

P.O. Box 1335, 3230 N. 14th Ave.
 Dodge City, KS 67801
 620-227-2139
victoryelectric.net
facebook.com/victoryelectric
twitter.com/thevictoryelec
 Visit us on YouTube



Electronews

The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.

Board of Trustees

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Pat Morse
President | John Leis
Trustee |
| Daryl Tieben
Vice President | James Ochs
Trustee |
| Cedric Drewes
Secretary/Treasurer | Randy Quint
Trustee |
| Gary Gillespie
Trustee | Ken Schulte
Trustee |
| Jim Imel
Trustee | Kenny Wehkamp
Trustee |
| Terri Larson
Trustee | |

Staff

- Shane Laws**
CEO
- Amy Grasser**
Vice President of Corporate Services
- Rob Henry**
Vice President of Engineering
- Denzil McGill**
Vice President of Information Technology
- Ryan Miller**
Vice President of Operations
- Chanda Schulte**
Vice President of Communications
- Angela Unruh**
CFO

CEO MESSAGE

A Rare Windstorm Shines Light on Victory's Preparation

Preparation for a historic windstorm does not start a few days or hours before the storm. Rather, it takes years of research, work, long hours and dedication to prepare. The windstorm caused extensive damage across the state of Kansas, including multiple fires that were devastating in parts of western Kansas. It is not luck that kept Victory's territory almost completely "fire free" on Dec. 15, 2021, it was preparation.

Since 2012, Victory has worked to completely automate our system, initial work began in the metering department in 2009. The network we have developed has made it possible to be fully automated and convert manual processes to electronic. We now have the ability to control most all devices from our office. A process that took approximately an hour to complete would not have been possible 10 years ago with the lack of visibility the storm brought. The co-op's board of trustees has played an essential part in this preparation, providing us the ability to purchase the equipment and software needed to make complete system automation a reality.

On Dec. 15, prior to 9 a.m., the decision was made to put our system into "one-shot" or "non-reclose." Under

normal operations any time there is a fault on a line it will try to clear the fault multiple times, which can cause lines to spark. Extreme fire hazards were



Shane Laws

a major concern. Victory did not want our lines sparking and potentially igniting fires that could spread rapidly in a windstorm like we witnessed on Dec. 15.

By utilizing Victory's system technology, we knew that outages would occur much quicker and were guaranteed. However, temporary outages heavily outweighed the risk of wildfires. Victory experienced approximately 10,000 outages during the peak of the storm but was able to restore power to virtually the entire system by 3 a.m. the next morning. With only one small grass fire reported, the plan operated exactly as we planned.

Knowledge is priceless — our engineering and operation team's house a wealth of industry knowledge that allowed this process to go much further than simply changing the system

Continued on page 12D ▶

Application Available Online for Lightner Community Spirit Scholarships

This spring, Victory Electric will award 10 scholarships for \$1,000 each to graduating high school seniors and current post-secondary or college students. The Lightner Community Spirit Scholarship program is designed to recognize students who have demonstrated academic success and have showed a commitment to bettering their community.

Scholarship Requirements and Applicant Eligibility

- ▶ All applicants for the scholarship shall be considered on the application criteria without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin or existence of a physical handicap.
- ▶ Scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors and current college students.
- ▶ Applicants must be a current student at or be entering an accredited college, university or trade school.
- ▶ Scholarships are for one year. An applicant may apply as often as desired but are only eligible to receive a Victory Electric scholarship once.
- ▶ Must be an active Victory Electric member in good standing for at least 12 consecutive months or a dependent of such member.
- ▶ Must have and maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale.

How to Apply

The Lightner Community Spirit Scholarship program now has an online application process. To apply, applicants should visit victoryelectric.net/lightner-community-spirit-scholarship, which contains the award information, applicant eligibility and scholarship requirements, a scholarship application guide, and a link to begin the 10-step online application. Applicants should carefully review the application requirements and gather all necessary materials before beginning the application process. Required items include:

- ▶ Applicant and parent contact information.
- ▶ Victory Electric membership information.
- ▶ Résumé.
- ▶ Copy of official transcript mailed to Victory Electric

**COULD YOU
USE \$1,000
FOR SCHOOL?**

**LIGHTNER COMMUNITY
SPIRIT SCHOLARSHIP**

**DEADLINE: MARCH 18, 2022
APPLY AT VICTORYELECTRIC.NET**

in a sealed envelope with the envelope flap signed by a school official, or a digital transcript emailed to askcommunications@victoryelectric.net from a school official.

- ▶ Biographical statement.
- ▶ A 500–800-word essay.
- ▶ A digital, high-resolution headshot photo of the applicant with the provided photographer's photo release form completed.
- ▶ The deadline to submit the scholarship application is no later than 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 18, 2022.

Since the program began in 2016, Victory Electric has awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 50 deserving students. The name of the scholarship honors the Lightner family of Plymell, Kansas. Richard Lightner served on Victory Electric's board of trustees for 36 years, and his father, George, served 31 years prior. Both were strong proponents of Victory Electric's community and youth programs.

For questions or more information on the scholarship application process, please contact Communications Coordinator Allison Doll at 620-371-7738 or askcommunications@victoryelectric.net.

Ledford and Stein Promoted to Crew Chiefs

Victory Electric Vice President of Operations Ryan Miller, recently announced **CLAYTON STEIN** and **JACOB LEDFORD**'s promotion to line crew chiefs.

Crew chiefs are responsible for a line crew of three to four linemen. They supervise the crew and the crew's assigned projects.

"Over the last couple years, Jacob and Clayton have demonstrated their knowledge and leadership on the line crew," said Miller. "Both guys began their lineman careers at Victory and were encouraged and guided by the crew chiefs they worked under. There is no doubt that they will offer that same encouragement and guidance now that they are in those supervisory roles."

Stein began his career at Victory Electric as a warehouse clerk in 2010 and became a lineman in 2012. In September 2016, he completed his journeyman lineman certification.

"It has always been one of my goals, to grow my knowledge about my profession and eventually use it to lead others on the crew," Stein said. "I didn't expect to receive that opportunity so soon, but I am grateful for it and up to the challenge."

Ledford joined Victory Electric in 2012 as an apprentice electrician before joining the line crew as an apprentice in January 2014. Four years later, Ledford completed his journeyman lineman certification.

"Learning this trade doesn't happen overnight," Ledford said. "It takes will, dedication, and leaders willing to pass what they know down to those who are just starting out. I am excited for the chance to take what I've learned and put it in the hands of other guys so that they might continue to share that knowledge."

Congratulations to Clayton and Jacob on their promotion! Victory Electric looks forward to the leadership they will provide to the line crew.



Jacob Ledford



Clayton Stein

small steps equal **BIG STRIDES**

Increasing activity improves your physical and mental health, stress levels, sleep productivity and more.

2.75 hours of walking each week for a year is like walking across the State of Kansas.

30 minutes of playing tennis (singles) is like walking a 5k.

1 hour of dancing every week for a year is like walking from Chicago to Indianapolis.



10 minutes of stretching is like walking the length of a football field.

20 minutes of vacuuming is like walking one mile.

30 minutes of grocery shopping every other week for a year is like walking a marathon.

SOURCE: HEART.ORG

CONGRATULATIONS!

2022 *victory electric* **YOUTH TOUR**

ERIKA FRY *Spearville* ALLERIS GRANADOS *Fowler* JASPER KREGAR *Spearville* EMMA TREJO *Dodge City*

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

7 Causes of Slips, Trips and Falls

27.5% of workplace accidents involve slips, trips and falls.

Most frequent injuries: **Sprains, strains, tears**

If you recognize these common causes of slips, trips and falls at home or work, report or address them to prevent injury.



Spills and Debris



Wet/Slippery Floors



Poor Lighting



Loose Mats or Rugs



Clutter on Floor or Stairs



Uneven Floor Surfaces



Cables that Cross Walkways

Sources: National Safety Council and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

A Rare Windstorm Shines Light on Victory's Preparation

Continued from page 12A ▶

to one-shot. Knowing which areas could handle this type of adjustment and those that could not, is a prime example of how Victory leverages in-house expertise to benefit our members every day.

As the automation of Victory's infrastructure system reaches completion, the benefits are shining brightly. The capabilities we now have, the man hours we are saving, miles of driving reduced from one substation to the next, and the outage time frames drastically being reduced, are prime examples

of how our members are benefiting not only from a reliability standpoint but also from a financial perspective. Anytime we can reduce costs through automation, our members win. We have transitioned from a period of waiting for our members to tell us the lights are off, to already having crews on the way when those calls come in. Rest assured we're not finished looking out for your best interests as we continually search for the most efficient way to keep the lights on and the cost of power low.

THANKS, SHANE

Empowered Together.
 Victory Electric Annual Meeting
 4.12.22

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip windows to seal air leaks. When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY