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victoryelectric.net
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Electronews

The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.

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CEO MESSAGE

An Economic Impact

Concern for the Community, working for the sustainable development of our communities through policies supported by the membership, is one of the Seven Cooperative Principles that guides your co-op.

We partner with our members and other groups in the community, so together we can bring about positive change and improve the quality of life for our members and the places where we live and work. As members of the communities we serve, we understand the needs and wants of our members. We work jointly with city and county officials, local businesses, and the economic development corporations to advocate for new business opportunities in Dodge City and the surrounding communities. Participation in programs and investment in economic development reinforces our commitment to the communities we serve. We are

happy to help where we can when it comes to recruiting new business and fostering the growth of our service territory. Because when our communities grow, it creates an opportunity for us all. We understand that we cannot sell electricity to a business that has closed its doors, or to people who have left the community because there are not enough local opportunities.

As such, we make investments in electrical infrastructure to ensure the long-term viability of the co-op, the local electric grid, and the community. Because when the co-op thrives, the community thrives — the health and well-being of both are closely inter-



Shane Laws

Continued on page 12B ▶



COBANK SHARING SUCCESS GRANT

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

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT VICTORYELECTRIC.NET

DEADLINE: MAY 20, 2022

An Economic Impact Continued from page 12A ▶

twined. We invest in maintaining and upgrading equipment to ensure we improve operational efficiency as well as invest in technology to ensure grid security and resilience. With the leadership of our board of trustees we have put ourselves in a position to build a sustainable future.

As we work to keep the cost of power low, we also encourage our members to support the opportunities for new growth, as it can directly impact their electricity bills each month. New commercial members adding a large load to the system allow for the fixed cost to be spread over more kilowatt-hours, ultimately reducing the overall cost for everyone. That is why we've been

working tirelessly with officials from the Ford County Economic Development Corporation, the City of Dodge City, and various state officials to ensure we are doing everything we can to help bring Hilmar Cheese to our community. As an electric utility, we are always looking for creative ways to improve our communities which ultimately translates to a lower cost of power for everyone we serve. Any time we can leverage the opportunity to lower the overall cost of power for all Victory Electric members, we do it. Promoting economic development is one of the many ways Victory Electric can accomplish that worthy goal.

THANKS, SHANE



Memorial Day Closing

Our office will be closed on Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day. We would like to thank all who have served our country.

ANNUAL RECAP
APRIL 12, 2022

122 ATTENDEES

MEETING LENGTH: 53 MINUTES

5 DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

21 EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERS

WESTERN STATE BANK
 EXPO CENTER - DODGE CITY

VICTORY WELCOMES 2 TEAM MEMBERS



Carlos Garcia Rojas

Victory Electric welcomes **CARLOS GARCIA ROJAS** as our newest member of the line crew.

Rojas is a Dodge City native and is looking forward to being back in Dodge. He is a 2017 graduate of Dodge City High School and completed the linemen program at Dodge City Community College in 2018.

"I have always wanted a career outdoors. I noticed the college had a linemen program, so I wanted to give it a try," he said.

Rojas previously worked for North Houston Pole Line in Houston, Texas. Before that, he worked for the Dacon Corporation in Texas, which specializes in large scale electrical infrastructure. Throughout his time in Texas, he was able to travel doing linemen work and gain experience in different areas.

He is the oldest of five children and is excited to be back home and close to family.

"It is always great to have a hometown kid come back home and join the team," said Ryan Miller, vice president of operations. "Carlos is a good hard-working kid, and I am excited to see what the future will bring for him."

Rojas enjoys spending time with his family, being outdoors and hands-on work. He likes horses and taking care of them.

"I am excited to be working in my hometown, working and helping in my community, but the biggest reason I am excited is to be home," he said.



Josie Shearer

Victory Electric welcomes **JOSIE SHEARER** as the new key accounts coordinator. Shearer is a lifelong resident of Dodge City and graduated from Dodge City High school in 2012. She spent six years at Sunflower Bank where she started as a teller and worked her way up to branch manager, most recently she was a financial aid specialist at Dodge City Community College.

She brings with her an extensive customer service background as well as management skills. Her experience will be a key component to the growth and continued development of Victory's Key Accounts program.

"We are excited to have Josie join our team. Her experience is a great fit for our program," said Kyndell Penick, vice president of key accounts and safety. "Our goal is to grow our key accounts program to provide the most reliable service to our members' needs. The customer service and management experience Josie brings will benefit the growth of our key accounts program."

"I am excited for this opportunity and to learn a new industry," said Shearer. "I am eager to see what the future of the key accounts program has in store."

Shearer and her husband, Billy, have three daughters, Addison, Quinn and Scarlett, and are expecting their fourth child in May. In her free time, Shearer enjoys camping, spending time with her daughters and gardening.

Welcome Carlos and Josie. We are excited you are here!

Victory Celebrates Promotions

Victory Electric is proud to announce the promotion of **DUSTIN FORSYTH** to crew chief. Forsyth is a former intern at Victory Electric and returned in September 2021.

A Lefors, Texas, native, Forsyth first came to Dodge City to attend Dodge City Community College and compete as a member of the school's track and field team. Forsyth then enrolled in electrical powerline technology program at the community college. During his time, Forsyth held an internship at Victory Electric before completing the program in 2011. Forsyth then returned to Texas to work for Xcel Energy in Pampa where he stayed for six years.

Forsyth enjoys working at Victory and getting to know everyone. "I've always wanted to be a crew chief; I want to better myself and work my way up the ladder," said Forsyth. "I will always be happy in my position but never satisfied with where I am. I always want to get better and continue to move up."

As a crew chief, Forsyth will be responsible for a line crew of three to four linemen and supervise the crew and the crew's assigned projects.

"Dustin has a lot of experience and a good attitude," said Ryan Miller, vice president of operations. "He is a hard worker and I am excited to see what the future holds for him."

Forsyth and his wife, Alicia, have two children. He enjoys spending time at the lake, camping and boating, as well as watching any sporting event he can find.

Forsyth compares his career to one of his favorite quotes, by Lou Holtz. "In this world you're either growing or you're dying so get in motion and grow."

"If am moving up the ladder, I am growing. If I am not doing anything then I'm dying or not getting better," said Forsyth.

Congratulations on your promotion. Victory looks forward to the leadership and experience you will provide your crew!

Victory Electric is excited to announce the promotion of **RICHARD**



Dustin Forsyth



Richard Torres

TORRES to lead substation technician. Torres joined Victory in 2011 as an apprentice electrician, before moving to the substation department in 2014 as a substation technician.

Torres is a Dodge City native, born and raised. While attending Dodge City High School he worked to obtain his electronics certification in 1999. He then attended Manhattan Area Technical College and received his HVAC certification. Upon graduation he worked at the Fort Riley Military Base and then CLK Management as a maintenance supervisor until 2011.

Torres enjoys working at Victory and his favorite part is the crew he works with every day.

"I like to troubleshoot, I want to figure out what the problem is and fix it," said Torres.

"Richard has a lot of experience in his 10 years with Victory and he does a fanatic job in his position," said Rob Henry, vice president of engineering. "He has many strengths that are key attributes to his position, I know he will thrive in his new role as lead substation technician."

Torres and his wife, Cyndy, have three children, Allysa, Zaiden and Tinley. They enjoy vacationing whenever possible; their favorite vacation spot is Florida. Torres enjoys coaching his children's sport activities and attending all their activities.

"I want to expand on my leadership skills and gain more experience," said Torres. "I am looking forward to sharing my experience with my crew and helping them grow."

Congratulations on your promotion! Victory excited for the future and what it holds for you and your department.

A Quick Guide to GENERATORS

With proper use and maintenance, generators provide great convenience during a power outage. Before purchasing a generator, determine your backup power needs to select the right size. Make a list of essential appliances and devices you'll want to power during an outage, then total the required wattage.



	TYPE	POWER	
HOW OFTEN DO YOU LOSE POWER?	RARELY	<p>RECREATIONAL INVERTER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ up to 2,000 watts ▶ lightweight, about 60 lbs. ▶ quiet, easy to store <p>MID-SIZED INVERTER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ up to 3,500 watts ▶ weighs up to 150 lbs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ fridge ▶ smaller items (i.e. lamp, phone charger, home security system) ▶ fridge ▶ laptop ▶ 5-10 lights ▶ phone charger ▶ home security system ▶ 10K BTU air conditioner
	OCCASIONALLY	<p>PORTABLE GENERATORS AND LARGE INVERTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ up to 7,500 watts ▶ weighs about 300 lbs. ▶ ability to connect to home's breaker panel <p>▶ TRANSFER SWITCH REQUIRED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ fridge ▶ gas furnace ▶ 10K BTU air conditioner ▶ dishwasher ▶ multiple lights ▶ TV ▶ laptop and more
	FREQUENTLY	<p>HOME STANDBY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ up to 20,000 watts ▶ must be permanently installed; starts automatically during outage <p>▶ TRANSFER SWITCH REQUIRED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ nearly all home appliances and electronics (simultaneously) ▶ can run indefinitely on natural gas or propane

SAFETY FIRST!

- ▶ Call us if you purchase a generator that you plan to connect to an electrical panel.
- ▶ Improperly installed generators can create backfeed, which is dangerous to everyone. Before using one, disconnect your normal source of power.
- ▶ Operate a generator outdoors only.
- ▶ **DISCLAIMER:** Please note safety requirements may differ based on the type of generator you purchase. Thoroughly read the operator's manual and know how to shut off the generator quickly.

SOURCE: CONSUMER REPORTS

POWER MY WAY

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR ENERGY FUTURE



No deposit. No late fees. No due date. No monthly statements.
You choose when and how much electricity to purchase.

Pay-as-you-go for your electricity with Victory Electric's PowerMyWay easy, convenient billing option.

9 in 10 adults own a mobile device

PowerMyWay gives you greater control and easy access to your energy use information and bill due date from your smartphone, mobile device or online through the SmartHub portal.

5 HOURS is the average amount of time American's spend on their phones each day



You are already on your phone, use it to effectively manage your bill and make payments when you want and in the amount you choose.

No deposit

No hidden fees

Payment flexibility

Pay what you want

Visit our office today to sign up!





Victory Electric's PowerMyWay program is changing the way members pay for their electricity. PowerMyWay gives you the flexibility to better manage your budget by making smaller, more frequent payments on days it's right for you, instead of a single, larger payment on a fixed due date. Or maybe you just want to continue making one payment per month but have the flexibility of choosing your payment date, and that's OK, too.

Since you are paying as you go, PowerMyWay makes you more aware of your energy consumption. The more electricity you use, the quicker you will have to recharge your account. By tying PowerMyWay to SmartHub, you will not only be able to see your electric use for that day, week, or month, but also know how much you spent in that time frame, and more importantly where you can save. SmartHub also allows the flexibility for members to review account balances, make a payment and evaluate energy use anytime and anywhere from a phone, tablet, or computer.

There are no additional costs or fees to take advantage of the PowerMyWay billing plan. Rates, including energy charges, taxes, franchise taxes, the service availability charge and the energy charge adjustment are the same as accounts on a standard residential billing plan (some charges are prorated daily), but the member is NOT required to make a security deposit and there are no disconnect, reconnect or late fees. Only residential members are eligible for PowerMyWay.

Upon enrollment, members purchase at least \$50 toward future energy costs. Existing members must have their conventional account paid-in-full, including unbilled electric use, before switching to PowerMyWay. Those existing members who paid a deposit may apply it to the \$50 needed to open a PowerMyWay account, apply to any outstanding balance on a conventional account, transfer the deposit to a PowerMyWay account, or request to have the deposit refunded.

For more information on PowerMyWay visit our website at www.victoryelectric.net or call our office at 620-227-2139.

<p>Sign up</p>  <p>Visit victoryelectric.net or stop by our office for information on how to get started.</p>	<p>Charge account</p>  <p>Put money in your account via the SmartHub app and other payment methods.</p>	<p>Check balance</p>  <p>Get updates and low account balance reminders by text, email or phone.</p>	<p>Recharge</p>  <p>Online at victoryelectric.smarthub.coop or via your SmartHub app on your mobile device.</p>
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