

Rural Power

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Attorney General, industry experts among invited annual meeting speakers

Final touches are being applied to the 2014 KEC Annual Meeting. The event will be held Jan. 25-28 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka.

Annual Meeting Speakers

To start the meeting on Monday, Jan. 27, Ted Case, Executive Director for the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association, will talk about historical milestones throughout the 75-plus years of the electric cooperative story, and will share some of the stories of behind-the-scenes relationships between co-ops and every U.S. president from Franklin D. Roosevelt to George W. Bush. These stories are part of his novel, *Power Plays*. Case will also sign copies of his book Monday morning.

Other speakers on Monday include Dr. Noel Schulz, Associate Dean for research, College of Engineering at Kansas State University, who will describe K-State's Electrical Power Affiliates Program. Bryan Singletary, President of Practical Energies, will discuss opportunities in energy efficiency. Liz Sosa, CEO of Public Square Communities, will demonstrate how to develop local leaders who transform their regions into thriving communities. Melissa Brunner, WIBW-TV news anchor, witnesses the power of people to make a difference, and she will describe some of those stories.

Luncheon speaker Steve Gilliland, a member of the Speaker Hall of Fame, will share a creative and humorous blueprint for getting the most out of life.

On Tuesday, Jan. 28, Derek Schmidt, Attorney General, will outline the State's response to regulatory overreach. Phil Irwin, Federated's President and CEO, will explain how safety pays. Catie Crosley, Kansas representative to NRECA's Youth Leadership Council, will recount her youth tour experiences. KEC's Loss Control, Safety and Compliance Department will recognize cooperatives who have earned safety awards. Attendees will also hear reports from the Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE), CFC, NRECA, CoBank, and the KEC Auxiliary.

Legislative Reception

The Legislative Reception will be held from

5:30-8 p.m. on Jan. 27, and is hosted by Federated and the Kansas electric cooperatives.

KCRE and Silent Auction

KCRE will host its annual silent auction on Jan. 27 and its annual meeting on Jan. 28. To donate items, please contact Carol Dorr, KEC.

A special KEC Auxiliary silent auction item is a hand-made quilt donated by Carolyn McNickle, wife of Twin Valley Director Ronald McNickle. This year's KEC Auxiliary raffle prize is a file cabinet hand-crafted by John Roniger, member of Flint Hills. Raffle tickets are on sale now and will be available at the meeting.

Directors' Training

NRECA's Bryan Singletary will facilitate two board leadership classes: the 923 *New and Emerging Technologies - What Every Director Needs to Know* on Saturday, Jan. 25, and the 924 *When Disaster Strikes - Continuity Management and Emergency Response Planning for Directors* on Sunday, Jan. 26. Both courses will be from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tablet Help Desk / BoardPaq Training

KEC staff will assist attendees with their tablet devices at the meeting on Jan. 27. The "help desk" will be located in the Wheat Room (times will be posted). There will also be two BoardPaq training sessions on Jan. 27 in the Shawnee Room: an introduction for those who are new to the app at 10:50 a.m., and training for those currently using the app at 11:20 a.m.

KEC Expo

Attendees will enjoy the 9th Annual KEC Expo which will be held in Heritage Hall. Due to the smaller, cozier venue, the Expo is limited to 22 exhibitors and will be located much closer to the meeting rooms. USDA Rural Utilities Service will have a booth at the Expo to discuss their new energy efficiency loan program. Refreshments and WiFi will be provided throughout the day. Door prizes will also be drawn.

Auxiliary Program

The KEC Auxiliary Spouses Program will be held on Monday. Speakers for this program include Gary Clarke who will share his safari

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EPA releases rules for new coal plants

Carbon capture and storage will be required on all new coal plants, according to federal regulations officially released on Jan. 8 by the Environmental Protection Agency. Opponents, including those in the coal industry, say the new regulations essentially ban the construction of new coal plants because the carbon capture technology isn't viable.

BIZ JOURNAL – 1/8/14

Emler named to KCC

Gov. Sam Brownback appointed State Sen. Jay Emler, R-Lindsborg, to the Kansas Corporation Commission to replace Mark Sievers, who announced his resignation on Dec. 9.

HAWVER'S REPORT – 1/8/14

Nivin Elgohary named CoBank's VP of Public Private Partnerships

CoBank announced that Nivin Elgohary has been named to the bank's newly created position of Vice President of Public Private Partnerships. Elgohary, who will join the bank in February 2014, currently serves as Assistant Administrator with the USDA's Rural Utilities Service. Over the past 14 years she has served in a variety of roles within RUS, working with both rural electric and rural communications providers accessing a variety of financing programs.

COBANK – 12/20/13

Annual Meeting, cont.

experiences, and Debbie Lyons-Blythe, 2012 Farm Mom of the Year, who will compare roles of a farm mom and a city mom.

"Catch" Breakfast on Tuesday

Attendees will once again "flip" for the pancake breakfast offered on Tuesday, Jan. 28. Breakfast will feature "Short Stack", a skilled pancake flipper from Criss Cakes of Wichita. Come get your hot cakes between 7-8:15 a.m.

JANUARY

- 17 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 25 **Board Leadership Course**, 923 New and Emerging Technologies - What Every Director Needs to Know, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Capitol Plaza, Topeka
- 26 **Board Leadership Course**, 924 When Disaster Strikes - Continuity Management and Emergency Response Planning for Directors, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Capitol Plaza, Topeka
- 27-28 **KEC Annual Meeting**, Capitol Plaza, Topeka

Bruce McAntee named as KEC's LCS&C instructor

Bruce McAntee will be joining KEC as the new Loss Control, Safety and Compliance Instructor on Monday, January 27.

McAntee replaces Todd Bailey who has started work as a safety instructor with Southern Public Power District in Grand Island, NE. McAntee brings strong safety and utility experience to the position. Most recently, he was a Journeyman Lineman for DS&O. Prior

to that, he carried Journeyman Lineman and Safety Coordinator responsibilities for Lane-Scott.

"I'm very excited about taking on these new responsibilities," he said. "I'm looking forward to meeting everybody."

McAntee and his fiancée, Kathy Jennings, will remain in Solomon, KS. He enjoys spending his free time with his children, playing sports, training dogs, and hunting.

NRECA announces \$10k scholarship for youth tour alumni

NRECA is offering a scholarship program for former Electric Cooperative Youth Tour participants to strengthen their commitments to the seven cooperative principles and prepare them for leadership roles in their communities.

Students who have previously attended Youth Tour and are at least a college freshman working on their first undergraduate degree are eligible for the \$10,000 Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation scholarship.

"Each year, the foundation will present a \$10,000 award to a student who has previously participated in the NRECA's Washington Electric Youth Tour," said NRECA CEO Jo Ann Emerson.

Named for former NRECA CEO Glenn

English, the foundation oversees an endowment created in his honor.

Members of the foundation's board voted unanimously in December to present an annual scholarship. The recipient will be selected from among applicants sponsored by local electric cooperatives who have demonstrated commitments to their communities and the seven cooperative principles.

Applications will be accepted through March 31. As part of the application, students must include a link to a video testimonial explaining how they have demonstrated one of the seven cooperative principles. The application is available at NRECA.coop.

\$250 million available through USDA's new energy efficiency program

Up to \$250 million is available nationwide to be lent to commercial and residential members for energy efficiency improvements.

Last month, USDA announced plans to take new steps to save consumers money on their energy bills by partnering with electric cooperatives. Kansas electric cooperative officials learned more about the program through a web conference held Jan. 9.

The Energy Efficiency and Loan Conservation Program will promote energy savings in rural areas. Midwest Energy's successful How\$mart initiative was one of the programs that inspired

this loan and conservation effort.

Funding will be provided to electric cooperatives who will then re-lend the money to help homeowners or businesses make energy efficiency improvements. In addition to energy audits, the loans may be used for upgrades to heating, lighting and insulation, and conversions to more efficient or renewable energy sources.

USDA will begin funding on Feb. 3. They anticipate funding approximately 20 projects this year.

For more information about the new energy efficiency loan program, visit www.rurdev.usda.gov.

Midwest Energy, CoBank create career training scholarship project

Midwest Energy and CoBank have established a \$120,000 scholarship and career training project for people from Midwest Energy's service area interested in careers requiring technical training from community and technical colleges in central and western Kansas.

"Too many young people from rural communities believe that to be successful, you have to leave your hometown, get a bachelor's degree and work in a big city," said Bob Muirhead, Midwest Energy's Director of Economic and Community Development. "The reality is we have many businesses with good-paying jobs right here, looking for people with particular training and skill sets. This new scholarship program will help local individuals pursue these opportunities."

The pilot project, to be administered jointly by the Kansas Department of Commerce and the Kansas Economic Development Institute, will offer a one-stop connection for trainees interested in jobs requiring career and technical training, and the businesses in central and western Kansas looking to hire them. KANSASWORKS centers, local businesses and participating technical and community colleges will collaborate to identify trainee candidates, who will

then participate in customized training programs designed by industry. Priority will be given to those seeking training for jobs in high-demand occupations, including HVAC, plumbing, welding, and construction and electrician trades.

"This pilot project will connect trainees with employers who need people now, and remove the barriers to those individuals acquiring the skills and credentials needed in rural Kansas communities," said Kansas Commerce Secretary Pat George.

The program is being made possible through a \$100,000 grant from CoBank, and a matching \$20,000 grant from Midwest Energy.

"In order for our rural communities to continue to grow and thrive, business and education must work together to generate greater levels of opportunity," said Robert B. Engel, CoBank's chief executive officer. "This new scholarship program is all about creating options and, in the process, giving both young people and rural businesses a solid foundation for the future."

For more information about the project, call Zoe Thompson at the Kansas Department of Commerce, 785-296-0205 or e-mail zthompson@kansas-commerce.com.

Rae Gorman earns Certified Cooperative Communicator

Rae Gorman, Energy Services Supervisor at Pioneer Electric, has earned recognition as a Certified Cooperative Communicator (CCC) – a voluntary, national certification program.



Rae Gorman

In order to achieve this professional designation, Gorman had to meet the program requirements and submit a portfolio of work samples in the field of marketing and communication.

Her portfolio was then judged by peers, communicators in the electric co-op industry who have already earned the CCC designation. Having passed that evaluation, Gorman then took a four-hour written examination.

"After being in the cooperative

world for 10 years, I wanted to challenge myself," Gorman said. "As I went through the process, I discovered several areas that I could personally improve upon."

She explained that the certification process made her take a good look at her work. "For the longest time, I was merely deadline-driven. Now I look for the best avenue to communicate with our members. I still meet deadlines, but I look at the communications pieces in a different way; making sure the message is truly what the cooperative and our members need and want."

Since 1985, when the program began, more than 300 electric cooperative communicators – including seven in Kansas – have attained CCC status.

The CCC program board of directors governs the program. It is composed of 10 CCCs, including Victory's Jerri Imgarten, who are responsible for setting policy and program guidelines.

Electric co-ops connect with members at Farm Show



From left: LJEC's Joe Heinen, and Bluestem's Kevin Heptig and Ron Dickey promote energy efficiency at the Topeka Farm Show.

Five electric co-ops joined forces to sponsor a booth at the Topeka Farm Show this month.

Bluestem, Brown-Atchison, Kaw Valley, Lyon-Coffey and LJEC used the opportunity to interact with members and the public.

More than 300 exhibitors participated in the event which drew nearly 30,000 attendees at the Kansas Expocentre, Jan. 7-9.

"The numbers were great this year due to the weather," said Ron Dickey, Bluestem, who has worked this event for the past five years.

"It gives each co-op employee an opportunity to visit with our members that we normally don't see," he said. "This event attracts a different demographic than those who attend our annual meeting or who come into the office."

The co-ops' booth featured energy efficiency tips, the importance of attic insulation, and a drawing for an electric grill.

insympathy

Rosa Norwood

Rosa Lou Norwood, wife of retired Nemaha-Marshall manager Bud Norwood, died on Dec. 13.

She was a member of the Kansas Electric Cooperatives Ladies Auxiliary, and she served as President for two years.

Services were held on Dec. 18 at the Axtell United Methodist Church. Memorials may be sent to the City of Axtell, 306 Maple Street, c/o Rosa Lou Norwood Ambulance Fund, Axtell, KS 66403.

KEC staff volunteers at Topeka Rescue Mission

Several Kansas Electric Cooperative employees demonstrated the cooperative principle "Commitment to Community" by serving at the Topeka Rescue Mission.

This volunteer effort came as a direct result of a fund raiser to benefit KEC's youth programs that was held during the KEC Summer Board Meeting on Aug. 5, 2013. One of the items up for bid was the time of KEC staff. The winner could select up to four staff members to do any chore of his or her choosing up to four hours. The winner of this auction was KEC Board President, John Blackwell.

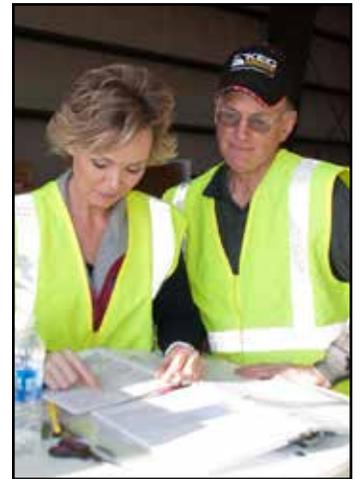
Instead of using the servitude personally, Blackwell asked that KEC use the hours to give back to their community.

On Dec. 18, 11 KEC employees arrived at the Topeka Rescue Mission to help give a brighter Christmas for families in need. The staff gathered, packaged, tagged, and distributed both gifts and food items for families that qualified for the Rescue Mission's Christmas program.

"I never dreamed this summer that when I gave that donation this would be the outcome," Blackwell said. He added that he was thankful that, because of his help, KEC staff helped make a difference.



KEC employees Larry Detwiler, Carol Dorr, Larry Freeze, Bruce Graham, Bob Hall, Dave Holthaus, Carrie Kimberlin, Charlotte Provo-Blenden, Shana Read, Doug Shepherd and Melissa Skelton volunteered to package and deliver goods at the Topeka Rescue Mission to help make Christmas for local families a little brighter.



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