

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews



The Victory Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Board of Trustees

Kenny Wehkamp
President

John Leis
Vice President

Pat Morse
Secretary/Treasurer

Cedric Drewes
Trustee

Gary Gillespie
Trustee

Jim Imel
Trustee

Terri Larson
Trustee

Richard Lightner
Trustee

James Ochs
Trustee

Randy Quint
Trustee

Ken Schulte
Trustee

Daryl Tieben
Trustee

Staff

Terry Janson
CEO

Karla Durrant
CFO

Tom Lowery
Director of Operations

Ryan Miller
Supervisor of Operations

Greg Underwood
Manager of Engineering

Jerry King
Marketing and Communications

Monica Lampe
Human Resources

Mike Clark
Manager of Purchasing and Stores

Jim Meis
Manager of Electrician Services

Jerri Imgarten
Editor

FROM THE MANAGER

We're Different: We're Looking Out for You

Cooperatives are different from other business you deal with. To tell you the truth, I like being different from everyone else. The fact that you're reading this article shows you like that difference, too.

We're different because we're "looking out for you."

Now, more than ever, that's important because we need to work together to keep your electric bills affordable and your power reliable.

Congress did not pass a comprehensive climate bill last year. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has begun to regulate greenhouse gasses—an action made possible by a 2007 Supreme Court decision, followed by rulings allowing the EPA to use the Clean Air Act to curb carbon emissions. Policies dealing with coal ash, even more stringent controls on other power plant emissions, and state renewable energy requirements could also lead to higher costs. It's hard to predict the future, but

We're committed to keeping you informed about policy changes that will impact your electric bill.



Terry Janson

one thing seems certain: government regulations are going to increase the cost of doing business in our, and many other, industries around the country.

New regulations won't be the only culprit. Prices for fuel, materials, and equipment will continue to rise. Although the recent economic slump and corresponding drop in electricity use provided some much-needed breathing room, soon we will need to build new power plants, requiring a significant, long-term investment of time and money.

We're committed to keeping you informed about policy changes that will impact your electric bill through

Continued on page 16-B ▶



Happy 4th of July

from all of us at
Victory Electric!

Ted McAtee practices a pole top rescue.



Victory Electric Linemen Practice Safety and Pole Top Rescue

Every year, linemen practice the technique of rescuing a disabled person from atop a pole. This mandatory pole top rescue training simulates methods and precautions to rescue a fellow lineman if an accident were to occur in the field. The linemen must lower a life-like mannequin to the ground, safely and within a set amount of time.

A life-size mannequin is placed on a power pole, and the lineman must climb the pole with only his usual tools and a hand line and safely lower the 200 pound mannequin to the ground.

All linemen who practice this training hope they never have to use it, but it is good to know that your fellow workers have the ability to get you down from a pole if something were to happen.



Dave Masden rescues a training dummy from the top of a electric pole.

Manager's Message: We're Different Continued

Continued from page 16-A ▶

channels like the *Kansas Country Living*. We are going to do everything we can to keep rates down and your electric bills affordable.

To accomplish that, we're controlling costs through innovation. Our energy efficiency and rebate programs help you manage your energy use. Also, the website, TogetherWeSave.com shows how little changes like sealing your air ducts, replacing old appliances, or improving your home's insulation can add up to big savings on your electric bill.

Deploying state-of-the-art solutions like our automated metering infrastructure system helps us control operating costs and improve electric service reliability. Nationally, co-ops are meeting members' power needs with a diverse fuel mix, including

renewable energy.

While we're affordable and innovative, above all else we're member focused. No matter what comes our way we will continue to put you, our members, first. Victory Electric is member controlled and locally operated. As a member, you have a voice in how your cooperative operates. At our annual meeting each year in April, you have the opportunity to elect fellow members to our board of trustees to represent your best interests at the cooperative.

Being member controlled means Victory Electric is accountable to those we serve, and are dedicated to assisting our communities—your money stays at work close to home. Costs are rising for all of us, but when it comes to your electric bill our rates are set simply to cover the cost of

doing business, not to generate profits for distant stockholders.

In fact, as a not-for-profit organization, Victory Electric gives money back to you when our revenues exceed costs. I'm proud to report that over the years, we have returned millions of dollars to our members in the form of capital credits.

The bottom line? We exist only to serve you and meet your needs for safe, reliable, and affordable power.

As you can see, we're different. We're working together to keep your electric bills affordable. We're controlling costs through innovation. And we're continuing to put you, our members, first. No matter what the future brings, one thing is certain. We at Victory Electric are Looking Out for You.

'Til Next Time, TJ

Co-op Connections Card Puts Value in Your Wallet

Victory Electric's commitment to you goes beyond providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

We're always looking for ways to provide value to our members and our community, especially during tough economic times. Victory's Co-op Connections Card is a money-saving tool we're proud to offer our membership. The card connects you with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescriptions.

Your card will be coming next month in the August issue of the *Kansas Country Living* magazine. Be sure to keep an eye out for the magazine arriving in your mailbox, you don't want to miss this opportunity to save.

Victory Electric is currently working with local businesses to offer deals and discounts when using the Co-op Connections Card. We will keep you updated with those participating businesses. Be sure to present the card at the register to receive your discount!

We hope local businesses participating in the Co-op Connections program benefit from increased traffic from Victory Electric members. Businesses can sign up for the program at no cost. For a complete list of all participating businesses in our area, simply log on to our website www.victoryelectric.net and follow the Co-op Connections Card link.

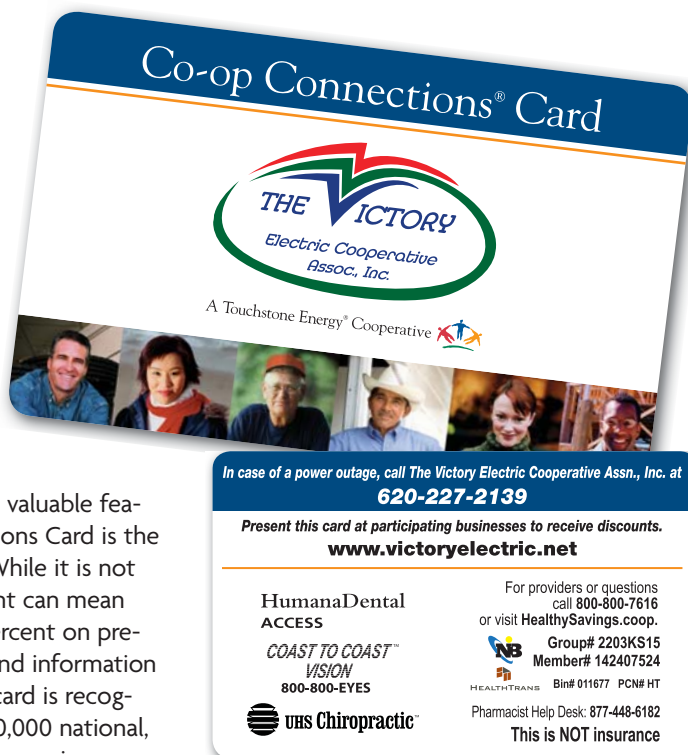
The card also gives you access to online savings at more than 95 national retailers like Barnes & Noble.com, Hertz Rental Cars, Best Western hotels and ProFlowers.com. You can check out these great national discounts at www.connections.coop.

One of the most valuable features of the Connections Card is the pharmacy discount. While it is not insurance, the discount can mean savings of 10 to 60 percent on prescriptions. The logo and information on the back of your card is recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional, and local pharmacies.

The pharmacy discount has been widely used by members of Touchstone Energy co-ops across the country, resulting in combined savings of nearly \$20 million on prescriptions.

Want to find out more? Log on to www.locateproviders.com to search for pharmacies in our area honoring the card. Use code 22203 as the group number under the "Groups" login section. Next, enter your zip code.

As a Touchstone Energy co-op,



In case of a power outage, call The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc. at 620-227-2139

Present this card at participating businesses to receive discounts. www.victoryelectric.net

HumanaDental
ACCESS

COAST TO COAST™
VISION
800-800-EYES

ums Chiropractic

For providers or questions
call 800-800-7616
or visit HealthySavings.coop.

Group# 2203KS15
Member# 142407524
Bin# 011677 PCN# HT

Pharmacist Help Desk: 877-448-6182
This is NOT insurance

Victory strives to serve our members according to four core values: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. Our Co-op Connections Card is one of the ways we live up to those values.

We're eager to answer any questions you have about the card and how to take advantage of the discounts it provides. Call us at 620-227-2139 to find out more, or log onto www.victoryelectric.net.

Imgarten Re-Elected Secretary of National CCC Board



Jerri Imgarten

JERRI IMGARTEN, communications specialist for Victory Electric, has been re-elected to serve as secretary of the Certified Cooperative Communicators (CCC) program board of directors. Imgarten was elected to the board in 2012.

The CCC certification program is offered by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators, which is affiliated with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The CCC Board is composed of ten communicators who are employed in the electric co-op industry and who have already earned a CCC designation. As board members, they assume oversight and leadership of the program and are responsible for setting policy and program guidelines. Board members' prior experience, achievement of the credential, and professional ethics and integrity qualifies them to oversee the program.

New Bicycles Donated to Deserving Local Students

Bicycle Winners

Tania Rizo, Beeson

Tony Nguyen, Beeson

Guadalupe Navarrete, Sunnyside

Feliciana Peralta, Sunnyside

Marco Carillo Reyes, Central

Alondra Jacinto, Central

Angy Magana, Miller

Jose Corpus, Miller

Elena Nuefeld Ponce, Wilroads

Jake Fanning, Wilroads

Miguel Vargas, Ross

Jayden Pike, Ross

Enrique Robles, Linn

Annia Llamas, Linn Elementary

Tatiana Comas, Northwest

Michael Moore, Northwest

Neveah Wright, Soule

Hever Arjon, Soule

Victory Electric partnered together with the local Kiwanis Club for their TERRIFIC Kids program. The program is aimed to award local elementary kids for their hard work and dedication. Students chosen are those who have shown growth and excelled in their studies, many of which improved their grades/scores by several letters.

Several students from each elementary were chosen to receive a certificate, and two students from each school received a bicycle.

The local Kiwanis TERRIFIC Kids program is coordinated by Ryan Ausmus. Victory Electric would like to thank Ryan for his time organizing the program and dedication to the students of Dodge City.

Kiwanis is a worldwide service organization of individuals who want to improve their communities. According to Kiwanis International, TERRIFIC Kids is a “student recognition program that promotes character development, self-esteem and perseverance.” The TERRIFIC acronym stands for Thoughtful, Enthusiastic, Respectful, Responsible, Inclusive, Friendly, Inquisitive, Capable.

Victory Electric congratulates all of the student winners.



Marco Carillo Reyes proudly displays his new bike. Pictured are Jerri Imgarten, Victory; Marco's mom, Marco; Joaquin Rangel, Kiwanis representative; Terri Larson, teacher; and Bill Pittman, principal.

Victory Electric Visits Kids at Public Library Event

Big things are happening at the Dodge City Public Library this summer! Recently, Victory Electric's manager of member services, Josh Schmidt, made a trip to the “Big Digger” program.

The theme of summer reading at the Dodge City Public Library this year is “Dig Into Reading” and kids are really digging it! There have been programs so far this sum-

mer, and one of the kids' favorites was the “Big Digger” program.

This program featured some big earth-moving vehicles the children were allowed to learn about, explore, and even get their picture taken.

“One of the most fun trucks to explore was brought to us by Josh, an employee at Victory Electric,” said Analicia Tallent of the library. “He brought out a post-drilling truck and even extended the drill out so that it hung out high above the crowd! The kids were in awe of the size of the truck and were excited to see the huge drill above their heads.”

Schmidt spent time talking to the approximately 180 kids and their families about what the truck was used for and how it worked.

“We were very fortunate to have Victory's participation, especially since I called them at the last minute after one of our other presenters was unable to make it,” said Tallent. “The Dodge City Public Library and all of our summer reading patrons want to send out a huge thank you to Josh and Victory Electric for helping us have such a fun and successful program!”



Some of the library volunteers at the event gathered for a photo on Victory Electric's bucket truck.

Former Victory Youth Tour Winner Elected Kansas State FFA President

LINDY BILBERRY, winner of Victory Electric's 2012 Washington, D.C., youth tour trip, was recently elected Kansas State FFA President.

Bilberry, a 2013 graduate of Garden City High School, was elected from among 14 candidates to serve the more than 8,000 Kansas FFA members as their 2013-2014 president.

"I am most looking forward to developing a relationship with the FFA members in Kansas to hopefully make an impact on their lives," said Bilberry. "I would like to give back a little of what the FFA program has given me over the years."

The selection process wasn't easy for Bilberry. She endured an intense three days of interviews, tests and public speaking demonstrations. Bilberry and other candidates were evaluated on their tests, writing, tests, and series of interviews, speeches and facilitating workshops.

"We are truly excited for Lindy's accomplishment," said Terry Janson, Victory CEO. "This goes to prove the level of talent and leadership all of our current and former youth tour students possess. The purpose of the

youth tour program is to recognize leadership potential in local students and to foster those skills through education and leadership skills."

Back in 2012, Bilberry one of two students selected by Victory Electric to attend the Government-In-Action Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. She and 33 other students from across Kansas spent one week in D.C. traveling, visiting museums and memorials, and learned about the government through visits with Senators Moran and Roberts as well as Representatives Huelskamp, Jenkins and Pompeo.

"At the time, I don't think I realized the impact the trip would have on my life," Bilberry said. "Now I look back and know I was able to experience something that changed my whole outlook on life. The youth tour trip helped me gain a perspective of the big picture. I was able to experience a different place and different people. I realized I wanted to step up and make a difference."

Bilberry encourages other students to apply for the youth tour program and to have an open mind and a willingness to learn.

"Youth tour opened my mind to the many possibilities in life," Bilberry said. "I have no doubt of the impact it had and the encouragement it gave me to accomplish my goals."

Victory Electric would like to congratulate Bilberry for her accomplishments and wish her the best of luck in the coming year.



The passing of the gavel to newly-elected Kansas State FFA President, Lindy Bilberry

Victory Electric Bill Payment Options



Pay your bill online at www.victoryelectric.net, at our office or by mail or at 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... James Abel, Christian Acosta-Vega, Juston Agee, Laura A Lopez, Rick Robbins, Larry Wentz, Frank Zveglich, Maria Jaramillo, and Pam Esser. 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!



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](https://www.facebook.com/VictoryElectric) for updates and energy efficiency tips.



Insurance Coverage is Members' Responsibility

We are often asked by members who have had damage or loss during a power outage if their loss is somehow covered by Victory Electric's insurance.

The answer is always the same; we have no way of insuring our members from the effects of outages which are beyond our control and are always going to be part of providing electrical service.

Although we try to provide the most reliable service possible and have an excellent record of reliability, some outages must be expected. Weather, vehicle accidents, birds, animals, falling trees and a variety of other causes will continue to create outages and inconveniences for all of us.

These outages are not only expensive and inconvenient for you, but they are also extremely expensive for your cooperative to correct. This leaves you with the burden of insuring yourself for these occurrences which are caused by nature or otherwise. You should consider having adequate insurance to cover such incidents.

There are many things you can do to help eliminate potential problems. It is absolutely essential to have proper protection on electric motors, an alarm system to notify you of an outage, and possibly a standby generator.

We intend to keep doing our best to prevent service interruptions, but we urge you to consider having proper insurance protection for those occasions when the unexpected happens.

Victory Electric Employees Volunteer at Local School

Several Victory employees volunteered to grill hamburgers for students at Soule Elementary.



Mike Clark and Josh Schmidt grilling burgers at Soule Elementary

The special treat was served to students on the last day of school for their hard work and successful school year.

La Tarjeta Co-op Connections Pone Valor en Su Billetera

El compromiso de Victory Electric va más allá de proporcionar electricidad segura, fiable y asequible.

Estamos buscando maneras de proporcionar valor a nuestros miembros y a nuestra comunidad, especialmente durante difíciles tiempos económicos. La tarjeta Co-op Connections es una herramienta de ahorro de dinero que estamos orgullosos de poder ofrecer a nuestros miembros.

La tarjeta conecta con descuentos en todo, desde estancias en los hoteles a medicamentos recetados.

Su tarjeta vendrá en el mes que viene en la edición de Agosto en la revista Kansas Country Living. Asegúrese de echar un ojo a la revista que llega a su buzón de correo, no quiere perder esta oportunidad de ahorrar.

Victory Electric trabaja actualmente con empresas locales para ofrecer ofertas y descuentos cuando utilice la tarjeta de conexiones de la cooperativa. Le mantendremos actualizado con las empresas participantes. Asegúrese de presentar la tarjeta en el registro para recibir su descuento!

Esperamos que empresas locales que participan en el programa Co-op Connections se beneficiaran con aumento de tráfico de los miembros de Victory Electric. Empresas pueden inscribirse para el programa sin costo alguno. Para una lista completa de todas las empresas participantes en nuestra área, simplemente inicie sesión en nuestro sitio web www.victoryelectric.net

y siga el enlace de La tarjeta Co-op Connections.

La tarjeta también le da acceso a ahorros en línea en más de 95 minoristas nacionales como Barnes & Noble.com, Hertz Alquiler de coches, hoteles de Best Western y ProFlowers.com. Puede informarse sobre estos grandes descuentos nacionales en

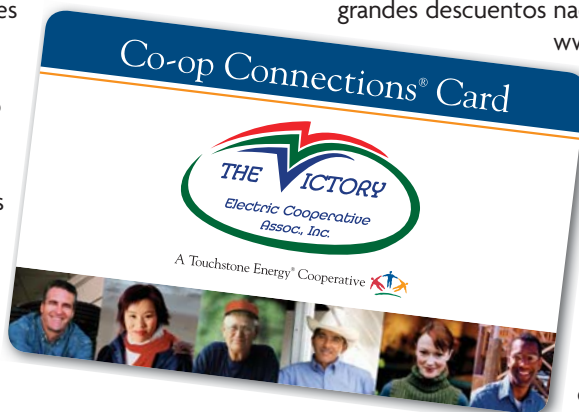
www.connections.coop.

Una de las características más valiosas de la tarjeta de Co-op es el descuento de farmacia. Aunque no es seguro, el descuento puede

significar ahorros de 10 a 60 por ciento en medicamentos recetados. El logotipo y la información en el reverso de su tarjeta es reconocida en más de 60.000 farmacias nacionales, regionales y locales.

El descuento de la farmacia ha sido ampliamente utilizado por los miembros de las cooperativas de energía de Touchstone Energy co-ops en todo el país, lo que resulta en ahorro combinado de casi \$20 millones en las recetas. ¿Quiere saber más? Inicie sesión en www.locateproviders.com para buscar las farmacias de nuestra área que honran la tarjeta. Usar código 22203 como el número de grupo en la sección de inicio de sesión de "Grupos". A continuación, ingrese su código postal.

Estamos dispuestos a responder cualquier pregunta que tenga acerca de la tarjeta y cómo aprovechar los descuentos que ofrece. Llámenos al 620-227-2139 para obtener más información, o iniciar sesión en www.victoryelectric.net.



Victory Sponsors Events at HorseThief: The Festival

Victory Electric had “as much fun as allowed by law” at this year’s HorseThief: The Festival. It was three days of food, fun, and live music—rock and red dirt country, camping and fishing.

Victory Electric helped launch the festival Friday evening by grilling and serving burgers, a drink and chips to the first 300 people attending the festival.

“We love to be out in the community and supporting our local businesses and community members,” said Terry Janson, CEO. “The HorseThief Festival was a fun way for us to bring attention to a local entertainment venue and interact with our members.”

In addition to the live music and concerts, a Bounty Ba\$\$ competition emerged as a popular activity. Victory Electric donated a BBQ grill to the competition. All the category winners were eligible for a drawing for the grill. The winner of the 10 and under largemouth bass competition, Isaah Rodriguez, took home the grill and prize for his 4.58 lb. bass.

“We would like to congratulate Isaah on his big win,” Janson said. “Hopefully his win will inspire other young kids to enjoy fishing and the outdoors.”



Top left: Isaah Rodriguez with his prize winning bass. **Top right:** Isaah is presented with the electric grill. Pictured with Isaah is Victory representative Jerry King and his grandparents Mario and Shaleen Espinoza. **Bottom:** Victory volunteers were (clockwise); Sterling McPhaul, Magaly Morales, Brian Mashak, Dennis Brauer, Dania Blatnick, Mark Bennett, Sandy Long, Monica Schneweis, Ed Stegman and Larry Schneweis.

Why Buy Local? The Advantages of Keeping Dollars 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 they travel is the cost to travel to those places. Using Wichita and Garden City as examples, 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 going

to Garden City and \$57 going to Wichita, before 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, listed five key benefits to buying local, those include:

- ▶ Save money and time shopping nearby.
- ▶ 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 encourage you to buy local in your community, whether it be Dodge City, Jetmore, Montezuma, Bucklin, Spearville or any of the small towns in the area. This allows your community to be more competitive to receive new businesses in town.

Call for Volunteers

Victory Electric would like to reach out to the community and call for volunteers for the 18th Annual McDonald's KidFest event during Dodge City Days.

The organizers and volunteers of KidFest are looking for additional businesses and individuals to volunteer or host a booth. There are many different options for booths, or you may create your own. Kids will be ages four to 12 years old, so all games must be free and safe for the kids.

The event will be held on Sunday, August 4, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in Wright Park. If you or your business is interested in helping volunteer at KidFest this year, please contact the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce at 620-227-3119.

King Re-Elected to Touchstone Energy Co-op Relations Advisory Committee



Jerry King

Victory Electric's director of marketing and communications, **JERRY KING**, was recently re-elected to the Touchstone Energy Cooperative Relations Advisory Committee. This is King's second term serving on the committee.

The function of the cooperative relations advisory committee is to encourage the use of the brand to demonstrate the cooperative advantage. Motivates members to take ownership and realize the full value of the brand by:

- Communicating the value and return on investment the brand

brings to Touchstone Energy co-ops;

- Emphasizing how the brand is relevant to all roles, their co-op and their members;
- Continually educating stakeholders about new and existing programs;
- Demonstrating the value of brand resources, for both retention and recruitment of members.

The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives brand represents a nationwide alliance made of more than 700 local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives in 46 states. Touchstone Energy co-ops collectively deliver power and energy solutions to more than 30 million members every day. Electric cooperatives distribute power for 75 percent of the U.S. land mass over 2.4 million miles of power lines.

Need an Electrician?



The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn.

Electrical Contracting and Services

The licensed electricians at Victory Electric strive every day to provide our members with a dependable, affordable service with highly trained staff who will treat you, your family, and your property with the respect and attention to safety you deserve.

Over the years, we have become the go-to contractor for agricultural, irrigation, residential, commercial, and industrial electrical work across southwest Kansas.

Combined, the electricians at Victory Electric have more than 103 years of experience, and they have a reputation of maintaining integrity, quality work, positive attitudes and reliability.

Call us today! 620-227-2139 or 800-279-7915