

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews



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FROM THE MANAGER

Storms and Joint Memberships

Storm season is in full swing here in Kansas. As I write this, we have already had two large storms, but with minimal damage.

On May 10, we lost five poles east of Garden City area, and power was restored in a couple of hours. Later that week in another storm, we lost five poles, one south of Montezuma and four in Ford County. Power outages were minimal.

Victory Electric works hard to maintain excellent service and restore power quickly in storm situations. If at any time you lose power in a storm, please call our office to ensure your power is restored in a timely manner.



Terry Janson

Joint Memberships

Another topic I would like to discuss is joint memberships. Currently, the majority of our memberships are individual. While there may be two names on the account, only the primary name is allowed to vote in co-op elections and collect capital credits. In contrast, a joint membership between spouses allows them to act as one, and either spouse is allowed to vote on behalf of the membership.

The definition of a joint membership is defined in Article 1, Section 3 of our bylaws. They state: A husband and wife may have a joint membership and, subject to their compliance with the requirements set forth in Article 1, Section 1 may be accepted for such membership. The term "member" as used in these bylaws shall be deemed to include a husband and wife holding a joint membership and any provisions relating to the rights and liabilities of membership shall apply equally with respect to the holders of a joint membership. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the effect of the hereinafter specified actions by or in respect of the holders of a joint membership shall be as follows:

- ▶ The presence at a meeting of either or both shall be regarded as the presence of one member and shall

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“It makes a difference whether you have an individual or joint membership.”

Joint Memberships ▶ Continued from page 20-A

have the effect of revoking a proxy executed by either or both and of constituting a joint waiver of notice of the meeting;

- ▶ The vote of either separately or both jointly shall constitute one joint vote;
- ▶ A proxy executed by either or both shall constitute one joint proxy;
- ▶ A waiver of notice signed by either or both shall constitute a joint waiver;
- ▶ Notice to either shall constitute notice to both;
- ▶ Expulsion of either shall terminate the joint membership;
- ▶ Withdrawal of either shall terminate the joint membership;
- ▶ Either but not both may be elected or appointed as an officer or trustee provided that both meet the qualifications for such office.

Why are memberships important?

You might be wondering why it makes a difference whether you have an individual or joint membership.

First, with a individual membership, even though there are two names on the account, only the primary name is allowed to vote in elections. **Upon death, the name on**

the account can be switched to the secondary person on the account and capital credits can be collected.

With a joint membership, either spouse can vote on behalf of their joint membership, but **capital credits cannot be collected until both spouses are deceased.**

According to Article 1, Section 5 of the bylaws,

- ▶ A membership may be converted to a joint membership upon the written request of the holder thereof and the agreement by such holder and his or her spouse to comply with the articles of incorporation, bylaw and rules and regulations adopted by the board of trustees.
- ▶ Upon the death of either spouse who is a party to the joint membership, such shall be held solely by the survivor, provided, however, that the estate of the deceased shall not be released from any debts due the Cooperative.

Are you really a co-op member?

There are some cases in which Victory members believe that they are a bona-fide member, but actually are not. Because of privacy laws, it is more important for these situations to be clarified and corrected.

If you are a surviving spouse, and the account was in your partner's name only, then you are not actually a member. You also are not eligible to be a director, to vote in the election, serve on committees, or to attend the annual meeting.

To rectify this situation, you will need to provide Victory Electric with legal documents including a death certificate of the account holder. With a minimal amount of effort, the account will be transferred to your name and any capital credits in the deceased name will be paid. This entitles you to all the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as any other Victory Electric member.

Contact Us

If you are not sure if your account is single or joint, please feel free to call our office at 620-227-2139 for details.

A representative with Victory Electric's office will be happy to help you with the required paperwork and can answer any questions.

If you wish to convert your account to a joint membership, both spouses should be present at Victory Electric's offices to sign the form, witnessed by a Victory Electric employee.

'Til Next Time, TJ



Farmer co-ops are under attack.

Save Money with Victory Load Control Program

Electricity is a staple in our daily life, and with the simple flip of a switch, a light is expected to shine. Considerable effort is given to ensure there is an adequate and reliable power supply to meet your needs.

With temperatures rising as we move further into summer, Victory Electric and our suppliers often face the challenge of providing adequate supply of power to meet members' increasing needs. It is during these few months that we typically reach or even exceed peak demand levels based on member usage.

Anytime your household and family members are consuming electricity it is known as "load." There are times when the system reaches its peak and that is when all of our members, all at once, are using the most electricity. This peak usually occurs between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Victory Electric wants to help you conserve energy and save money. On hot days when the temperature rises above 98 degrees, there is a possibility that we will reach peak load. We have created a radio program to inform you, the member, when we have reached peak load.

A warning sound and message will play on radio stations Q97 FM, K95 FM, 96.3 FM and 93.9 FM. These

messages will let you know that Victory is in a peak load situation and to start conserving energy.

Peak load is monitored closely to determine the amount of power required to fulfill this demand. This peak load is the determining factor in establishing the yearly rates at which the cooperative has to buy its power. By helping to keep the maximum load down, you can help your cooperative save on the cost of its purchased power. This, in turn, means lower costs for you – our member.

"The single biggest step you can make is turning up you air conditioning 5 degrees and using a fan. Other ways you can help is to do your cooking, vacuuming, laundry and running the dishwasher in the morning or after seven in the evening," said Jerry King, director of marketing and communications. "Also, covering south, east and west windows prevents the sun from warming your house so your air conditioner will run less."

Small things like grilling outside and running your pool pump and filtering system in the morning and late evening can also make a big difference.

Peak load situations are not expected and are typically only temporary. Your help in watching



energy usage during the specified time will certainly help in alleviating the situation.

By working together and voluntarily reducing electric usage, Victory will be able to continue to provide the best service possible in the summer.

For more information on peak loads and what you can do to conserve energy, please call Josh or Jerry at Victory at 620-227-2139 or 800-279-7915.

Protect your livelihood, your community and rural America.

Powerful voices are challenging agriculture and farmer co-ops. Everything that you and your co-op make possible is at risk as a result. Right now, it is more important than ever to make your voice heard.

Farmer Co-ops

Providing for America.

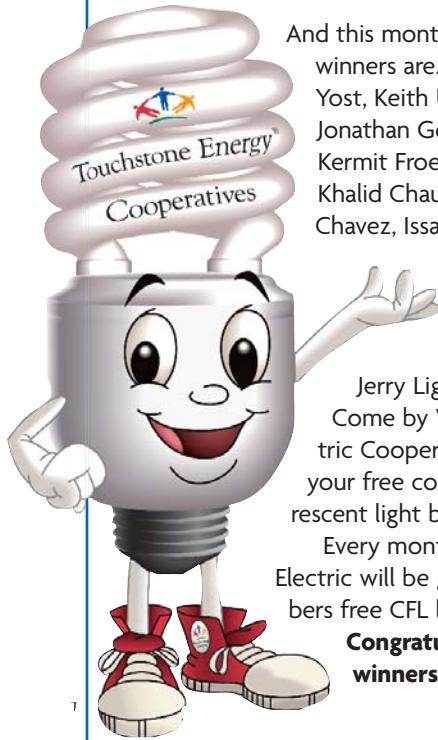
Courtesy of Victory Electric



To send a letter to a Member of Congress and USDA, go to www.ncfc.org and click on **Take Action.**



CFL Charlie Says
"Come Get Your
Free CFL Bulb!"



And this month's lucky winners are... Roger Yost, Keith Unruh, Jonathan Goossen, Kermit Froetschner, Khalid Chaudhry, Aurora Chavez, Issara Ayuthia, Dagoberto Aranda, Wilma Dodson,

Jerry Lightcap. Come by Victory Electric Cooperative and get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month Victory Electric will be giving members free CFL light bulbs.

Congratulations winners!

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. Victory Electric is now selling Kohler generators. Please contact Josh at 620.227.2139 for more information.



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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Call 1-800-279-7915 or (620) 227-2139 for more information!

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The Victory Electric Coop Assn., Inc.
Electricians Service

Contact Us Today!

- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Agricultural

Call us today and ask for Josh

800-279-7915

