

Rural Power

Carl Holmes honored at NRECA Region 7 meeting

Longtime Kansas state representative Carl Holmes was presented with the 2012 NRECA Regional Outstanding Service Award last month at the Region 7/9 Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT. He was nominated by KEC for the honor.

The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the electric cooperative program, especially at the state and regional level.

Holmes has served the Liberal area in the Kansas House of Representatives since 1984. He has been the chairman of the House Utilities Committee for nearly 25 years, as well as the Agriculture, Natural Resources and Administrative Rules & Regulations chairman.

"I felt quite humbled and extremely honored," Holmes said when learning of the award. "An individual honor is only possible when other individuals are willing to follow your leadership and support your vision for the future."

"Rep. Holmes understands the cooperative business model and has been a cooperative



From left: Dave Holthaus, KEC; Glenn English, NRECA; Bruce Graham, KEC; Carl Holmes; Keith Ross, KEC; and NRECA Board President Michael Guidry.

member most of his life," stated Bruce Graham, KEC's Chief Executive Officer, in his nomination of Holmes to NRECA. "He has always protected the cooperatives from harmful or unfair legislation and has supported cooperative initiatives in his leadership role."

"Rep. Holmes has educated new legislators and fostered their involvement in assisting the electric cooperatives of Kansas with our legislative efforts," added Dave Holthaus, KEC's Vice President of Government Relations. "Rep. Holmes is truly the leading energy voice in Kansas and the region and his expertise on both the federal and state levels will be missed."

Holmes was defeated for re-election in last August's primary. Despite the loss of his House seat, Holmes says he has fond memories of his service to Kansas.

"I have had 36 great years of elected political office – exactly half of my life – both in city and state government," he said. "I have enjoyed public service and working to develop solutions for energy and utility issues."

Loren Dickens elected to the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange Board

Loren Dickens, director on Radiant's board, was elected as the Region 7 Director-Director to the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange.

Dickens was initially endorsed by the Kansas electric cooperatives at the KEC Summer Board Meeting to be the Kansas nominee to stand for election to the Federated Board of Directors as the



Loren Dickens

Region 7 Director-Director candidate. Dickens was then elected to the board by the voting delegates at Federated's Region 7 meeting, held last month in Salt Lake City, UT. District 7 encompasses Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas.

Dickens has been a director at Radiant since 1993. For the past 17 years, he has served as the alternate trustee to the KEC board.

"I recognize the important role Federated plays in creating and maintaining a culture of safety in our industry and will do my best to help build on that advocacy program," Dickens said.

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Nuclear energy facilities prove resilience during Hurricane Sandy

Thirty-four nuclear energy facilities in the path of Hurricane Sandy have responded well and safely to this powerful storm, demonstrating their resilience against severe natural forces. Highly-trained reactor operators and emergency response personnel were stationed at the plants throughout the storm. After Hurricane Sandy knocked out electricity to seven million customers in 13 states, nuclear facility operators are conducting thorough inspections to ensure that all systems and equipment are ready to maintain the facilities in a safe condition.

NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE –
10/31/12

Lineman tribute song launched at rodeo

The Power Lineman has been America's unsung hero...until now. Texas Honky Tonk Legend, Dale Watson, debuted the ultimate tribute song, "I Make it Right," last month at the 29th Annual International Lineman's Rodeo in Kansas City. Thousands gathered to honor and celebrate the Linemen for all they do to keep the lights on, Honky Tonk style.

SHERMAN + REILLY – 10/18/12

NOVEMBER

- 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.
- 13-14 **Transformer Workshop**, Kaw Valley Headquarters, Topeka.
- 14 **KEPCo's Board of Trustees meeting at 2 p.m. and Annual Meeting dinner at 6 p.m.**, meeting following dinner, Geary County Convention Center, 310 Hammons Dr., Junction City.
- 15 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, Geary County Convention Center, Junction City, 8:30 a.m.
- 15-16 **Metering Workshop**, Kaw Valley Headquarters, Topeka.
- 16 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 19 **Midwest Energy's Annual Meeting**, meeting at 1:30 p.m., Fort Hays State University, Robins Center, One Tiger Place, Hays.
- 22-23 **KEC Office Closed**, Thanksgiving Holiday.
- 29 **MDM Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka.

DECEMBER

- 5-6 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita.
- 19-20 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 21 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 25 **KEC Office Closed**, Christmas Holiday.

Oil and Gas Small Business Opportunities Conference to show how Kansas businesses, workers can benefit from the activity in the MLP

State leaders and industry representatives will gather in Hutchinson on Nov. 27 to discuss how Kansas small businesses can benefit from the oil and gas activity underway in the Mississippian Lime Play (MLP) in Kansas.

The Oil and Gas Small Business Opportunities Conference: Your Guide to Working in the MLP. The conference will feature three events:

- A roundtable discussion with state leaders and industry executives on the current status of the MLP and what the future holds, as well as to educate small and rural businesses on potential business opportunities available as activity within the MLP continues.

- A business-to-business (B2B) networking session, where Kansas small business owners can interact with key oil and gas companies - and their vendors and suppliers - to see what products and services they can provide.

- The Kansas Oil and Gas Career Fair will help interested Kansans find career opportunities among the various companies active in the MLP. Participants also can learn about opportunities to get additional training for careers in the MLP.

Registration and hotel information can be found at www.KansasCommerce.com/MLPConference. Deadline to register is Nov. 14.

Leona Laura Hansen Wiltse

Leona Laura Hansen Wiltse, mother of Ninnescah's manager Ed Wiltse, died on Oct. 25.

A rosary and a prayer service was held on Oct. 29. Mass of Christian Burial was held on Oct. 30 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Burial was in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Memorials in her name may be made to St. Patrick Catholic School, 424 S Central, Chanute, KS, 66720, or to the Penwell-Gabel Funeral Home, 101 North Highland, Chanute, KS 66720.

Eugene M. Holthaus

Eugene "Gene" M. Holthaus, who served as a board member for Nemaha-Marshall for 24 years, died on Oct. 27.

A rosary and a prayer service was held on Oct. 30 at Lauer Funeral Home in Seneca. Mass of Christina Burial was on Oct. 31 at St. Mary's Catholic Church cemetery in St. Benedict.

Memorials may be left to Relay for Life, C.O.I.N.S. for Cancer or the Nemaha County Training Center in care of Lauer Funeral Home, 212 S. 4th St., Seneca, KS 66538.

Francis "Fritz" Gregory Holthaus

Francis "Fritz" Gregory Holthaus, the father of KEC's Dave Holthaus, died on Nov. 4.

A rosary and a prayer service was held on Nov. 8, and Mass of Christian Burial was on Nov. 9 at St. Mary's Catholic Church cemetery in St. Benedict.

Memorials may be left to the Francis G. Holthaus Memorial Fund. A specific charity will be decided at a later date. Memorials may be sent in care of the Popkess Memorial Chapel, 814 Castle Street, Seneca, KS 66538.

KEC announces Government Relations Department expansion

Melissa Doeblin has accepted the position as KEC's manager of government relations. This is a new position as the association follows through on a Board priority to enhance legal, regulatory and legislative service to the membership.



Melissa Doeblin

Doeblin brings strong legal and legislative experience to the position. She earned a Bachelors of Science in Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Kansas and a Juris Doctor with a Certificate in Natural Resources Law from Washburn University. She will join KEC on Nov. 12 after completing service as Advisory Counsel to the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC).

At the KCC, she provided legal advice and research to Commissioners,

drafted orders, and worked in a variety of other regulatory responsibilities. Prior to the KCC, she worked in the Division of Post Audit and the Revisor of Statutes for the Kansas Legislature. In those roles, Doeblin staffed numerous committees during the Legislative Session including the House and Senate Committees that deal with utility and energy issues. She also drafted legislation, worked closely with legislators, and presented background on issues during legislative meetings. Doeblin is active in the Kansas Bar Association and was named Kansas Outstanding Young Lawyer in 2011.

"Melissa brings the experience and enthusiasm we need as KEC's manager of government relations. She knows the legislative process well and has strong professional relationships in the Statehouse," said Bruce Graham, KEC's CEO. "Her experience at the KCC and legal expertise will also assure the membership that increasing regulatory demands will be appropriately addressed. In addition, Melissa brings strong communication skills to the position which will be

important in building momentum for a successful grassroots program"

Holthaus promoted to VP

As part of the KEC department restructuring, Dave Holthaus has been promoted to the position of Vice President of Government Relations. Holthaus has 10 years of experience as KEC's Manager of Government Relations and has 33 years of lobbying and utility experience. In this new position, Holthaus will manage state government and regulatory networking, direct state legislative activities, and coordinate Congressional communications.

"The KEC Board of Trustees recognized that government and regulatory relations are key components in an effective association and approved enhancement of the department by hiring a second staff member in this area," said John Blackwell, President of the KEC Board of Trustees. "The KEC Organization Assessment planning process prioritized this goal and with these changes, we will be able to provide even stronger member value and service as a result."

EPA, financial workshops, impact of new oil topics at district meeting

Kansas electric cooperative trustees, managers, and key staff gathered last week at the four KEC district meetings in Dodge City, Fall River, Hays and Topeka.

CFC's Tom Beamon and Sherry Sharp gave an economic update. There were also presentations on KEC's services and a brief overview of the KEC 2013 budget.

KEC's Dave Holthaus spoke about EPA regulations affecting electric power. These regulations can be summarized by what the NRECA calls "The Big Five" – Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, Coal Ash Regulations, Cooling Water Intake Rule, and Greenhouse Gas Regulation.

Another topic

discussed was the impact of new oil on Kansas cooperatives. Leading these presentations were KEPCo's Mark Barbee, Sunflower's Don Gulley, and Alfalfa's Colin Whitley.

The luncheon speakers included several local legislators.

"The district meetings had a great turnout this year," said KEC's Bruce Graham. "Based on the evaluations, participants seemed to get a lot of information from the presentations and were overall pleased with the meetings."



State legislator Brian Weber speaks to the cooperative attendees on Nov. 1 at the KEC District Meeting at Victory's headquarters in Dodge City, KS.

KEC to utilize new technology in safety workshops

A new audience response system is making its way into the KEC's Loss Control, Safety and Compliance Department. The goal of this interactive polling system is to keep participants involved and focused during training.

Each participant receives a remote polling device the size of a credit card to answer questions during a presentation. By clicking a single button, the results are displayed immediately to both the instructor and participants. This instant feedback allows the instructor to gauge the audience's understanding of the material. If needed, the instructor can go back and spend more time on complicated topics.

The answers are all tabulated anonymously, which makes the audience more comfortable with responding.

"As soon as everyone gets accustomed to the system, and once they realize all answers are anonymous, meetings will run smoother and participants will get a lot more out of training sessions," said Larry Detwiler, LCS&C director.

Kansans join new safety communications initiative

Several Kansas co-op communicators have joined a newly-created group under the Safe Electricity umbrella to address communication needs in energy education.

"It's an opportunity to network and to share ideas on a national level," said Safe Electricity's Molly Hall, who will oversee the Energy Education Council (EEC) Member Assembly.

"We get regular feedback from Safe Electricity participants, but we know we are not hearing from everyone," Hall explained. "The assembly will be a two-way dialogue with more people, to make sure we are meeting their needs."

The mission of the council is to promote safety by disseminating useful articles and information and helping members understand renewable resources and energy efficiency.

Kansas will be represented by: Ann Fitzmorris, Radiant; Anna Foley, Prairie Land; Carrie Kimberlin, KEC; and Mike Morley, Midwest Energy.

Each delegate will serve a two-year term, participate in bi-annual webinars, and provide input for various safety communication materials. The assembly hopes to provide the tools and materials needed for co-ops to communicate safety messages to their members.

If you are interested in joining the assembly, contact KEC's Carrie Kimberlin. For more information, visit www.safeelectricity.org.

Kansas electric co-op directors achieve credentials

Ten Kansas directors from electric cooperatives across the state received the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and/or the Board Leadership (BLC) certificates from NRECA.

Steve Goering and Steve Schweizer, both of Ark Valley, each earned the CCD and BLC; Gary Buss, Bluestem, earned both the CCD and BLC; Robert Perry, Brown-Atchison, earned the CCD; John Worrell, Butler, earned the CCD and BLC; Billy Hadfield, LJEC, earned the CCD; Glen Honeman, Ninnescan, earned the CCD and BLC; James Bell, Pioneer, earned the BLC; Margie Conyac, Sedgwick County, earned the CCD and BLC; and Terri Larson,

Victory, earned the CCD.

Each of these board members were recognized at NRECA's Region 7 & 9 meeting last month for their commitment to education before an audience of more than 550 electric cooperative officials from 13 states.

Today's electric utility environment imposes new demands on electric co-op directors, particularly increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a working knowledge of the cooperative principles. Electric co-ops in Kansas have a commitment to work through KEC to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their members.

KEC headquarters receives an energy audit

Dave Sanders, Mulvane, and Chad Pederson, Lawrence, visited the KEC headquarters facility on October 18 to conduct an evaluation of the building's energy systems. They are associated with PI Group, Inc., a Topeka firm that works with corporate clients around the Midwest.

"Our purpose is to get a feel for how the building is performing," said Sanders, who is a member of Butler Electric Cooperative. "We will spend two to three hours analyzing and gathering data about the building's energy usage, comfort and other factors."



PI Group's Dave Sanders and Chad Pederson conduct an energy audit on KEC's headquarters.

The facility, which opened in 1991, was built with a geothermal heating and cooling system.

"It was leading edge technology at the time," Pederson said. "It will be fun to look at the system, because we don't find

them in a lot of places."

"It's still a great technology," Sanders said of the ground loop system. "After 20 years, there may be ways it can be tweaked or improved. That's one thing we'll look for."

The report is expected to also analyze lighting and other opportunities for improved energy efficiency.



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Rural Power is published every three weeks on Fridays. This electronic version is provided to you as a service of KEC. If you would like to receive personal e-mail notice of this publication in electronic format or discontinue such notice, please email sread@kec.org.