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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# Electronews

## The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.

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<b>Angela Unruh</b> <i>CFO</i>
<b>Jerri Whitley</b> <i>Vice President of Communications</i>

### CEO MESSAGE

## YOU Get Credit

### 2018 capital credit allocations calculated



Shane Laws

cooperative. A benefit of cooperative membership and ownership is the share in the earnings/margins Victory Electric earns each year. As a member, you are assigned—or allocated a portion of the margins (revenues in excess of expenses) accumulated by the cooperative during the year.

Victory Electric's rates are set to bring in enough money to pay operating costs, make payments on loans and provide an emergency reserve. A cooperative does not earn profits; instead, when revenues exceed the expense of providing electric service it is considered "margins" and returned to you in the form of "capital credits." Capital credits are the difference in operating costs and revenues and denote each member's ownership of

the cooperative. The margins represent a contribution of operating capital by the membership to the cooperative with the intent the capital will be retired (repaid) to you in later years.

The amount of capital credits you earn in a given year is based upon the yearly margins in relation to the amount of capital you contribute through payment of your electric bills. The more electricity you use, the greater your capital credit allocation.

The allocation of 2018 margins to members doing business with Victory Electric has been calculated and assigned. Typically, a capital credit allocation notice is mailed to you. This year, your allocation of 2018 margins will appear as a line item on your September or October electric bill statement. The allocation amount will appear on the bill for those who were members in 2018, and will only appear on the bill of your primary account. Former members, will receive a separate allocation notice in the mail. This amount is only an accounting credit and is not a refund. It cannot be claimed at the present time nor can it be applied against your current electric bill.

*Continued on page 16D ▶*

# Victory Electric Launches New Website

Victory Electric is excited to launch our newly designed website at victoryelectric.net. It took months of hard work and dedication to ensure the new website is faster, easier to navigate and, most importantly, mobile-friendly. We want our members to have easy access to the website from multiple devices and platforms.

Our goal with the website is to provide our members with an easier way to get and browse information based on their own choices and interests. We pride ourselves on the service we provide to our members and that includes keeping up-to-date on the latest technologies and user-friendly designs. The new site is divided into five sections: About Victory Electric,

Account Services, Communications, My Community and Power 101.

The About Victory Electric section gives visitors background information on the cooperative and how it functions.

Account Services provides detailed information on the variety of payment choices, service requests and Victory Electric's policies and procedures.

The Communications section includes access to Kansas Country Living magazine, newsletters, the latest news and a video library.

Community and youth programs and events such as the Pumpkin Painting and Carving Festival and Parade of Lights and Chili Cook-off are under the My Community section.

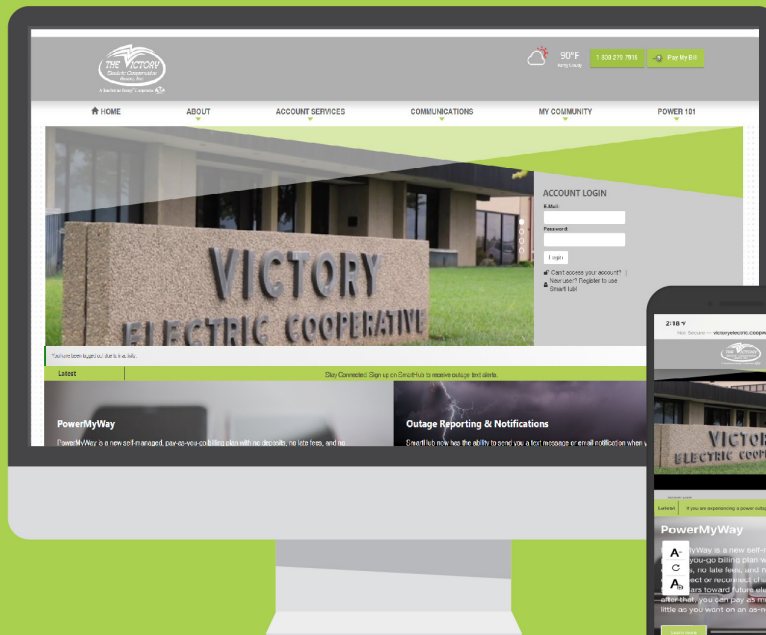
Lastly, the Power 101 section provides

helpful electrical safety information, what to do when an outage occurs, and ways to save energy.

We will continue to provide new articles, information and notifications. We also plan to continue adding more video, infographics and other resources you may need. With the addition of integrated contact and social media buttons, we encourage our members to contact us through the website and help us share and spread the word through Facebook and other social media sites.

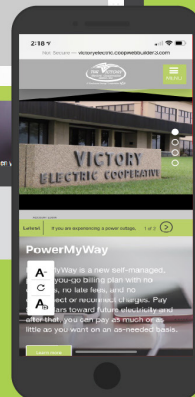
If you have questions or feedback you would like to share with our team, please fill out the feedback form at the bottom of the homepage. We appreciate our members and thank you for supporting Victory Electric!

## SOMETHING'S NEW AT VICTORYELECTRIC.NET



## NEW LOOK. SAME SERVICE.

VISIT THE ALL NEW VICTORY ELECTRIC WEBSITE ON YOUR COMPUTER OR MOBILE DEVICE.



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

# ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR

## Students Explore Nation's Capital, Witness Government in Action

Two students, **RILEIGH HEEKE** of Dodge City and **KACEE COAST** of Cimarron, from Victory Electric's service territory attended the 59th Annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour from June 13-20 with more than 1,800 peers from across the nation.

Heeke and Coast were chosen based upon their application and résumé, letters of recommendation, and interview with judges.

They joined teens from across Kansas and Hawaii to spend a week touring Washington, D.C., where they learned more about our history and government, the cooperative business model and becoming community leaders.

"I was most definitely affected by how much work goes on behind the scenes," Heeke said. "From the Capitol building lobbyists and staff to our Youth Tour director, I had some amazing examples of work ethic."

While in D.C., the students toured the White House, the U.S. Capitol, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Smithsonian museums, Mt. Vernon,

Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral and many more memorials and historical sites. They participated in a simulation at the new National Law Enforcement Museum. The students also attended a professional baseball game, a theater performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and saw the pandas at the National Zoo.

"After seeing many of these historical sites in pictures, the ability to personally see them will always have a huge impact on my life," Coast said. "I have made lifelong friends as well as personally seeing our nation's history through memorials and museums. Thank you to everyone who put time into this trip, as well as all of the sponsors."

As part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's National Youth Day on June 17, all of the state groups convened to learn from inspirational speakers. This year's keynote speaker was Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic Medalist and two-time world wheelchair basketball champion, who shared his

inspiring message, "Just because you can't stand up doesn't mean you can't stand out!"

Victory Electric is proud to have sponsored students on this trip since the late 1950s. To learn how you can participate in Victory Electric's Youth Tour program, please visit our website at [viwww.ctoryelectric.net/youth-programs-0](http://viwww.ctoryelectric.net/youth-programs-0). For more information about Youth Tour, visit [youthtour.coop](http://youthtour.coop).

Left: Forty students from Kansas and Hawaii traveled to Washington, D.C., in June for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Far left: Heeke (left) and Coast pose at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.





# YOUTH TOUR: From the Delegates' View

## Kacee Coast

This summer I received the opportunity of a lifetime: an all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capital. I would like to thank Victory Electric and all of its members for providing the funding to make this experience possible.

During this trip, I was able to meet new lifelong friends and tour different monuments, museums and memorials. Being able to personally see all of the different attractions Washington, D.C., has to offer, was truly incredible. Some of my favorite sites included the White House, Arlington National Cemetery and Fort McHenry.

While we were there, we did much more than visit different attractions. One day we visited Capitol Hill and met with our senators and representatives to learn about how the government works in our nation's capital. We were able to interact with different states' delegates on a cruise down the Potomac River and attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Day together. One night, we even cheered on the Washington Nationals as they played



Rileigh Heeke (left) and Kacee Coast stand in front of the White House.

the Arizona Diamondbacks at Nationals Park!

This trip has provided me with new friends and memories that will last a lifetime, along with beneficial information about local cooperatives and our nation's government. I cannot express how thankful I am for this life-changing opportunity.

## Rileigh Heeke

Youth Tour was nothing short of amazing. I can honestly say I don't think we missed a single monument, museum or historical site. From an MLB game to Mount Vernon, our fantastic directors made sure to pack every experience you could ask for in the few days we had together. I met

amazing people and developed new perspectives I know will help me improve my community. I'm so thankful to Victory Electric for the opportunity; it was the trip of a lifetime!

## 2018 Capital Credit Allocations *Continued from page 16A*

### Allocated vs. retired capital credits

Allocated capital credits are the member's share of net margins and reflect your equity and ownership in Victory Electric. This money is set aside to be used as operating capital for improvements and maintenance over a period of years.

A retirement is the amount a member receives as a refund. It is a portion of your total allocation. When capital credits are retired, a check is issued and your equity in the cooperative is reduced. Retirements can be years after the year in which the margins were earned/allocated. Until retirement, an allocation has no cash value. The

decision to refund (retire) capital credits rests with the Victory Electric board of trustees and is dependent on the financial situation of the cooperative, bylaw provisions and the requirements of our lenders.

Remember, you must be a member and have service in your name to have capital credits allocated to you. If you are receiving electric service in someone else's membership or the service is in the name of a deceased person, you will not receive capital credits. Any future capital credit retirements will be issued in the name of the person on the membership or the estate of a deceased member. Should you discontinue service with

Victory Electric and/or change current mailing address, please notify us of the new address, as there may be future correspondence relative to the final disposition of these capital credits.

Capital credits should not be confused with profits, which are a return on capital. Retirement of capital credits is a return of member-furnished capital. Electric cooperatives exist not to make a profit, but to provide low-cost electricity.

For more information to help you better understand capital credits and explain how your investment in Victory Electric works, visit our website at [victoryelectric.net](http://victoryelectric.net).

*Thanks, Shane*

## HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

# Apply to Earn the Trip of a Lifetime for Summer 2020

Each year, Victory Electric sponsors four students to travel and experience the trip of a lifetime. Coordinated through Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., two students are selected to represent Victory Electric in Washington, D.C., at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and another two students travel to Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

The following are important dates for the selection process:

- ▶ **OCT. 4, 2019** – Deadline for interest form (this is the form in the magazine and online)
- ▶ **OCT. 25, 2019** – Deadline for application, letters of recommendation and résumé
- ▶ **NOV. 2, 2019** – Interviews and selection of winners
- ▶ **JUNE 18-25, 2020** – Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.
- ▶ **JULY 10-16, 2020** – Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp to Steamboat Springs, Colorado



## Complete the online form or return the form below by Oct. 4 to:

▶ **ONLINE:** [victoryelectric.net/apply-youth-tour-camp](http://victoryelectric.net/apply-youth-tour-camp)

▶ **MAIL:** P.O. Box 1335, Dodge City, KS 67801

▶ **FAX:** 620-227-8819

▶ **EMAIL:** [askcommunications@victoryelectric.net](mailto:askcommunications@victoryelectric.net)

Name of applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant cell number \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Parent phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent email \_\_\_\_\_

High school \_\_\_\_\_



# Lightner Retires, Legacy Continues

Victory Electric was chartered in 1945. In August 1947, the new cooperative's first power lines were energized. And just five years later in 1952, a Lightner was first elected to the board of trustees. Over the next 67 years, serving on the Victory Electric board of trustees became a Lightner family legacy.

At the 2019 Victory Electric Annual Meeting in April, **RICHARD LIGHTNER** officially retired from his position on the board of trustees after 36 years. With his decision to retire, the board voted to redistrict the cooperative's service territory and downsize the number of board districts from 12 to 11.

"It was an opportune time to retire," said Lightner. "The people and the present state of the cooperative are great, and I know I am leaving the cooperative in good hands."

Lightner was elected to the board of trustees in 1983, upon the retirement of his father, George, who served for 31 years from 1952 to 1983. During his tenure on the board, Lightner has been a Youth Tour judge, board president, official chili sampler, annual meeting greeter, health fair volunteer, friend and colleague.

"There were lots of fun times, some mediocre times, but very few bad times. I wouldn't trade the experience for anything," Lightner said. "Being elected as a trustee, you have a duty to the people and to represent them well. The board position was never sought after as a legacy, but it kind of became one."

In addition to their service on the

board of trustees, Lightner and his father also shared a profession. They both spent their lives maintaining the family farming operation near Plymell. Lightner considers himself semi-retired but plans to continue farming after his retirement from the board of trustees.

"Richard is definitely one-of-a-kind. Over the years he's given so much of his time and himself to serve members in his district as well as shown a dedication to the cooperative employees and the community," said Jerri Whitley, Victory Electric vice president of communications. "He was one of the first people I met when I moved to Dodge City and started working at Victory Electric right after college. Being young and not local to the area, Richard was always welcoming and a friendly face. He's never failed to stop by my office and say hello anytime he is in the building. We will all miss him."

Just as board trusteeship became a legacy in Lightner's family, the family became a legacy with the cooperative. Not only has this legacy helped shape the history of Victory Electric, but it also continues to shape the future with the Lightner Community



Richard Lightner addresses the membership at a Victory Electric Annual Meeting.

Spirit Scholarship. Both George and Richard strongly supported Victory Electric's various community and youth programs. The Lightner Community Spirit Scholarship awards 10 \$1,000 scholarships to cooperative members or their dependents. The scholarship is designed to recognize students who have demonstrated academic success and show a commitment to bettering their community.

Richard, congratulations on retirement and thank you for your service!



A Victory Electric board of trustees meeting in the 1980's. Richard is the fourth board member from the left.



George Lightner was an early adopter of electricity on his farm near Plymell, Kansas. His farm shop, pictured here in the 1950s was fully-equipped with electricity.

# Business Appreciation Luncheon




From left: Carleigh Albers, Jerri Whitley and Allison Doll promoted PowerMyWay at the Business Appreciation Luncheon and Resource Fair held June 26.

On June 26, the Victory Electric communications department promoted PowerMyWay and other cooperative programs at the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce and Dodge City/

Ford County Development Corporation's Business Appreciation Luncheon and Resource Fair at the Hoover Pavilion. Our staff enjoys being out and visiting with community members when possible.

**HAPPY LABOR DAY**

Hats off to our staff! In observance of Labor Day, our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2.



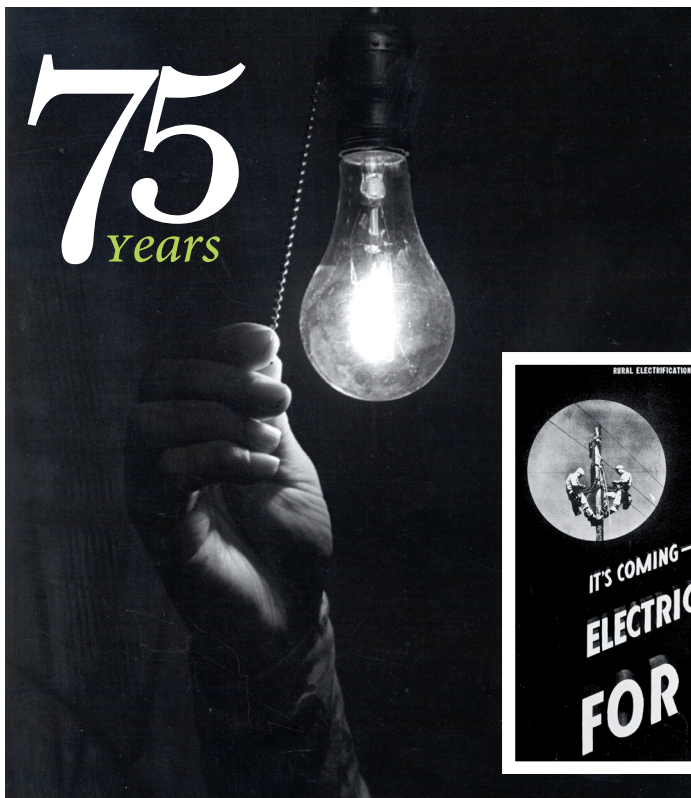
## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month



Routinely replace or clean your air conditioner's filter. Replacing a dirty, clogged filter can reduce your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5-15%.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



# DO YOU Remember?

Victory Electric is gearing up to celebrate our 75th year of serving members in southwest Kansas. In honor of this occasion, we are looking for members who remember "when the lights came on" and are willing to share their story.

If you or someone you know has a story or memory you are willing to share, please contact:

**ALLISON DOLL**

620-371-7738

ASKCOMMUNICATIONS  
@VICTORYELECTRIC.NET.



# CO-OPS CARE CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

## The Golf Club at Southwind

**FRIDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 13

**9 a.m. SHOTGUN START**

**4-MAN SCRAMBLE/\$100 PER PLAYER**

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFITING



Wheatland's Cram the Van Food Drive and Friends of the Wright Park Zoo in Dodge City



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



TO REGISTER CALL 620-275-4080 OR EMAIL [NNUMRICH@WECI.NET](mailto:NNUMRICH@WECI.NET)