

Loren Ochs Honored for 43 Years of Service



Lineman Mikey Goddard presented retired board member Loren Ochs with a plaque recognizing his 43 years of service.

Longtime Victory Electric trustee, **LOREN OCHS**, of Jetmore, was recognized at his final board meeting for his 43 years of service and dedication to Victory Electric.

Ochs was elected to the Victory Electric board in 1970, and after four terms on the board of trustees, Ochs decided not to run again.

"The board, management and employees of Victory Electric hold much respect for Loren," said Terry Janson, CEO. "His dedication to the co-op, wealth of knowledge, and experience will be greatly missed."

In his 43 years on the board, Ochs held many leadership roles including being Victory Electric's representative on the Sunflower Electric Power Corporation board of directors. He began serving on the Sunflower board in 1979, served as vice-chairman twice, and was elected chairman in 2008.

During his time on the board, Ochs was a part of many historical projects at Victory Electric, including the purchase of the Aquila Electric properties, which more than quadrupled the number of Victory's cooperative members.

Save Money with Victory's Load Control Program

Electricity is a staple in our daily life. 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 the needs of our members.

With temperatures rising as we move further into summer, Victory Electric and our suppliers often face the challenge of providing an adequate supply of power to meet 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 are times when the system reaches its peak, which is when all of our members, all at once, are using the most electricity. This peak usually occurs between 2 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. We have created radio messages to inform you, the member, when we have reached peak load.

A warning sound and message will play on radio stations 97.3FM, 95.5FM, 96.3FM, 93.9FM, 92.9FM, 98.1FM, 101.5FM and Spanish stations 105.9FM and 106.7FM. 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 electric load down, you can help us save on the cost of its total purchased power. This, in turn, means lower costs on electric bills for our members.

The single biggest step you

can make is turning up your air conditioning five 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. 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 are typically 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 in the summer. For more information, call Victory Electric at 620-227-2139.

Seguridad Eléctrica es Importante Adultos Mayores están a Mayor Riesgo

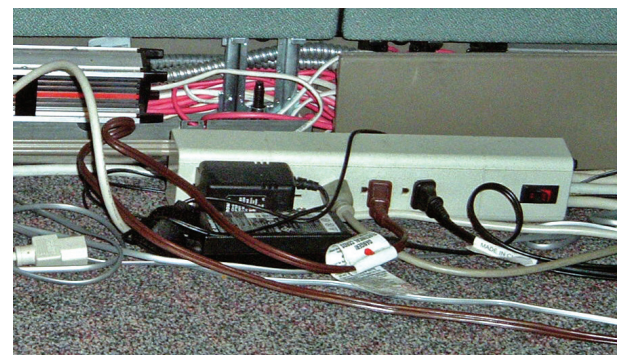
Las estadísticas muestran que los incendios en el hogar, resultan una variedad de causas, en un número significativo de muertos y heridos cada año. Según la Asociación Nacional fuego protección (NFPA), departamentos de bomberos de Estados Unidos responden a un promedio estimado de 371.700 incendios por año. Estos incendios causan un promedio estimado de 2.590 civiles muertos y heridos civiles 12.910.

Aunque los peligros eléctricos plagan al público en general, los adultos mayores se cargan con el riesgo más grave. Adultos mayores de 65 años son dos veces más probables morir de un incendio que la población general, y este riesgo aumenta con la edad. Los de edad de 75 años y encima se enfrentan con un riesgo que es 2,8 veces mayor, y adultos más de 85 corren un riesgo enorme que es 3,7 veces superior. Como "baby boomers" entrar en la edad

de jubilación, la administración de incendios de Estados Unidos (USFA) ha pronosticado que el porcentaje de americanos mayores aumentará significativamente, por lo que un aumento correspondiente en fuego muertes y lesiones entre los adultos mayores probable. Fallas eléctricas son la principal causa de incendios en el hogar cada año, y la distribución eléctrica e iluminación equipo incendios han demostrado aumentar en frecuencia con aumento la edad de vivienda. Casas con sistemas eléctricos de envejecimiento corren un mayor riesgo de incendios eléctricos, planteando un grave riesgo para los adultos mayores que han permanecido en el mismo hogar durante un periodo prolongado de tiempo. Según la oficina del censo

de Estados Unidos, la mitad de las viviendas de uso en los Estados Unidos fueron construida antes de 1973, que es mucho antes de que muchos de la electrónica y los aparatos que utilizamos hoy en día se inventaron incluso. Desafortunadamente, crecientes demandas de energía pueden sobrecargar el sistema eléctrico de la casa más vieja, provocando incendios o electrocuciones.

Muchos incendios eléctricos en el hogar pueden prevenirse mediante el uso de la más moderna tecnología y mediante el reconocimiento de se-



Asegúrese de que no se sobrecarguen los enchufes eléctricos.

ñales de advertencia está presentando su hogar. Siga estos consejos de seguridad fácil identificar y prevenir riesgos eléctricos en su hogar:

- ▶ Verifique regularmente todos cables, enchufes, interruptores y aparatos para detectar signos de daño o desgaste.
- ▶ Utilice cordones de extensión sólo temporalmente.
- ▶ Asegúrese de que tomas que no están sobrecargados con demasiados dispositivos. Ellos pueden sobrecalentarse y causar un incendio.
- ▶ Mirar y escuchar para señales de advertencia de un problema eléctrico como enchufes e interruptores que son cálidos, o hacen sonidos crepitantes, chisporroteantes o zumbidos.
- ▶ Siempre reemplace fusibles o cor-

tacircuitos con el tamaño correcto y amperaje. Y asegúrese de que todos los circuitos están etiquetados correctamente.

- ▶ Considerar tener sus interruptores actualizados estado-of-the-art AFCI disyuntores. Mantenga el panel • Instale detectores de humo en cada nivel de su casa. Coloque alarmas dentro de cada dormitorio y fuera de cada área de dormir. Prueba una vez al mes y cambie las baterías por lo menos una vez al año vuelva a colocar la alarma sí mismo cada diez años.

Estos consejos vitales aparecen en recién lanzado "hogar fuego seguridad para mayores adultos conciencia programa de seguridad," de ESFI que proporciona herramientas para educar a los adultos mayores y sus familias en todo el país sobre home fuego peligros relacionados con la cocina, calefacción y equipos eléctricos.

Una amplia gama de recursos para adultos mayores, incluyendo hojas de hecho y consejos detalladas, así como anuncios de servicio público, se puede encontrar visitando www.esfi.org/safetyeducators. Este esfuerzo es parte de iniciativa de mes Nacional de la seguridad eléctrica de ESFI, "Eléctricos seguridad para todas las edades," que adopta un enfoque de múltiples generaciones seguridad eléctrica por alentar familiares de todas las edades a trabajar juntos para identificar y corregir posibles peligros de incendios caseros.

Visita www.esfi.org/NESM para una gama completa de ESFI de materiales de seguridad, que también incluyen niños enfocados materiales forman parte de su programa de "Ser inteligente sobre fuego y seguridad eléctrica".

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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FROM THE MANAGER

Stop Summer Energy Drains



Terry Janson

Summer vacation can be a recipe for high electric bills if kids are home all day and a swimming pool is in use. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) estimates that 9 percent of Americans' household energy costs are dedicated to air conditioning alone, so try these tips to keep costs down when the temperature rises.

Avoid 'phantom' load

Get your family in the habit of turning electronics on and off via power strips as they move from one activity to the next. As electronics and appliances become more technologically savvy, they often draw power even while turned off. A good indicator of this—called "phantom load"—is to check the device for a light that stays on all the time.

Phantom load will add a few watt-hours to energy consumption, but a few watt-hours on each of your many electronic devices adds up. To avoid this silent power draw, unplug the device or invest in a "smart" power strip, which allows certain electronics—like a cable box, which takes time to reboot after it's been unplugged—to continue using electricity while others can be completely shut down.

Air-conditioning units

More people in the house plus doors hanging open from the last trip to play outside plus high temperatures equals an air-conditioning unit that has to work harder to keep the house cool. Be sure to adjust settings to maximize efficiency, such as using the "auto" function instead of keeping the fan running all the time.

Regular maintenance to keep your air conditioner or heat pump in good working order is a good idea, as is checking and changing the air filter every few months or if it's dirty.

Also, set your thermostat as high as you can while maintaining your comfort level—the smaller the difference between indoor air and the great outdoors, the lower your cooling costs will be. And make sure to rearrange your furniture so that appliances that put out a lot of heat aren't near the thermostat.

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“These tips to keep costs down when the temperature rises.”

Happy Father's Day



Victory Electric wishes all the fathers a Happy Father's Day on June 16.

Board of Trustees Meeting Notice

Please take notice that the Board of Trustees of Victory Electric Cooperative, Inc., will meet on June 25, 2013, at 1 p.m. at the Cooperative Headquarters, 3230 N. 14th Street, Dodge City, Kansas, to discuss and vote on modifications to the Irrigation, Large Commercial and Large Power rate schedules. The board will consider adding the following language to these schedules:

"Three-phase motors, having a rated capacity of twenty-five horsepower (25 hp) or more, unless otherwise approved by the Cooperative, must use a 12 pole, Variable Frequency Drive (VFD). The VFD shall adhere to the requirements in IEEE Standard 519-1992, "Harmonic Control in Power Systems."

Members have the right under K.S.A. 66-104d(g) to request Kansas Corporation Commission review of any rate change. The meeting is open to any member that wishes to attend. Any member with questions may contact Terry Janson or Greg Underwood at 620-227-2139 or 800-279-7915.

Bill Payment Options

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.

Summer Energy Drains Continued

Keep the pool covered

About 70 percent of the heat lost from swimming pools results from evaporation, caused by both wind and water. That means tap water goes to refilling the pool, which means higher electric bills to reheat the water.

To save energy, cover a pool when it's not in use. Pool size and shape factor into choosing the right cover. The most expensive pool covers are incorporated into the pool structure and can come with an automatic retraction and storage system. Manual covers

may be cheaper, but removing them can be a dirty job. You can also choose solar covers resembling bubble wrap.

We are a resource

As you work this summer to stop energy drains, don't forget about Victory Electric. Our employees are always willing to help you determine the right steps for your home to save energy and money. You can also visit TogetherWeSave.com to find out how little measures around the house add up to big energy savings.

Lee Kenton Retires after 39 Years of Service

Crew chief **LEE KENTON** retired from Victory Electric in February 2013. Kenton has worked for Victory Electric since April 2007, when Victory acquired a portion of the Aquila electric properties. Previous to Victory, Kenton worked for Aquila as a lineman for 33 years.

"All of us at Victory will miss Lee," said Tom Lowery, supervisor of operations. "I worked with him at Aquila and for the past six years at Victory. He is a hardworking individual and he leaves us with a lot of knowledge as a linemen. He will be hard to replace, but we wish him the best of luck in his retirement."

Kenton graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in agriculture. He was drafted into the US Air Force and served his country until 1974. When he was hired at Aquila in 1974, he started as a station attendant before being promoted to a first year apprentice linemen and later earning his journeyman lineman certification in 1983.

The Victory Electric board



Lee Kenton at his retirement reception

of trustee's, management and employees of Victory Electric hosted a reception for Kenton to celebrate his retirement.

All of us at Victory Electric thank Lee for his service to the community, and we wish him a happy and relaxing retirement.

Linemen Honored by U.S. Senate with Lineman Appreciation Day

The U.S. Senate declared April 18, 2013, National Lineman Appreciation Day, in the 113th Congress, First Session. Senate Resolution 95 was submitted by Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Senator Michael Bennett (D-CO). The resolution was considered and agreed to by the Senate.

Victory Electric joined the U.S. Senate in recognizing April 18 as National Lineman Appreciation Day. The Senate also noted that linemen routinely work under dangerous conditions, "with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power lines 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to keep electricity flowing." Despite the serious risks they face on the job, linemen, the resolution states, receive "little recognition from the

community regarding the dangers of their work."

There are more than 269,000 line installers and repairers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Included in those ranks are about 19,000 lineworkers employed by more than 900 distribution cooperatives and G&T members of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

"We have a great group of linemen here at Victory Electric," said Terry Janson, CEO. "It was nice to see them honored by the US Senate for their hard work and dedication for a job that can often be dangerous."

Victory linemen were treated to a hamburger lunch in honor of the US Senate's decision.



VictoryElectric Linemen celebrated National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 18.

Visit our Website & Join Victory Electric on Facebook

Visit our website at www.victoryelectric.net. On our website, you will find online bill pay, electrician services information, and energy calculators—just to name a few tools!

You can also become a fan of Victory on Facebook at

facebook.com/VictoryElectric or by searching for Victory Electric. Check our page for safety tip tuesday, weather wednesday, throwback thursday, foto friday and other coop news. Facebook is a great way to stay in touch and stay apprised of coop events and news.

Senate Resolution 95

Recognizing linemen, the profession of linemen, the contributions of these brave men and women who protect public safety, and expressing support for the designation of April 18, 2013, as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

Whereas the profession of linemen is steeped in personal, family, and professional tradition;

Whereas linemen are often first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety heroes;

Whereas linemen work with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power lines 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to keep electricity flowing;

Whereas linemen must often work under dangerous conditions far from their families to construct and maintain the energy infrastructure of the United States;

Whereas linemen put their lives on the line every day with little recognition from the community regarding the danger of their work; and

Whereas April 18, 2013, would be an appropriate date to designate as National Lineman Appreciation Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) recognizes the efforts of linemen in keeping the power on and protecting public safety; and
(2) supports the designation of April 18, 2013, as National Lineman Appreciation Day.



Electrical Safety is Important for Older Adults

Statistics show that home fires, from a variety of causes, result in a significant number of deaths and injuries each year. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), U.S. fire departments respond to an estimated average of 371,700 home structure fires per year. These fires cause an estimated average of 2,590 civilian deaths and 12,910 civilian injuries.

Although electrical hazards plague the public at large, older adults are burdened with the gravest risk. Adults over the age of 65 are more than twice as likely to die from a house fire as the general population, and this risk increases with age. Those 75 years of age and over are challenged with a risk that is 2.8 times higher, and adults over 85 are at a staggering risk that is 3.7 times higher. As baby boomers enter retirement age, the United States Fire Administration (USFA) has predicted that the percentage of older Americans will increase significantly, thus making a corresponding increase in fire deaths and injuries among older adults probable.

Electrical failures are a leading cause of home fires every year, and electrical distribution and lighting equipment fires have been shown to increase in frequency with increasing dwelling age. Homes with aging electrical systems are at a heightened risk for electrical fires, posing a serious risk for older adults who have remained in the same home for an extended period of time. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, half of the homes in use in the United States were built before 1973, which is long before

many of the electronics and appliances we use today were even invented. Unfortunately, our increased demands for energy can overburden an older home's electrical system



Throw away frayed extension cords

causing fires or electrocutions. Many home electrical fires can be prevented by using more up-to-date technology and by recognizing warning signs

your home may be showing. Follow these easy safety tips to identify and prevent electrical hazards in your home:

- ▶ Regularly check all cords, outlets, switches, and appliances for signs of damage or wear.
- ▶ Use extension cords only temporarily.
- ▶ Be sure that outlets are not overloaded with too many devices. They can overheat and start a fire.
- ▶ Look and listen for warning signs of an electrical problem such as outlets and switches that are warm, or make crackling, sizzling or buzzing sounds.
- ▶ Always replace fuses or circuit breakers with the correct size and amperage. And make sure all circuits are labeled correctly.
- ▶ Consider having your breakers upgraded to state-of-the-art AFCI circuit breakers. Keep the electrical panel accessible so you can quickly shut off power in an emergency.
- ▶ Install smoke alarms on every level of your home. Place alarms inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area. Test them once a month, change the batteries at least once a year, and replace the alarm itself every ten years.

These vital tips are featured

in ESFI's newly launched "Home Fire Safety for Older Adults Safety Awareness Program," which provides tools to educate older adults and their families nationwide about home fire hazards related to cooking, heating, and electrical equipment. A full range of resources for older adults, including detailed fact and tip sheets as well as public service announcements, can be found by visiting www.esfi.org/safetyeducators. This effort is part of ESFI's National Electrical Safety Month initiative, "Electrical Safety for All Ages," which takes a multigenerational approach to electrical safety by encouraging family members of all ages to work together to identify and correct potential home fire hazards.

Visit www.esfi.org/NESM for ESFI's full range of safety materials, which includes children's materials are part of its "Be Smart about Fire and Electrical Safety" program.

CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"

This month's lucky winners are... Joe Goetz, Shane Eck, Margaret Douglas, Ana Baca, and Daniel Coralles.

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

