

# Rural Power

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## Governor Brownback thanks co-op linemen for restoring power

Governor Brownback held a news conference on Feb. 27 to recap the state's two recent storms.

He provided statistics on costs, injuries and fatalities, and expressed appreciation for the work done to restore electricity. Gov. Brownback praised the electric cooperatives and the other major utilities in his remarks.

KEC's Bruce Graham, along with other utility representatives, stood with the Governor during the news conference. Brownback applauded the electric companies for their quick work to restore power to thousands of customers.

"Their crews worked non-stop through deep snow and on muddy roads to restore power and overcome other obstacles like substation outages, broken utility poles, and damage to conduc-



From left: Kansas Electric Cooperatives CEO Bruce Graham, KDHE Secretary Dr. Robert Moser, Highway Patrol Col. Ernest Garcia, Governor Sam Brownback, Adjutant Gen. Lee Tafanelli, Transportation Secretary Mike King, and Kansas City Board of Public Utilities representative Kimberly Svaty.

tors and cross arms," Brownback noted.

The storms that crossed Kansas the last week of February dropped more than 2 feet of snow in some places and knocked out power to thousands of members, mostly in eastern counties. During the height of the storm on Feb. 26, linemen at 13 of the state's distribution cooperatives toiled day and night to restore power

to their members. Most residences were fully restored by the following day.

The 13 cooperatives that were affected by this storm included Alfalfa, Ark Valley, Butler, Caney Valley, Heartland, Kaw Valley, Lyon-Cofey, Midwest Energy, Radiant, Sedgwick County, Sumner-Cowley, Twin Valley and Wheatland. Crews from Southern Pioneer and Victory were called to help restore power at Alfalfa.

## Dale Short wins District 7 position on NRTC Board

Robert "Dale" Short, general manager and CEO, Butler Rural Electric Cooperative Association, El Dorado, KS, was one of three electric cooperative leaders elected to the Board of Directors during the NRTC Annual Meeting in New Orleans last month.



Dale Short

Short won a contested election to represent District 7 (Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming).

"I appreciate those who supported me," Short said. "It was a close election, but I hope to accurately represent all of District 7."

Over a 36-year career, Short has held jobs in marketing, finance and management. He has

been general manager of Butler RECA since 2000 having first joined the cooperative in 1989.

The other two elected were unchallenged incumbents: David Pierce, director, Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation, Jasper, GA, and Shannon Clark, CEO and general manager, Richland Electric Cooperative, Richland Center, WI. Pierce represents voting District 2 (Florida, Georgia and South Carolina) and Clark voting District 5 (Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin).

Short will be one of three new members joining the NRTC board in 2013. NRTC telco members elected Raymond Henagan, manager and CEO of Rock Port Telephone, Rock Port, MO, to represent voting District 12 earlier this month. NRECA's CEO Jo Ann Emerson will assume an automatic at-large position on the NRTC board.



A Traditional Electric Cooperative

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## inbrief

### President Obama to announce DOE and EPA nominations

President Barack Obama will soon announce his intention to nominate air quality expert Gina McCarthy to lead the Environmental Protection Agency and nuclear physicist Ernest Moniz to head the Department of Energy. A former undersecretary of energy during the Clinton administration, Moniz is currently director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Energy Initiative, a research group that gets funding from industry heavyweights including BP, Chevron, and Saudi Aramco for academic work on projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gases.

REUTERS - 3/4/13

### KCP&L receives EEI's 2012 emergency assistance award

The Edison Electric Institute (EEI) recently recognized KCP&L with the 2012 Emergency Assistance Award for its outstanding efforts to help other electric utilities restore power following Hurricane Sandy and strong thunderstorms in the East Coast last year. This is the fifth time that KCP&L has won this award.

Last October following Hurricane Sandy, KCP&L sent approximately 170 employees to the East Coast to assist several utilities with their restoration efforts. These employees assisted four utilities in three states in the Northeast.

KCP&L - 1/29/13

### KAMO completes 345kv line

On Jan. 25, KAMO completed the circuit of the new 345kV line from Sportsman Acres substation to the Blackberry substation to Westar's Neosho station.

"Completion of these projects, which began as an idea in 2006 had many hurdles to clear," said Ted Hilmes KAMO's COO. "Dedicated, hard-working KAMO personnel cleared each and every one on the way to completion of the project. This is a great accomplishment."

## co-opcalendar

### MARCH

- 15 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 20-21 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 28 **MDM Meeting.** KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.

### APRIL

- 17-18 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 19 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays

## annualmeetings

### MARCH

- 11 **Bluestem - meeting at 7:30 p.m.,** Riley County High School, 12451 Fairview Church Road, Riley
- 14 **Butler - dinner at 6 p.m.,** meeting at 7 p.m., Circle High School, 905 E. Main St., Towanda
- 16 **Pioneer - meeting at 10 a.m.,** lunch at 12 p.m., Grant County Civic Center, 1000 W. Peterson, Ulysses
- 23 **Sumner-Cowley - lunch at 11:30 a.m.,** meeting at 1:15 p.m., Wellington High School, East Highway 160, Wellington
- 25 **Lyon-Coffey - dinner at 6 p.m.,** meeting at 7 p.m., Burlington High School, 830 Cross Street, Burlington
- 26 **Heartland - meeting at 7 p.m.,** Ft. Scott Community College, Ellis Arts Center, 2108 S. Horton, Fort Scott
- 26 **Ninnescah - dinner at 6 p.m.,** meeting at 6:30 p.m., Municipal Bldg., 117 W. 3rd, Pratt
- 28 **Doniphan - dinner at 6:30 p.m.,** meeting at 7:30 p.m., Midway School, Hwy 20 East, Denton

## Brown-Atchison hosts its 75th annual meeting

Brown-Atchison held its 75th annual meeting on Feb. 28 at the co-op headquarters in Horton, a week after the original date was postponed due to winter storms.

More than 100 members registered for the meeting, and approximately 200 people enjoyed a meal catered by Whiting Café.

Guest speakers included Mark Doljac who spoke about KEPCo power

supply and the impact of federal regulations and Brynn Wright who spoke about her experiences on the Youth Tour in Washington, DC.

Special guests included Cindy Green representing Senator Moran's office, and retired manager Rod Gerdes who won his first door prize.

Kevin Gigstad, Harrison Idol and Wayne Pagel were all re-elected to the board.

## jobmarket

### KEPCo seeks Executive Vice President / CEO

KEPCo's Board of Trustees invites applications for the position of Executive Vice-President / Chief Executive Officer. The Board seeks candidates with proven leadership skills, high ethical standards, strong written and interpersonal communications skills and high business acumen.

The successful candidate must possess a minimum of five years of progressive senior-level electric utility management experience. A comprehensive understanding of power supply, transmission planning, financing, power generation and operations including extensive knowledge of the developing regional electric markets, is required. A proven track record of strategic "outside the box" decision-making and an in-

depth understanding of power industry legislative issues are essential qualifications. A college degree in an appropriate field of study is required and an advanced degree is strongly preferred. The candidate must be committed to cooperative business principles and be able to work effectively with a member-elected board of 19 trustees.

KEPCo offers a competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and the market. Benefit plans include medical, dental and vision insurances and the NRECA RS Pension.

All inquiries should be directed to: Ken Holmes, NRECA Executive Search, [ExecutiveSearch@nreca.coop](mailto:ExecutiveSearch@nreca.coop). Send an electronic resume and three professional references by May 6. EOE.

## Memorial celebration planned for Steve Parr, Chuck Terrill named as KEPCo's interim CEO

**Stephen E. Parr**, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), died Feb. 16. A memorial celebration to honor Parr is scheduled for March 20 at the Prairie Band Casino & Resort in Mayetta.

Parr had 39 years of experience in electric utility operations, with most of those years serving the electric cooperatives. Before coming to KEPCo, his professional experience included working at Soyland Power Cooperative in IL and at Tri-State G&T in CO. He



**Stephen Parr**  
1951-2013

served on the Members Committee of Southwest Power Pool and Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation Board.

Funeral services were held Feb. 22 at Penwell-Gabel Southwest Chapel in Topeka. Memorial contributions may be made to A.L.S. Association, Keith Worthington Chapter, 6950 Squibb Rd, Mission, KS 66202 or to the Journey Church, 2727 SW Wanamaker, Suite 104, Topeka, KS 66614.

**Charles W. "Chuck" Terrill** has been named KEPCo's interim Execu-

tive Vice President and CEO while the Board conducts an executive search to replace Parr. Terrill began the interim position at KEPCo on March 4.

Terrill is no stranger to this G&T. He was first hired at KEPCo in 1984 as the Director of Power Supply and Engineering. On May 1, 1988, he was named as KEPCo's Executive Vice President, the second person to serve in this position. He served as the NRECA Kansas Director from 1991-1995. He resigned May 1, 1995, when he accepted the position of Executive Vice President of the North Carolina Electric Membership Corp. – a combination G&T and statewide organization. Terrill retired in 2007. KEPCo has contracted with NRECA's Executive Search to facilitate the search process. (See announcement page 2.)

## Western's Board selects Darrin Lynch as new general manager

Darrin Lynch has been selected to serve as Western's next general manager. David Schneider, current general manager, will retire May 31.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve Western and carry forward the torch of honorable, trustworthy, and humble leadership passed from Dave Schneider," Lynch said.

Lynch will begin his duties May 1, and comes to Western Cooperative after working for Sunflower Electric Power Corporation in Hays for 11 years, most recently as the Manager of Financial Planning and Analysis.

While at Sunflower, Lynch was responsible for developing corporate budgets, wholesale member rates, load forecasts, long range financial forecasts, and was involved in a number of special projects ranging from debt restructuring to corporate acquisitions. Prior to joining Sunflower, Lynch worked for Kennedy & Coe, CPA in Colby.

"The Western Cooperative board selected Darrin from among 23 well-qualified candidates following a national search," said Larry Evans, Board President. "The board spent a great amount of time analyzing excellent resumés



**Darrin Lynch**

of all who applied, but several factors made Darrin the right person to lead Western. In addition to having local ties, he has an excellent education and financial background, along with the invaluable experience of working with rural electric cooperatives."

"Having grown up in a small Kansas community, I look forward to serving in a small community and rural region where a good name and a firm handshake mean a great deal," Lynch said. "My wife graduated from Trego Community High School in 1991. She is thrilled about this transition as she is simply moving home."

Schneider retires from Western after 35 years of service, the last 23 as general manager.

"Since I have been on the Sunflower Board of Directors, I've had the opportunity to work with Darrin many times," Schneider said of his successor. "I have always been impressed any time Darrin was involved with a project."

Lynch holds a bachelor of business administration degree from Fort Hays State University with an accounting major. He received his CPA certification in 1997. He is a native of Glasco. His wife, Tricia, is a native of Collyer. The Lynches enjoy rural living, time spent with family and friends, and the love of three very special, and spoiled, Labrador retrievers.

## Energy association honors Midwest Energy's Volker

Michael J. Volker, Midwest Energy's Director of Regulatory & Energy Services, received the Association of Energy Services Professionals' (AESP) highest honor, the B.H. Prasad Award, at AESP's 23rd National Conference last month.

Volker received the recognition for his volunteer work for AESP, including his service on the Executive, Finance and Strategic Initiatives committees.

"He collaborated with numerous utilities and brought an AESP training course on demand-side management to the region. In addition, Michael was instrumental in helping AESP launch its commission database research tool on energy efficiency rulemakings," said Meg Matt, AESP president and CEO.

"It was an honor to present him with this award and to formally thank him for his service," Matt added.



**Meg Matt, AESP CEO, and John Hargrove, AESP Chair, present Midwest Energy's Michael Volker (center) with the B.H. Prasad Award.**

## Flint Hills, Brown Atchison to receive USDA funding

Two electric cooperatives in Kansas will receive funding from USDA to enhance service to their members through line improvements and smart grid technologies.

Flint Hills will receive an \$11 million loan guarantee to build 108 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements. The loan includes \$22,000 in smart grid projects.

"We're looking at our system and where we need to improve it engineering wise," said Bob Reece, Flint Hills general manager.

Brown Atchison will receive \$5.1 million to build 53 miles of distribution line and 5 miles of transmission line, and to make other system improvements.

"We're upgrading the weakest links in our system," said Bob Perry, Brown Atchison general manager. "Some equipment has been there for sixty-some years, but we're taking care of it now."

These cooperatives, along with other electric cooperatives in 11 states, will receive loan guarantees to improve generation and transmission facilities

and implement smart grid technologies. The announcement was made last month by USDA Rural Utilities Acting Administrator John Padalino during the NRECA annual meeting in New Orleans.

"In his State of the Union Address, President Obama said that in America we have 'an aging infrastructure badly in need of repair' and these investments help to address our country's infrastructure challenges," Padalino said.

Padalino continued, "Upgrading rural infrastructure sets the stage for economic development, because access to reliable, affordable electricity is essential to rural job creation."

His announcement included support for more than \$8 million in smart grid technologies, which help utilities make efficiency improvements to the electric grid and help electric cooperative members lower their electric bills by reducing energy use in homes and businesses.

All-in-all, Reece and Perry hope for the planned improvements to improve the reliability and strengthen their systems for the years to come.

## Hausler joins Sunflower

Sunflower has added a new member to its external affairs team.

"I'm very excited about this new career venture and this kind of work,"

said Steve Hausler, External Affairs Specialist, who started in January.

"It's challenging and exciting," Hausler said. "Every day is a new learning experience and for me it's intellectually stimulating."

Before making the switch to Sunflower, Hausler worked for 19 years as the director of photography at the Hays Daily News and, prior to that, as a photographer for the Parson's Sun.

"I have a love for rural America so it was a fitting job," Hausler said. "I still get to do communications work, photography and web design while working for a strong company."

Hausler is from Wellsville, a graduate of Pittsburg State University and former University of Kansas student.



Steve Hausler



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