

P.O. Box 1335, 3230 N. 14th Ave.
Dodge City, KS 67801
620-227-2139
victoryelectric.net
facebook.com/victoryelectric
twitter.com/thevictoryelec
Visit us on YouTube



Electronews

The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.

Board of Trustees

Pat Morse – President
Daryl Tieben – Vice President
Cedric Drewes – Secretary/Treasurer
Gary Gillespie – Trustee
Jim Imel – Trustee
Terri Larson – Trustee
John Leis – Trustee
James Ochs – Trustee
Randy Quint – Trustee
Ken Schulte – Trustee
Kenny Wehkamp – Trustee

Staff

Shane Laws – CEO
Amy Grasser – Vice President
of Corporate Services
Mikey Goddard – Vice President
of Safety
Rob Henry – Vice President
of Engineering
Denzil McGill – Vice President of
Information Technology
Ryan Miller – Vice President
of Operations
Angela Unruh – CFO

CEO MESSAGE

Capital Credit Allocations on Electric Bills

The allocation of 2020 margins to members doing business with Victory Electric in 2020 has been calculated and assigned. Similar to the last two years, members' capital credit allocation amounts of the 2020 margins appeared in the message box on the July electric bill statements. The allocation amount appeared on the bill for those who were members in 2020 and will only appear on the bill of your primary account. Former members received a separate allocation notice in the mail. This amount is only an accounting credit and is not a refund. It cannot be claimed at the present time, nor can it be applied against your current electric bill.

What are Capital Credits?

Victory Electric is a not-for-profit electric cooperative with members who share in the ownership, maintenance, construction and prosperity of the cooperative. A benefit of cooperative membership and ownership is the share in the earnings/margins Victory Electric earns each year.

Victory Electric's rates are set to bring in enough money to pay operating costs, make payments on loans and provide an emergency reserve. A cooperative does not earn profits; instead, when revenues exceed the expense of providing electric service it is considered "margins" and returned

to you in the form of capital credits. Capital credits are the difference in operating costs and revenues and denote each member's ownership of the cooperative. The margins represent a contribution of operating capital by the membership to the cooperative with the intent the capital will be retired (repaid) to you in later years.



Shane Laws

Allocated vs. Retired Capital Credits

Allocated capital credits are the member's share of net margins and reflect your equity and ownership in Victory Electric. This money is set aside to be used as operating capital for improvements and maintenance over a period of years.

A retirement is the amount a member receives as a refund. It is a portion of your total allocation. When capital credits are retired, a check is issued and your equity in the cooperative is reduced. Retirements can be years after the year in which the margins were earned/allocated. Until retired, an allocation has no cash value.

Continued on page 16C ►

2021 Victory Electric and CoBank Sharing Success Grant Awarded to Crisis Center of Dodge City

The Victory Electric Cooperative, Assn., Inc., is pleased to announce the **CRISIS CENTER OF DODGE CITY** as the recipient of the 2021 Victory Electric/CoBank Sharing Success grant.

The annual Sharing Success grant opportunity, capped at \$20,000, is made possible by Victory Electric's governing board of trustees, in partnership with CoBank — a cooperative bank that provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers. CoBank's \$4 million Sharing Success fund matches charitable contributions made by its cooperative members to local nonprofits and is designed to celebrate the vital role cooperatives play in individual communities across the country.

The year's grant recipient, the Crisis Center of Dodge City, is a nonprofit organization serving victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Clark, Ford, Gray, Hodgeman and Meade counties. Sharing Success grants support local communities and people, which directly aligns with the Crisis Center's mission to "believe, support and empower victims of domestic and sexual violence through advocacy services."

Since 1981, the Crisis Center has strived to uphold that mission in southwest Kansas. The Crisis Center began as a volunteer program and became a not-for-profit a year later. The first Crisis Center shelter was a two-bedroom trailer donated by one of their board members. In 1994, the shelter was moved to its current location, a five-bedroom home, providing a safe environment for many women and children. The home is more than 50 years old, and over the last five years, many community businesses and civic groups have adopted different rooms to renovate the residence.

Only one room in the shelter, an upstairs bathroom, is still in need of renovation. The Crisis Center plans to use the Sharing Success grant funds to complete the bathroom renovation, as well as purchase 16 water-proof mattress covers, linens and playground equipment.

"For 24 years, the Crisis Center shelter has provided a safe place to live for hundreds of survivors and their families," said Crisis Center Executive Director Tammie West. "We provide options for a safe future by assisting survivors with goal setting and tapping into the community resources for housing, employment, public benefits, health needs and counseling."

Last year, the Crisis Center served 260 survivors, provided safe shelter for 1,759 nights to 40 families with 43 children. They have five outreach advocates, a shelter manager



From left: Allison Doll, Victory Electric communications coordinator; Bill Carr, Ford County sheriff; Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO; Dale Coleman, Ford County under sheriff & vice president of the Crisis Center of Dodge City's board of trustees; Roberta Conley, Cargill and treasurer of the Crisis Center of Dodge City board of trustees; Randy Quint, Victory Electric board of trustees member - District 10; Tammie West, Crisis Center of Dodge City executive director; Denzil McGill, Victory Electric vice president of information technology; Amy Grasser, Victory Electric vice president of corporate services; and Lissette Sosa, Crisis Center of Dodge City court advocate.

and four shelter night staff. In addition, they provide many advocacy services such as support counseling, crisis intervention, court and health advocacy, safety planning, public benefits services and advocates responding to hotline calls. The Crisis Center cultivates outreach services and community awareness by delivering awareness presentations about Crisis Center services, raising awareness about red flags surrounding domestic/dating violence, sexual assault and human trafficking.

"Thanks to our board of trustees and CoBank, the Sharing Success grant has enabled Victory Electric make an impact and give back to the communities we serve," said Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO.

In the last decade, Victory Electric has awarded \$125,000 in Sharing Success grants to local non-profits. Recipients of the Sharing Success grants include The Bucklin Library, 2012; Mission of Mercy, 2013; the Stauth Memorial Museum, 2014; the Manna House, 2015; the Depot Theater, 2016; the Ford County Historical Society, 2017; the Ford County Sheriff's Office, 2018; the Ingalls Recreation Commission, 2019; and New Chance and the Salvation Army of Dodge City, 2020.

If you or are involved with or know of a nonprofit organization that could benefit from the CoBank Sharing Success grant, please visit victoryelectric.net or contact askcommunications@victoryelectric.net for more information on the 2022 grant application.

Co-ops Love Local

Victory Electric to celebrate National Co-op Month in October with member giveaways

Many small businesses, whether retail or restaurants, have had a tough two years. Community members may be struggling as well due to shutdowns, reduced work hours, or job loss due to the pandemic. Giving back to the community is woven into the cooperative spirit and to help boost spirits, support local small businesses, and to bring the power of caring to the communities we serve, Victory Electric is celebrating National Co-op Month in October by bringing back the Co-ops Love Local campaign.

Co-ops Love Local will benefit locally owned businesses and community members through a giveaway of 50 gift cards from local businesses to community members in the amount of \$50 each.

Drawings will be held each Monday from Oct. 5 through Nov. 1. Anyone who lives in the cooperative service area may enter the giveaway by completing the form located on Victory Electric's website each week.

The local-lovin' fun doesn't stop there! Winners of the \$50 gift card drawings may then post on Facebook using "#Co-opsLoveLocal2021", or email Victory Electric describing how they spent their extra money locally in October. Doing so will enter them in a drawing for a \$100 Victory Electric



bill credit during the week of giving on Nov. 22. Winners will qualify for an additional entry when they include pictures in the post/email of

how they spent the money locally.

To be eligible, prize winners must be 18 years of age or older and reside in Victory Electric's service territory. Only one entry per account per week. Winners of the \$50 drawings will not be eligible for any other Co-ops Love Local \$50 gift certificate drawings. Victory Electric employees, trustees and contractors, and members of their households are ineligible.

"From serving our members to giving back to the community, this is what we do," said Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO. "It fits well with one of our seven core cooperative principles, concern for community."

Each dollar spent at local, independent businesses returns three times more money to the local economy than shopping at a chain or mega online retailer. Local businesses are the heart and soul of our communities and we are incredibly lucky to have vibrant, diverse, and resilient small businesses in our area.

Visit victoryelectric.net to learn more about Co-ops Love Local, view available gift certificates and read contest rules.

Contest Rules

To win, complete the form on Victory Electric's website each week. Entries re-open weekly and the winners announced on Mondays by email or phone call. Ten (10) winners (five residential and five commercial/business members) will be announced at the end of each week.

WEEK 1 | Enter from noon, Sept. 27 to 11:59 p.m. Oct. 3. **OCT. 4 WINNERS ANNOUNCED.**

WEEK 2 | Enter from noon Oct. 4 to 11:59 p.m. Oct. 10. **OCT. 11 WINNERS ANNOUNCED.**

WEEK 3 | Enter from noon Oct. 11 to 11:59 p.m. Oct. 17. **OCT. 18 WINNERS ANNOUNCED.**

WEEK 4 | Enter from noon Oct. 18 to 11:59 p.m. Oct. 24. **OCT. 25 WINNERS ANNOUNCED.**

WEEK 5 | Enter from noon Oct. 25 to 11:59 p.m. Oct. 31. **NOV. 1 WINNERS ANNOUNCED.**

WEEK OF GIVING

Enter from noon Oct. 4 to 11:59 p.m. Nov. 21.

ONE \$100 VICTORY ELECTRIC BILL CREDIT WINNER announced on **NOV. 22.**

Prize winners must be 18 years of age or older and reside in Victory Electric's service territory. Victory Electric employees, trustees, contractors and members of their households are ineligible. Winners will be chosen at random.

- ▶ Need not be present to win.
- ▶ If we cannot make contact with a winner within five days, another entry will be drawn.
- ▶ Gift cards must be picked up from the Victory office. Must show ID to claim gift card.
- ▶ Individuals are only eligible to win once.
- ▶ No purchase necessary.
- ▶ Prizes are not transferable.

Capital Credit Allocations on Electric Bill Statements *Continued from page 16A* ▶

The decision to refund (retire) capital credits rests with the Victory Electric board of trustees and is dependent on the financial situation of the cooperative, bylaw provisions and the requirements of our lenders.

Remember, you must be a member and have service in your name to have capital credits allocated to you. If you are receiving electric service in someone else's membership or the service is in the name of a deceased person, you will not

receive capital credits. Any future capital credit retirements will be issued in the name of the person on the membership or the estate of a deceased member. Should you discontinue service with Victory Electric and/or change your current mailing address, please notify us of the new address, as there may be future correspondence relative to the final disposition of these capital credits.

THANKS, SHANE

Practice Farm Safety; Harvest the Benefits

We don't have to remind those who work the land and raise livestock that they have a potentially dangerous occupation. September is National Farm Health and Safety Month, and in honor of that, here are reminders about electrical dangers on the farm or ranch.

Overhead Power Lines

If you make contact with a power line, guy wire, power pole, electrical box or any other electrical equipment, do not get out of your cab or truck. Stay put and call 911 to dispatch the local utility to de-energize the power. If you must get out due to smoke or fire, make a solid jump out without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle, and hop away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop. Another option (after you make a clean exit) is to shuffle away while keeping your feet together and on the ground. Once you are out of the cab or truck, never try to re-enter.

Determine Proper Clearance

Contact us to measure power line height; do NOT do this yourself. Once you know the heights, you can determine appropriate equipment, implement and extension clearances. Always maintain at least 10 feet between the power line and the tallest height of the equipment that will be transported. Keep in mind that due to wear, age and even weather conditions, power lines can change height. Please contact us with any concerns. It's good to know power line clearance, but always have a spotter.

Call Us Before Moving or Adding a Grain Bin

The National Electrical Safety Code addresses grain bins and their proximity to power lines with very specific requirements. The

requirements are in place to help keep farmers safe and to decrease the chances of farming equipment coming in contact with power lines. If you plan to build a new grain bin or remodel around an area that already has one, contact our cooperative. We can help with specific code requirements. The taller a grain bin, the farther it must be placed from a power line.

Always Dig Safely

Whether you are installing new fence posts or using large tillage tools, call 811 before you dig to have underground utilities marked. Even if you think you know where buried gas, power and other lines are, don't rely on your memory. Get all utilities marked so you know for sure. Utility locators dispatched by 811 do not mark private lines.

Use Standby Generators with Care

If you have a standby generator to provide essential power during an outage, be sure to correctly use the transfer switch. Once you properly engage the switch, it stops your farm's generated power from entering utility lines, aka backfeeding, which can electrocute lineworkers who are working to restore power.

General Safety

- ▶ Check and maintain equipment, especially electric cables and hydraulic hoses that have cracks or show other signs of wear.
- ▶ Always have someone nearby when entering grain bins or other high-risk areas.
- ▶ Check all buildings and grounds for fire hazards and hazardous materials.
- ▶ Assess how any chemicals are stored and make sure children and animals can't access them.
- ▶ Make a list of chemicals for firefighters in case a fire breaks out on your farm or ranch.
- ▶ Establish a safety boundary around gas and fuel tanks.
- ▶ Don't skimp on safety: wear eye and ear protection, gloves, and face masks and respirators when appropriate.
- ▶ Shield all PTO-powered machinery and keep others away.
- ▶ Outfit tractors and trucks with fire extinguishers.
- ▶ Never exit a tractor or truck without placing it in park or engaging the emergency brakes.
- ▶ Discuss safety concerns with children and explain safe operating procedures. You can never start too young as they watch what you do.



2022

victory electric

YOUTH TOUR

APPLY BY OCTOBER 8, 2021

VICTORYELECTRIC.NET

askcommunications@victoryelectric.net