

Rural Power

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Rural Power will transition to a solely electronic newsletter at the end of the year. To ensure you continue to receive Rural Power, email us at ruralpower@kec.org.

Kansas electric co-ops accept the ice bucket challenge to honor Steve Parr

As the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge makes its way across social media, electric co-op managers, board and staff across Kansas have taken part in the movement to spread awareness about the devastating disease. This challenge hits close to home as the late KEPCo CEO Steve Parr lost his life to this disease in Feb. 2013.

On Aug. 21, 2014, upon adjournment of the regularly-scheduled KEPCo board meeting, 15 co-op officials changed into T-shirts and prepared to dump buckets of ice-cold water on their heads.



Bruce Graham, KEPCo's CEO, douses himself with a bucket of freezing water as part of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.



The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge was accepted by this group on Aug. 21. Back row (from left): Shawn Geil, KEPCo; Bill Riggins, KEPCo; Steve Foss, LJEC; Ken Maginley, Bluestem; Bob Reece, Flint Hills; Scott Whittington, Lyon-Coffey; Mark Doljac, KEPCo; Daryl Tieben, Victory; Allen Zadorozny, Caney Valley; and Mark Barbee, KEPCo. Front row (from left): Les Evans, KEPCo; Bruce Graham, KEC; Kirk Thompson, CMS; Shane Laws, Victory; and Don Hellwig, DS&O.

Participating were Ken Maginley, Bluestem; Allen Zadorozny, Caney Valley; Kirk Thompson, CMS; Don Hellwig, DS&O; Bob Reece, Flint Hills; Bruce Graham, KEC; Mark Barbee, Mark Doljac, Les Evans, Shawn Geil, and Bill Riggins, KEPCo; Steve Foss, LJEC; Scott Whittington, Lyon-Coffey; and Shane Laws and Daryl Tieben, Victory.

“Everyone had

been watching the ice bucket challenge and had seen that it was for a good cause. For us it was particularly meaningful because it was in recognition of Steve Parr,” said Graham. “Doing it at the KEPCo meeting was appropriate because everyone knew him there and respected him.”

A collection was taken during the meeting, raising \$1,200. But this event prompted other challenges to other electric co-ops in Kansas who have raised even more. One request came from Les Evans who nominated Steve Parr's three sons. Stephen Jr., Chris and Jeremy Parr. All three accepted the challenge.

Chris Parr, LJEC's Assistant General Manager said, "It is amazing to see how the cooperative family has honored my father and continues to garner support for this disease. I am proud to be a part of the cooperative family which bands together to meet adversity. My family and I would like personally to thank everyone who has dedicated the challenge to my father."

Graham added, “It was truly about paying our respects to someone who impacted our lives professionally and personally.”

The Ice Bucket Challenge benefits the ALS Foundation to help find a cure for the disease. More than \$100 million in donations has been received so far.



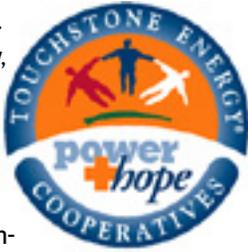
PO Box 4267
Topeka, KS 66604-0267
www.kec.org

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Kansas Touchstone Energy to hold Annual Meeting

The Touchstone Energy Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Wichita Marriott on Tuesday, Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Mary McLaury, Touchstone Energy, will give an update on the national program activities. The Touchstone Energy Executive Council will discuss statewide activities, set the 2015 dues assessment, select the Power+Hope winner(s), and hold elections.



The committee members whose terms expire this year include Ronald McNickle, Scott Whittington and Dennis Deines. The committee will also elect a new member services person to fill a vacancy. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Council, please contact Bruce Mueller.

Please RSVP your attendance to Shana Read, KEC, before Sept. 23.

SEPTEMBER

- 9-11 **KEC Hot Line School**, Pratt Vo-Tech, Pratt
- 16-18 **KEC Hot Line School**, Manhattan Vo-Tech, Manhattan
- 17-18 **KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 18-19 **CFC Budget Pro Workshop**, Ambassador Hotel, Wichita
- 19 **Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting**, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays
- 25 **MDM Meeting**, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka
- 25-26 **Line Superintendents Meeting**, Holiday Inn Select, Wichita

OCTOBER

- 1-2 **KEC Board of Trustees Meeting**, Marriott Hotel, Wichita
- 14 **NRECA Region 7-9 Director Education**, Hilton Hotel, Omaha, Nebraska
- 15-16 **NRECA Region 7-9 Meeting**, Hilton Hotel, Omaha, Nebraska

Electric cooperative employees learn supervisory skills

Thirty-two co-op employees representing 15 cooperative systems attended KEC's supervisory training last month at the Courtyard Marriott in Wichita.

This program delivered 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 and experienced supervisors, and CEOs.

NRECA's Bryan Singletary facilitated this "fast track" that offered nine interactive, co-op specific modules.

The topics of the training included: time management, communication, resolving conflict, motivating employees, human resources, and occupational health and safety for supervisors.

The next supervisory fast track will be offered the week of Aug. 24, 2015, at the Courtyard Marriott in Old Town Wichita. Singletary will facilitate again.

upcomingtraining

Budget Pro workshop

KEC has re-scheduled the CFC Budget Pro workshop.

This two-day training will be held Sept. 18-19 at the Ambassador Hotel in Wichita.

The purpose of the workshop is to learn how to prepare a 12-month operating budget for a distribution co-op using a CFC-created spreadsheet template. The course will be facilitated by CFC's John Grant and Johnny Vaughn.

The workshop is Sept. 18 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lunch is provided and there will be a dinner reception from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. On Sept. 19, the workshop will run from 8 a.m. - noon. A box lunch will be provided. There is no registration fee for this event for KEC members.

This program will provide a maximum of nine CPE credits in Specialized Knowledge & Applications.

Registration for the workshop is due by Sept. 12. For more information, contact Shana Read at sread@kec.org.

KEC to offer New Director & Employee Orientation in October

First launched in 2012, KEC will host its second New Director & Employee Orientation on October 8 in Wichita. The one-day training will bring together new employees and directors from across the state.

The agenda offers attendees the chance to meet experienced electric co-op staff in key leadership positions, learn the history of the electric co-ops and their grassroots beginnings, and understand the language and the structure of electric utilities and co-ops.

The morning presentations will include an update on KEC services, understanding generation and electric rates, and the importance of political engagement. Speakers will include

Bruce Graham, KEC; Cindy Hertel, Sunflower; Chuck Terrill, KEPCo; and several KEC staff members.

As part of the orientation, NRECA's Mary McLaury will present the new course "The Power of Cooperatives."

This course is designed to teach a deep understanding of the cooperative difference and be able to communicate it effectively.

Registration is \$100 per participant and includes lunch. To make a hotel reservation, call the Wichita Marriott at 1-800-610-0673. The room block with a rate of \$117 will expire on Sept. 23.

To register for this program, or for more information, contact Shana Read, KEC, at sread@kec.org or 785-478-4554.



Midwest Energy breaks ground for community solar array

Midwest Energy and Clean Energy Collective co-hosted the ground breaking for Midwest Energy's community solar array on August 28.

Among those invited were area legislators, local officials, co-op employees, members who have reserved panels in the array, and individuals interested in solar. The attendees heard remarks from both CEC and Midwest Energy's leaders.

After the ground breaking, a reception was held for guests to meet the solar team and ask questions.



Breaking ground at Midwest Energy's community solar array are (from left): Tyson McGreer, City of Colby Manager; Kansas Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer; Gary Adrian, City of Colby Mayor; Peg Tole, member of Colby City Council; Earnie Lehman, Midwest Energy President & General Manager, and Paul Spencer, Clean Energy Collective President & CEO.

2014 Kansas youth tour delegate wins nationwide grant contest

Jacob Rose, a 2014 Youth Tour delegate sponsored by DS&O and the 2014-15 Kansas representative to the NRECA Youth Leadership Council, recently won a nationwide student service project grant contest coordinated by NRECA. A total of 18 grants were awarded to youth tour alumni.

Rose will use the \$500 student service project grant to supplement an existing project known as "Cheesecake for Change". The cheesecake fund raiser supports a charity that, since its inception in 1953, has raised over \$112 million to fund missions and ministries around the world. The grant program was coordinated in partnership with generationOn, a global youth service organization.

"Through this program, we will raise awareness for the hurting in our communities. We don't want to just help people, we want to change their lives," Rose said. "We want to make sure they have the chance to be successful, to have a second chance at life.



Jacob Rose, 2014 youth tour delegate, won a \$500 community service grant through NRECA.

By supporting this ministry, we can do that."

Rose said that he is excited to raise money for a charity that will benefit communities all around the world and make an impact on many lives.

"Students are our beacon of hope for the future," said DS&O's Manager Don Hellwig. "For more than 50 years, electric co-ops have invested in our students by hosting the annual youth tour to Washington, D.C., allowing some of our best and brightest students to gain first-hand insight. This grant program builds on that investment, and gives our students the tools to expand their resume while applying what they've learned to directly benefit their community."

"Jacob's project will allow him to give back to the community and learn valuable hands-on leadership skills at the same time," Hellwig continued. "We're honored to be able to help Jacob give back, and look forward to watching him grow into a future community leader."

Co-ops golf, raise funds in KCRE tournament

Thirty teams took to the course and raised approximately \$4,500 during the 18th annual Kansas Committee for Rural Electrification (KCRE) golf tournament. The event was held August 22 at the Salina Municipal Golf Course.

The KCRE golf tournament raises an amount of money approximately equal to 300 memberships and provides KCRE necessary funds to support candidates who support electric cooperative issues.

A total of 120 golfers participated in the tournament. Flight winners included the teams from Bluestem, Kaw Valley, Sunflower and Rolling Hills. The



Thanks to the 18th annual KCRE golf tournament planners (from left): Kirk Thompson, CMS; Scott Whittington, Lyon-Coffey; Bob Reece, Flint Hills; Ken Maginley, Bluestem; and Dale Short, Butler.

winning team was from Kaw Valley and included Randy Richards, Kevin Gregg, Jerry Manning and Steve Holler.

Early bird and top prize drawings were also given to competitors along with 18 hole prizes. The tournament planners gave special thanks to the sponsors who supported this event.

The 19th Annual KCRE Golf Open is scheduled for August 28, 2015.

KEC is on Facebook

If you are a member of Facebook, find KEC's fan page at www.facebook.com by searching for Kansas Electric Cooperatives. This page will help you keep up-to-date on happenings at the Kansas statewide.

facebook

insympathy

Margaret Lowry

Margaret Lowry, the mother of Sunflower's Stuart Lowry, passed away August 31. The Memorial Service was held September 3 at the Valley Falls United Methodist Church.

Memorials may be made to the Valley Falls United Methodist Church, or Jefferson County Friends of Hospice, and sent in care of Mercer Funeral Home, PO Box 6, Valley Falls, KS 66088.

LJEC seeks Technology Administrator

Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative is seeking a Technology Administrator.

Duties include meeting the daily challenges of technical support and troubleshooting of LJEC's technology systems. This position maintains technology inventory, manages vendor support interaction, performs routine preventative maintenance, as well as develops and implements LJEC's Technology Plan.

The position requires a Bachelor's Degree in IT related field and a minimum of two years working in system administration or IT; or Associates in IT related field and a minimum of three years in system administration or IT.

Applicant must be at least 18 years of age and must have a valid KS driver's license. LJEC offers a competitive starting salary and an outstanding benefit package.

Interested applicants should send resume to HR Department, PO Box 70, McLouth, KS 66054. EOE.

Sunflower's Myron Stenzel tries his hand as an author

Myron Stenzel, an Engineering Technician for Sunflower, recently wrote Keep the Light, a book about taking chances that is now being sold nationwide.

On August 25, Stenzel was featured on a local television station's talk show to discuss his book.



Myron Stenzel

Starting with an idea that he thought up 14 years ago, Stenzel finally began writing his book last year.

Keep the Light is a story of family, friendship, true love, and taking chances.

Stenzel hopes that by the end of the book, readers will look inside themselves and envision their dreams and passions.

To order a copy of Keep the Light, call Stenzel at (785) 650-2337.

Electric cooperatives to participate in K-State's EPAP Day

The Kansas electric cooperatives will take part in the 6th annual Electrical Power Affiliates Day at Kansas State University on September 9-10.

KEC, Sunflower, KEPCo and Midwest Energy are new sponsors of the EPAP program. The goal of EPAP day is to encourage students to consider the utility industry for career opportunities so they can fill the job market needs in Kansas.

Next week, the co-ops will have a display at the College of Engineer-

ing where students can visit with co-op representatives to learn more about the power industry. Co-op volunteers will also participate in industry panel "speed dating," mock interviews and class presentations.

"The Electrical Power Affiliates Program is an example where companies can make a difference for our students," said EPAP program director Dr. Noel Schulz. "The program enables student research projects, conferences, industrial sites visits and more."



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Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. • PO Box 4267 • Topeka, KS 66604-0267



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