

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews



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FROM THE MANAGER

The Power of Membership

Now, as always, it's a good time to be a member of an electric cooperative.

Not only are co-ops locally owned and controlled—by you, our members—they are locally run to serve your needs.

While many Kansas electricity consumers pay power bills to companies that answer to far-away stockholders who demand a healthy profit every quarter, local members call the shots at electric co-ops like ours. Co-ops aren't under pressure to keep rates high enough to generate big profits. Instead, co-ops try to keep your bill as low as possible while providing high-quality service. Co-ops invest money in excess of operating costs back into the business locally or return the excess (known as margins) to you in the form of capital credits.

And unlike the boards of directors of investor-owned utilities who keep an eye on generating profits for people living far away, your co-op's trustees have only one thing in mind: keeping lights on safely, reliably, and keeping costs affordable in our local community. That's why you elected them. And that's what's so great about co-ops. If you don't like the direction your co-op is taking, you have the power to change the leadership through democratic means.

You may know the history of the electric cooperative movement, how seven decades ago rural residents banded together to bring the conveniences of electricity to their communities when investor-owned utilities would



Terry Janson

“Coops are locally run to serve your needs.”

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Happy St. Patrick's Day !!

Time changes on Sunday, March 13 at 2 a.m.



Report of the Nominating Committee

On February 10, 2011, the committee of nominations, who were appointed by The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc., Board of Trustees, submitted the following candidates for trustees of the cooperative to be elected to a three-year term at the Annual Meeting of Members to be held on April 12, 2011.

The following candidates were nominated:

- ▶ **District 2:** John Leis
- ▶ **District 4:** Jim Imel
- ▶ **District 6:** Kenny Wehkamp
- ▶ **District 10:** Milam Jones

All members in these districts will be eligible to vote for the candidates.

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 66th 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.

The Power of Membership Cont.

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not extend service. The associations they formed, on the same democratic principles as this great nation, are as strong and relevant today as they were back then.

But co-ops are not just products of a proud past. These days, Americans from all walks of life have come to recognize the co-op approach—members working together to achieve price and service benefits—can work for other needs just as effectively as it delivered affordable power to rural Americans.

The seven principles upon which electric co-ops were founded—voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, and members' economic participation, among others—are as meaningful today as they were when electric co-ops began in

the 1930s.

Leadership at Victory Electric shares the same concerns as you. We are accessible. You can give us a call at the office and know someone here is listening. And at our annual meeting on April 12, 2011, visit with us in person and share insights on how you want your business operated.

In these days of economic turmoil, folks who receive electricity from co-ops are lucky. As locally owned and operated businesses, electric co-ops understand the people they serve. Trustees and employees at your co-op share the same values and have the same pride of place as you do because it is our community, too. We act like neighbors because we are neighbors.

That's the cooperative difference.

'Til Next Time, TJ

Victory Electric Hosts 13th Annual Irrigation and Technology Seminar



Members attend the 13th Annual Irrigation Seminar.

Victory Electric's 13th Annual Irrigation and Technology Seminar had a great turnout on February 11, 2011.

This year's event sported a large number of attendees and speakers. Victory arranged for nine speakers to discuss a variety of topics from crop futures to nutrient management.

We would like to thank the guest

speakers and vendors who helped with this event. Victory would also like to thank all of the employees of the cooperative who helped organize and run the event.

We encourage all area irrigators to look for their invite next year and attend the 14th Annual Irrigation and Technology Seminar.

Programmable Thermostats

Take Care When Installing

Programmable thermostats, when used correctly, have the potential to save up to \$180 a year on your heating and cooling costs, according to ENERGYSTAR.gov. If you're considering purchasing a programmable thermostat, it's important to install and program it correctly save the most energy and money.

Installation

First, your thermostat should be situated on an interior wall, about five feet above the floor and away from heating and cooling vents and other drafty places, such as doors and windows. Also keep it away from skylights, direct sunlight, or lamps. If your thermostat is not properly situated, consider having an electrician move the location.

Next, shut off the electricity before you begin the replacement. Programmable thermostats require a low-voltage wiring installation and will have two to 10 wires, according to ENERGYSTAR.gov.

"As with any home-wiring project, safety should be the number one priority," says Josh Schmidt, manager of member services. "Be sure to read all instructions carefully and exercise caution throughout the installation."

And if you are replacing an old thermostat that has a mercury switch, take care not to break the tube that holds the toxic metal.

Refer to the instruction manual on how to wire your new thermostat. Two handy tips before you begin disconnecting wires: Using a piece of tape, label each wire with the letter of the wire's terminal (printed on the thermostat), as these wires are not color coded. And once your old thermostat is removed from the wall, wrap the wires around a pencil to keep them from falling back into the wall.

If the project is more complicat-

ed than a basic replacement, contact a certified HVAC technician to make sure the thermostat is installed properly and safely.

Choosing the right thermostat

Programmable thermostats are not for everyone. They're best for families who are away during the day and homes with HVAC systems other than heat pumps. When a heat pump works in its heating mode, setting back the thermostat can cause the unit to operate inefficiently, thereby canceling out any savings achieved by lowering the temperature. Maintaining a moderate setting is the most cost-effective practice for homes with heat pumps.

If you decide a programmable thermostat is right for your home, consider which type best suits your lifestyle:

- ▶ 7-day models allow you to set different programs every day and provide the most flexibility.
- ▶ 5+2-day models follow the same schedule during the week and a different one for weekends.
- ▶ 5-1-1 models keep the same schedule during the week and different ones for Saturday and Sunday.

Many units come with multiple features, such as telling you when to change your HVAC's air filter, settings for vacations, and voice programming options.

Getting the most savings

Programmable thermostats enhance your home's efficiency only when set properly. To be sure to save, set the temperature back for at least eight hours at time—for example, when you're at work during the day or asleep at night. You can save 5 percent to 15 percent per year on your heating bills by setting your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees over that period.

Program the thermostat to begin warming or cooling to your desired temperature shortly before you get home or wake up, so your home is comfortable when you need it to be.

"The most important thing to do is set it, and then leave it alone," remarks Brian Sloboda, senior program manager for energy efficiency at the Cooperative Research Network, the

Installing a Programmable Thermostat

Keep these tips in mind when installing a new thermostat: Stay away from doors and windows, lamps, heating and cooling vents, and make sure it's mounted about five feet off the floor.



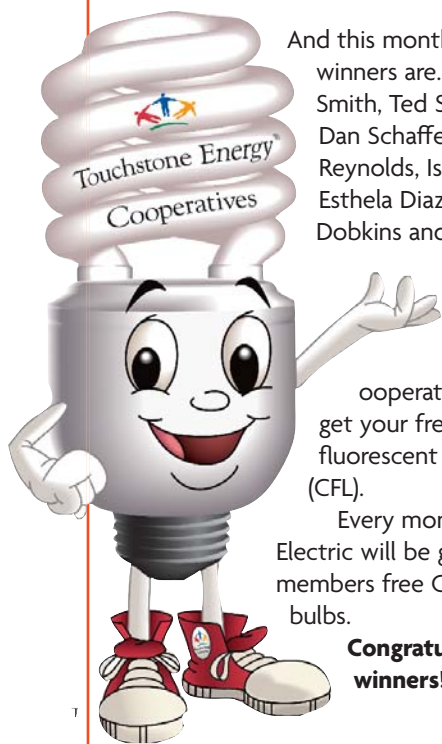
Source: ENERGYSTAR.gov, Home Depot

research arm of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. "You'll see energy savings without doing another thing to it."

To see how much you can save by installing a programmable thermostat, use ENERGY STAR's savings calculator: http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/bulk_purchasing/bpsavings_calc/CalculatorProgrammableThermostat.xls.

CFL Charlie Says

"Come Get Your Free CFL Bulb!"



And this month's lucky winners are... Jeff Smith, Ted Setzkorn, Dan Schaffer, Vernal Reynolds, Isasac Desioa, Esthela Diaz, John Dobkins and Quincy Donovan .

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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