

P.O. Box 1335, 3230 N. 14th Ave.
 Dodge City, KS 67801
 620-227-2139
victoryelectric.net
[facebook.com/victoryelectric](https://www.facebook.com/victoryelectric)
twitter.com/thevictoryelec
 Visit us on YouTube



Electronews

The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.

Board of Trustees

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Pat Morse
President | John Leis
Trustee |
| Daryl Tieben
Vice President | James Ochs
Trustee |
| Cedric Drewes
Secretary/Treasurer | Randy Quint
Trustee |
| Gary Gillespie
Trustee | Ken Schulte
Trustee |
| Jim Imel
Trustee | Kenny Wehkamp
Trustee |
| Terri Larson
Trustee | |

Staff

- Shane Laws**
CEO
- Amy Grasser**
Vice President of Corporate Services
- Mikey Goddard**
Vice President of Safety
- Rob Henry**
Vice President of Engineering
- Denzil McGill**
Vice President of Information Technology
- Ryan Miller**
Vice President of Operations
- Angela Unruh**
CFO

CEO MESSAGE

Affordable Electricity Powers Quality of Life

Most of us use electricity, either directly or indirectly, at almost all times. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it's easy to take it for granted.

According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning, appliances and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer just the "light bill."



Shane Laws

Electricity Powers Quality of Life

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater and HVAC system) to charging your smartphones, computers, TV and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting.

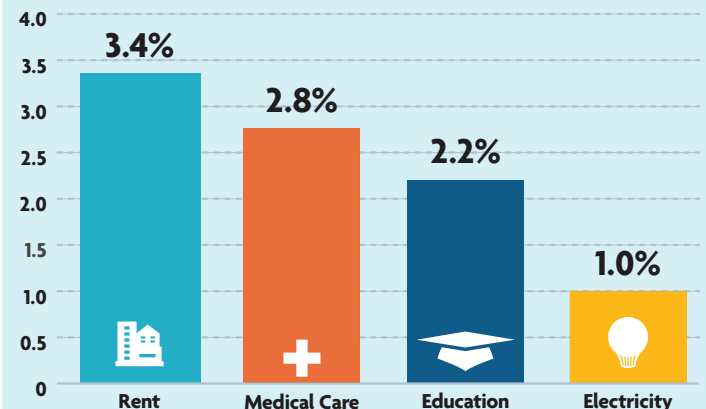
Continued on page 16B ►

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2015-2020

Percent



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

Affordable Electricity Powers Quality of Life

Continued from page 16A ►

Today, there is a continuously increasing demand and need for electricity at home, businesses, in schools, and in commercial sectors such as transportation.

Typically when demand goes up, so too does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not true with electricity. Let's take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses.

Over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4%, medical care increased 2.8%, and education increased 2.2%. But the cost of electricity only increased 1%. Considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it still remains a great value.

So, the next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity — it's a necessity. That's why Victory Electric will continue working hard to power your life, reliably and affordably.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money. Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy-efficient model. **SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV**



Be Cyber Smart

Technology is vital part of our lives, but just like in any other facet of life, it is important to take precautions to protect your safety. Though a threat to your cybersecurity does not put you in physical harm, it can still cause significant damage. In honor of October's National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, here are five tips to help you be cyber smart and stay cyber safe.

Use Passwords Effectively

Although tempting, don't use all the same passwords for all of your devices. Absolutely change factory-set passwords provided by the manufacturer. Make your passwords complex and challenging. Change your password often to help prevent hackers.

Never Give Out Personal Information

This tip applies to more than just online interactions. Never give out log-in or password or other personal information in an email, over the phone, or for any other reason unless you are the one contacting the company directly via verified phone number or other trusted method of contact.

Use Public WiFi with Caution

Public and home Wi-Fi connections are not always secure. Avoid logging into personal accounts, like email

and financial sites when you do not recognize the connections. If you must connect to public Wi-Fi, consider using a virtual private network (VPN) or personal hotspot.

Beware Unknown Senders

Tips for spotting phishers and hackers: 1) They often disguise themselves as someone you know. 2) They offer financial reward, threaten you or claim to need help. 3) They ask for your personal info. 4) They want you to download a file or click a link.

If it Seems "Phishy," it Probably is

Sometimes someone you know has become a victim of a phisher/hacker. In an attempt to hack your account, this phisher/hacker may use your friend's (social media or email) account to contact you. Their messages will often contain requests for money, personal information, or prompt you to click a link.

By increasing awareness and enhancing understanding of basic cybersecurity practices, we can all work together to combat cyberthreats. The human element is oftentimes the biggest cybersecurity risk. Each of us has a critical role to play to ensure the security of our personal and professional data. For more information on what you can do to protect your cyber presence visit staysafeonline.org.

FOUR TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR COMPUTER



1. Install antivirus software and keep it updated.



2. Never send emails that include your personal information (like date of birth or SSN)



3. Never open attachments or links unless you know the sender and/or were expecting the message.



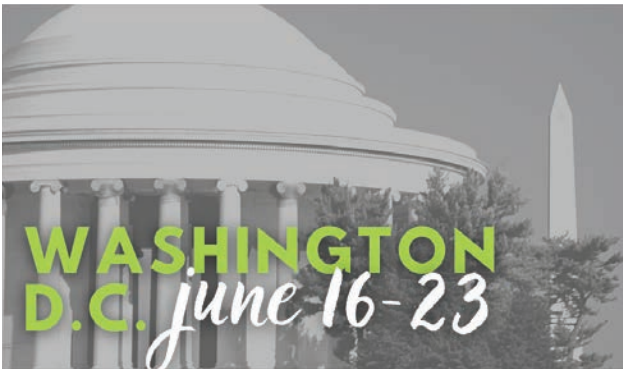
4. Monitor children's activity on the Internet and make sure they know how to practice good cyber security.

Co-ops Vote

As leaders in the communities they serve, Kansas electric cooperatives continue to engage their consumer-members and policymakers through Co-ops Vote, a non-partisan campaign focused on boosting voter turnout in areas served by cooperatives and educating voters and policymakers on issues important to rural Kansans. On Aug. 24, Victory staff hosted a Co-ops Vote discussion with local leaders.



1. Kansas Electric Cooperatives' Leslie Kaufman, vice president of government relations and legal counsel, shares legislative topics relevant to electric co-ops coming in the next year.
2. Present at Co-ops Vote were (from left): James Brungardt, Sunflower; Sen. Ronald Ryckman; and Rep. Bradley Ralph plus numerous Victory Electric staff and guests.
3. Victory Electric CEO Shane Laws discusses cooperative issues with attendees.



2022
victory electric
YOUTH TOUR

APPLY BY OCTOBER 8, 2021
VICTORYELECTRIC.NET
askcommunications@victoryelectric.net

Contest Rules

To win, complete the form on Victory Electric's website each week. Entries re-open weekly and the winners announced on Mondays by email or phone call. Ten winners (five residential and five commercial/business members) will be announced at the end of each week.

WEEK 1 | Enter from noon, Sept. 27 to 11:59 p.m. Oct. 3. **OCT. 4 WINNERS ANNOUNCED.**

WEEK 2 | Enter from noon Oct. 4 to 11:59 p.m. Oct. 10. **OCT. 11 WINNERS ANNOUNCED.**

WEEK 3 | Enter from noon Oct. 11 to 11:59 p.m. Oct. 17. **OCT. 18 WINNERS ANNOUNCED.**

WEEK 4 | Enter from noon Oct. 18 to 11:59 p.m. Oct. 24. **OCT. 25 WINNERS ANNOUNCED.**

WEEK 5 | Enter from noon Oct. 25 to 11:59 p.m. Oct. 31. **NOV. 1 WINNERS ANNOUNCED.**

WEEK OF GIVING

Enter from noon Oct. 4 to 11:59 p.m. Nov. 21.

ONE \$100 VICTORY ELECTRIC BILL CREDIT WINNER announced on **NOV. 22.**

Prize winners must be 18 years of age or older and reside in Victory Electric's service territory. Victory Electric employees, trustees, contractors and members of their households are ineligible. Winners will be chosen at random.

- ▶ Need not be present to win.
- ▶ If we cannot make contact with a winner within five days, another entry will be drawn.
- ▶ Gift cards must be picked up from the Victory office. Must show ID to claim gift card.
- ▶ Individuals are only eligible to win once.
- ▶ No purchase necessary.
- ▶ Prizes are not transferable.

Co-ops Love Local

Many small businesses, whether retail or restaurants, have had a tough two years. Community members may be struggling as well due to shutdowns, reduced work hours, or job loss due to the pandemic. Giving back to the community is woven into the cooperative spirit and to help boost spirits, support local small businesses, and to bring the power of caring to the communities we serve, Victory Electric is celebrating National Co-op Month in October by bringing back the Co-ops Love Local campaign.

Co-ops Love Local benefits locally-owned businesses and community members through a giveaway of 50 gift cards purchased from local businesses and given to community members in the amount of \$50 each.

Drawings will be held every Monday from Oct. 5 through Nov. 1. Anyone who lives in the cooperative service area may enter the giveaway by completing the form located on Victory Electric's website once a week.

The local-lovin' fun doesn't stop there! Winners of the \$50 gift card drawings may then post on Facebook using "#Co-opsLoveLocal2021", or email Victory Electric describing how they spent their extra money locally this month. Doing so will enter them in a drawing for a \$100 Victory Electric bill



credit during the week of giving on Nov. 22. Winners who include pictures in the post/email of how they spent the money locally will qualify them

for an **ADDITIONAL** entry!

To be eligible, prize winners must be 18 years of age or older and reside in Victory Electric's service territory. Only one entry per account per week. Winners of the \$50 drawings will not be eligible for any other Co-ops Love Local \$50 gift certificate drawings. Victory Electric employees, trustees and contractors, and members of their households are ineligible.

"From serving our members to giving back to the community, this is what we do," said Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO. "It fits well with one of our seven core cooperative principles, concern for community."

Each dollar spent at local, independent businesses returns three times more money to the local economy than shopping at a chain or mega online retailer. Local businesses are the heart and soul of our communities and we are incredibly lucky to have vibrant, diverse, and resilient small businesses in our area.

Anyone interested in learning more about Co-ops Love Local or to view the listing of gift certificates available and the complete contest rules can visit our website at victoryelectric.net.

2021 Gift Card List

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| ▶ Ace Hardware | ▶ Chamber Checks | ▶ Eclectic Bistro | ▶ Long's | ▶ Scooter's Coffee |
| ▶ Applebees | ▶ Confetti's | ▶ El Rodeo Bar and Grill | ▶ Los Sombreros | ▶ Sears |
| ▶ Bella Italia Ristorante | ▶ Cowboy Capital | ▶ Flowers By Irene | ▶ Mariah Hills Golf Course | ▶ Sutherland's |
| ▶ Billy Sims BBQ | ▶ Cummings Carousel | ▶ Freddy's Frozen Custard | ▶ Mariscos Nayarit | ▶ Tacos Jaliscos |
| ▶ Boot Hill Distillery | ▶ Daylight Donuts | ▶ Humble Flowers | ▶ Nature's Corner Garden Center and Nursery | ▶ The Vintage Belle Boutique |
| ▶ Boot Hill Museum Gift Shop | ▶ DC Appliance | ▶ I Don't Care Family Restaurant | ▶ NobiliTea | ▶ Tiasnguis |
| ▶ Casey's General Store | ▶ Dillons | ▶ Ivory Elephant Boutique | ▶ Orschlens | ▶ Tractore Supply Co. |
| ▶ Central Station Bar & Grill | ▶ Dodge City Brewing | ▶ Jalisco's | ▶ Papa Johns | ▶ Vallarta Mexican Grill |
| | ▶ Drink It Milk Tea House | ▶ Jimmy Johns | ▶ Pizza Hut | ▶ Village 8 Theaters |
| | | ▶ Kate's | ▶ Prime on the Nine | ▶ Walmart |
| | | ▶ Kirby Meats | ▶ Red Beard Coffee | ▶ Waters True Value |