

Rural Power

INSIDE

- 2 | Calendar
- 2 | Lesser Prairie Chicken activity continues
- 3 | Kansas cooperative annual meetings
- 4 | Paul Seib, Jr., inducted into Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame

Mid-Kansas Electric Company to break ground on Rubart Station

On April 9, Mid-Kansas Electric Company, LLC will hold its groundbreaking celebration for Rubart Station, the company's 110 megawatt electric generating station located 13 miles east of Ulysses.

Officials of companies involved in construction, Mid-Kansas board members, and state and local dignitaries—along with Perry Rubart, long-time Pioneer Electric trustee after whom the facility is named—have been invited to attend this event.

The 110 megawatt station will comprise 12 natural gas reciprocating engines designed by Caterpillar Generation Systems, marking the first installation of Caterpillar's new G20CM34 sets.

"It's exciting to break ground on a station that will bring great benefits to our members and the region," said Allan Miller, Mid-Kansas board chairman. "These units will help meet our members' growing need for electricity and can be deployed individually within minutes, allow-



Above is an artist's rendering of the Rubart Station. The groundbreaking celebration for this facility is scheduled for April 9.

ing for rapid response to wind and market conditions."

On-site work began in late February in preparation for arrival of the units in the fall. Caterpillar will ship the units from Rostock, Germany, to Houston, TX, from where they will be transported by rail to southwest Kansas and then trucked to the site.

During construction, the project will generate an estimated 150 jobs. Once operational the

facility will create six to 10 jobs.

"At a time with ever increasing challenges to the electric industry, our board has remained steadfastly focused on meeting member electricity demand in a reliable, cost effective manner," said Stuart Lowry, Mid-Kansas president and CEO. "The decision to build this state-of-the-art facility is but one example of the Mid-Kansas board's efforts to balance energy demand and resources in ways that most benefits our members."

Ninnescah's Board selects Teresa Miller as new general manager

Teresa Miller accepted the position of manager at Ninnescah Electric on March 27.

Miller has worked at Ninnescah for 13 years, most recently as the director of finance and office administration.

"I'm familiar with the business side and running this as a business," Miller said. "I'll do my best for Ninnescah."

"Teresa's been in our organization, knows it well and has done a super job," said Board President Ronald Schultz.

According to Schultz, Miller stood out because of her knowledge and commitment to Ninnescah.



Teresa Miller

"She always puts the co-op in first place," Schultz said. "She thoroughly knows the co-op."

Essentially, Schultz said the decision came down to who could do the best work for Ninnescah and help it to continue improving. The board also looked for a sense of stability in its manager position.

Miller said, "We've been through three managers since I've been here. Hopefully I've learned something from them."

Miller is from St. Leo and attended Pratt Community College. She had previously worked at a bank and as a clerk of the school board.

Miller and her husband live outside of Pratt and enjoy the outdoors. Miller also likes to spend her time gardening.



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Lesser Prairie Chicken activity continues

KEC has been working on behalf of its membership to express concerns about the potential ramifications of a pending decision by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to list the Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC) as a threatened species.

If the LPC were listed and habitat protected, the construction of utility facilities would be restricted or require a cumbersome permit process, including expensive mitigation steps. While a decision is not required until Sept. 30, KEC and its member G&Ts have been engaged in the issue to meet several key deadlines for comment.

Those initiatives include: KEC's CEO Bruce Graham wrote and filed with USFWS comments on the proposed listing; KEC supported another set of comments filed by municipalities and landowners in the affected areas; KEC has communicated its concerns to its Congressional Delegation; and the March *Kansas Country Living* CEO column was dedicated to this topic.

Most recently, Graham joined several statewide managers in a meeting with Dan Ashe, Director of USFWS, to ask the agency to defer a listing while a five-state voluntary conservation plan is crafted.

KEC has alerted NRECA to ramifications of a court case that requires the USFWS to make decisions on 250 other species now on the list of candidates for protection under the Endangered Species Act. As a result, the topic will now be part of the NRECA Legislative Conference later this month.

insympathy

Doris Ross

Doris Ross, wife of former KEPCo CEO Charles Ross, died on March 17. She had served on KEC's Women's Executive Committee.

A memorial service was held on March 20 at the Penwell-Gabel Southwest Chapel in Topeka.

Memorials may be made to Midland Care, 200 SW Frazier Circle, Topeka, KS 66614.

APRIL

- 11 **KEC's Continuing Legal Education program**, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at KEC's Headquarters, Topeka
- 17-18 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 19 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 23 **KEC's HR Summit**, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 9100 Corporate Hills Drive, Wichita Marriott
- 24-26 **KMSDA Spring Meeting**, Homewood Suites, 1550 N. Waterfront Parkway, Wichita
- 25 **MDM Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.
- APRIL 28-MAY 1 **NRECA Legislative Conference**, Washington, D.C.

MAY

- 8-9 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, 9100 Corporate Hills Drive, Wichita Marriott
- 15-16 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, Courtyard by Marriott, Junction City
- 17 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Pioneer Electric Cooperative, 1850 W. Oklahoma, Ulysses
- 21-23 **Supervisors Summit**, Prairie Band Casino, Mayetta
- 23 **MDM Meeting**, KEC Headquarters, Topeka, 10 a.m.

annualmeetings

APRIL

- 9 **Sedgwick County – dinner and meeting at 6:30 p.m.**, Cotillion Ballroom, 11120 W. Kellogg Street., Wichita
- 9 **CMS – dinner at 5:30 p.m.**, meeting at 7 p.m., High School, 509 School Addition, Meade
- 9 **Victory – dinner at 6 p.m.**, meeting at 7 p.m., Western State Bank Expo, 11333 US Highway 283, Dodge City
- 11 **Twin Valley – dinner at 6 p.m.**, meeting at 6:30 p.m., Labette High School Cafeteria, 401 S. High School, Altamont
- 16 **Ark Valley – dinner at 6 p.m.**, meeting after dinner, Kansas State Fairgrounds, Sunflower South, 2000 N. Main, Hutchinson
- 19 **Rolling Hills – dinner at 5:30 p.m.**, meeting at 6:30 p.m., NCK Technical College, 3033 US 24 Highway, Beloit
- 20 **Prairie Land – lunch at 12 p.m.**, meeting at 12:45 p.m., Cooperative Headquarters, 14935 US Hwy 36, Norton
- 23 **LJEC – meeting at 7 p.m.**, High School Auditorium, 217 Summit Street, McLouth

KEC's Human Resources Summit set for April 23 in Wichita

KEC has created an educational workshop for electric co-op human resources professionals and management employees. This event will be on Tues., April 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wichita Marriott. Workshop registration begins at 9 a.m.

The HR Summit is designed for those who are responsible for HR activities within their cooperatives, as well as benefits administrators and supervisors. The workshop's agenda includes "Hot Topics in HR" and "HR Issues: I'm

Supposed to be Doing What?" presented by Kristina Dietrick, President of Creative Business Solutions; and "Health Care Reform and How it Affects My Co-op" presented by Bernardo Cruz, Manager of Associations and Special Accounts at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas.

The HR Summit is \$150 per participant and includes lunch. Registration deadline is April 19, and space is limited. Hotel reservation deadline is April 8. For more information, contact Shana Read at sread@kec.org or 785-478-4554.

KEC offers Continuing Legal Education program for co-op attorneys

KEC's Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program will be held on Thursday, April 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at KEC's office in Topeka.

Topics include a regulatory review of the prudence of board and management decisions, mortgage registration tax issue update, new environmental regulations and the effect on electric cooperatives, legal issues affecting electric cooperatives in Kansas stemming from Mississippian Lime Play Develop-

ment, legislative review, and an ethics case review.

Registration and cancellation deadline is Monday, April 8. The Kansas CLE Commission has approved this program for 5.0 credit hours, including 1.0 hours of ethics.

Breakfast and lunch are included in the \$25 registration fee. For more information about this program, contact Carol Dorr at (785) 478-4554, or email cdorr@kec.org.

Flint Hills

Flint Hills held its 75th annual meeting on March 5 at the Centre High School in Lost Springs. 157 members and their guests enjoyed a catered meal and musical entertainment.

As part of the 75th year celebration, Gary Burton, Board President, reviewed the price increases of common goods, and asked trivia questions about 1938. Manager Bob Reece gave the 2012 financial report, an update on the FEMA restoration project, discussed the future work plan for the cooperative and ended his speech with the NRECA "Purpose" video.

The winners from last year's Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp spoke about their experiences, and this year's winners were announced.

Board trustees reelected for a three-year term were Shawn Potts, Duane Carlson and Bill Hein. Duane Kaiser was re-elected for a two-year term.

Nemaha-Marshall

Members of Nemaha-Marshall reelected James Borgerding and Dean Becker and elected David J. Koch for the first time to the Board of Trustees at their annual meeting.

The meeting, held March 5 at the Axtell American Legion, featured presentations from last year's Youth Tour winners, Bryton Stoll and Megan Peabody; 2006 Youth Tour winner, Coleman Younger, as well as Bruce Graham from KEC.

Ricky's Café in Hanover catered the meal prior to the meeting. Approximately 138 members attended and 315 members and guests were served lunch.

Nemaha-Marshall also shared the NRECA "Purpose" video with its members.

Bluestem

Approximately 200 members and guests attended Bluestem's annual meeting March 11 at Riley County High School in Riley.

Members had the opportunity to participate in a products fair held before the meeting. Attendees listened to management reports and heard from guest

speakers Les Evans from KEPCo and Doug Shepherd from KEC. Refreshments were served afterward.

Bluestem members reelected board members Robert Ohlde, Dean Blanka and Rick Ridder in the mail ballot election conducted in December.

Butler

Approximately 250 members attended Butler's annual meeting March 14 at Circle High School in Towanda.

Syls Catering served a crowd of 750 members and guests before the meeting began. During the meeting members listened to a presentation from Bruce Graham of KEC and reelected board members Bryce Flaming and Riley Walters.

Pioneer

Pioneer hosted its 69th Annual Meeting on March 16 at the Grant County Civic Center in Ulysses. Prior to the meeting, over 1200 members and friends of Pioneer Electric participated in a free health fair and lunch, catered by Webb's BBQ.

During the meeting, 122 members had the opportunity to listen to a tag-team presentation given by CEO Steve Epperson and Stuart Lowry of Sunflower.

Pioneer recognized retiring board member, Ralph Stoddard, for his 20 years of service as the District 9 representative. Charles E. Milburn was elected to serve District 9; Fred Claassen and Jim Bell were reelected to the board in Districts 5 and 6 respectively.

Sumner-Cowley

Sumner-Cowley held its annual meeting on March 23 at Wellington High School. 253 members attended the lunch and meeting.

Hog Wild Pit Bar-B-Q served lunch to 578 members and guests before the meeting.

Special guests included Kansas Senators Steve Abrams and Forrest Knox, and Representative Ed Trimmer.

Through a mail-in ballot members elected John Whittington and Jeff Swanson, as well reelected Ron Jeffries

to the board of directors.

Cooperative staff assisted by CEO Cletas Rains, Senator Abrams, Representative Trimmer and Senator Knox distributed \$10,000 in scholarships to area high school seniors. Sumner-Cowley also announced their Youth Tour winners.

Lyon-Coffey

Lyon-Coffey members elected two new board members and re-elected Robert Converse at the annual meeting on March 25 at Burlington High School.

John P. Evans and Randy Bunnell will replace Harvey Raaf and George Zentner who both retired.

The 116 members in attendance heard reports from board members, and from the 2012 Youth Tour winners. This year's Youth Tour winners were announced. Prior to the meeting 350 members and guests enjoyed a dinner catered by Olpe Chicken House.

Heartland

Heartland held its annual meeting March 26 at Fort Scott Community College.

Chuck Terrill from KEPCo spoke to the more than 120 people in attendance. Pam Henderson, a representative from Senator Jerry Moran's office also attended.

Members reelected the incumbents to their board: Robert Stainbrook, Richard Reinhardt, Ronald Taylor and Donald Davied.

Ninnescah

More than 250 members and guests attended Ninnescah's 75th annual meeting on March 26 at the Municipal Building in Pratt.

Rick's Restaurant catered the dinner which was served as the meeting began at 6 p.m. Members listened to reports from Mark Doljac from KEPCo, as well as Bob Hall from KEC. Ninnescah announced the winners of the 2013 Youth Tour and the results of the Board of Trustee elections.

Members elected a new trustee, Ruth Teichman, and reelected Glen Honeman and Paul Unruh.

Kansas Cooperative Council Hall of Fame honors Co-op Leader

Lane-Scott's Paul Seib, Jr., was inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame during a special ceremony on March 20.

Paul has served on many cooperative boards, including Lane-Scott, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, Farm Credit of Ness City and Western Fuels Association.

Paul was presented with a plaque noting his contributions to the cooperative movement. A slide show was also presented highlighting his personal and cooperative accomplishments.



Lane-Scott's Paul Seib, Jr., was inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Council's Hall of Fame on March 20. From left: Lane-Scott board members Craig Ramsey, Paul Seib, Richard Jennison, and Lane-Scott's manager Ed Wiltse.

Attendees also heard from Paul's fellow board members via video testimonials.

Approximately 250 people attended the ceremony, including more than 20 of Seib's family, friends and fellow board members.

Seib's photo will now be part of a permanent display at the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame Exhibit, located in the Pride of Kansas Building on the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson. More information on the Hall of Fame and inductees is available at www.kansasco-op.coop.

jobmarket

Victory seeks CEO

Victory's Board of Directors is seeking qualified candidates to replace the CEO who will retire Aug. 30 after 42 years of service.

Must have a minimum of 10 years demonstrated leadership skills in the electric utility industry with at least five years senior management experience. A bachelor's degree in an appropriate field is highly preferred.

Must demonstrate an ability to lead the strategic, financial, risk management, operational, engineering, technology, and member service planning initiatives required of an electric distribution cooperative. Must understand the working relationship between the CEO and the Board and have a commitment to the "cooperative principles."

Send electronic resume, cover letter, salary history, minimum of three professional references or letters of recommendation to: Gary J. Hobson, NRECA Executive Search, ExecutiveSearch@nreca.coop. Deadline is June 10. EOE.



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