Dave Holthaus, KEC staff liaison to KCRE.

The KCRE donations are important to candidates who are running for Kansas offices to assist them in getting their campaign message out to voters. No KCRE dollars are used for meals, entertainment or gifts.

To sponsor a hole, donate prizes, or play in the tournament, call Kirk Thompson at 620-873-2184.

### The REC Managers' Association elects new officers

The REC Managers' Association held its spring meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita on June 13-14.

During the business session, the following officers were elected: President - Earnie Lehman, Midwest Energy; Vice President - Ron Holsteen, Twin Valley; and Secretary-Treasurer - Kathleen O'Brien, Nemaha-Marshall.

The next meeting will be held at the Country Inn and Suites in the Legends area in Kansas City, KS, on Sept. 13. A golf outing is scheduled for Sept. 12.

### Lane-Scott holds annual meeting

Lane-Scott's annual meeting was held on July 19 at the Lane County Fairgrounds. A crowd of more than 500 guests were served a meal by Stan Hoss BBQ of Ness City.

Incumbents Rad Roehl, Eric Doll, and Bruce Wilkens, were re-elected to the board.

Speakers included Ed Wiltse, General Manager; Kyle Nelson, Sunflower's Senior Vice President and COO; and youth tour winners Michael Wehkamp and Ruth Hair.

Free carnival rides and door prizes were enjoyed by the crowd.

## Sumner-Cowley headquarters celebrates 55 years

Sumner-Cowley Electric Cooperative's headquarters turns 55 this summer.

The co-op has had three homes since first opening in 1938. The first office was located on Harvey St. in Wellington. In Jan. 1941, less than two years after becoming energized, the office moved to Lincoln St., and added a warehouse in 1945. The co-op then employed seven full-time employees before growth was halted due to World War II. The decade following was a period of expansion and membership increased from 939 in Jan. 1945 to 2,732 in Sept. 1957.

Due to the increased membership, the co-op also needed to grow. The Board purchased a vacant site in north Wellington. In May 1958, the new headquarters became a workplace to nine office personnel and three linemen. The building received an update 41 years later in July 1999 with new offices, a board room, additional parking and warehouse space, and a drive-through for members. The co-op now serves 4,377 members with 1,975 miles of line.

## Prairie Land's Gladys Harper to retire after 51 years

Gladys Harper, a fixture at Prairie Land for more than half a century, is retiring after 51 years. The Billing Supervisor will retire Jan. 2014.

A native Nebraskan, Harper has lived in Norton with her husband, Leroy, for more than 50 years and considers Norton home.

"We've always lived here," Harper said. "I've enjoyed working so much I didn't want to quit."

In Harper's half-century of experience she's seen many changes. With Prairie Land's acquisition of Aquila in 2005, it gained more than 15 thousand members as well as a number of new employees.

"There weren't near as many employees then. Prairie Land is pretty big now," Harper said.

Harper has worked through massive changes in technology. When she started working for Prairie Land at 27 years old, Harper used billing booklets



Gladys Harper

filled out by members with their meter readings to figure out bill amounts.

"We didn't have computers or copiers," Harper recalls. "It's probably more work now when you think about it, but it's easier to do."

Harper has accepted and flowed with many changes throughout the years. She's been present as Prairie Land moved to a new facility and powered up its first computer.

"There were a lot of changes, but it has worked out really well," Harper said.

And although she will retire soon, Harper knows there are still more changes coming for the electric co-ops in Kansas.

"Each co-op will probably get bigger and bigger with more consolidations due to the economy and such," Harper said.

Prairie Land employees know Harper for her willingness to flow through all the changes, as well as her famous peanut brittle. Her recipe is no secret though; it's on the back of the peanuts she uses.

"I make it real thin, most people like it that way," Harper said.

## Midwest Energy creates job shadowing program for employees

Sharon Dreher, Midwest Energy, Inc.'s, Vice President of Administrative Services, has created a job shadowing program that will be implemented within Midwest Energy.

The job shadowing has two purposes—one is that it will be an opportunity for all employees to gain a better understanding of Midwest Energy and the different areas, and the second is to educate employees about various career fields located within the cooperative.

"The idea came up after visiting about our retirements," Dreher said. "It is easier to promote someone within because of their knowledge of Midwest Energy already, than to find somebody in the job market who will have to be trained on everything."

To participate in the program, the employee wishing to shadow will complete a form requesting whom they wish to job shadow. The request is then approved by both the supervisor and Human Resources, then it is coordinated with both employees and the

shadowing begins.

During the job shadowing, each employee is provided a list of questions. These questions include what a typical day is like, whether they enjoy their job, and what is rewarding about the job.

"These questions are a good way to get the job shadowing started and lead the employees on the right track on what to talk about," Dreher said.

The employee can spend no more than eight hours job shadowing. Once the shadowing is completed, the employee completes a form on what they learned and their impressions of the position.

"I think it will benefit Midwest Energy because some of the positions are more technical and the job market is harder to attract. Current employees will learn about jobs they want to move into instead of waiting until the job comes open later," Dreher said. "This will give them a heads up on what is needed for the job, or if other qualifications are needed to be able to fill the position."

## LJEC installs diesel generators

LJEC recently installed two 1,000 kW diesel generators; one at the Stranger substation northeast of Tonganoxie, and the other at the Springdale substation northeast of McLouth. These generators were installed to help reduce its power requirements during peak use hours.

The LJEC Board of Directors and management had researched ways of reducing its peak load, and diesel powered generators seemed the most financially viable of the options.

"When considering the cost of installation, operation and ongoing maintenance, and the potential savings for the cooperative, these generators can pay for themselves in just four years," said Steve Foss, LJEC's General Manager.



This 1,000 kW diesel generator is one of two generators recently installed by LJEC.



# Kansas students attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Colorado

Kansas electric cooperatives sent 32 high school students to join youth from Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 13-19, near Steamboat Springs, CO.

While in Colorado, the students learned about co-ops by creating a “candy cooperative.” When the students arrived at camp, they paid membership dues, established a board of trustees and selected a general manager who held daily membership meetings.

At the end of the week, the group decided how to handle their profit margins. The students earned a \$194

margin from their co-op canteen. Rather than receive a capital credit refund, they made donations to the Tourette Syndrome Foundation and the Muscular Dystrophy Association Foundation. There were students who attended camp this year with these disabilities.

“One thing I took away from this experience was learning how to improve myself as a leader by helping and understanding others,” said Kelsey Willits, sponsored by LJEC. “I truly understand what the word *cooperative* means now.”

The campers also took part in a legislative simulation, a high voltage

safety demonstration and a competition to build a model transmission line from craft supplies. They also toured the Craig Power Plant and Trapper Mine.

“The fact that I got to see how power is made was what affected me the most,” said Lauren Sargent, sponsored by Lane-Scott. “We tend to take that for granted, and it really put things in perspective.”

During camp, the youth from the four states chose six of their peers to return in 2014 as ambassadors. Elected to return to camp next year from Kansas are Nick Meyer, Flint Hills, and Lara Brockway, DS&O.



Students from Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming attended the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp this month near Steamboat Springs, CO.

A decorative header section featuring several small images. On the left, there is a vertical image of a power line tower. In the center, there is a larger image of a group of people standing in front of a building, possibly a government or institutional building. On the right, there is a square image of a sunflower. The background of this section is a light green color with a subtle pattern.

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