

Rural Power

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Legislation, safety and power supply topics at summer meeting

On August 1, KEC celebrated its 70-year anniversary with the KEC Summer Board Meeting at the Overland Park Marriott. Attendees heard from a variety of speakers on industry updates and innovations.

NRECA senior vice president for policy, Dena Stoner, traveled to the meeting to give a presentation on national public policy and how electric cooperatives are involved. She talked about the federal debt ceiling and showed how anti-fossil fuel legislation has a largely wealth-driven past. She commended the locally-based approach of electric cooperatives in government.

"We have to stick together in making policy. We have to stick together in politics," said Stoner. "There is nothing like us when we are organized."

Stan Bray, safety and loss prevention consultant from Federated, gave an emotional presentation about the importance of lineman safety. He advocated a grassroots approach which involves the opinions of the lineman themselves. Bray also emphasized that safety is the entire cooperative's responsibility.

Attendees heard a discussion of America's approach to nuclear safety from Matt Sunseri, president and chief executive officer at Wolf Creek. He referenced the Fukushima disaster in Japan and explained the difference between Japanese nuclear power plant designs and American designs. He stressed the importance of diversity and repetition in these plants, which provides a variety of safety measures and a number of each safety measure.

Sunseri said, "The environment is important, and cost is important. But if we can't do that safely and protect the people that work at the plant and people who live around the plant, it's

not worth doing.

Executive vice president and chief executive officer Stephen Parr represented KEPCo by speaking about Kansas' power supply. He voiced his concern about current environmental legislation and said that KEPCo would continue to look for long-term energy contracts that draw from multiple resources.

Earl Watkins, president and chief executive officer at Sunflower, also gave a report on the power supply in Kansas. He was optimistic about the challenges of the future, noting that Kansas' electrical power was born

out of the challenges of the Great Depression. He spoke about his upcoming retirement and commended his replacement, Stuart Lowry. Lowry presented Watkins with a plaque from KEC and later Lowry received recognition himself for his service to KEC.

Retail rates were the topic of KEC vice president of member services Doug Shepherd's presentation. He discussed how changes in retail rate designs are being driven by efficiency, technology, legislation, the rising cost of power,

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Dena Stoner, NRECA's senior vice president of policy, spoke about how our nation's debt-ceiling issue and other national financial issues affect the electric cooperative industry.



KEC's board president Keith Ross, left, presents Stuart Lowry with a watch as a thank you for his years of service.



A Tradition of Electric Cooperation

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Walgreens to become nation's largest retail host of EV charging stations

Walgreens plans to offer electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at approximately 800 locations across the country by the end of the year, making it the nation's largest retail host. The company's stores will provide locations for EV drivers to recharge. The charging stations will feature either a high-speed direct current charger that can add 30 miles of range in as little as 10 minutes of charging time, or a Level 2 charger that can add up to 25 miles of range per hour of charge.

WALGREENS - 7/22/11

Nuclear expert says Yucca is not best site for nuclear waste storage

The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* reports that nuclear expert Per Peterson, who sits on Energy Secretary Steven Chu's Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, said that Yucca Mountain would not be safe enough to store nuclear waste. He offered other options such as burying waste in salt formations or underground bore holes. The advantage, he argued, was that drinking water supplies would be protected from contamination.

LAS VEGAS REVIEW - 8/13/11

New transmission rule could force consumers to pay more

FERC's final rule on transmission planning and cost allocation could force consumers to pay for unneeded transmission facilities, according to the Coalition for Fair Transmission Policy. The Coalition also said the rule could override locally-formulated state and utility resource decisions, undercutting consumers' environmental and economic concerns.

FAIR TRANSMISSION - 8/8/11

AUGUST

- 19 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 25 **MDM Meeting**, Salina.
- 26 **15th Annual KCRE Open**, Salina Municipal Golf Course, Salina, 8:30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 12-16 **High-voltage Safety Demo**, Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson.
- 14-15 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
- 16 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
- 28-29 **KEC Board of Trustees Committee Meetings**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita.

upcomingtraining

KEC to offer NRECA Supervisory courses in Wichita

KEC is offering the first five of the NRECA Supervisory Training courses on December 14-16, 2011, at the Hotel Old Town in Wichita.

This program delivers instruction on core competencies required of supervisors in the areas of leadership, communication, and basic administrative skills. NRECA developed the curriculum based on a set of supervisory competencies identified by new cooperative supervisors, experienced supervisors, and CEOs.

To earn the supervisory certificate, you must complete all nine interactive, co-op specific half-day courses. This workshop offers the first five courses, and the remaining courses will

be offered in the first quarter of 2012. Bryan Singletary, NRECA, will facilitate these courses.

Registration is \$975 per attendee, which includes workshop materials and lunch on both December 14 and 15. Registration deadline is Sept. 30.

Make room reservations by calling the Hotel Old Town at 877-265-3869. Ask for the KEC block to get the group rate of \$119 + tax for a single or double. A hot breakfast located in the hotel's atrium is included in the room cost. Deadline for the room block is November 22.

If you have any questions, please contact Shana Read, 785-478-4554 or email sread@kec.org.

NRECA Regional Meeting to focus on "Building a Better World"

The 2011 Regional Meeting showcases the theme — "Electric Cooperatives Build a Better World." General sessions will focus on effective leadership on the topics including technologies that transform co-ops, the co-op difference, and building stronger co-op safety performance.

Regions 7 and 9 will have a joint meeting from Oct. 11-13 at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel in Denver.

The NRECA Regional Meeting is a checkpoint in setting the association's legislative and policy agenda through the resolutions process. Regional Resolutions Committees and voting delegates can consider proposed new resolutions and amendments to exist-

ing resolutions on vital issues such as "Cost Allocation of High Voltage Transmission Facilities" and "Securing Federal Funding for Clean Coal Technologies." Meeting attendees can weigh in on these issues by participating in the Resolutions Committee meeting at 4 p.m. on Oct. 11.

The CEO Breakfast on Oct. 12 is an opportunity for general managers to discuss issues of mutual concern. Co-op CEOs will receive an invitation for this event.

Visit the Regional Meetings section of Cooperative.com for the full schedule, director education courses, to register for the meeting and to reserve rooms.

Co-ops delivering safety message at Kansas State Fair

Kansas electric cooperatives and Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas are once again co-sponsoring a high-voltage line safety demonstration in conjunction with the Kansas State Fair, Sept. 12-16.

Teaching the public to stay safe around power lines is the focus of the electric cooperatives' message at this year's fair.

Cooperative linemen from Midwest, Sedgwick County, Lane-Scott, Butler and Wheatland have volunteered to help spread the message

The demonstration, which is part of "Kansas' Largest Classroom," is a half-hour in length and will incorporate a full-size electric safety demonstration. The demonstration is on loan from Midwest Energy.

Linemen will demonstrate proper safety precautions and teach viewers what protective gear linemen use and why, and what happens to a person when they come into contact with an energized line.

The public demonstration will operate from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and will be located in the Beef Judging building.

Touchstone Energy and Discovery Channel School "Get Charged" kits will be distributed to teachers who pre-register their 5th-9th grade classes for the demonstration.

"Kansas' Largest Classroom" is a one-of-a-kind educational event that features various items from crafts to agriculture and animals. The Kansas State Fair is the largest event in the state and attracts over 350,000 people annually.

There are a limited number of State Fair admission passes available to cooperative board members and employees.

If you would like to receive free general admission passes to this year's State Fair, please call Shana Read, KEC, at 785-478-4554 or email sread@kec.org. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

KEC Summer Board Meeting highlights, cont.

and other factors. Butler manager Dale Short and LJEC general manager and CEO Steve Foss followed by exemplifying their own cooperatives. Both managers stressed the importance of communication when changing rate structures.

Those in attendance also heard updates from KEC board president Keith Ross, who was re-elected as NRECA director by the trustees.

Prior to convening the meeting, NRECA offered three NRECA Board Leadership courses to the Trustees. Bob Patton facilitated "Board Roles and Relationships," and Greg Boudreaux

presented "The Board's Role in the Age of the Internet, Consumer Activism and Transparency" and "Understanding the Role of the Board Chair."

There were also presentations from WIBW meteorologist Drew Switzer, Chef Alli Winter, and the barbershop quartet *3 Men and A Melody*.

Presentations from the meeting will soon be posted on KEC's website at www.kec.org.

Many of the co-op representatives and their families also attended a performance of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at the New Theatre Restaurant.

15th annual KCRE golf tournament to be held in Salina

On August 26, cooperative trustees, managers, and suppliers will tee it up for the 15th annual Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) golf tournament at the Salina Municipal Golf Course.

The fundraiser will begin with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. The registration fee per player this year is \$65. The tournament usually draws in about 130 participants to support KCRE, a political action committee that raises funds to support legislators' reelection campaigns.

"It's very important to legislators, as it allows them to build effective campaigns and hopefully support electric cooperative ideals once they are in office," said KCRE secretary treasurer Kirk Thompson.

The annual golf tournament is run by co-op managers volunteering their

time, and it accounts for about one half of KCRE's annual funding. The other half comes from a silent auction and annual membership dues.

"The co-op membership understands that they have a large role in politics, and they are willing to spend their personal time and money to protect and further the cooperative goals," said Dave Holthaus, KEC staff liaison to KCRE.

The KCRE donations are important to candidates running for Kansas offices to assist them in purchasing items such as yard signs, websites, TV/radio/newspaper/billboard advertising, and written handout materials and mailings. No KCRE dollars are used for meals, entertainment, or gifts for legislators.

For more information on sponsoring a hole, donating prizes, or playing in the tournament, call Kirk Thompson at 620-873-2184.

jobmarket

Kansas statewide seeks executive vice president

The board at KEC, through NRECA Executive Search, is seeking candidates for the position of Executive Vice President. KEC's current EVP has made a career change.

The position is responsible for a staff of twenty-one employees who assist the membership in finding ways to achieve more through cooperation and joint effort and to improve their competitive positions as electric utilities.

KEC's membership includes 29 electric distribution co-ops and 3 G&Ts.

For a complete position description, visit: <http://www.nreca.coop/programs/Pages/ExecutiveSearch.aspx>.

Send an electronic resume with a minimum of three professional references, and cover letter by October 10, 2011, to: Ken Holmes, NRECA Executive Search, executivesearch@nreca.coop, 785-201-2148.

“CFL Charlie” visits Western Cooperative Electric

Western's Dennis Deines, as CFL Charlie, paid visit to his co-workers. “Charlie” was in town for the Trego County Fair and decided to cool off for a few minutes with the staff of Western. “Charlie” made two more stops in WaKeeney including the BBQ at the Trego County Fairgrounds, and Trego Country Fair Parade on Main Street.



Victory Electric participates in Lineman Boot Camp

On July 30 and 31, prospective linemen in the Dodge City area got a taste of what it would be like to work on power lines.

The Dodge City Community College (DCCC) Technical Center hosted a two-day Lineman Boot Camp in coordination with Victory Electric and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union #304.

The boot camp introduced attendees to the profession in hope that they would gain a better understanding of what it is like to be a lineman.

“They’re not jumping into the career blind,” said Ron Wilkins, professor of the electrical transmission system technician program who served as the director for the boot camp.

The two day session started off with a safety lecture and included skill building instruction, such as a basic knot

tying lesson and a pole climbing introduction class. The instructors emphasized teamwork, respect, and safety procedures.

Victory Electric provided some of the equipment for the boot camp, as DCCC is still in the process of putting together its lineman program. This is the second time that the technical center has been able to offer the boot camp. DCCC hosted it for the first time last December.

According to Wilkins, the technical center will continue to offer the boot camp every six months if there is still an interest from the public. Apart from giving those aged 18 and over who are interested a glance into what their career may be like, the boot camp also gives objectives and a head start if the attendees do choose to be linemen in the future.

KEC installs new phone system

KEC's new ShoreTel phone system will be installed on August 23 between noon and 2 p.m. During this time, KEC's regular phone lines will be disabled.

The old Toshiba system, which the company had used for the past 10 years, lost its voicemail capabilities earlier in the year. After studying the costs associated with replacing the voicemail system, KEC found that it would be most economical to install a new system. Of all the systems that KEC considered, the ShoreTel system was the most cost effective.

Along with a new voicemail system, the phones include features such as a desktop consol, which will allow employees to dial directly from their desktop, and the ability to forward calls to cell phones. Call forwarding will help increase communication among KEC employees who travel frequently.

KEC appreciates the members' patience over the past few months while it has been without a voicemail system.

KEC is on Facebook

If you are a member of the fastest growing social networking site – Facebook, join us in becoming a fan of Kansas Electric Cooperatives. The fan page will keep you up-to-date on happenings at the Kansas state-wide. Find our fan pages at www.facebook.com by searching for Kansas Electric Cooperatives.



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