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Electronews



THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSN., INC.

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FROM THE CEO

Going the Extra Mile for Members

In the early days of electrification, city dwellers in Kansas had electrical power in their homes well before their country cousins did on farms. Less than 10% of rural homes in America had electricity by 1930, as electric companies believed it would be too expensive to extend their power infrastructure into rural areas. Because there were fewer electric customers per mile of power line, the fixed costs of providing power and building transmission in areas with a low population density were higher.

Rural electric cooperatives like Victory Electric formed decades ago

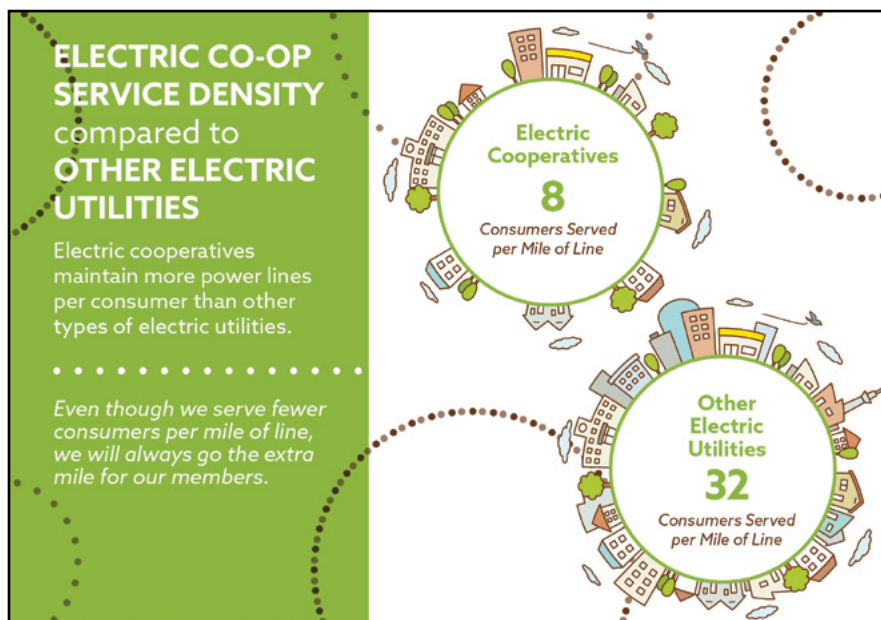
in order to deliver much-needed electricity to their rural communities. They knew how important it was to extend power lines into rural homes. Victory Electric still goes the extra mile today to serve our members, whether they live in a city or in the country.

Electric cooperatives like ours must still maintain more power lines per electric consumer than municipal and investor-owned electric utilities.



Shane Laws

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Victory Electric Hosts 80th Annual Meeting



Victory Electric celebrated 80 years of providing electrical service on April 15 at the Boot Hill Casino and Resort Conference Center in Dodge City.

As he welcomed 215 attendees to the cooperative's 80th Annual Meeting, Victory Electric Board of Trustees President Daryl Tieben shared his mother's memory of getting electricity at their home for the first time and how it changed their lives. Several attendees also raised their hands to indicate they remembered what it was like to get power at their farms and homes decades ago.

Dodge City High School choir members **LENNON THOMAS, GUSTAVO VELEZ, DAKOTA ARNTT, NEWEL LOOSLI** and **JORGE ESTRELLA** sang the National Anthem to open the annual meeting, and Pastor Kirk Larson led the invocation.

Tieben introduced his wife, Carol, as well as the other trustees and their spouses in attendance: Vice President Cedric Drewes and Diane; Secretary-Treasurer Terri Larson and Kirk; Megan Evans and Scott; Jim Imel and Cindy; James Ochs and Deb; Randy Quint and Lynne; Ken Schulte and Gwen; Kenny Wehkamp and Ivy; John Leis and Jill; and Pat Morse and Shannon. He also introduced CEO Shane Laws and Ali, and Attorney Dave Snapp and Debbie. Tieben welcomed guests representing



Sunflower Electric: CEO Steve Epperson, Corey Linville, Taylor Calcara, Jeremy Anderson, Anne Long, Nikki Pfannenstiel, Diane Stiles, Annie Erbert, Shelbi Wiles, Kayla Hickel, Diane Lewis, Maddy Otter and Melissa Hubbard. Special guests included Richard Lightner and Milam Jones, former trustees. Tieben also recognized active duty and veteran military personnel and first responders.

Tieben welcomed Lee Tafanelli, CEO of Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., who provided an overview of current trends affecting the electric industry and how the statewide organization serves electric cooperatives in Kansas. He also encouraged members to join Voices for Cooperative Power, a grassroots network of advocates for smart energy policy.

The minutes of the 2024 annual meeting were approved as presented in the *Kansas Country Living* magazine by the 179 member-owners in attendance, and readings of the official notice affidavit of mailing, minutes of the nominating committee and report of the nominating committee were waived.

Tieben thanked the nominating committee members: Chairman Robert Carlson, Garrett Love, Joan Unruh, Nick Cossman, Scott Bradford and Janet Brock.

Attorney Dave Snapp announced that all incumbent trustees were reelected as follows: District 5, Megan Evans; District 7, Jim Ochs; and District 10, Pat Morse. He also opened the floor for questions about proposed changes to the co-op's bylaws, which were posted in *Kansas Country Living*. For the proposed bylaw revisions, the board reviewed the policies and selected points for clarification to better reflect current practices. Snapp answered a question related to easements and rights-of-way on members' land. The bylaws revisions were passed.

A video highlighted how the cooperative has been powering the moments that matter since 1945. Victory's progress over the past year in information technology and cybersecurity, engineering, operations, safety, key accounts and economic development, member services, accounting, and communications were covered.

Laws addressed the members and stressed that now is a crucial and critical time in the energy industry because of the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence and other technologies.

"It's unbelievable, the rate of change in our industry that we're seeing today, and it's not just here in southwest Kansas — it's across the nation," Laws said.

Tieben adjourned the meeting, and guests visited with Victory Electric staff and trustees, asked questions, browsed the information tables and talked to their friends and neighbors.

Victory Electric is grateful for the generosity of our 2025 door-prize sponsors: Sunflower Electric, Reliable Equipment, Stella-Jones, Tallman Equipment Co., Techline, Power Equipment Sales, Protective Equipment Testing Labor, Virginia Transformer, Altec Supply, Midwest Electric Transformer, KD Johnson, Huxford Pole, Wesco/Anixter, AV Energy, Amaril Uniform Company and Border States.



1. Victory Electric celebrates 80 years of powering the moments that matter at its annual meeting at the Boot Hill Casino and Resort Conference Center in Dodge City.
2. Pastor Kirk Larson leads the invocation.
3. Victory Electric District 7 Trustee Jim Ochs visits with a member during the annual meeting.
4. Three Victory Electric member-owners wait for the meeting to begin.
5. District 10 Trustee Pat Morse greets members before the meeting.
6. A Dodge City High School choir ensemble performed the National Anthem.

Going the Extra Mile for Members *Continued from page 12A ►*

According to America's Electric Cooperatives, the national average for electric co-ops is about eight customers per mile of electric line, compared to 32 customers per mile served by other types of electric utilities. Victory Electric currently serves more than 13,600 members and maintains over 3,200 miles of line throughout our service territory.

Victory Electric has grown since our founding 80 years ago, as has our region. In the Dodge City area over the past several years, industrial expansions and more housing developments have contributed to overall growth in the community and at the cooperative.

The fixed costs of poles, line, meters, transformers and other resources costs the same, but we get less revenue than utilities located in large cities to meet those costs. Load growth from commercial members helps all members by distributing fixed costs over more kilowatt-hours. We can leverage opportunities to lower the overall cost of power for all Victory Electric members by partnering with other community agencies and promoting economic development and growth in our region.

In recent years, the U.S. demand for energy was relatively flat because of less domestic manufacturing and more technology improvements that increased energy efficiency. But energy demand is now surging for several reasons.

Artificial intelligence, cryptocurrency mining and e-commerce have led to the rapid expansion of data centers. These technologies require significant amounts of power at

a constant rate. By 2050, the electric load for data centers is projected to increase by 65%.

In a January 2025 report, the Energy Information Administration said that U.S. electricity consumption grew by 2% in 2024 and projected that electricity demand will continue growing 2% per year in 2025 and 2026. Economic development, industrial and home heating electrification, electric vehicle adoption and manufacturing growth will also increase the demand for electricity in the coming years.

Companies have expressed interest in expanding data centers and cryptocurrency operations in Kansas. The increasing demand for energy and the need for additional transmission present both challenges and opportunities for rural electric cooperatives. We need to be proactive and focus on how these opportunities might benefit of our members and the community.

As demand fluctuates and we experience more load growth, Victory is prepared to maintain electrical loads and keep the system running efficiently. This requires extensive planning with partners like Sunflower Electric, our generation and transmission provider, to evaluate areas of growth and predict demand patterns for our local communities.

Electric cooperatives need to meet growth responsibly and carefully assess the benefits and challenges of adding loads to our system. Victory Electric will continue to go the extra mile for the benefit of our members and our community as we navigate this period of continual change in the electric industry.

THANKS, SHANE



Ashley Arroyo

VICTORY WELCOMES JUNIOR STAKER

ASHLEY ARROYO joined Victory Electric in April. As the cooperative's new junior staker, she will perform distribution line design and staking and help ensure that Victory's electric infrastructure design meets codes and standards.

"Ashley has a positive energy, and we are excited to have her on the team. She will be working with our construction coordinator learning the equipment, our system and regulations needed to design power lines," said Vice President of Engineering Rob Henry.

Arroyo grew up in Dodge City and has been helping her dad in the family business, Arroyo's Electric, since eighth grade. For the past two years, she has been attending school

in Texas and studying electrical power and control. She will complete her associate's degree coursework online while working for Victory.

"I saw this amazing opportunity to come back home, so I applied in hopes of being able to return home to my family," she said.

In her free time, Arroyo likes going to the gym. She enjoys spending time with her family and her boyfriend. She wrestled in high school as do her sisters, and she likes watching them compete.

Arroyo said she looks forward to learning more about the co-op and being on the Victory Electric team. "I'm just excited that I was given this amazing opportunity to come work for [Victory], and I feel like I have a lot to learn here."

Welcome to Victory, Ashley!

ARE YOU *Leaving* MONEY ON THE **TABLE**?

CHECK VICTORY'S UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS LIST

SCAN TO LEARN MORE



When Victory Electric retires capital credits, former cooperative member-owners sometimes cannot be located and their refund checks are returned to our office as undeliverable. These capital credits are then placed in an Unclaimed Capital Credits account.

Check the Unclaimed Capital Credits list at <https://victoryelectric.net/what-are-capital-credits> to see whether you recognize any names of family members or other individuals who have outstanding capital credits owed to them.

If you find your name or that of someone you know on the

list, please provide Victory Electric the name, new address, phone number, or contact information by calling our office at 620-227-2139.

If a person on the list is deceased and you are a successor of the estate, contact our office at the number above to learn more about the documentation needed to claim retired capital credits and to complete a Retirement of Estate Capital Credits Affidavit form.

If you leave Victory Electric's service area, remember to notify the office whenever your address changes so that future capital credits retirement checks will reach you promptly.

MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENTS PLANNED THIS SUMMER

Victory Electric enjoyed connecting with our members in 2024 at member appreciation events. We will be hosting more events throughout our service area this year!

Watch Victory Electric's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/VictoryElectric and our newly refreshed website at <https://victoryelectric.net> to find out the dates and times of our scheduled and pop-up events as soon as they are announced.

JUNE POP-UP

► **Spike's Café**
in Ingalls

JUNE 11

► **Meal and Ice Cream**
at Dodge City A's Game

JULY 11

► **Hamburger and Hot Dog Feed**
at Spearville City of Windmills (COW) Festival

Safety Demos Spark Kids' Interest at Day on the Farm



LEFT: Linemen answer students' questions about electricity. **RIGHT:** An arc shoots up during the high-voltage demonstration, giving students an impressive lesson on staying away from electrical lines.



Victory Electric employees demonstrated electrical safety to fourth graders at the Ford County Farm Bureau Association's Day on the Farm event in Dodge City in April. Several hundred students experienced the sights, sounds and smells of what happens when contact is made with a power line.



From left: Justin Straight, Colbie Penick, Kevin Freeman and Dustin Forsyth gave a safety demonstration to area fourth graders at the 2025 Day on the Farm.

USD 443

SAFETY TIP

If you work outdoors, hydration is key. Drink water every 15 minutes, even if you're not thirsty, to help prevent heat exhaustion. Take breaks in a shady or cool area, and schedule heavy work for cooler times of day.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

Victory Donates Grill to Sheriff's Office for Community Outreach



Victory Electric recently donated a grill to the sheriff's office for community outreach.

FROM LEFT: Victory Electric Manager of Purchasing Mike Clark with Ford County Sheriff Bill Carr, Undersheriff Dale Coleman, Anthony "Buck" Buckner, and Key Accounts Coordinator Dylan Ratts.

Victory Electric Hosts First Responders

Victory Electric hosted first responders from several Dodge City, Ford County and Gray County police, fire and emergency departments in April. Victory gave a tour of our warehouse and outage operations center, served a meal and gave an electrical safety demonstration focusing on emergency situations targeted to first responders. Victory Electric targets safety demonstrations to the audience and works to educate people of all ages about electrical safety and what to do in an emergency.



Victory shared information about its outage operations with area first responders. Pictured from left: Ford County Fire/EMS Chief Rob Boyd, Vice President of Key Accounts and Safety Kyndell Penick, System Operator Jarod Scheve, Ford County Sheriff Bill Car and Manager of Safety Justin Straight.



First responders attending the safety demonstration leave to respond to an emergency call.



Victory Electric hosted area first responders on April 18 for a safety demonstration about the dangers of electricity and emergencies they may encounter.



Dylan Ratts and Mike Clark serve hamburgers and hot dogs to first responders.



Victory Electric hosted area first responders in April.

Looking Back on

80 *years*

Eighty years ago, Victory Electric was built by members of the communities it served — and we remain focused on community today. This year we're celebrating our history by sharing some photos of our past.

The Victory Electric Cooperative Association was established on June 1, 1945, thanks to the efforts of Bert Anderson, Roy Marler, Roy Ely, Chet Ross, L.S. Durr, F.W. Kittle and L.L. White. The cooperative's first board of trustees was then formed, with Anderson selected as president, Roy Ely as vice-president, and Roy Marler as secretary-treasurer. E.C. Minner was named the cooperative's first counsel, and Frank Horton was chosen as the system engineer.

In November 1945, the cooperative authorized a loan to construct 311 miles of transmission and distribution lines, marking the beginning of its service to members. More lines and more members were added to the cooperative, and in August 1947 the lines were energized. By 1957, Victory served 1,624 members across 1,626 miles of line, with residential consumption increasing from 82 kWh to 339 kWh per month over a decade.

