

Rural Power

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Lyon-Coffey's Ray Hutson inducted into KCC Hall of Fame

Ray Hutson, assistant manager of Lyon-Coffey, was inducted in the 2011 Kansas Cooperative Council Hall of Fame on March 21 in Wichita.

The induction occurred during a special ceremony held in conjunction with the Kansas Cooperative Council annual meeting.

The ceremony was simulcast during Lyon-Coffey's annual meeting held the same evening.

Hutson was nominated by Bluestem's member services director, Ron Dickey, for this honor.

"Ray exemplifies what the cooperative principals stand for and lives by them every day he is at work," Dickey said. "He started with Coffey County Electric Cooperative as an apprentice lineman 40 years ago and has always kept up on the changes within their electric system and therefore understands the entire system."

Joe Heinen, LJEC's member services director, added, "Ray always has a very genuine smile and always remembers that cooperatives are owned by their members and as a cooperative employee, we are responsible to treat all members in an equal and fair manner"

During the induction speech, Shana Read, KEC, said, "Ray's co-op involvements exemplify the cooperative principals of 'education and training' and 'commitment to the community' – and it is in these areas where he truly goes above and beyond the call. He shares his knowledge of electric cooperatives through youth education, helping those who are the next generation of co-op leaders better understand the cooperative business model and philosophy."

Ed Wiltse, manager of Ninnescah, agreed.



Several of Ray Hutson's peers attended his induction into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame. From left: Joe Heinen, LJEC; Ed Wiltse, Ninnescah; Ray Hutson, Lyon-Coffey; and Ron Dickey, Bluestem.

"His interaction with the youth is notable.

Wiltse said. "He has the enviable ability to provide encouragement and praise while at the same time lending constructive criticism."

The KCC Hall of Fame committee elected to induct Hutson, as well as Norbert Gerstenkorn, the

former general manager of Farmers Cooperative Grain in Conway Springs, and Dale Bruce (posthumously), an attorney for many credit unions and their organizations.

Hutson and all other inductees are honored in a permanent display at the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame Exhibit located in the Pride of Kansas Building on the Kansas State Fairgrounds.

Information on the Hall of Fame and past inductees is available on the KCC webpage at www.kansasco-op.coop.



KCC Chairman Dave Studebaker (left) presents a plaque to Ray Hutson during the 2011 Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame Ceremony held March 21 in Wichita.



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inbrief

Governor names experienced attorney and economist to the KCC

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback announced on March 16 the appointment of Mark P. Sievers to the Kansas Corporation Commission. Sievers is currently a semi-retired corporate executive and a practicing attorney in Colorado who spent most of his career in the telecommunications area for Sprint, GTE, SBC and Verizon. The KCC ensures that natural gas, electricity, telephone and transportation vendors provide safe, adequate and reliable services at reasonable rates.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE – 3/16/11

Department of Energy launches “America’s Next Top Energy Innovator”

As part of the Obama Administration’s Startup America Initiative, U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced the “America’s Next Top Energy Innovator” challenge, which will give start-up companies the opportunity to license groundbreaking technologies developed by the national laboratories for \$1,000 and build successful businesses.

DOE – 3/30/11

More than one million Pennsylvania customers migrate to competitive electric options

The Retail Energy Supply Association (RESA), whose members provide electric and gas commodity products in 22 states and the District of Columbia, notes that 1,013,431 customers in Pennsylvania have made the switch from utility service to competitive electricity service as of March 30. Millions more nationwide have joined the trend of shopping for electricity in restructured competitive energy markets.

RESA – 4/4/11

co-opcalendar

APRIL

- 15 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 20-21 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 22 **Line Superintendents Meeting.** Western Sizzlin, 1708 W. Crawford Street, Salina.
- 28 **MDM Meeting.** KEC Headquarters, Topeka.

MAY

- 1-4 **NRECA Legislative Conference.** Washington, D.C.
- 11-12 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting.** Marriott Hotel, Wichita.
- 18-19 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting.** KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 20 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting.** Lane-Scott Headquarters, Dighton.
- 26 **MDM Meeting.** KEC Headquarters, Topeka.

annualmeetings

APRIL

- 12 **Sedgwick County.** dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Cotillion Ballroom, 1120 West Kellogg, Wichita.
- 12 **Ark Valley.** dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting following dinner, State Fair Grounds, Sunflower North Building, 2200 N. Main, Hutchinson.
- 12 **Victory.** dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Civic Center, 2110 First Avenue, Dodge City.
- 14 **KAMO Power.** reception at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m., Chateau on the Lake, 415 North State Highway 265, Branson, Missouri.
- 21 **Twin Valley.** dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m., Labette County High School Cafeteria, 601 S. High School, Altamont.
- 27 **LJEC.** meeting at 7 p.m., McLouth School Auditorium, 217 Summit Street, McLouth.

upcomingtraining

Three trustee training courses offered at KEC summer meeting

KEC will offer two Board Leadership courses and one Certified Cooperative Director course at its summer board meeting in Overland Park, KS, July 30-31.

On Saturday, July 30, trustees will have their choice between the CCD course or a Board Leadership course.

NRECA’s Bob Patton will facilitate the CCD course **2620.1 Board Roles and Relationships.** This course explains how the director and the full board each play a key role in developing plans and in implementing actions to maintain and manage these relationships.

Also on July 30, NRECA’s Greg Boudreaux will facilitate the Board Leadership course **945.1 Under Scrutiny: The Board’s Role in the Age of the Internet, Consumer Activism and Transparency.** This course will help trustees discuss and analyze how to best position their system at a time of public demands for accountability, ethics and transparency.

On Sunday, July 31, Boudreaux will facilitate the Board Leadership course **902.1 Understanding the Role of the Board Chair.** Board chairs have a critical role in leading the board. They must work closely with the CEO to ensure that meetings are well organized and focused on strategic issues.

Registration information will be sent to the co-ops in a few weeks.

insympathy

Robert Smith Jr., former Leavenworth-Jefferson board member, died March 15, 2011 at his home. He served on LJEC’s board from 1987-2006. He also served as the KEPCo trustee representative for the LJEC board.

Services were held at the Way of the Cross United Methodist Church in Ozawkie. Memorials may be made to Jefferson County Friends of Hospice in care of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home, P.O. Box 416, Oskaloosa, KS 66066.

Flint Hills

Flint Hills' 73rd annual meeting was held on March 17 at the Centre High School in Lost Springs. There were 156 members registered for the meeting, and approximately 350 members and guests were served dinner. Jeff Davidson of Eureka entertained the audience with western songs, stories and pictures about Kansas' 150 years of statehood.

Roger Zimmerman, Dave Cosgrove, Tim Miser and Don Kraus were re-elected to the board. Also, the members approved a proposed bylaw change that reduced the number of board districts from 6 to 4 and the number of trustees from 12 to 8 via attrition.

Butler

Butler held their annual meeting on March 17 at Circle High School in Towanda. Olin Claasen and Richard Jimenez were re-elected to the Board of Trustees.

Guest speakers at the meeting included Youth Tour participants Leah Smith and Samantha Claassen, and Stuart Lowry of KEC. Entertainment was provided by the Headliners of Butler County Community College.

Lyon-Coffey

Lyon-Coffey held its annual meeting on March 21st at Burlington High School. There were 205 members registered and approximately 500 meals were served. Guest speakers included Steve Parr of KEPCo and Matt Sunseri of Wolf Creek. Richard Schmidt was re-elected to the board. Gene Huston was elected, replacing Wayne Van Gundy who served on the board for 45 years. Other highlights included a live Internet feed of Ray Hutson's Cooperative Hall of Fame ceremony from Wichita.

Prairie Land

Over 560 people heard Kansas

Secretary of State Kris Kobach speak at Prairie Land's meeting on March 22.

In addition to Secretary Kobach's speech, the members heard reports from board president Bob Johnson, general manager Allan Miller, Sunflower's Earl Watkins, and KEC's Stuart Lowry.

The members approved bylaw changes pertaining to Trustee nominations and in an election preceding the annual meeting, reelected Keith Ross, Mike Rogers, Ron Griffith and Jerry Gallagher to the Board of Trustees.

Doniphan

Doniphan held its annual meeting on March 24th at Doniphan West School-South Campus in Denton. In attendance were 141 members and guests who were served a meal prior to the meeting. Shana Read of KEC spoke on the KEC grassroots campaign. Steve Whittaker, Carl Laipple, Jr. and Joe Cluck were re-elected to the board.



Doniphan held its annual meeting on March 24 in Denton.

Rolling Hills

Rolling Hills held its annual meeting on March 25 at the NCK Technical College in Beloit. There were 171 members registered and approximately 400 meals were served by Butch's Bar-B-Q. Steve Bahan presented the financial report and Doug Jackson reported on the cooperative's operations for the year. Steve Parr of KEPCo spoke about the challenges of power supply.

Ballots were mailed last December. Re-elected in January were board members Sonny Bohnen, Gary Frieling, Leon Eck, and Kevin Cromwell.

Pioneer

Approximately 164 members and guests attended Pioneer's annual meeting on March 26th at the Grant County Civic Center in Ulysses. A meal was served after the meeting. Melvin Winger, Martie Floyd and Don Dunn were re-elected to the board. Pioneer Electric and Pioneer Communications Cooperatives jointly hosted a health fair the day of the respective annual meetings. A record 1,450 complementary blood profiles were taken during the health fair.

Ninnescah

Ninnescah held their annual meeting on March 29 at Pratt. Ken Unruh, Ed Lenkner, and Curtis Durall were reelected to the Board of Trustees. Steve Parr of KEPCo, Stuart Lowry of KEC, and Ray Hammarlund of the Kansas Energy Office all spoke to the membership. Ed Wiltse reviewed the cooperative's operations for 2010. Also speaking were Brandon Taylor and Daniele Wendland, last year's Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp winners.

Heartland

Heartland held its annual meeting on March 29 at Fort Scott Community College. 60 members registered for the meeting. Dennis Peckman, Patrick Johnson and Sam Marsh were re-elected to the board. Dean Davied was newly elected to the board. President Harry Oehlert recognized outgoing director G.C. Smith with a plaque and thanked him for his 25 years of service. After the meeting, the members and guest enjoyed an ice cream social.

Alfalfa

Alfalfa held its annual meeting on April 1st at the Cherokee High School gym. A meal was served prior to the meeting and gospel quartet "Friends 4" played for early arrivals. Magician Lyndy Phillips also performed. 990 members were in attendance and given a small American flag. Joe Hise and Joe Waggoner were re-elected to the board.

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annual meetings

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Sumner-Cowley

Sumner-Cowley held its annual meeting on April 2 at the Wellington High School. More than 600 people, including 203 members, attended the meeting and enjoyed lunch.

The membership approved changes to the bylaws allowing for mail balloting and district voting. Edmond Gardiner, Gene Beard and Charles Riggs were re-elected to the board.

The membership heard from last year's youth winners, Ashley Koester and Alexandria McChesney, who reported on their experiences on youth tour and the cooperative youth leadership camp. Max Lowrey thanked retired trustee Francis Groene for his years of service and presented him with a meter lamp.

DS&O

DS&O held its annual meeting April 5th at Sterl Hall in Abilene. There were 286 members registered and more than 510 meals were served.

Don Hellwig reported on the cooperative's operations, Stuart Lowry spoke about KEC's grassroots campaign, and Mark Barbee talked about power supply issues. Emily Wolf reported on her trip on the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., last summer. Board members Ron Seyfert and Bruce Spare were re-elected. New board members, Ken Hedberg and David Mueller, were elected.

Students compete in ElectroRally races across the state

Kansas high school and college students are busy designing, building and racing electric vehicles for the three Kansas ElectroRally races in April and May.

The first race was April 6th at the Scott City Municipal Airport. The Western Kansas Electrally was sponsored by Sunflower, its six member cooperatives and Midwest Energy.

The Touchstone ElectroRally, sponsored by Kansas Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, will be held April 19 at North Central Kansas Technical College in Beloit. The Southern Kansas ElectroRally will be held May 7 at Clearwater.

The competition is based on time and distance, and the race is won by the team that completes the most laps in one hour. The cars can reach speeds in excess of 30 mph, but strategy is just as important as speed.

Electric cooperative volunteers, including Dennis Deines of Western Cooperative Electric, help to keep the events running smoothly.

Most of the teams, including the ones that Deines works closely with, build their cars from the ground up



Sunflower employees Cindy Suppes (left) and Nikki Pfannenstiel help the high school teams check in at an ElectroRally race.

using lightweight components such as aluminum frames and bicycle wheels. Following the rules and guidelines of Electra-thon America, the student teams stay consistent with vehicle design and composition.

"It's a good hands-on experience where the kids learn a lot," Deines

said. But he notes that "It's more than learning to build a small-scale car. It's the effort to get it funded. It's the team spirit, the travel and the bonding."

He said the students spend a considerable amount of time on the project each year and gain hands-on experience, as well as real-world skills like teamwork and dedication.

Another benefit for the participating students planning to study engineering at Kansas State University and have a 3.5 cumulative G.P.A., is that they are eligible to receive a scholarship.

"It's an incentive that promotes higher education learning and gives the students something more to work for," Deines said.

"It's a well rounded program," he added. "It's a real gratifying experience to watch the kids participate in the ElectroRally."



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