P.O. Box 1335, 3230 N. 14th Ave.
Dodge City, KS 67801
620-227-2139
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Electronews

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSN., INC.

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FROM THE CEO

Rate Change Discussions Continue

As we announced previously, the Victory Electric Board of Trustees has proposed a rate change. Victory Electric is a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by the members we serve. Rate changes are recommended only when necessary to meet our financial obligations and keep pace with rising costs, inflation and other pressures. We do not make routine rate adjustments and have not changed our base rates since 2017.

The board has proposed a three-part rate structure, which would add a demand component to bills. The three parts are as follows:

1 **SERVICE AVAILABILITY CHARGE** is the minimum cost to stay connected to Victory's lines.

2 **ENERGY CHARGE,** measured in kilowatt-hours, is the cost of the total amount of energy a member uses during the billing period.

3 **DEMAND CHARGE,** measured in kilowatts, is based on the maximum amount of energy used at one time during the billing period.


Shane Laws

For Victory's residential members, the new rate would increase the Service Availability Charge by $6 or $10, depending on the service address. The proposed rate would also add a $3-per-kilowatt charge for demand. But the Energy Charge would decrease from 11.178 cents to 9.994 cents per kilowatt-hour in the winter and from 12.178 cents to 10.994 cents per kilowatt-hour in the summer.

The impact of the changes on members' bills would vary by rate class and other factors, but the lower energy usage rate would help offset the added charge for demand and service

Continued on page 12B ▶



Rate Change Discussions Continue

Continued from page 12A ▶

availability. In October, we further explained the changes and answered questions at member listening sessions in Copeland, Ingalls, Bucklin, Dodge City and Spearville.

DEMAND CHARGES

Most of us are familiar with an energy charge because it's what we've always been billed on. Energy is the total amount of electricity you use during the month. Demand is how quickly you are using electricity at a specific moment in time.

A simple way to think about it is to look at the dashboard of your vehicle. Your energy usage is like an odometer, tracking the energy you've used over time. Demand is like a speedometer, showing how much power you're using at a given time. If you use a lot of power at once, your "speedometer" might spike.

Running multiple large appliances at the same time may cause your demand to spike. But spreading out the use of large appliances when possible lowers your demand, much like driving more slowly can save gas. Instead of combining your household chores and doing them all at the same time, consider ways you can balance your energy load and spread out tasks.

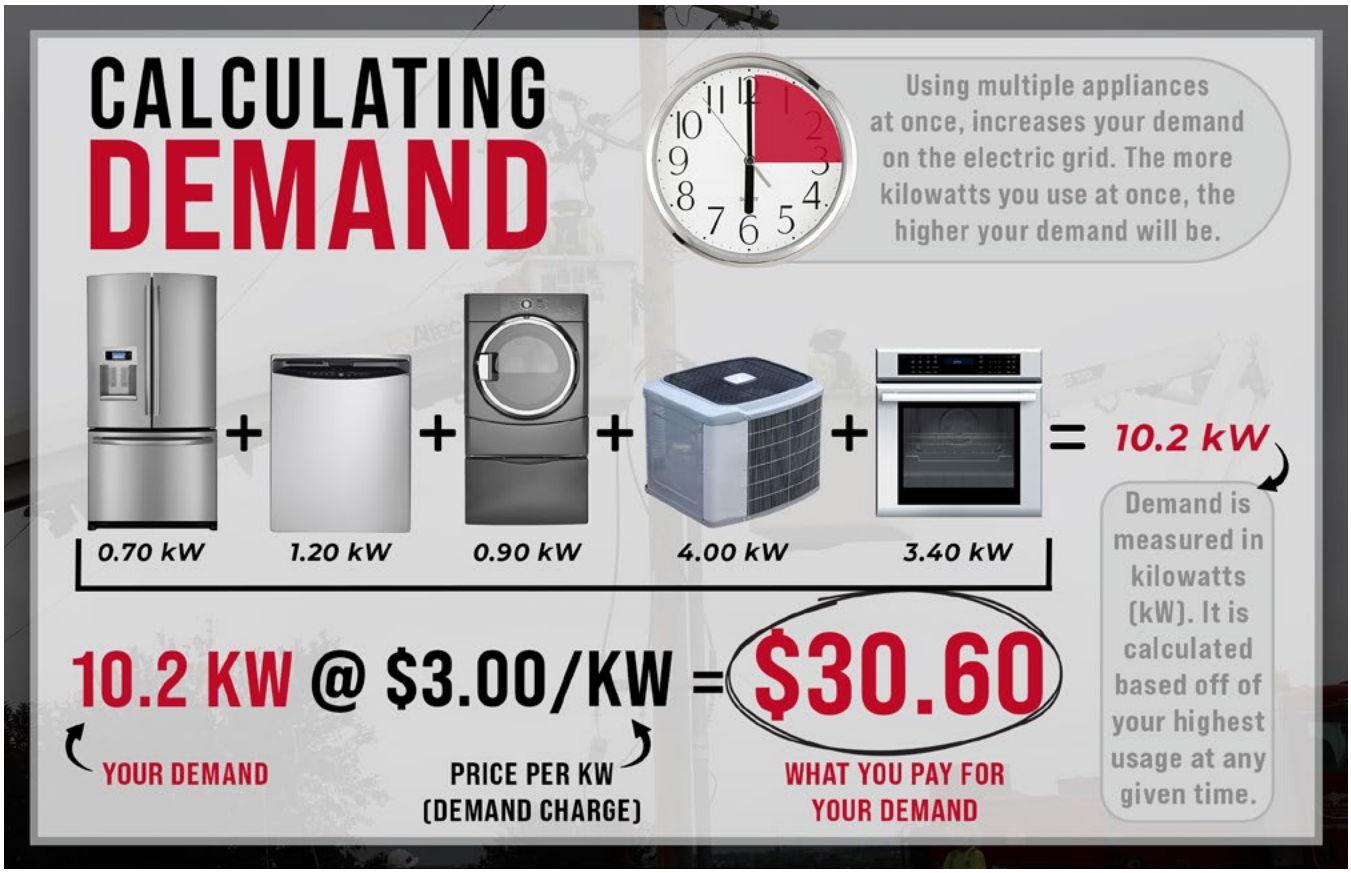
Try running the dishwasher and washing clothes at different times from when you use the oven, range or TV. If your appliances have delayed-start settings, you can schedule dishes or laundry for later in the evening or overnight.

Your monthly demand amount already appears on your bill at the top of the second page, and under our current rate structure there is no charge associated with it. I encourage you to read the related articles in this magazine and visit our Proposed Rate Change and Understanding Demand Charges web pages at www.victoryelectric.net for more information. You may also use the online bill calculator to estimate how the new demand charge and other rate changes might affect you.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Trustees will vote on the proposed changes at a public meeting at the Victory Electric office at 3230 N. 14th Ave. in Dodge City on Dec. 18 at 8:30 a.m. If approved, the changes will take effect Jan. 1, 2027, and appear on bills mailed in February.

If you have questions or concerns, please call our office at 620-227-2139. We're happy to help!



RATE CHANGE
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Find more information, including the proposed rate changes, on our website!

VICTORY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Established 1945

UNDERSTANDING THREE-PART RATES

SERVICE AVAILABILITY CHARGE
A fixed, minimum cost to stay connected to Victory Electric's lines. This helps cover the cost of equipment, labor, materials, etc.

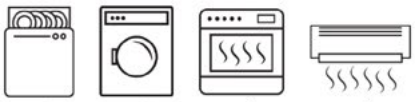


ENERGY CHARGE
The total amount of energy you use within the billing period.

Measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh)



DEMAND CHARGE
The intensity at which you use energy. The *demand* you put on the grid at any given time.



The more appliances you use at the same time, the higher your demand. Spread out usage and save!

1.20 kW + 0.90 kW + 3.40 kW + 4.00 kW = 9.50 kW TOTAL DEMAND

FAQ

WHY ARE ELECTRIC COSTS RISING?
- Growing demand for electricity
- Aging infrastructure
- Supply chain challenges
- Inflation
- Increased needs for generation and transmission

WHO DECIDES THE AMOUNT OF A RATE CHANGE?
An independent consultant conducts a Cost-of-Service Study, which the Board of Trustees uses to determine rates.

WHEN WOULD THE PROPOSED RATE BECOME EFFECTIVE?
Jan. 1, 2027—Changes appear on February bill.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL VOTE ON THE PROPOSED RATE CHANGE
FRIDAY, DEC. 18, 2026

The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc. **620-227-2139**

Proposed Rate Schedules

Based on a cost-of-service study and recommendations by an independent rate consultant, the Victory Electric Board of Trustees has proposed changes to rates for all rate classes, as shown below.

Below, **LEGACY** refers to the area located within Victory Electric's legacy certified territory established by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) per Chapter 66 of Kansas State Statutes. **MKEC** refers to the certified territory served by Aquila Inc. before the 2007 acquisition of assets by Mid-Kansas Electric Company, LLC (MKEC).

Numbers in red text indicate rate decreases.

To align with Victory's billing from our wholesale power provider, the proposed summer rate period would change from June 1-Aug. 31 to June 1-Sept. 30.

For more information, visit www.victoryelectric.net/proposed-rate-change. If you have questions, please call 620-227-2139 or email communications@victoryelectric.net.

Domestic Service

	2026	2027 Proposed
Service Availability Charge		
Legacy	$20.00	$30.00 / mo.
MKEC	$15.00	$21.00 / mo.
Demand Charge	$0.00	$3.00 / kW
Energy Charge		
Summer (June 1 - Sept. 30)	$0.12178	$0.10994 /kWh
Winter	$0.11178	$0.09994 /kWh

Irrigation Service

	2026	2027 Proposed
Annual HP Charge	$30.00 /HP	$0.00
Service Availability Charge	$0.00	$55.00 /mo.
Demand Charge	$0.00	$5.00 /kW
Energy Charge		
0-600 kWh / HP	$0.12640	$0.11500 /kWh
> 600 kWh / HP	$0.10640	$0.11500 /kWh

Industrial Service

	2026	2027 Proposed
Service Availability Charge	$30.00	$100.00 /mo.
Demand Charge		
Summer (June 1 - Sept 30)	$13.83	$16.64 /kW
Winter	$11.83	$14.64 /kW
Energy Charge	$0.07384	$0.07134 /kWh

Large Service

	2026	2027 Proposed
Service Availability Charge		
Legacy	$30.00	$75.00 /mo.
MKEC	$20.00	$50.00 /mo.
Demand Charge		
Summer (June 1 - Sept. 30)		
First 10 kW	$2.50	$5.50 /kW
Over 10 kW	$13.83	$16.64 /kW
Winter		
First 10 kW	$2.50	$5.50 /kW
Over 10 kW	$11.83	$14.64 /kW
Energy Charge	$0.07384	$0.07209 /kWh

Small Service

	2026	2027 Proposed
Service Availability Charge		
Legacy		
Single Phase	$25.00	$40.00 / mo.
Multi Phase	$35.00	$55.00 / mo.
MKEC		
Single Phase	$15.00	$24.00 / mo.
Multi Phase	$25.00	$39.00 /mo.
Demand Charge	$0.00	$3.00 / kW
Energy Charge		
Summer (June 1 - Sept. 30)	$0.11100	$0.09400 /kWh
Winter	$0.10100	$0.08600 /kWh

All-Electric Service

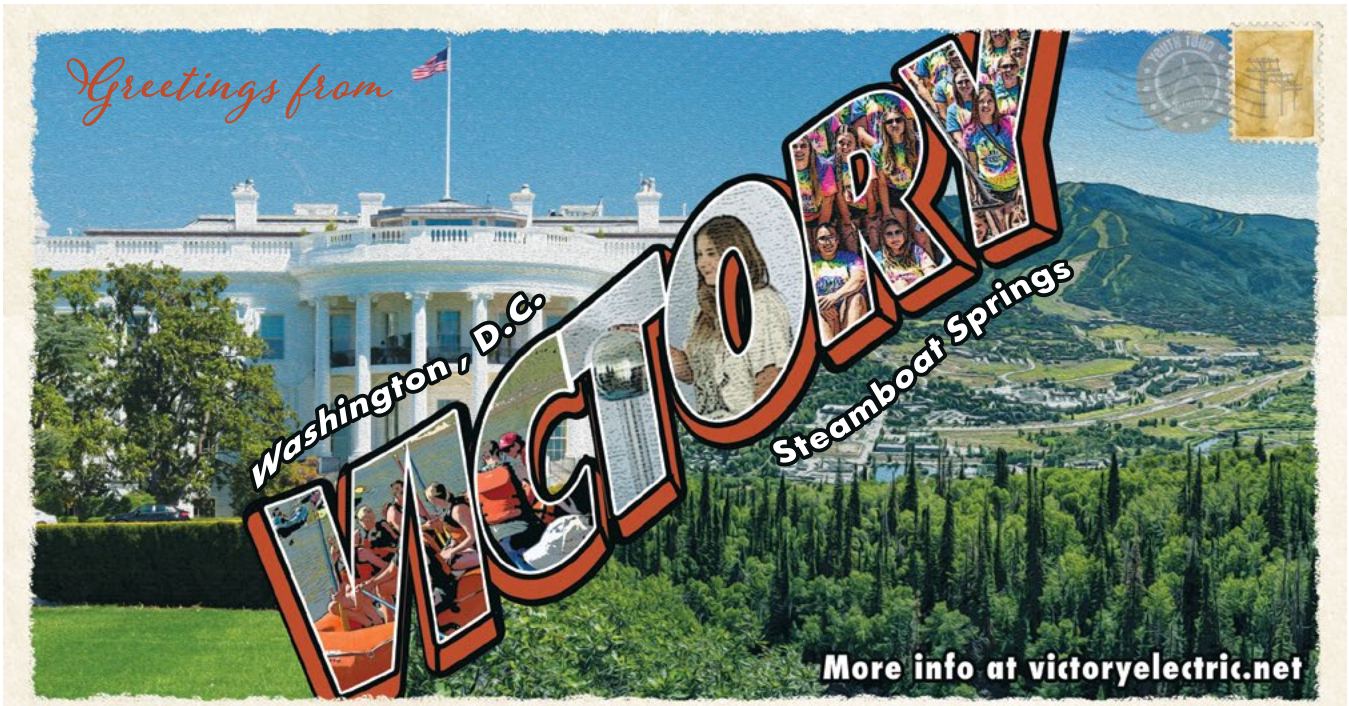
	2026	2027 Proposed
Service Availability Charge		
Legacy	$20.00	$30.00 / mo.
MKEC	$15.00	$21.00 / mo.
Demand Charge	$0.00	$3.00 / kW
Energy Charge		
Summer (June 1 - Sept. 30)	$0.121778	$0.10994 /kWh
Winter		
0-600 kWh	$0.11178	$0.09994 /kWh
More than 600 kWh	$0.08178	$0.07312 /kWh

FIND OUT MORE

CALL 620-227-2139

EMAIL communications@victoryelectric.net

VISIT www.victoryelectric.net/proposed-rate-change



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2027 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Youth Tour

JUNE 17-23

- Museums, memorials, and monuments
- Potomac River cruise
- Meet elected officials



Leadership Camp

JULY 9-15

- Whitewater rafting
- Mountain views
- Energy facility tour

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APPLY NOW!

APPLICATIONS CLOSE DEC. 15

BEHIND THE COST OF POWER | PART 3

Managing Generation Resources for a Stronger Energy Future

BY STEVE EPPERSON, CEO, SUNFLOWER ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION
CO-AUTHORED BY SHANE LAWS, CEO, VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE


Steve Epperson


Shane Laws

In the first two articles in our Behind the Cost of Power series, we explored the cooperative partnership between Victory Electric and our wholesale power supplier, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, and the work required to maintain and expand the transmission system. In Part 3, we're taking a closer look at electric generation and its role in the cost of wholesale electricity. Making the most of proven generation resources today can help avoid unnecessary replacement costs while continuing to provide Victory members with dependable power as electricity needs grow.

MAKING THE MOST OF EXISTING RESOURCES

One of the best ways to manage generation costs is to make the most of our current generation facilities, many of which have served electric consumers in central and western Kansas for decades. The average age of Sunflower's coal and natural gas generation fleet is 49 years, with some units approaching 60 years old. As equipment ages, maintenance becomes increasingly important and, in some cases, more complex. But that doesn't automatically mean an older generation unit is a candidate for replacement. Continuing to maintain an existing unit can be far less expensive than building an entirely new generating resource. That's why Sunflower uses technology, inspections, and detailed maintenance planning to identify problems early, improve performance, and extend the useful life of our generating assets.

For example, Sunflower updated the analog control systems at several older natural gas generation facilities to modern digital systems. Online performance monitoring helps identify early signs of equipment problems or efficiency losses, while a computerized maintenance management system helps staff track repairs, plan preventive maintenance, and identify future replacements.

At Sunflower's Holcomb Station coal-fired generation plant, a 2006 furnace modification significantly reduced slag buildup on boiler tubes and helped extend the life of the boiler. More recently, sections of the boiler were replaced during planned outages to better align equipment life with the plant's operating life.

Maintenance planning also means looking for ways to spread costs over time. A great example is Holcomb Station's fabric filter baghouse used for control of particulate emissions, which has 28 compartments containing hundreds of filter bags requiring periodic replacement. Sunflower staggers the filter bag replacement rather than replacing them all at once, helping levelize costs while keeping the equipment operating as intended.

These decisions may seem like small details, but they add up. Maintaining equipment, identifying problems early, and making strategic upgrades can help extend asset life and delay the need for more costly replacements. When replacement makes sense, Sunflower carefully evaluates the costs, reliability, and needs of our local communities to determine the best path forward. The goal is not simply to add new infrastructure, but to make investments that provide dependable service and long-term value for Victory members.

PLANNING FOR A CHANGING ELECTRIC GRID

While we're making the most of today's generation resources, we're also adapting to rising electricity demand in Kansas and across the country. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation, which develops and enforces electric reliability standards



for the bulk power system, projects peak demand on the U.S. energy grid to increase by 24% by 2035.

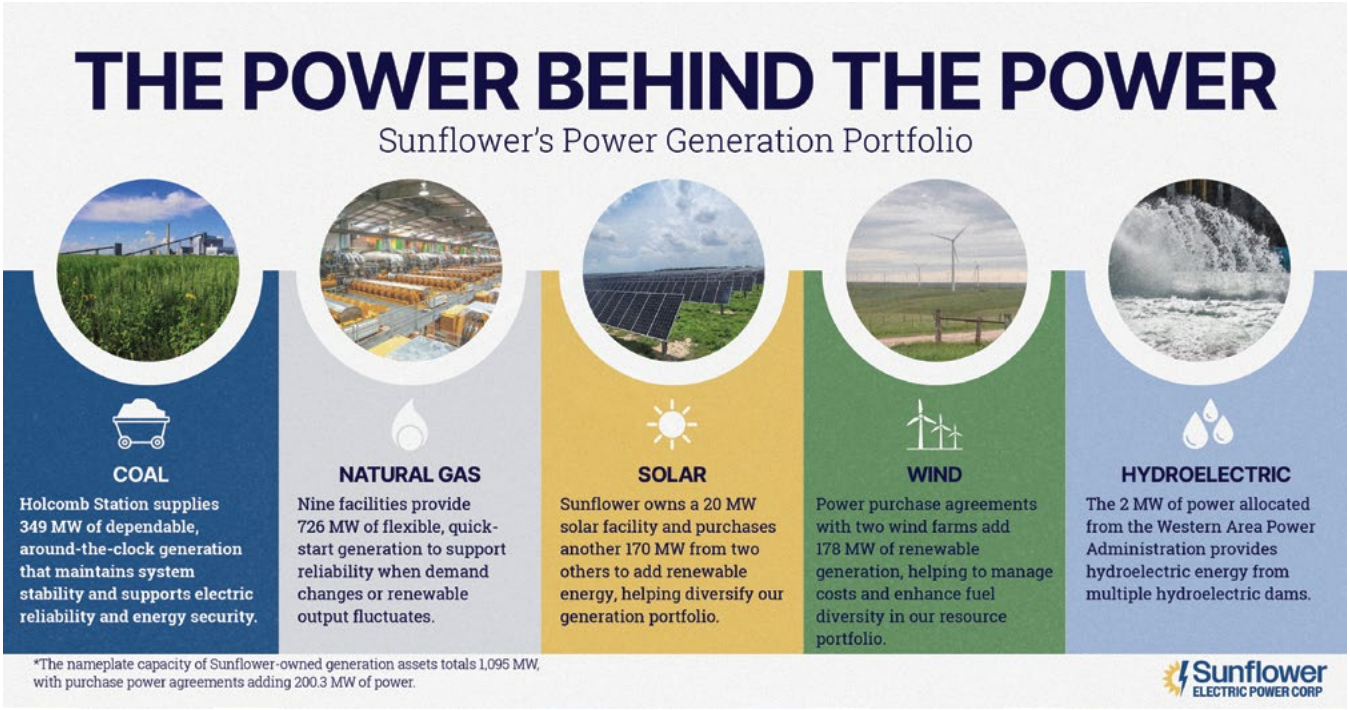
Regionally, Southwest Power Pool (SPP), which operates the power market serving Kansas and 16 surrounding states, has a current system peak of 56 gigawatts. A system peak is the highest amount of electricity being used across the SPP region at one time. Under SPP's higher-growth scenario, the regional peak demand could double within 10 years. This potential growth reinforces why long-term planning matters. New generation resources can take years to plan, permit, finance, engineer, and construct.

As not-for-profit cooperatives, Sunflower and our member utilities have a responsibility to make thoughtful decisions on behalf of consumers. That means balancing today's needs with tomorrow's, focusing on the costs we can control and carefully weighing the long-term value of every investment.

INVESTING WITH THE LONG TERM IN MIND

The electric system we rely on today was built through decades of investment. Maintaining that system and preparing it for tomorrow requires the same long-term thinking. We also recognize rising costs concern families and businesses, and Victory and Sunflower take that responsibility seriously. Some investments are necessary to keep the system reliable and ready for future needs, but every investment should have a clear purpose. Our responsibility is to plan carefully, prioritize wisely, and invest in the resources that provide the greatest long-term value to Victory members like you.

As this series continues, we'll explore more of the forces shaping wholesale power costs, including regional energy markets, changing electricity demand, supply chain pressures, and the ways Victory and Sunflower are working together to maintain a reliable power supply while managing costs responsibly.



VICTORY HIRES NEW LINEMAN



"JT" Rhoden

JEFFERSON "JT" RHODEN joined Victory Electric as a groundman in September. He is a 2026 graduate of Pratt Community College's electrical power technology program. Before joining Victory, the Ellis native completed an internship with Midwest Energy in Hays.

Rhoden has family members who live in the Dodge City area. He heard a lot of good things about Victory Electric so he decided to apply for an open position.

Rhoden said he is inspired by "a drive to be the best person I can be and the best version of myself I can be."

A groundman is the starting position in the line of progression for linemen. Rhoden will support the line crew during the construction, maintenance, and repair of overhead and underground power lines. He will receive additional on-the-job training and complete coursework to advance in his role.

He enjoys hunting, fishing, spending time in the outdoors, and hanging out with friends.

Welcome, JT.

Pogue Earns Project Management Certification



Danna Pogue

Victory Electric Project Manager **DANNA POGUE** recently earned the Project Management Professional (PMP) certification. The Project Management Institute offers this globally recognized credential, which demonstrates a professional's knowledge and performance in leading projects.

Before candidates may apply for a PMP certification and take the exam, they must meet educational requirements, have three years of professional experience leading projects, and complete 35 hours of project management training. The four-hour exam involves answering 180-scenario-based questions.

Pogue joined Victory's information technology (IT) team as a project manager in August 2025 and earned the Certified Key Account Executive (CKAE) certification in February 2026. She previously worked as an instructional coach for Dodge City Public Schools and as an elementary and middle school teacher.

Congratulations, Danna!



VICTORY RECOGNIZES NEW JOURNEYMEN

DAYTON DENTON and **TREVOR GRASSER** have completed the required coursework and training to achieve the rank of journeyman lineman. Denton joined Victory in September 2022 after completing a summer internship at the cooperative. Grasser started at Victory in August 2023.

Congratulations, Dayton and Trevor!



FROM LEFT: Victory Manager of Operations Eric Speer, Dayton Denton, Trevor Grasser and Vice President of Operations Ryan Miller.

Change one light to green on your porch, home or office as a symbol of appreciation for our veterans.



SCAN FOR MORE INFO



America's veterans are some of our nation's bravest, hardest-working men and women. However, it is hard to show them the appreciation they deserve when, back home and out of uniform; they are more camouflaged than ever.

Greenlight A Vet invites all Americans to change one light in their homes to green — the color of hope, renewal and well-being — as a visible reminder to veterans that they are not alone.

VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Established 1945

Pick up your light in our office beginning Oct. 26 and place throughout the month of November to honor our veterans.

PAYMENT OPTIONS AND ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS

Victory Electric understands that proposed rate changes may be concerning for members who are on fixed incomes or struggling to keep up with bills and rising costs for necessities. We also understand that no one wants to pay more for electricity each month, regardless of whether such changes are necessary for the financial health of the cooperative. We want to provide as much information as possible about the proposed changes so you can prepare, adjust your energy use and plan your monthly budget.

First, we encourage you to call us at 620-227-2139 or visit our office whenever you have questions or concerns about your account. If you think you will have trouble paying your bill by the due date, please reach out before you get behind so we can learn about your situation and help find a solution.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND PAYMENT OPTIONS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE to eligible members to help them manage their energy bills or apply for additional assistance. Visit www.victoryelectric.net/payment-arrangements-and-assistance to learn about payment arrangement eligibility and guidelines, as well as available help from other agencies.

The **KANSAS LOW-INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIEAP)** is federally funded and provides eligible households with a one-time annual benefit to help pay a portion of their home energy costs. The Kansas Department for Children and Families administers LIEAP, and the application period runs from late January through March 31. Updates about the 2027 application period will be posted at www.dcf.ks.gov/services/ees/Pages/EnergyAssistance.aspx as soon as they become available.

If you have lived at the same location and made all payments on time for a full year, you may qualify for budget billing, also called even pay. This option lets you pay the same amount every month. The bill amount is based on your average bill and is recalculated every six months.

Please contact Victory if you have questions or need help so that we can discuss payment options and eligibility requirements.

Victory Electric Board Seeks Nominations

Members, elected trustees and employees power an electric cooperative. The overall management and business oversight of a cooperative is tasked to those elected to serve on the cooperative board of trustees. Like you, they are also cooperative members. They live throughout the Victory Electric service area in the districts they serve and are local citizens with the best interests of members, the community and the cooperative always in mind.

The Victory Electric Board of Trustees' primary function is planning and policy oversight, establishing the long-term objectives of the cooperative and providing resources to meet those objectives. Board members work closely with the CEO and senior staff to review progress, ensure accountability, make strategic decisions, and stay current on an increasingly complex business.

The cooperative territory is divided into districts that are each represented by a trustee. Trustees are elected at the annual meeting for three-year terms of office. A commitment to the cooperative board is a commitment to the community. Each trustee holds the responsibility of representing their cooperative in the public eye. They attend outreach events, serve on additional committees, attend training, and listen to those in their district. They are the liaisons between the greater membership and cooperative management and employees.

ELECTION AND SERVICE QUALIFICATIONS

Victory Electric's annual membership meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2027. We are currently soliciting nominations for the Victory Electric Board of Trustees. Members will submit their ballots by mail before the meeting, and the election results will be announced at the annual meeting. The four trustee positions up for election in 2027 are:

- **DISTRICT 1,** currently held by **DARYL TIEBEN**
- **DISTRICT 3,** currently held by **KEN SCHULTE**
- **DISTRICT 8,** currently held by **CEDRIC DREWES**
- **DISTRICT 10,** currently held by **HAYES KELMAN**

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 the district you wish to represent. 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.

HOW TO RUN FOR A POSITION

If you would like to run for a trustee position, please send a letter of interest detailing your qualifications to Shane Laws at Victory Electric, P.O. Box 1335, Dodge City, KS 67801 by Nov. 30, 2026.



Parade of Lights and Chili Cook-Off Set for Nov. 30



'Tis the season to perfect your favorite chili recipe, grab an apron and gather some holiday lights! Dodge City's annual Parade of Lights and Chili Cook-Off returns Nov. 30, so get ready to decorate a trailer, truck or even a tuba and kick off the holiday season.

Starting at 4 p.m., register for prizes and sip hot chocolate while your kids take a free photo with Santa at the Dodge City Visitor Information Center and tell him what they want for Christmas.

At 4:30 p.m. at Boot Hill Museum, the public is invited to taste samples of the chili contest entries and vote for their favorite in the People's Choice competition. The winners of the Judges' Choice contest will be announced beginning at 4:45 p.m.

Then at 5 p.m. join the fun and take your chance to win prizes during the Snowball Drop, and grab a hot dog at the Hot Dog Party.

At 5:30 p.m. the Mayor's Tree Ceremony begins with a performance by the Dodge City High School Madrigals followed by a drawing for prize giveaways. Mayor Daniel Pogue will then light the Mayor's Tree.

The annual Parade of Lights starts at 6 p.m.

Times and locations are subject to change. For up-to-date information, follow the Christmas in Dodge City Facebook page at facebook.com/christmasindodgecity, email askcommunications@victoryelectric.net or contact the Dodge City Convention and Visitors Bureau.

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. You may also go directly to the survey by scanning the QR code at right or visiting https://bit.ly/4zvH1BD. 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.

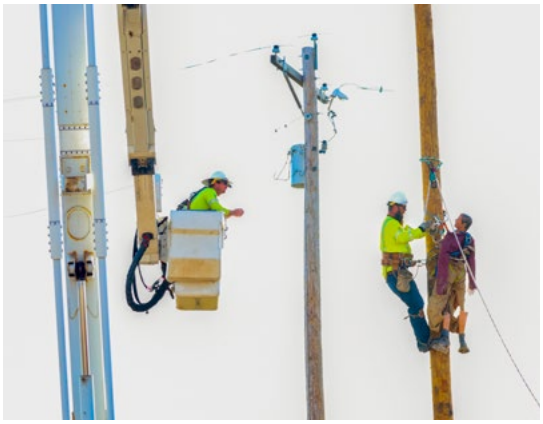
The email survey from Victory Electric is a legitimate request for your opinions. It will not ask for private information or payment details. When Victory Electric employees or representatives contact members by phone or email, we never ask for bank account numbers, credit card information or other personal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

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

Scan the QR code to take the survey or visit https://bit.ly/4zvH1BD

Linemen Practice Emergency Rescue Skills

In September, Victory Electric line crews participated in the annual pole-top rescue exercise. Linemen have four minutes from the time they make a mock distress call to put on their equipment, climb a pole and safely lower a mannequin, which represents an injured coworker, to the ground. This hands-on drill helps ensure Victory line crews will be able to quickly, safely respond to an emergency.



Cory Edmunds (right) performs a pole-top rescue as Trevor Grasser watches from the bucket.



FROM LEFT: Jason Rohr, Justin Straight and Braden Vratil prepare a training dummy for the safety exercise.



Jason Batres (left) prepares to lower the training dummy as Trevor Grasser waits nearby.



Jason Batres participates in the safety drill.



Trevor Grasser cuts the training dummy free so he can lower it to the ground.



Manager of Safety Justin Straight demonstrates safe techniques.