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Electronews

The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.

Board of Trustees

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
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President | John Leis
Trustee |
| Daryl Tieben
Vice President | James Ochs
Trustee |
| Cedric Drewes
Secretary/Treasurer | Randy Quint
Trustee |
| Gary Gillespie
Trustee | Ken Schulte
Trustee |
| Jim Imel
Trustee | Kenny Wehkamp
Trustee |
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- Shane Laws**
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- Amy Grasser**
Vice President of Corporate Services
- Rob Henry**
Vice President of Engineering
- Denzil McGill**
Vice President of Information Technology
- Ryan Miller**
Vice President of Operations
- Chanda Schulte**
Vice President of Communications
- Kyndell Penick**
Vice President of Safety & Key Accounts
- Angela Unruh**
CFO

CEO MESSAGE

Restoring Power Safely and Efficiently

We do our best to avoid them, but there's no way around it: power outages occasionally happen.

For most Victory Electric members, outages are rare and only last a few hours. But when major storms, like the Dec. 15, 2021, Kansas windstorm or the March 2022 snowstorms impact our area, extended outages are unavoidable.

So, when the power goes out, how do Victory crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? We've got answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

When the lights go out and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service a great number of homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which



Shane Laws

deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformer and the home are repaired.

We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. We keep a supply of extra utility poles, transformers, and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the

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HAPPY
★
4TH OF JULY
★★★
INDEPENDENCE DAY

Our office will be closed on
Monday, July 4, for the holiday.

Gooder Earns Journeyman Lineman Certificate



Austin Gooder

The road to becoming a journeyman lineman is long. Each lineman earning the classification must have a combination

of four years of experience with successfully passing exams covering material studied in four textbooks. For every textbook, there are 10 exams with a final accumulated exam at the end.

Becoming a journeyman lineman is a goal all linemen strive to achieve, as journeyman is the highest classification linemen work toward and attain. Vice President of Operations Ryan Miller announced the promotion of **AUSTIN GOODER** to journeyman lineman.

“Becoming a journeyman is a goal for each of our linemen,” said Miller. “Being a journeyman ensures line workers are qualified, independent and they can lead a crew.”

Gooder started with Victory Electric in February 2019, he graduated from Dodge City Community College’s electrical lineman program and worked for J&J Powerline before coming to Victory Electric.

“I am very excited to have the certificate,” said Gooder. “I am happy to work at Victory Electric and continue to grow in my career.”

Congratulations Austin! Victory Electric is proud of you and all your accomplishments!

Co-op Directors Earn Credentials

Victory Electric is proud to announce two board trustees have received new educational credentials from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). **RANDY QUINT**, recently received the Director Gold Credential (DGC) certificate and **JIM OCHS**, recently received the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC).

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model. Victory Electric has a commitment to work through Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) and NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative consumer-members.

The NRECA BLC recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD). Directors who have attained the BLC have completed 10 credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses.



Victory Electric Board President Pat Morse (right) presents Trustee Jim Ochs with his Board Leadership Certificate.



Victory Electric Trustee Randy Quint (right) receives his Director Gold Credential from Board President Pat Morse.

The DGC recognizes directors who have previously earned their CCD and BLC and who wish to continue to learn throughout their service on the board.

“The Director Gold Credential is geared toward directors who are committed to continuing their education beyond CCD and BLC and who desire a tangible credential that reinforces their stature as part of an experienced and educated group of directors,” said Shane Laws, CEO of Victory Electric. “Director Gold also demonstrates to co-op members those directors’ ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability.”

For a director to earn the DGC, they must have already earned the CCD and BLC and earn three additional credits from the BLC series of courses. Unlike the CCD and BLC certificates, DGC includes a continuing education requirement which calls for directors to earn three credits of approved course work and/or conferences every two years to maintain their DGC status.

Congratulations Randy and Jim!

Victory Electric Lightner Community Spirit Scholarship

Each spring, Victory Electric awards 10 \$1,000 scholarships to its members and/or their dependents. The Lightner Community Spirit Scholarship is designed to recognize students who have demonstrated academic success as well as showing a commitment to bettering their community.

“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,” said Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO.

The name of the scholarship honors the Lightner family of Plymell, Kansas. Richard Lightner served on Victory Electric’s board of trustees for 36 years, and his father, George, served for 31 years. 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 full-time student or entering an accredited trade school, college or university.

“I can’t think of a better way than a scholarship program to give back to the communities we serve...”

SHANE LAWS



REESE BELL

Dodge City High School
Parents: Trever & Melissa Bell



CARLY CROFT

South Gray High School
Parents: J.T. & Sheila Croft



CANDACE FRY

Colby Community College
Parents: Hoyt & Linda Fry



ALEXA GERBES

Dodge City High School
Parents: Aaron & Amy Gerbes



ZACHARY HAWLEY

Meade High School
Parents: Rockie & Janice Hawley



NATHAN IMEL

Bucklin High School
Parents: Matt & Danielle Imel



LYRIC MARQUEZ

Bucklin High School
Parents: Mark & Tiffani Green



MELINA PENA

Bucklin High School
Parents: Victoria Geffs, Michael & Whitney Pena



SCOTT PRICE

Bucklin High School
Parents: Travis & Becky Price



KOLBY STEIN

Kansas State University
Parents: Kevin & Gari-Ann Stein

Congratulations to the 2022 scholarship winners!

APRIL 12, 2022

77TH ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

OF THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.



On April 12, 122 individuals were in attendance for the 2022 Victory Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting.

Each year, Victory Electric looks forward to hosting the annual meeting for our members. The annual meeting is a great opportunity to see our members, answer member questions, and update the members on the latest activities at the cooperative. This year, Victory Electric's 77th Annual Meeting took place on April 12, 2022, at the Western State Bank Expo Center.

Approximately 107 members were present, with approximately 122 total people in attendance and approximately nine individuals live streaming the event. Board President Pat Morse welcomed everyone in attendance, the national anthem was then performed by Miss Boot Hill 2022, Autumn Klein, and the invocation was given by Kirk Larson. President Morse called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and declared a quorum.

CEO Shane Laws provided an update on Victory Electric current events and how Victory is preparing for the future of the cooperative. Laws discussion focused on the seven strategic

objectives of the cooperative and what Victory Electric has done and will continue to do, in the future to achieve those goals. Among those objectives are promoting a culture of safety for Victory Electric employees and members; proactively preparing Victory Electric for the future; enhancing member satisfaction and engagement; maximizing operational efficiencies to ensure low-cost and reliable power; secure sensitive data, and critical assets from cyber threats; fostering a positive work environment for employees; and maintaining a strong financial position for Victory Electric.

Laws opened the meeting to a brief question-and-answer session. Members voiced their concerns about the cooperative's communication channels, about the cost associated with the extreme weather events, and about obtaining information on how to be better prepared for future outages. Members in attendance also voiced their gratitude for the professionalism and



Victory Electric attorney, Dave Snapp, announces the results of the board of trustees election.

dedication of the linemen to restoring power during storms. Laws, as well as Victory Electric employees, addressed concerns and discussed the SmartHub app and its benefits to members.

Laws ended by saying, "We don't always get it right, but if we don't get it right, we are going to try and do it better, and we will own it. If we can, we will do our best to make it right."

The results of the board of trustees' election were announced by Victory Electric attorney, Dave Snapp; reelected were **GARY GILISPIE**, District 5; **JIM OCHS**, District 7; and **PAT MORSE**, District 10.

The day after the annual meeting, winners for the door prizes were drawn from the member registration cards collected at the annual meeting. The door prizes included four bill credits of \$200 and a 32-inch Smart TV donated by Sunflower Electric.

Thank you to all who attended or streamed the annual meeting! We look forward to next year!



Trustee Gary Gillespie and his wife pose for a quick photo at the annual meeting.



Vice President of Information Technology Denzil McGill (right) speaks with Richard Lightner, former board member.



Miss Boot Hill 2022, Autumn Klein, sings the national anthem.



Victory Electric staff help members register and receive their \$20 bill credit gift for attending the annual meeting.



Members in attendance received a \$20 bill credit applied to their May electric bill.



Victory Electric CEO Shane Laws provides an update on current co-op events and how Victory Electric is preparing for the future of the cooperative.



Margaret S. winner of the 32-inch Smart TV door prize donated by Sunflower Electric.

The Steps to RESTORING POWER

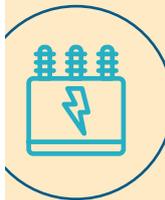
When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible — until everyone has power.

1 | High-Voltage Transmission Lines



These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.

2 | Distribution Substations



Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.

3 | Main Distribution Lines



Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.

4 | Individual Homes and Businesses



After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.

Restoring Power Safely and Efficiently

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event of infrastructure damage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring in additional crews when necessary.

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages; this is why you see our crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights-of-way. We love trees too, but it only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for an entire neighborhood. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community. In addition to managing vegetation, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's

best to report the outage yourself, and we make it easy to do. The quickest way to report an outage is through our SmartHub app, you can also call our office at 800-279-7915 before, during and after hours.

If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, please let us know, and always have a backup plan in place. This plan could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a member of Victory Electric, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

THANKS, SHANE

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control electronic devices, such as lighting, home office equipment and video game consoles, through a smart phone app. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy and money! **SOURCE: ENERGYSTAR.GOV**



PRACTICE STORM SAFETY

Have a plan in place and make a storm kit.

Listen to local alerts and know where to shelter.

Stay off the roads if trees or power lines are down.



Creating Your Victory Electric SmartHub Account is Easy!

Things You Will Need Before You Start

1. Your account number.
2. Mailing zip code.
3. Access to your email account.
4. Bank account number and routing number (if setting up bank draft) or credit/debit card (of setting up auto pay).

Visit Victory Electric's Website

At the top of the page, click on "Pay Your Bill" or navigate directly to victoryelectric.smarthub.coop and below the sign-in boxes, click on "New User."

Fill Out New User Registration

Enter your Victory Electric billing account number, your last name, and an email address. You will receive a confirmation email with a link. Click on the provided link, enter your email address, create a password, and answer a security question.

Welcome to SmartHub!

You are now in SmartHub and can conveniently pay your bill online, sign up for auto pay, view and manage your energy use, report outages, sign up for outage text notifications, and much more.

If you need assistance, please call our office at 620-227-2139 or 800-279-7915 and we would be happy to guide you through set-up.

Never Miss a Due Date — Use Auto Pay

Sign up for Victory Electric's auto pay by clicking on "Auto Pay Program" under the billing and payments tab. You will need to have your credit/debit card or bank account and routing number ready.



ONE MORE CAST could be deadly

Don't become part of a tragic fishing story. Keep an eye on weather conditions and know when to call it a day.

SOURCE: NATIONAL LIGHTNING SAFETY COUNCIL

SEEK SHELTER

If you see or hear signs of weather rolling in, stop fishing and retreat to a four-sided building or hard-top car. If you ignore the signs and keep fishing, it could cost you your life.

WAIT 30 MINUTES

Wait 30 minutes after you see or hear lightning before heading back outside.

REMEMBER

Always look up for overhead power lines before casting.

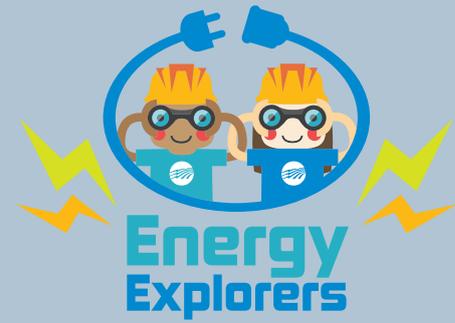
LIGHTNING FACTS 2006-2020

- Two-thirds** of lightning deaths occurred during outdoor activities.
- 33%** Of those deaths, **33%** happened during water-related activities.
- 44%** Fishing accounted for most, or **44%**, of those water-related activities.

SUMMER STORM SAFETY WORD SEARCH

Summer means fun in the sun! But the season can also bring strong thunderstorms.

Read the storm safety tips below, then find and circle the **BOLDED** words in the puzzle below.



T	D	D	N	U	D	O	L	O	H	X	W	S	X	S
K	H	H	B	K	X	S	N	J	M	I	Z	T	X	M
B	Q	U	Z	C	J	I	E	T	N	T	A	R	Z	C
Y	E	R	N	Z	T	Q	N	D	Z	Y	X	U	E	S
J	L	F	S	D	K	O	O	N	N	G	E	C	K	A
P	Q	Y	H	U	E	W	N	B	V	M	O	T	V	D
V	S	H	C	P	S	R	W	E	L	J	R	U	S	U
D	B	N	H	C	H	Q	X	T	D	T	A	R	L	U
H	X	H	M	M	U	B	V	Z	P	T	Q	E	K	X
A	R	L	L	N	E	F	Q	X	E	B	G	S	T	R
Y	X	Z	N	I	I	Q	F	T	R	T	B	E	U	S
L	I	G	H	T	N	I	N	G	L	G	W	B	G	B
T	I	K	Y	C	N	E	G	R	E	M	E	F	S	W
O	N	I	D	F	A	D	V	M	V	V	K	N	T	M
G	Q	D	F	H	Y	L	R	N	O	C	A	W	R	E

- ▶ If you hear thunder, that means **LIGHTNING** can strike nearby. Go indoors.
- ▶ Wait at least 30 minutes after the last rumble of **THUNDER** before going back outside.
- ▶ During a thunderstorm, stay away from tall, isolated **STRUCTURES** or trees, which are more susceptible to lightning strikes.
- ▶ Avoid standing near **WINDOWS** during a thunderstorm.
- ▶ Strong summer storms occasionally cause power outages. During an outage, it's best to have an **EMERGENCY KIT** on hand.