

## Mark Your Calendars

April 2011						
S	M	T	W	U	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

The 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Victory Electric has been scheduled for April 12 at the Dodge City Civic Center.

A meal will be served and everyone attending will have a chance to win some great door prizes.

Stay tuned for more details on the upcoming annual meeting.

## Coming Soon!

### Irrigation and Technology Seminar scheduled

Victory Electric Cooperative announces the date for the 13th Annual Irrigation and Technology Seminar.

The seminar will be held on Friday, February 11, 2011, at Victory Electric's headquarter's located at 3230 N. 14<sup>th</sup> in Dodge City.

The general public is invited to attend. If you are an irrigator on Victory's system, you should have received an invitation in the mail and will soon receive a detailed

meeting agenda.

Victory Electric is working hard to bring a new and exciting lineup to this year's event, so feel free to join us, eat, listen to the great lineup of guest speakers, and visit with the exhibitors.

RSVP's are required. If you have any questions or would like to reserve your spot, please contact Josh Schmidt by calling 620-227-2139 or 800-279-7915 or emailing jschmidt@victoryelectric.net.



Farmers attend 2010 Irrigation and Technology seminar.

**FEELS BETTER AROUND THE HOUSE SINCE I SET OUR THERMOSTAT TO CHEAP.**

We're gone most of the day. Didn't make sense to keep an empty house comfortable. But now when we get home, it's ready. I'm saving \$280 a year just by programming a thermostat. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

**When the power goes out, the little things can become surprisingly big!**

Small comforts you rarely think about are the things you may miss the most during a power outage. That's why Kohler generators build the fastest-responding generators in the industry. Learn more at [KohlerSmartPower.com](http://KohlerSmartPower.com). Victory Electric is now selling Kohler generators. Please contact Josh at 620.227.2139 for more information.

The Victory Electric Coop Assn., Inc.

## Electrician Service

Contact Us Today!

- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Agricultural

Call us today and ask for Stewart  
**800-279-7915**

**NEW LOWER-COST GENERATOR AVAILABLE**

Victory is now offering a 8,000 watt option

Generac  
8000 Watt XP Series  
\$1,499

Victory still has the 15,000 watt and 17,500 watt generators available for \$2,299 and \$2,799, respectively.

If you are interested in buying a generator, contact Josh at Victory Electric at 620-227-2139

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
P.O. Box 1335, 3230 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Dodge City, KS 67801  
620-227-2139  
[www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net)

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## electronews



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### FROM THE MANAGER

## Keeping Power Flowing

*Linemen maintain an intricate system of power lines around the clock*

We often take electricity for granted. It makes our homes comfortable day-in and day-out, and it's at the ready with little more than the flip of a switch.

What goes on behind the scenes once that switch is thrown is far more complex. The power grid, which can be described as the largest, most complex machine ever built, involves an intricate network of power lines crisscrossing neighborhoods and open country, over mountains and through cities, which has evolved over the last century to supply consumers with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

The tricky thing about electricity is that it must be used, or moved to where it can be used, the second it's produced; it generally can't be stored like water or gas. What's more, electricity moves at the speed of light along the path of least resistance. This basic principle calls for a carefully monitored, intricate system to move it 24-hours a day.

Literally millions of miles of power lines span the United States in a complex series of "highways." These lines can be broken into two main categories: transmission, the high-voltage "interstates" supported by steel towers and other similar structures that move electricity over vast distances; and distribution, the "local roads" that run through small towns and

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Terry Janson

*What goes on behind the scenes once that switch is thrown is far more complex.*

*Happy Valentine's Day*

February 14, 2011

## Keeping Power Flowing

Linemen maintain an intricate system of power lines around the clock

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neighborhoods and into homes and businesses. Electric cooperatives own and maintain roughly 65,000 miles, or 6 percent, of the nation's transmission lines and 2.5 million miles, or 42 percent, of its distribution lines, according to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. This co-op-maintained system could cover the distance to the moon and back five times over.

Victory Electric alone has its own sizeable distribution system to maintain. Our lineworkers stay busy keeping Victory's miles of line up and running, 24/7.

When there's a problem somewhere on our system, a power outage typically results. Pinpointing the cause of an outage among

those thousands of miles of line may seem a like trying to find a needle in a haystack, but Victory Electric's line crews try largely boil it down to a science.

To understand how co-op

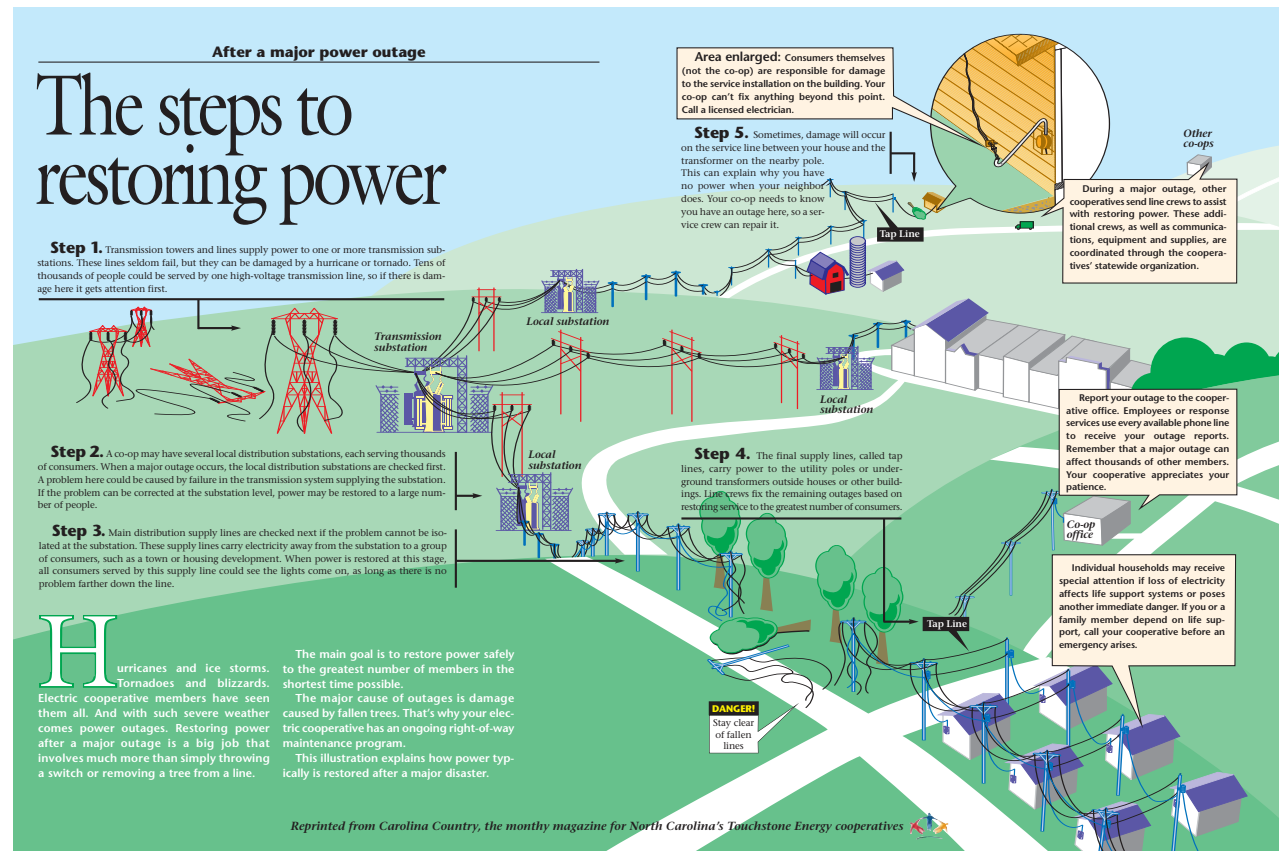
**Victory Electric alone has its own sizeable distribution system to maintain. Our lineworkers stay busy keeping Victory's miles of line up and running, 24/7.**

staff restores power during an outage, think of electricity distribution like a river in reverse. It originates at a single ocean of power—a gen-

eration plant—and diverges from there into a series of transmission lines, substations, and smaller feeder lines until it reaches homes and businesses at a trickle of its original strength. So, when we start assessing storm damage, we work to fix the biggest problems first (those starting near the "ocean"), prioritizing repairs according to how they can get the most homes back in service the fastest.

It's a big job, but our line crews are up to the challenge. If there is an outage in your area, you can help crews pinpoint damage by calling us at 620-227-2139 or 800-279-7915. Even if your neighbors have already called, every bit of information we have helps get the river flowing smoothly again.

'Til next time, TJ



## The Ins and Outs of CFLs

When Thomas Edison sparked light from a bit of carbonized sewing thread in 1879, could he have imagined that 130 years later the same basic technology would still be keeping the world out of the dark?

By any measure, Edison's incandescent lightbulbs have had a good run. As of 2012 this time-tested technology will be phased out in the United States, in favor of a more efficient generation of lightbulbs.

As a result, store shelves will be lined with more energy-efficient alternatives, the bulk of which will be compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). You have probably seen these corkscrew-shaped bulbs by now, and may have even outfitted your home with them. What makes them so much more efficient?

CFLs are made of two components: a gas-filled tube—the "swirly" part—and an electronic ballast—the plastic base. Light gets produced when mercury molecules, contained in argon or neon gas in the bulb, are excited by an electric current. These molecules then react with a phosphor coating on the inside of the tube, which creates light. With a white coating, you get white light; with a red coating, red light, etc.

Incandescent bulbs, on the other hand, produce light by running a current through a tightly coiled metal filament, typically tungsten. Atoms in the filament produce light when heated to around 4,000 degrees Fahr-

enheit. As a result, about 90 percent of the power consumed by a typical incandescent lightbulb is emitted as heat, as anyone who has changed a hot bulb knows well. CFLs, in comparison, produce 75 percent less heat.

Benefits of CFLs go beyond cooler bulbs: A 75-watt incandescent lightbulb will burn out after about 40 days of continuous use, whereas a CFL can go for a full year; CFLs require a third less energy than incandescent bulbs, which saves roughly \$30 in energy costs over the bulb's lifetime, according to ENERGY STAR.

As CFL technology advances, new bulb and light quality options will expand its use to a wider range of applications. Installation guidelines should be followed to ensure CFLs perform correctly.

For example, not all CFLs perform well on dimmable switches and three-way fixtures, so be sure to check the packaging to see if the bulb's ballast design matches your needs. You'll also get more value if you leave CFLs on for 15 minutes or longer; switching them on and off can shorten their lifespan.

Exterior lighting offers a great place to use CFLs, but if you live in a cold climate, look for special designed versions—standard CFLs may not work well below 40° F.

To learn about the latest ways you can use CFLs to make your home more energy efficient, visit ENERGY STAR at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

**CFL Charlie Says**

**"Come Get Your Free CFL Bulb!"**

This month's lucky winners are... Joey Toothaker, Slade Tilley, Steve Ackerman, Cynthia Lovato, Benny Rojas, Consuelo Sanchez, Raymond Slattery, and Cary Wilson. Come by Victory Electric, talk to Josh or Jerry, and get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month Victory Electric will be giving free CFL light bulbs. **Congratulations winners!**

## How to Clean Up a Broken Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb (CFL)



- 1** Ventilate the room. 
- 2** Scoop up powder and glass fragments using stiff paper or cardboard. Seal in a plastic bag. 
- 3** Use duct tape to pick up any fragments or powder.
- 4** Immediately place all materials used to clean up and the plastic bag in an outdoor trash container. Remember to wash your hands. 
- 5** Discard any clothing or bedding that comes in direct contact with broken glass or powder from inside the bulb. Washing tainted items may cause mercury fragments in clothing to contaminate the machine and/or pollute sewage.

To learn more about CFLs and why you should be careful when cleaning up a broken bulb, visit [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation Institute, YASLY

## High School Juniors: Win a Free Trip

to Washington, D.C., or Steamboat Springs, Colorado



Last year's D.C. winners were Shelby Durler (left) and Becca Heeke, both of Spearville.

**Two Winners, All-Expenses-Paid "Government in Action" Youth Tour June 9-16, 2011, in Washington, D.C.**



Last year's camp winners, Kate Lock, Cimarron (left) and Vanessa Nuñez, Dodge City (right). Also pictured is camp chaperone, Mellisa Bosley (center).

**Two Winners, All-Expenses-Paid Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp July 9-15, 2011, in Steamboat Springs, CO.**

If you are a high school junior and would like to increase your leadership skills, meet new friends and travel, you can apply for Youth Tour through Victory Electric.

During the "Government In Action" Youth Tour June 9-16, 2011, students will join 1,500 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.

At the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 9-15, 2011, students will join youth from Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Kansas. Campers will form a mock cooperative, participate in leadership activities, and learn about the cooperative industry.

Students will be selected based on a résumé, application and an interview.

To apply, contact your high school counselor, high school principal, or Jerri Imgarten at Victory Electric Cooperative by calling 620-371-7730 or 800-279-7915 for more information about the contest.

The deadline for applications is February 11, 2011.

## Victory Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Application

The deadline for applications is February 11, 2011

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parents or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Home or Parent Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true. \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Applicant)

I hereby grant permission for my student to enter the 2011 Youth Tour competition sponsored by The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc. \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian)