

High School Juniors: Win a Free Trip to Washington, D.C., or Steamboat Springs, Colorado



Last year's D.C. winners were (from left) Carissa Hodgs, Ingalls, and Megan Hood, Bucklin, pose in front of US Supreme Court.

**Two Winners, All-Expenses-Paid
"Government in Action" Youth Tour
June 10-17, 2010, in Washington, D.C.**



Last year's camp winners were (from left) Britnie Jenkins, Cimarron, and Savannah Dwyre, Ingalls, enjoying the view on top of Mt. Werner.

**Two Winners, All-Expenses-Paid
Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp
July 10-16, 2010, in Steamboat Springs, CO.**

If you are a high school junior and would like to increase your leadership skills, meet new friends and travel, you can apply for Youth Tour through Victory Electric.

During the Government In Action Youth Tour June 10-17, 2010, students will join 1,500 youth from across the nation in Washington, D.C. Participants will visit the monuments and other attractions, as well

as visit Capitol Hill to learn more about how our government works.

At the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 10-16, 2010, students will join youth from Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Kansas. Campers will form a mock cooperative, participate in leadership activities, and learn about the cooperative industry.

Students will be selected based

on a résumé, application and an interview.

To apply for youth tour, contact your high school counselor, high school principal, or Jerri Imgarten or Josh Schmidt at Victory Electric Cooperative by calling 620-227-2139 or 800-279-7915 for more information about the contest.

The deadline for applications is February 13, 2010.

Victory Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Application

The deadline for applications is February 13, 2010

Name of Applicant _____
 Mailing Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Birth Date _____ Phone Number _____
 Name of Parents or Guardian _____ Applicant Cell Number _____
 E-mail _____ School _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true. _____
 (Signature of Applicant)

I hereby grant permission for _____ to enter the 2010 Youth Tour competition sponsored by The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc. _____
 (Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian)

Victory Seeking Board Member Nominations

Nominations for Victory Electric's Board of Trustees are being solicited for our 2010 Annual Membership Meeting.

Positions up for election are in District 5, currently held by Max Jantz, Montezuma; District 7, currently held by Loren Ochs, Jetmore; District 9, currently held by Richard Lightner, Garden City; and District 10, currently held by Pat Morse, Dodge City.

To qualify you must be a naturalized U.S. citizen; and your principal residence must be served by Victory Electric and located within our territory and within the district which you wish to represent.

Also, if a close relative of yours—within the third degree—is an employee or a Trustee of Victory Electric, you are not eligible to run for a Trustee position.

If you would like to run for any of these positions, or know someone who would, please contact our office as soon as possible.

Area Third Graders Receive Dictionaries

This year Victory Electric has teamed up with local Rotary Clubs and several local businesses to donate a children's dictionary to every third grader in our service territory.

The Rotary Club Dictionary Project is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. The goal of this program is to assist all students in completing the school year as good writers, active readers and creative thinkers by providing students with their own personal dictionary. The dictionaries are a gift to each student to use at school and at home for years to come.



Montezuma third graders receive dictionaries courtesy of Victory Electric, Cimarron Rotary Club, and United Telephone.

Local Food Banks Receive Donations from Victory

Getting into the holiday spirit, Victory Electric decided to make a donation in time for Christmas to four of the local food banks in Dodge City. At total of 1,832 items of food

was split between the Manna House, Salvation Army, United Methodist Mexican American Ministries and New Hope.

We are thankful to those orga-

nizations for providing much needed services. This was just a small token of appreciation for all help and support these organizations do for the citizen in our communities.



Victory Electric delivered 1,832 food items to four local food banks. Pictured Left: Mexican American Ministries, Middle: Salvation Army; and Right: Manna house.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
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THE VICTORY
 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews

FROM THE MANAGER

Why Not Buy Local?

I want to share with you this month some information about a new project I am excited about. We have been thinking about launching a "buy local" campaign in our newsletter to encourage Dodge City residents to buy local.

Why buy local? There are numerous benefits to buying local. First, when those coveted big businesses look to building or locating in a city or town, they look at the statistics of how many people buy local. Ford County has total retail sales of \$484.7 million, and compared to other towns and counties approximately the same size, we don't do as well. In Finney County (Garden City), they have total retail sales of \$680.7 million, almost \$200 million more in sales than in Dodge City. Great Bend and Liberal do approximately the same in total retail sales, but they have approximately 2,000 less households than Dodge City. Therefore, towns like Garden City, which is approximately the same size as Dodge City, will attract more businesses because they draw in more local buyers.

Another important fact that many forget when
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Terry Janson

Our ultimate goal is to encourage more members to buy local.



Shopping local doesn't just include big-box stores, but also your local small businesses.

Irrigation Seminar Scheduled



Local farmers attend last year's meeting.

The Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., would like to announce the 12th annual Irrigation and Technology Seminar.

The seminar will be held on February 5, 2010, at Victory Electric's office located at 3230 N. 14th in Dodge City.

If you are an irrigator on Victory Electric's system, we will be sending invitations soon.

Please feel free to come out and listen to the great lineup of guest speakers and also visit with the exhibitors.

If you have any questions, please call 620-227-2139 and ask for Josh Schmidt or Jerri Imgarten.

Buy Not Buy Local?

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they travel is the cost to travel to those places. Using Wichita and Garden City as examples, I did some figuring and using the calculation (IRS mileage rate x the miles) + (average Ford County hourly wage x time to drive), the average person is spending almost \$17 dollars going to Garden City and \$57 going to Wichita, and that is without even opening your wallet at a store.

In an article in the Chamber Executive Convention 2009, Dennis Lauver, president and CEO of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, wrote on the subject of buying local. He lists five key benefits to buying local, those include:

- Save money and time when you shop near home
- Keep money in our own economy
- Build our schools and cities (assuming a local option sales tax)
- Provide property tax relief (assuming a local option sales tax)
- Keep family and friends employed in your community.

We hope these five benefits will help you see the benefit to supporting and buying at local businesses.

In an effort to encourage our members and local citizens to spend locally, we are going to feature local business in this newsletter on a quarterly basis. This will allow us to let you know what your options are here in Dodge City and Ford County. The ultimate goal is to encourage more to buy local and in the future be more competitive to receive new businesses in town.

'Til Next Time, TJ

Notice of Board of Trustees Meeting

Pursuant to K.S.A. 66-104d, please take notice that the Board of Trustees of The Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., will meet on Thursday, January 28, 2010, at 10 a.m. at the Cooperative Headquarters, 3230 N 14th Ave, Dodge City, Kansas, to discuss and vote on the adoption or modification of any or all of the following rules, regulations, rate schedules, riders, or terms of service:

The adoption of a net metering rider for member-owned renewable generation.

1. The Board will consider the adoption of a net metering rider applicable to certain member-owned renewable generation installations installed primarily to offset the member's own energy usage. The rider would enable members with qualified installations to offset the energy purchased from the cooperative with renewable energy generated by

the customer over the length of each billing cycle.

Modifications to Cooperative rules, regulations, and terms of service governing the operation of parallel generation by members.

2. Under certain terms and conditions set forth in K.S.A. 66-1,184 and the rates, rules and regulations of the Cooperative, members may operate generation in parallel with that provided by the Cooperative. The Board of Trustees will consider amendments to the existing rates, rules and regulations to comply with legislative amendments to K.S.A. 66-1,184 and to establish consistency with the terms of other member-owned generation.

The meeting is open to any member that wishes to attend. Any member with questions may contact Terry Janson, General Manager.

CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL Bulb!"

And this month's lucky winners are...

Everett Weiss, Conway Price, Troy Jantz, Daniel Armenta, Augustine Agirre, Nick Field, Maria Esparza, and Esther Guinn.



Come by Victory Electric Co-operative and get your free compact florescent light bulb (CFL). Every month Victory Electric will be giving members free CFL light bulbs.

Congratulations winners!

Employees Give Back

Recently, the employees of Victory Electric came together for a special holiday season project.

Victory Electric employees were asked to bring five or more food items to be donated to a local food bank for the Thanksgiving holiday.

A total of 540 non-perishable food items were collected and donated to the Manna House, a local food bank.

Victory employees also helped Manna House by donating food to make baskets for families for Christmas.



Wyatt Ehrlich, ArcGIS Mapping employee at Victory Electric, is pictured delivering food to the Manna House, a local food bank.

Victory Electric Receives Extension Appreciation Award

The Victory Electric Cooperative was the recipient of the 2009 Ford County Extension Appreciation Award. The award was presented to Terry Janson, general manager, and Jerri Imgarten, communications specialist, during the Ford County Extension Council's election meeting held on November 3, 2009 at the Ford County Fair Building.

"Victory Electric Cooperative has shown true community support of Extension in many ways," said Ethel Schneweis, Ford County Extension Family and Consumer Science Agent. "Victory Electric provides support to our Ford County Fair by offering each 4-H member a free T-shirt, in addition to funds for trophies, and a donation to our general premium fund to benefit each 4-H exhibitor.

They also utilize Extension staff as speakers for their annual irrigation meeting and allow our office to have an informational booth on display."

Victory Electric also recently made a donation to Rock Springs 4-H Center to help with the remodeling of the co-op cottage dormitory.

The Extension Council Appreciation Award is presented to an individual, couple or organization who has given a considerable amount of extra effort in support of the Extension Council educational programs. In many cases their hard work and dedication has



General Manager Terry Janson and Communications Specialist Jerri Imgarten accept the Extension Award.

lightened the load for the Extension Service personnel, in addition to making the Extension Council's efforts more effective.

Dodge City Christmas Parade of Lights and Chili Contest

The Christmas Parade of Lights and Chili Contest was held on Monday, November 1, 2009, in Dodge City.

Sponsored by *The Dodge City Globe*, Victory Electric and Western Beverage, the events attracted hundreds of visitors to downtown Dodge City.

The Chili Contest had an impressive 37 entries.

The lucky winners in the Judges Choice category were Western Beverage, first place; Dodge City Fire Department, second place; and

Excel, third place.

Those who impressed the crowd won the People's Choice category. Winners were Leon Feldt, first place; Miss Kitty's Quilters, second place; and Walco, third place.

All winners received a plaque sponsored by Victory Electric.

The parade sported 28 entries, ranging from an old fire truck, to pets, to floats and trucks decked out in Christmas lights.

Thanks to all who attended, and we hope to see you next year!



1. An old truck decked out in Christmas lights for the Parade of Lights.
2. Josh Schmidt, Victory, presents Western Beverage with the award for the Judges Choice category of chili contest.
3. Victorious Employee, Juan Ceja, and his son enjoy the evening.
4. Josh Schmidt, Victory, presents Leon Feldt with the award for the People's Choice category of the chili contest.
5. One of Victory's trucks, complete with Santa, participated in the parade.



Statement of Non-discrimination

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.



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