

# RED BEARD COFFEE

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

### Coffee and Community Served One Cup at a Time

An addition to downtown Dodge City is bringing community together one cup of coffee at a time.

**RED BEARD COFFEE** opened in December 2017, and has been all about community since. Victory Electric follows seven guiding principles and one of the seven is Concern for Community. Red Beard Coffee sets an example of what it means to have concern for community.

Concern for community focuses on members needs and work for the sustainable development of the community. Red Beard Coffee owner, **CLINTON CONANT** understands that importance.

"Coffee brings people together in itself naturally," Conant said. "We want this to be a space where connections are made and one that serves as the vessel of change."

Conant serves as the pastor at The Gathering across the street and said it is their goal to foster Jesus and relationships anywhere. "It doesn't matter where you come from or what you do, this is about community and making connections," Conant said.

The vision to own a coffee shop came to Conant about four or five years ago and the idea for the current space came about a year ago. "I wanted a community style business that would connect people and build a community," Conant said.

The style and atmosphere of Red Beard does just that. The old barn wood walls, modern shelving and attention to detail makes the space inviting and comfortable for everyone.

Red Beard's logo depicts a man with a red beard and an eye patch. Meeting Conant for the first time, it isn't hard to see what inspired the red beard but the eye patch is a story of interest.

"The logo represents the fun we have in life. I was playing pirates with my kids and I didn't have a hook so I took a small play shovel and made believe I was a pirate named Captain Red Beard Shovel Hand," Conant said. "I wore an eye patch and it stuck when I started visioning the

coffee shop."

Red Beard Coffee has an evolving menu that changes. "We want to explore the world through coffee, so to speak," Conant said. "We import green beans from around the world every couple of months or so and then roast them to make the coffee."

Aside from coffee, Red Beard has tea, hot chocolate, pastries and muffins. They also sell t-shirts, mugs and coffee to make at home.

The culture of Red Beard is one you might expect in the big city but has the hometown service and kindness of southwest Kansas.

Red Beard Coffee operates as a place to foster relationships and bring the community together.

Their hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and closed on Sunday.

"For many there is a means to an end," Conant said. "This is a means to a beginning of connections and a better community."



Red Beard Coffee owner Clinton Conant makes a latte.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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THE VICTORY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# electronews



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## FROM THE CEO

### Appreciating Electricity a Penny at a Time

*Electricity is about the only things you can buy and still get value for just a penny's worth*

Back in the day, penny candy actually cost a penny. But what does a penny buy these days? Not much. The government can't even make a penny for a penny anymore. According to the U.S. Mint, it now costs 1.5 cents to produce one..

About the only thing of value you can still get for a penny is electricity. You might call it "penny electricity."

No, I'm not kidding. Think about it.

To make the math easier, let's say the average rate for a kilowatt-hour of electricity is 10 cents. That is 60 minutes of 1,000 watts of electricity for a dime, so a penny of electricity equates to 100 watts. It's enough to power a 9-watt LED lightbulb—the equivalent of a 60-watt incandescent bulb—for 11 hours, all for only a penny.

Where else can you get that kind of value?

How many eggs will a penny buy? How much milk, bread, coffee, medicine or gasoline?

Gas has come down from its stratospheric levels of several years ago, but there is still no comparison to the value of

electricity. For example, if a gallon of gas costs \$2.50 and your car gets 25 miles to the gallon, you can drive 176 yards—about two blocks—on a penny's worth of gas.

I will take 11 hours of lighting for a penny over a two-block drive any day.

The value is just as evident when powering things other than lighting. Take, for instance, your smartphone. Using the same 10 cents per kWh price, penny electricity allows you to fully charge your iPhone more than 18 times for a penny. You can charge it once every day of the year for about 20 cents total.

Not impressed? Well, how about these other examples of what you can do with just a penny's worth of electricity: power a 1,000-watt microwave on high for 6 minutes; run a 200-watt desktop computer for 30 minutes; watch 2.5 hours of your favorite shows on a 40-watt, 32-inch, LED television or 1.3 hours on a 75-watt, 75-inch mega TV.

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Shane Laws



### Angel Tree Donation

Every year Victory Electric employees donate to the Salvation Army's Angel Tree. Victory Electric was able to adopt 33 kids and provided them with gloves, a hat, a blanket, a set of pajamas and a toy.



Victory Electric's Jerri Imgarten and Amy Grasser stand with the gifts.

### Come Get Your CFL!

This month's lucky winners

are... TAHIR H. GAAL, JEFF

HAHN, BEVERLY A. LEACH and DICK SEARS. Come by

Victory Electric's office to get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month Victory Electric will be giving members free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations winners!



### Monthly Efficiency Tip

Windows account for 25 percent of heat loss in homes. Cover your windows and sliding patio doors with clear plastic film to reduce your loss. Using plastic film can save you about 14 percent on your heating bill. Plastic is inexpensive and can be found at home stores.



### Reporting an Outage

Reporting an outage is easy. Call 620-227-2139 or 800-279-7915, or report your outage on any smartphone or tablet via the SmartHub app.

To create your SmartHub account, visit [victoryelectric.smarthub.coop](http://victoryelectric.smarthub.coop). You will need to have your account number for initial registration. Check Facebook and Twitter for outage updates.

## Victory Electric Offers 10 Scholarships for Members or their Dependents

Applications for Victory Electric's Lightner Community Spirit Scholarship are available and due March 1.

The Lightner Community Spirit Scholarship is designed to recognize students who have demonstrated academic success as well as showing a commitment to bettering their community.

### Scholarship Eligibility

Applicants must be an active member in good standing with the cooperative, or a dependent of such member. Applicants must be entering or a current student at an accredited two or four-year college or university. All applicants for the scholarships shall be considered on the above criteria without regard to race, age, color, religion, gender, national origin, or existence of physical handicap.

### How to Apply

Applications for the Lightner Community Spirit Scholarship can be found at [victoryelectric.net/content/scholarships](http://victoryelectric.net/content/scholarships). Required items of the application include:

- ▶ Completed application
- ▶ Résumé
- ▶ Copy of official transcript in

a sealed envelope from your current school

- ▶ Copy of acceptance letter from college (if in high school)
- ▶ Completed biographical statement and one-page essay
- ▶ Submitted to Victory Electric by **March 1, 2018**.

"We are thrilled to announce this scholarship program, which reflects the importance of civic and community engagement," said Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO. "As a not-for-profit cooperative, one of our guiding principles is 'Commitment to Community,' and I can't think of a better way than a scholarship program to give back to the communities we serve and encourage youth to be involved in their own community."

The name of the scholarship honors the Lightner family of Plymell. Richard Lightner has been on Victory Electric's board of trustees for 34 years and his father, George, served 31 years previous. Both strongly supported Victory Electric's community and youth programs.

For further information, please contact Jerri Imgarten at 620-371-7730 or [jerri@victoryelectric.net](mailto:jerri@victoryelectric.net).

**Apply for Scholarships**

Victory Electric is offering 10 \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors going on to a college or vocational-technical school.

**Applications due MARCH 1.**

For more information, visit [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net).

## Appreciating Electricity One Penny at a Time

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The examples are endless.

We are fortunate electricity is such an excellent value because we have a huge appetite for it. We tend to forget that.

Electricity is not expensive. It's that we use it for so many different things: lighting, heating, cooking, cooling, refrigeration, cleaning, washing, pumping, entertainment, communications—even transportation these days.

Few corners of our lives are left untouched by electricity.

Unfortunately, we don't always appreciate it. When our monthly electric bill comes, we open it and may complain about the cost. It's a reaction ingrained in us as consumers. We don't stop to think about the value we received for the money.

Some of our older members vividly remember the day electricity came to their home or farm. In those days, the price of electricity was slightly less than a penny a kilowatt-hour—true penny electricity.

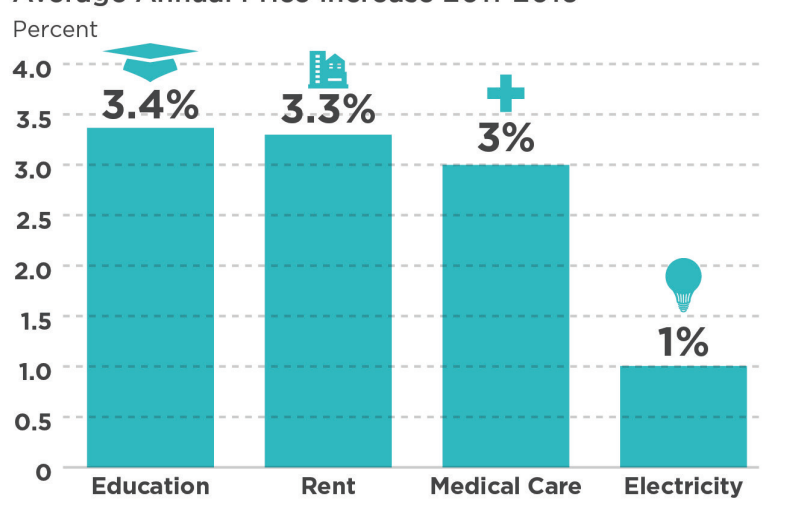
A lot has changed since then. Wages and the cost of living today are a far cry from 1940, when the average annual wage was less than \$150 a month and the average cost of a house was \$3,920.

But one thing that hasn't changed is the value of electricity. In 77 years, its price has risen much slower than the rate of inflation.

## ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these expenses each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.

Average Annual Price Increase 2011-2016



A penny in 1940 had as much buying power as 17 cents today, which means the residential price of electricity—which now averages 12 cents a kWh nationally—is actually a better deal today than it was in 1940.

So to my way of thinking, the value of electricity is like the bygone days of penny candy, and it's OK to indulge yourself a little.

Thanks, Shane

## Electricity Theft: Not Worth the Risk

Every year, electric cooperatives across the country cope with people who deliberately tamper with their electric meter to steal power. Not only is this practice extremely dangerous, it's a serious crime that is hefty fines and potential jail time.

Many cases, the theft involved members who interfered with the operation of a meter or jumped power to elsewhere to avoid paying electric bills.

"We've seen people use many dangerous methods to get free power—from slugging the meter socket with knives, flattened copper pipe to using jumper wires to get around the meter," explains Heith Konecny, supervisor of metering technology. "The folks doing this are risking their lives, the lives of our employee's and stealing from their fellow cooperative members"

According to the Cooperative Research Network, a division of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, power surging through a compromised meter can cause an electrical catastrophe. A short circuit could produce an arc flash bright enough to cause blindness and powerful enough to launch fragments of shrapnel-like, red-hot debris. Serious injury or death from electrocution, explosion, or fire often results from meter tampering. Only trained Victory Electric personnel wearing protective clothing should work on meters.

With the modern automated meters, the meters send a notification to the office that something may not be right. Those notifications are given to the metering department so they can check the status of the meter.

"Anytime you get into a meter base, you run a risk," Konecny said. "With an arc flash, somebody could get killed or seriously harmed."

Electricity theft is not a victimless crime. Victory Electric loses revenue and expends resources to investigate tampering. These costs are then passed on to the entire membership. National estimates vary, but The Washington Post cited revenue protection officials who claim between \$1 billion and \$10 billion worth of electricity is stolen from utilities annually.

Since everyone pays for lost power, please let us know if you suspect meter tampering. Call Victory Electric's office at 620.227.2139 to report possible theft of service. All information can be given anonymously.



## DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal and increases electricity rates for other cooperative members.



- ▶ Never break a meter seal
- ▶ Never open a meter base
- ▶ Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner

If you know or suspect someone has tampered with their meter, please contact us immediately.