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Dodge City, KS 67801
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Electronews



THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSN., INC.

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FROM THE CEO

Board Proposes Adding a Demand Charge to Victory Rates



Shane Laws

At Victory Electric, we know you work hard to provide a good life for your family and make a difference in the communities you call home. We also understand

that no matter how hard you work, you may be struggling to keep up with costs for essential products and services that seem to be rising all around you.

Victory Electric has also felt the impact of rapidly rising costs, which brings me to important news for our members: The Victory Electric Board

of Trustees has decided to move forward with proposed rate changes and a new rate structure. Victory members have not had an energy rate increase for nearly 10 years, thanks to the board's careful oversight and efforts to minimize costs that are under our control. But a rate change is now necessary to ensure that Victory will remain financially healthy, now and in the future.

After reviewing Victory's cost-of-service study (COSS) and recommendations from an independent rate consultant, the board has proposed a three-part rate structure and several other changes to Victory's rates. A COSS looks carefully at the cost of

Continued on page 12H ►

TIPS TO AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, which is the perfect time to take a fresh look at your passwords. Forget the old advice about cramming passwords with symbols and random capitalization. Today's cybersecurity experts recommend using longer passphrases. A password made up of four or five unrelated words is easier to remember and much harder for criminals to crack than a short, complex password. Use a unique passphrase for every account and enable multi-factor authentication whenever available for added protection. SOURCE: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY



What Is a Three-Part Rate?

Based on the recommendations of Power System Engineering, the independent consultants who recently completed a cost-of-service study (COSS) for Victory Electric, the trustees have proposed adopting a three-part rate structure. Along with energy and service availability charges that are already included on members' bills, the new rate structure would include a charge for demand.

CHARGES IN A THREE-PART RATE

1 SERVICE AVAILABILITY CHARGE: This fixed charge is the minimum cost to stay connected to Victory Electric's distribution lines, regardless of how much energy you use. The service availability charge covers the cooperative's operating costs and reflects the investment in the poles, wires, transformers, and other infrastructure equipment needed to provide you with electric service.

2 ENERGY CHARGE: The energy charge is the cost for the total amount of energy used at your service address during the billing period. This figure is calculated by taking the total amount of electricity consumed during the billing period, measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), and multiplying it by the energy charge rate.

3 DEMAND CHARGE: Demand is the rate at which energy is being used at a given time. The demand charge is

determined by multiplying the maximum demand of energy, measured in kilowatts (kW), at any point within the billing cycle by the member's demand rate. Victory Electric bills have shown members' total kW demand since 2022, but with \$0 in the charge field. The proposed rate structure would include a charge for demand.

When you look at the second page of your Victory Electric bill, you will also see other related charges:

► **ENERGY COST ADJUSTMENT (ECA):** The ECA is a pass-through charge or credit that lets Victory Electric adjust for wholesale power costs from our power provider when they are higher or lower than the base rate. This helps the cooperative respond to market changes without changing the base rate structure. Victory does not profit from the ECA. Since fall 2022, this line item has appeared as a credit on Victory bills and is subtracted from the members' total bill.

► **TAXES AND FEES:** Applicable taxes and franchise fees for electric service also appear on the bill. Victory Electric does not profit from these charges; we collect and send them directly to the appropriate city or county government agency.

Watch *Kansas Country Living*, Facebook, and our website for more details about how the rate change will affect different rate classes.

UNDERSTANDING THREE-PART RATES

The fixed, minimum cost to stay connected to Victory Electric's lines.

1

**SERVICE
AVAILABILITY
CHARGE**

The cost for the total amount of energy you use within the billing period.

2

**ENERGY
CHARGE**

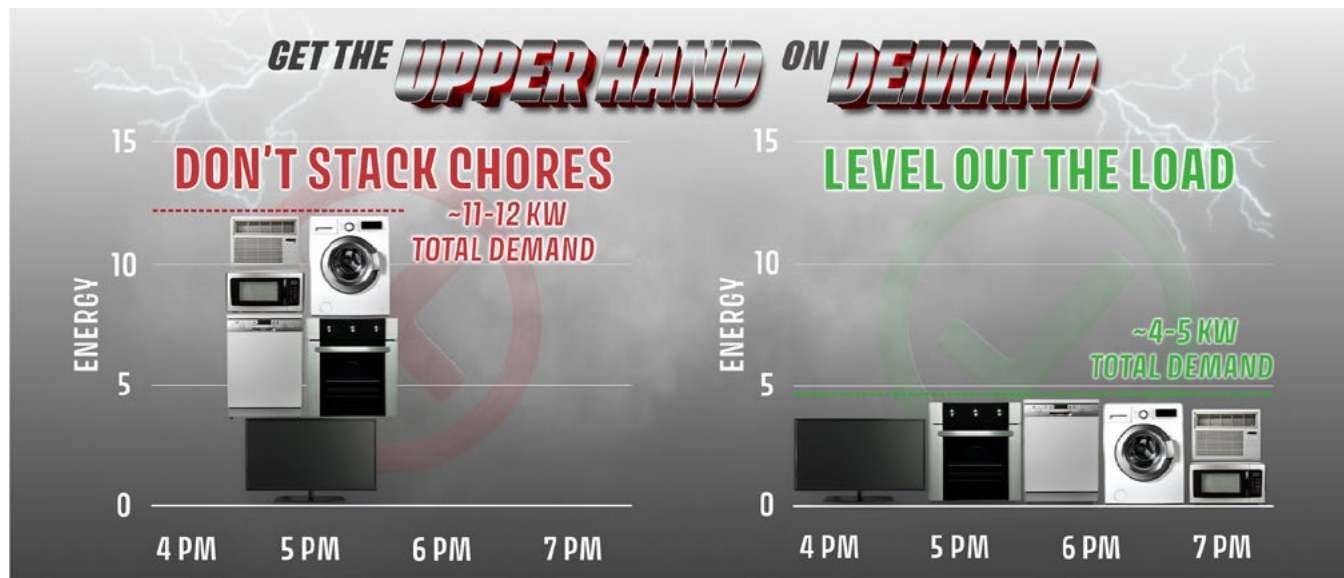
The intensity at which you use energy. The *demand* you put on the grid at a specific time.

3

**DEMAND
CHARGE**

VICTORY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Established 1945

What Is Demand?



You're probably already familiar with the energy charge on your Victory Electric bill. Energy is the total amount of power you use during the month, measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh). Demand is the amount of power needed at a specific moment to run everything using electricity in your home or business, measured in kilowatts (kW).

Demand refers to the highest amount of electricity being used at one time during the billing cycle. It's not showing how much electricity you use overall but rather how quickly you are using energy at one moment. It is the maximum rate at which your household or business has consumed electricity within any given billing period.

HOW CAN YOU REDUCE DEMAND?

Running multiple large appliances at the same time increases your demand — and your demand cost. Spreading out your usage of large appliances when possible lowers your demand. Instead of combining your household chores and doing them all at the same time, consider ways you can level out your energy load and spread out tasks.

Many families use a lot of energy in the late afternoon and early evening, right after you get home from work or school. Changing your habits so

that you are not “stacking” chores and doing them concurrently can help lower your demand.

For example, instead of starting multiple household chores at the same time, you could run the dishwasher and do a load of laundry at different times than you use the oven or range and watch TV. Also see if your large appliances have a delayed-start setting that would allow you to start a load of dishes or clothes later in the evening or overnight.

By spacing out when you use major appliances, you can help manage your demand and make your electricity use more efficient.

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Local Oversight for Setting Rates

For Victory Electric members, self-regulation means rate decisions are made locally by elected trustees who are accountable to the members they serve, while the cooperative continues to follow state and federal requirements.

Victory Electric trustees are responsible for putting the cooperative's needs first, exercising due diligence in financial and oversight matters, and ensuring the co-op follows applicable laws and regulations. They also set reasonable, equitable rates and establish fair electric service policies for our not-for-profit cooperative. Because trustees live in the districts they represent and pay the same electric rates as other members, those decisions are made with direct local accountability.

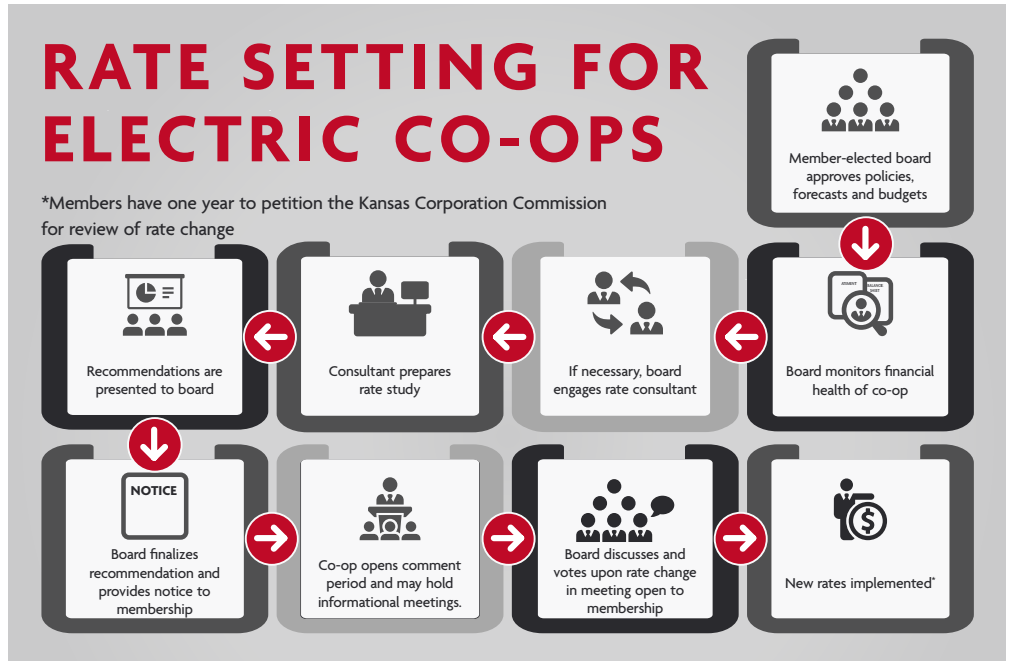
Like other rural electric cooperatives in Kansas, Victory Electric is a self-regulated utility. This does not mean our cooperative is unregulated. It means Victory's board, rather than the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), fulfills the regulatory and rate-setting role.

In 1992, the Kansas Legislature passed K.S.A. 66-104D, allowing Kansas electric cooperatives to hold an election to remove themselves from KCC jurisdiction. That vote shifts certain regulatory oversight from the state to the cooperative's member-owners.

Legacy Victory Electric members voted in 2000 to remove the cooperative from KCC jurisdiction. In 2007, Victory Electric joined a coalition of cooperatives to form the Mid-Kansas Electric Company (MKEC) and purchase utility assets

RATE SETTING FOR ELECTRIC CO-OPS

*Members have one year to petition the Kansas Corporation Commission for review of rate change



formerly held by Aquila, a for-profit electric company. The acquisition expanded Victory's service territory. In 2014, members also voted to deregulate the cooperative's MKEC/Aquila division.

KCC still has jurisdiction over self-regulated rural electric cooperatives in several areas, including service territory, transmission rates, power sales for resale, wire stringing rules and transmission line siting. Victory Electric must also follow state and federal regulations, and its board must complete certain procedures before implementing any rate change.

When the Victory Electric Board of Trustees determines that a rate change is needed, members must be notified at least 10 days before a public meeting. The board then votes on the proposed change. After a rate change takes effect, Victory Electric members have one year to request a KCC review if they choose.

Self-regulation keeps rate-setting decisions close to the members who are affected by them. Through elected trustees, public meetings, required notices and the option for KCC review, Victory Electric's process is designed to balance local control with accountability and transparency.

Cybersecurity Is Critical All Year Long

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, but protecting your personal information is something that deserves attention all year long.

At Victory Electric, cybersecurity is a critical part of providing safe, reliable electric service to our members. While much of our focus is on protecting the physical systems that operate the electric grid, we also work to protect the systems and information that help us serve you — including online accounts, payment systems, member portals and outage communications.

Unfortunately, scammers are becoming more sophisticated, too. Artificial intelligence (AI) is making it easier for cyber criminals to create convincing emails, text messages, websites, and even voice messages that can look and sound legitimate. The FBI has warned that generative AI can make fraudulent schemes more believable by eliminating many of the errors that once helped us identify a scam.

This is especially important when it comes to utility scams.

A scammer may impersonate Victory Electric and claim your account is past due, your service is about to be disconnected or you need to make an immediate payment. The message might even include our logo, use professional-looking language or direct you to a website that appears legitimate. With AI helping scammers create more convincing communications, simply looking for spelling mistakes or other obvious warning signs may no longer be enough. And these scams are not a small problem.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, consumers reported losing \$3.5 billion to imposter scams in 2025, making these types of scams the most commonly reported type of fraud. Nearly one in three fraud reports involved an imposter scam.

So, what should you do if you receive an unexpected message claiming to be from Victory Electric?

If a message creates a sense of urgency or threatens immediate disconnection, take a moment to verify it. Don't click the link or call the phone number provided in the message. Instead, contact us directly at 620-227-2139.

You can also take steps to protect your online accounts before a scam occurs. Start with your password. Longer is generally better than simply adding more special characters. Choose a long, unique passphrase that is difficult for others to guess, and don't reuse the same password across multiple accounts.

If the accounts you access online offer multifactor authentication (MFA), use it. MFA adds an extra layer of protection by requiring an additional way to verify your identity, such as a code sent to your phone or an authentication app.

For questions about your account or payments, contact Victory Electric at 620-227-2139, or log in to your SmartHub account to check your current bill and payment status. You can help protect your account by slowing down when something seems urgent and contacting us directly when you're unsure.

If a message creates a sense of urgency or threatens immediate disconnection, take a moment to verify it. Don't click the link or call the phone number provided in the message. Instead, contact us directly at 620-227-2139.

OCTOBER IS CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH



**LONGER PASSWORDS =
STRONGER PROTECTION.**



**THINK BEFORE
YOU CLICK.**



**WATCH FOR CO-OP
IMPERSONATION
SCAMS.**



**USE MULTIFACTOR
AUTHENTICATION.**

Cold Weather Rule Begins Nov. 15

Victory Electric is a self-regulated electric utility under the direction of our board of trustees, so it is not under the jurisdiction of the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). However, Victory Electric voluntarily participates in KCC's Cold Weather Rule disconnect procedures for qualifying residential member-owners from Nov. 15 through March 15.



The Cold Weather Rule is effective Nov. 15, ensuring human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months.

WHAT IS THE COLD WEATHER RULE?

While the Cold Weather Rule is in effect, the cooperative will not disconnect service when the local National Weather Service forecasts the temperature will fall below 35 degrees Fahrenheit in the next 24 hours. However, Victory may disconnect for non-payment between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, when the temperature is at or above 35 degrees F.

HOW TO QUALIFY

- ▶ Contact Victory Electric as soon as possible if you are unable to pay your electric service bill.
- ▶ Victory Electric will inform you about the Cold Weather Rule requirements and set up a payment plan.
- ▶ Make the initial payment and comply with the stated payment arrangements every month to avoid disconnection or the initiation of a deposit.
- ▶ Continue paying your monthly bill on time along with any payment arrangement installments.

DISCONNECTION POLICY

- ▶ Any outstanding balance remaining that is not set up on a payment arrangement by March 15 is required to be paid-in-full by March 16 to avoid disconnection.
- ▶ If your account is disconnected for non-payment, any past due balance plus the reconnection fee must be paid in full to restore power.
- ▶ If a check or payment is returned to Victory Electric for non-sufficient funds (NSF), the member must re-issue a payment and pay an NSF penalty fee to Victory Electric to avoid possible disconnection.
- ▶ The Cold Weather Rule does not apply to Prepay Power accounts, which will be disconnected if the account balance is at or below \$0.01, regardless of the temperature forecast.

These requirements protect Victory Electric member-owners and the cooperative. For more details about Victory Electric's policies and payment arrangement guidelines, please visit www.victoryelectric.net/cold-weather-rule or call our office at 620-227-2139.

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Annual Pumpkin Fest Set for Oct. 24

Celebrate fall with Victory Electric at the 2026 Pumpkin Festival on Oct. 24! Families are invited to the Victory Electric warehouse for a morning of color, creativity and community fun.

Kids can wear their Halloween costumes, enjoy games and turn pumpkins into colorful works of art. Each child age 12 and under will receive a free locally grown pumpkin while supplies last. All painting supplies will be provided — just bring your creativity. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The fun continues with action-packed activities, temporary tattoos, popcorn and other treats. Put your aim to the test with our inflatable axe-throwing game! Kids can also learn more about the important work Victory's linemen do at our touch-a-truck station.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OCT. 24 and join us from 9 to 11 a.m. at 3230 N. 14th Avenue in Dodge City.

TOP RIGHT: While at the Pumpkin Festival, children can explore proper protective equipment used by electric co-op linemen.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Kids 12 and under will receive one free pumpkin to decorate while supplies last.



PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

Wear a costume and join us for fall family fun!

PUMPKIN PAINTING **GAMES**
COSTUMES **& MUCH MORE!**

One free pumpkin per child, ages 12 and under, while supplies last. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

OCTOBER 24

VICTORY ELECTRIC CO-OP 3230 N. 14 AVE. 9-11 A.M.

FESTIVAL DE LA CALABAZA

¡Ponte tu disfraz y acompáñanos en la diversión familiar de otoño!

PINTAR CALABAZAS **JUEGOS**
TRAJES **Y MUCHO MAS!**

Se proporcionará una calabaza gratis por niño de 12 años o menor, hasta agotar el inventario. Todos los niños deben estar acompañados por un adulto.

Board Proposes Adding a Demand Charge to Victory Rates

Continued from page 12A ►

providing service to each rate class (e.g., residential, industrial, small commercial, large commercial, irrigation) based on the load and service characteristics of that class. It identifies the revenue needed to cover the cooperative's operating expenses and debt obligations and shows whether rates are fair across rate classes. Evaluating the results of a COSS also helps the board assign responsibility for costs in a way that is fair to all members.

WHY A THREE-PART RATE?

A three-part rate would add a demand charge to Victory's existing service availability and energy charges. Energy is the amount of power you consume over time. Demand is the amount of electricity needed to power all the electric appliances drawing energy in your home or business at a specific point in time.

A three-part rate structure has been proposed for several reasons:

- A three-part rate would better align Victory members' bills with how Victory is billed by our wholesale power supplier. Victory is charged based on peak demand in kilowatts along with total energy usage in kilowatt-hours.
- This rate design would distribute energy costs fairly among our rate classes so members pay for the costs they create. This prevents members with lower demand from subsidizing members who draw greater amounts of power at once.

- A three-part rate gives members more control of their bills by managing their demand and using energy efficiently. Households and businesses can reduce their demand by spreading out appliance usage.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We know no one welcomes a rate increase. But we want members to understand the proposed changes, why they are needed now, and how each rate class may be affected.

In the coming weeks, we will host listening sessions across our service territory to further explain the proposed rate changes and answer your questions. Please see the following related articles in this issue:

- What Is a Three-Part Rate? (Page 12B)
- What Is Demand? (Page 12C)
- Local Oversight for Setting Rates (Page 12D)
- Listening Meetings Schedule (Page 12K)

After the public comment period, trustees will vote on the proposal at a public meeting Dec. 18. If approved, the changes will take effect Jan. 1, 2027, and appear on bills mailed in February.

We are committed to explaining the changes, answering your questions, and sharing tips to help you manage demand in *Kansas Country Living*, on our Facebook and Instagram pages, and in person. Thank you for your cooperation and trust in Victory throughout the rate-change process.

THANKS, SHANE

IS YOUR BILL INFORMATION CORRECT?

Return this portion with your payment. Please do not staple or paperclip.



230 N. 14th - PO Box 1335
Ge City, KS 67801

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 2222222
PHONE NUMBER: (620) 123-4567
EMAIL: mail@gmail.com

Paid by Bank Draft on	\$150.00
Late Payment Charge After	\$3.00
Total Due After 5 pm on	\$153.00
Disconnect Date	

Check your
phone number
and email!

UPDATE YOUR INFO

Celebrate Cooperatives in October

October is National Co-op Month! As a not-for-profit rural electric cooperative, Victory Electric was built by the communities we serve. Our members share in the ownership and success of the cooperative and benefit from what sets co-ops apart from other kinds of businesses.

Co-ops of all kinds and sizes are guided by the same seven cooperative principles:

- ▶ **1. OPEN AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP**
- ▶ **2. DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL**
- ▶ **3. MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION**
- ▶ **4. AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE**
- ▶ **5. EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND INFORMATION**
- ▶ **6. COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES**
- ▶ **7. CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY**

Our employees and trustees are invested in the success of our local communities because we are your friends and neighbors and we live here, too. We support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving

Victory Electric will celebrate the cooperative difference and our members this month with our Pumpkin Festival Oct. 24, bill credit giveaways and Oktoberfest.

initiatives, and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

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Visit www.victoryelectric.net and follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on our co-op month activities and member appreciation events all year. Thank you for being a co-op member!

POWERING YOUTH ATHLETES

Victory Electric provided post-race drinks, snacks, and cooling towels while cheering on runners from around our service territory at the South Gray Cross Country Meet Sept. 12 in Montezuma. We're proud of all the middle and high school runners who competed! Victory holds member appreciation activities throughout the year to reach cooperative members and their families in the communities they call home.



Your Voice Matters

At Victory Electric, we work hard to provide reliable service you count on. Your feedback helps us understand what's working well, where we can improve, and how we can continue serving our members better as we power the moments that matter.

To see how we're doing, Victory Electric will email a survey to cooperative member-owners on Nov. 2. Please take a few minutes to complete it. Your feedback will help us improve our services and plan for the future.

As a Victory Electric member, your voice matters. This survey is a simple way to share your thoughts and tell us about your experience with your electric service.

The email survey from Victory Electric is a legitimate request for your opinions. It will not ask for private information or payment details. When Victory Electric employees or representatives contact members by phone or email, we never ask for bank account numbers, credit card information or other personal details.



If you have questions about the email survey, please contact Victory Electric at 620-227-2139.

SAVE ENERGY THIS *Fall and Winter*

FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE TIPS TO REDUCE ENERGY USE AND KEEP YOU WARM THIS SEASON:

- ▶ Seal gaps around windows and doors with caulk or weatherstripping.
- ▶ Close curtains and blinds at night to keep the cold out.
- ▶ Open window coverings on sunny days to let the sun in.
- ▶ Clean or replace furnace filters.
- ▶ Run ceiling fans clockwise to push warm air down.
- ▶ Check insulation in your attic, attic hatch and crawl space.
- ▶ Use a smart thermostat to lower temperatures when asleep or away.
- ▶ Close the fireplace flue when not in use.
- ▶ Schedule a home energy audit to find and fix energy wasters.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

Victory Electric will be hosting

LISTENING MEETINGS

to discuss proposed rate changes

Monday, Oct. 12 @ 5:30 p.m.

Copeland, South Gray JH Gym, 105 Thatcher St.

Tuesday, Oct. 13 @ 5:30 p.m.

Ingalls, BOE Office, 100 Bulldog Dr.

Wednesday, Oct. 14 @ 5:30 p.m.

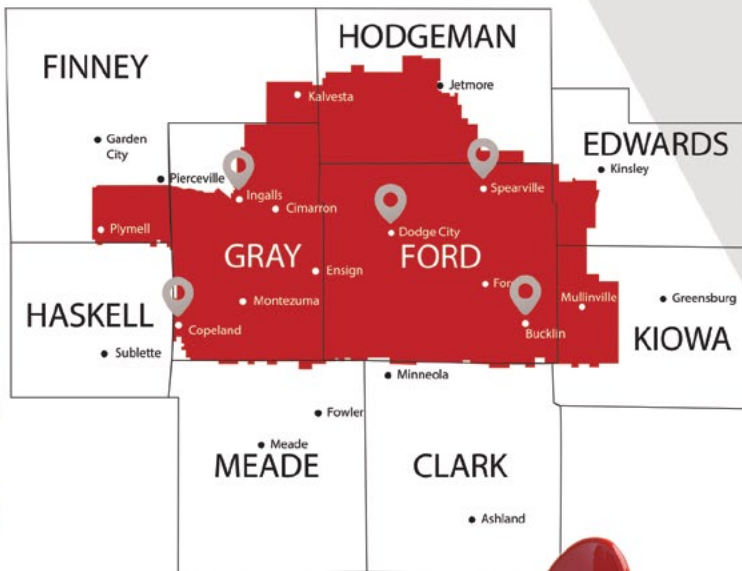
Bucklin, American Legion, 101 S. Nebraska Ave.

Monday, Oct. 19 @ 5:30 p.m.

Dodge City, Victory Electric, 3230 N. 14th Ave.

Thursday, Oct. 22 @ 5:30 p.m.

Spearville, St. John Parish Center, 204 N. Main St.



The Victory Electric Board will vote on the proposed rate changes at a public meeting held at Victory Electric, 3230 N. 14th Ave., on **FRIDAY, DEC. 18 @ 8:30 A.M.**



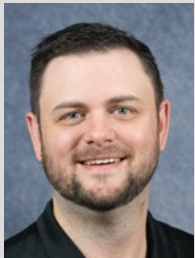
**JUNIORS
WIN A
FREE
TRIP**



**2027 Electric Cooperative
Youth Tour: June 17-23
Leadership Camp: July 9-15
More info at victoryelectric.net**

Apply in November!

VICTORY ANNOUNCES PROMOTIONS



Taylor Hobbs

Victory Electric congratulates **TAYLOR HOBBS**, who has been promoted to director of information technology (IT), and



Dylan Ratts

DYLAN RATTS, who is now manager of key accounts. Hobbs started at Victory in 2020 as an IT analyst and was promoted to senior system

analyst, then manager of IT. Ratts began working at Victory in 2023 as the key accounts coordinator.

CONGRATULATIONS, TAYLOR AND DYLAN!

Victory Electric Welcomes New Substation Tech

Wright, Kansas, native **KYLE SLATTERY** recently joined Victory Electric as a substation technician. He has over 25 years of experience working in the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) industry and most recently served as a master HVAC technician for six years at USD 443. He is experienced with building control, refrigeration, and low- and high-pressure boilers and previously worked in HVAC and building automation and controls with Trane.

He said he's looking forward to his new role at Victory Electric. As a substation tech, he'll apply his technical background maintaining and supporting

our substations, which play a critical role in delivering safe, reliable electricity to members.

In his free time, Slattery enjoys riding motorcycles, hunting and shooting, and watching dirt-track races. He said he doesn't have any favorite sports team but has always cheered for his two daughters, ages 16 and 18.

WELCOME TO VICTORY, KYLE!



Kyle Slattery

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Don't let phantom energy haunt your electric bill this October. TVs, gaming systems, coffee makers and phone chargers continue using electricity even when they're turned off. While each device uses only a small amount, the energy waste can add up over time. Before heading out for Halloween fun, unplug devices you don't use regularly or plug them into a smart power strip that automatically cuts power when equipment is off to keep phantom energy waste in check. SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



Protect Yourself from AI-Powered Scams

- ▶ **PAUSE BEFORE YOU ACT.** Be suspicious of urgent requests for money or personal information.
- ▶ **VERIFY THE SOURCE.** Contact the person or organization through a trusted phone number or official website — not the contact information in the message.
- ▶ **LOOK BEFORE YOU CLICK.** Double-check website addresses and email links for misspellings or other red flags.
- ▶ **CREATE A FAMILY CODE WORD.** Use a private word or phrase to verify emergency calls.
- ▶ **USE SECURE PAYMENT METHODS.** Never pay with gift cards, wire transfers or cryptocurrency. Those payment methods are often impossible to recover.
- ▶ **REPORT SCAMS.** If you think you've been targeted, report it to the Federal Trade Commission at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION