

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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THE VICTORY
ELECTRIC CO-OP

electronews



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FROM THE CEO

This May, Take Time to Plug Into Safety

This month, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the importance of safety. May is Electrical Safety Month, and Victory Electric will share safety tips and reminders throughout the month through our Facebook and Twitter pages to help raise awareness about the dangers of electricity. We all depend on electricity to power our lives, but accidents can happen when electricity is improperly used.

Our responsibility to you

Victory Electric's concern for safety extends beyond our employees. We care deeply about the safety of our members, and this month, we encourage you to plug into safety. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes.

To promote safety education in our local communities, we are available to present safety demonstrations at local schools, businesses, and at community events. We frequently provide electrical safety content in this newsletter and social media channels, and we encourage the public to contact us if they see a downed power line or any other type of dangerous electrical situation. We strive to provide our communities with safe, reliable and

affordable electricity and to serve as your trusted energy adviser, now and well into the future.

Our responsibility to employees

It is no accident that safety is a top priority at Victory Electric. We are committed to a culture of safety that is integral to our daily operations. In fact, Victory Electric is part of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) that follows specific guidelines and protocols for electrical safety that are considered leading practices. Our line workers are required to wear personal protective equipment at all times when on the job, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock. Our safety team regularly discusses important safety issues pertaining to work within the building as well as out in the field.

As the CEO of Victory Electric, I believe it is my duty and responsibility to raise awareness about the importance of electrical safety. Take a moment to plug into safety. Please visit us on Facebook and Twitter for tips about how to keep you and your loved ones safe.



Shane Laws

Thanks, Shane

Victory's 72nd Annual Meeting a Success



More than 800 people enjoy a steak dinner at the 72nd Annual Meeting held at the Western State Bank Expo Center.

Every year, Victory Electric looks forward to hosting the annual meeting for our members, and this year was no exception. The annual meeting is a great time to get to know our members and to offer information on the activities of the cooperative.

Victory's annual meeting was April 11 at the Western State Bank Expo. Approximately 531 members were present, and more than 800 people were served a steak dinner.

In addition to the business meeting, members heard presentations from board president John Leis and the 2016 youth tour winners. The 2017 youth tour winners and the Lightner Community Spirit Scholarship winners were also introduced. Dozens of great prizes were awarded throughout the meeting.

The results of the election for four districts on the board of trustees were announced: **JOHN LEIS**, Minneola, District 2; **JIM IMEL**, Bucklin, District 4; **KENNY WEHKAMP**, Cimarron, District 6; and **RANDY QUINT**, Dodge City, District 10; were re-elected in their respective districts.

We look forward to seeing you next year at the 73rd Annual Meeting.

**Thank you to all who
attended our annual meeting!**



Martha Konrade (left) and Sandy Long register 531 members at the annual meeting.



Lineman Jacob Ledford, drops members off at the doors of the annual meeting.



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1. The Victory Electric board answer questions from the members.
2. Lineman Nate Stormont (left) and Shane Laws, CEO, help prepare meals prior to the meeting.
3. Board members Richard Lightner

4. Manager of Safety Mikey Goddard (left) and linemen Justin Straight and Kyndell Penick talk to members about the danger of making contact with a downed power line.

5. The Dodge City High School Madrigals share their choral talent.
6. Employees serve steak dinners to more than 800 people.
7. Daniel Pogue presents a prize to a winning member.

Victory Electric Announces 2017 Scholarship Winners

Victory Electric is proud to introduce the Lightner Community Spirit Scholarship winners for the program's second year.

The scholarship program was open to eligible high school seniors and college students and was designed to recognize students who have demonstrated academic success as well as showing commitment to bettering their communities.

Ten local students whose families are served by Victory Electric each earned a \$1,000 Lightner Community Spirit Scholarship.

- ▶ **KATHERINE FOWER** of Spearville, daughter of Richard and Kenndaline Folwer, senior at Spearville High School.
- ▶ **MORGAN HAILEY** of Bucklin, daughter of Mechela Hailey, senior at Bucklin High School.
- ▶ **MEGAN MAUPIN** of Jetmore, daughter of Jay Maupin and Marlene Maupin, senior at Hodgeman High School.
- ▶ **ALI PHELPS** of Dodge City, daughter of Michael and Mandy Phelps, senior at Dodge City High School.
- ▶ **AARON PINKERTON** of Dodge City, son of Ron and Julie Pinkerton, junior at Sterling College.
- ▶ **MARIBEL SANCHEZ** of Dodge City, daughter of Leopoldo and Julia Snachez, senior at Dodge City High School.
- ▶ **BERNADETTE SHAUGHNESSY** of Cimarron, daughter of Sean and Anne Shaughneseey, senior at Cimarron High School.

- ▶ **NGAN TRAN** of Dodge City, son of Su Tran, senior at Dodge City High School.
- ▶ **CARA UNRUH** of Dodge City, daughter of Shane and Angela Unruh, senior at Dodge City High School.
- ▶ **CHRISTOPHER WENDEL** of Ingalls, son of Daniel and Leasa Wendel, senior at Ingalls High School.

"We congratulate the 2017 scholarship winners and are proud to reward the students for their academic success and dedication to their community," said Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO. "As a not-for-profit cooperative, one of our guiding principles is 'Commitment to Community,' and I can't think of a better way than a scholarship program to give back to the communities we serve and encourage youth to be involved in their own community."

The name of the scholarship honors the Lightner family of Plymell. Richard Lightner served on Victory Electric's board of trustees for 35 years and his father, George, served 31 years previous. Both strongly supported Victory Electric's community and youth programs.

To be eligible, each applicant must be an active member in good standing with the cooperative, or a dependent of such member. An applicant must be a student or entering an accredited college or university.

Victory Electric continues to offer these scholarships. Applications can be downloaded on our website at victoryelectric.net.



Katherine Fowler



Mogan Hailey



Megan Maupin



Ali Phelps

Proud to reward students for their academic success and dedication to their community.

- Shane Laws



Aaron Pinkerton



Maribel Sanchez



Bernadette Shaughnessy



Ngan Tran



Cara Unruh



Christopher Wendel

Board Trustee Earns Gold



Daryl Tieben (left) receives his Director Gold certificate from Shane Laws, CEO.

Victory Electric board member, **DARYL TIEBEN**, earned his Director Gold certification this past month.

The Director Gold credential recognizes board members who have continued their education during the course of their service on the board.

The credential is the final piece of a three-step certificate program, hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA).

The credential process helps trustees

stay current on the issues affecting the future of cooperatives and prepare them to make informed business decisions in the boardroom.

Tieben completed the first two pieces of the credential process by completing courses and attending conferences that focus on basic governance knowledge and in-depth industry and governance issues.

Help us congratulate Daryl on his achievement and leadership.

Photo Earns National Recognition



Communication Specialist Kennedy St George's photo won Rural Electric (RE) Magazine's photo contest for "Skies of Co-op Country." She entered a photo taken during the ice storm and was published in RE Magazine last month.

Victory Electric Bill Payment Options



Pay your bill online at www.victoryelectric.net, at our office, by mail or at any of our pay stations.

Victory Electric has several convenient options for you, the member, to pay your bill.

In addition to paying in our office or by mail, options include online bill pay at victoryelectric.net, via phone at 866-999-8494, auto bank deduction, drop boxes at Victory Electric and City of Dodge City.

"Come Get Your Free CFL!"

This month's lucky winners

are... RUEBEN DIAZ, NELLIE HERRERA, MARY KING, TYLER LUFT, LEROY MAST, BRODY OLIVE, DAISY PALACIOS, and ERIKA PYLE.

Come by Victory Electric's office to get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month Victory Electric will be giving members free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations winners!



Efficiency Tip of the Month

Keep warm summer air outside where it belongs! Add caulk and weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows to save on your electric bill.



Happy Mother's Day, Moms!

Don't forget mom on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14. Victory Electric wishes all moms a blessed day.



Safety Promoted at “Day on the Farm” for Students

More than 400 fourth grade students learned about electrical safety while experiencing Day on the Farm hosted by Farm Bureau at the Western State Bank Expo Center.

Victory Electric demonstrated the dangers associated with high voltage power lines and talked about careers with an electric cooperative.

“There is great danger with power lines,” said Mikey Goddard, manager of safety. “Teaching kids how to avoid the danger is something we take very seriously.”

Victory Electric’s operations department has a large trailer to demonstrate the hazards connected with electricity. For the students, the linemen demonstrated the difference between insulators and conductors and taught the students that the human body can become a conductor.

Any organization has the opportunity to see the demonstration. Interested organizations can contact Mikey Goddard at 620-227-2139 for scheduling.



Linemen Jeremy Elling (left) and Jesus Ruiz demonstrate how the human body becomes a conductor and cook a hotdog to illustrate that idea for students.



Mikey Goddard, manager of safety shows the burned hotdog to fourth grade students.



Lineman Jeremy Elling demonstrates an extendo stick as part of the safety demonstration.

Memorial Day Office Closing

Victory Electric’s office will close Monday, May 29, 2017, in observance of Memorial Day.



ELECTRICAL

SAFETY

FOR YOUR HOME

Did you know 48 percent of home electrical failure fires involved electrical distribution or lighting equipment between 2007 and 2011? Also, 46 percent involved washers or dryers, fans, and portable or stationary space heaters.



FUSES AND BREAKERS

Older homes have fuses. Newer homes have breakers. Frequently blown fuses or tripped breakers indicate electrical system issues. Call your electrician.



PROTECT YOUR OUTLETS

Kids under six like to explore. That's great unless it is with electrical outlets. Place protectors on all outlets or update to tamper resistant outlets.



CHECK YOUR PLUGS

Plugs should not appear loose or wobble after insertion in the outlets. It is time to replace them if they are loose.



APPROVED FOR OUTDOOR

Only use electrical cords outside that are approved for outdoor use. Indoor cords are not equipped to handle the outdoor elements.

DON'T MIX THESE TWO

Water and electricity don't mix. You can get shocked and it is dangerous. Unplug any appliance before you wash or wipe it down. Be careful with hair dryers around sinks or bathtubs.



REPLACE FRAYED WIRES

A frayed wire can give you a shock or spark a fire. If possible, turn-off appliances and unplug, or cut power to the appliance or area with the bad wiring. After, you can enlist an electrician to help.



DON'T FORCE A PLUG

If a plug won't fit into the outlet, it is tempting to force it by adjusting the plug's prongs. That is a definite no-no.



KEEP CORDS CLEAR

Do not place furniture on top of cords or run cords under rugs or carpet. It is a fire hazard.



For more electrical safety tips, visit Victory Electric online at victoryelectric.net or on Facebook and Twitter. If you have any questions, call the office at 620.227.2139.



Consejos de Eficiencia Para Tiendas y Graneros al Aire Libre

Hay muchos beneficios de tener una tienda de energía eficiente al aire libre o un granero. Aparte para ahorrar energía, un edificio al aire libre eficiente puede mantener el ambiente alrededor de su estructura sana y segura; Ahorrar dinero en su factura de agua; Mantener a sus animales más felices y saludables; Y ahorrarle de costosas reparaciones estructurales.

Si usted está buscando para construir una nueva estructura, o hacer cambios a una estructura existente, hay muchas maneras que usted puede hacer su tienda al aire libre o un granero más eficiente de energía.

¿Está planeando construir una nueva estructura en su propiedad? Siga estos consejos para lograr la eficiencia energética:

- ▶ La ubicación es importante. Si es posible, considere cuidadosamente dónde construye su tienda o granero. Considere el drenaje, la exposición al sol y cómo el edificio puede afectar a sus vecinos.
- ▶ Comience con un plan de diseño sostenible. Un plan de diseño sostenible, de acuerdo con la Administración de Servicios Generales de los Estados Unidos, incluye la capacidad de usar productos ambientalmente preferibles; Proteger y conservar el agua; Mejorar la calidad ambiental en interiores; Y optimizar las prácticas operativas y de mantenimiento.
- ▶ Si usted está contratando a un contratista para ayudar a construir su estructura, asegúrese de buscar empresas que se especializan en edificios "verdes" y prácticas de eficiencia energética.
- ▶ Elija métodos de construcción eficientes. Los graneros de pollos ofrecen refugio seguro sin excavaciones costosas, fundaciones de concreto o interrupción general del sitio.

Siga estos consejos para hacer mejoras eficientes en energía a una estructura existente:

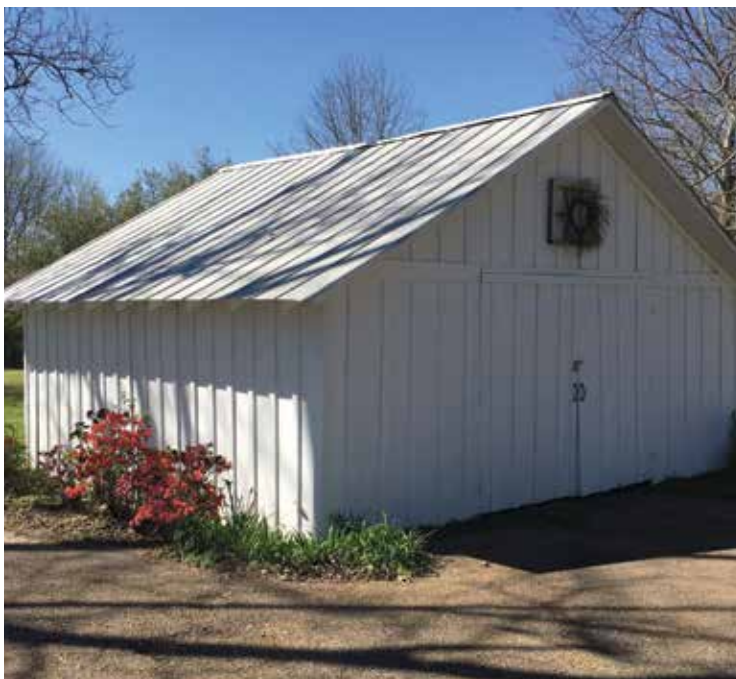
- ▶ Reemplace la iluminación interior por bombillas LED de bajo consumo energético.
- ▶ Asegúrese de que su estructura existente tenga niveles de aislamiento adecuados.
- ▶ Elija una iluminación exterior diseñada para ser eficiente energéticamente e instale detectores

de movimiento para reducir el consumo de energía cuando no esté en uso.

- ▶ Plante árboles alrededor de su cobertizo de metal o granero. En climas más fríos, los árboles actúan como un rompe vientos, y en climas más cálidos, los árboles tienen un efecto de enfriamiento natural que puede reducir las temperaturas en su edificio de metal de 3 a 6 grados Fahrenheit.

Considere la posibilidad de añadir un ventilador de techo para hacer circular el aire. Por lo general, hay un aumento de temperatura de 2 grados Fahrenheit por cada aumento de un pie en la altura del techo. Un ventilador de techo puede ayudar a mantener el aire caliente cerca del suelo en el invierno, y circular aire fresco, más fresco en el verano. Esto no sólo ayudará con los costos de energía, también ayudará a mantener el aire en el edificio de convertirse en caliente y estancado, lo que evitará que las bacterias dañinas de la construcción y mantendrá a los insectos a raya.

Para obtener más información sobre cómo hacer que su tienda al aire libre o granero sea más eficiente.



Visite Sitio Web y Únase a Nosotros en Facebook



Visite nuestro sitio web www.victoryelectric.net. En nuestro sitio Web, usted encontrará un calendario de eventos, con frecuencia pregunta, pago de factura y energía calculadora sólo por nombrar algunas herramientas!

También puede ser una fan de Victory Electric en Facebook buscando Victory Electric Cooperative Assn, Inc. Consulte nuestra página en Facebook para actualizaciones, información de interrupción y consejos de eficiencia de energía. Facebook es una excelente forma de mantenerse en contacto con nuestros miembros.