

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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## THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# electronews



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### FROM THE MANAGER

## An Honor to Serve the Membership

It has been my honor to serve the members of Victory Electric. As I prepare to retire, I would like to thank the membership and the community for their support.

Victory Electric originally began as a small electric co-op serving farms and rural customers. Our first office was in a Dodge City shed. We soon moved to a small office on Wyatt Earp. The office at our current location was built in 1976 and expanded to the current office in 2009.

When I started in 1971, Victory Electric had revenues of \$628,610 and the wholesale kWh cost was \$0.0093. In 2012, we had revenues of more than \$60 million and a wholesale kWh cost of \$0.0614. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of the growth and success of our small electric cooperative. It is because of the support of the community and Victory's dedicated and committed employees continue to show the willing-

*I would like to thank the membership and community for their support over the years.*



Terry Janson

ness to go the extra mile to ensure our success.

I have no doubt I am leaving Victory in capable hands. The employees at Victory are loyal and as dedicated to the community as they are to Victory Electric. Many employees serve the community through volunteer work, civic clubs and we even have employees serving as mayors, school board members and a county commissioner.

As a final note, I may be leaving, but there are still a few issues Victory Electric will be facing in the future. The most immediate being deregulation. In my opinion, deregulation would be a positive move for the membership of Victory Electric. With deregulation,

more responsibility is put upon Victory Electric's board of trustees in making decision regarding rates. The board of trustees is accountable to the members of the cooperative.

Victory Electric is owned and controlled by the members it serves. As an electric cooperative, the membership elects trustees annually to serve on the board of trustees. Each trustee is a member of the cooperative and elected from districts within the service area.

A rate case under regulation would probably cost between \$500,000 and \$750,000, and those costs are passed on to

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## An Honor to Serve

► *Continued from page 20-A*

the member in the rates. Under deregulation, the fees would run between \$20,000 and \$35,000 for rate studies.

Deregulation eliminates the need for legal representation at hearings and fees associated with filing for a rate case. The difference in cost could be more than 2,000 percent if we continue to be regulated.

The board of trustees will raise rates only to meet the debt service and financial covenants of the cooperative. All rates are available on our website and in our office for members to see and discuss at any time with the board of trustees, CEO or Victory staff. This gives members an input on any increase in rates as well as any future rate increases.

Deregulation from the jurisdiction of the Kansas Corporation Commission will not lessen the commitment to the quality of service the Victory Electric trustees, management and employees have held and continue to hold.

It has been my pleasure to serve the members of Victory Electric and the wonderful communities we serve. I only hope to continue to serve in the future.

*'Til Next Time, TJ*

## Join Victory Online!



Visit us at [www.victoryelectric.net](http://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.

## Touching Hearts

### Dodge City Dollies Club Celebrating 30 years

Age is just a number in the world of dolls. Young and old, many women in Dodge City, Garden City and the surrounding area enjoy getting together for monthly “Dollies” meetings to discuss dolls, community service and enjoy the fellowship of other doll enthusiasts.

The Dodge City Dollies are celebrating their 30th anniversary on September 14, by hosting a celebratory doll show. The event will be held at the First Church of God (1701 Central Ave, Dodge City) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The doll show will feature many vendors selling dolls and doll accessories.

“There will be a variety of dolls at the show,” said Barbara Halbgewachs, Dollies secretary/treasurer. “We are hoping to have demonstration on building dollhouses and rooms and also show a short film produced using dolls.”

Dolls attract women for many different reasons, but many times there is a common theme.

“The one common reason I hear among many older women is she only had one doll as a child growing up and in many cases that doll was broken or given away,” said Halbgewachs. “She may see a similar doll later in life and it brings back memories. Once a woman purchases a doll, many of the ladies choose to continue and build a collection.”

Dolls bring back memories and are a creative outlet for many Dollies members.

“I just love dolls,” said Mary Lou Zerr, Dollies member. “I love the way they are created and the clothes they wear. Certain dolls catch my eye and remind me of one of my children. My children are all grown, so I like the



Pictured are Dodge City Dollies members, Mary Lou Zerr, Pat Anders and Barbara Halbgewachs.

feel of a doll in my arms. Dolls have the ability to touch hearts and bring people together.”

Zerr also communicated that dolls are for all ages and believes they provide a great opportunity for mothers and daughters or grandmothers and granddaughters to bond over a common interest.

The Dollies Club is much more than dolls; community service is also at the heart of the organization.

“Although we are a doll club, we also commit to being good citizens and giving back to our communities,” Halbgewachs said. “We adopt a family in need every Christmas, donate to Methodist Youthville of Dodge City, and we have donated books about dolls to several local libraries.”

The Dodge City Dollies Club started in 1983. The club meets at 6:30 on the first Monday of the month at the Dodge City Senior Center. For more information on the doll club or how to join, please contact Barbara Halbgewachs at 620-227-3950.

# Victory Electric and Dodge City Days Parade



1. Train driver extraordinaire, Steve Day. 2. Martha Ruiz and kids Aubrey, Austin and Aydin. 3. CEO Terry Janson on his throne in the bucket truck. 4. Marissa Day and Autumn Klein sporting their mustaches. 5. Jeremy Pruitt and family. 6. Noah Day, Derrick Sprott and Tyler Pruitt handed out candy to the parade crowds. 7. Magaly, Myrka and Maryah Morales. 8. Victory teamed up with the Aquatic Park Task Force for a water themed float. 9. The Victory Electric group.



# Pinkerton, Wise & Bittel Attend Coop

Victory Electric sent local students **BYRUM BITTEL**, Spearville; **AARON PINKERTON**, Dodge City; and **EVERLY WISE**, Fowler; to Steamboat Springs, CO, along with 29 other high school students from Kansas.

“Victory Electric is proud to support the Cooperative Leadership Camp and send our youth to learn first-hand how cooperatives function,” said Terry Janson, CEO. “Our hope is that local students will gain some awareness of how our electric cooperative works and how important it is for the youth to be involved in our community.”

The students joined youth from Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 13-19, 2013.

While in Colorado, the students learned about cooperatives by creating a “candy cooperative.” When the students arrived at camp, they paid membership dues, established a board of trustees and selected a general manager who held daily membership meetings. At the end of the week, the group decided how to handle any profit margins. The students earned a \$194 margin from their co-op canteen. Rather than receive a capital credit

refund, they made donations to the Tourette’s Syndrome Foundation and the Muscular Dystrophy Association Foundation. There are students who attended camp this year with these disabilities.

The campers also took part in legislative presentations, a high voltage safety demonstration and a competition to build a model transmission line from craft supplies. They also toured the Craig Power Plant and Trapper Mine.

“Working on projects as a small group, such as the model transmission system took a great deal of cooperation and teamwork,” Pinkerton said. “Growing together through activity also led our group to be the volleyball tournament champs! Winning the tournament and the amazing people

I met will be with me for a very long time.”

Pinkerton, Wise and Bittel were selected from a group of high school applicants by Victory Electric. To win this trip, high school juniors were asked to submit a résumé, take a 35 question quiz on cooperatives, and interview with judges. Victory sponsors the trip of three students each year. For more information, contact Jerri Imgarten at 620-370-7730.



From left: Everly Wise, Byrum Bittel and Aaron Pinkerton pose at Lookout Mountain in Colorado.



The 2013 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp delegation included more than 100 students who couldn’t contain their excitement when posing at their camp in Steamboat Springs, CO.



# Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

## Everly Wise

The trip to Steamboat Springs, CO, was anything but boring! From the very beginning, we were put on a bus filled with other kids from Kansas and Oklahoma. I'm a very shy person at first, and wasn't to sure about how I felt about it, but it was quite an experience. I met one of the ambassadors first, and we sat on the bus and talked the whole way until we reached the next stop. The bus ride was so long, but once everyone started getting to know each other, it was great! I definitely made life-long friends just from the bus ride alone.

At camp, we elected a board of directors and a general manager just like a cooperative. We learned how different types of electricity are generated, from wind turbines to coal power plants. We experienced a voltage display, which showed me how dangerous a lineman's job is, and how important it is to check safety factors before you mess with the wires.

From day-to-day, we had many different activities planned for us. We went river rafting (which was a ton of fun...even if you did get soaked), played sand volleyball, toured a power plant, visited Fish Creek Falls, made a short skit/commercial, danced the night away, and had a barbeque.

Without realizing it, I learned that Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are all non-for-profit, and any left-over money the co-op makes goes back to the members. We built a miniature diorama demonstrating how electricity gets to members by traveling through the lines after it was generated. I don't think I would have ever learned that from just sitting in school.

This trip was truly remarkable and I know I have made friends from Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, and Oklahoma that I will never forget. My favorite part of this trip was making new friends, not only from my own group, but also everyone who came up to just talk to you. I am very thankful I was able to go on this trip, and I hope everyone who goes in the future loves it as much as I did.

## Aaron Pinkerton

My trip to Steamboat was one of the most incredible opportunities I have ever experienced.

At first, I was extremely anxious to go on the trip so far away, for a whole week, with people I didn't know. When camp ended, I would tell you even the long bus rides were fun; I knew these

people and had formed strong bonds with many of them; and that a week wasn't long enough.

My small group, was an amazing team. Together we did activities throughout camp, ate together, worked together, and we even won the camp volleyball tournament together!

Another great group of people were the ones I shared my cabin with. Living with those guys was a blast, and we made some pretty great breakfast burritos, if I do say so myself.

I rafted with a whole different group from the previous two, and then there were even more friends you spend time with on the long bus rides.

I think its safe to say what had the most impact on me from camp would be getting to know so many incredible people, and forming relationships with these people through the activities we did at camp. I am very blessed to have been given this opportunity and will remember it for many years to come.



Aaron (second from left in back) and his small group were the proud winners of the sand volleyball tournament.

## Byrum Bittel

The Electric Cooperative Leadership Camp was a great learning experience for me and all who attended.

I learned a lot about the cooperatives and had fun along the way. One of the highlights of the trip was being elected to the cooperative board of directors. Being a board member taught me to understand how our local cooperative, Victory Electric, works. It does take time and there are a lot of decisions to be made.

White water rafting was an experience I may have never thought was possible. But it was possible, and I made down the river even though my boat dominated the water fight.

We had many guest speakers but my favorite was the mock legislative simulation presented by Randy Dwyer and Amanda Wolfe from NRECA. In this simulation, each group got to make decisions like they were a freshman member of congress. It showed just how hard it is to be a politician. I have made many new friends and I believe the kids

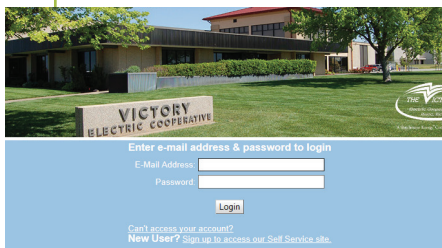
attending this camp were outstanding teenagers, leaving our cooperatives to a bright future.



Byrum (center) and the members of his small group



## Victory Electric Bill Payment Options



Pay your bill online at [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net), at our office, 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](http://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...** Luis Zaldivar, Jeffery Wright, Amy S Winsor, Julio E Victorio, Earl Tompkins, Caroline Romero, Michael Pelton, Matthew Lobmeyer and Chester Droste. 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!

## Health Fair Scheduled

The 6th Annual Victory Electric Community Health Fair has been scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2013. It will be held in a new location this year at the Western State Bank Expo center in Dodge City.

The Health Fair will feature flu shots, blood screenings, hearing screenings, and much more. We hope to see you there!

## Co-op Connections Card

A new Co-op Connections Card arrived last month in members' mailboxes. The card connects you with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs. 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](http://www.connections.coop).

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

You can use you card any-



where that Co-op Connections cards are taken. More than 350 electric cooperatives all across the United States participate in this program, with thousands of businesses offering discounts. More businesses are being added every day. The benefits of your card are local, but also national - so the cards can be used while visiting other states or other parts of Kansas. Look for window and/or register stickers to identify local participating businesses.

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

- ▶ **4 ANGELS BOUTIQUE**—10% off jewelry
- ▶ **ACKERMAN COMPUTERS**—10% off labor
- ▶ **BAILEYS BODY SHOP**— 5% off parts and labor
- ▶ **BELLA ITALIA**—10% off
- ▶ **BOOT HILL BED AND BREAKFAST**—15% off
- ▶ **CARLOS BOOTS**—10% off
- ▶ **DODGE CITY YMCA**—Corporate rates with proof of being a Co-op Connections card holder
- ▶ **DULCE LANDIA**— 5% off piñatas and bouce houses
- ▶ **FLATLAND GRAPHICS**— 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
- ▶ **K. MARTIN JEWELER**— 20% off regular priced merchandise (this does not include items already on layaway)
- ▶ **LA QUINTA INN AND SUITES**—10% off the BAR rate. Not discounts for 3i Shows/Roundup Rodeo events
- ▶ **LANG DIESEL, INC.**—10% off parts
- ▶ **MY-D HAN-D., INC.**—10% off grain, hay and cattle equipment
- ▶ **REGIS SALON**—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 handbags
- ▶ **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

# Protect Your Home from Electrical Fires

Each year, electrical failures and malfunctions cause 43,900 home fires, resulting in 438 deaths, 1,430 injuries, and \$1.47 billion in property damage. But many home electrical fires can be prevented simply by understanding basic electrical safety principles and following safe practices.

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign—Oct. 6-12—focuses on kitchen fires. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) have teamed up to offer safety tips to help protect your home and family:

- ▶ **Safety should always be the top priority** when working with electricity. ESFI recommends that a qualified, licensed electrician perform all home electrical work in compliance with local and national safety standards.
- ▶ **Consider having your circuit breakers replaced** with arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), which provide enhanced electrical fire protection by detecting dangerous arcing conditions.
- ▶ **Make sure all electrical panel circuits are properly labeled.** Always replace fuses or circuit breakers with the correct size and amperage.
- ▶ **Keep the area around the electrical panel clear** so you can easily shut off power in an emergency.
- ▶ **Every month, use the TEST button** to check that ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) at outlets and AFCIs are working properly.
- ▶ **Be mindful of warning signs of an electrical problem**, such as outlets and switches that are warm or make crackling, sizzling, or buzzing noises.
- ▶ **Regularly check cords, outlets, switches, and appliances** for signs of damage. Do not use damaged electrical devices.
- ▶ **Do not use extension cords on a permanent basis**, and never use them with space heaters or AC units.
- ▶ **Avoid overloading outlets.**
- ▶ **Do not use lightbulbs that exceed the recommended wattage** of the light fixture or lamp.

Despite your best efforts at prevention, a fire could still happen. Follow these tips to make sure your family is prepared to make a safe escape:

- ▶ **Install smoke alarms** inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the



home.

- ▶ **Test smoke alarms every month** by pushing the TEST button.
- ▶ **Create a family fire escape plan** that includes two ways out of each room.
- ▶ **Pick an easy-to-find meeting place** outside, a safe distance from your home.
- ▶ **Practice your escape plan** by having at least two fire drills a year. One fire drill should be at night while your family is sleeping.
- ▶ **If anyone in your household is deaf**, or if your own hearing is diminished, consider installing a smoke alarm that uses a flashing light or vibration to alert you to a fire emergency.

Visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org) for more electrical safety information and for ESFI's Fire Prevention Week resources.

## Victory Electric Launches Redesigned Website

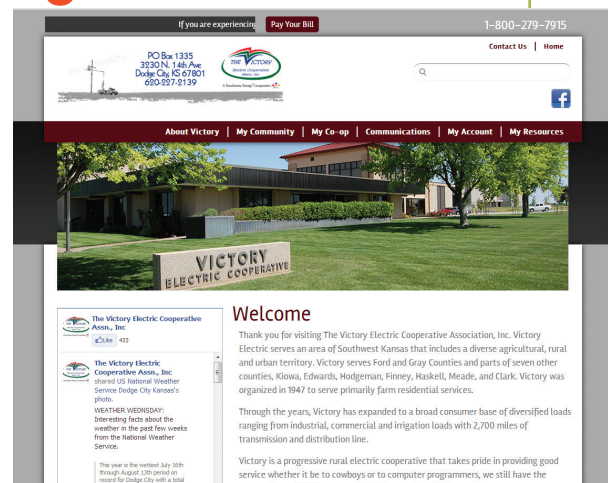
Victory Electric recently launched our updated website at [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net).

The new design maintains all of the functionality of the previous site, but boasts a new modern look. In addition to the changes in the design of the website, more information and resources were made available to our members.

Links are available to our online e-bill site, electrical safety information, energy efficiency tips, and more. It also lists the cooperative bylaws and tariffs.

Another new feature of the website is a feed showing Victory Electric's Facebook posts. It also allows you a direct link to our Facebook page.

All of Victory Electric's members received their Co-op Connections Card in last month's *Kansas Country Living* magazine. If you want to know more about the card and the discounts offered at local businesses, the new site has a whole page dedicated to the Co-op Connections Card.



You can view Victory's new website at [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net)

## Proteja Su Hogar Contra Incendios Eléctricos

Cada año, fallas eléctricas y disfunciones causan 43,900 incendios en el hogar, resultando en 438 muertos, 1,430 lesiones y \$1.47 billones en daños a la propiedad. Pero muchos incendios eléctricos casero pueden prevenirse simplemente por principios básicos de seguridad eléctrica de comprensión y seguir prácticas seguras.

Este año La Campaña de Prevención de Incendios es la Semana del 6-12 de Octubre—se centra en fuegos de la cocina. La Fundación Internacional de Seguridad Eléctrica (ESFI) y National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) se han asociado para ofrecer consejos de seguridad para ayudar a proteger su hogar y familia:

- ▶ **Seguridad siempre debe ser la máxima** prioridad cuando se trabaja con electricidad. ESFI recomienda que un electricista calificado con licencia realice todo el trabajo eléctrico casero en cumplimiento con las normas de seguridad locales y nacionales.
- ▶ **Considerar reemplazar los interruptores** con interruptores arco voltaico (AFCIs), que proporciona protección contra el fuego eléctrico mejorado mediante la detección de condiciones peligrosas de voltaico.
- ▶ **Asegúrese de que todos los circuitos** del panel eléctrico están correctamente etiquetados. Siempre reemplace los fusibles o cortacircuitos con el tamaño correcto y amperaje.
- ▶ **Mantenga el área alrededor del** panel eléctrico claro así que usted puede fácilmente apague la corriente en caso de una emergencia.
- ▶ **Cada mes, utilice el botón de prueba** para comprobar que suelo interruptores (GFCI) en las salidas y AFCIs están trabajando correctamente.
- ▶ **Ser consciente de las señales de advertencia** de un problema eléctrico, como enchufes e interruptores que están calientes o hacen ruido crujido, chisporroteando o zumbido.
- ▶ **Compruebe regularmente los cables,** enchufes, interruptores y aparatos para detectar signos de daño. No utilice aparatos eléctricos dañados.
- ▶ **No utilice extensión de manera** permanente y nunca utilizarlos con calefactores o acondicionadores de aire.
- ▶ **Evite sobrecargar los enchufes.**
- ▶ **No utilice bombillas que superan la** potencia recomendada de la luminaria o lámpara.

A pesar de sus mejores esfuerzos a la prevención, todavía podría ocurrir un incendio. Siga estos consejos para asegurarse de que su familia está dispuesta a hacer un escape seguro:

- ▶ **Instale detectores de humo en** cada habitación, fuera de cada área de dormir y en cada nivel de la casa.
- ▶ **Revisé las alarmas de humo cada** mes presionando el botón de prueba.
- ▶ **Crear un plan de escape de fuego** familiar que incluye dos maneras de salir de cada habitación.
- ▶ **Escoge un lugar de encuentro fácil** de encontrar afuera, a buena distancia de su hogar.
- ▶ **Practicar plan de escape al menos** dos simulacros al año. Debe ser un simulacro de incendio en la noche mientras duerme tu familia.
- ▶ **Si alguien en su hogar es sordo, o** si se disminuye su propia audición, considera la instalación de una alarma de humo que utiliza una luz intermitente o la vibración para que le avise a un fuego de emergencia.

Visite [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org) para más información de seguridad eléctrica en el hogar y para los recursos de la semana de prevención de incendios de ESFI.

## Jason Lutz Earns Journeyman Electrician Status



Jason Lutz

Victory Electric electrician, **JASON LUTZ**, recently passed the exam to earn his journeyman electrician license in Kansas.

Lutz has spent several years working as an apprentice

and preparing for the exam. The path to becoming a journeyman electrician starts when an individual enters an apprenticeship program. After four years, he or she is eligible

to take the Journeyman's Electrical Exam, which is administered by individual states based on principles in the National Electrical Code.

After receiving certification, a journeyman is permitted to work unsupervised on any type of electrical system. He or she may install and repair wiring and conduit, install fixtures and equipment, or run power lines for municipal organizations. On the residential side, a journeyman electrician can perform all aspects of creating a complete electrical system in a home. A journeyman electrician may also train others, typically apprentices, working toward

certification.

While a journeyman is permitted to perform a broad range of tasks, he or she is not permitted to obtain electrical permits or complete design work for electrical systems. In order to perform these tasks, the journeyman electrician must gain two additional years of work experience, then sit for the Master's Certification Exam. Upon successful completion of the Master's exam, an individual may design systems and even open his or her own business.

Victory Electric would like to extend congratulations to Jason for his achievements!