

## THE VICTORY ELECTRIC CO-OP

# electronews



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### FROM THE CEO

## The Path to Efficiency Independence



Shane Laws

If you think about it, energy efficiency not only benefits individuals and families, but the country as a whole. Energy efficiency combined with energy conservation and advances in technology in the utility industry, ultimately help our country on a path toward greater energy independence. And that's worth celebrating.

#### Benefits of efficiency

At its essence, greater efficiency means less energy is used for the production of goods and services. For individual members, a reduction in energy use usually translates to a tangible financial benefit—more money in your wallet at the end of the month. If your co-op neighbors are also using less energy, collectively, it means the overall cost of providing that electricity could be lower and may result in reduced costs for co-op members. For many, this is reason

enough to strive for greater energy efficiency. On a national level, energy efficiency, sometimes called the “fifth fuel,” has a more profound impact. It can potentially boost the economy by allowing consumers and businesses to invest in other areas. As importantly, greater energy efficiency may slow the rate at which domestic energy is depleted, and therefore reduce or diminish the need for foreign energy.

#### Strike up the band

There's no need to wait to start your energy efficiency efforts. Every American can take charge of their own energy use, regardless of the date on the calendar. Small steps can lead to a big difference for you and your neighbors, whether across the

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**Energy efficiency combined with energy conservation ultimately help our country on a path toward greater energy independence.**

### Victory Electric Closed for Labor Day

Victory Electric's office will close Monday, September 4. We wish you have a safe and happy Labor Day!



# Arjon and Coast Attend Annual Electric C

**ROXANA ARJON** and **ALEC COAST** were selected by Victory Electric to attend the 57<sup>th</sup> annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. From June 8 to 15, Arjon and Coast joined more than 1,800 high school students nationwide to experience our nation's capital, government and history.

This year's delegation of 36 Kansas and four Hawaii youth began their trip with a banquet in Topeka, which featured Youth Tour alumni Rep. Kyle Hoffman, Rep. Steven Johnson, and Chief Counsel for Gov. Sam Brownback Brant Laue. Following the banquet, Hoffman, Johnson and Laue led the Hawaii-Kansas delegates on a night tour of our state's capitol.

After bucket truck rides, safety demonstrations and a cooperative career panel questionnaire at FreeState Electric in Topeka, the group embarked on its way to Washington, D.C.

This year, with the assistance of Senator Jerry Moran's staff, the students had the privilege of touring the White House.

"The students were thrilled to be able to take the self-guided tour of this beautiful historical site," said Shana Read, director of communications at Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. "As the tour was also on Flag Day, each student was given a flag while on the tour, fostering a strong sense of patriotism."

The delegates also visited the many memorials; toured the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Smithsonian museums, Mount Vernon, and Arlington National Cemetery; attended a major league baseball game at Nationals Park; and watched the production of *The Sound of Music* at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Perhaps most memorable for the group was the unprecedented access the students had to government officials. Students met with Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins and Congressmen Ron Estes and Roger Marshall. Delegates also had the opportunity to speak with Senators Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts.

"During this trip, students learn first-hand the



Rozana Arjon and Alec Coast stand in front of the U.S. Capitol while on their trip.

importance of being informed about the issues that impact rural America and being engaged in the political process, and it often opens the eyes of many students to future possibilities in leadership roles in our government, local communities and in our cooperative," said Kennedy St. George, Victory Electric youth tour coordinator.

"Of all the wonders in Washington, D.C., the war memorials had the most impact on me," Coast said. "Seeing all of the names at the Vietnam Memorials, walking through the Korean Memorial where all the statues have distraught yet courageous faces, looking at the endless rows of tombstones at the Arlington National Cemetery, and witnessing the Marine color guard perform at the Iwo Jima memorial inspired a very strong feeling of patriotism."

Each year, Victory Electric sponsors two students to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., as a strong commitment to our community and our mission to inspire future generations to become leaders. For more information, contact Kennedy St. George by email at [kennedy@victoryelectric.net](mailto:kennedy@victoryelectric.net) or call 620-371-7738.



The 2017 Kansas-Hawaii delegation included 40 students who had the opportunity to see memorials, including the White House, on their trip to Washington, D.C., for the Youth Tour.

# Cooperative Washington, D.C., Youth Tour

## Roxana Arjon



**Arjon is grateful for the trip of a lifetime.**

Being able to represent Victory Electric on Youth Tour will forever be the best experience of my life.

We started our week-long journey by arriving in Topeka and attending a banquet welcoming the delegates. Following the banquet, we visited the Kansas State Capitol and even saw Governor Samuel Brownback's office. It was pretty cool.

The next morning, we learned about cooperative careers. It was surprising to learn about the diverse

education the employees had.

Our last stop before heading to Washington, D.C., was the Brown v. Board of Education historical site. This was probably my favorite stop on the trip and the most thought-provoking as well.

We then headed off to the airport. This was another favorite part of the trip for me. I had never been on a plane before so it was exciting. We soon landed in D.C., and ended the day by visiting the Pentagon memorial.

From there, time began to blur as we tried to jam-pack the days with as many sights as we could see. We visited various memorials including the Vietnam and World War II memorials.

We were given the honor to visit and speak with our Kansas Representatives and Senators. We visited the National Aquarium, which was the first aquarium I've ever visited, and let it be noted that it was AWESOME.

The last day of our trip was filled with sadness and tears. We signed one another's shirts in order to remember that week forever. There were smiles and laughter as we enjoyed our final moments together singing songs and sharing our final words.

**Roxana Arjon, Dodge City**



**Arjon attends the baseball game with the rest of the delegates.**

## Alec Coast



**Coast didn't know what to expect when he was chosen.**

To begin, I must first thank those at Victory Electric who generously provided me with the opportunity to visit our nation's capital and those who made the trip possible.

When I first received word I had been chosen to represent Victory Electric on the Youth Tour, I was beyond thrilled and grateful, but I honestly had no idea it would be an experience I would never forget.

Of all the wonders in Washington, D.C., the war memorials had the most impact

on me. Seeing all of the names at the Vietnam Memorial, walking through the Korean Memorial where all the statues have distraught yet courageous faces, looking at the endless rows of tombstones at the Arlington National Cemetery, and witnessing the Marine color guard perform at the Iwo Jima memorial inspired a very strong feeling of patriotism.

Another place everyone should get the chance to experience is the Holocaust Museum. I do not have words to adequately describe how gut-wrenching and horrifying it was to see videos and artifacts from these events. I would say that this museum is a great place to learn more about the tragic history of the Holocaust.

Meeting with others who represented our state was yet another great experience the Youth Tour provided. There are many more great people I probably would have never had the opportunity to meet if it were not for Victory Electric, and for this I would like to say thank you.

**Alec Coast, Cimarron**



**Coast's favorite was the Korean War Memorial.**

## The Path to Energy Efficiency

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road or across the country.

Energy efficiency can generally be achieved two ways. The first is with mechanical change, such as replacing an older HVAC unit or less efficient appliance with a new ENERGY STAR model or upgrading to new, insulated windows. Less expensive actions include improving the seal of your home's "envelope" by caulking exterior windows and doors and sealing openings where pipes and ductwork meet the outside. Swapping out the last incandescent bulbs (inside and outside) with LEDs also makes a noticeable difference.

### Smart control

The second way to realize energy efficiency is through smarter management of your energy use. Leveraging smart thermostat technology is a good place to start. Most smart thermostats contain an app allowing remote control by mobile phone or tablet. Program your thermostat to reflect your family's schedule. Many thermostat programs allow you to view and edit your thermostat schedule and monitor the amount of energy used. Sometimes, however, energy efficiency is simply a matter of changing old habits such as washing clothes in cold water instead of hot or running the dishwasher during off-peak times.

Regardless of the path you take on the road to energy efficiency and independence, Victory Electric can help you on the journey

*Thanks, Shane*

## Board Trustee Earns Gold Credential

Victory Electric board member, **JIM IMEL**, earned his Director Gold certification this past month.

The Director Gold certification recognizes board members who have continued their education during the course of their service on the board.

The credential is the final piece of a three-step certificate program, hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA). The credential process helps trustees stay current on the issues affecting the future of cooperatives and prepare them to make informed business decisions in the boardroom.

Imel completed the first two



Jim Imel (left) receives his Director Gold certificate from Shane Laws, CEO.

pieces of the credential process by completing courses and attending conferences that focus on basic governance knowledge and in-depth industry and governance issues.

Help us congratulate Jim on his achievement and continued service.

A graphic safety warning sign with a black and orange striped top border. Below the border is a large black exclamation mark inside a triangle. To the right of the triangle, the word "DANGER" is written in large, bold, black letters. Below "DANGER", the text "OVERHEAD POWER LINES MAY BE PRESENT" is written in smaller, bold, black letters. The middle section of the sign shows a stylized illustration of power lines with a central inverted triangle containing an exclamation mark. At the bottom, the text "LOOK UP AND LIVE. Take time to note the location of all power lines and be aware of your surroundings." is written in white on a black background. A small logo for "THE VICTORY ELECTRIC CO-OP" is visible in the bottom right corner of the sign.

# Masden Retires After 42 Years of Service to Electric Utility

**DAVE MASDEN**, Victory Electric crew chief, retires in September.

Masden started at Victory Electric in April 2007, when Victory Electric acquired a portion of the Aquila Electric properties. Previous to Victory Electric, Masden worked for Aquila and its predecessors as a lineman for 32 years.

"We are going to miss him," said Ryan Miller, manager of operations. "He has a great attitude, is a great hand, and a great worker. He is appreciative of Victory Electric and we are appreciative of him. He is going to be hard to replace."

Masden started at Western Power as an apprentice lineman in October 1975. He transitioned many times as the company was bought and sold, finally ending as a serviceman for Victory Electric for the past 19 years.

"I was placing plastic pipe for water heaters at a feedlot and the next day I was a lineman," Masden said. "They threw me hooks and said 'climb that pole' and I didn't even know how to put the hooks on. I'm going to miss it."

"I am going to pitch horseshoes and play ball," Masden said of his retirement plans. "My wife, Sandie, has a lot of trips and things planned, so we will do those things too."

Everyone who knows Masden, A.K.A. Maz, knows he is kind-hearted, always full of stories and a smile and is an avid softball and horseshoe player.

Masden's attitude in service to you, the member is one of a kind. Sandy tells the story of Maz coming home for lunch and always answering the phone for the next service call to help members. "I know without a doubt he is going to miss serving his members," Sandie said.

"I always say, start each day with exercise and a good deed," Masden said.

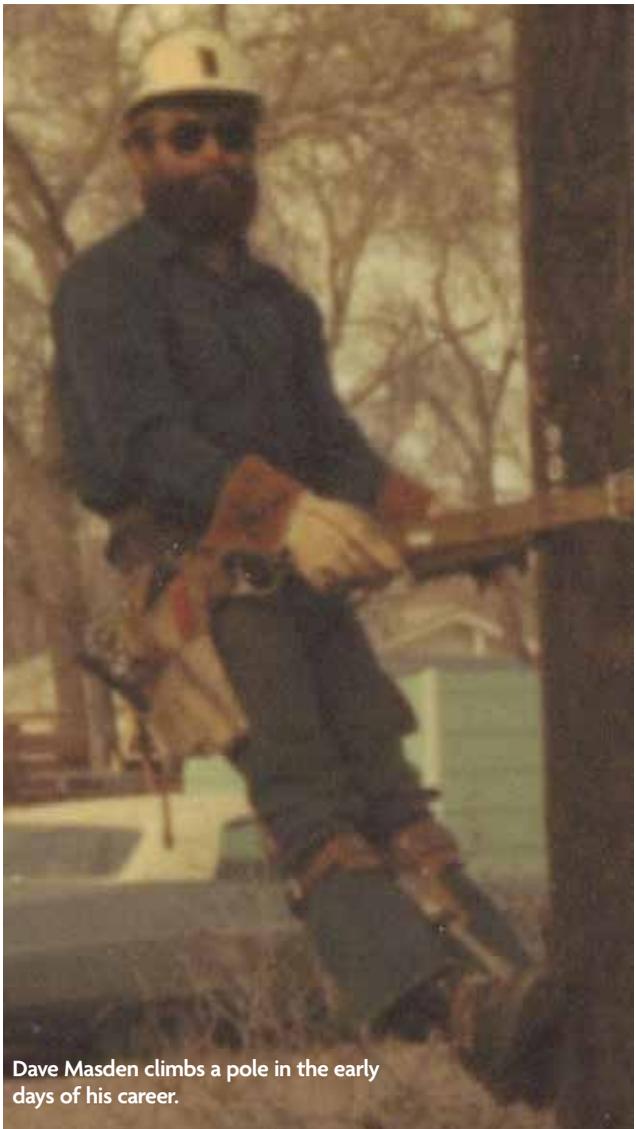
All of us at Victory Electric thank Dave for his many years of service to Victory Electric and the local community. We will miss his contagious smile and wish him a happy and relaxing retirement.

The family invites you to attend Maz's retirement reception on August 11, at I Don't Care Family Restaurant from 4 to 7 p.m.

Help us congratulate Dave on his retirement.



Dave Masden repairs wire during an ice storm.



Dave Masden climbs a pole in the early days of his career.



Dave Masden changes a meter.

## Victory Electric Bill Payment Options



Pay your bill online at [victoryelectric.net](http://victoryelectric.net), at our office, by mail or at any of our pay stations.

Victory Electric has several convenient options for you, the member, to pay your bill.

In addition to paying in our office or by mail, options include online bill pay at [victoryelectric.net](http://victoryelectric.net), via phone at 866-999-8494, auto bank deduction, drop boxes at Victory Electric and City of Dodge City.

## Come Get Your Free CFL!

*This month's lucky winners are...* **SCOTT CHIPMAN,**

**RAYMOND FAGAN,**  
**LILA JEFFRIES, PAMELA MCGARY, STACEY REIN,**  
and **TOBY SCHULTE.**

Come by Victory Electric's office to get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month Victory Electric will randomly choose members for free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations winners!



## Efficiency Tip of the Month

Setting your thermostat to a colder setting than normal when you turn on the your air conditioner will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.



## 2017 Health Fair Scheduled

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Victory Electric Community Health Fair is September 30, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Western State Bank Expo Center in Dodge City. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Victory Electric Sponsors 4-H Fairs

Victory Electric sponsors the 4-H fairs each year with T-shirts.

4-H is a youth development program committed to providing positive experiences for young people and Victory Electric invests in the youth each year.

Every 4-H member enrolled in Ford, Gray and Hodgeman counties receives a complimentary T-shirt from Victory Electric to be worn at the fair.

"Designing the 4-H T-shirt is one of my favorite projects of the year," said Jerri Imgarten, manager of marketing and communications. "It is a simple way to invest in the future



Kurt Weth, Gray County 4-H agent, and two 4-H members receive their t-shirts from Kennedy St. George, Victory Electric.

of our communities and 4-H fits our cooperative principles."

Victory Electric operates on seven cooperative principles, one of them is concern for community. Victory Electric serves you while also focusing on the development of local communities.

## Vittles for Vets Benefits Veterans

For the third year, Victory Electric is asking for your help to stock the food pantry in Nimitz Hall at Fort Dodge to benefit veterans.

For every three items you donate, your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 bill credit.

Congratulations to members **CODY FELBER** and **KATHY HIRSCHFELD**, both from Dodge City,

for winning the first drawing.

The third and final drawing will be August 30. Suggested items include non-perishable foods. Foods that are sugar free and low in salt and fat are much needed.

To view a complete list of items, visit [ow.ly/OM7Q30dJdla](http://ow.ly/OM7Q30dJdla). If you have any questions, call the Victory Electric office.



The Dodge City Fire Department donated more than 65 items to Vittles for Vets.

# 7 TIPS FOR SAVING ENERGY IN THE *summer* HEAT

- 1. Program your thermostat.** Ideally, it should be at 78 degrees when people are home and at 85 when you're away. If you're used to keeping it lower, acclimate to a warmer temp by increasing your thermostat one degree every few days. Most people acclimate easily if the temperature change is gradual.
- 2. Don't turn your AC unit off.** Your system has to work any harder and longer to cool your house when it switches back on. Also, lowering the thermostat setting below your desired temperature will not cool your home faster; it will just waste energy and money.
- 3. Fans cool people, not rooms.** Fans only move air, they don't cool it. Therefore, if you leave the fans running, they are consuming energy, but not cooling when you're not home.
- 4. Keep the hot air out.** Turn off your oven and all unnecessary lighting and appliances. These all add heat to the home. Keep doors to the outside, garage or attic firmly closed to keep cool air in and hot air out. Wait until late in the day to do tasks like laundry and cooking, and grill outside.
- 5. Clear the area where your air conditioner vents.** If done, it can help airflow, increase energy efficiency, and provide the best possible ventilation because it rids the vents of possible debris or other things that may ensure bad ventilation.
- 6. Keep shades, blinds and curtains closed.** About 40 percent of unwanted heat comes through windows. Simply drawing blinds and curtains, which act as a layer of insulation, can reduce heat gain to your home. Awnings are even better and can dramatically reduce heat from the sun. Window coatings and window film can reject as much as 80 percent of the heat from the sun.
- 7. Out with the old.** If you have a second, older refrigerator or freezer located in a garage or any unconditioned space, consider consolidating food to the main refrigerator or freezer instead. Older appliances can use up to two times more electricity if located in an unconditioned space.

## Did you know?

When there is excess humidity in the air, our body's ability to cool itself through perspiration is inhibited. One way an air conditioner makes us feel cooler is by reducing the amount of moisture in the air.



## Dirigiendo el Tráfico en la Autopista Eléctrica



Transformers dirigiendo el tráfico de la eléctrica.

El envío de energía a su casa se parece mucho a conducir a un estado vecino. Usted no considerara la adopción de una carretera secundaria de dos carriles que viajar a una ciudad a cientos de kilómetros de distancia, ¿verdad? Por supuesto que no: Usted encontraría la interestatal más cercana por lo que podría conducir más rápido y llegar a su

destino en menos tiempo.

Al igual que usted, su electricidad tiene un interestatal que le permite recorrer largas distancias, y un sistema secundario que serpentea a través de carreteras y vecindarios para dirigirlo a su destino final, su casa.

Las líneas de transmisión que proporcionan energía de una planta de energía a las subestaciones son los que se mueven rápidamente carreteras interestatales de la industria eléctrica. Estas líneas llevan desde 161.000 a 23.000 voltios de electricidad a la subestación de distribución local. Están ubicados en las estructuras que van desde grandes torres metálicas de más de 100 metros de altura a un solo polo de pie de 70 a 90 pies en el aire.

Y al igual que un coche dejando a la interestatal, la electricidad dejando la subestación tiene que reducir la velocidad al entrar en las líneas de distribución que sirven el área de servicio de Victory Electric. Transformadores en la subestación proporcionan el sistema de frenado para la reducción de la tensión de la electricidad por lo que puede continuar de forma segura a lo largo de su recorrido.

Así que, ¿cómo funciona? Superior electricidad de voltaje pasa a través de un sistema de cables en espiral situados en el transformador de subestación. La electricidad entra en un lado primario del transformador, que tiene devanados de la bobina de metal que rodean ese lado del transformador, y luego pasa a un lado secundario, que tiene un menor número de espiras de la bobina. Viajar a través de la reducción del número

de arrollamientos disminuye la tensión a medida que abandona el lado secundario y continúa el viaje a lo largo de las líneas de distribución.

La electricidad se mueve a lo largo de las líneas de distribución de Victory Electric se circula entre 7.200 voltios a 12.470 voltios, dependiendo de si están o no están viajando a lo largo de una sola fase, dos fases o una línea trifásica. Tenga en cuenta estas líneas de las carreteras secundarias de la instalación eléctrica. Ellos hacen que viaje a través del área de servicio de la cooperativa local.

Las líneas de distribución de electricidad llevan las distancias más cortas que las líneas de transmisión. Transportan la electricidad a las empresas, escuelas y hogares atendidos por su co-op. Estas son las líneas donde se ven los equipos de la Victory Electric reparando después de una tormenta.

La electricidad tiene una parada más antes de hacer su camino a su casa. Despacio para tirar en su destino final, la tensión disminuye una vez más. Toma un giro de la línea de distribución y en el otro transformador que se encuentra fuera de su hogar.

Este transformador puede ser un recipiente colgado en un poste o una caja en su patio si tienes servicio eléctrico subterráneo. Como el transformador de la subestación, la electricidad pasa por un lado primario con más bobinas de la bobina a un lado secundario con menos bobinas. La tensión dejando el lado secundario está generalmente entre 120 y 240 voltios.

La mayoría de los transformadores dan solo servicio único a un hogar o negocio, pero en algunas subdivisiones dos casas pueden compartir un solo transformador. Estos transformadores están protegidos por fusibles que se desconexan de la línea eléctrica si hay una avería causada por la subida actual o sobrecargas.

Después que la corriente eléctrica deja el transformador, hace su camino a través de una línea de servicio, en la base del medidor y hasta su destino final – tu casa, donde acciona los electrodomésticos de nuestro mundo moderno. Como puede ver, la autopista eléctrica desempeña un papel clave en alimentar nuestras vidas y la entrega de electricidad segura, confiable y asequible para usted.



### Visite Sitio Web y Únase a Nosotros en Facebook

Visite nuestro sitio web [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net). En nuestro sitio Web, usted encontrará un calendario de eventos, con frecuencia pregunta, pago de factura y energía calculadora sólo por nombrar algunas herramientas!

También puede ser una fan de Victory Electric en Facebook buscando Victory Electric Cooperativa Assn, Inc. Consulte nuestra página en Facebook para actualizaciones, información de interrupción y consejos de eficiencia de energía. Facebook es una excelente forma de mantenerse en contacto con nuestros miembros.