


P.O. Box 1335, 3230 N. 14th Ave.
Dodge City, KS 67801
620-227-2139
victoryelectric.net
facebook.com/victoryelectric
twitter.com/thevictoryelec



A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

Electronews

The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.

Board of Trustees

- John Leis – President
- Pat Morse – Vice President
- Daryl Tieben – Secretary/Treasurer
- Cedric Drewes – Trustee
- Jim Imel – Trustee
- Gary Gillespie – Trustee
- Terri Larson – Trustee
- Richard Lightner – Trustee
- James Ochs – Trustee
- Randy Quint – Trustee
- Ken Schulte – Trustee
- Kenny Wehkamp – Trustee

Staff

- Shane Laws – CEO
- Amy Grasser – Vice President of Corporate Services
- Mikey Goddard – Vice President of Safety
- Rob Henry – Vice President of Engineering
- Jerri Whitley – Vice President of Communications
- Denzil McGill – Vice President of Information Technology
- Ryan Miller – Vice President of Operations
- Angela Unruh – CFO

CEO MESSAGE

January Electric Bills Reflect Wholesale Cost of Power Rate Decrease



Shane Laws

One of our most important rights as citizens living in a democratic society is the right to have a voice and to elect our leaders. Cooperatives are a small-scale version of a democratic republic. However, I'm sure you are wondering what democratic rights have to do with your electric rates?

Fighting for our members

In true democratic fashion, at every annual meeting you elect fellow Victory Electric members to represent you on the local board of trustees. In turn, the Victory Electric board elects a representative to sit on the board

of directors of our wholesale power providers, Sunflower and Mid-Kansas. Those representatives are responsible for lobbying and making decisions with local Victory Electric members in mind.

Because the wholesale component of your electric bill is substantial, 70 percent, anytime we can work with the Sunflower and Mid-Kansas boards to realize savings on the wholesale level, Victory Electric's members see a bigger impact and savings on their individual electric bills.

Your local representatives have been working diligently on your behalf on efforts to decrease the wholesale cost of power. In January, the rate decrease became a reality.

Impact on Electric bills

Victory Electric members' January electric

Continued on page 16F ▶



VICTORY ELECTRIC
ANNUAL MEETING
Tuesday, April 9, 2019 | Meal at 5 p.m.
Western State Bank Expo Center, Dodge City

TOP 10

REASONS TO ATTEND ANNUAL MEETING

- 1 Socialize with other members, employees and trustees.
- 2 Act on the principle of democratic member control and vote in the board elections in districts 1, 3, 8 and 10.
- 3 Get the latest news about Victory Electric Cooperative.
- 4 Join us for a FREE steak dinner served with a side of baked potato, green beans, a dinner roll and dessert.
- 5 Take home a FREE registration gift (limit of one gift per residential member).
- 6 Enter for a chance to win great door prizes.
- 7 Enter for a chance to win one of five \$200 bill credits.
- 8 Learn about what Victory Electric Cooperative is doing to better serve you in 2019.
- 9 Ask questions. Know exactly what is happening.
- 10 Victory Electric is your cooperative. You have a voice.

Attend Your Co-op's Annual Meeting

Each April, all Victory Electric Cooperative members have an opportunity to attend their annual meeting. The Victory Electric annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9 at the Western State Bank Expo Center in Dodge City. Registration and dinner start at 5 p.m., with the business meeting beginning at 6 p.m.

In accordance with Victory Electric's bylaws, each year the cooperative holds a meeting of the members to communicate the cooperative's activities and financial status for the past year. The meeting also brings the annual trustee election to a close.

Election time

The cooperative territory is divided into nine districts, all of which are represented by a trustee. Victory Electric's bylaws require Dodge City to be one district represented by three trustees. One trustee represents each of the eight districts outside Dodge City. Trustees are elected at the annual meeting for three-year terms of office. Each year, Dodge City has one trustee up for election. The other nine districts' trustees are up for election on a three-year rotation. This year, districts 5, 7 and 10 are up for election. Ballots are mailed with the annual report and sent to those members in districts up for election. Ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on the day prior

to the annual meeting, April 8. Results will be announced at the meeting.

Like you, trustees are cooperative members but with a special perspective. Your board members live throughout the Victory Electric service area. They are responsible for directing the business and exercising the powers of the cooperative. The trustees' primary functions are planning and policy oversight, establishing the long-term objectives of the cooperative and providing resources to meet those objectives.

Exercising your membership rights

Purchasing electric power from Victory Electric gives you membership in the cooperative and, as a member, you have voting rights. Your participation is a fundamental power that flows from you to your electric cooperative. You have the power to discuss issues with friends and neighbors and elect your board representation. That democratic right—which includes one vote by every cooperative member—is one of several important differences between electric cooperatives and investor-owned electric utilities.

Informed and concerned members stay involved by electing those people who value their way of life and work to improve the quality of life in southwest Kansas. So, mark your calendars and plan to attend Victory Electric's annual meeting on April 9.

Nominating Committee Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the nominating committee of The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc., was held on Thursday, Jan. 17, beginning at 1 p.m., at the offices of the cooperative on North 14th Avenue in Dodge City.

The following members of the nominating committee were present: **DAVID BRYANT, CALVIN KOEHN, BRIT HAYES, DAVID DANSEL, ROBERT CARLSON** and **JANET BRACK**.

Dave Snapp, attorney for Victory Electric, Shane Laws, CEO, John Leis, board president and Rae Jean Amy, who recorded the minutes, were also present. Dave Snapp called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Thereupon, Dave Snapp went over qualifications and eligibility requirements for election as a trustee, as set forth in the bylaws of the cooperative, to determine if each potential nominee was eligible for

election based upon the information available and the bylaws of the cooperative.

Thereupon, motions duly made, voted on and carried, Robert Carlson was elected as chairman of the nominating committee and inspector of elections. Chairman Carlson then took over the meeting and asked for nominations from Districts 5, 7, and 10.

Thereupon, motions duly made, seconded and adopted, the following persons were nominated to stand election as candidates for trustee of the cooperative for a three-year term: District 5, **GARY GILLESPIE**; District 7, **JIM OCHS**; District 10, **PAT MORSE** and **RUSS MCBEE**.

With no further business to come before the meeting of the nomination committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Get to Know Your Victory Trustee Nominees



Gary Gillespie

DISTRICT 5 - INCUMBENT

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the members of Victory Electric as a trustee. I would appreciate your consideration and your vote as I run for another term. To become a more educated and productive board member, I have attended multiple trainings and earned the Credentialed Co-op Director (CCD) certificate. I am committed to Victory Electric's mission of providing safe, reliable electricity at an affordable rate. During my tenure as a trustee we have worked diligently as a board to keep costs down while also making many improvements to the system infrastructure. If re-elected I will continue to advocate for you, the members of Victory Electric.



Jim Ochs

DISTRICT 7 - INCUMBENT

Thank you to the members of Victory Electric for letting me be your voice for the past six years. Just as in my profession of farming, the electric industry continues to change, becoming more complex each year. It is my goal as your representative of District 7 to stay abreast of the latest changes so I am an effective member of the Victory Electric board. I would like to continue to make wise decisions on your behalf at our local meetings and at other important industry gatherings. Like you, I am a consumer-member. If re-elected, I would prepare and work to fulfill the responsibilities of this position. I thank you for your support and I would greatly appreciate your vote.



Russ McBee

DISTRICT 10

I am a 34-year resident of Dodge City. I am the director of facilities and operations at Dodge City Community College.

I am a graduate of Dodge City Community College as well as Friends University, holding a bachelor of business administration degree. I have served on boards as a member of the state and regional college financial aid administrator organizations. I serve as an elder in my church and currently serve as president of the Santa Fe Trail Sportsman's Club. I have run businesses that consumed above average volumes of electricity. Victory Electric is a great company and I would be proud to have a hand in shaping its future as a flourishing, growing co-op that provides great service to its customers and exercises good fiscal policy.



Pat Morse

DISTRICT 10 - INCUMBENT

As I run for another term on the Victory Electric Board of Trustees, I want to thank the residents of Dodge City, the Victory Electric staff and the rest of the board for their support the past nine years. I currently serve as vice president of the Victory Electric board and I am Victory Electric's board representative to our statewide association, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. where I serve on the executive committee. My 40 years of experience in utility operations, my role as former senior vice president of a national telecommunications company, Consolidated Communications, as well as my involvement in state and federal regulatory/legislative affairs, allows me to work with the Victory Electric board and staff (and local, state and federal policymakers) to ensure Victory Electric operates in a safe, reliable and cost-effective manner, keeping electric rates reasonable. I would again appreciate your vote for the position of District 10 trustee.



Spring Forward on March 10

On Sunday, March 10, remember to turn your clocks forward one hour.

The Convenience of PowerMyWay

No deposit. No late fees. No due date. No monthly statements. You choose when and how much electricity to purchase.

Victory Electric's PowerMyWay program is changing the way members pay for their electricity. PowerMyWay gives you the flexibility to better manage your budget by making smaller, more frequent payments on days it's right for you, instead of a single, larger payment on a fixed due date. Or maybe you just want to continue making one payment per month but have the flexibility of choosing your payment date, and that's ok, too.

Since you are paying as you go, PowerMyWay makes you more aware of your energy consumption. The more electricity you use, the quicker you will have to recharge your account. By tying PowerMyWay to SmartHub, you will not only be able to see your electric use for that day, week or month, but also know how much you spent in that time frame, and more importantly where you can save. SmartHub also allows the flexibility for members to review account balances, make a payment and evaluate energy use anytime



Victory Electric's communications department spent Jan. 18-20 at the Winter Expo promoting PowerMyWay.

and anywhere from a phone, tablet or computer.

There are no additional costs or fees to take advantage of the PowerMyWay billing plan. Rates, including energy charges, taxes, franchise taxes, the service availability charge and the energy charge adjustment are exactly the same as accounts

POWER MY WAY

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR ENERGY FUTURE

Sign up



Visit victoryelectric.net or stop by our office for information on how to get started.

Charge account



Put money in your account via the SmartHub app and other payment methods.

Check balance



Get updates and low account balance reminders by text, email or phone.

Recharge



Online at victoryelectric.smarthub.coop or via your SmartHub app on your mobile device.

Since you are paying as you go, PowerMyWay makes you more aware of your energy consumption.

on a standard residential billing plan (some charges are prorated daily), but the member is NOT required to make a security deposit and there are no disconnect, reconnect or late fees.

How it works

Members, whether new or existing, must complete a PowerMyWay program agreement available at our office. Once a day between 7 and 9 a.m., Victory Electric reads your electronic meter, and the amount associated with that day's electric service is deducted from your account balance.

Since you purchase electricity before you use it, you are able to make payments how and when you want—online, by phone, or in-person. When your account runs low, you will receive a notice by text, email or phone call letting you know it is time to recharge your account. If funds in your account run out, you will be notified your electric service was automatically disconnected. Your account can be recharged at any time, day or night, online or by phone, and service is automatically restored.

Who can participate?

Residential accounts with an advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) meter are eligible for PowerMyWay. Access to SmartHub is required to participate

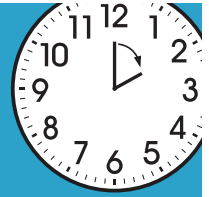
in PowerMyWay. The member is responsible for creating their SmartHub account and/or updating the account with a valid email address, text number or phone number to guarantee receipt of PowerMyWay notifications. Valid contact information must be maintained on SmartHub to receive low balance notifications. Failure to receive the notifications will not avoid termination of power.

How do I get started?

Upon enrollment, new members purchase at least \$50 toward future energy costs. Existing members must have their conventional account paid-in-full, including unbilled electric use, before switching to PowerMyWay. Those existing members who paid a deposit may apply it to the \$50 needed to open a PowerMyWay account, apply to any outstanding balance on a conventional account, transfer the deposit to a PowerMyWay account or request to have the deposit refunded.

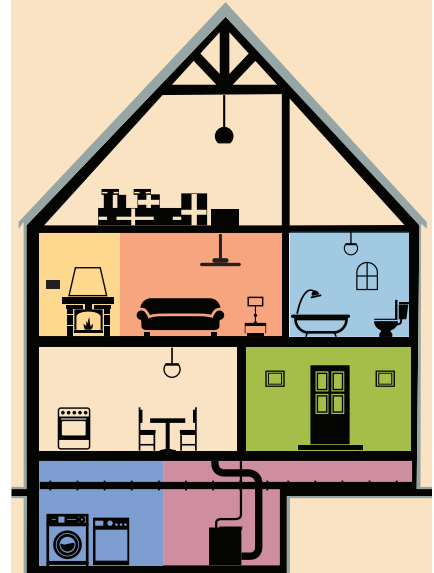
Victory Electric knows there is no one billing or payment option that works for every member, but we continue to research and provide convenient services like PowerMyWay that work with diverse lifestyles and offer a variety of options that fit different individual's needs and schedules.

Daylight Saving Time Checklist



Spring forward with ease!

Set your clocks forward one hour this spring, then use this checklist to keep your home efficient.



- 1 Review and update your programmable thermostat.
- 2 Reverse your ceiling fan's direction to blow down in the winter and up in the summer.
- 3 Clean dryer filter and hoses.
- 4 Check exterior vents to ensure they are clean of debris.
- 5 Check and replace CFLs.
- 6 Check windows and doors for drafts or leaks. Seal any leaks with weather stripping.
- 6 Check and replace furnace and air conditioning filters.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

SUMMER TIP: Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.



Electric Bills Reflect Wholesale Cost Continued from page 16A ▶

bills reflected an energy cost adjustment (ECA) credit of 1 cent/kilowatt-hour (kWh), or \$10 for every 1,000 kWh of energy used. This rate decrease is due to the Jan 1, 2019 expiration of the Jeffrey Energy Center Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), which allowed Sunflower and Mid-Kansas to rebalance resources by replacing its existing generation with more economical options.

Originally, the PPA with Jeffery, a 173-megawatt coal facility, was intended to hedge against high natural gas prices. But with unnaturally low natural gas prices in recent years, the expenses related to that contract were not ideal. The rebalancing of resources spurred by the expiration of the PPA agreement helped realize price savings for wholesale energy, which in turn, saves you money.

On average, the one-cent ECA credit decreased a Victory Electric member's bill by approximately 8 percent. To put that into perspective, the average residential bill is \$118, which meant a savings of almost \$10 on January's bill.

Why is the rate decrease in the form of an ECA credit on my bill?

Your electric bill is made up of an energy charge (base rate), ECA, service availability charge and franchise fees. The energy charge is a fixed charge per kWh determined by Victory Electric rate tariffs, while the ECA is a pass-through adjustment and varies each month. The variance is based on whether wholesale power and transmission costs exceed, or fall below, the amount budgeted into the base rate. But an ECA isn't always bad! It also provides a credit to members when wholesale power costs are less than expected.

Wholesale power costs ARE included in formula for the base rate energy charge, but if there are any fluctuations in the price of fuel for power generation inputs, such as natural gas and coal, the ECA is a way for our wholesale power providers to recover or refund the cost of electricity it procures for its members. To simplify it, when the cost of power is greater than the amount included in the base rate, the ECA is a debit on your bill. When the cost is less, the ECA is a credit on your electric bill.

In essence, the ECA allows the cooperative to respond to market fluctuations, and without it, we would constantly be implementing rate changes to reflect increases and decreases in the cost of power.

While energy markets, weather, natural gas supplies and prices and government regulations constantly fluctuate and influence energy prices and the ECA, we are hopeful this is a positive move in the right direction to lowering energy costs for Victory Electric members.

Our Promise

The team at Victory Electric, in combination with your democratically member-elected board of trustees, actively monitors wholesale power pricing and consistently works with our power providers on solutions to help our members save on their electric bill. This concept is essential to the cooperative business model because we operate as close to cost as possible. Which means when Victory Electric wholesale power costs are reduced, so are our members' bills. This is how we add value to our membership every day.

Thanks, Shane



COMMUNITY-FOCUSED

Electric cooperatives are different than other types of energy providers.

- We are led by consumer-members just like you.
- We were built by the community we serve.
- We still belong to the community.

That's the cooperative difference!

Victory Electric Welcomes Albers & Doll to Communications Team

The communications team at Victory Electric welcomes their newest team members Allison Doll and Carleigh Albers as communication coordinators.

CARLEIGH ALBERS is a native of Smolan, Kansas, and is a 2017 graduate

of Fort Hays State University where she obtained her bachelor's degree in communication studies. She joins Victory Electric from St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Junction City where she worked as an administrative assistant. However, this isn't her first time living in Dodge City.

"Before working in Junction City, I served as an intern for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dodge City in the Office of Youth Ministry and the Office of Young Adult Ministry for a year," Albers said. "It was a really great experience to incorporate my faith, serve the church and develop communications skills. I believe the internship helped prepare me to serve at Victory Electric, and I'm thankful for the opportunity to be able to work here."

As a communication coordinator, Albers will assist with graphic and publication design projects, community relations, writing, photography and more. She will be working closely with Jerri Whitley, vice president of communications, to learn the ropes of Victory Electric's internal and external communication processes.

In her free time, Albers enjoys traveling, spending time with her friends and country swing dancing. She is also enrolled online through the Augustine Institute located in Greenwood Village,



Carleigh Albers



Allison Doll

Colorado, where she is studying to complete her master's degree in theology.

ALLISON DOLL was born and raised in Garden City, Kansas. After graduating from Garden City High School in 2014, Doll went on to receive a bachelor's degree in journalism and mass communications from Kansas State University. During her time at K-State, she completed two internships, one with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and the other with the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

"I am a proud Kansan, full of passion for the state that I call home," Doll said. "Though I love every inch of the state, I feel a special affinity for its southwest corner. Growing up in Garden I never imagined moving to Dodge City, but it was hard to deny how comfortable I felt at Victory Electric, almost like I was at home."

"Communication is something that has always come naturally to me. I am excited to continue to use and develop my skills in this new role," Doll said.

Doll enjoys traveling, going to concerts and cheering on the K-State Wildcats.

Victory Electric is excited to have Albers and Doll join the team and look forward to their help communicating the cooperative's mission and values to our members.

Gooder Hired as Lineman

Victory Electric recently welcomed the newest member of the operations line crew. Apprentice lineman **AUSTIN GOODER** is originally from Smith Center, Kansas, and worked at J&J Powerline after graduating from Dodge City Community College's electrical lineman program.

"Dodge City Community College gave me more opportunities—it's a larger campus and was more affordable than other options," Gooder said in regards to his education.

When the position opened at Victory Electric, Gooder jumped at a chance to join the 27-member line crew.

"There's a great opportunity to learn here," Gooder said. "I wanted to learn more about the electrical and technical side of things, and I

knew Victory Electric would help me grow. I look forward to learning more about meters and transformers. I like the friendly atmosphere here."

When asked what he thought would be the most difficult element of his new job, Gooder chuckled. "Learning everyone's names is going to be pretty hard. I keep having to ask the guys who everyone is," Gooder answered. "Learning where everything is and learning about all the equipment is going to take me awhile too."

When Gooder isn't performing his linemen duties, you can find him playing in his billiards pool league on Wednesday nights. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, spending time outdoors, working out, and listening to a wide variety of music.

Congratulations Austin and we are excited to welcome you to Victory Electric.



Austin Gooder

