

P.O. Box 1335, 3230 N. 14th Ave.
 Dodge City, KS 67801
 620-227-2139
victoryelectric.net
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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
Kyndell Penick Vice President of Safety & Key Accounts
Angela Unruh CFO

CEO MESSAGE

What Does it Mean to Serve on the Board?

In one of the most notable inaugural speeches given, John F. Kennedy spoke his famous words, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” His inspiring words urged Americans to take actions that benefited the greater good. In essence, Kennedy was saying our country thrives when we all contribute our talents to the common good.

On a smaller scale, I think the same can be said about our co-op, specifically with regard to our board members. Victory’s board members are community-minded individuals with a variety of skill sets. Our board is made up of farmers, business owners, executives and educators. We rely on their many talents to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. Our directors live right here in the co-op’s service area, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community because they provide their perspective on important community issues. We recognize it takes many people with different skills to create a well-rounded board that can represent the full spectrum of our community.

Serving on Victory’s board means you’re making a difference locally, using

your individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the co-op that in turn benefit the larger community. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves. On a granular level, Victory’s board members typically provide input and guidance on:

- ▶ Budgets.
- ▶ Co-op goals and direction.
- ▶ Co-op’s community/charitable contributions.
- ▶ Capital investments and upgrades in equipment and technology.
- ▶ Renewable investments and energy mix.
- ▶ Co-op’s role and involvement in economic development.

In addition, Victory’s board members also serve as representatives at the state and national level by representing Victory on the Kansas Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees, Sunflower Board



Shane Laws

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Annual Report and Voting Ballots Mailed to You

Look for your annual report in the April issue of *Kansas Country Living*

Ballots for the board of trustee's election will be mailed separately and contain the candidate profiles, ballot, return envelope and your registration card for the meeting on **APRIL 12, 2022**. Ballots must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, April 11, the day prior to the annual meeting. No voting will be held electronically or at the annual meeting. Results will be announced at the meeting.

Why vote? Purchasing electricity from Victory Electric gives you membership in the cooperative and, as a member, you have voting rights. Your participation is a fundamental power that flows from you to your electric cooperative. You have the power to discuss issues with friends and neighbors and elect your board representation. That democratic right — which includes one vote by every cooperative member — is one of several important differences between electric cooperatives and investor-owned electric utilities. Informed and concerned members stay involved by electing those people who value their way of life and work to improve the quality of life in south-west Kansas.

Members of the board of trustees are responsible for directing the business and affairs of the cooperative. Like you, trustees are cooperative members but with a special perspective. Your board members live throughout the Victory Electric service area. The trustees' primary function is planning and policy oversight, establishing the long-term objectives of the cooperative.

Nominating Committee Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the nominating committee of The Victory Electric Cooperative Association Inc., was held Feb. 4, 2022, at the office of the cooperative on N. 14th Avenue in Dodge City, Kansas.

The following members of the nominating committee were present:

- ▶ David Bryant
- ▶ Calvin Koehn
- ▶ Danny Denton
- ▶ Nick Cossman
- ▶ Robert Carlson
- ▶ Janet Brack

Dave Snapp, attorney for Victory Electric; Shane Laws, CEO; Daryl Tieben, board representative; Chanda Schulte, vice president of communications, and Carolina Ross, executive assistant were also present.

Dave Snapp called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Thereupon, Snapp went over qualifications and eligibility requirements for election as a trustee,

as set forth in the bylaws of the cooperative, to determine if each potential nominee was eligible for election based upon the information available and the bylaws of the cooperative.

Thereupon, motions duly made, voted on and carried Robert Carlson was elected as chairman of the nominating committee and inspector of elections. Chairman Carlson then took over the meeting and asked for nominations from Districts 5, 7 and 10.

Thereupon, motions duly made, seconded, and adopted, the following persons were nominated to stand election as candidates for trustee of the cooperative for a three-year term:

DISTRICT 5 GARY GILLESPIE

DISTRICT 7 JIM OCHS

DISTRICT 10 PAT MORSE

There being no further business to come before the meeting of the nominating committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

New VP of Safety and Key Accounts



Kyndell Penick

We are excited to announce that **KYNDPELL PENICK** has accepted the vice president of safety and key accounts position at Victory. Penick has been with Victory since 2014

and has spent time in many different aspects of Victory Electric making his knowledge and experience a great fit for the position.

"Kyndell is a talented, hardworking employee that is capable of anything," said Rob Henry, vice president of engineering. "He started out in the line department, and then was promoted to the manager of key accounts position. Kyndell thrived at this position and soon accepted the roll of managing the substation department along with

his other key accounts duties. Kyndell proved to be a great leader and an asset to Victory."

"I look forward to this new role and opportunity to help the cooperative in any capacity I can," said Penick. "I enjoy my key accounts role and look to expand upon the program to better serve the members as well as build upon the safety program and culture that Mikey Goddard built here at Victory."

"Kyndell will be a great addition to the senior management team. His leadership skills have already proven to be an asset to Victory," said Shane Laws, Victory CEO.

Penick and his wife, Shawna, have three children Kayden, Parker and Connor.

Congratulations Kyndell, we are excited to see you continue to do great things for the members of Victory Electric!

What Does it Mean to Serve on the Board? *Continued from page 12A* ▶

of Trustees, as well as the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Board of Directors.

The energy industry is undergoing a major transition. Technology advancements and increased consumer preference for more renewable energy is driving change. Victory is facing big decisions, and board members have an opportunity to help chart a course for our future. To serve the community best, we need input from a wide range of people that represent the broad spectrum of views within communities we serve.

While you don't need to be an expert in electricity or business to run, you do need to have a passion for the community and a willingness to actively serve and learn. Our board meets on a regular basis, and we offer specialized training opportunities to help board members make informed decisions. Board members gain a deeper understanding of the electric utility industry, the cooperative business model and local economic development efforts.

Ultimately, our board is the community pulse for the co-op and helps keep us on the right track. We love our community and want to do our part to help it thrive, now and into the future.

THANKS, SHANE

5 REASONS TO ATTEND ANNUAL MEETING

- 1. 'SPARK' A CONNECTION**
SOCIALIZE WITH COOPERATIVE EMPLOYEES, BOARD TRUSTEES AND OTHER MEMBERS.
- 2. THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**
WHETHER YOU ARE 1 OR 101, THERE IS SOMETHING FOR ANYONE AT ANY AGE.
- 3. YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE EMPTY HANDED**
FROM SWAG BAGS TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN ONE OF MANY EXCITING DOOR PRIZES, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU MIGHT LEAVE WITH.
- 4. CELEBRATE THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
JOIN US AS WE REVIEW OUR YEAR AND CELEBRATE OUR PROGRESS AS WE CONTINUE TO STRIVE FOR WAYS TO BETTER SERVE OUR MEMBERS.
- 5. BE IN THE KNOW ABOUT YOUR COOPERATIVE**
GET THE 411 ON ALL THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, AND BE THE FIRST TO LEARN WHAT'S COMING NEXT!

APRIL 12, 2022

WESTERN STATE BANK EXPO CENTER - DODGE CITY

COULD YOU USE \$1,000 FOR SCHOOL?

LIGHTNER COMMUNITY SPIRIT SCHOLARSHIP

DEADLINE: MARCH 18, 2022
APPLY AT VICTORYELECTRIC.NET

Straight Selected as New Manager of Safety

Victory Electric is pleased to announce the selection of **JUSTIN STRAIGHT** as the manager of safety.

Straight began his career at Victory Electric in December 2007 as a fourth-class lineman. He achieved his journeyman certification in 2010 and was promoted to crew chief in 2016. Prior to working at Victory Electric, Straight was a lineman at J&J Powerline Contractors.

"I have worked at Victory for 14 years and what I enjoy most are the people and how they all work as a team," Straight said. "I am excited for the challenge to take on this new role and continue to build upon our safety culture."

As manager of safety, Straight will promote safety internally and externally, follow up with line crews in the field, coordinate safety trainings and meetings with Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., ensure the line crews have proper clothing and safety gear, as well as maintaining office safety.

Straight will also begin the two-and-a-half-year process of becoming a certified loss control professional through a program co-sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the National Utility Training and Safety Education Association.

"As a lineman, I always placed an importance on following safety practices and held an interest in

teaching those practices to new crew members," Straight said. "I look forward to learning as much as I can and being able to pass it on."

Justin is married and has three stepchildren. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family and hunting.

Congratulations to Justin on this promotion! Victory Electric looks forward to the leadership he brings, as he continues to build on the safety culture.



Justin Straight



COBANK SHARING SUCCESS GRANT

LOCAL NONPROFITS MAY APPLY
TO RECEIVE UP TO \$20,000!

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT VICTORYELECTRIC.NET

DEADLINE: MAY 20, 2021