

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 COOPERATIVE

electronews



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FROM THE CEO

Home is Where Our Heart Is

Trustees and employees at Victory Electric want to see the communities we serve succeed. Why? The answer's simple: we live here, too.

Local people working for local good. That's the essence of the Seventh Cooperative Principle, "Concern for Community," one of seven guidelines that governs electric cooperative operations just like Victory Electric.

First and foremost, Victory Electric strengthens our communities by doing what we do best: providing a safe and reliable supply of electricity at an affordable cost. As our service area grows, so does our distribution system. So it's easy to see why strengthening the local economy makes sound business sense. Your board of trustees and staff supports policies and projects that are good for the communities we serve because what's good for our community is good for the co-op.

We have strong community roots. Victory Electric has been in business for 70 years—we're not going anywhere. Our business was founded here by members just like you, and we are not going to pull up stakes to pursue greener pastures elsewhere.

We also strengthen our communities by supporting local organizations and charities. We help members and neighbors in need by sponsoring such things as 4-H, youth

sports, economic development organizations, local non-profits, and more. Most recently, Victory Electric, in conjunction with the local VFW, formed the "Vittles for Vets" program to collect food and non-perishable items for the Fort Dodge Solider's Home food pantry in Nimitz Hall.

Our veterans and their families have given so much of themselves for our country and this is just one way we can give back. We are happy to be able to use our many resources to help the veterans by offering drawings for six \$100 electric bill credits. So far, our efforts have brought in more than 1,000 items for the food pantry. We are continuing the program through December, and there are still four more chances to win a \$100 bill credit. The remaining drawings will be held on October 14 and December 9, so there is still time to bring your food items to Victory Electric and be entered to win.

The "Vittles for Vets" program is just one way we can give back to our community. We challenge you to do something within your means to make our part of southwest Kansas a better place to live.

When it comes to Victory Electric, the members and our community comes first. That's the cooperative difference.

Shane Laws



Shane Laws

Trombley & Williamson Win First “Vittles for Vets” Drawing

Winners were announced in the first “Vittles for Vets” drawing on July 20. The first of three drawings for two \$100 bill credits were won by members **JOHN TROMBLEY** and **ROBERT WILLIAMSON**. There are still four more chances to win, so keep bringing your donations to Victory Electric to be entered to win. The next drawing will be October 14 and another on December 9.

Members and community members have donated more than 1,000 items to the food pantry at Fort Dodge. Thank you!

Fort Dodge representative and Jeff Hubbell, Victory Electric engineer, stands with the items for the third delivery to the Fort Dodge food pantry.



Smart Grid Savy: Are Smart Grids Really a Big Deal?

Smart grid. What’s the big deal? It’s a pretty big deal indeed. Especially when it comes to reliability and information.

Smart Grid describes the next-generation electrical power system typified by the increased use of communications and information technology.

First off, “the grid” consists of the poles, wires, transformers, switches, fuses and other components that make up local power lines and transmission lines, which are the larger ones that carry higher voltage. Currently, the majority of equipment used in the grid has no ability to communicate with its operators.

So, when a piece of equipment fails, the people at Victory Electric’s office may know there is an outage but likely will not know exactly where it is located. Crews must be sent out to patrol and find the problem, which takes time and extends the outage’s length for the members.

In a Smart Grid, equipment has the ability to communicate with the systems back at the electric co-op. These communications allow operators to pinpoint outages, check on the health of equipment to avoid outages and control the flow of electricity to route it around an outage. All of this helps improve reliability and reduce outage length.

Let’s say a tree limb falls on a set of power lines and causes the recloser (circuit breaker) to open. With a smart recloser, the utility can pinpoint where it is on the system. Now, combine that with automated meter infrastructure (AMI) equipment, and the electric co-op can determine the number of members without power. They dispatch the crew to the exact location and have the opportunity to post outage updates, such as the estimated time to restoration and the number of

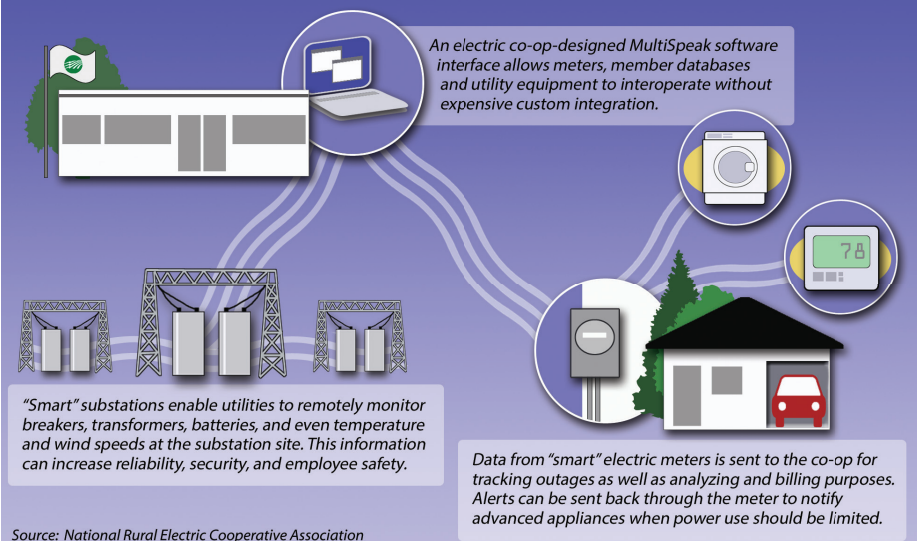
members without power. In addition, the operators can switch power around the fault to turn members on before the crew arrives, resulting in a shorter outage for all involved.

This brings us to the smart meter. In truth, these systems aren’t particularly smart. Their tasks are pretty simple. They simply record and report power use, usually in 15, 30 or 60 minute intervals. They also record power quality information as electricity is delivered to your home. Finally, they can be directly queried, which is an enormously helpful tool in pinpointing distribution system problems, reducing distribution system losses and reporting outages for faster restoration.

Victory Electric fully switched to an automated meter reading system last summer. The smart grid is truly a benefit to electric co-op members.

The Smart Grid

By enabling both new and existing electric grid components to communicate with each other, electric utilities can better monitor conditions, collect information, and remotely control devices over a distribution network. Often called the *Smart Grid*, this system can utilize various technologies, as shown here.



Victory Electric and Dodge City Days Parade 2015

Once again, Victory Electric had a successful Dodge City Days week. The theme for Dodge City Days this year was "Tribute to Fort Dodge" to honor the 150th Anniversary of the Fort. In the parade, Victory Electric had two lines trucks, a float and a trailer for the employees and their families to ride on. Hundreds of pounds of candy were given out through the parade route.

Victory Electric extends appreciation to all our employees and their families for volunteering their time to make this year's float a success. In addition to the parade, Victory also grilled burgers for Salute the Troops, sponsored the rodeo, and displayed some trucks for the Touch-A-Truck Event. Congratulations to all winners of the Dodge City Days Parade.



1. Trinity Adams waves at parade spectators. 2. The children hand out candy during the parade. 3. Kayli Ruiz waves a flag in tribute for Fort Dodge during the parade. 4. Dania Blatnick and daughter Maci sport their Victory t-shirts. 5. Victory Electric's float gave "Tribute to Fort Dodge." 6. Aubree Ruiz, Emily Ruiz, Layton Blatnick, and Aydin Ruiz sport festive sunglasses. 7. Employees and families of Victory Electric participate in the parade.

Ogles & Ochs Attend Cooperative Youth Leadership

Victory Electric sent local students **AUNDRIA OGLES**, Cimarron and **JO BETH OCHS**, Jetmore, to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, from July 11-17. These local youth joined approximately 100 high school students from across Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Wyoming to participate in the leadership camp sponsored by the electric cooperatives in each state.

"Victory Electric is proud to participate in the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp and send our youth to develop essential leadership and teamwork skills," said Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO. "Through this trip, we hope that local students will gain some awareness of how our electric cooperatives work and how important it is for the youth to be involved in our community."

As part of the week-long adventure, the students established a candy cooperative business, in which they elected a general manager and board of directors, participated in daily membership meetings and paid their dues membership of 50 cents to the newly established co-op business.

"This trip inspired me to give others a chance," Ochs said. "Instead of judging people based on my stereotypes, I learned everyone is different and everyone deserves a chance."

When not tending to their candy cooperative, the students learned about electric co-ops, witnessed a high-voltage safety demonstration and built a transmission line from craft supplies. They also created multiple committees to help plan and implement the week's activities while improving leadership and interpersonal communication skills.

The youth toured Fish Creek Falls, Trapper Mine, Craig Power Plant and a solar array; visited Steamboat Springs; experienced the adrenaline rush of river rafting and enjoyed traditional



Aundria Ogles (left) and Jo Beth Ochs pose at the river near camp in Colorado.

camp activities, such as volleyball, swimming, dancing, and competing in a talent show.

"I was most inspired by everyone's positive attitudes," Ogles said, "that's something I hope to be able to take back with me."

Ogles and Ochs were selected from a group of high school applicants by Victory. 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 620-370-7730.



The 2015 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp delegation.

Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO

Aundria Ogles

First, I would like to thank everyone who made this amazing trip possible! I am beyond blessed and thankful that I had the opportunity to go.

The Co-op Youth Leadership Camp really is the trip of a lifetime. I made many friends and memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life. At first, I was a bit scared to get on the bus because I didn't know a single person. Soon after boarding, I discovered that wasn't going to be a problem.

All of the campers of the Colorado Youth Leadership Tour quickly became a family. Some of the things we did together were white water rafting, a sand volleyball tournament, touring a power plant, dances and forming a co-op within our camp.

It wasn't until we had a devotional service on Lookout Mountain that I realized just how beautiful the world really is. I was happy that I got to share the experience with all of my newfound friends from camp. Through this small experience alone I discovered my passion for travel.

Thanks to all those who made this trip possible, this small town girl learned that there is so much more out there—and I want to see it.

Once again thank you for sponsoring me on this trip. I had a life changing experience and I will be forever grateful.



Aundria Ogles is thankful for the trip and the opportunity of a lifetime.

Jo Beth Ochs

"Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge," Proverbs 23:12 reads. With this instruction from The Bible, I applied for one of the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp trips sponsored by Victory Electric.

After completing an application, resume, and two short essays, I earned an opportunity for an interview. Soon after my interview, what I had anticipated became a reality. In mid-July, I began a five-day adventure at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

The students from Oklahoma and Kansas traveled by bus to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, where we met the leaders from Colorado and Wyoming. As soon as we arrived, our instruction began. We formed a co-op and joined committees. Immediately, I made friends and memories that would last a lifetime. Our diverse small groups not only learned about electrical distribution, solar arrays, and energy generation, but we also shared in fun experiences including river rafting, a volleyball tournament, and a dance.

While at camp, each of us were encouraged to follow our dreams, utilize our talents, and never give up. This experience was unforgettable! I thank Victory Electric for this memorable opportunity. I encourage the co-op to continue sending young leaders to youth camp. I will apply my heart to the things I have learned; this knowledge and these friendships will guide and shape me in my future endeavors.



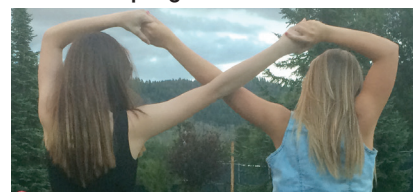
Jo Beth learned to not be afraid of what people thought of her.



Ogles and Ochs enjoy the mountains of Colorado.



Ogles and Ochs prior to departing for Steamboat Springs.



Ogles made friendships to last a lifetime.

Visit our Website & Join us on Facebook



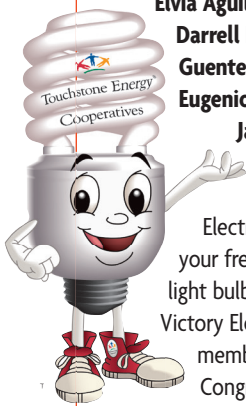
Visit our website at www.victoryelectric.net. On our website, you will find a calendar of events, frequently asked questions, bill pay, and energy calculators—just to name a few tools!

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.

CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"

This month's lucky winners are...

Elvia Aguilar, Joseph Bradley, Darrell Dupree, Pedro Guenter, Donald Holsten, Eugenio F. Jacobo, Abigail Janas, James B. Parish, and Rod Reiman.



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 8th Annual Victory Electric Community Health Fair has been scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2015. It will be held at the Western State Bank Expo center in Dodge City. More info can be found on our website.

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

EPA's Clean Power Plan Creates Challenges for the Electric Industry

On Aug. 3, 2015, Gina McCarthy, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), signed the Clean Power Plan, a 1,560-page document that provides guidance to the states to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emission standards for two types of existing electricity generating units: steam electric and natural gas combined-cycle units larger than 25 MW.

Under the provisions of the Clean Power Plan, by 2030 affected generating facilities must reduce nationwide GHG emissions levels by 32 percent compared to 2005. To achieve this reduction, EPA established for each state interim and final targets based on each state's current emission

levels and mix of generation resources. The final rule requires Kansas to make a 44 percent reduction in GHG emissions, almost twice the 23 percent reduction in the proposed rule.

Kansas has until September 2016 to submit an initial compliance plan detailing how Kansas electric utilities will respond in order for the state to meet the required 44 percent reduction. A final compliance plan must be submitted by September 2018. While it's still too early to determine exactly how the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) will incorporate all of the potential tools available into a plan, it is clear that the plan will require significant shifts in operational strategies to meet the required 2030 targets.

Victory Electric's members

will certainly be affected by the rule. All electric utilities—including Sunflower Electric Power Corporation and Mid-Kansas Electric Company, Victory Electric's wholesale energy providers—must consider how the changes brought about by the Clean Power Plan might alter generation and transmission operational strategies that will impact both cost and reliability into the future. These strategies may include retrofitting generation units; relying less on more affordable and

reliable fossil fuels; incorporating large amounts of more renewable resources; and building transmission infrastructure to accommodate the increased requirements for renewable energy.

Unfortunately, the costs associated with these operational changes will be shouldered by electric ratepayers.

Although the Clean Power Plan will bring changes to the electric industry and, consequently, to Victory Electric's member-owners, rest assured Victory Electric's staff, along with staff representing Sunflower and Mid-Kansas, will do everything possible to mitigate the impacts of the rule.

"The road ahead for electricity production and delivery will certainly be more challenging as a result of this EPA rulemaking. As always, our promise to you is to make business decisions that take into account all options to ensure the delivery of reliable energy at the lowest possible cost to your homes and businesses," Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO, said.



CO-OP CONNECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

Humble Flowers and Gifts Offers Free Delivery



Kasey Phillips, owner, Marlene Salem, Beatriz Beltran, Noreen Herbert, Cathy McBee and Angie Phillips are ready to help you at Humble Flowers and Gifts.

Nestled in the corner next to Gibson's Pharmacy, Humble Flowers and Gift is full of color, aroma of fresh flowers and friendly staff ready to serve you.

Humble Flowers and Gifts is one of several local businesses offering discounts to Victory Electric members through the Co-op Connections Card program.

Victory Electric's commitment to members goes beyond its mission to balance rates with safety, reliability, service quality and the financial strength of the cooperative and offers the Co-op Connections Card free to members as a money-saving tool. The card connects members with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs. There are several local deals too.

Humble Flowers and Gifts is one of 32 local businesses offering savings. When members use their card, they receive free delivery within Dodge City limits.

Kasey Phillips is the new owner of Humble Flowers and Gifts and said she "wanted to keep the program around for the customers to save them money. It's a simple way to save and we are happy to promote the Co-op Connections Card program."

"We're able to accommodate any occasion and any budget," said Phillips. As a floral shop more than 50 years old, Humble Flowers and Gifts has the ability to create floral arrangements for any occasion and stocks the cooler daily with a variety of arrangements at different prices for any last minute shoppers.

Phillips is a Montezuma native who has lived in Dodge City for nearly the past decade. "buying the floral shop was

a great way to promote the furniture I refurbish and the gifts I make. It's been fun learning the floral business."

While Phillips is a new owner, Humble Flowers and Gifts still has the same employees working in the store. "I got lucky. The ladies have all been wonderful and I've been blessed to have had everyone stay," said Phillips. "I'm just freshening up the floor. There are new gift sections and a lot of great new pieces."

Humble Flowers and Gifts is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Local savings with the Co-op Connections Card is a small portion of money to be saved. The Co-op Connections program is unique to Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. The program is entirely free to Victory Electric members with no strings attached. It's Victory Electric's way of saying thank you for being a co-op member and a way to extend savings through the community. This program will connect our members with discounts at participating local and national businesses. Members will also receive discounts on prescription drugs at participating pharmacies as well, which have proven to be the most successful part of the program.

Victory Electric encourages our members to take advantage of the Co-op Connections Card with Humble Flowers and Gifts and the other local businesses. Members can visit connections.coop for a complete list of local, state and national discounts, or contact the office at any time with questions at 620-227-2139.

Aislamiento De Su Hogar Ahorra en Eficiencia

Pared, pisos, techos, ático— Estas son algunas de las áreas principales de una casa que necesita aislamiento para maximizar la eficiencia energética. Según el Departamento de energía (DOE), añadir aislamiento a su casa es una buena inversión que es probable se pague rápidamente por sí mismo al reducir las facturas de servicios públicos. De hecho, DOE estima que puede reducir su calefacción y enfriamiento hasta un 30 por ciento por aislamiento y aclimatar su hogar adecuadamente.

Si su casa tiene más de 20 años no fue construido específicamente para la eficiencia energética, aislamiento adicional, es más posible, que reduzca la factura e incrementa confort de su hogar.

La cantidad real de los ahorros para cada hogar depende de varios factores, el nivel actual de aislamiento, su eficacia climática de su sistema calefacción/refrigeración y su utilidad. El promedio, de casas viejas tienen menos aislamiento que casas construidas hoy, pero incluso agregar aislamiento a una casa nueva puede pagar por sí mismo con en unos pocos años.

Así que, ¿por dónde comenzar?

Primero debes determinar cuánto aislamiento tiene ya en su casa y donde se encuentra. Para aquellos con el espíritu de "hágalo usted mismo", puede llevar a cabo una auditoría de aislamiento usted mismo. Esto es lo que busca:

- ▶ Donde su hogar es, no es, o debe ser aislado
- ▶ El tipo de aislamiento en su hogar

Una zona privilegiada que es crónicamente bajo aislamiento es el ático. Si usted vive en un clima frío o

cálido, aislamiento del desván es esencial para ayudar a mantener el aire caliente del interior en el invierno y evitar que el aire caliente del ático caliente tus espacios de vida en el verano. Si tienes R-19 o menos aislamiento en el ático, considere traer hasta R-38 en climas moderados y R-49 en climas fríos.

De pavimentos en climas fríos, si tienes R-11 o menos aislamiento, considere traer hasta R-25.

Cómo funciona el aislamiento?

Calor fluye naturalmente desde un espacio más cálido a un espacio más fresco. Durante los meses de invierno, esto significa calor se mueve directamente de espacios calentados a adyacentes áticos sin calefacción, garajes, sótanos e incluso al aire libre. También puede viajar indirectamente a través de techos interiores, paredes y suelos – dondequiera que haya una diferencia de temperatura. Durante los meses de verano, el opuesto sucede – calor fluye desde el exterior hacia el interior de una casa. La instalación adecuada de aislamiento crea resistencia al flujo de calor. Resistencia del flujo de calor se mide o clasificada en términos de su R-valor, el más alto el valor R, mayor efectividad de aislamiento. Más calor flujo resistencia proporciona su aislamiento, menor su calefacción y costes de enfriamiento será.

Ahorrar verde va verde

Hoy en día, usted tiene opciones cuando se trata de selección de aislamiento para el hogar, incluyendo una opción ecológica hecha de materiales reciclados, como

jeans de chatarra. Es similar al picado hasta blue jeans y se trata de la seguridad contra incendios. Con un R-valor aislante similar al aislamiento de fibra de vidrio, este aislamiento o azul-jean es una buena opción.

Empezar y conseguir ahorrar

Mientras que más viejo el hogar nunca será tan eficiente como un nuevo hogar, una mejora de aislamiento hará una notable diferencia en su uso de la energía y la cartera. Una casa bien aislada es uno de los medios más rentables de ahorro de energía y la disminución de calefacción y refrigeración de facturas. Para obtener más información, póngase en contacto con los expertos de energía de Victory Electric a 620-227-2139.

