

RuralPower

INSIDE

- 2 | Calendar
- 3 | Co-op annual meetings
- 4 | Co-op Youth Leadership Camp wins Community Service Award

Please send any story ideas to ruralpower@kec.org.

Charlie Ross inducted to the Kansas Co-op Hall of Fame

At a ceremony on March 11, Charles "Charlie" Ross was posthumously inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame.

The Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame was established in 1999 to honor individuals in Kansas who have been instrumental in developing and spreading the cooperative philosophy.

"The Hall of Fame is important for recognizing the contributions of co-op pioneers and honoring those who have gone above and beyond the call in advancing the cooperative philosophy," said Bruce Graham, KEC's CEO.

Ross' biographical information will be placed alongside other honorees in the Kansas



Members of Charlie Ross' family join KEC's Bruce Graham to accept the posthumous award from the Kansas Cooperative Council staff and board.

Cooperative Hall of Fame showcase display at the Kansas State Fairgrounds. This permanent display, located in the Pride of Kansas Building, highlights the achievements of our state's great co-op leaders and preserves our cooperative history. It also plays a significant role in educating

others about the uniqueness of the cooperative business model.

KEC's Bruce Graham, KEPCo's Marcus Harris, and other co-op officials joined several members of the Ross family in honoring Charlie for his achievements.

Kansas electric cooperative officials attend NRECA's Annual Meeting

More than 6,000 representatives from electric cooperatives across the nation, including more than 100 from Kansas, attended the NRECA Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL, Feb. 23-25.

At this meeting, co-op officials set NRECA's legislative and organizational agenda for 2015. In addition to considering and acting upon policy resolutions, delegates received reports from NRECA officials, heard addresses by key public figures and business experts, and attended educational forums on major issues affecting electric cooperatives and their members.

Jacob Rose, a high-school student sponsored by DS&O, served as the Kansas representative on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) during the Annual Meeting.

Rose worked in the NRECA Congressional Action Center encouraging attendees to contact their representatives about co-op issues, such as keeping electricity affordable.



Jacob Rose carried the Kansas state flag during the opening ceremony.

Rep. Joe Siwert, who also serves on the Ark Valley Board, met with Rose at the Annual Meeting and has invited him to speak about his Youth Tour and

YLC experiences at the Kansas House Utilities and Telecommunications Committee, date yet to be set.

To view the meeting photos, visit <http://kansaselectric.smugmug.com/2015-NRECA-Annual-Meeting>.



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Federated Board elects Loren Dickens as Treasurer

Loren Dickens, President of Radiant Electric's board, was recently elected to serve as Treasurer of the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Board.



Loren Dickens

Dickens has been a director at Radiant since 1993. For the past 19 years, he has served as the alternate trustee to the KEC board. Since 2012, Dickens also serves as the Region 7 Director-Director representative to Federated's 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.

Co-ops attend CoBank's customer meeting



Doug Lindahl, DS&O trustee, (right) chats with Coach Jimmy Johnson at the CoBank reception.

CoBank held its annual Western Plains Customer Meeting on March 12-13 in Wichita. Approximately 60 co-op officials representing 15 Kansas electric co-ops attended the meeting.

The program is designed to give directors and managers valuable knowledge, insight and information that can be used both professionally and personally. This year's meeting featured presentations from leading experts on the economy, politics and business leadership.

Guest speaker Jimmy Johnson, legendary football coach and TV analyst, shared life lessons and team management strategies.

co-opcalendar

MARCH

- 23 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Holcomb Station, Holcomb
- 26 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka

APRIL

- 7 **KEC's HR Summit**, Ambassador Hotel, Wichita
- 7-9 **NRECA Retirement Seminar**, Marriott Courtyard, Salina
- 8-10 **KMSDA Spring Meeting**, Drury Inn, 400 W. Douglas Avenue, Wichita
- 13 **KEC Annual CLE Training**, 8:30 a.m. – 4:10 p.m., KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 15-16 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 17 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 23 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 30 **KEC's IT Summit**, Drury Inn, 400 W. Douglas Avenue, Wichita

annualmeetings

MARCH

- 21 **Pioneer**, lunch at 11:30 a.m., meeting at 10 a.m., Health Fair 7-12 p.m., Grant County Civic Center, 1000 W. Patterson, Ulysses
- 21 **Sumner-Cowley**, lunch at 11:30 a.m., meeting at 1:15 p.m., Wellington High School, 1700 E. 16th Street, Wellington
- 24 **Ninnescah**, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting after meal, Municipal Building, 117 West 3rd, Pratt
- 26 **Doniphan**, dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m., Doniphan West, S. Campus, Hwy 20 West, Denton

upcomingtraining

KEC's HR Summit

KEC has scheduled the 2015 HR Summit at the Ambassador Hotel on April 7. Topics include an update by NRECA's Michelle Gordy, creating a positive workplace by Kristina Dietrick of Creative Business Solutions, affirmative action plans by Terry Williamson of HudsonMann, and a discussion of the next generation workforce by NRECA's Michelle Rostom.

The HR Summit is \$175 per participant and includes lunch. Registration deadline is March 20.

Retirement Seminar

KEC is sponsoring a two-day NRECA Retirement Planning Seminar designed for co-op employees and spouses. This event will be held April 7-9 at the Courtyard Marriott, Salina. Registration is \$60 per person.

Topics include investment basics, NRECA retirement benefits, calculating retirement needs, legal affairs and estate planning, protecting assets, and financial products and services. One-on-one retirement projection reviews with a professional investment advisor will be scheduled immediately after the meeting.

KEC's CLE program

KEC's Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program will be held on Monday, April 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:10 p.m. at KEPCo's office in Topeka.

Topics include ethics tips from Deborah Hughes, a discussion on legal and EPA issues by NRECA staff, a legislative update by Sen. Terry Bruce, a review of board purpose titled "Crossing the Double Yellow Center Line into Micromanagement" by Tim Larson, and a presentation by KEC's Kim Christiansen.

Registration deadline is April 8. The Kansas CLE Commission has approved this CLE for 7.0 credit hours, including 2.0 hours of ethics.

KEC creates IT Summit

KEC has created an IT Summit for co-op employees who manage information technology needs. This new training will be held at the Drury Inn, Wichita, on Thursday, April 30.

Topics include a discussion on security assessments by NISC's Sean Wiese, virtualization and storage technology by the Davenport Group, and a roundtable discussion for the attendees.

Senator Pat Roberts stops at KEC to visit with ag leaders

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts' state schedule for the President's Day recess included a stop at the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC), office in Topeka. On Feb. 19, he hosted a roundtable discussion with Kansas leaders on agriculture issues and met with local media.

Nearly 20 different groups responded to the Senator's invitation to provide industry updates. Regulatory overreach was a common theme with the EPA and the Lesser Prairie Chicken cited as significant challenges.



Bruce Graham, KEC CEO, listens as US Senator Pat Roberts discusses issues with ag leaders.

Co-ops congratulate new RUS Administrator

On March 12, Brandon McBride was appointed as Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service.

NRECA's CEO JoAnn Emerson said, "NRECA and electric cooperatives congratulate Brandon on this appointment. He's been a staunch advocate for rural America in the Senate, and we're thankful that he will continue his public service as an advocate for the programs and infrastructure on which so many rural communities rely."

McBride serves as staff on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. He previously served as a legislative assistant for Senator Blanche Lincoln.

Brown-Atchison

Brown-Atchison held its 77th annual meeting on February 27 at the cooperative headquarters in Horton.

More than 120 members registered for the meeting and enjoyed a catered lunch. Last year's Youth Tour winner, Kandace Linck, gave a speech about her experience in Washington, D.C.

Joe Taliaferro, David Hinton, and Daryl Sales were all re-elected to the board.

Nemaha-Marshall

119 members of Nemaha-Marshall gathered for their annual meeting on March 3. The meeting was held at the American Legion Building in Axtell.

Members received a catered lunch prior to the meeting. Guest speakers included KEC's Dave Holthaus, and youth winners Chloe Cudney and Andrew Feldkamp.

Re-elected to the board were Merlin Frerking and Tom Niehues. Newly elected was Harry Moser. Moser replaces Larry Donahue who retired after 16 years on the board.

Flint Hills

More than 300 people attended Flint Hills' 77th Annual Meeting on March 3 at the Herington Community Building. Prior to the meeting, members were treated to a meal.

During the meeting, the members heard reports and were introduced to the student winners selected to attend KEC's youth programs this summer. Bruce Graham, KEC and Marcus Harris, KEPCo, also spoke to the membership.

Re-elected to the board were Dale Andres, Duane Kaiser, and Terry Olsen. Newly-elected was Korby Effland.

Heartland

More than 100 members and guests gathered on March 5 at Fort Scott Community College to participate in Heartland's Annual Meeting and enjoy an ice cream social.

Guest speaker was Marcus Harris, KEPCo's CEO.

Ernest Troth and Bernard O'Brien were re-elected to the board. Harry Oehlert, who served as a director for 15 years, chose not to stand for re-election and that position has been eliminated as part of the board's ongoing reduction from 12 members to eight members.

Steven McFarland was elected to the board, replacing Pete DeLange, who served as a director for 30 years.

Bluestem Electric

Bluestem Electric held its 16th Annual Meeting on March 9 at the Rock Creek Jr/Sr High School in Flush. Approximately 275 members and

annualmeetings

guests attended both the meeting and the vendor-products fair.

Trustee elections were conducted by mail ballot last December. Re-elected to the board were Gary Buss, Ervin Gnadt, Bruce Meyer and Harold McCarter.

Guest speakers included Marcus Harris, KEPCo, and Bob Hall, KEC.

Butler

Butler held its annual meeting on March 12 at the Circle Middle School in Benton.

More than 200 members attended the meeting and passed a bylaw revision regarding trustee qualifications.

Guest speakers included KEPCo's Marcus Harris, and the 2014 youth winners Allison Hepburn and Peyton Wheeler.

Newly-elected to the board were Gary Hill and Boyd Ray.

Lyon-Coffey

Lyon-Coffey's Annual Meeting was held March 16 at the Burlington High School. Approximately 600 members and guests attended and enjoyed a fried chicken dinner from Olpe.

Guest speakers included Marcus Harris, KEPCo, and the 2014 Youth Tour winners Antony Furse and Malorie Wagner.

Re-elected to the board were David Kunkel and Donna Williams.

PumpSmart program featured at NET Conference

Midwest Energy was asked to showcase its PumpSmart program at the Touchstone Energy NET Conference in Tucson, AZ, Jan. 26-29, 2015.

Michael Billinger, Midwest Energy's Manager of Rates and Demand Response, served as a panelist of the "Pump It Up! Trends and Technologies for Big Pump Loads" session. Issues covered included motor efficiency, the relationship between large oil and gas members and their utility, and irrigation load control.

"Being a panelist gave me the opportunity to provide attending cooperative representatives with information regarding Midwest Energy's irrigation load control program called PumpSmart, as well as learn about other co-op programs and gain information regarding current topics within the industry," stated Billinger.

Created in 2010, PumpSmart participants curtail load during the summer months and, in exchange, receive a credit based on the amount of load that they shed. Currently, the PumpSmart program has 571 accounts enrolled with approximately 25.3 MW of subscribed load.

insympathy

Darlene Kopsa

Darlene Kopsa, wife of former KEPCo Trustee Melroy Kopsa, died on Feb. 7.

Funeral services were held on Feb. 14 at the Presbyterian Church in Cuba, KS.

Memorials may be sent in care of Tibbetts-Fischer Funeral Home, 1104 20th St., Belleville, KS 66935.

Barbara Riggs

Barbara Riggs, wife of Sumner-Cowley Trustee Charles Riggs, died on March 2.

Funeral services were held on March 6 at the Conway Springs United Methodist Church.

Memorials to the Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice or CS City Library may be sent in care of Ebersole Mortuary, PO Box 156, Conway Springs, KS 67031.

Co-op Youth Leadership Camp wins Community Service Award



Nearly 100 youth from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming attended the 2014 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, CO. This camp recently won the NRECA Community Service Award for youth programs.

During the NRECA Annual Meeting last month, the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp was given a national Community Service Award for youth programs. The camp is a week-long program held each July to teach the cooperative business model.

"This enriching program will prepare these kids not only for running a co-op someday but for leading any enterprise," said NRECA CEO Jo Ann Emerson.

Based in Colorado, this leadership camp is open to students from co-ops in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming. Participants can run for a

seat on the board and serve on committees. The students spend the week overseeing the basic operations of the camp.

The camp builds leadership skills, while providing a deep dive into the seven cooperative principles. Participants also learn about the political process and how they can play a pivotal role. This program provides a set of life skills and a lifetime of memories.

Established in the 1970s, currently 20 Kansas cooperatives send students to this leadership camp. This year's camp is July 11-17. Visit KEC's website or <http://bit.ly/CYLCVideo> to view KEC's new camp video.

KEC staff promote electric co-op careers at university events

Kansas Electric Cooperatives staff promoted electric cooperative careers at university career fairs.

On Feb. 11, Larry Freeze, Editor, and McKenzie Crow, Communications Intern, hosted a booth at the Kansas University Career Fair.

Numerous college students stopped by the KEC booth to learn about internship and career opportunities in the electric co-op field.

On March 5, Carrie Kimberlin, Communications Specialist, participated in a spring career fair event hosted by Kansas State University. At this event, students signed up for times with a variety of companies to conduct mock inter-

views, review their portfolios, and learn more about the companies at the event.



Larry Freeze, Editor, visits with a KU student about the electric cooperatives.