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Our Mission

The Kansas Cooperative Council exists to promote, support and advance the interests, business success and understanding of agricultural, utility, credit and consumer cooperatives and their members through legislation and regulatory efforts, education and public relations.

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Norbert Gerstenkorn, Margaret Bruce (wife of the late Dale Bruce) and Ray Hutson accept HOF awards.

Hall of Fame Honors Co-op Leaders

Dale Bruce of Wichita, KS, Norbert Gerstenkorn of Conway Springs, KS and Ray Hutson of Burlington, KS were inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame during a special ceremony held in conjunction with the KCC and KFSA annual meetings on March 21st. Dale’s daughter, April Bruce-Steward accepted the award on behalf of her father, who passed away in 2008. Ray Hutson, of Lyon-Coffey Electric, would miss his first annual meeting in 40 years to attend the ceremony since it was held on the same night. Since the co-op didn’t want to miss Ray’s big moment, they came up with the great idea to Skype the HOF ceremony directly to their annual meeting over the internet. Thank you to Dean Grell and Ken Caudell of Lyon-Coffey Electric for making this possible through your tech work. It was

great to connect our two co-op audiences for the event.

Each inductee was presented with a plaque noting their contributions to the cooperative movement. A slide show was also shown for each individual highlighting their personal and cooperative accomplishments. With over 240 people attending the event, the evening was full of family and friends sharing stories with the inductees.

The KCC is pleased to welcome these three deserving individuals into the Hall of Fame. All 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 in Hutchinson. Information on the Hall of Fame and inductees is also available on the KCC webpage at www.kansasco-op.coop.

Dave Studebaker, Chairman
Delphos Cooperative Assn.
Delphos, Kansas

Ed Taylor, Vice Chairman
Golden Valley, Inc.
Rozel, Kansas

Deb Miller
Farmers Union Mercantile
& Shipping Assn.
Stockton, Kansas

Marla Marsh
Kansas Credit Union Assn.
Wichita, Kansas

Mike Pesek
KFSA
Hutchinson, Kansas

Charles Gabehart
Nemaha County Co-op Assn.
Seneca, Kansas

Gary Friesen
Scott Co-op Assn.
Scott City, Kansas

Steve Magette
Pride Ag Resources
Dodge City, Kansas

Dan Cashier
Anthony Farmers Co-op Elevator
Anthony, Kansas

Rob Johnston
The Farmers Cooperative Grain Co.
Caldwell, Kansas

Steve Eck
CHS Business Solutions
Windom, Kansas

Dennis Blick
CoBank
Wichita, Kansas

Mark Anderson
Farm Credit of Southwest Kansas
Garden City, Kansas

Stuart Lowry
Kansas Electric Co-ops, Inc.
Topeka, Kansas

Annual Meeting and the Year In Review



By Dave Studebaker

I hope that most of you were able to attend our annual meeting recently in Wichita. We induct-

ed three worthy individuals into the Cooperative Hall of Fame. Congratulations to Norbert Gerstenkorn, Ray Hutson, and the late Dale Bruce for their dedication and contributions to the cooperative system.

Also at the annual meeting, Charles Gabehart and Ed Taylor were re-elected to the KCC Board of Director to serve their respective districts for another 3 years. Rob Johnston was elected to serve district 4 as Kevin Kelly did not seek re-election.

At the reorganization meeting, the officer slate of Dave Studebaker-chairman and Ed Taylor-vice chairman was reaffirmed. Deb Miller was elected as secretary. Mike Pesek and Marla Marsh remain on the executive committee. Thank you for allowing me to continue to serve as your KCC chairman.

2010 was another busy year for the Council. We conducted our usual array of educational programs, holding our Director Development Program in Wichita and Manhattan in December. Attendance was up this year.

We partnered again with the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center on the Symposium and Leadership Roundtable in September and we embarked on a new educational effort in 2010 with our New Leaders program.

One of the major highlights of 2010 came when the renovations of Co-op Cottage at Rock Springs 4-H Center were completed in time for the summers camping season. Thank you to all the cooperatives that have contributed to the project. Your support was outstanding.

2011 looks to be another busy year. Your board looks forward to serving you.

KCC Board Director Spotlight:

Rob Johnston



The KCC's newest board member is Rob Johnston, General Manager of The Farmers Co-op Grain Co. in Caldwell. Rob was born and raised around Hartford,

Connecticut. He is a graduate of Suffield High School, Suffield, Connecticut, one of only a handful of schools in the state offering vocational agriculture. He attended Kansas State University, receiving a Degree in Dairy Production. Rob was a local salesman for a feed company before starting a career in cooperatives. He held various positions in several co-ops from 1978

to 1987, when he became assistant manager at Caldwell. Rob became the general manager at Caldwell in 1993.

Beyond employment, his involvement with the CoMark Marketing group, Cheney, Kansas has enhanced and furthered his belief and commitment to the cooperative philosophy.

Rob and his wife Susan, have two grown children, Zach and his wife Shalyn of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Matt and his wife Jenny of Harper, Kansas.

2011 Annual Meeting - Highlighting Past and Future

The Kansas Cooperative Council joined KFSA and Agri-business Benefit Group, Inc. (ABBGI) for a combined conference featuring the annual business meetings of all the organizations, plus the Kansas Co-op Hall of Fame ceremony. The events were held during a Mar. 21-22 convention in Wichita at the Hyatt Regency. The festivities began with the KFSA reception and dinner on Monday evening. The dinner program featured the 2011 Co-op Hall of Fame (HOF) induction ceremony. We would like to thank our evening's sponsors KFSA and CHS for partnering with us on this event. It truly was a special evening.

During Chairman Dave Studebaker's report, he highlighted many of the KCC's 2010 accomplishments, including those noted in his column on the previous page, and also our involvement with the Kansas Agricultural and Rural Leadership (KARL) Program. The Chairman's report concluded with our "year in review" slide show.

President Leslie Kaufman spoke to our plans for 2011. She mentioned the Council's plans to start the "Century Co-op" program, develop marketing materials, and improve educational programs.

The annual meeting provided the perfect venue for announcing our new member recognition program, the "Century Co-op" award. This award recognizes co-ops that have been serving members for 100 years or more, which is a testament to the lasting value of the cooperative business structure. The

KCC is looking forward to celebrating the individual accomplishments of our members and the strength of the co-op model.

A new sponsorship opportunity was unveiled at this year's annual meeting—our "gold level" exhibitors. A limited number of these spots were available and additional recognition was provided to these sponsors. We would like to thank our gold level exhibitor sponsors: Associated Benefits Corporation; Reif Welding and Construction LLC; Rubber Belting & Hose, Inc.; Frisbie Construction Co., Inc.; and McPherson Concrete. Each sponsored a prize drawing where we gave away five Kodak camcorders. Congratulations to the winners: Bob Bender (Kanorado), Roy Davis (Danville), Jack Queen (Halstead), James Jirak (Kensington) and Charles Gabehart (Seneca).

Century Co-op

Has your co-op served your community for 100 years or more? The Council would like to honor those co-ops 100 years or older. Please visit our website for more details and complete the Century Co-op application so that we can help you celebrate!

Congressman Pompeo Attends HOF Ceremony



Congressman Pompeo speaks before the HOF ceremony

Congressman Mike Pompeo and his wife, Susan, attended the Cooperative Hall of Fame ceremony on March 21st. The Congressman spoke briefly to the crowd, regarding efforts in Washington, DC to increase oversight of the US EPA and reign-in government spending.

Standing in front of the KCC banner with our motto "Advancing cooperative success", he noted the irony having that as a backdrop when it seems at times that there is so little cooperation in the nation's capitol.

We are honored that the Congressman and his wife Susan, could attend and meet the great people that make up our cooperative family. It was a pleasure to also have Kenya Cox with the Congressman's Wichita staff and Senator Jerry Moran's aide Mike Zamrzla in attendance, too. Mel Thompson with Senator Pat Roberts office was able to join us for the Tuesday business meeting.

Legislative Action Day Brings Co-op Members to the State Capitol

Neither rain, nor sleet, nor inches of snow could stop some members from taking the co-op message to the Statehouse on Jan. 19. The Kansas Cooperative Council joined with the Kansas Grain & Feed Association and the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association to host a joint Legislative Action Day (LAD) in Topeka.

Many association members braved the elements to meet with legislators and policymakers during the kick-off luncheon, statehouse visits and evening reception. Despite the weather and other competing events, many lawmakers found time to join us for at least part of the evening. Several of the freshmen legislators participated, as well.

We were honored to have the new Secretary of Agriculture and key legislative leaders as our luncheon speakers. It was a pleasure introducing Secretary Dale Rodman to the cooperative and agribusiness families. Rodman commented on plans to combine additional agency functions under the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture (KDA) umbrella and noted his desire to see the KDA be an advocate for agriculture. Leadership briefings

(continued on back page)



New Relationships



It has been a truly interesting session. January ushered in a administration, saw one of the largest freshmen classes in recent memory sworn-in as House members, had on-going position changes with lawmakers moving into cabinet positions, House members

moving up to fill vacant Senate seats, and the resulting new House members being selected by precinct committee representatives. On top of all that, legislators, staff and lobbyists struggled to deal with a problem-plagued, new legislative information system.

New faces have created different dynamics within each chamber. The freshmen legislators span a wide range of ages and backgrounds, making it very enjoyable to get to know them. Some are very clear in the objectives they want to achieve and the time frame in which they want to move. Some are focused on two or three issues. Others are taking a more holistic approach to their new roles.

We have made a concerted effort to meet new lawmakers and introduce them to the Council. Our

experiences with the new class members illustrates how important establishing relationships with policymakers really is. At the same time, I have been reminded of a few key principles for creating and maintaining positive working relationships with those serving in public policy positions:

- You may not agree on an issue, but don't be disagreeable about it;
- You may not agree on a certain issue now, but down the road, you may find an ally on a different matter (so don't burn bridges);
- Fight for/against the issue, not a person (don't make it a battle against a person, and don't take it personally);
- Make friends on both sides of the aisle (and within each faction of a party);
- Accept that you are not going to convince 100% of the people 100% of the time (know when to quit); and
- Smile often

March Events in Pictures





PO Box 1747
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Leslie Kaufman, President/CEO

Legislative Action Day

(from pg. 4)

were provided by Senate President Steve Morris (R-Hugoton), the new Senate Majority Leader Jay Emler (R-Lindsborg), Speaker of the House Mike O'Neal (R-Hutchinson), the new House Majority Leader Arlen Siegfried (R-Olathe) and the Ranking Minority Member on the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Jerry Williams (D-Chanute).

The budget, education funding, immigration, tax exemptions, and next year's reapportionment were topics covered in the briefing. Speaker O'Neal closed out the program with a key reminder that many legislators viewed by the general public as "urban" have a real connection to agriculture and rural Kansas. Thus an appreciation for the needs of agribusiness and cooperatives can't simply be judged by a lawmaker's current hometown.

Mark your calendars now, to join us for LAD 2012 on January 25.

Dues Reminder

If you haven't already done so, please send your dues payment to our office ASAP to ensure that you remain on our membership roster and receive benefits of membership for the coming year. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

- 10 KFSA Customer Golf Tournament - Newton, KS
- 19-20 Western KS Managers Reception/Golf - Dodge City, KS

June

- 15-17 NCFC Summer Conference - Washington, DC

July

- 11 KCC Board Meeting - Hutchinson, KS
- 23-27 National Institute on Cooperative Education (NICE) - West Lafayette, IN

September

- 6 KCC Board Meeting - Hutchinson, KS
- 9-18 Kansas State Fair - Hutchinson, KS