

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC CO-OP

electronews



The Victory Electric Co-op 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
Manager of Corporate Services

Angela Unruh
CFO

Denzil McGill
Manager of IT

Greg Underwood
Manager of Engineering

Jerri Imgarten
Manager of Marketing and
Communications

Mikey Goddard
Manager of Safety and Plant

Ryan Miller
Manager of Operations

Tom Lowery
Manager of Special Projects

FROM THE CEO

Co-ops Push for Common-Sense Replacement Rule in Place of CPP

In October, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced plans to repeal the Clean Power Plan, a regulation that would have increased costs and impacted many electric cooperatives across the nation. Now the EPA, informed by public comment, must work to develop a common-sense replacement plan.

Victory Electric is glad to see the rule go. We're working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), our national trade association, to encourage the EPA to replace the rule with a plan that focuses on individual power plants. We hope the agency will craft a replacement rule to address power plant emissions legally, provide cooperatives with the certainty and flexibility they need to meet member needs, and support cooperatives in their mission to provide affordable and reliable electricity.

Electric cooperatives depend on a diverse fuel mix to meet the energy needs of 42 million members across the nation, protect reliability of the energy system and ensure affordable power. The fact is that no two electric cooperatives are exactly alike. The nation's 900 electric cooperatives rely on a diverse fuel mix to meet members' energy needs, maintain

reliability and ensure affordability. Each one makes strategic long-term investments in energy sources that make the most sense for them. Any new regulation needs to account for this reality.

This flexibility to pursue a diverse fuel mix allows cooperatives to respond to local and regional factors and member preferences while ensuring affordable and reliable power. Past federal policy pushed cooperatives away from natural gas use for electricity to developing coal-based electric generation. In many cases, members are still paying for those facilities—and the roughly \$12 billion in pollution control measures that were added to them since the early 1990s.

But as it turns out, electric cooperatives and other utilities are already making significant changes in how they generate power. Cooperatives and their members value a healthy environment and vibrant rural communities. Market forces and members' interests are driving cooperatives to further diversify their electric generation portfolios. As a result, cooperative-owned coal-fired generation has



Shane Laws

Continued on page 16-F ▶

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Victory Seeks Board Nominations



John Leis

Dear Victory Electric Members,

It is time once again to start thinking about Victory Electric's annual membership meeting held in April 2018.

We are currently soliciting nominations for Victory Electric's board of trustees.

Positions up for election are in District 1, currently held by **DARYL TIEBEN**, Dodge City; District 3, currently held by **KEN SCHULTE**, Spearville; District 8, currently held by **CEDRIC DREWES**, Dodge City; and District 10, currently held by **TERRI LARSON**, Dodge City.

To qualify, you must be a natural person (not a corporation, partnership or any other business entity); and your principal residence must be served by Victory Electric and located within our territory and within the district you wish to represent. Also, if a close relative of yours—within the third degree—is an employee or a trustee of Victory Electric, you are not eligible to run for a trustee position.

Duties of an elected trustee include: attending a monthly six-to-eight-hour board meeting, board training opportunities, and some travel will be required.

If you would like to run for a position, or you know someone interested, please send a letter of interest with qualifications to Shane Laws at Victory Electric, P.O. Box 1335, Dodge City, KS 67801 by January 9, 2018.

Sincerely,
JOHN LEIS, PRESIDENT

\$1,000 Scholarships Available

The Victory Electric Cooperative is excited to once again offer scholarships for high school seniors and current college students. In the spring, Victory Electric will award 10 students each a \$1,000 scholarships.

The Lightner Community Spirit Scholarship is designed to recognize students who have demonstrated academic success, as well as show a commitment to their community.

"We are thrilled to again offer this scholarship program, which reflects the importance of civic and community engagement," said Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO. "As a not-for-profit cooperative, one of our guiding principles is 'Commitment to Community,' and I can't think of a better way than

a scholarship program to give back to the communities we serve and encourage youth to be involved in their own community."

The name of the scholarship honors the Lightner family of Plymell. Richard Lightner has been on Victory Electric's board of trustees for 34 years and his father, George, served 31 years previous. Both strongly supported Victory Electric's community and youth programs.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be an active member in good standing with the cooperative or a dependent of such member. Applicants must be a student or entering an accredited college or university (two- or four-year). Applications must be received no later than **March 1, 2018**.

Applications can be found on the website or at our office. For more information, please contact Jerri Imgarten at 620-371-7730.



Youth Tour Winners Announced

Victory Electric is sponsoring four local high school juniors to participate in our 2018 Youth Tour programs.

CODY FRINK, Cimarron, and **REGAN RHODES**, Mullinville, will attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in June.

During Youth Tour, the students will join 1,800 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.

ARIA KNEDLER and **ALEJ RANGEL**, both of Dodge City, will attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in July.

At camp, the Kansas students will join youth from Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming. Campers will form a mock cooperative, learn leadership skills and learn about the cooperative industry.

The four winners were chosen based on a résumé, two letters of recommendation, and an interview. Congratulations winners!



Cody Frink



Regan Rhodes



Aria Knedler



Alej Rangel

Victory Youth Enjoy 11th Annual Pumpkin Festival



The Annual Pumpkin Painting and Carving Festival was attended by more than 400 area youth and their families.

The 11th Annual Pumpkin Painting and Carving Festival was held on Oct. 28 at Victory Electric.

Sponsored by Victory Electric and Ladies Community Outreach, the event was free for the 423 youth who participated in the event.

“The kids really love creating something that is their own. I love the look on their faces when their pumpkin is just right,” said Kennedy St. George, communications specialist at Victory Electric. “I enjoyed helping

with such a fun and festive event for the youth of the Dodge City and surrounding communities.”

Victory sponsors the event to provide a safe environment for kids to enjoy Halloween activities. It is also a way to give back to the community and supply a pumpkin to those kids in our community that may not otherwise get a pumpkin to paint or carve.

In addition to painting and carving, there were also Halloween and fall-themed games for the youth to enjoy.



Remington Miller and Layton Blatnick carve their pumpkins.



Lineman Kyndell Penick's wife, Shawna Penick, and her son Kayden paint their pumpkin.



Kids carry their pumpkin to a table for painting.



Maci Blatnick personalizes her own pumpkin.



Lines form for the pedal car races.



The Literacy Bus provides activities.



Merry Christmas!



Shane Laws
CEO



John Leis
President



Pat Morse
Vice President



Daryl Tieben
Secretary/Treasurer



Cedric Drewes
Trustee



Gary Gillespie
Trustee



Jim Imel
Trustee

Victory Electric; Shane Laws, CEO; the board of trustees; and employees wish all of our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We will be closed on Dec. 25 -26 in observance of the Christmas holiday, and on Jan. 1 for New Year's.



Terri Larson
Trustee



Richard Lightner
Trustee



Jim Ochs
Trustee



Randy Quint
Trustee



Ken Schulte
Trustee



Kenny Wehkamp
Board President

Victory Electric Bill Payment Options



Pay your bill online at www.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, via phone at 866-999-8494, auto bank deduction, drop boxes at Victory Electric and City of Dodge City.

CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"

This month's lucky winners are...

DIANA DAHNA, PETE GOMEZ, DONALD ROSSENER, PAUL SHERER, and JIM THACH. Come by Victory

Electric's office to get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month Victory Electric will be giving members free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations winners!



Efficiency Tip of the Month

Decorate your tree with LED lights. This is one of the best ways to save energy use during the holiday season. LED lights use 33 percent less electricity and will save you some money on your bill.



Reporting an Outage this Winter

Reporting an outage is easy. If an outage occurs, call 620-227-2139 or 800-279-7915 or report your outage on any smartphone or tablet via the SmartHub app.

To create your SmartHub account, visit victoryelectric.smarthub.coop. You will need to have your account number for initial registration. Check Facebook and Twitter for outage updates.

Common-Sense Replacement

► Continued from page 16-A



Sunflower Electric's Holcomb coal generation plant

dropped 9 percent since 2014, and co-op solar capacity has increased five times in just the past two years.

We live in a carbon constrained world and electric co-ops are reducing their carbon footprint. In fact, since 2005, electric cooperatives have increased electric generation by 15 million megawatt-hours while reducing carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 10 percent.

Given the progress happening without the Clean Power Plan, you may ask why we want the EPA to go back to the drawing board to come

up with a replacement rule. The main reason is certainty. A workable, common-sense rule that adheres to the law clarifies the rules of the road for cooperatives, which will then be better able to make smart, long-term investments in electric generation. Regulatory certainty is an essential ingredient in ensuring a reliable supply of affordable power.

Victory Electric and other cooperatives are looking forward to working with the EPA on a plan that gets it right this time around.

Thanks, Shane

Victory Gives Back to Local Schools

Victory Electric donated pumpkins to Northwest Elementary. Each student picked their own pumpkin to take home. This is one way Victory Electric likes



Students from Northwest Elementary choose their pumpkins they want to take home.

to continue to give back to the communities we serve. Victory Electric serves as a community partner and donates pumpkins each year so students have the opportunity to have pumpkins for Halloween.

Two Employees Earn Journeyman Lineman Status

Two Victory Electric linemen have received their journeyman lineman certificate and join the 16 other journeymen at Victory Electric.

Victory Electric congratulates **ROSS ACKERMAN** and **JEREMY ELLING** on becoming journeyman linemen.

A journeyman lineman is the highest classification linemen work toward. It is four years of experience and time on the job as well as working through four textbooks.

To work on a line crew is a brotherhood and more than half of the linemen at Victory Electric have completed this certification.

“Becoming a journeyman is a goal for each of our linemen,” said Ryan Miller, manager of operations. “It makes the guys more qualified and they can manage a crew.”

Ackerman joined Victory Electric’s team in 2012 as a tree trimmer after completing an associate’s degree in computer science.

“After my associate’s, I just didn’t like the computer thing as much as I thought,” Ackerman said. “So I went back to school to complete Dodge City Community College’s line work program.”

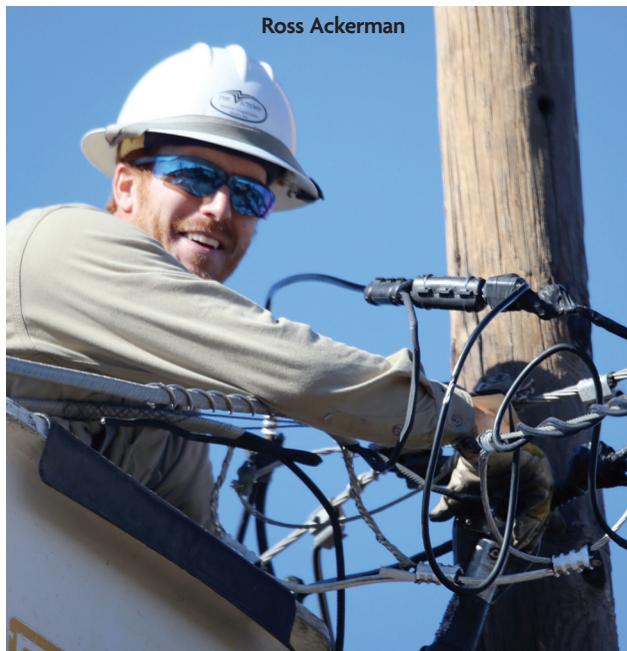
Fellow journeyman Jeremy Elling also began at Victory Electric after serving as a firefighter for several years.

“I learned the whole trade here,” Elling said. “I started on the tree trimming crew in 2010 and then moved to the line crew.”

Both Ackerman and Elling said their attitude toward service helped them choose a career at the cooperative.

“As a firefighter it was a brotherhood, the line crew is no different,” Elling said.

“I coached basketball and baseball before and this



is similar,” Ackerman said. “Now that I am a journeyman I am able to start teaching the next group of apprentice linemen. I was there before and we have new guys coming in who are eager to learn.”

Journeyman linemen serve as the leaders of the crews at Victory Electric. To become a crew chief, a lineman is required to have journeyman certification. Jason Rohr is Ackerman’s crew chief and said “as a journeyman they are able to do more work and know what is expected. In the last two years, Ross’ skills have increased and I know he is capable of potentially leading his own crew.”

Earning a journeyman certification requires a lot of work and independent study time.

“I started four years ago,” Elling said. “I am proud to have the 8,000 hours on the job and all of the testing complete. If you don’t want to improve and become better in your career, you may be in the wrong business.”

Elling’s attitude toward the accomplishment is what makes Victory Electric successful in keeping and certifying journeymen.

“Having more than one journeyman on my crew is helpful,” Rohr said. “It is more knowledge collectively each crew member provides leadership and helps make decisions. It is the whole crews job to be safe and have an input but having that many hours on the job and the skills needed makes a journeyman hard to replace.”

Victory Electric is proud of the leadership and skill journeymen linemen provide and congratulate Ross and Jeremy on their accomplishment.

Jeremy Elling



Dar Eficiencia

Con las prisas de los días festivos acercándose cada año más cerca, obtener un lanzamiento en su lista de deseos compras con algunos grandes regalos verdes. Mediante los consejos a continuación, puede tener todo envuelto antes del ho, ho, ho convierte en go, go, go!

Por qué dar eficiencia?

Dar verde es reflexivo en muchos niveles. La persona que recibe regalo tiene un nuevo dispositivo que utilizar para mantener bajos los costos eléctricos a largo plazo durante todo el año.

“Elegir un regalo verde puede ser fácil,” dice Brian Sloboda, senior program manager for the Cooperative Research Network (CRN). “Ser consciente del uso de la energía. Busque cualquier mención de las calificaciones de energía en televisores y electrodomésticos grandes, o seleccione regalos sin enchufes. Piense solar, reciclables. Incluso algo tan pequeñas como los paquetes y envases pueden marcar la diferencia.”

Busque artículos con envases ligeros. Y pensar en envolver su regalo en algo como bolsa de tela que se puede reutilizar o incluso un accesorio como un pañuelo para atar las cosas.

Ideas de Regalo Verdes

- ▶ **Para decoradores: Las luces LED Navidad (\$15-\$35)**— Son eficientes cada vez más fáciles de encontrar. Para ahorra en facturas eléctricas durante los días festivos y permanecer frescos al tacto. Un paquete completo festivo, envolver en una decorativa media.
- ▶ **Para Jardineros: Luces solares de jardín (\$15-\$50)**— disponible en infinitos colores, estilos y tamaños, luces solares de jardín puede ser una adición hermosa para su favorito dedo verde. Hasta el cociente verde, envolver en una bolsa de arpillera
- ▶ **Para Cocineros: Tostador horno (\$60-\$140)**—ideal para aquellos sólo cocinan para una o dos, personas es buena opción para ahorrar energía es una alternativa a la calefacción de un gran horno estándar.
- ▶ **Para Aficionados a la Película o los Aficionados al Deporte: ENERGY STAR TV-calificación (precio según tamaño)**—Televisión son cada vez más grande y mejor.

Pero antes de entregar algo que utiliza tanto electricidad como una nevera, busque la etiqueta ENERGY STAR. Se ofrecerá el menor impacto en sus facturas eléctricas posibles.

- ▶ **Para Técnicos: Smart strip (\$ 20-\$40)**—Esto nuevo es ideal para conectar aparatos electrónicos. No su franja de potencia media, tiras inteligente designadas facilitan el apague a ciertos dispositivos para ahorrar energía mientras no afectan a otros enchufado en la misma franja. **Cargador Solar de Teléfono (\$55-\$100+)**—yuda desconectar los cargadores chupando energía desde la pared; cargadores solares pueden ser colocados en una ventana para cargar un teléfono móvil u otros dispositivos como una unidad GPS o incluso reproductores de MP3 en cualquier lugar el sol brilla, incluso en un coche!

Hay muchas opciones al iniciar buscar regalos verdes. Ser creativo y recordar que lo que da impactara las facturas eléctricas en el futuro. Por lo tanto dar luz verde es inteligente dar para regalos este año!



Busca el logotipo de Energy Star cuando la compra de los regalos eficiente.

Visite Sitio Web y Únase a Nosotros en Facebook



Visite nuestro sitio web 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 Cooperative 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.