

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Dodge City, KS 67801
620-227-2139
www.victoryelectric.net

THE VICTORY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews



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FROM THE CEO

We Need an All-of-The-Above Energy Strategy

Electric cooperatives are disappointed—but not surprised—that in September the Administration officially abandoned an all-of-the-above energy strategy for a new, all-but-one approach that effectively removes coal from the nation's fuel mix in the future.

The policy, proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), sets stringent limits on carbon dioxide emissions from future coal or natural gas plants. Trouble is, the new standards are impossible to meet with existing technology.

For several years cooperatives have tested carbon capture and storage (CCS) as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, the technology doesn't make financial sense. It has never been used at a commercial scale at a power plant over a prolonged period to demonstrate its viability or cost. In a 2012 Congressional Budget Office report, engineers estimate it would increase the cost of producing electricity from coal-based plants by 75 percent.

The Administration's switch to

an all-but-one energy approach would limit Americans' access to a plentiful and affordable resource. I don't think we should gamble with the economic well-being of future generations and our nation's economy.

Already worried about making ends meet, many of Victory Electric's co-op members cannot afford the significant increases in electric bills that this policy would trigger.

Historically, the price of coal remains affordable and relatively stable. The U.S. Energy Information Agency reports the United States has 236 years remaining of recoverable coal reserves. Coal generates 37 percent of the nation's electricity—our biggest energy source by far.

It seems the Administration will let history repeat itself. We saw this all-but-one game in 1978 when Congress passed the ill-conceived Power Plant and Industrial Fuel Use Act.

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Shane Laws

COOPERATIVE ACTION NETWORK

FROM THE
BOARD PRESIDENT

Victory Seeks Board Nominations



Kenny
Wehkamp

Dear Victory Members,
It is time once again to start thinking about Victory Electric's Annual Membership Meeting held in April 2014.

We are currently soliciting nominations for Victory Electric's Board of Trustees.

Positions up for election are in District 2, currently held by **JOHN LEIS**, Minneola; District 4, currently held by **JIM IMEL**, Bucklin; District 6, currently held by **KENNY WEHKAMP**, Cimarron; and District 10, currently held by **RANDY QUINT**, Dodge City.

To qualify, you must be a natural person (not a corporation, partnership or any other business entity); 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.

Duties of an elected trustee include: attending a monthly six-to-eight hour board meeting, board training opportunities, and some travel will be required.

If you would like to run for a position, or you know someone interested, please send a letter of interest with qualifications to Shane Laws or Kenny Wehkamp at Victory Electric, P.O. Box 1335, Dodge City, KS 67801.

Sincerely,

KENNY WEHKAMP, PRESIDENT

Victory Trustees Complete CCD Training Program

GARY GILLESPIE, KEN SCHULTE AND RANDY QUINT, trustees from Victory Electric received the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Gillespie, Schulte and Quint were recognized at NRECA's Region 7 meeting for their commitment to education and attainment of the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate before an audience of more than 550 electric cooperative officials from 13 states, including Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Today's electric utility environment imposes new demands on electric cooperative directors, particularly increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a working knowledge of the cooperative principles.

Electric co-ops in Kansas are committed to working through the statewide organization, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, and NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative member-owners.

The CCD program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies



Victory trustee, Gary Gillespie, is congratulated by JoAnn Emerson, CEO of NRECA.

contained in five core courses:

- ▶ Director duties and liabilities
- ▶ Understanding the electric business
- ▶ Board roles and relationships
- ▶ Strategic planning
- ▶ Financial decision making

Larson will now work toward her NRECA Board Leadership certificate recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a Credentialed Cooperative Director. Directors who have attained the Board Leadership certificate have completed 10 credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses.

Victory Electric is proud of our trustees' commitment to education and training, so that they may better serve our members.

Notice of Special Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the members will be held on December 30, 2013, at 1 p.m., at the corporate offices of The Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., at 3230 N. 14th Ave., Dodge City, Kan., to consider amending Article four of the Articles of Incorporation to read as follows:

Article Fourth: The number of trustees and the number of districts to be represented by such trustees shall be as determined in the

bylaws as the same shall have been amended or may be amended from time to time.

Explanatory Note: Kansas electric cooperative law provides that the number of trustees and the composition of districts shall be determined by the bylaws rather than the articles of incorporation. This proposed amendment is to bring the articles into conformity with the bylaws. The board of trustees recommends adoption of this amendment.

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

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

During the Government In Action Youth Tour, June 12-29, 2014, 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 12-18, 2014, students will join youth from Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Kansas. Campers form a mock cooperative, participate in leadership activities, and learn about the cooperatives.

Students will be selected based on a resumé, application and an interview. To apply, contact your high school counselor, high school principal, or Jerri Imgarten at Victory Electric Cooperative by calling 620-371-7730 or 800-279-7915 for more information about the contest.

The deadline for applications is **January 31, 2014.**

Three Winners, All-Expenses-Paid

"Government in Action" Youth Tour
June 12-19, 2014, in Washington, D.C.



2013 D.C. winners were (from left) Saif Khan, Dodge City; Myranda Axtell, South Gray and Ashlee Redger, South Gray.

Three Winners, All-Expenses-Paid

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp
July 12-18, 2014, in Steamboat Springs, CO



2013 camp winners were (from left) Everly Wise, Fowler; Byrum Bittel, Spearville; and Aaron Pinkerton, Minneola.

The deadline for applications is January 31, 2014.

Victory Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Application

The deadline for applications is January 31, 2014

Name of Applicant: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Birth Date _____ Applicant Cell Number _____

Name of Parents or Guardian _____ Parent/Home 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 2013 Youth Tour competition sponsored by The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc. _____

(Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian)

Merry Christmas

Victory Electric, Shane Laws, the board of trustees, and employees wish all of our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Victory Electric will be closed on December 24-25 in observance of the Christmas holiday, in addition to January 1 for New Year's.



Terry Janson
CEO



Kenny Wehkamp
Board President



Cedric Drewes
Trustee



Gary Gillespie
Trustee



Jim Imel
Trustee



Terri Larson
Trustee





John Leis
Trustee



Richard Lightner
Trustee



Pat Morse
Trustee



Loren Ochs
Trustee



Randy Quint
Trustee



Ken Schulte
Trustee

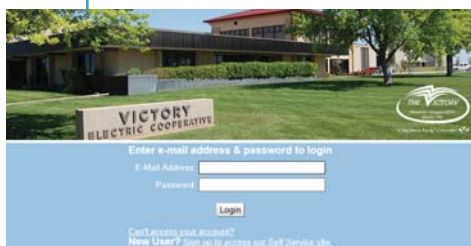


Daryl Tieben
Trustee



**Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year**

Victory Electric Bill Payment Options



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

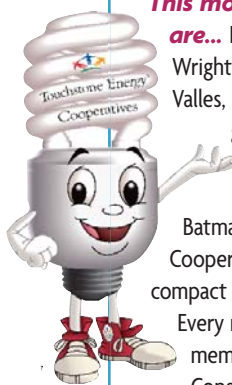
Victory Electric has several convenient options for you, the member, to pay your bill.

In addition to paying in our office or by mail, options include online bill pay at www.victoryelectric.net, drop boxes at Victory Electric and City of Dodge City, and a pay station at Mr. Payroll, 400 E Wyatt Earp.

CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"

This month's lucky winners

are... Keri Zimmerman, Justin Wright, Blaine Venters, JoVana L Valles, Sylvia Suarez, Pauline Rodriguez, David H Minor, Brian Konrade, Philip Hogue, Bashir Dhuuh, and Bob Batman. Come by Victory Electric Cooperative to get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month Victory will be giving members free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations winners!



Join Victory Electric Online!



Visit us at www.victoryelectric.net to pay your bill and find energy calculators—just to name a few tools!

Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/VictoryElectric for updates and energy efficiency tips.

Energy Strategy Cont.

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Never heard of it? Few have, but for several years the government banned natural gas for power generation. Yes, natural gas—the fuel source being sold to the nation today as a cleaner fuel option. With gas off the table, electric co-ops were forced to choose between building coal or nuclear plants.

Back then, co-ops were in the midst of a major power plant building cycle. With few options, they

invested heavily in coal-based generating plants in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Thankfully Congress repealed its mistake, but not for nine years.

Let's not repeat past mistakes. Stand with us as we fight to keep electric bills affordable. Raise your voice through the Cooperative Action Network at www.action.coop. Tell the EPA we need an all-of-the-above energy strategy.

Shane Laws

Check out these Local Discounts with the Co-op Connections Card

- ▶ **4 ANGELS BOUTIQUE**—10% off jewelry
- ▶ **ACKERMAN COMPUTERS**—10% off labor
- ▶ **THE BAD HABIT SPORTS BAR AND GRILL**—5% off (excludes alcohol)
- ▶ **BAILEYS BODY SHOP**—5% off parts and labor
- ▶ **BELLA ITALIA**—10% off
- ▶ **BOOT HILL BED AND BREAKFAST**—15% off
- ▶ **CARLOS BOOTS**—10% off
- ▶ **DEPOT THEATER COMPANY**—\$3 off dinner theater ticket
- ▶ **DODGE CITY YMCA**—Corporate rates with proof of being a Co-op Connections card holder
- ▶ **DULCE LANDIA**—5% off piñatas and bouce houses
- ▶ **FLATLAND GRAHICS**—Free digitizing on pocket sized embroidery
- ▶ **FLOWERS BY IRENE**—20% off (excluding wire orders)
- ▶ **HARDROCK SAND & GRAVEL, LLC**—10% off materials, excluding delivery
- ▶ **JIM'S AUTO SALES & SALVAGE**—5% off towing services
- ▶ **JOHN'S BODY SHOP**—5% discount on deductible up to \$50
- ▶ **K. MARTIN JEWELER**—20% off regular priced merchandise (this does not include items already on layaway)
- ▶ **LA QUINTA INN AND SUITES**—10% off BAR rate. No discounts for 3i Show/Roundup Rodeo events



- ▶ **LANG DIESEL, INC.**—10% off parts
- ▶ **MY-D HAN-D., INC.**—10% off grain, hay and cattle equipment
- ▶ **PREMIER MOTORS**—\$500 off regular price
- ▶ **REGIS SALON**—10% off
- ▶ **RIDDLES JEWELRY**—10% off
- ▶ **SCOTT'S AUTO SHOP**—10% off oil, filter and lube. 10% discount on Traxxas radio controlled vehicles and Traxxas parts.
- ▶ **SOPHIA'S**—10% off
- ▶ **STARR COMPUTER SOLUTIONS**—Three months free for new alarm monitoring contracts (standard service)
- ▶ **SUNFLOWER CREATIONS**—7.45% off any new BERNINA sewing machine or 10% off regular fabric, books, notions, patterns, and embroidery supplies
- ▶ **THE MATTRESS HUB**—20% off bed sets \$399 and up. Not valid with any other rebates, discounts or special offers. (Offer excludes Tempur-Pedics) Dodge City and Garden City locations only
- ▶ **TROPICAL ISLAND TAN AND FITNESS**—No enrollment fees on fitness
- ▶ **WATERS TRUE VALUE**—\$5 off a \$30 purchase

Green Giving: Energy Efficient Shopping, Baking and Decorating Holiday Tips

Hosting a “green” holiday takes a little planning and effort, but the payoff can help your budget stay out of the red. So go ahead and deck the halls with energy savings by following these tips for energy-efficient shopping, baking, and decorating.

Green Shopping

Before buying a gift, most folks check the price. Smart consumers also check the product and manufacturer. Greenpeace International’s Greener Electronics Guide rates manufacturers on the full life cycle of products. If you’re considering an electronic device as a gift, see how it ranks at greenpeace.org.

Investing in a big gift? ENERGY STAR TVs and appliances save a bundle on power use. They feature a lower standby-mode consumption than an average device and generally use less energy in all functions.

Include a smart power strip as part of your gift. Most electronic devices consume energy, even when turned off. In fact, such standby power consumption ranges from 5 percent to 10 percent of a household’s total energy consumption.

Smart power strips save energy by shutting off power to plugged-in gadgets when they go into standby mode. Many smart power strips also have one or two unmonitored, always-on outlets. Use these outlets to plug in devices that always need power, like a cordless phone base or alarm system.

Deck the House in Savings

Know a neighbor who gives the fictional Griswold family from “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” a run for their money? Give them strings of light-emitting diodes (LEDs). A high-quality LED has a life expectancy of 50,000 hours or more. Consider recycling the retired strands at HolidayLeds.com and get a 25 percent off

coupon toward the purchase of LED holiday lights.

More isn’t always best. A small, thoughtful display stirs warm holiday feelings and you’ll be grateful when your January power bill doesn’t put a dent in your budget. Consider using timers for holiday lights, too. Set lights to turn on when it gets dark and off once viewers are snug in their beds. Four to six hours should be plenty of time. And don’t forget using ribbons, wreaths, and garland—energy-free decorating traditions still deliver holiday cheer!

Green-Baked Goodies

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates cooking accounts for 4 percent of a home’s total energy use. Add energy costs for refrigeration, hot water heating, and dishwashing and you’ve got a hefty kitchen price tag. As holiday parties gear up, keep efficient cooking tips in mind.



Cut baking temperatures by 25 degrees with a ceramic or glass pan. These pans retain heat better than metal. Use the oven wisely by cooking in large batches, and fit pans into all available oven space. Keep the door closed. Each time you peek into the oven you let out hot air, causing the oven to work overtime to bring the temperature back up.

Get to know how long it takes to preheat your oven and make sure you’re ready to start cooking right away. Insert a stainless steel skewer through meat or baked potatoes to speed the cooking process, or cut food into smaller pieces to shorten cooking time.

Have a convection option on your stove? It helps reduce cooking time and temperature. Turn your electric oven off ten minutes before the end of the cooking time; it maintains the temperature that long. And last but not least, if you’re planning some

kitchen time, lower your thermostat. The heat generated in your kitchen can help heat the entire house, especially if you leave the oven door open after you are done.

The holidays are a joyful time, and there’s little that feels as good as giving someone you love the perfect gift. Make that gift a positive one and keep the holidays green for both you and your loved ones.



Holiday Lighting Tips

Decorating for the holidays? Consider using ENERGY STAR qualified decorative light strings (DLS). These lights:

- Consume 75% less energy than conventional incandescent light strands.
- Last up to 10 times longer!
- Are cool to the touch, reducing risk of fire.
- A traditional light string with 300 lights costs about \$4.50* in energy costs over the holiday season. In contrast, an ENERGY STAR certified light-emitting diode (LED) equivalent costs only \$0.43* to operate!

Source: ENERGY STAR
*Savings estimate from Pacific Gas & Electric based on their testing and residential rates



7th Annual Pumpkin Festival a Success

The 7th Annual Pumpkin Painting and Carving Festival was held on October 26 at Victory Electric.

Sponsored by Victory Electric, Dodge City Community College, and Ladies Community Outreach, the event was free for the approximately 700 youth who participated.

“The kids really love coming out and using their creative abilities to create pumpkins that are artistic and uniquely their own,” said Jerri Imgarten, communications specialist at Victory Electric. “I enjoyed helping with such a fun and festive event for the youth of the Dodge City and surrounding communities.”

In addition to painting and carving, there were also Halloween and fall themed games for the youth to enjoy.



700 youth participated in the painting and carving fun at this year's festival.

