



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Electro NEWS

P.O. Box 1335, 3230 N. 14th Ave., Dodge City, KS 67801 • (620) 227-2139 • www.victoryelectric.net

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Manager's Message...

We Deliver Information and Electricity

This article is the fifth in a series exploring the seven cooperative principles and how they affect you and your community.

By reading this column and the other information in these pages, you are helping The Victory Electric Cooperative, Inc., fulfill one of the seven principles all cooperatives strive to follow, Principle No. 5: education, training and information.

You are holding one of this cooperative's primary conduits of education and information, *Kansas Country Living* magazine. Through these pages, we are able to communicate directly with you, the member-owner, on important cooperative business such as bylaws changes and Trustee elections. In addition, we can pass along energy-saving tips that could save you money and safety information that might even save your life.

In addition to information in the magazine, we sponsor programs to educate our members including Annual Meeting and county fairs. We also have programs designed for young people in our service territories with programs such as "Government in

Action" Youth Tour, Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, safety demonstrations, scholarships, ElectroRally and more.

Our Trustees also undergo an extensive series of courses to teach them about electric system management and keep them informed of the latest developments. This helps them make the best decisions possible about your electric service.

Our education efforts also extend to our employees. We encourage and support them in taking courses through the state organization, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC), or the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) that improve their on-the-job skills, because the better-trained employees become, the more valuable they are to us. Safety training for linemen is also vital. The investment in time and money is well worth it.

Our focus on education is part of the overall effort this cooperative takes to improve the communities that we serve. Victory Electric is proud of our record and efforts in this area.

"Til next time, TJ



Happy 4th of July

Our offices will be closed on Friday, July 4.

Loren Ochs Elected President of Sunflower

The Victory Electric Cooperative, Inc., Trustee, Loren Ochs, was elected president of Sunflower



Loren Ochs

Electric Power Corporation.

Ochs joined the Victory Electric Board of Trustees in 1970 and has served for 38 years.

He later joined the Board of Directors of Sunflower in 1979 as a Trustee representative for Victory Electric.

Over the past 29 years on the Sunflower board, he has served as vice-chairman and will now serve for the next year as president.

Ochs has previously served as president of the Victory Electric Board of Trustees from 2000 to 2003.

Victory Introduces Your New Board of Trustee Officers



Newly elected officers of the Board of Trustees are (left to right): Richard Lightner, President, Kenny Wehkamp, Vice-President, and Carl Hubbell, Secretary/Treasurer.

The Victory Electric Cooperative, Inc., Board members Richard Lightner, Garden City; Kenny Wehkamp, Cimarron; and Carl Hubbell, Spearville, were elected officers to the Board of Trustees.

As officers, they will serve for the next year overseeing the Board of Trustees, which directs the business and affairs of the cooperative, which exercise all of the powers of the cooperative. The cooperative territory is divided into districts, all of which are rep-

resented by a Trustee. Trustees are elected at the annual meeting for three-year terms of office.

Victory Electric would like to recognize and thank the outgoing Board of Trustees president, Jim Imel, Bucklin, for his time and service as president. During his term, he served during a historical expansion period for Victory Electric, the acquisition of Aquila territory. He continues to serve as a Trustee and his hard work and dedication is truly appreciated.

Victory Electric Announces Youth Tour Winners

Every year, The Victory Electric Cooperative, Inc., sponsors four students to attend youth tour events.

Ryan O'Neill, Spearville, and Rebecca Goff, Fowler, were selected to attend the "Government-in-Action Youth Tour" to Washington, D.C., in June 2008.

In Washington, D.C., they have the unique opportunity to participate in various NRECA events and visit with their U.S. representatives and senators. They also visit the various memorial sites in Washington, D.C.



Pictured (from left) are Ryan O'Neill, Rebecca Goff, Chet Skinner and Susi Algrim.

Attending the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp to Steamboat Springs, Colo., are Chet Skinner, South Gray, and Susi Algrim, Dodge City.

At camp, they will meet with other students across the nation to learn about cooperatives and participate in several teambuilding activities.

New Program Helps You Conserve Energy

Electricity is a staple in our daily life, and with the simple flip of a switch, a light is expected to shine. Considerable effort is given to ensure there is an adequate and reliable power supply to meet your needs.

With temperatures rising as we move further into summer, The Victory Electric Cooperative, Inc., and our suppliers often face the challenge of providing adequate supply of power to meet members' increasing needs. It is during these few months that we typically reach or even exceed peak demand levels based on member usage.

Anytime your household and family members are consuming electricity it is known as "load." There comes times when the system reaches its peak, and that is when all of our members, all at once, are using the most electricity. This peak usually occurs between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Victory Electric wants to help you conserve energy and save money. On hot days when the temperature rises above 98 degrees, there is a possibility that we will reach peak load. Therefore, we have created a radio program to inform you, the member, when we have reached peak load.

A warning sound and message will play on radio stations Q97 FM, K95 FM, 96.3 FM and 93.9 FM. These messages will let you know that Victory is in a peak load situation and to start conserving energy.



Peak load is monitored closely to determine the amount of power required to fulfill this demand. This peak load is the determining factor in establishing the yearly rates at which the cooperative has to buy its power. By helping to keep the maximum load down, you can help your cooperative save on the cost of its purchased power. **This, in turn, means lower costs for you – our member.**

"The single biggest step you can make is turning up your air conditioning 5 degrees and using a fan. Other ways you can help is to do your cooking, vacuuming, laundry and running the dishwasher in the morning or after seven in the evening," said Jerry King, director of marketing and communications. "Also, covering south, east and west windows prevents the sun from warming your house so your air conditioner will run less."

Small things like grilling outside and running your pool pump and filtering system in the morning and late evening can also make a big difference.

Peak load situations are not expected and typically are only temporary. Your help in watching energy usage during the specified time will certainly help in alleviating the situation.

By working together and voluntarily reducing electric usage, Victory will be able to continue to provide the best service possible throughout the summer.

For more information on peak loads and what you can do to conserve energy, please call Victory at (620) 227-2139 or toll-free at (800) 279-7915.

Construction of Headquarter Expansion on Schedule

With the acquisition of the Aquila territory, The Victory Electric Cooperative, Inc., has recognized the need for more office and warehouse space. Construction is well underway on the expansion.

Victory will continue to occupy the existing structure, and the purpose of the new expansion is for increased warehouse, pole-yard and office space.

The construction is expected to be complete in late December 2008, barring any weather delays.

The total project is over 35,000 square feet, warehouse and office space combined. Customer service encompasses about 3,200 of the 35,000 square feet.

We are excited about the progress of the construction and the opportunity to better serve you.



Construction crews dig a hole to make room for the new basement of the Victory Electric office building.

There's Only One Water Heater As Faithful as the Marathon

Old Faithful and Marathon provide hot water dependently, year after year, without worry. But one is owned by the government and located in Wyoming; the other is available through The Victory Electric Cooperative.

So now you can have your very own "Old Faithful" efficiently providing hot water for a lifetime.

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