

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC CO-OP

electronews



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FROM THE CEO

Electric Cooperatives Strive to be Resilient

In the summer of 2012, a Derecho swept from the Great Plains to the Atlantic seaboard, bringing hurricane-force winds and knocking out power to more than four million people. Disasters, whether caused by nature, accidents or hostile acts, exact an enormous cost both in economic and human terms.

At Victory Electric, our goal is to become more resilient because we know you depend on us to keep the lights on. We take steps to lessen potential damage. We also take steps to ensure we recover quickly.

Our resiliency efforts are multifaceted, involving every aspect of our operations—from the customer service representatives answering the phones to the linemen in the field, from the engineers in the control room to the communicators keeping the media and members updated.

For example, at Victory Electric, we are exploring, evaluating and deploying new technologies to help speed up the process of power restoration. Our new Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) is a great resource for Victory Electric. The AMI digital meters' signals appear as "lost" on our computer software, alerting us to the location and the extent of the outage.

We are also in the process of

implementing Distribution Automation (DA) technology, which has the potential to make our system self-healing, meaning the system technology would have the ability to isolate the problem, switch breakers in substations, and change switches on the line. The self healing mechanisms will help reduce the number of outages before a truck is even dispatched into the field.

Electric co-ops serve the most rugged, remote terrain in the country, covering more than 70 percent of the nation's landmass. We have learned how to restore power in incredibly difficult circumstances, and now, we're restoring power even faster. Collectively, electric co-ops have reduced the average time without power their members experience from 142 minutes in 2011 to 105 minutes in 2013, a 26 percent decline.

Now, more and more we are



Shane Laws

“Our goal is to become more resilient because we know you depend on us to keep the lights on.”

Continued on page 16-D ▶

Victory's 70th Annual Meeting a Success



More than 620 people were served a barbecue dinner at the 70th Annual Meeting.

Every year, Victory Electric looks forward to hosting the annual meeting for our members, and this year was no exception. The annual meeting is a great time to get to know our members and to offer information on the activities of the cooperative.

Victory's annual meeting was April 14 at the Western State Bank Expo. Approximately 419 members were present, and more than 620 people were served a barbecue dinner.

In addition to the business meeting, members heard presentations from board President Kenny Wehkamp and the 2014 youth tour winners. The 2015 youth tour winners were also introduced. Dozens of great prizes were given throughout the meeting.

The results of the election for four districts on the board of trustees were announced. **DARYL TIEBEN**, Dodge City, District 1; **KEN SCHULTE**, Spearville, District 3, **CEDRIC DREWES**, Dodge City, District 8; and **TERRI LARSON**, Dodge City, District 10 were re-elected in their respective districts.

Thanks to all who attended this year, and we look forward to seeing everyone next year at the 71st annual meeting.

Thank you to all who attended our annual meeting!



Sandy Long (left) and Rubi Carbajal register 419 members at the annual meeting.



Employees (from left) Micaela Morales, Michael Stephan and Alexa Lozano volunteered to help with the annual meeting



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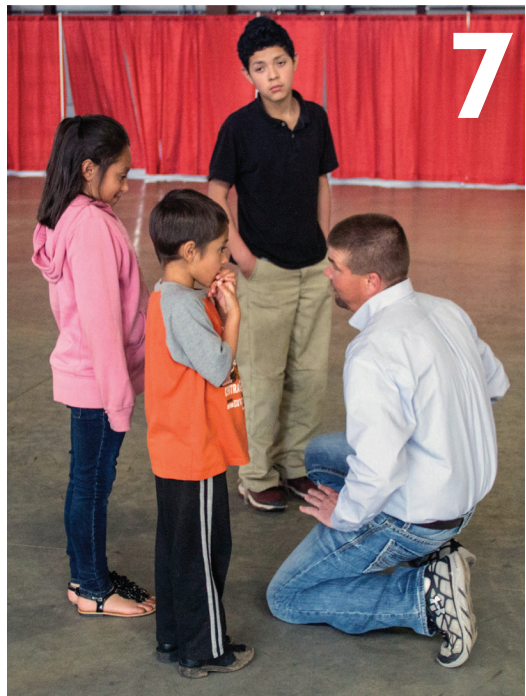
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1. The Victory board of trustees answers questions from the members.
2. Board President Kenny Wehkamp addresses members.
3. MacKenzy Meis, 2014 Youth Tour winner, gives a presentation about her trip.

4. Linemen Mikey Goddard (left) and Chris Konrade show the dangers of making contact with an electric line.
5. The Dodge City High School Madrigal group entertain the meeting attendees.

6. Mike Clark (left), manager of purchasing, helps serve BBQ.
7. Josh Schmidt (right), supervisor of key accounts and business development, talks to children about electrical safety.

Visit Our Website & Join us on Facebook



Visit our website at www.victoryelectric.net. There, 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 Cooperative Assn., Inc. Check our page for updates, outage information and energy efficiency tips. Facebook is a great way to stay in touch.

Electric Cooperatives Strive to be Resilient

Continued from page 16-A

hearing about another type of disaster: a cyber attack. To better understand this threat, electric co-ops joined utilities from across the country in a cyber and physical disaster exercise coordinated by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

Cooperatives support federal legislation that would help improve our response to a cyber attack by improving coordination and information sharing among utilities and government agencies.

But as we all know, getting the power back on is really just the beginning of recovery, especially following large-scale disasters such as floods, tornados and hurricanes. Next comes rebuilding, and with rebuilding—many more challenges.

Unfortunately, tight budgets and a struggling economy have made securing reimbursement of

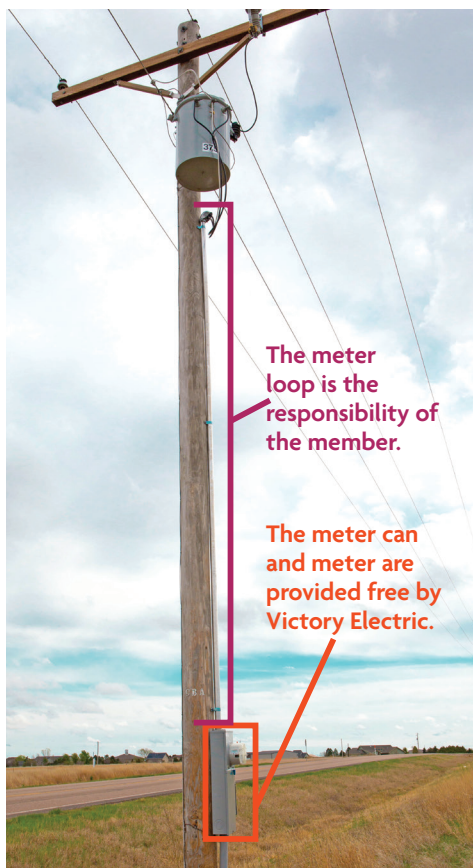
costs from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) more difficult than ever.

Under new FEMA procedures, if rebuilding costs are less than estimated, left over funds must be used for FEMA-approved projects to harden the grid in order to mitigate future damage. On the other hand, if an electric co-op underestimates costs, the co-op will be responsible for paying the difference.

From new efforts to reduce risk during disasters to rigorous accounting of costs to make sure we can rebuild, Victory Electric is striving to improve our resiliency.

We don't know what to expect from Mother Nature during the rest of 2015, but I can promise you this: Victory Electric is working hard to prepare for whatever blows our way.

Thanks, Shane



Victory Changing Meter Loop Requirements

In an effort to streamline our operations and unify the way we do business with rural and urban members, Victory is slightly changing how meter loops are disbursed to members.

The new requirements are as follows:

- ▶ Meter loops will no longer be available at Victory. The loop and breaker are now the responsibility of the member for new electric service installations.
- ▶ Victory will continue to provide the meter can and meter free of charge, but a licensed electrician is required to pick up the meter can. This is to ensure the National Electrical Safety Code (NEC) is met with all installations.
- ▶ Victory will continue to service existing meter loops until deemed unfit for service. At that point, it will be the member's responsibility to replace the loop.
- ▶ Meter loops within the city limits are required to be inspected by city inspectors. Victory will also inspect ALL loops, both rural and urban, to make certain code is met before the meter is installed and power is turned on.

If any member should have any questions on the changes to the meter loop policy, please contact Victory's operations department for further information.

Transforming Power to Reach Our Members

How those “grey cylinder things” help power reach your home

If we were to ask you to describe Victory Electric’s system, you might say, “Poles, wires and those grey cylinder things.” Grey cylinder things? That is often the description given for transformers, the pieces of equipment crucial in converting electricity to a voltage that is safe for use in homes and businesses. So, how do they work?

First off, transformers are nothing like those creations of the silver screen. They don’t transform from vehicles to incredible combat robots. Instead, they transform the voltage of the electricity that passes through them. Time for a little electric system 101.

Electricity loses voltage as it is transmitted due to the resistance in wires and other components. As a result, higher voltages are used to offset these “line losses,” as we call them. It all starts at the power plant. There, generators produce electricity at very high voltages and use transformers to step up this voltage, often to 345,000 volts. Since the power plants are far away, these voltages are necessary to survive the trip over the system to where it is needed.

Transmission lines connect to substations brimming with transformers and other control gear. Here is where the transformers step down the voltage to safer, more manageable levels.

Depending upon the distance involved to the furthest member and



Transformers reduce voltage as it travels to your home, making it safe to use.

the amount of load served, distribution voltages can range from 7,200 to 24,900 volts. A couple more step-downs and the electricity arrives at your home at 440 volts. This is quite different from the original voltage.

Regardless of the shape and size of the transformer, they all work in the same manner. Transformers have two sides, a high-voltage side and a low-voltage side. In normal operation, electricity flows into the transformer on the high-voltage side, where it goes into a coil of wire usually wound around an iron core. As the electricity flows through this coil, it creates a magnetic field that “induces” a voltage in the other coil. Here is where the magic (aka physics) of transformation takes place.

Each coil has a different num-

ber of turns. The greater the number of turns, the higher the voltage. The coil on the high side will have more turns than the one on the low side. As a result, the voltage induced on the low side is less. Then transformation occurs.

Transformers aren’t just limited to utility use. They can be found everywhere in our daily lives, even if not so obvious as those on Victory Electric’s system.

The best example is the charger that all cell phones and many other electrical devices come with. These small cousins of utility transformers basically perform the same function. Charging your cell phone with 120 volts

will fry it instantly. So, the charger converts the voltage to a more tolerable five volts or so. Take a moment to look around your home and see just how many of these miniature transformers you have. You might be surprised!

It is important to note that transformers work in both directions. Electricity flowing in on the low side is stepped up to the voltage of the high side. This is why Victory Electric educates members on proper connection of home generators.

A generator feeding 220 volts into a residential transformer will produce whatever voltage the transformer is rated for on the other side, creating a deadly risk for our line crews and your neighbors. So please, connect your generators according to the manufacturer’s recommendations. Or give us a call at 620-227-2139 for advice. It’s always best to be safe.

Transformers aren’t just limited to utility use. They can be found everywhere in our daily lives.

CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"



This month's lucky winners are...

Gerald P Abbott; Donald Hasty; Crystal Herrera; Katrina L Konrade; Alicia

Pedroza; Edgar Santos; Rebecca Studt; and Kurt Werth.

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

Visite Sitio Web y Únase a Nosotros en Facebook



Visite nuestro sitio web www.victoryelectric.net. En nuestro sitio Web, usted encontrará un calendario de eventos, con frecuencia pregunta, pago de factura y energía calculadora sólo por nombrar algunas herramientas!

También puede ser una fan de Victory Electric en Facebook buscando Victory Electric Cooperative Assn, Inc. Consulte nuestra página en Facebook para actualizaciones, información de interrupción y consejos de eficiencia de energía. Facebook es una excelente forma de mantenerse en contacto con nuestros miembros.

Mantener a salvo durante y después de las tormentas de verano

Nadie sabe mejor que los expertos que lo practican todos los días de seguridad eléctrica. Victoria eléctrica le invita a seguridad práctica con estos recordatorios—para durante y después de una tormenta de verano

Evitar cables y agua—cuando un rayo cae una casa durante una tormenta, la carga eléctrica puede surgir a través de tuberías o cables de utilidad. Eso significa que puede ser electrocuten si estás tocando agua o cualquier dispositivo que esté conectado, si es un teléfono fijo o una tostadora.

Omitir el improvisado refugio durante una tormenta, es tentador para refugiarse debajo de un carrito de comida campestre Mirador o golf, pero en estructuras abierto a los lados con no conductores al canal huelgas, camino de un perno de menor resistencia a la tierra podría ser usted. Además de eso, estas estructuras aumentan el riesgo de un ataque relámpago debido a su altura. Seguir avanzando hacia el refugio adecuado.

Generadores portátiles—tenga especial cuidado con generadores portátiles, que pueden proporcionar una buena fuente de poder, pero si se instala incorrectamente o funcionado, pueden llegar a ser mortal. No conecte generadores directamente al alambrado de casa. Los generadores de energía puede detrás-alimentan a lo largo de líneas eléctricas y elec-

trocutar a cualquiera que entre en contacto con ellos, incluyendo a los trabajadores de la línea de Co-op hacer reparaciones. Es mejor que contrate a un electricista cualificado, con licencia para instalar su generador y asegurarse de que cumple con los códigos eléctricos locales.

Áreas Inundadas—permanecer lejos de las líneas de cables de electricidad caídos y evite caminar por zonas inundadas. Líneas sumergidas podrían estar vivas con la electricidad. Informe cualquier línea derribada a Victory Electric llamando a nuestra oficina inmediatamente.

Equipo eléctrico—Nunca utilice equipos eléctricos mojados—especialmente equipos eléctricos al aire libre, que podría ser un peligro potencial después de una tormenta de verano. El agua puede dañar equipos eléctricos y piezas, posando un choque o incendio.

Victory Electric es un miembro orgulloso de las Cooperativas de Energía Touchstone. Junto con 750 cooperativas eléctricas en todo el país, nos hemos asociado con Touchstone Energy poner seguridad como nuestra prioridad número uno. Para que una lista de verificación para evaluar los riesgos de seguridad alrededor de su casa o para tomar un examen de seguridad rápida, vaya a www.togetherwesave.com/power-of-community/safety.

Consejo de seguridad de tormenta de verano

Las tormentas de verano fuerte pueden crear situaciones de peligro. Evite siempre los cables de electricidad caídos líneas el cable puede ser directo, que podría ser mortal para los cercanos. Informe rápidamente las líneas de cables de electricidad caídos a la cooperativa eléctrica local.

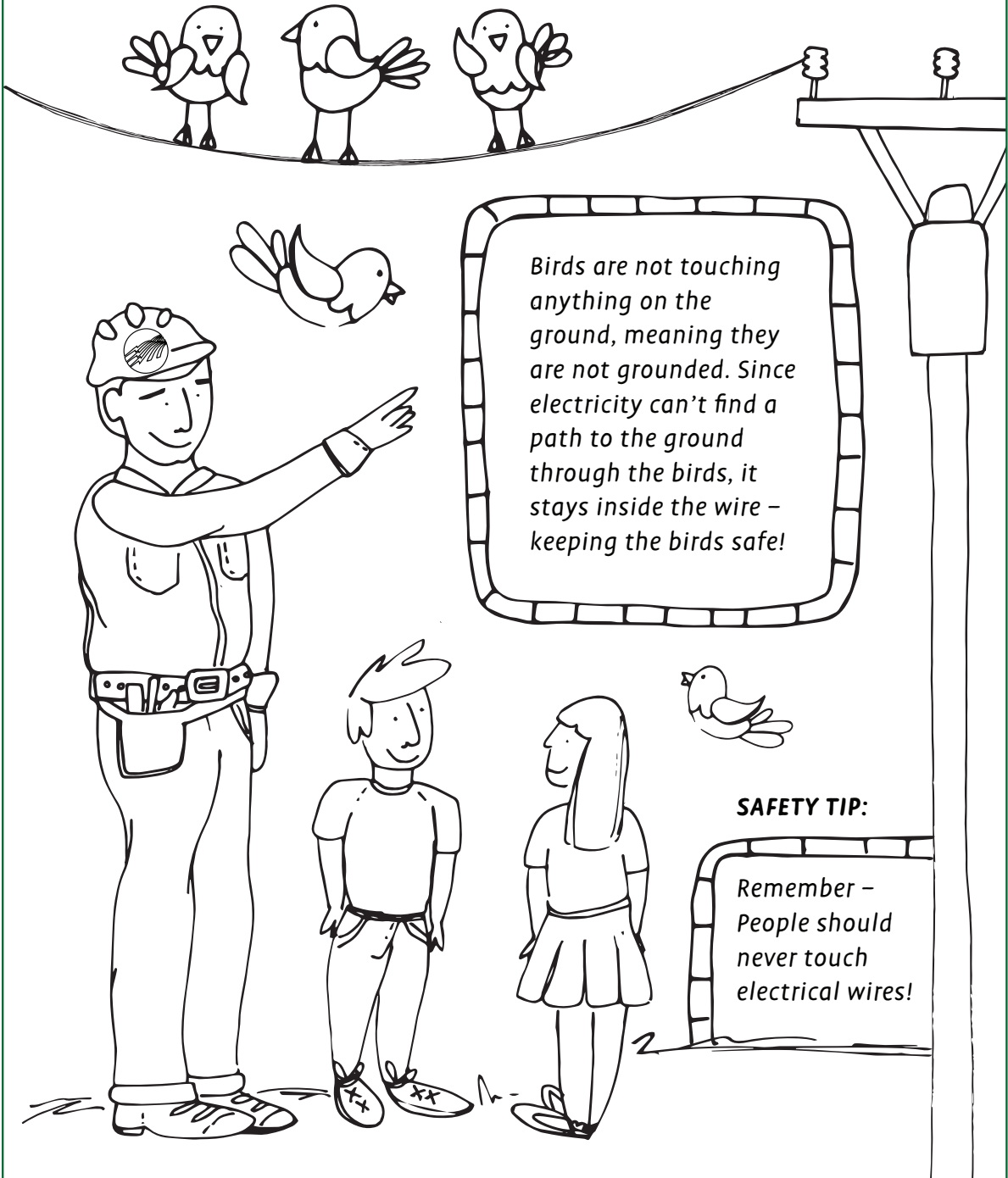


WHY CAN BIRDS SIT ON POWER LINES WITHOUT BEING ELECTROCUTED?



Energy Explorers

Coloring Sheet





IF IT'S NOT INSULATED, NEITHER ARE YOU.

REPLACE, NEVER REPAIR DAMAGED EXTENSION CORDS.

Helping members use electricity safely, that's the power of your co-op membership.
Learn more from the experts themselves at TogetherWeSave.com.



Touchstone EnergySM

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM