

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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THE VICTORY ELECTRIC CO-OP

electronews



The Victory Electric Co-op Assn., Inc.

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FROM THE CEO

Above and Beyond

Electric co-op membership offers value far beyond affordable electricity



Shane Laws

Here at Victory Electric, we work hard to deliver safe, affordable, and reliable electricity to our 13,000 members every day. But we don't stop there. Because we're a cooperative, we strive to do much more, to find ways of providing real value to you and the communities we serve.

So what exactly does real value mean? Well, in some ways it's basic, like connecting with a real, local person when you call our office, rather than just a recording. It could be finding a copy of the *Kansas Country Living* magazine in your mailbox or inbox every month, which keeps you informed about co-op business and goings-on in Kansas. Or, it's getting the lights back on more quickly after a tornado or ice storm, thanks to mutual-aid agreements that bring line crews in from other co-ops to help us restore power.

Most importantly, Victory Electric wants our members to know the value of the price of electricity in relation to other consumer good. Popular demand and short supply drives the cost of everyday necessities higher. Some price tag changes—like

the cost to fill your car's gas tank—are obvious to anyone driving down the road. Other increases at the grocery store are more subtle but still impact your family's bottom line. Compare the average price increase of a few household expenses to see how the rising cost of electricity stacks up.

The cost for a gallon of unleaded gasoline shot up 11.1 percent on average every year between 2002 and 2012, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Eggs don't go over easy—the cost for a dozen eggs increased 7.8 percent. Bakers watched the price of flour rise 5.7 percent, and apples felt the crunch with a jump of 4.8 percent—every year.

The cost of electricity grew at a slower pace of 3.2 percent a year, on average. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports homeowners across the nation pay an average of 11.7 cents per kWh. In Kansas, electric cooperatives keep costs even more affordable—the average price for power is 11.48 cents and Victory is even better at 10.13 cents.

Unlike eggs or apples, electricity is a 24-hour-a-day commodity. Despite energy efficiency advancements, the average household uses more electronic gadgets—and needs more power to operate them—every year.

Continued on page 16-B ►

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT
Victory Seeks Board Nominations



Kenny Wehkamp

Dear Victory Members,
 It is time once again to start thinking about Victory Electric's annual membership meeting held on April 12, 2016.

We are currently soliciting nominations for Victory Electric's board of trustees. Positions up for election are in District 4, currently held by **GARY GILLESPIE**, Copeland; District 7, currently held by **JIM OCHS**, Jetmore; District 9, currently held by **RICHARD LIGHTNER**, Garden City; and District 10, currently held by **PAT MORSE**, Dodge City.

To qualify, you must be a natural person (not a corporation, partnership or any other business entity); and your principal residence must be served by Victory Electric and located within our territory and within the district which you wish to represent. Also, if a close relative of yours—within the third degree—is an employee or a trustee of Victory Electric, you are not eligible to run for a trustee position.

Duties of an elected trustee include: attending a monthly six-to-eight hour board meeting, board training opportunities, and some travel will be required.

If you would like to run for a position, or you know someone interested, please send a letter of interest with qualifications to Shane Laws or Kenny Wehkamp at Victory Electric, P.O. Box 1335, Dodge City, KS 67801.

Sincerely,
KENNY WEHKAMP, PRESIDENT

Mark Your Calendars!

The 70th Annual Meeting of Victory Electric has been scheduled for April 12 at the Western State Bank Expo Center.

A meal will be served and everyone attending will receive a registration gift and have a chance to win some great door prizes. Stay tuned for more details on the upcoming annual meeting.



Above and Beyond

Continued from page 16-A

In the past 30 years, the amount of residential electricity used by appliances and electronics has increased from 17 to 31 percent according to the Residential Energy Consumption Survey by EIA. More homes than ever have major appliances and central air conditioning. DVRs, computers, and multiple televisions are common.

Victory Electric works hard to

keep your electricity safe, reliable, and affordable. But you play a role in the price of your power. Just as you might cut back on eggs if your budget is tight, we can work with you to cut your monthly electric bill. See how little changes add up by calling our office or visiting our website www.victoryelectric.net for energy efficiency tips.

Thanks, Shane

Why are Crews Drilling Holes in Poles?

You may have noticed crews in our service area drilling holes into poles. These crews are testing the strength of power poles in the Victory Electric territory.

"They are here as a proactive approach to fix poles before they break," said Greg Underwood, manager of engineering for Victory Electric. "The Osmose technicians are testing 1,100 of Victory's oldest poles for pole integrity and strength."

Osmose comes annually to test a small sample of Victory Electric's poles. This year, they are testing within the city of Dodge City.

A sound test is first done with a hammer to test for strength. If the pole needs addressed further, a hole is drilled into the pole for a bore sample.

Pole integrity and strength ensures the poles are safe and any problems can be addressed before



An Osmose technician, enters the data from a pole test into his portable system.

the poles break.

The technicians are experts in testing the structure of utility poles. Their pick-ups are marked with the Victory Electric logo. They are also carrying a letter of intent that confirms they are employees of Osmose working for Victory Electric.

As they move through our service area, please contact Victory Electric at 620-227-2139 with any questions.

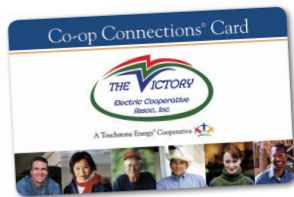
CO-OP CONNECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

K-Martin Jewelry Offers Savings

As the area's only hometown jeweler, **K-MARTIN JEWELRY** now is offering discounts to the members of Victory Electric through the Co-op Connections Card program.

K-Martin Jewelry 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.



Victory Electric offers the Co-op Connections Card free to members as a money saving tool.

"Being a hometown jeweler, it makes sense to offer quality and a discount to the people of the community. We mostly serve in a 60 mile radius of Dodge City and everyone has the opportunity to save," **MIKE SALEM**, co-owner of K-Martin, said.

K-Martin Jewelry specializes in bridal, but has something for everyone.

"We have everything from fashion, to watches, and have a repair shop in house so pieces aren't sent out of town," Salem said.

The jewelry store is in the same complex as Gibson's Pharmacy and has been since 1980. "It's always been this location and always been hometown owned," Salem said.

Salem is a Dodge City native and has owned the store since 2013, but has been with K-Martin Jewelry for nearly 20 years. **MARK JEFFRIES**, co-owner and **MARISA FARRA**, sales manager stand beside Salem ready to serve the area's needs.

Offering 10 percent off any regular priced jewelry, K-Martin is one of more than 30 local businesses offering savings with the Co-op Connections Card program.

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 to the whole community.

Victory Electric encourages members to take advantage of the Co-op Connections Card with K-Martin Jewelry and other local businesses. Members can visit connections.coop for a complete list of local, state and national discounts, or contact the office during business hours.



From Left Mark Jeffries, Marisa Farra and Mike Salem of K-Martin Jewelry are ready to serve you.

2016 Youth Tour Winners Announced

Victory Electric is sponsoring four local high school juniors to participate in our 2016 Youth Tour programs.

CURTIS FRINK, Cimarron, and **KYRA LAMPE**, Hodgeman County, will attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in June.



Curtis Frink

During Youth Tour, the students will join 1,600 youth from across the nation in Washington, D.C., participants will visit the monuments and other attractions, as well as visit Capitol Hill to learn more about how our government works.



Kyra Lampe

BERNADETTE SHAUGHNESSY, Cimarron, and **SHELBY AXTELL**, South Gray, will attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO, in July.



Bernadette Shaughnessy

At camp, the Kansas students will join youth from Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming. Campers will form a mock cooperative, learn leadership skills and learn about the cooperative industry.

The four winners were chosen based on a résumé, two letters of recommendation, and an interview. Congratulations winners!



Shelby Axtell

Statement of Non-Discrimination

The Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the rural utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance efforts is Shane Laws, CEO of The Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization

has subjected them to discrimination may file a written complaint with this organization; the Director, office of Civil rights, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, rural utilities Services, Washington, D. C., 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discriminatory action, or by such later date to which the Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Civil rights or the Administrator of RUS extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Victory Electric Bill Payment Options

Pay your bill online at www.victoryelectric.net, at our office, by mail or at any of our pay stations.

Victory Electric has several convenient options for you, the member, to pay your bill.

In addition to paying in our office or by mail, options include online bill



pay at www.victoryelectric.net and drop boxes at Victory Electric and City of Dodge City.

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 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.

Seal Up the Savings

Electric efficiency is important to both Victory Electric and our members. Sealing your home with caulk can save thousands of dollars each year.

Warmed or air-conditioned air mixes with outside air through gaps in your home's thermal envelope—exterior walls, windows, doors, the roof, and floors causing money to be lost. If you don't tighten up your home first, money spent on insulation may be wasted.

Caulking doesn't replace the need for adequate insulation in homes but it helps. Knowing where to look for leaks allows for proper application.

You may already know where some air leakage occurs in your home, such as an under-the-door draft that makes you want to put on socks. But you'll probably need to search to find the less obvious gaps.

Look at areas where different materials meet, like between brick and wood siding, between foundation and walls, and between the chimney and siding. Also inspect around the following for any cracks and gaps that could cause air leaks:

- ▶ Door and window frames
- ▶ Mail chutes
- ▶ Electrical and gas service entrances
- ▶ Cable TV and phone lines
- ▶ Outdoor water faucets
- ▶ Where dryer vents pass through walls
- ▶ Vents and fans.

Caulk forms a flexible seal for cracks, gaps, or joints less than 1/4 inch wide. Most caulking compounds come in disposable cartridges that fit in half-barrel caulking guns. Some pressurized cartridges do not require caulking guns. When deciding how much caulking to purchase, consider that you'll probably need a half cartridge per window or door and four cartridges for the foundation sill.

Caulking compounds can also

Save Savings and Efficiency in Your Home

be found in aerosol cans, squeeze tubes, and ropes for small jobs or special applications. Water-based caulk can be cleaned with water, while solvent-based compounds require a solvent for clean-up. Caulking compounds also vary in strength, properties, and prices.

If your budget allows, spend a little more for a higher-quality caulk. Inexpensive caulks may last only a few years, while premium-priced caulks are rated for 20 years or more.

Caulking alone can save more than \$200 a year and it's a simple process. Five steps to saving include:

1. PREP: Clean the area where you will be applying the caulk. Remove any dirt, loose paint or old, cracked caulk.

Be sure the area is dry before applying new caulk appropriate for your application.

2. LOAD: You will need to pull the plunger all the way back to load the tube of caulk into the barrel of the caulking gun.

Next, squeeze the trigger a few times until the plunger makes contact with the tube. Squeeze once or

twice more to fill the tip with caulk.

3. APPLY: To figure out the right amount of caulk needed, experiment with an out-of-the-way section.

You may find that you need less caulk than you thought, sealing air leaks doesn't take a lot of caulk.

Hold the caulking gun at a slight angle. Apply steady pressure on the trigger to create a solid stream from the tip, which should be placed 1/2 inch or less from the intended destination of the material.

Use just enough caulk to do the job. Use your finger to gently press the caulk into the corner, crack or space.

4. RELEASE: Once the trigger is fully depressed, allow it to spring back and depress it again.

Keep caulking the gun moving while caulk is still coming out of the tip.

5. CLEAN: Use a damp cloth or rag to clean off most of the excess caulk. Use a dry cloth to clean off the rest.

The infographic below illustrates how to properly caulk. Contact the office at 620-227-2139 with questions.



CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"



This month's lucky winners are...

GERALD ABBOTT, JUDY DENTON, HAROLD KIRK, JOSE RIOS, TRICIA TAYLOR, DARRELL WOODS, MANUEL VALLE.

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!

Vittles for Vets Winners

Congratulations to our December winners, **GLENDA MARTIN** and **MIKE KING**. More than 1,700 items were donated



Jerri Imgarten, Victory; Jack Jenkins, Fort Dodge; and Michael Stefan, Victory, deliver the latest donations.

to Fort Dodge since July. Thank you to all of the members who donated.

We will continue to take donations, but will not have any more drawings until next summer.

Irrigation Meeting Reminder

Victory Electric will host the Irrigation and Technology Seminar Friday, February 26, 2016.



Community members listen to a guest speaker about water quality.

The irrigation meeting is open to the public and will cover important agricultural issues about water conservation and

getting the most for your money when running irrigators. Contact Josh Schmidt with any questions at 620-371-7723.

Working on the LINE

Storms at the middle and end of November created a lot of work for Victory Electric crews. The tornados on November 16, left 42 poles damaged and created 3,052 outages. An ice storm on November 27, caused galloping lines and 2,200 members to be without power. More challenges arose as the ice continued to melt in the following days. Safety is the number one concern for the employees of Victory Electric and we thank the linemen for their hard work.



Downed power lines created outages for several members following the November 16 storm.



High winds also caused damage to property, like this semi trailer, after the tornado came through Victory Electric territory November 16.



Winds from November 16 caused pole damage and some poles to break completely causing power outages.



Victory crews worked several hours during the ice storm until power was restored. Photo courtesy of Shelia Breensing.

Dodge City Parade of Lights and Chili Contest

The 14th Annual Christmas Parade of Lights and Chili Contest was held on December 7 in Dodge City.

Sponsored by the *Dodge City Daily Globe*, Boot Hill, Victory Electric, the City of Dodge City, Main Street, and True Value, the events attracted hundreds of visitors to Dodge City.

The chili contest had 20 entries. The lucky winners in the Judges Choice category were **VICTORY ELECTRIC**, first place; **UNITED WIRELESS ARENA**, second; and **CARGILL**, third. Those who impressed the crowd won the People's Choice category. Winners were **ARROWHEAD WEST**, first place; **HEADCASES SALON**, second; and **LEWIS TOYOTA**, third. All winners received a plaque sponsored by Victory Electric.

The parade sported more than 20 entries, ranging from an old fire truck, to flying reindeer, to floats decked out in lights.

Thanks to all who attended, and we hope to see you next year!



1. The Dodge City middle school and high school bands performed during the parade.
2. Victory Electric decked out a tree trimming truck with lights.
3. The Parade of Lights and Chili Contest welcomed more than 200 people at Boot Hill to taste chili and enjoy the parade.
4. Arrowhead West won the People's Choice Award at the Chili Contest.
5. Victory Electric accepted the award for first place in the Judges Choice Chili category.



Sellar Fugas de Aire con Masilla en tu Casa

Eficiencia es un valor para Victory Electric y debe ser para los miembros, también. Correcciones simples como calafateo pueden ahorrar miles de dólares anualmente.

Aire caliente o aire acondicionado se mezcla con el aire exterior a través de brechas en la envolvente térmica de su hogar. Ceñir el hogar primero, dinero invertido en aislamiento se puede desperdiciar.

Calafateo no reemplaza la necesidad de aislamiento adecuado en los hogares pero si ayuda. Saber dónde buscar fugas permite una aplicación adecuada.

Usted ya sabe dónde se produce alguna fuga de aire en su hogar, tal vez como bajo-la – puerta hace que usted quiera ponerse calcetines. Pero probablemente tendrá que buscar para encontrar las brechas menos obvias.

Buscar en áreas donde se encuentran diversos materiales, como entre los ladrillos y revestimiento de madera, fundación, paredes y chimenea. También inspeccione lo siguiente de cualquier grieta y huecos que podrían causar fugas de aire:

- ▶ Marcos de puertas y marcos
- ▶ Canales inclinados del correo
- ▶ Eléctrico y líneas de servicio de gas
- ▶ Cables de TV y líneas telefónicas
- ▶ Grifos de agua al aire libre
- ▶ Ventilación para secadora a través de paredes
- ▶ Rejilla de ventilación ventiladores

Calafateo forma un sello flexible para las grietas, huecos, o juntas de todo el cuarto de una 1 pulgada o menos. Compuestos para calafatear la mayoría vienen en cartuchos desechables que caben en pistolas de calafateo de medio cañón. Algunos cartuchos presurizados no requieren de pistolas para calafatear. Al decidir cuánto calafateo para comprar, considere que probablemente necesitará un medio cartucho por la ventana o puerta y cuatro cartuchos para que selle la fundación.

Compuestos de calafateo puede encontrarse también en latas de aerosol, apretar los tubos y cuerdas para pequeños trabajos o aplicaciones especiales. Sellador a

base de agua se puede limpiar con agua, mientras que los compuestos basados en solventes requieren un disolvente para limpieza. Compuestos de calafateo también varían en fuerza adecuada y precio.

Si su presupuesto lo permite pagar por un sellador de calidad superior. Masillas baratas pueden durar sólo unos pocos años, mientras que de un precio más caro la masillas pueden durar 20 años o más.

Para calafatear se puede ahorrar más de \$200 al año y es un proceso simple. Cinco pasos para ahorrar son:

SELLAR FUGAS DE AIRE CON MASILLA

¿Sabía usted que calentar y enfriar su casa equivale aproximadamente a la mitad del uso de la energía? Rellenando grietas y huecos en sus ventanas, puertas y espacios alrededor de cables (de teléfono, electricidad, cable y líneas de gas), conductos de agua y de ventilación puede significarle.

MATERIALES QUE VA A NECESITAR

- Masilla • Aplicador de masilla • Cuchillo o bisturí
- Trapos • Agua

1. PREPARACIÓN Limpie el área donde va a aplicar la masilla. Remueva suciedad, pintura vieja o floja, y masilla agrietada.

Asegúrese que el área esté seca antes de aplicar la masilla apropiada para la aplicación que corresponda.

2. CARGA Usted deberá tirar del émbolo hacia atrás para cargar el tubo de masilla en el cilindro del aplicador.

Luego, apriete el gatillo varias veces hasta que el émbolo tome contacto con el tubo. Apriete algunas veces mas para llenar la extremidad con masilla.

3. APLICACIÓN Para darse cuenta de la cantidad exacta de masilla necesaria, pruebe antes en una zona no muy visible. Puede ser que usted necesite menos masilla de lo que pensaba.

Sostenga el aplicador un poco inclinado. Aplique una firme presión en el gatillo para crear un flujo continuo desde la punta, que debe ser colocada a 1/2 pulgada o menos del lugar donde debe ser aplicado el material.

Use solo la suficiente masilla para hacer el trabajo. Use sus dedos para empujar ligeramente la masilla en las esquinas, grietas, o espacios.

4. RETIRO Una vez que el gatillo esté completamente apretado, deje que vuelva a la posición inicial y apriételo de nuevo. Mantenga el aplicador en movimiento mientras la masilla esté saliendo de la punta.

5. LIMPIEZA Use un trapo húmedo para limpiar el exceso de masilla. Use un trapo seco para limpiar el resto.

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.

