

Rural Power

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Colin Whitley selected as new Alfalfa general manager

Colin Whitley was recently selected as the new general manager and CEO of Alfalfa Electric Cooperative in Cherokee, OK. He started his new position on July 1, 2012.

Whitley has extensive experience working in the electric utility industry. He earned an electrical engineering degree from Oklahoma State University. More than 13 years ago, Whitley moved from Iowa to Winfield, KS, to become director of the city's electric utility. Two years later he added direction of the water utility to his list of duties. In 2007, Whitley became the general manager of the Kansas Power Pool, an organization of municipal power providers he helped form. He served in that position until accepting the job at Alfalfa.

"Kansas Power Pool serves cities instead of electric cooperatives," explained Whitley. The KPP provides wholesale power to 33 municipalities, which Whitley said was comparable to Alfalfa's service area. "Some of the cities are small, but they are an important part of the



Colin Whitley

system."

Both Whitley and his wife, Jackie, are natives to Oklahoma. They have been married for 32 years and have four sons – Graham, 26, of Winfield, KS, is the father of the only grandson, Taite. Ian, 21, attends Oklahoma Wesleyan University in Bartlesville pursuing a Master's Degree. Sons Marshall, 17, and Conner, 15, are both homeschooled and enrolled in courses at Northwest Technology Center.

The Whitley's have a tradition of camping and canoeing. "I enjoy bird hunting--primarily quail, but ducks and geese as well," Whitley said. He also spends his leisure time woodworking and getting to know his new area.

"We've visited various tourist attractions on the weekends. The Sod House was very interesting and we anticipate a future trip to Alabaster Caverns. People are friendly – some are now introducing us into the world of equestrian pleasure. Riding horses could become a new family hobby."

Scott Whittington elected to CoBank board of directors

Lyon-Coffey manager

Scott Whittington was recently elected to a four-year term for the Mid-Plains region on the CoBank board of directors.

CoBank, a cooperative bank serving agribusinesses, rural infrastructure providers and Farm Credit associations throughout the United States, announced the results of shareholder elections in September.



Scott Whittington

"I appreciate the support I received throughout this process, and I will work hard to represent the members of the Mid-Plains region," Whittington said.

A total of nine seats on the board were open this

year due to the transition to the new governance structure adopted as part of the bank's recently closed merger with U.S. AgBank. The board will now have a total of 24 elected directors from six regions, as well as between three and five appointed directors.

"On behalf of our entire board, I extend congratulations to the winning candidates and thanks for their commitment to CoBank's continued success," said Everett Dobrinski, chairman of the board. "Over the years, CoBank has benefited enormously from having a board with representatives nominated and elected by our customers, who come from rural America and understand the unique needs of the industries we serve. Every one of these individuals will bring tremendous insight and experience to our board, and we look forward to their contributions in the coming year."



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Clare Gustin named to governor's ecotourism steering committee

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback announced the formation of the Kansas Ecotourism Steering Committee to help guide ecotourism efforts in Kansas. Sunflower's Clare Gustin was appointed to the steering committee, that met on Sept. 20. Ecotourism, also known as nature-based tourism, brings together conservation, travel, and communities to encourage travelers to explore the outdoors in Kansas.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE - 9/19/12

Southwestern Power Administration names Turner as new administrator

Christopher Turner has been named as the new administrator of the Southwestern Power Administration in Tulsa, OK.

Turner brings to Southwestern 30 years' experience in the electric utility industry, including various leadership positions involving transmission and distribution construction, energy trading, bulk power operations, resource planning, and compliance with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) standards.

SWPA - 9/27/12

OCTOBER

- 10-12 **KMSDA Meeting**, Homewood Suites, Wichita.
- 10-11 **Region 7 & 9 meeting**, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 17-18 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 18 **KEC Budget and Operations Committee Meeting**, noon, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
- 18-19 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 24-26 **Accountants Club Meeting**, Hotel at Old Town, Wichita.
- 25 **MDM Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.
- 30 **KEC District 2 Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 31 **KEC District 3 Meeting**, FHSU, Memorial Union Bldg, Room 212, Hays.

NOVEMBER

- 1 **KEC District 4 Meeting**, Victory Headquarters, Dodge City.
- 2 **KEC District 1 Meeting**, Flint Oak Lodge, Fall River.
- 12 **KEC New Director & Employee Orientation**, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Wichita Marriott.
- 13 **Touchstone Energy Annual Meeting**, 10 a.m. - noon, Wichita Marriott.

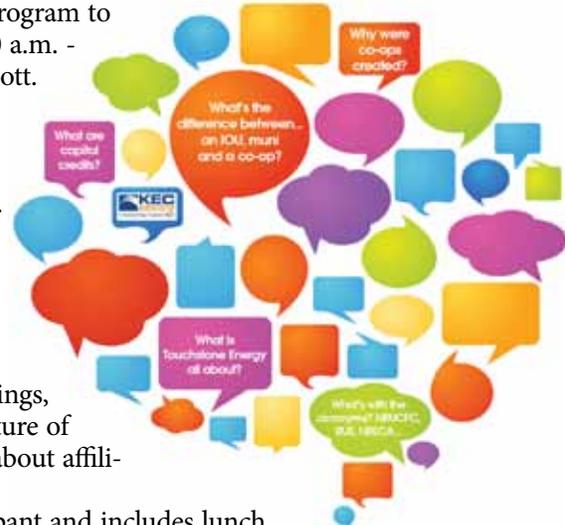
KEC offers new director & employee orientation on Nov. 12

KEC will offer a new orientation program to co-op directors and employees from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Nov. 12 at the Wichita Marriott.

The KEC New Director and Employee Orientation is designed for any board member or co-op employee who is new to the electric cooperatives.

This one-day orientation offers directors and employees 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.

The orientation is \$100 per participant and includes lunch. Registrants will receive a confirmation e-mail with a list of on-line videos to watch before the orientation. Registration deadline is Nov. 2. To make a hotel reservation, please contact the Wichita Marriott at 1-800-610-0673. A KEC room block has been created with a rate of \$93. The room block expires on Oct. 28.



EPA update, financial training topics for district meeting agenda

KEC is planning the annual series of District Meetings. This year's meetings are scheduled for the following dates and locations: **KEC District 1**, Nov. 2 at Flint Oak Lodge, Fall River. **KEC District 2**, Oct. 30 at KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka. **KEC District 3**, Oct. 31 at FHSU, Memorial Union Bldg, Room 212, Hays. and **KEC District 4**, Nov. 1 at Victory Headquarters, Dodge City.

The meetings will include a brief departmental and budget presentation by KEC staff, an update on how the oil boom affects the electric cooperatives,

an EPA update, as well as a financial workshop from CFC's Sherry Sharp and Tom Beamon. Several local legislators have been invited to join the District Meeting attendees for lunch, and they will be given an opportunity to speak.

Prior to the District Meetings, KEC staff will review the proposed budget during a web conference at 12 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 26. The budget will also be presented at the district meeting but will be limited to a brief overview with time for Q&A. The log-in instructions for the web conference have been emailed to all member-cooperatives.

Touchstone Energy annual membership meeting

The Touchstone Energy Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Wichita Marriott's Salon D, on Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch will be served.

Amy Rosier, Touchstone Energy, will give an update on the national program activities. The Kansas program activities and budget will also be discussed.

To make a room reservation, call 1-800-610-0673 before Oct. 29 to get the \$93 room rate. Please RSVP your attendance to Shana Read, KEC.

Morales appointed to Governor's Hispanic Affairs Commission

Micaela Morales, Victory's member services representative, was recently appointed as a technical advisor for the Kansas Hispanic and Latino American Affairs Commission (KHLAAC).



Micaela Morales

KHLAAC addresses concerns related to education, health and business in the Hispanic community. The commission works closely with the Governor's office, as well as other state agencies in order to improve the lives of all Hispanics.

"I am very honored and excited to be a part of the KHLAAC," said Morales. "I believe it is important to address public policy concerns to improve the lives of all Kansans. I will be gathering information, identifying the challenges of the Hispanic commu-

nity, and working with the commission to create solutions that benefit communities as a whole."

The KHLAAC, originally Kansas Advisory Committee of Mexican American Affairs (KACAMAA), began in 1976, in a sincere effort by Governor Robert Docking and the Kansas Legislature to eliminate official neglect and to provide opportunities for Hispanic advancement in Kansas.

The programs attempted to heighten the cultural awareness of Hispanics, concentrating on projects to examine and highlight the primarily Mexican heritage of the people. Using the medium of culture and the arts, KACMAA sponsored numerous outreach activities, particularly to youth in schools and universities.

The focus changed in 1980 to heighten awareness of the political process, teaching the proper methods to gain access to the governor and the legislature by asserting the community's natural rights.

Angela Howard receives new title

Bruce Graham, KEC's CEO, announced a title change at the KEC board meeting last week.

Angela Howard, currently the accounting assistant, has been promoted to staff accountant.

She joined KEC in 2006 after earning her associates of accounting from Allen County Community College. Since that time, she has also earned a Bachelors of Science and a graduate degree in Business Management from Friends University. Her title reflects her increased responsibilities in the department that Howard has continually taken on throughout her employment.

Congratulations to Angela Howard on her new title.



Angela Howard

Rolling Hills provides loans for local business development

Rolling Hills recently closed on two economic development loans through its revolving loan fund to support businesses in Ellsworth.

A loan was approved for \$80,000 to Precious Pals Preschool. John and Shelly Thaemert recently purchased the preschool. After updating, painting and making repairs to the property, they opened their doors on Sept. 4.

The cooperative also assisted with a loan for \$740,000 to Carrico Implement Co., Inc., owned by Ronald and Joan Ellenz of Beloit, to build a new John Deere dealership. The business held a grand opening Aug. 29, and currently has 25 employees.

The Revolving Loan Fund was set up when a grant was made to Smoky Hill Electric (now Rolling Hills) and then re-loaned to Maico Industries in Ellsworth. Maico re-paid the loan and the money returns to the Rolling Hills' revolving loan fund to be used for economic development projects.

These funds have been re-loaned more than a dozen times in support of economic development.

CMS assists with cancer awareness dance video

The staff at CMS received an unusual request from a local hospital. Meade District Hospital employees Raygan Caballero and LaDonna Trujillo, from the radiology and mammography department, contacted the cooperative to help shoot a video.

After having the hospital lawn mowed in the shape of the breast cancer awareness signature "pink ribbon," they needed help getting high enough in the air to take video of the project. CMS linemen were happy to assist by giving Caballero a lift in a bucket truck.

"That was so high. So high! I just tried to keep my eyes on the video camera and not look down," Caballero said.

The hospital employees are participating in a breast cancer awareness campaign called Pink Glove Dance. It is a competition to submit dance videos. The prize money is donated to a breast cancer charity of the winner's choice.

"We strive to assist the communities we serve, and we are happy to be involved with this important awareness campaign," said Kirk Thompson, CMS general manager.

For more information about the Pink Glove Dance program or to vote, visit pinkglovedance.com. Voting begins Oct. 12.



(Top): Lineman Austin Alexander assists Raygan Caballero in the bucket ride. (Bottom): Caballero has an excellent view as she videotapes.



KEPCo hires chief administrative officer

William J. Riggins has been hired by Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., as senior vice president and chief administrative officer.



Riggins most recently was with the law firm of Husch Blackwell. Prior to this, he was general counsel and chief legal officer with Kansas City Power & Light and Great Plains Energy. As senior vice president and chief administrative officer, Riggins will act as general counsel and be responsible for all legal and administrative functions of KEPCo. Riggins has more than 27 years of experience in the electric utility industry and is replacing Michael Peters who is retiring at the end of the year.

Riggins received his undergraduate degree and juris doctorate degree from the University of Kansas and an MBA from the University of Missouri – Kansas City. Riggins and his wife, Stacy, reside in Lawrence and have three children.

“William Riggins’ vast experience in the utility industry will be an immediate asset to KEPCo and its member cooperatives as we deal with the complexities of power supply and transmission related issues,” said Steve Parr, executive vice president and CEO.

William Riggins

Wheatland linemen teach safety on the farm



More than 350 fourth graders and their teachers met at a farm near Great Bend to learn about safety on September 5. Wheatland linemen Andy Pivonka, Trent Suchy, and Terry Rebel taught students about electrical safety around the farm. The students were also treated to hay rides to travel to various displays or demonstrations, such as petting zoo and explanation of different farm equipment. “Wheatland Electric’s demo was awesome,” said one student.

jobmarket

KEC seeks manager of government relations

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., has an immediate opening for the position of manager of government relations.

This new position is responsible for helping to manage government relations activities for a statewide association representing 29 rural electric cooperatives that provide electric service to 200,000 rural Kansas households.

The person will monitor regulatory agency activities, perform legal research and analysis on governmental and policy matters, and provide legal interpretation and assistance on legislative bills, regulatory issues, and other legal matters.

The person will be actively involved with policy development and will rep-

resent the Kansas electric cooperatives before various national and state legislative and regulatory bodies, committees, commissions and officials, and will also be in charge of implementation of a statewide grassroots advocacy program.

Applicants must have a juris doctorate from an accredited law school, must be in good standing with the Bar of the State of Kansas, and must have at least three years of lobbying, legislative or regulatory experience. Must have excellent written and oral communications skills, strong interpersonal and collaboration skills.

For a complete position description, or to apply, email Bruce Graham at bgraham@kec.org. Deadline to apply is Monday, Oct. 15. EOE.



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