

April 2009

Electro

NEWS



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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

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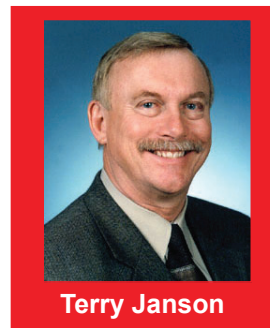
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Manager's Message... Victory to Install Smart Grid Meters

Exciting things are happening at Victory Electric in the coming months. We are in the planning process of installing digital Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) meters, using Smart Grid and Zigbee technology, in Dodge City.



Terry Janson

But why should you, the member, care? These new digital meters can save you money on your electric bill. If you lose power, these new smart meters automatically report power outages even if you are not home.

Also, these meters allow us to remotely read, disconnect and reconnect meters from the office, although we will continue to manually read these meters yearly to verify meter accuracy.

In the future, members will be able to purchase small home

displays that uses radio frequency to “talk” with the meter. In other words, you will be able to see your energy usage second by second. So if you turn on the hair dryer, you can see on the display how much more en-

ergy you are using and how much it costs you, penny by penny.

Those who choose to purchase the in-home displays will never again be surprised when you open your electric bill. You will also be able to monitor your electric energy usage to see when and what uses the most energy. This will allow you to change your habits be more energy efficient.

Our hope is that when you, the member, have the ability to track your energy usage, you will stop and think about what you can

Continued on Page 16-C



Happy Easter!

Nola's Notes



I am the gray-haired lady at Fort Hays State University who sits in the front row to enable me to hear the professor. I live on campus in a nice apartment for non-traditional students

of Fort Hays State University, but my home is on a farm near Jetmore.

I anticipate a great semester studying Information and Information Technology. Information and technology brought many changes to our farm, and to all farms nationwide. Rural electrification made their use possible. My home is heated by an electrically operated furnace. Temperature is regulated by a digital thermostat day and night. Water is pumped by electricity. We cook on electric stoves, use dish-washers, and washers and dryers, electrically operated.

Operation of the farm is highly influenced by up-to-date information and technology. Great advances in efficiency have been made in all our machinery and methods of farming. Cell phones are very useful. We plant crops using seed developed according to the latest technological methods. When I see perfectly parallel rows in a field, I know that farmer used a Global Positioning System (GPS) to guide his tractor. Many irrigation wells are powered by electricity, and the system built and operated by the latest technological devices.

More to come, Nola

In 2007 at the age 95, Nola Ochs graduated from Fort Hays State University with a bachelor's degree in general studies with an emphasis in history, making her the world's oldest college graduate. In the following article, Nola reminisces on her life experiences and the impact of rural electrification on rural communities.

Manager's Message, Continued

unplug, turn off, and how you adjust your thermostat so you are not wasting energy when you are out of the house or asleep.

We have come a long way in meter reading technology. We started manually reading meters and writing on paper before moving on to ITRON handheld computers. Next were the Advanced Meter Reading (AMR) meters, which employees walked or drove by meters to collect data. Then we implemented AMI meters in the Dodge City area, which the meters communicate with each other and sends readings to the office.

Today, we have a mixture of all these meters in our system, and some of the meters date back 30 to 40 years. We are excited about the new Smart Grid meters, which are an upgrade of the AMI meter. These meters will be much more efficient and cost saving to you, the member.



Come to the Annual

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2009, at the Dodge City Civic Center (located at 2110 First Ave).

Registration starts at 5:30 p.m., dinner (first 1,000 people served) is at 6 p.m., and the business meeting starts at 7 p.m.

The Board of Trustees, management and employees at Victory invite you to come out, eat, and have a good time.



Continued From Pg. 16-A

We anticipate starting with the installations in Dodge City in late summer or early fall, and hope to be complete with the Dodge City Phase by 2011. Many of the AMI meters that are currently in Dodge will be replaced with the Smart Grid meters and those AMI meters from Dodge will be installed in the smaller rural towns in our territory. We hope to have the upgrade complete in five years.

Victory Electric is here to serve you and this is just one way we are helping our members become more energy efficient and save money in today's troubled economy.

'Til Next time, TJ



Statement of Nondiscrimination

The Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance efforts is Terry Janson, General Manager of The Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this

organization has subjected them to discrimination may file a written complaint with this organization; the Director, office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Services, Washington, D. C., 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discriminatory action, or by such later date to which the Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Civil Rights or the Administrator of RUS extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Annual Meeting... Catch the Excitement



The following are candidates for the Board of Trustees:

- District 1:** Lee Cole (incumbent)
Daryl Tieben
- District 3:** Carl Hubbell (incumbent)
- District 8:** Cedric Drewes
Ron Bach
Tyler Ross
- District 10:** Ken Schulte (incumbent)
Paul Yaroslaski
Elaine Gall
Casey Pennington
Joe Legleiter

Cooperative members will be eligible to vote for candidates in their respective districts.

We Look forward to seeing you there!

CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"

And the lucky winners are... Maribel Razo, Karen Seyler, Alan Shaffer, Bob Wasmuth, Justin Toews, Abe Goossen. Come by Victory

Electric and get your free compact florescent light (CFL).

Every month Victory Electric will be giving members free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations winners!



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