

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC CO-OP

electronews



The Victory Electric Co-op Assn., Inc.

Board of Trustees

John Leis
President

Pat Morse
Vice President

Daryl Tieben
Secretary/Treasurer

Cedric Drewes
Trustee

Jim Imel
Trustee

Gary Gillespie
Trustee

Terri Larson
Trustee

Richard Lightner
Trustee

James Ochs
Trustee

Randy Quint
Trustee

Ken Schulte
Trustee

Kenny Wehkamp
Trustee

Staff

Shane Laws
CEO

Amy Grasser
Manager of Corporate Services

Angela Unruh
CFO

Denzil McGill
Manager of IT

Greg Underwood
Manager of Engineering

Jerri Imgarten
Manager of Marketing and
Communications

Mikey Goddard
Manager of Safety and Plant

Ryan Miller
Manager of Operations

Tom Lowery
Manager of Special Projects

FROM THE CEO

Understanding Energy Demand, Purchasing

You may not think you need to have an understanding of energy demand and purchasing, but do you ever look at your energy bill and wonder what it all means? If your answer “yes,” then you might be interested to learn how demand impacts your utility bill.

To start, it is important to understand how electricity is made and how it is delivered to your home.

Before Victory Electric can send electricity to your home, that electricity needs to be generated by a generation and transmission cooperative (G&T). Once the electricity has been generated, it travels over high-voltage transmission lines to substations, where the voltage is reduced to a safer level. The electricity then travels over distribution power lines and finds its way into your home. So, while you pay your bill to us—your electric distribution cooperative—we don’t actually generate the electricity you use. That is the job of the G&T.

We do help to determine how much electricity our members need to power their homes and businesses, and you play a big part in determining how much electricity the G&T needs to create in order to keep the lights on in our community. That is where these terms “consumption” and “demand” come in.

Consumption is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh). Demand is measured in kilowatts (kW). A lightbulb

consumes a certain number of watts, let’s say 100 watts per hour. If that lightbulb stays on for 10 hours, it demands a certain number of kilowatts (in this case, 1 kW) from the generation station producing electricity. Now, if you turn on 10, 100-watt lightbulbs in your home for one hour, you are still consuming the same number of kW per bulb. However, you are placing a demand on the utility to have those kilowatts available to you over the course of one hour, instead of 10 hours. This requires the generation and transmission plant to produce more power in less time in order to meet your demand.

Victory Electric purchases kilowatt hours from Sunflower Electric based on the average demand of our members. Peak demand refers to the time of day when the demand for electricity is highest. This is typically during the evening when families return home from work or school, cook dinner or do laundry.

Demand is the reason your electricity bill fluctuates season to season and even year to year. Generating and distributing power can be a tricky and complicated business, but rest assured Victory Electric will always meet the necessary demand to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to your family.

Thanks, Shane



Shane Laws

Brown and Foster Attend 41st Annual Cooperative Leadership Camp

HAYLEE BROWN and **SYDNEY FOSTER** were selected to attend the 41st annual Cooperative Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, from July 14-20. Joining their peers from Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming, approximately 100 youth learned about the cooperative principles at the week-long educational retreat.

Brown and Foster were selected through an application with letters of recommendation, essays and an interview with a panel of judges.

"Victory Electric is proud to be a participating sponsor of the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp and send our local youth to develop essential leadership and teamwork skills," Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO said. "Through this trip, we hope local students will learn how our electric cooperatives work and how co-ops and their employees support the communities they serve."

The Kansas and Oklahoma participants met as they boarded the bus along its route to Colorado. When the bus arrived in Denver, the group was treated to a snorkeling experience at the Denver Aquarium. Campers swam face-to-face with a grouper, a school of cownose rays, moray eels, red drums, nurse sharks and 400 other



The delegation poses for a photo while touring Trapper Coal Mine.

exotic underwater species.

When the group arrived at Glen Eden Resort, nestled in the Rocky Mountains, the campers immediately began daily membership meetings where a general manager, board of directors and committees were selected. The week-long experience also gave participants an authentic camp feel with river rafting, volleyball tournament, swimming, a dance and a talent show.

Several demonstrations and presentations enhanced students'

knowledge on the cooperative model and on operations at their electric cooperative. Campers competed to build a model transmission line out of craft supplies, toured Trapper Mine, Craig Power Plant, and experienced a high-voltage safety demonstration. The campers also raised \$390 to donate to the NRECA International Foundation.

"The leadership lesson had a huge impact on me. I learned I don't have to be shy and I can open up to anyone. I am glad I made so many



Haylee Brown

Haylee Brown

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp was the most fantastic experience, I have ever had. Camp was totally different than I thought it would be. Every single day was filled with several different activities such as white water rafting, going to the Denver aquarium, and so much more.

Steamboat Springs was such a beautiful place! I enjoyed the view of the mountains and wildlife everyday. We got to visit Fish Creek Falls, which was pretty. All I did when we got there was take as

many pictures as possible. One of my favorite days at camp was when we got to walk in downtown Steamboat. I loved feeling like a tourist walking into all the souvenir shops!

Not only was camp fun, but I took a lot away from it. I learned so much about cooperatives, electricity and leadership in such a short time. The leadership seminar by Rodd Welker was amazing. He talked about the three things it takes to be a leader. Those three things were connectedness, cooperation and compassion. He explained each word with fun activities. After listening to Rodd talk, I truly believe those are the things it takes to be good leader.

I am thankful that I got this opportunity. This trip was truly amazing. I made many new friendships, learned so much, and just had fun. We all entered as strangers at the beginning of the week, but left as a family, it was amazing to experience. Thank you Victory Electric Cooperative for this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Colorado



The 2017 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp delegation.

new friends,” Brown said.

Foster added, “I will always remember how meaningful each of the friendships I’ve developed are to me.”

Overall, the campers said they left camp with a new sense of leadership and a basic understanding of how their local electric cooperatives operate and how they contribute to the betterment of the communities they serve.

For more information about our program opportunities, contact Kennedy St. George at kennedy@victoryelectric.net or 620-371-7738.



Haylee Brown (left) looks out over the Colorado landscape from a point at the camp.



Sydney Foster learns how cooperatives protect raptors like this owl, using avian protection devices.



Sydney Foster

Sydney Foster

This past July I was given the opportunity by Victory Electric to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

I have to admit that in the few days leading up to the camp, I was nervous it would be boring or that I would have a difficult time making friends with the one hundred strangers I’d be spending my week with. As soon as we got settled into our cabins at Glen Eden Resort and had the chance to interact with some of the other campers, I realized this week was going to

be more fun than I expected.

I can easily say the week of camp completely changed my life and the way I will see cooperatives from now on. Part of what made this camp such an amazing experience was getting to be surrounded by such amazing people, all day, every day.

Getting the chance to learn about cooperatives was inspiring, and every single educational demonstration we sat through opened my eyes to how important the roles of cooperatives are.

Camp was filled with so many fun activities like snorkeling at the Denver Aquarium, rafting and getting to explore downtown Steamboat for an afternoon.

Thanks to this camp, I made lifelong friendships, experienced so many new and fun things, and got to learn in a setting that made learning fun and interactive.

I am glad kids have the opportunity to attend this camp Victory Electric and every other electric cooperative involved demonstrate their support of the community by investing in their young people and making an effort to educate the public about cooperatives. I couldn’t be more thankful to Victory Electric for granting me this opportunity. I will never forget the memories and friendships this camp gave me.

Victory Electric and Dodge City Days Parade 2017

Thank you to our members who “Raised a Ruckus” at this year’s Dodge City Days. In the parade, Victory Electric employees and their families rode on a float pulled by a line truck. The rain didn’t damp our parade; parade participants still handed out hundreds of pounds of candy along the parade route.

Victory Electric extends appreciation to all our volunteers for donating their time to make this year’s float a success. In addition to the parade, Victory Electric sponsored the rodeo. Congratulations to all of the winners of the Dodge City Day’s Parade.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

1. Steve Jimmerson rides in the bucket truck during the parade. 2. The young volunteers hand out candy during the parade. 3. Brandon Whitley and Jerri imgarten refill candy buckets throughout the parade. 4. Alexa Lozano and Gus Erives wave to parade spectators. 5. Victory Electric employees brave the rain. 6. Aubree Konrade hands candy to a member. 7. Employees and families of Victory Electric participate in the parade.

Board Trustee Earns Gold Credential

Victory Electric board member **JOHN LEIS** earned his Director Gold certification this past month.

The Director Gold certification recognizes board members who have continued their education during the course of their service on the board.

The credential is the final piece of a three-step certificate program, hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA). The credential process helps trustees stay current on the issues affecting the future of cooperatives and prepare them to make informed business decisions in the boardroom.



John Leis (left) receives his Director Gold certificate from Shane Laws, CEO.

Leis completed the first two pieces of the credential process by attending courses and conferences that focus on basic governance knowledge and in-depth industry and governance issues.

Help us congratulate John on his achievement and continued service.

Electric Contractors Working for Victory in the Area

In the coming months, you may notice extra line crews in Dodge City. For the next four to six months, J&J Powerline Contractors will be helping Victory Electric replace aging poles and other infrastructure in Dodge City.

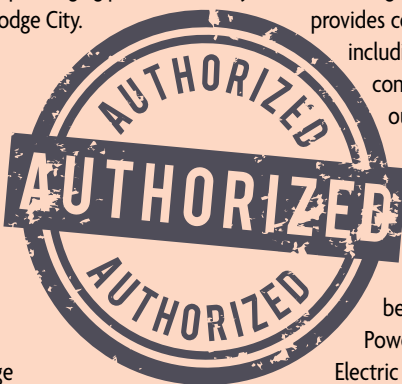
Victory Electric conducts pole testing annually to assess the integrity and strength of the poles, to ensure the safety of the poles and address any damage before the pole breaks. This year, Victory Electric tested within the city of Dodge City. J&J Powerline contractors will replace the poles and infrastructure that were identified in the testing as needing repaired or replaced.

J&J Powerline Contractors is based in

Dodge City has been in business for more than 30 years. The company has dozens of employees and additional offices located in Ulysses and Wellington, Kansas. J&J Powerline

provides contracting services, including storm repair, new construction, pole change-outs, voltage conversions and more to electric utilities across Kansas and neighboring states.

Trucks conducting testing and repairs will be marked with the J&J Powerline and the Victory Electric logo. They will also carry a letter of intent that confirms their employment at J&J Powerline, working for Victory Electric. Please contact Victory Electric at 620-227-2139 if you have questions or concerns.



Mark Your Calendars

September 2017

S	M	T	W	U	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

The 10th Annual Victory Electric Community Health Fair has been scheduled for September 30, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Western State Bank Expo Center.

Again this year, the Alzheimer's Association will be using the other half of the building for their annual Dodge City Walk to End Alzheimer's event. Registration begins at 9 a.m. This allows participants to conveniently attend both events.

Vittles for Vets Winners Announced

Two more winners were drawn for participating in Vittles for Vets. **PATRICIA RODRIGUEZ** and **EVE WAYMAN** won a \$100 bill credit for donating to Vittles for Vets.

Last year, more than 1,050 items were donated for the food pantry in Nimitz Hall. Our generous members have collected more than 450 items for the food pantry at Fort Dodge this year.



Fort Dodge resident (left) and Fort Dodge representative Eldana Travis (right) accepts member donations from Jerri Imgarten of Victory Electric.

Bill Payment Options



Pay your bill online at victoryelectric.net, at our office, by mail or at any of our pay stations.

Victory Electric has several convenient options for you, the member, to pay your bill.

In addition to paying in our office or by mail, options include online bill pay at victoryelectric.net, via phone at 866-999-8494, auto bank deduction, drop boxes at Victory Electric and City of Dodge City.

Come Get Your CFL!

This month's lucky winners are...

ROGER DAY, LINDA FRIESS, FERNANDO GARCIA, RAFAEL MACIAS, MARIA OCHOA, SCOTT PRAY and RUTH REINERT.

Come by Victory Electric's office to get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month Victory Electric will randomly choose members for free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations winners!



Tip of the Month

Cooler temps will be here soon! No matter what kind of heating system you have in your home, you can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment.



Join Us on Social Media

Victory Electric is on Facebook and Twitter. Search for Victory Electric and check our pages for updates, community engagements, outage information and more. Join the conversation with us!

Gier Joins Victory Electric Line Crew



Jason Gier

Victory Electric is pleased to announce the hiring of **JASON GIER** as a second-class lineman.

"I came to Victory for the family," Gier said. "I've been

traveling a long time and it's nice to be home."

Gier joins the team from J&J Powerline with 15 years experience as a lineman.

"I'm from Dodge City and moved to South Carolina to work with my brother before I was offered a job on the underground crew at J&J," Gier said. "So I came back to Dodge and

have been here since."

"We are glad to keep adding guys to the crews who are experienced and bring a lot to Victory Electric," said Ryan Miller, manager of operations. "He will help us continue to serve members and keep the lights on. We have a lot of work happening at Victory Electric to benefit reliability, and we're glad Jason joined."

Gier is a dad to three children, and looks forward to being home more and is looking for a new hobby.

"I've only been here two days but, I like the crew a lot," Gier said. "I think it will be a good fit."

We look forward to having Jake as part of the Victory Electric team and what he can do to help our members. Help us welcome Jason to Victory Electric.

Victory Electric Salutes Our Troops

As another part of Dodge City Days, Victory Electric sponsored the "Salute the Troops" event.

"Salute the Troops" is a hamburger feed and concert in Wright Park in downtown Dodge City.

The first 1,000 people with a Dodge City Days lapel pin received a free Freddy's steakburger or hotdog complemented with a bag of chips and Pepsi, sponsored by Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburgers and Pepsi.

During the event Victory Electric gave away free candy and koozies. The cooperative marketing and communications team also handed out fliers to promote the "Vittles for Vets"



Kennedy St. George, communications specialist and Jerri Imgarten, manager of marketing and communication, wait for members to visit during the "Salute the Troops" event.

program that helps stock the food pantry at Nimitz Hall at Fort Dodge.

Following the hamburger feed, the Dodge City Municipal Cowboy Band entertained the public with patriotic music.

Victory Electric is proud to sponsor an event to honor our veterans and always appreciates seeing our members. We hope you enjoyed the event.

DECODING YOUR VICTORY ELECTRIC BILL


01 Service Availability Charge
Formerly called the customer charge, the service availability charge covers the cooperative's fixed costs and is reflective of the investment in poles, wires, transformers and equipment it takes to provide you with electric service. It also supports fleet, facility and member service functions, such as line maintenance, substation upgrades, property taxes, right-of-way clearing, and general administrative responsibilities and is similar to service or facility charges that other co-ops and utilities charge. Regardless of how often you flip on the light switch or the TV, these costs are part of the bill you pay so electricity is available to you whenever you want it. If one member uses only one kilowatt-hour of electricity and another member uses 100 kWh, Victory Electric still incurs the same cost to build the line, maintain the distribution system and deliver electricity to both members. It takes just as much equipment to deliver one kilowatt-hour as it does 100 kilowatt-hours of energy. This is why the monthly service availability charge is important to recover a portion of the cost of delivering electricity to all members and help maintain the financial health of your cooperative.

► Why is the service availability charge different for residential, commercial, industrial and other rate class members?
Different kinds of electric users require different configurations of lines, transformers and substations. Each configuration bears very different costs, which are allocated appropriately to each rate class. That way, no rate class is paying for the needs of another rate class, which is fair and equitable to all members.

02 Energy Charge
The kWh energy charge is designed to recover variable costs, including the cost of power from our power provider, environmental and conservation efforts, capacity requirements, and more. The energy charge is determined by multiplying the total amount of electricity consumed during the billing period, measured in kilowatt hours (kWh), by the energy charge rate. Wholesale energy and capacity costs are about 70 cents of every dollar that you pay.

03 Energy Cost Adjustment
The ECA is a pass-through variable fee or credit for when wholesale power costs from our power provider either exceed, or fall below, the amount budgeted into energy rates. This allows the cooperative to respond to market fluctuations without implementing a rate change.

04 Franchise Fee
Victory Electric has franchise agreements with eight cities in our service territory: Bucklin, Copeland, Dodge City, Ensign, Ford, Ingalls, Mullinville, and Spearville. These fees are a percentage of the gross revenue received from the sale of electricity to meters within the city limits, and for the right to provide electricity in the city limits and to use public right of ways. The franchise fee, paid to the cities, is only assessed to members whose service location is within the city.

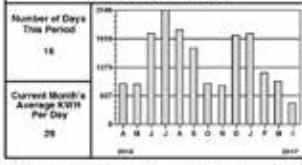


Victory Electric Cooperative MKEC
3230 N. 14th
PO Box 1398
Dodge City KS 67801

Office & 24-HOUR EMERGENCY numbers: 620-237-2129 or 800-279-7919
OFFICE HOURS 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. MONDAY - FRIDAY

Cooperative Member
1234 Cooperative Way
Dodge City, KS 67801
☎️📧📠📞📺📻📡📢📣📤📥📦📧📨📩📪📫📬📭📮📯📰📱📲📳📴📵📶📷📸📹📺📻📼📽📾📿

KWH USAGE HISTORY



Number of Days This Period: 18
Current Month's Average KWH Per Day: 26

Comparisons	Days	kWh	Avg H Temp	Avg Lo Temp
Current Month	18	466	68.0	45.0
Last Month	31	953	63.0	39.0
One Year Ago	30	907	66.0	43.0

If you have any questions regarding your bill please don't hesitate to call our office. Thank you.

Bill Date: 04/17/2017 Account # 73456789

CURRENT MONTH ENERGY CHARGE	AMOUNT	ACCOUNT SUMMARY	AMOUNT
Energy Charge 466 kWh @ 0.111776	52.09	Previous Balance	97.30
Energy Cost Adj 466 kWh @ -0.00444	-2.07	No Payments Received	0.00
Service Availability Charge	15.00	Total Current Month Energy Charge	70.00
Ford County Tax 1.15%	1.13		
Town Tax 1.0%	0.58		
Dodge City Franchise Fee 5.0%	3.25		
		Total Monthly Energy Charge	149.38
Current Month Energy Charge	76.08	Total Amount Due By 05/28/2017	149.38
		Late Payment Charge After 05/28/2017	1.34
		Total Amount Due After 05/28/2017	170.72


Meter Number	Pres Read	Prev Read	Mult	KWH Used	Days	Amount	Cycle
V 00734	6344	5875	1.0	466	16	70.08	4

Map Number	Pres Date	Prev Date	Bill Type	Rate Schedule	Rate Code	Voting Dist
LLM Cooperative Way	04/17/2017	04/01/2017	Regular	All Electric - Urban	AR18	10

KWH Used One Year Ago	907	Amount Billed One Year Ago	101.77
-----------------------	-----	----------------------------	--------

Please detach and return bottom portion with payment.

Account Number	Meter Number	Service Address	Account Number: 73456789
73456789	V 00734	1234 Cooperative Way	Total Amount Due 149.38
			If Paying After 05/28/2017 Pay 170.72
			Amount Paid



Cooperative Member
1234 Cooperative Way
18046000170760100001693800017072041720173

Seguridad de Generador: *Nuestras Vidas están en la Línea*

La seguridad de nuestros miembros y nuestros empleados es una prioridad en Victory Electric especialmente durante tiempos peligrosos. Cuando las tormentas afectan nuestra zona, estamos corrimos en su ayuda tan pronto como las condiciones climáticas permiten a nuestros trabajadores de la línea viajar y hacer reparaciones de manera segura.

Nuestro equipo de línea toma las precauciones necesarias antes de trabajar en las líneas eléctricas caídas. En primer lugar, verificar un circuito ha sido desactivado, y que los interruptores apropiados se abren y etiquetados para aislar el circuito del sistema. Ponemos las cadenas de tierra en el circuito-en ambos lados de los trabajadores, para asegurarse de que la línea no se puede activar mientras el trabajo se está haciendo.

Pero incluso después de estas medidas, las vidas de nuestros trabajadores permanecen en sus manos.

Victory Electric está orgullosa de nuestro historial de seguridad excelente, pero a veces, no importan cuántos pasos tomamos para proteger a todo el mundo, las personas están poniendo nuestras vidas—y su propia—en peligro,

Generadores portátiles, ampliamente utilizados cuando las líneas eléctricas son hacia

abajo, pueden resultar fatales para los trabajadores de la línea y sus vecinos cuando se utiliza incorrectamente

En 2005, un liniero murió Flomaton, Alabama, cuando entró en contacto con una línea de alimentación que fue activada por un generador mal instalado. Cuarenta y uno-años Ronnie Adams de Winterville, GA., estaba trabajando para restaurar la energía después del huracán Dennis. Estaba casado y tenía dos hijos adolescentes.

Por supuesto, nadie nunca deliberadamente causaría la muerte de un trabajador de la línea. Sin embargo, un generador conectado al cableado de una casa o enchufado en un tomacorriente regular puede causar retroalimentación a lo largo de las líneas eléctricas y electrocutar a cualquiera que entra en contacto con ellos, incluso si la línea parece muerta.

Los empleados de Victory Electric no son los únicos en peligro cuando un generador portátil se utiliza indebidamente. Propietarios de generador sí pueden estar en riesgo de electrocución, incendio de lesiones, daños a la propiedad o envenenamiento por monóxido de carbono si no siguen las normas de seguridad necesarias.

Generadores portátiles pueden ser muy útiles para los consumidores durante las interrupciones. Pero le pedimos que siga estas pautas de seguridad cuando use uno:

► **Nunca conecte un generador directamente al cableado de su hogar a menos que su casa ha sido conectada para uso de generadores.** Esto puede causar retroalimentación a lo largo de las líneas eléctricas y electrocutar a alguien contacto con ellos, incluidos los trabajadores de la línea realizar reparaciones. Tienen un electricista calificado instale el

equipo necesario para conectar con seguridad generadores de emergencia a su casa.

► **Enchufar aparatos directamente en generadores.** Conectar el generador a circuitos o el cableado de su hogar debe hacerse por un electricista cualificado que le instale un interruptor de transferencia para evitar la retroalimentación.

► **Utilice cables de extensión para trabajo pesado,** resistente a la intemperie. Asegúrese de que los cables de extensión son libres de cortes o roturas y el enchufe tiene tres clavijas. Cables sobrecargados pueden provocar incendios o daños al equipo.

► **Asegurar su generador está correctamente conectado a tierra.**

► **Nunca sobrecargue un generador.** Un generador portátil sólo debe utilizarse cuando sea necesario para aparatos o equipos esenciales de alimentación.

► **Apagar todo el equipo alimentado por el generador antes de apagarlo.**

► **Mantenga el generador seco.** Ponerlo sobre una superficie seca bajo una estructura abierta.

► **Tener siempre un extintor de incendios completamente cargado.**

► **Nunca cargué un generador mientras esté en funcionamiento.**

► **Lea y siga las instrucciones del fabricante para un funcionamiento seguro.** Nunca corte las esquinas cuando se trata de seguridad.

Animamos a proteger el bienestar y la seguridad de su familia durante las interrupciones y proteger a quienes acudir en su ayuda durante situaciones de emergencia. Si su generador es que necesitan mantenimiento, póngase en contacto con victoria eléctrica, contamos con electricistas en personal que puede ayudar. Cuando trabajamos juntos para la seguridad y el bienestar de nuestras comunidades, todos nos beneficiamos.

