

P.O. Box 1335, 3230 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Dodge City, KS 67801  
620-227-2139  
victoryelectric.net  
facebook.com/victoryelectric  
twitter.com/thevictoryelec



# Electronews

## The Victory Electric Cooperative 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** – Vice President  
of Corporate Services  
**Mikey Goddard** – Vice President of  
Safety  
**Rob Henry** – Vice President  
of Engineering  
**Jerri Imgarten** – Vice President  
of Communications  
**Denzil McGill** – Vice President of  
Information Technology  
**Ryan Miller** – Vice President  
of Operations  
**Angela Unruh** – CFO

### FROM THE MANAGER

## Take Control and Enjoy the Convenience of PowerMyWay

*Your power. Your plan. Your choice.*

Does the timing of your electric bill match the timing of your payday? Would you like to take the stress out of due dates and avoid late fees? Now is the time to take charge of your energy costs. Victory Electric now offers our all new PowerMyWay program, an exciting new billing plan options that gives you greater control and offers the flexibility of purchasing your electricity when you want, in the amounts you choose. The choice is yours.

There are no additional costs or fees to take advantage of the PowerMyWay billing plan. Rates, including energy charges, taxes, franchise taxes, the service availability charge, and the energy charge adjustment are exactly the same as accounts on a standard residential billing plan (some charges are prorated daily), but the member is NOT required to make a security deposit and there are no disconnect, reconnect or late fees.

### The power is in your hands

Think of PowerMyWay like putting gas in your car. Your vehicle has a gauge that allows you to monitor when you need to fill up. You can choose to purchase small amounts every few days or “fill up” the tank and not worry about it for several weeks. Similarly, you will receive

a notification from SmartHub when you need to “recharge” your PowerMyWay account, and you can fill up your electric account just like filling up the gas tank in a car—one gallon at a time or with a full tank.

Upon enrollment in PowerMyWay, a member must purchase at least \$50 of energy and have access to the Internet (to download SmartHub) or the ability to receive text messages. Once a day between 7 and 9 a.m., Victory Electric reads your electronic meter, and the amount associated with that day's electric service is deducted from your account balance.

Because PowerMyWay is a self-managed, pay-as-you-go program, you are responsible for monitoring and keeping a positive account balance. It is also the end of a paper bill in the mail. Your account balance can be reviewed anytime and anywhere from your tablet or computer via Victory Electric's SmartHub app.

After your meter is read and your account balance is reconciled each day,



Shane Laws

*Continued on page 16B* ▶

## Take Control with PowerMyWay Continued from page 16A ▶

if the balance is equal to or less than \$25, Victory Electric will send an automated low balance notice by text message, email or telephone. You have the ability to set custom notification methods and thresholds in SmartHub, i.e. Joe E. Member can customize his notification to a text message and an email to his wife when his account reaches \$40 or less. Low balance notifications are sent any day your balance is lower than \$25. This gives you time to purchase power before the meter actually stops at \$0.01 or less.

At any time your balance is \$0.01 or below, a disconnect notification will be sent in the morning, and if a payment is not made to recharge the account by early afternoon, the meter will suspend service until a payment is made. After a \$50 credit balance is established on the account, power will be restored. There are no disconnect or reconnect fees, and disconnection is the only time a \$50 minimum payment is required. Payment options include all payment methods available to members on a traditional billing plan except autopay and budget billing.

Any new or existing residential member of Victory Electric can take advantage of PowerMyWay. Existing members must have their conventional account paid-in-full, including unbilled electrical use, before switching to PowerMyWay. Existing members who have paid a deposit may apply the deposit to any outstanding balance on a conventional account, transfer the deposit to a PowerMyWay account, or request to have the deposit refunded.

### Know where your energy dollars are going

Industry studies show consumers who participate in similar PowerMyWay plans use as much as 10 percent less electricity

than their counterparts on standard monthly billing plans. Once payment is made, you can watch your account balance decrease as electricity is used, giving you a better understanding of your energy consumption and how you use electricity every day. That knowledge can be used to adjust habits and appliance operation and help reduce the amount of electricity you use and save money. You turn things off more often. You may change the setting on your thermostat so you don't cool or heat as much. You might cook outside to avoid using the oven or make sure your dishwasher is really full before running it.

PowerMyWay is the epitome of local control. Paying as you go puts you in the driver's seat. You decide when you want to use electricity. You decide when you want to buy more. It gives you the tools to better manage your energy use and take charge of your monthly bills by paying lower startup costs and having the convenience of paying for your electricity on an as-needed basis. Our SmartHub app/web portal allows members daily access to electricity use so you can make smarter decisions about your consumption habits.

Victory Electric knows there is no one billing or payment option that works for every member, but we continue to research and provide a variety of options that fit different individual's needs, lifestyles and schedules. The PowerMyWay billing plan is just another avenue our members can use to take control of electric consumption and empower energy savings.

For more information on PowerMyWay or to sign up, call our office 620-227-2139, stop by the office, or visit [victoryelectric.net](http://victoryelectric.net).

*Thanks, Shane*

## PowerMyWay — What's the difference?

|   | Conventional Billing Plan<br>(billed monthly) | PowerMyWay Billing Plan<br>(pay when it's convenient for you) |
|---|---|---|
| Are electric rates the same?  | Same  | Same  |
| Is a deposit required?  | Varies*                                       | No**  |
| Are any late fees charged?  | Yes   | No  |
| Are there any reconnect fees?   | Yes   | No  |
| Soft utility credit check?  | Yes   | No  |
| * Depends on results of credit check ** Must start with \$50 credit balance |   |   |

## Victory Electric and Partners Advocate for Changes in Transmission Tariffs at Southwest Power Pool

Our expansive road system makes our lives easier. Getting to work, visiting our families, and engaging in leisure activities are all made possible by a vast network of roadways, from county roads to interstate highways. Likewise, our expansive electric delivery system of transmission and distribution lines are always there for us, providing us comfort in our homes and fostering productivity in our workplaces. We always count on the reliability that these systems provide, but we rarely consider the cost it takes to design, build and maintain them.

Building and maintaining our transportation system is expensive. For example, most of the funding for regional and interstate highways comes from state and federal sources, while the majority of funding for local street projects comes from local sources, such as sales and property taxes. We accept this as a sensible approach since regional and interstate highways are used by many, while local roads are mainly used by those who live in the area.

In contrast, this reasonable approach of cost allocation is not used to assign costs for high-voltage transmission infrastructure, the system that moves electricity long distances to its destination. For example, in the service territory of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation and Mid-Kansas Electric Company—the electric utilities providing Victory Electric with wholesale generation and transmission services—the expansion of renewable generation has required significant high-voltage infrastructure be built to carry energy to where it will eventually be consumed. The bulk of the construction costs for these projects has been assigned to ratepayers living in the areas where the infrastructure is constructed, not to the ratepayers who consume the electricity being delivered.

Sunflower and Mid-Kansas rank first for wind concentration in comparison to all other members of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), the regional transmission organization (RTO) that oversees the bulk electric grid and wholesale power market in the central United States. The SPP membership, which includes Sunflower and Mid-Kansas, is comprised of electric utilities from across 14 states.

Statistics illustrate wind's impact on Sunflower and Mid-Kansas. In 2016, wind penetration exceeded Sunflower and Mid-Kansas electricity demand (load) 62 percent of the time, resulting in the need to move a great amount of wind energy outside the Sunflower and Mid-Kansas systems. Sunflower currently has 2.5 GW of wind energy connected

**Being part of a larger co-op family allows us to accomplish projects and tackle issues we may not be able to do alone.**



**Dr. Al Tamimi, vice president of transmission planning and policy at Sunflower and Mid-Kansas, presenting to the Southwest Power Pool on cost allocation for transmission.**

to the system. If wind generation interconnection requests unfold as planned, approximately 6 GW of wind energy will be connected to our system by 2022. That equates to a 521 percent penetration of wind compared to load.

Due to the current SPP transmission tariff, area ratepayers have largely shouldered much of the cost for the infrastructure buildout necessary to export wind outside our territory. The SPP 14-state region only shoulders ne-third of the cost burden for byway high-voltage transmission buildout while wind exporting utilities, such as Sunflower and Mid-Kansas, pay a two-thirds portion of the projects.

This important issue is one of several being addressed at SPP on your behalf by staff representing Sunflower and Mid-Kansas. They have asked SPP to revisit the cost allocation with a new methodology that results in more of the cost being paid by those using the wind. Like the U.S. interstate system, if the energy needs of others require the use of Sunflower's and Mid-Kansas' transmission projects, they should help bear the costs. Not doing so is comparable to asking residents of Brooklyn, New York, to pay for city streets in Kansas.

Currently, three committees at SPP are analyzing the impact of the transmission tariff, including issues with cost allocation, in areas of high wind concentration. Results from the three groups are expected in April 2019.

“Victory Electric and our members benefit in many ways from our relationship with Sunflower and Mid-Kansas membership,” said Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO. “These benefits certainly include high-voltage generation and transmission services, but also—and one that many don't see—is the work by Sunflower and Mid-Kansas to advocate on behalf of Victory Electric and those we serve. This is one of many ways being part of a larger co-op family allows us to accomplish projects and tackle issues we may not be able to do alone.”

# Victory Electric and Dodge City Days Parade 2018



Thank you to our members who celebrated “The Wild Side of the State” 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. Parade participants handed out 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 and the Salute the Troops event.



1. Employees and families of Victory Electric participate in the parade.

2. Victory Electric engineer Jeff Hubbell and his son, Mason, wave to the crowd.

3. The kids love to ride on the line truck through the parade.

4. Brennen, son of member service representative Rubi Carbajal, hands out during the parade.

5. Bella, daughter of Brad Ackerman, senior information technology analyst, shares candy with parade attendees.

## Lineman Accepts New Role as Key Accounts Manager

After serving as a lineman, **KYNDELL PENICK** was recently selected as Victory Electric's manager of key accounts.

Penick began his Victory Electric career in 2014 in the electrician department before transferring to the line crew just a few months later.

"My good friend's dad was a lineman," Penick said. "I was in business school and I didn't know what I wanted to do. Manhattan's Power line school program had a two-year wait list, so I applied for Dodge City's newly developed program and was accepted. I've been a lineman since."

As the new manager of key accounts, Penick enjoys working closely with members and key accounts.

"Solving problems and helping the whole organization is what I'm liking most," Penick said.

As the manager of key accounts, Penick will assist key consumers through regularly scheduled visits and frequent communication, assist in developing programs, proposals and services, negotiate about business conditions, work closely with economic development officials to affect expansion and market development opportunities, serve as an energy expert for commercial and residential members, and much more.

"The manager of key accounts is the primary contact for our larger members if they have issues that need addressed immediately," said Rob Henry, vice president of engineering. "Kyndell has extensive experience and knowledge about our system and I know he will do a great job for us."

There is a learning curve behind the career move, Penick

noticed. "I have been a lineman for nearly 10 years including my prior employments, and seeing what happens in the office has been a big shift. I have a lot to learn."

With a career tenure like Penick, he knows the members at the end of the lines and knows how cooperatives are different than other utilities.

"My farming background helps me to appreciate both the Victory Electric operations and the end result for our members," Penick said. "I am a people person and hope to build on relations Josh Schmidt built before me."

Penick gives credit to two former linemen and his family for influencing him to apply.

"It is different to come into this role, but something I wanted to do and look forward to," Penick said. "Eric Speer, manager of operations, and Mikey Goddard, vice president of safety, are two big influencers for me. They were my former crew chiefs and moved into supervisory roles. They provided me with a lot of insight, and I appreciate their leadership."

Penick and his wife, Shawn, have a young family. "We have our son, Kayden, and a daughter on the way," Penick said. "My wife is looking forward to me being home more. I am too. I will miss working storms but I'm still helping members—just in a different capacity."

We congratulate Kyndell on his promotion!



Kyndell Penick

Save the Date  
Pumpkin Painting & Carving Festival  
Saturday, October 27, 2018  
9 to 11 a.m. at Victory Electric  
More Details to come

The graphic features a string of colorful bunting flags at the top. Below the flags, there is a large orange pumpkin with diagonal stripes and a green stem, and a smaller pumpkin with horizontal stripes. To the right of the pumpkins is a cartoon illustration of a red fox with a white beard and a red scarf. The background is a light orange color.

## COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

## Camp Teaches Leadership, Teamwork, Inclusiveness: *the Pillars of a Cooperative*

Fitting in and being part of the group can be challenging for anyone, especially high school students. It is this sense of belonging, of being part of something bigger, that sets electric cooperatives apart from other utilities. The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, aims to bring high school students together in a collaborative setting to learn the cooperative principles while cultivating the students' leadership and teamwork skills.

This year's camp hosted 37 Kansas high school students and other hand-picked scholars from Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming from July 13-19. Victory Electric's pleased to have sponsored **ARIA KNEDLER** and **ALEJANDRO RANGEL**, both of Dodge City, for this leadership opportunity.

At camp, the youth gained a greater understanding of how their electric cooperative operates by creating a candy cooperative. The students learned leadership and teamwork skills while participating in daily membership meetings, establishing committees, and electing a general manager and board of directors. They also learned about power

generation by touring both Trapper Coal Mine, and the neighboring Craig Station Power Plant.

To be selected for this trip, Knedler and Rangel were chosen by Victory Electric through an application, letters of recommendation, and a professional interview in front of a panel of judges.

"Students are selected based on their leadership potential," said Kennedy St. George. "This includes their academic achievements and community and extra-curricular activities, along with their attitude when faced with adversity."

While at camp, students participated in group activities and educational sessions while learning the importance of inclusivity and collaboration. Even the scheduled leisure activities offered learning opportunities as the students worked together maneuvering their river rafts down the Colorado River, competed in a volleyball tournament, and showcased their entertaining skills at the annual talent show. The students also toured downtown Steamboat Springs and enjoyed an evening dance and swimming.



Aria Knedler and Alejandro Rangel enjoy the view of Elk River.



The students tour Trapper Coal Mine.



Nearly 100 campers from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming attended the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Through Victory Electric I had the amazing opportunity to go to Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp! CYLC was amazing and I learned so much about being a leader and about myself. Camp was so different and better than what I was expecting. I absolutely loved learning about co-ops because going into this I didn't realize how much they really care for the community they serve and the people in it.

I experienced so many new and exciting activities at camp—my favorite was the white-water rafting. I'd never been rafting before and it was so fun to be with my new friends on the water having water fights!

At camp I was lucky enough to be the vice president of the board of directors of our candy cooperative. Being on the board of directors gave me a very different experience at camp and gave me an awesome small group of leaders I connected with—almost immediately. While everyone was swimming and having free time, we were having meetings and doing interviews for our general manager, and honestly, I wouldn't have wanted it any other way. The people on the board were all strong, amazing leaders and I am so thankful for the chance to work with them at camp.

I can't express enough how thankful I am to have been given this opportunity and can't wait to put everything I learned to use!



Aria Knedler



Alejandro Rangel

Thanks to Victory Electric, I can now add going on the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp to the list of valuable learning experiences during my four years at Dodge City High School. Ranging from an indoor skydiving experience on my first day to white-water rafting toward the end of the trip, I got to experience many things that I had not done before.

Cooperatives play a crucial role in everyone's lives, and stems far from just providing the electricity in your home and community. I learned that because they're not motivated to create profits for shareholders, they focus efforts on lowering prices for their community, which is synonymous with neighbors. Cooperatives care for the environment through continuous investment in green energy, conservation efforts and wildlife protection.

Through this I also created new friendships from which I learned about smaller communities, their families and differing viewpoints on a range of topics. I will never forget the impromptu Spanish lessons I gave to other campers and teaching people about my culture and learning about theirs.

I will be forever grateful to my cooperative for giving me this opportunity to learn more about the way co-ops function and how to be a better leader in my school and community.

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

# Apply to Earn the Trip of a Lifetime for Summer 2019



Each year, Victory Electric sponsors four students to travel and experience the trip of a lifetime. Coordinated through Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., two students are selected to represent Victory Electric in Washington, D.C., at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and another two students travel to Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

- ▶ All high school juniors in Victory Electric's service territory are eligible to apply.
- ▶ Applicants must complete the entry form below and return to Victory Electric's office by **OCT. 9, 2018**.
- ▶ Applicants will be mailed an entry packet. Finalists will be chosen from completed application, r sum , letters of recommendation, and essays.
- ▶ Finalists will be interviewed to determine winners. Interviews will be Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018.

Name of applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant cell number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Parent phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant email \_\_\_\_\_ Parent email \_\_\_\_\_

High school \_\_\_\_\_

*I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Signature of applicant)*

*I hereby grant permission for to enter the 2019 Youth Tour \_\_\_\_\_  
competition sponsored by The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Signature of parent/guardian)*

Please send completed form to Victory Electric Cooperative • Attn: Kennedy St. George  
P.O. Box 1335 • Dodge City, KS 67801 • email [kstgeorge@victoryelectric.net](mailto:kstgeorge@victoryelectric.net). **Due Oct. 9, 2018.**