

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

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSN., INC.

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FROM THE CEO

Simplify Your Life While Maximizing Your Membership Value

At Victory Electric, we know how hard you work inside and outside of your home to take care of your family and manage your responsibilities. With a new school year underway for many of our member-owners, you likely have even more events and activities on your busy schedule.

Victory Electric offers multiple ways to help simplify your life and streamline your to-do list. Our suite of free tools and account options will also help you maximize the value of your membership in the electric cooperative.

SMARTHUB

Victory Electric's secure SmartHub website, also available as a mobile app, gives you the power to track and take

control of your energy usage. You can view your monthly, daily or hourly energy use and look for trends. Reviewing this information regularly helps you make smart choices about using electricity — and save money. SmartHub also gives you the ability to securely and quickly pay your bill, report outages, set notification preferences and maintain your account details.

If you don't have a SmartHub

Continued on page 12H ▶



Shane Laws

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS
MEMBER APPRECIATION

SEPT 20 FRIDAY

FREE ADMISSION *GIVEAWAYS *DRAWINGS
MINNEOLA @ SOUTH GRAY
@Montezuma

To connect with the communities we serve and express our gratitude to all our members, Victory Electric is hosting Community Appreciation Events throughout our service area. We hope you join the fun as we celebrate Copeland & Montezuma!

CoBank Winner Advocates for Veterans

Victory Electric congratulates **VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW) POST 1714** for winning the 2024 CoBank Sharing Success Grant. The Victory Electric Board of Trustees evaluated the applications of 16 outstanding nonprofit organizations from our service area and selected the Dodge City VFW to receive a \$20,000 grant. The annual grant opportunity is made possible by Victory Electric in partnership with CoBank, whose \$5 million Sharing Success fund matches customer donations to charities across rural America.

The 2024 Sharing Success Grant funds will be used to renovate the men's and women's restrooms in Howard Gotschall Hall at the VFW building, which is located on 13th Street in Dodge City. Making the restrooms wheelchair accessible will help ensure that all veterans, including those with mobility challenges, can fully participate in and benefit from the services and community activities offered by VFW Post 1714.

VFW Post 1714 Commander Casey Fitzgerald noted in the group's grant application: "Accessibility promotes dignity, independence and equal opportunity for veterans who have sacrificed much in service to our country."

Dodge City is home to 336 U.S. veterans, including 151 who are 75 or older. The VFW helps them advocate for their rights as veterans. The organization also provides honor guards, Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, and meals following funerals.

"The VFW was founded with a singular mission: to protect



Victory Electric awarded \$20,000 to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1714 as a part of their Sharing Success program.

those who have protected our freedoms," Fitzgerald said. "This protection is provided through various programs, advocacy for veterans' rights in the nation's capital and outreach efforts benefiting communities nationwide.

Since 2012, Victory Electric has awarded \$185,000 in Sharing Success grants to nonprofit organizations in its service area. CoBank's matching grant program, capped at \$10,000 per year and matched by Victory Electric, is designed to celebrate the vital role that cooperatives play in individual communities across the country.

"Thanks to the generosity of Victory Electric's Board of Trustees and CoBank, the Sharing Success Grant enables us to give back to the communities we serve," said Shane Laws, CEO of Victory Electric. "We urge all eligible nonprofits to take advantage of Sharing Success, and together we can make a meaningful impact in rural Kansas."

To learn more about the Sharing Success grant, visit www.victoryelectric.net/cobank-sharing-success-grant or email askcommunications@victoryelectric.net.

ALERT

Our Pay by Phone number is changing on **Sept. 9**.

Add our new number, **844-961-2565**, to your contacts or cut at the dotted line to have our contact information all in one spot.

HOURS OF OPERATION
Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

3230 N. 14th AVE.
P.O. BOX 1335
DODGE CITY, KS 67801

620-227-2139 or
800-279-7915
Pay by Phone
844-961-2565



Victory Electric
Pay By Phone
844-961-2565



VICTORY ELECTRIC JOINS DODGE CITY DAYS

Victory Electric employees and family members participated in the Dodge City Days Western Parade on July 27. Victory also grilled burgers for the Hilmar Cheese Public Cheeseburger Feed at Wright Park following the parade. Rooted in the Legacy was the theme of this year's annual event, and Victory Electric is proud to be part of the area's Western heritage.



Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp *Empowers Student Leaders*

JORDAN STIMPERT and **LENZI KOEHN** represented Victory Electric as part of the Kansas delegation at the 47th Annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) July 12-18. Near scenic Steamboat Springs, Colorado, the event brought together 79 student leaders from Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming, sponsored by 44 participating electric and agriculture cooperatives.

Victory Electric selected Stimpert and Koehn based on their leadership skills, academic prowess and involvement in extracurricular activities. Last fall, these student leaders submitted an application, résumé and a short video about energy efficiency. They also interviewed with a panel of judges at Victory Electric as part of the selection process.

“At Victory Electric, we are invested in empowering young leaders,” said Chanda Schulte, vice president of communications. “That’s why we’re excited to continue supporting CYLC. It’s our way of giving students the chance to step up and make a real impact in our community.”

Throughout the camp in Colorado, students learned about the cooperative organizational structure and operation by forming a candy cooperative. To successfully operate their cooperatives, students collaborated with their peers, elected a of a board of student directors, appointed a general manager, formed committees and engaged in daily membership meetings. Campers also attended seminars covering leadership, conflict management and co-op career pathways. The agenda featured sessions on electric safety and avian protection by HawkQuest and a tour of the Craig Power Station.

CYLC wasn’t just about professional development; campers also embraced the spirit of camaraderie and adventure. Students ventured to Mount Werner and downtown Steamboat Springs, and they went white water rafting on the Colorado River. Recreational activities also included a volleyball tournament, swimming, a talent show and a dance.

Victory Electric’s student representatives had a great week building connections and continuing to develop their leadership skills.

Stimpert will be a senior at Bucklin High School. She is active in sports, extracurricular activities and community service. She also serves in leadership positions in 4-H and



Lenzi Koehn (left) and Jordan Stimpert represented Victory Electric at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp this summer.

FFA. Stimpert said she was pleased to have met “so many amazing people at this camp.”

Koehn, who will be a senior at South Gray High School, has served as class president and as a Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) officer. She runs her own baking business and is a student athlete who is active in her school and community. “The camaraderie amongst all the campers helped me create new connections and new lifelong friends,” Koehn said.

Victory Electric sponsors four students each year to attend CYLC or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Applications for 2025 student leadership opportunities will open this fall. For more information, visit www.victoryelectric.net/youth-tour-cooperative-leadership-camp.



Near scenic Steamboat Springs, Colorado, CYLC brings together 79 student leaders from Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming, sponsored by 44 participating electric and agriculture cooperatives.



Lenzi Koehn all smiles after “skydiving” at iFly in Denver on the way to CYLC.



Jordan Stimpert (left) and Lenzi Koehn ride the gondola to the top of Mount Werner.



Jordan Stimpert smiles in the Glen where the majority of CYLC activities are held.



Jordan Stimpert (left) and Lenzi Koehn pose with a bald eagle during a presentation about avian protection by HawkQuest.



Lenzi Koehn tests her balance during a camp activity.



Jordan Stimpert (second from right) shops for gear with fellow campers at Lookout Mountain.

Check off step one in becoming a co-op voter.

REGISTER TO VOTE ON **NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY SEPT. 17**

Learn more about being a #CoopVoter and complete your registration at www.vote.coop.



Make Sure You're Registered to Vote

Election Day may receive the most attention in presidential election years, but municipal, county and state elections have a big impact on your daily life. Whether you're considering ballot initiatives or selecting your town's next mayor or school board members, elections matter! Rural communities depend on voters like you.

Sept. 17 is National Voter Registration Day, the nation's biggest nonpartisan civic holiday dedicated to getting every eligible American registered to vote for their next election. Now is a great time to register to vote, confirm your registration and encourage a friend or family member to do the same.

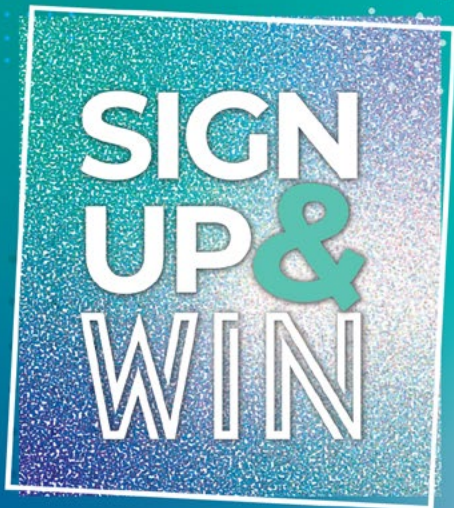
In Kansas, the deadline to register to vote is 21 days before an election — Oct. 15 for the upcoming general election set for Nov. 5.

To register to vote, see a sample ballot or confirm your registration

Visit www.vote.coop for more information on Co-ops Vote.

status, address, party affiliation or polling place location, visit the Kansas Secretary of State's election information page at www.VoteKansas.gov.

In 2022, electric cooperatives around the country helped register 400,000 voters and shared important election information for our communities through Co-ops Vote. This nonpartisan project of America's electric cooperatives is designed to inform members about key issues facing electric co-ops and encourage them to vote and support their co-ops and the communities they serve when they go to the polls. Visit www.vote.coop for more information.



— ENROLL TO WIN A \$500 BILL CREDIT SIGN UP BY SEPT. 30



SCAN TO REGISTER FOR SMARTHUB

Make life simple AND win big! Sign up for SmartHub between Aug. 1 and Sept. 30, and you'll automatically be entered to WIN a \$500 bill credit!

Enroll in AutoPay during the same period and DOUBLE your chances of winning. That's two chances to score big!

Don't miss out — make life simple for a chance to score a \$500 bill credit from Victory Electric!

To register for SmartHub, go to <https://victoryelectric.smarthub.coop> (or scan the QR code) and click "Don't have an account? Register now." You will need your Victory Electric account number.

HOW TO

To enroll in AutoPay, log in to SmartHub and click the "BILL & PAY" drop-down menu, then click "Auto Pay Program." Check the "I accept the Auto Pay Terms & Conditions" box then click the Enroll button and select how to pay. Complete the form and click "I agree."

Disclaimer – By entering this giveaway, you acknowledge and agree to the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Eligibility Period:** Entries are accepted only from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30.
- 2. Enrollment:** This contest is for first-time sign-ups for SmartHub and/or Auto Pay only. Please note that members who already have a SmartHub account or are already enrolled in Auto Pay cannot unenroll and re-enroll to enter. Watch for more giveaway opportunities for all Victory Electric members in October!
- 3. Right to Terminate:** We reserve the right to terminate, suspend, or modify the giveaway at any time, for any reason, without prior notice.

Go Above and Beyond for a Safe Harvest

Modern farming often relies on data and equipment with GPS and auto-guidance systems. Even with these modern conveniences, farm workers must remain vigilant. That's because farming is considered one of the most dangerous jobs.

Massive machinery is indispensable to farming, but the same impressive size, height and extensions make them particularly vulnerable to contacting power lines. That's why staying alert, focused and knowledgeable about potential hazards and safety procedures is crucial.

During a busy harvest season, the familiar sights around the farm can easily fade into the background. However failing to notice power lines can lead to deadly accidents.

360 AWARENESS

Awareness of your surroundings and planning safe equipment routes can significantly reduce the risk of accidents. Even with GPS and auto-steering, it's imperative that farm workers keep a close eye on the equipment's location and are ready to take action if necessary.

Exposed underground power lines, defective wiring in farm buildings and extension cords are also hazards. Grain bins can pose a potential danger as well. The National Electrical Safety Code requires power lines to be at least 18 feet above the highest point on any grain bin used with portable augers or other portable filling equipment. If you plan to install new grain bins or you're concerned about the proximity of power lines to existing grain bins, contact Victory Electric.

LINEMAN INTERNS JOIN VICTORY ELECTRIC

Victory Electric welcomes two new linemen, **LONDON ELLING** and **SAGE RIEKENBERG**. Both are from Dodge City and have been interning at Victory Electric this summer. Welcome to Victory!

SMART HARVEST SAFETY TIPS

To ensure a safer harvest season, www.SafeElectricity.org recommends the following tips to avoid electrical accidents on the farm:

- ▶ Be careful when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- ▶ Use spotters when operating large machinery near power lines. Ensure the spotters do not touch the machinery while it is moving near power lines.
- ▶ Lower equipment extensions, portable augers or elevators before moving or transporting equipment. Do not raise equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember that non-metallic materials like lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay can conduct electricity, especially when damp, dusty or dirty.
- ▶ Never attempt to raise or move power lines to clear a path. Doing so could result in electric shock or death.
- ▶ Don't use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside or around bins.
- ▶ Hire qualified electricians. Ensure that qualified electricians handle work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

While rare, the only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire. If that happens, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the machinery and the ground at the same time. After exiting the vehicle, keep your feet together and "hop" away or shuffle your feet across the ground until you are at least 50 feet away.



Landon Elling



Sage Riekenberg

Know the SIGNS

Farm and Ranch Stress is REAL.

Farming and ranching are stressful occupations associated with increased levels of anxiety and depression. Left untreated, stressors may lead to mental health issues, increased substance use or death by suicide.

IN THE U.S.

- ▶ One person dies by suicide every 10.9 minutes.
- ▶ The national suicide average is 14.1 per 100,000 people.

FOR FARMERS, RANCHERS AND AGRICULTURAL MANAGERS:

- ▶ The suicide rate is 43.7 deaths per 100,000 people.
- ▶ The suicide rate is the sixth highest among occupational groups.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- ▶ Changes in routine or social activities.
- ▶ Decreased interest in activities or events.
- ▶ Decline in care for crops or animals.
- ▶ More frequent illnesses or chronic conditions.
- ▶ Increase in accidents on the farm or ranch.
- ▶ Less care about personal appearance.

5 ACTION STEPS FOR HELPING SOMEONE IN EMOTIONAL PAIN

1. **ASK** if they have suicidal thoughts.
2. **KEEP** them safe.
3. **BE THERE** by listening carefully.
4. **HELP THEM** connect.
5. **STAY** connected.

NATIONAL SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE

CALL OR TEXT 988

SOURCES: PENN STATE EXTENSION, NIMH, NATIONAL FARM BUREAU, WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.COM

WE SUPPORT

FAIR &
PRACTICAL

Policy

The EPA power plant rules are unlawful, unachievable and jeopardize reliability. America's electric co-ops will continue to fight for smarter energy policies that prioritize reliability and affordability for all.


KEC
 KANSAS ELECTRIC
 COOPERATIVES, INC.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative COOPERATIVELY WORKING TO
PROTECT YOUR ENERGY FUTUREFIND
OUT
MORE

Simplify Your Life While Maximizing Your Membership Value *Continued from page 12A* ▶

account, simply click “Don’t have an account? Register now.” at <https://victoryelectric.smarthub.coop> and follow the prompts. You will need your Victory account number, which can be found on your bill.

AUTOPAY

Would you like one fewer due date to keep track of and not have to worry about late fees? Sign up for Victory Electric’s AutoPay option, and your electric bill payment will be automatically withdrawn from your credit or debit card or bank account on the due date each month.

Sign-up is available through SmartHub or in our office at 3230 N. 14th Avenue in Dodge City. You will continue to receive a monthly billing statement in the mail for your records unless you opt to go paperless and receive your statement by email.

PAPERLESS BILLING

Are you tired of sorting through a pile of paper clutter? Have you had trouble receiving or sending mail because of postal delays? Sign up for paperless billing and there’s no need to deal with mailbox clutter or wonder if a check will arrive before the due date. With SmartHub, it’s easy to securely access and pay your bill at any time. Instead of a paper bill, you will receive an email or text notification when your monthly electronic bill is ready to view.

ENERGY ADVISOR

Victory Electric’s Energy Advisor tool at www.victoryelectric.net/energy-resources securely connects to your account and makes personalized recommendations to help you save money. The more details you provide Energy Advisor about your home, heating and cooling system, lighting,

water heater, and appliances, the more personalized the tool’s analysis and energy-saving recommendations will be. This free tool also sends periodic email alerts and videos to members who provide an email address.

POWERMYWAY (PREPAY POWER)

PowerMyWay is a self-managed, pay-as-you-go billing plan that allows you to pay for electricity how and when you choose. Residential members may open an account by paying \$50 to load their account for future energy use. Victory Electric then records daily energy usage and deducts the amount from your credit balance. The rates, energy charges, taxes, franchise taxes, service availability charge and energy charge adjustment are the same as those for accounts on a standard residential billing plan (some charges are prorated daily). Members on a PowerMyWay plan are not required to make a security deposit or pay disconnect, reconnect or late fees. You receive a notification when the account balance reaches \$25 or less, and you can “recharge” your account easily on SmartHub. PowerMyWay will soon become Prepay Power. Watch for more information about the revised program soon.

SIGN UP AND WIN!

See Page 12F to see how member-owners can get a chance to win a \$500 bill credit by making a new sign-up for a SmartHub or AutoPay account.

Call 620-227-2139 if you have questions or need help setting up our online account tools. You can read more about all of these account options and more at www.victoryelectric.net.

THANKS, SHANE