

## THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# electronews



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### FROM THE MANAGER

## Caring About Youth is the Cooperative Way

Just last month, Victory Electric sent two students to Washington, D.C., for the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Young people who experience Youth Tour have the opportunity to explore our nation's capital, make lasting friendships, learn a bit about how our government operates and see the impact electric cooperatives have on the legislative process.

Youth Tour is one of the programs for which electric cooperatives across the country are best known. You may have participated when you were a kid, or perhaps your child applied to be a part of the program. But electric cooperatives go far beyond Youth Tour when it comes to making a difference in our young members' lives.

At Victory Electric, we are invested in youth education and engagement programs throughout our local community. We also support local sports teams, 4-H programs, and regularly give electrical safety presentations to local schools.

And we're not the only ones getting involved. We are happy to be a part of the broader co-op community, which strives to provide young Americans with safety and educational programs during the summer and throughout the year. Here's how some of them are getting young people involved.

Electric co-ops in several states, including Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas and Utah, run summer camps that teach kids about the cooperative business model. In fact, the kids get to create and run a co-op for the summer! They pay their dues (50 cents) to become a part of the co-op and proceed to handle co-op business—from voting on board members and choosing a general manager/CEO, to setting prices and determining inventory for their chosen business.

In Missouri, some co-ops are even taking students to their state capital so they can see their state government at work. These programs allow students to create a mock state Senate, where they can write and pass laws. They leave the program having learned more than just how a bill becomes a law; they leave with practical experience, leadership skills and a desire to work hard for their future.

There are also some programs that give kids a real taste of what it is like to be a co-op employee. In Virginia, an electric co-op hosts "A Day in the Life of a Lineman," which educates kids on the technical skills needed for this complex



Shane Laws

**Youth Tour is one of the programs for which electric cooperatives across the country are best known.**

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# Glifford and Molina Attend 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Tour

**JALEN GIFFORD** and **ZALMA MOLINA**, both of Dodge City, were selected by Victory Electric to attend the 55<sup>th</sup> annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., from June 11-18. These local youth joined more than 1,700 high school students to tour important historical sites, learn about our nation's government, and develop their leadership skills.

The 37 Kansas delegates first met in Topeka where they heard from several Youth Tour alumni. Brant Laue, Chief Counsel for Gov. Sam Brownback, sponsored by C&W in 1978; Representative Steven Johnson, District 108, 1983 Youth Tour Delegate; and Representative Kyle Hoffman, District 116, 1989 Youth Tour delegate, spoke to the students at a kick off banquet before the youth departed.

While in our nation's capital, the students met with Congressmen Tim Huelskamp and Mike Pompeo, and Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins. They also visited with Senators Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran. On Wed., June 17, Sen. Moran gave a short speech about the Youth Tour program on the Senate Floor.

As part of his speech, Moran said, "Electric Cooperatives are more than just poles and wires. They're about people and communities." Moran added, "Recognizing that youth are the future of those communities is what the rural electric cooperative program is all about."

This trip opens the eyes of many students to future possibilities in leadership roles, while building lifelong friendships.

"I have not only toured our nation's capital, but also formed lifelong friendships in the process," Gifford said. "They were such a fun, uplifting group of individuals. There was never a dull moment."

The Youth Toured the U.S. Capitol, Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Smithsonian museums, Mt. Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, several memorials, along with seeing the Broadway musical Disney's Newsies at the National Theatre and attending a professional ballgame at the Nationals



Jalen Glifford and Zalma Molina stand in front of the Jefferson Memorial while on their trip.

Stadium. The delegates also attended the NRECA Youth Day that brought together the youth from 43 states.

"I will never forget going to the Pentagon," Molina said. "It was the first place we went to once we landed. The memorials of each person who died during 9/11 were honored and respected by everyone in the group."

Victory Electric sponsors the Youth Tour program each year as part of our strong commitment to the community and our mission to help the future generations to become leaders. Gifford and Molina were selected from a group of high school applicants by Victory Electric. To win this trip, students were asked to submit a résumé and interview with a panel of judges. For more information, contact Jerri Imgarten at 620-371-7730 or [jerri@victoryelectric.net](mailto:jerri@victoryelectric.net).



The 2015 Kansas-Hawaii delegation included 37 students which had the opportunity to see memorials including the White House on their trip to Washington, D.C. for the Youth Tour.

# Annual Washington, D.C., Youth Tour

## Jalen Glifford



Glifford is grateful for the trip of a lifetime.

“We need you. We need your youth. We need your strength. We need your idealism to help us make right that which is wrong. Each generation goes further than the generation preceding it because it stands on the shoulders of that generation. You will have opportunities beyond anything we’ve ever known,” said President Ronald Reagan.

These words by President Reagan still ring

true today. This journey to our nation’s capital has not only inspired me to make a positive impact in our community and on our nation, but reminded me of the great leaders who helped build the foundation of our country.

I was touched by the names, row by row, column by column, engraved into the Vietnam Wall. Lives that were freely given in order so we may live in freedom. Through this trip my eyes were opened to how often we take this amazing country for granted. We need to be reminded of what really happens to remain a nation built around liberty.

I am so grateful to be given the opportunity to have experienced this trip of a lifetime.

The memories I have made and friendships I have formed will stay with me forever. Thank you to Victory Electric- I appreciate all of the effort that was given to make this one truly amazing trip.

**Jalen Glifford**



Glifford prepares for a boxing match at Madam Tussaud’s Wax Museum.

## Zalma Molina



Molina will cherish the Youth Tour trip for years to come.

This summer I was blessed with an opportunity to visit a place that seemed far beyond my reach- Washington, D.C.

The moment I got off the plane into Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, I was embraced by the idea of experiencing history beyond Google searches and in-class lectures.

Our first official stop, the Pentagon Memorial, will forever hold a significant spot in my heart because its silence made me realize

I was going to see what remained from the most significant events in history while in D.C. Whether it was paying respects during the changing of the flag at Arlington National Cemetery or constantly stopping to take pictures while touring Madame Tussaud’s Wax Museum, I was confident I would never forget this Youth Tour trip.

The museums, the art galleries, the memorials, the people, and meeting the legislators from Kansas have made it impossible for me to decide what my favorite part was. The entire trip involved discovering the importance of each building’s location and what vital role different artifacts played in the past and how America became such a prominent nation.

I will forever be thankful for those who made this trip possible because this week long journey has made an impact on what I want to do and who I want to be. The fact I earned this trip will always motivate me and the memories made will always keep me smiling.

**Zalma Molina**



Molina sits at Gov. Sam Brownback’s desk at the Kansas Capitol.

## Visit our Website & Join us on Facebook



Visit our website at [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net). On our website, 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](https://www.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.

## Happy Labor Day



Happy Labor Day from all of us at Victory Electric. Our office will be closed, Monday, September 7. We hope you have a safe and happy holiday.

## CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"



**This month's lucky winners are...** Amanda Abundiz, Adan Cisnero, Ernest Fernandez, Laura Gonzalez, Greg Koehn, Brenda Morgison and John Regein. 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 to this month's winners!

## Caring about Youth Continued

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profession, as well as teaches them proper safety techniques.

There are many great co-op programs out there that focus on youth education and engagement. But what all of these programs have in common, no matter how big or small,

is the fact that electric cooperatives come together for a common cause to not only teach our youth about the cooperative difference, but to give them the opportunity to see and reach their potential.

**Shane Laws**

# Working on the LINE

Safety is important at Victory Electric for all employees. In the month of July, linemen had a pole top rescue to practice rescuing a fellow man on the lines in case of an emergency.



Clayton Stein climbs the pole to practice his rescue.



Eric Speer makes sure the dummy is secure before letting him to the ground.



Eric Speer successfully frees the dummy and lowers the dummy to safety where fellow linemen assist him.

# Victory Wins Regional Business Excellence Award and is Named Finalist for Governor's Award of Excellence

In May, the Kansas Department of Commerce named 23 Regional Business Excellence Award winners and 52 Merit Award winners as part of Business Appreciation Month, the Department's annual celebration of Kansas businesses and their contributions to their communities and the state economy.

The 75 businesses were nominated in one of four categories: manufacturing/distribution, service, retail and hospital/non-profit. Victory Electric was nominated by the Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation in the service category, and was presented the award at the annual Business Appreciation Luncheon in Wright Park on June 24.

Five of the 23 Regional Business Excellence Award winners were named finalists for the Governor's Award of Excellence. Victory Electric was named one of those five finalists. The other four finalists were: Community National Bank & Trust, Chanute; Creekstone Farms Premium Beef, Arkansas City; ITC Great Plains, Dodge City; LifeTeam, Newton.

"The Business Appreciation Month awards provide a great opportunity to honor the many outstanding businesses in our state," said Kansas Commerce Secretary Pat George. "The finalists, regional winners and merit award winners have helped grow the Kansas economy, create jobs and invest in their communities."



Lieutenant Governor Jeff Colyer (right) was present on behalf of Governor Brownback to present the awards at the reception to CEO Shane Laws, Jerri Imgarten, manager of marketing and communications, and Terri Larson, board trustee.

At the 43rd annual Team Kansas awards banquet on June 25, Victory was presented an award for being a state finalist. The banquet was part of Business Appreciation Month with the Kansas Department of Commerce held in Overland Park, Kansas on Thursday.

Business Appreciation Month serves as a statewide tribute to Kansas businesses for their contributions to our state. The awards program takes place each spring and invites individuals and organizations to nominate the proud Kansas businesses that contribute jobs and support their local communities. Finalists are recognized at the Team Kansas awards ceremony in June, with the top nominee receiving the Governor's Award of Excellence which is the top award given to a business by the state of Kansas.

"It was a great accomplishment to be honored by Team Kansas," said Shane Laws, CEO. "As a not-for-profit cooperative, we work every day to provide our community with safe, reliable power while encouraging economic development and community enrichment. We congratulate ITC Great Plains on their win and are excited for their success."



Pictured are JoAnn Knight with the Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation, Victory CEO Shane Laws, Jerri Imgarten, manager of marketing and communications, and a representative of the City of Dodge City.

## Vittles for Vets Update

The Vittles for Vets program is underway at Victory Electric. The program started with a favor to use one of the line trucks to change the local VFW hall's flagpole. With one favor, Jerri Imgarten, manager of marketing and communications, was told about the food pantry that had been started at Fort Dodge.

The program is an incentive to stock the food pantry. Members have been nothing less than generous, in its first week, members and employees collected and donated 93 items to the food pantry at Fort Dodge. Keep bringing your items to Victory Electric's office to be entered to win a \$100 bill credit. The next drawing is October 14, 2015.



Victory Electric employees, Jerri Imgarten, Josh Schmidt and Kennedy St. George deliver items to Fort Dodge representative, Eldana Travis.

## 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, but unfortunately we have no way of insuring our members from the effects of outages, which are beyond our control.

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.

These outages are not only expensive and inconvenient for you, but they are also extremely expensive for your cooperative to repair. This leaves you with the burden of insuring yourself for these occurrences that 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 will 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.

## Business Resource Fair

Victory Electric employees grilled hamburgers for the Business Resources Fair



June 24, hosted by the Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce.

**Victory Employees Jason Guillen (Left) and Mike Clark grill hamburgers.**

## Pleasant Hills School House Ribbon Cutting



Members of the community and supporters of the Kansas Teacher's Hall of Fame were present when Marilyn (Stanton) Davidson cut the ribbon.

Built in 1877, the Pleasant Hill Schoolhouse is now part of the Kansas Teacher's Hall of Fame.

Built to honor outstanding teachers, the Kansas Teacher's Hall of Fame is the first of its kind in the United States and was a vision of Laurence Stanton.

Stanton was the first principal at the schoolhouse and saw a vision for the museum after attending a local teacher's funeral in the 1970s. Only five people honored the teacher at the funeral, Marilyn (Stanton) Davidson said of her father's vision.

"He felt it was a shame that many people had forgotten her and weren't there to honor her memory."

Laurence Stanton's dream of honoring outstanding teachers came true. Currently, 395 "outstanding teachers" are represented at the museum.

The Kansas Teacher's Hall of Fame held the official ribbon cutting for the Pleasant Hill Schoolhouse July 9.

The schoolhouse was built in 1887 and was used until 1946. Given to the Kansas Teacher's Hall of Fame by the Warner Family, the school

house serves as a place to recognize outstanding teachers and is a piece of the Kansas Teacher's Hall of Fame.

The one-room schoolhouse completed the dream. "Dad felt these schoolhouses played such an important role in the early day education of many Kansas children," said Davidson.

Kathy Frederking, president of Teacher's Hall of Fame said the schoolhouse has "been a work of heart." With the help of the Warner Family and several other donors and supporters, the one room schoolhouse became a possibility.

The school includes original desks, a piano from 1912 and a cast bell built in the 1866. Truly a part of the Kansas teacher's history, the Pleasant Hill Schoolhouse is a great addition to the museum.

Frederking said, "I hope the community will stop by and see the quality of the addition. We're happy to have the schoolhouse in Dodge City."

The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturdays and from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sundays Memorial Day to Labor Day.

# Un cambio a mejor

## Son las pequeñas cosas

En cuanto a la eficiencia energética en el hogar, a veces pequeños cambios puede hacer un gran impacto. Una tarea pequeña, poco seductor como cambiar los filtros en su sistema HVAC hace que su unidad funcione más eficientemente, mantener su casa más fresca en verano y más cálidas en el invierno. También ahorra dinero. Y el ahorro obtenido que su sistema funcione más eficientemente puede ser aplicado a las búsquedas más divertidas o entretenidas que su familia puede disfrutar juntos.

## La verdad sobre la tierra

Como usted se mueve alrededor de su hogar atrae polvo en el aire de las alfombras, muebles y cortinas. Independientemente de dónde viene, polvo y la suciedad atrapada en el filtro de aire del sistema conduce a varios problemas, incluyendo:

- ▶ Reducción el flujo de aire en el hogar y hasta 15 por ciento más los costos de operación
- ▶ Conducto de limpieza o reemplazo es costoso
- ▶ Baja el sistema de eficiencia

## Realizando el cambio

Ahora, que conoces los hechos, es el momento para ponerse a trabajar para cambiar o limpiar el filtro de aire en su sistema de calefacción/refrigeración. Muchos profesionales de HVAC recomiendan que usted limpie o cambie el filtro de su acondicionador de aire o el horno mensualmente. Es simple y fácil, y en muchos casos, sólo tarda unos minutos.

Filtros están disponibles en una variedad de tipos y eficiencias, clasificadas por una mínima eficacia informar valor (MERV). MERV, un método desarrollado por la American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and aire acondicionado ingenieros, pruebas de eficacia del filtro. Cuanto mayor sea el número MERV, eficacia de cuanto mayor sea el filtro mantiene el polvo fuera del sistema. Mientras

## Manterner el Acondicionador de Aire

Mantenimiento anual del acondicionador de aire puede ayudar a mejorar su comodidad y la eficiencia del acondicionador de aire y prolongar la vida de la unidad. Contratar a un profesional certificado cuando la unidad necesita más mantenimiento básico.

- 1** Rutinariamente Reemplace o limpie los filtros de aire. Esto puede reducir el consumo de energía del acondicionador de aire 5-15 por ciento.  

- 2** Revisé la bobina del vapor del acondicionador de aire cada año y limpie según sea necesario.
- 3** Si están dobladas las aletas de la bobina, use un "peine fine" para enderezarlas.  

- 4** Si usted tiene un sistema dividido, asegúrese de limpiar los escombros y las hojas del ventilador, compresor y condensador.  

- 5** De vez en cuando pasar un alambre rígido a través de canales del desagüe de la unidad para evitar que se bloquee.
- 6** Para acondicionadores de ventana de aire, inspeccione el sello de la ventana para impedir que escape aire fresco.  


que la mayoría de los tipos de filtros debe sustituirse, algunos filtros son reutilizables. Y no olvidar los meses de invierno. Su sistema de calefacción tiene que trabajar tan eficientemente como sea posible para mantenerse caliente y acurrucarse con sus seres queridos, y un filtro de aire limpio ayuda a hacer precisamente eso.

Calefacción y refrigeración profesionales recomiendan apagar el sistema antes de cambiar el filtro de aire. Asegúrese de que la flecha en el filtro, que indica la dirección del flujo de aire – apunta hacia el motor soplador. Cuando hayas realizado el cambio, vuelva a encender el sistema.

## Un momento de aprendizaje

Más allá de ahorrar dinero y mejorar la calidad del aire en su hogar, cambiar su filtro de aire es una gran oportunidad para enseñar a tu familia más sobre eficiencia energética. Considerar la obtención de todos los involucrados, y toda la familia aprenderá cómo cambios simples pueden hacer una gran diferencia.

## Visite Sitio Web y Únase a Nosotros en Facebook

Visite nuestro sitio web [www.victoryelectric.net](http://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 Cooperativa 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.



## Federal and State Regulations Regard the Lesser Prairie Chicken

As a member of Victory Electric, you are also a member-owner of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation and Mid-Kansas Electric Company. Sunflower and Mid-Kansas provide wholesale generation and transmission (G&T) services to Victory Electric and their other members. Your G&T staff, as well as Victory Electric's staff, stays abreast of federal and state regulations that impact the electric industry and, ultimately, those served at the end of the line.

### Waters of the United States (WOTUS)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Corps of Engineers recently signed the final rule for waters of the United States (WOTUS), a rule that significantly expands the reach of the Clean Water Act (CWA), first passed in 1972. The new rule becomes effective on Aug. 28, 2015.

Under the newly defined segment of the CWA, WOTUS will now include more than just navigable waters. The number of classified stream miles in Kansas will likely increase, according to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, from 30,620 to more than 150,000 miles. Many agricultural and industrial activities, including those associated with generating and delivering electricity may well be viewed as impacting waters of the U.S. For example, power lines will likely "cross" more protected tributaries (including those that only have water after a rain), necessitating more permitting for construction and maintenance. These permitting requirements translate into more uncertainty, more delay, and more costs.

Electric cooperatives, including the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to which Victory Electric belongs, from across the nation spoke out against the expanded CWA during the public comment period last fall. NRECA continues active support of legislation to direct the agencies to withdraw the final rule and consult with stakeholders, especially small business, prior to reproposing. NRECA also supports guidance from Congress on what should and should not be included in a reproposed WOTUS rule.

### Lesser Prairie Chicken

In 2014, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service listed the lesser prairie chicken (LPC) as threatened, a decision that is expected to cost Kansans, including electric utilities, millions of dollars to comply with regulations associated with the listing.

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA)-made up of fish and wildlife officials in the five states where the LPC is most often found-developed a Rangewide Conservation Plan

(RCP). WAFWA's RCP essentially serves as a potential mitigation strategy that acts as a shield from fines in the event that a prairie chicken or habitat is disturbed or harmed as defined in the Endangered Species Act. However, membership and protection come at a cost.

Victory Electric is still determining whether enrolling in WAFWA's RCP plan is in our members' best interest. WAFWA requires distribution cooperatives to bury lines-an approach that is cost prohibitive-located within a certain distance of an existing lek (i.e., LPC mating area). To determine a lek location, distribution cooperatives must conduct costly surveys of LPC habitat every five years or bury distribution lines in areas where no survey of LPC habitat has been completed. In March, Sunflower and Mid-Kansas enrolled in the WAFWA RCP since the requirement to bury lines does not apply to high voltage transmission lines.

"WAFWA is gathering feedback from distribution cooperatives for a proposal modifying the rules related to the burial of distribution lines near leks. The proposal will be submitted to the range-wide plan advisory committee," said Dustin Kelley, managing counsel for Sunflower and Mid-Kansas.

Efforts to limit the ramifications of the listing are also being made at the federal level where the U.S. House is considering a bill similar to one passed by the Senate that would limit the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's ability to enforce the listing.

On behalf of our Members, Victory Electric-along Sunflower and Mid-Kansas-will continue to oppose unreasonable regulations that unnecessarily increase the price of electricity and the cost of living in central and western Kansas.

At Victory Electric we'd be happy to answer any questions, feel free to call the office at 620-227-2139.

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