

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 1335, 3230 N. 14th Ave.
Dodge City, KS 67801
620-227-2139
www.victoryelectric.net

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC CO-OP

electronews



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FROM THE CEO

A Matter of Principles

Co-ops around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values, adopted by the International Co-op Alliance (ICA). Co-ops trace the roots of these principles to the first modern co-op founded in Rochdale, England in 1844.

Victory Electric was formed in 1945 based on the co-op business model, with the foundation of these seven co-op principles:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation Among Co-ops
7. Concern for Community

Stephen Covey, the late author of *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, once said, "We should begin with the end in mind." In other words, what are we trying to accomplish? We begin with focusing on Principle 7: Concern for Community.

Concern for the community is the reason why Victory Electric was founded. The people in our parents', grandparents' or great grandparents' generation came together using the co-op business model as their guide. It was their concern for our community—to bring safe, reliable and affordable electric power to our region—that defined our purpose.

The ICA provides the following explanation for Principle 7: While

focusing on member needs, co-ops work for the sustainable development of communities through policies and programs accepted by the members.

It is in that spirit that we continue today to offer budget (even-pay) billing, generators, and online bill pay. In addition to providing electric service, Victory Electric gives back to our community through programs such as Youth Tour, school safety programs, 4-H sponsorships and more.

For co-ops, these are easy decisions to make because unlike investor-owned businesses where the owners and employees can be far removed from the users of the service, in a co-op the owners and users are the same people: You!

This is why we call you a member and encourage you to actively engage with us. The health and long-term sustainability of our community depends on all of us demonstrating our mutual concern for our community.

While it has been 67 years since we began offering electricity, our concern for our community has never wavered. We will continue to work for the sustainable development of our community. We welcome your input as we work to meet your needs for the next 67 years and beyond.

Thanks, Shane



Shane Laws

EPA Proposes Expansion of Water Rules

Join Victory and other Kansas organizations to stop the EPA's increased regulations on rural waterways.

The mission of rural electric co-ops has always been to provide reliable, affordable electricity to their members. Rural electric co-ops also take pride in taking care of the environment, including water resources. We know that water is essential to the way of life we all value—to our homes, our businesses, and our communities. Without water, life ceases to exist.

We at Victory Electric, along with electric co-ops nationwide, understand and support the need for reasonable environmental regulations that protect our valuable resources without unduly burdening citizens. We get it. However, we are concerned that the recent actions by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) to expand their authority over the Clean Water Act (CWA) will most certainly have a cost impact on the many people and businesses we serve.

If issued as proposed last spring,

the rule will allow the agencies to dictate land-use decisions on isolated waterways, including puddles, ponds, ditches, and even on areas that are normally dry until impacted by significant rainfall.

I thought the Clean Water Act already protects our water?

If you're thinking that the CWA, which was passed in 1972, protects navigable waters and tributaries to navigable waters, you are right. Under the CWA, it is unlawful to discharge pollutants into navigable waters—also known as “waters of the U.S.” or WOTUS—unless a permit, is obtained and those discharges are controlled under a program administered by the EPA. An example of a Kansas navigable waterway that currently falls under the CWA is the Arkansas River; an example of a Kansas tributary that connects to it is the Little Arkansas River. Currently, Kansas has 30,620 stream miles that fall under federal jurisdiction.

Since 1972, however, the EPA and the Corps have tried to broaden the definition of “waters of the U.S.,” which would disallow state and local governments from overseeing smaller waterways. Previously, the U.S. Supreme Court, maintaining that the CWA applies to already defined navigable waterways, continued to restrain the reach of the

EPA and the Corps. Unfortunately, in 2006, the U.S. Supreme Court was less decisive, with one justice opening the door to the expansion of the EPA's and the Corps' reach. This justice wrote that a “significant nexus” or connection between an isolated waterway and a navigable body of water could make waterways fall under the CWA.

If the CWA is expanded as now proposed, federal oversight will increase. While the Clean Water Act currently applies to navigable waters or those waterways that significantly connect to navigable waters, the proposed rule will apply to smaller waterways and even some dry land. The number of classified stream miles in Kansas will increase, according to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, from 30,620 to more than 134,000, miles, and many agricultural and industrial activities will be viewed as impacting a “water of the U.S.”

As the Farm Bureau has stated, an expansion of authority would mean even routine activities—such as installing fencing, managing brush, pruning shrubs and trees, applying pest control, or driving an implement through a ditch on land impacted by infrequent water streams or collection points caused by runoff—could require permits from the federal government. The revised CWA will require farmers and ranchers to meet otherwise voluntary Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) standards for everyday normal farming activities and voluntary conservation practices or face Clean Water Act liability. Linking normal farming exemptions to NRCS standards would make current voluntary conservation standards subject to EPA enforcement.

“The revised CWA will have a detrimental impact across the na-



S ations on rural waterways

tion but even more so on Victory Electric members,” said Shane Laws, CEO. “This area relies heavily on the ag industry, and when the EPA and Corps create unreasonable rules, all our members suffer.”

How will this impact me?

If you are a farmer or rancher, the impact will be immediate once the rule is final. Even if you are allowed to continue your current land-use practices, you could be required to apply to the federal government for permits to use your land affected by the more restrictive CWA. This process will consume valuable time that could be used for growing your farms and businesses and helping the Kansas economy flourish.

For those who are not rural business owners, the impact may be less immediate but no less real. When business owners, whether in agriculture or other industry, are forced to comply with unnecessary government regulations, the price of goods and services increases.

How can we stop this?

Victory Electric is not the only entity speaking out against WOTUS. The Kansas Agricultural Alliance—which includes the Kansas Electric Co-ops and 13 other Kansas organizations—is also supporting the grassroots movement to stop EPA and the Corps from the unnecessary expansion of the CWA. Please consider joining the nationwide movement created by Farm Bureau called DITCH THE RULE! Send your comments to the EPA and Corps via a user-friendly electronic form at <http://ditchtherule.fb.org/>

The public comment period for the proposed rule ends Oct. 20. Let your voice be heard today.

Victory Managers Accept ALS Ice Bucket Challenge & Donate \$826

Sunflower Electric Power Corporation and Kansas Electric Power Co-op (KEPCo) challenged the management team at Victory Electric to take the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. We accepted in honor of the late Steven Parr and Eugene Beggs.

“To add excitement and to raise additional donations, we decided to have an auction,” said Jerri Imgarten, manager of marketing and communications. “Each manager was auctioned off to the highest bidder and that person chose the method and how

much water was dumped.”

The line crew pooled their money and out bid everyone on each of the managers. They chose to fill the buckets on a bucket truck with ice-cold water and slowly douse the managers.

“All of the employees deserve credit for donating above and beyond our original bids,” said Mikey Goddard, line crew chief. “The line crew may have won the bid but the entire company chipped in and we raised a total of \$826 for ALS research.”



Linemen are Tanner Gemaehlich (left bucket) and David Gechter pour water on Victory managers (from left) Jerri Imgarten, Amy Grasser, Mike Clark, Tom Lowery, Shane Laws, Ryan Miller, Greg Underwood, Rae Jean Amy and Karla Durrant.

Cold Weather Rule Begins Nov. 15

Co-op members who are unable to pay their electric bills during the cold weather period may qualify for this program, provided they fulfill certain good faith requirements when attempting to pay.

The requirements members must meet to qualify for the program are summarized below.

- ▶ Members must notify the co-op and state their inability to pay their service bill in full.
- ▶ Members must apply to federal, state, local or other financial assistance programs for which they may be eligible to receive aid in paying utility bills.
- ▶ Members and the co-op will reach a mutually agreeable payment arrangement.

Please note that failure to follow the requirements, illegally diverting utility service, receiving service by tampering, or defaulting on a payment agreement, will disqualify you from receiving the benefits under the Cold Weather Rule.

In no event will the co-op disconnect a service if the temperature is forecasted by the local National Weather Service to fall below 35 degrees F, within 24-hours following the time of disconnection.

Victory Electric reserves the right to disconnect between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday when the temperature is at or above 35 degrees.

The Cold Weather Rule is to ensure human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months.

If you have questions on the Cold Weather Rule, please contact Sandy at 620-227-2139.

Time Change Begins Nov. 2

On November 2, remember to turn your clocks back one hour. This is also a great time to do the following:

- ▶ Change the batteries in smoke detectors.
- ▶ Have a professional check your fire extinguishers.

Non-Domestic Bills Mailed in November

Victory Electric will read the meters in October for the fence chargers and small watering loads (among other small rural electric loads), which we classify as non-domestic services.

These bills are mailed annually

and consist of the kilowatt-hours consumed in the previous year from November 2013 to October 2014.

If you have any questions or problems with any of these billings, come by or call us at 800-279-7915.

Security & Response Center Provides Outage Support

With the recent storms moving through the area, many members have been asking questions about our outage management system.

Who answers outage calls after hours?

Victory Electric has a contract with Security Response Center (SRS). Their customer service representatives take your calls and dispatch a Victory lineman to diagnose and fix any issues causing outages.

Who is SRS?

Security and Response Center is a subsidiary of Basin Electric. Basin is one of the largest generation and transmission co-ops in the US.

Service dispatchers are trained to

determine the nature and immediacy of calls and to provide callers with assistance. They have direct contact with line crews, police, fire departments and ambulance personnel.

Why doesn't an employee of Victory Electric answer the phone after hours?

It is very cost-prohibitive to have an employee on-site 24/7. We don't have outages every night and the cost per phone call is increasingly higher when paying someone to be on-call 24/7. Because we are based on a co-op, non-profit business model, we work hard to provide you with the lowest, most reliable power. By contracting out our after-hours, outage calls, we are saving you money.

Regla de Clima Frío: Efectivo 15 de Noviembre al 15 de Marzo

Los miembros cooperativos que no pueden pagar sus facturas de electricidad durante el periodo de clima frío pueden calificar para este programa, siempre que cumplan con ciertos requisitos de buena fe al intentar pagar.

Los miembros deben cumplir con requisitos para calificar para el programa se resumen a continuación.

- ▶ Los miembros deben notificar a la Cooperativa indicado su incapacidad de no pagar sus facturas de servicio en su totalidad.
- ▶ Los miembros deben aplicar a programas de asistencia financiera federal, estatal o local que pueden ser elegibles para recibir ayuda en el pago de facturas de servicios públicos.
- ▶ Los miembros y la cooperativa llegarán a un acuerdo de pagos mutuamente aceptables.

Tenga en cuenta que si no se siguen

los requisitos, desviar ilegalmente servicio de utilidad, recibiendo servicio por manipulaciones o incumplimiento de un acuerdo de pago, le descalificará de recibir las prestaciones en virtud de la regla de clima frío.

En ningún caso la cooperativa desconecta un servicio si la temperatura es pronosticada por el servicio meteorológico local a caer por debajo de 35 grados F, dentro de las 24 horas siguiendo el tiempo de desconexión.

Victory Electric reserva el derecho a la desconexión entre 8 y 5 del Lunes al Viernes cuando la temperatura está en o por encima de 35 grados.

La regla de clima frío es garantizar la salud y seguridad no están amenazadas injustificadamente durante los meses de frío. Si tiene preguntas sobre la regla de clima frío, póngase en contacto con Sandy en 620-227-2139.

Proyecto de dodgers: El clima tiempo de limpieza

No hay duda de ello; el frío está en camino. No sólo es importante para asegurarse de que su unidad de calefacción está funcionando correctamente, pero usted debe revisar su casa para asegurarse de que el calor no se escape.

Cuando el clima se vuelve más frío, corrientes de aire alrededor de las ventanas y las puertas están constantemente dejando salir el aire fresco. La mayoría de la gente inmediatamente quiere subir su termostato aún más; sin embargo, hará que usted utilice más energía cuando usted no necesariamente necesita. La mejor solución es capear su casa. Esto es típicamente una solución fácil que eliminará el desperdicio de energía y ayudarlo a ahorrar en su factura mensual de electricidad.

A veces los proyectos son obvios, y otras veces las aberturas son mucho más pequeños. Aquí hay dos maneras rápidas para averiguar si el calor se escapa de su casa. Para las puertas, buscar la luz del día entre la puerta y su marco, si usted ve siquiera un atisbo de luz en medio de los dos, lo que necesita para capear esa zona. Para las ventanas, coloque un pedazo de papel entre la banda y el sello ciérrelo. Si usted puede quitar el trozo de papel de la ventana sin romperlo, se necesita capear.

Lo bueno de todo esto es que los burletes es fácil! Hay una variedad de materiales disponibles para usted (como el caucho, espuma, metal, etc) y todos ellos son de bajo costo. Una vez que usted ha comprado lo que necesita, tenga en cuenta lo siguiente antes de comenzar: asegúrese de que la superficie esté seca y limpia, medir el área más de una vez a la mejor

precisión, y se aplican de manera que las tiras se comprimen los dos lados de la ventana o puerta.

Para capear ventanas:

- ▶ Coloque el despojo entre el marco y la hoja.
- ▶ Asegúrese de que se comprima la ventana cuando se cierra.
- ▶ Asegúrese de que el despojo no interfiere con el movimiento de la ventana.

Para capear puertas de láminas:

- ▶ Elija adecuado los umbrales de su puerta.
- ▶ Tiempo de limpieza de la puerta.
- ▶ Asegúrese de que el despojo se reúne con fuerza en las dos esquinas.
- ▶ Utilice un espesor que permite una prensa hermética entre la puerta y el suelo, pero que no hace la puerta difícil de cerrar.

Aproximadamente la mitad de la energía que utiliza su vivienda proviene de la calefacción y la refrigeración. Así que la próxima vez que sienta un proyecto incómodo en su casa, NO arrancar inmediatamente el calor. Compruebe el lugar de origen donde se escapa y adecuadamente capear la zona. Esto últimamente le ahorrar más energía y más dinero al final.

Quando el clima se vuelve más frío, corrientes de aire alrededor de las ventanas y las puertas están constantemente dejando salir el aire fresco.

QUÉ NECESITARÉ TIRA PUERTAS Y VENTANAS

Hay una variedad de tiras disponibles para su hogar. Aquí están algunas opciones para ayudarlo a elegir:

*Aplicar burletes en el marco de la puerta y pared. La parte inferior de la puerta, instale una puerta llora, zapato de la puerta o umbral; o aplique burlete de espuma reforzado. Aplicar bandas de tiempo en la parte superior e inferior del marco de la ventana.

FIELTRO

Reforzado con una tira de metal flexible. Debe ser engrapadas, pegadas en su lugar.

Costo: Bajo

Ventajas: Fácil de instalar y bajo costo.

Desventajas: Poca durabilidad. No uso expuestos a una gran cantidad de humedad. Madera fieltro es más durable pero muy visible.

VINILO LAMINADO O REFORZADO

Tira flexible o rígido las juntas proporcionan agujeros ranura para ajuste de altura.

Costo: Bajo a moderado.

Ventajas: Fácil instalación, varios colores para ayudar con la visibilidad y algunos tipos de juntas de tira rígida proporcionan agujeros ranura para ajuste de altura.

Desventajas: Puede ser difícil de instalar y muy visible.

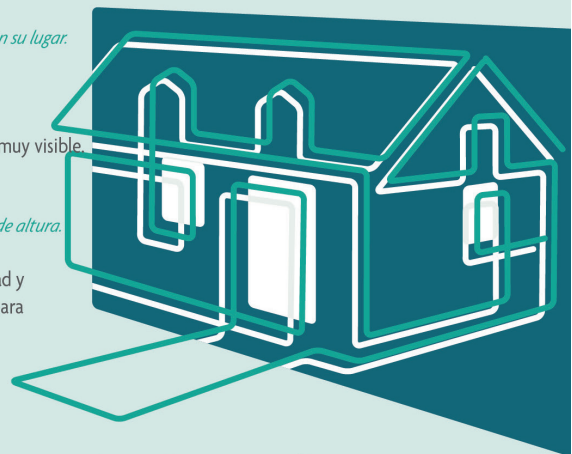
REFORZAR LA ESPUMA

Espuma de célula cerrada adjunta a las tiras de madera o metales.

Costo: Moderadamente baja

Ventajas: Eficaz sellador, rígido, probada que funciona bien.

Desventajas: Puede ser difícil de instalar y muy visible.



Source: Department of Energy

*For more weather stripping options, visit

<http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/weatherstripping>

8TH ANNUAL



 **PUMPKIN**

 **PAINTING & CARVING** 



Festival

OCTOBER 25 • 9 TO 11 A.M. AT VICTORY ELECTRIC

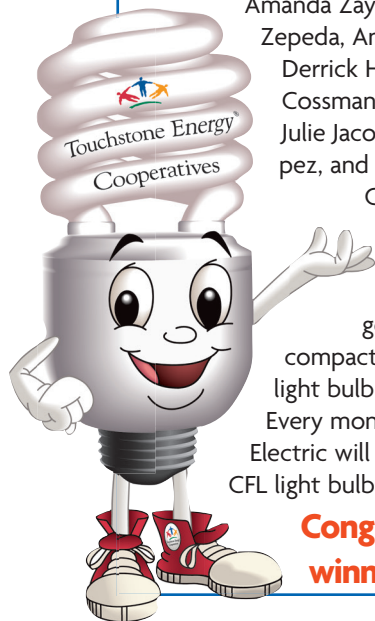
Join us for a couple hours of fun! Pumpkin painting and carving, face painting and games. There will be 800 spots/pumpkins available on a first come, first-served basis. Pumpkin and kits will be provided free of charge. Limited to children age 13 and under. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Victory Electric is located at 3230 N. 14th Avenue in Dodge City.

Sponsored by Victory Electric Cooperative and Ladies Community Outreach

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

And this month's winners are....
Amanda Zayas, Alejandra Zepeda, Antonio Perez, Derrick Harding, Mary Cossman, Kyle Burks, Julie Jacobs, Lia M Lopez, and Leah Melby.



Come by Victory Electric, talk to Josh or Jerry and get your free compact florescent light bulb (CFL). Every month Victory Electric will be giving free CFL light bulbs.

Congratulations winners!

Visit our Website & Join Victory Electric on Facebook

Visit www.victoryelectric.net and you will find a calendar of events, frequently asked questions, bill pay and energy calculators—just to name a few tools!

You can also become a fan of Victory Electric on Facebook at facebook.com/VictoryElectric or by searching for The Victory Electric Co-op Assn., Inc.

Check for updates, outage information and energy efficiency tips. Facebook is a great way to stay in touch and stay apprised of co-op events and news.



Check out these Local Discounts with Your 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 bounce 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
- ▶ **JOHN'S BODY SHOP, INC.**—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 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
- ▶ **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 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

The Co-op Connections Card is just one benefit of being a member of Victory Electric. To get your card please call our office at 620-227-2139.

Co-op Connections® Card



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



7th Annual Community Health Fair Victory Electric

Please join us
Saturday, October 4, 2014 • 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Located at the Western State Bank Expo Center
(Entrance C at 11133 US Hwy 283, Dodge City)

Come visit with the more than 70 doctors, health care professionals, and vendors in attendance.

\$20 flu shots

150 flu shots available on a first-come, first-served basis

\$10 complete blood screens

For lipid profile, please fast after midnight on Oct. 3 for test accuracy. You must be at least 18 years of age.

FREE skin cancer screenings

FREE pap smears & pelvic exams

FREE breast exams

FREE bone density screenings

FREE oral cancer screenings

FREE fluoride treatments

FREE spinal screenings

FREE chair massages

FREE blood pressure checks

FREE blood sugar checks

FREE eyeglasses adjustments

FREE hearing screenings

FREE hearing aid cleaning

FREE car seat installation and inspections

FREE child ID badges

FREE child development and vision screenings

And much more!



Support our local food banks this holiday season! Bring a canned food item to the health fair on Oct. 4.

Again this year!!! Kid's Corner

A play and educational area for kids to stay while parents receive services.

Educational Presentations

Doctors and organizations will be giving presentations on various medical and health topics. This years topics include:

Speaker Schedule

9:00 - 9:30

Darrell Roths, Phillips Chiropractic and PT
"Exercise: How and Why?"

9:45 - 10:15

Michael Gordian, CFO Western Plains
"State of the Hospital"

10:30 - 11:00

Bertha Mendoza, Kansas State University
Research and Extension
"Nutrition Facts for Fast Foods"

Health fair sponsored by: Victory Electric, Dodge City Medical Center, Western Plains Medical Complex, Phillips Chiropractic and Physical Therapy, Western State Bank Expo Center, Dodge City Public Schools, Peterson Labs, Landmark Bank, Western Beverage, Service Master, Dodge City Daily Globe, The Inn Pancake House, Tacos Jalisco's, Tianguis Carniceria, Kriz-Davis, Mi Ranchito and many more.

