

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 1335, 3230 N. 1st Ave.
Dodge City, KS 67801
620-227-2139
www.victoryelectric.net

THE VICTORY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews



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FROM THE CEO

Loyal Connections

Co-ops change lives in the communities they serve

Loyalty is a prized virtue—to country, family, even the schools we attend. We keep those ties strong throughout our lives.

We at Victory Electric also have loyalties, to the members and communities we serve. We have deep connections here because southwest Kansas is our home, and you are our neighbor.

When you signed up for service with Victory Electric, you became a member, not a customer—because each of our 13,000 members owns a portion of the utility.

That means we care about improving the quality of life in the areas we serve. From sponsoring little league teams to supporting local 4-H clubs and taking donations for the local food banks, Victory Electric invests in the places where you live and work.

Victory Electric doesn't exist to make profits for distant investors on Wall Street. We exist to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electric service—and doing so in a way that makes things better for future generations. Because electric co-ops operate on a not-for-profit basis, we have no need to increase revenues above what it takes to run our business in a financially sound manner. This structure helps keep your electric bills affordable.

We take our jobs seriously, but we also take our community roles seriously, too. That's why we send three high school juniors to leadership camp and another three students to Washington, D.C., every summer to learn about history and government. Victory Electric coordinates a large health fair every year for our local communities. Victory also sponsors many community events like the Parade of Lights and Chili Cook-off and the Pumpkin Painting and Carving Festival.

We don't participate in these activities simply because it's nice to do, or even the right thing to do. We do it because we remain loyal to our members, our neighbors, our home—and a mission to make life better in the areas we serve.

Do you want to work with us? Tell me what would make life better in your community. Call us at 620-227-2139.

Thanks, Shane



Shane Laws

“We have deep connections here because southwest Kansas is our home, and you are our neighbor.”

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Victory Seeks Board Nominations



Kenny
Wehkamp

Dear Victory Members,
It is time once again to start thinking about Victory Electric's Annual Membership Meeting held in April 2014.

We are currently soliciting nominations for Victory Electric's Board of Trustees.

Positions up for election are in District 2, currently held by **JOHN LEIS**, Minneola; District 4, currently held by **JIM IMEL**, Bucklin; District 6, currently held by **KENNY WEHKAMP**, Cimarron; and District 10, currently held by **RANDY QUINT**, Dodge City.

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 within the district which you wish to represent. Also, 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.

Duties of an elected trustee include: attending a monthly six-to-eight hour board meeting, board training opportunities, and some travel will be required.

If you would like to run for a position, or you know someone interested, please send a letter of interest with qualifications to Shane Laws or Kenny Wehkamp at Victory Electric, P.O. Box 1335, Dodge City, KS 67801.

Sincerely,

KENNY WEHKAMP, PRESIDENT

Gaut Earns CFPC Certification

JENNIFER GAUT, Victory Electric accountant, recently earned her Cooperative Financial Professional Certificate (CFPC). Gaut began the process in August 2012 and completed in October 2013.

The CFPC is an intensive, three-part finance program for senior and mid-level finance and accounting staff. It is a collaborative program with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (NRUCFC). It includes two, one-week training sessions, supplemented with online web conferences and work assignments. The first session is held in the Fluno Center for Executive Education at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. This is followed up later with a series of online web conferences. The final session is held at NRUCFC headquarters in Dulles, VA.

"This course was very educational and challenging," Gaut said. "I met many new friends and business contacts that will be able to support each other when we need to bounce ideas off of one another. The whole process was a huge learning tool. I am grateful for the opportunity."

The program provides a comprehensive financial analysis of a hypothetical cooperative, with a strategic emphasis on practical financial, banking, rate making, and communication applications. With the analytical tools gained during the course, the partici-



Jennifer Gaut with her certificate

part becomes the financial consultant of the cooperative.

"While my current position allows me to 'dabble' in some of these issues, the course allowed me to dive head-first into the topics and really dissect the information from the inside-out," Gaut elaborated. "I really feel like it will help me with my future endeavors here at Victory Electric."

Individuals earn the CFPC certificate by completing all three sessions in order and a final "capstone" report, which is a comprehensive financial analysis of their cooperative.

Victory Electric congratulates Gaut on her accomplishment.

Visit our Website and Join Victory Electric on Facebook

Visit www.victoryelectric.net. and you will find a calendar of events, frequently asked questions, bill pay and energy calculators—just to name a few tools!

You can also become a fan of Victory Electric on Facebook at facebook.com/VictoryElectric or by searching for The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc. Check for updates, outage information and energy efficiency tips. Facebook is a great way to stay in touch and stay apprised of co-op events and news.



High School Juniors: Win a Free Trip to Washington, D.C., or Steamboat Springs, Colorado

If you are a high school junior and would like to increase your leadership skills, meet new friends and travel, you can apply for the Youth Tour through Victory Electric.

During the Government In Action Youth Tour, June 12-19, 2014, students will join 1,500 youth from across the nation in Washington, D.C. Participants will visit the monuments and other attractions, as well as visit Capitol Hill to learn more about how our government works.

At the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 12-18, 2014, students will join youth from Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Kansas. Campers form a mock cooperative, participate in leadership activities, and learn about the cooperatives.

Students will be selected based on a resumé, application and an interview. To apply, contact your high school counselor, high school principal, or Jerri Imgarten at Victory Electric by calling 620-371-7730 or 800-279-7915 for more information about the contest.

The deadline for applications is **January 31, 2014.**

Three Winners, All-Expenses-Paid

"Government in Action" Youth Tour
June 12-19, 2014, in Washington, D.C.



2013 D.C. winners were (from left) Saif Khan, Dodge City; Myranda Axtell, South Gray; and Ashlee Redger, South Gray.

Three Winners, All-Expenses-Paid

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp
July 12-18, 2014, in Steamboat Springs, CO



2013 camp winners were (from left) Everly Wise, Fowler; Byrum Bittel, Spearville; and Aaron Pinkerton, Minneola.

The deadline for applications is January 31, 2014.

Victory Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Application

The deadline for applications is January 31, 2014

Name of Applicant: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Birth Date _____ Applicant Cell Number _____

Name of Parents or Guardian _____ Parent/Home Number _____

E-mail _____ 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 2014 Youth Tour competition sponsored by The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc. _____

(Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian)

Statement of Non-discrimination

The Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance efforts is Shane Laws, CEO of The Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may file a written complaint with this organization; the Director, office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Services, Washington, D. C., 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discriminatory action, or by such later date to which the Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Civil Rights or the Administrator of RUS extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Dodge City Christmas Parade of Lights and Chili Contest

The 12th Annual Christmas Parade of Lights and Chili Contest was held on December 2 in Dodge City.

Sponsored by *The Dodge City Globe*, Victory Electric and Western Beverage, the events attracted hundreds of visitors to Dodge City.

The chili contest had an impressive 32 entries. The lucky winners in the Judges Choice category were **HEADCASES SALON**, first place; **UNITED WIRELESS ARENA**, second; and **VICTORY ELECTRIC**, third.

Those who impressed the crowd won the People's Choice category. Winners were **LEON FELDT**, first place; **ARROWHEAD WEST**, second; and **HEADCASES SALON**, third.

All winners received a plaque sponsored by Victory Electric.

The parade sported more than 20 entries, ranging from an old fire truck, to flying reindeer, to floats decked out in lights.

Thanks to all who attended, and we hope to see you next year!

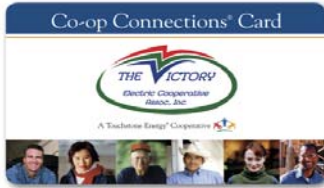


1. The Chamber of Commerce and Kitchen's entered the chili contest.
2. The people's choice winner, Leon Feldt.
3. The Dodge City Drivers in the lighted parade.
4. Victory Electric illuminated a couple trucks for the event.



Co-op Connections Card

A new Co-op Connections Card arrived in members' mailboxes in September. The card connects you with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs. The card also gives you access to online savings at more than 95 national retailers like Barnes&Noble.com, Hertz Rental Cars, Best Western hotels and ProFlowers.com. You can check out these great national discounts at www.connections.coop.



on prescription drugs. The logo and information on the back of your card is recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional, and local pharmacies.

You can use your card anywhere that Co-op Connections cards are taken. More than 350 electric cooperatives all across the United States participate in this program, with thousands of businesses offering discounts. More businesses are being added every day. The benefits of your card are local, but also national - so the cards can be used while visiting other states or other parts of Kansas. Look for window and/or register stickers to identify local participating businesses.

One of the most valuable features of the Co-op Connections Card is the pharmacy discount. While it is not insurance, the discount can mean savings of 10 to 60 percent

Check out these Local Discounts with the Co-op Connections Card

- ▶ **4 ANGELS BOUTIQUE**—10% off jewelry
- ▶ **ACKERMAN COMPUTERS**—10% off labor
- ▶ **THE BAD HABIT SPORTS BAR AND GRILL**— 5% off (excludes alcohol)
- ▶ **BAILEYS BODY SHOP**— 5% off parts and labor
- ▶ **BELLA ITALIA**—10% off
- ▶ **BOOT HILL BED AND BREAKFAST**—15% off
- ▶ **CARLOS BOOTS**— 10% off
- ▶ **DEPOT THEATER COMPANY**— \$3 off dinner theater ticket
- ▶ **DODGE CITY YMCA**— Corporate rates with proof of being a Co-op Connections card holder
- ▶ **DULCE LANDIA**— 5% off piñatas and bouce houses
- ▶ **FLATLAND GRAHICS**— Free digitizing on pocket sized embroidery
- ▶ **FLOWERS BY IRENE**—20% off (excluding wire orders)
- ▶ **HARDROCK SAND & GRAVEL, LLC**— 10% off materials, excluding delivery
- ▶ **JIM'S AUTO SALES & SALVAGE**— 5% off towing services
- ▶ **JOHN'S BODY SHOP**— 5% discount on deductible up to \$50
- ▶ **K. MARTIN JEWELER**— 20% off regular priced merchandise (this does not include items already on layaway)
- ▶ **LA QUINTA INN AND SUITES**—10% off BAR rate. No discounts for 3i Show/Roundup Rodeo events
- ▶ **LANG DIESEL, INC.**—10% off parts
- ▶ **MY-D HAN-D., INC.**—10% off grain, hay and cattle equipment
- ▶ **PREMIER MOTORS**— \$500 off regular price
- ▶ **REGIS SALON**— 10% off
- ▶ **RIDDLES JEWELRY**— 10% off
- ▶ **SCOTT'S AUTO SHOP**—10% off oil, filter and lube. 10% discount on Traxxas radio controlled vehicles and Traxxas parts.
- ▶ **SOPHIA'S**— 10% off
- ▶ **STARR COMPUTER SOLUTIONS**— Three months free for new alarm monitoring contracts (standard service)
- ▶ **SUNFLOWER CREATIONS**—7.45% off any new BERNINA sewing machine or 10% off regular fabric, books, notions, patterns, and embroidery supplies
- ▶ **THE MATTRESS HUB**—20% off bed sets \$399 and up. Not valid with any other rebates, discounts or special offers. (Offer excludes Tempur-Pedics) Dodge City and Garden City locations only
- ▶ **TROPICAL ISLAND TAN AND FITNESS**—No enrollment fees on fitness
- ▶ **WATERS TRUE VALUE**—\$5 off a \$30 purchase

Mark Your Calendars

April 2014						
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 68th Annual Meeting of Victory Electric has been scheduled for April 15 at the Western State Bank Expo Center.

A meal will be served and everyone attending will receive a registration gift and have a chance to win some great door prizes.

Stay tuned for more details on the upcoming annual meeting.

Annual Irrigation and Technology Seminar Scheduled

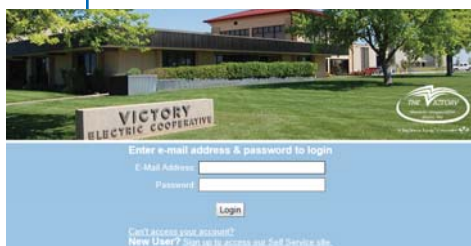


Local irrigation farmers attended the 2013 Irrigation and Technology Seminar

Victory Electric announces the 16th Annual Irrigation and Technology Seminar. The seminar will be held on February 7, 2014, at Victory's office located at 3230 N. 14th in Dodge City.

We will send invitations soon to the irrigators on our system. If you have any questions, please call 620-227-2139.

Victory Electric Bill Payment Options



Pay your bill at www.victoryelectric.net, our office, by mail or 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 www.victoryelectric.net, drop boxes at Victory Electric and City of Dodge City, and a pay station at Mr. Payroll, 400 E Wyatt Earp.

CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"

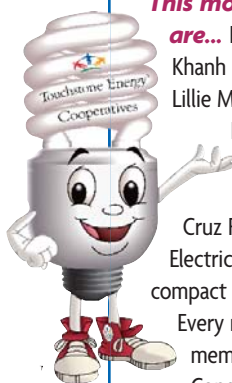
This month's lucky winners

are... Laurie Petersilie, Daryl Kuker, Khanh Do, Pedro Alba, Morris Jones, Lillie M Luna, Sonia Morales, Carroll F Smith, Jessica R West,

Angelica Chavez, Patricia F Ahern, Inga Vasquez, and

Cruz Romero. Come by Victory Electric Cooperative to get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL).

Every month Victory will be giving members free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations winners!



Visit Us Online



Visit us at www.victoryelectric.net to pay your bill and find energy calculators—just to name a few tools!

Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/VictoryElectric](https://www.facebook.com/VictoryElectric) for updates and energy efficiency tips.

Warning: Don't Bake All Bulbs

Oven lights are handy. Curious if a casserole's ready? Flip the switch; no need to open the oven and release heat to get a baking update. But be careful when replacing this little light. Never put a bulb in the oven that's not built for high heat.

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) use less energy than classic incandescent bulbs, but they're not safe in extreme temperatures. Most lighting labels designate safe temperatures, but warnings may be in fine print. Need to replace your oven light? Look for appliance light bulbs. Found at Home Depot, Lowe's, and other retailers, these bulbs are designed for extreme temperatures in ovens and refrigerators. The hardy bulbs are here to stay; 40-watt appliance bulbs are exempt from federal lighting efficiency standards.

Why won't CFLs work? Instead of heating a filament until white-hot to produce light like an incandescent bulb, a fluorescent lamp contains a gas that produces (UV) ultraviolet light when excited by electricity. The UV light and the white coating inside the bulb result in visible light. Since CFLs don't use heat to create light, they are 75 percent more energy efficient. But the technology that cuts energy use doesn't stand a chance in an oven's 400 plus degree heat.



A co-op member scraped this melted CFL bulb off the side of his oven. Replacing general use lightbulbs with efficient CFLs or LEDs saves energy, but not every bulb works under extreme temperatures. Source: Empire Electric Association, CO.



Use caution when replacing an oven light.

CFLs are good for the pocket-book but not perfect in every situation. Keep these tips in mind:

- ▶ **Don't dim unless it's dimmable.** Buy a specifically designed CFL for a dimmer switch application.
- ▶ **Don't flip too fast.** CFLs work best if they are left on for more than 15 minutes each time they are turned on. Older bulbs take 30 seconds to three minutes to reach efficient operation. Frequently switching them on and off shortens bulb life. Newer CFLs feature an 'Instant on' capability; look for that on the label if you expect frequent flipping.
- ▶ **Give them air.** CFLs may be used in enclosed fixtures as long as the enclosed fixture is not recessed. Totally enclosed recessed fixtures create temperatures too high for CFLs.
- ▶ **Protect CFLs outside.** Look at the package or bulb for temperature restrictions before using a CFL outdoors.
- ▶ **Don't shake.** Don't use CFLs in vibrating environments such as a ceiling fan or garage door opener.
- ▶ **Do the twist.** Always screw and unscrew the lamp by its base. Never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket by the glass tubes.

To learn more about using and recycling CFLs, visit www.epa.gov/cfl.

Working on the LINE

Service technician, **DAVE MASDEN**, volunteers to hang holiday lights and banners on Main Street for several local communities including Ford (pictured left), Ingalls and Bucklin.

Pictured below are Victory Electric linemen installing new 55 foot poles at the intersection of Hwy 283 and Hwy 400 in preparation for the new Lov's Travel Plaza.



Need an Electrician?



The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn.

Electrical Contracting and Services

The licensed electricians at Victory Electric strive every day to provide our members with a dependable, affordable service with highly trained staff who will treat you, your family, and your property with the respect and attention to safety you deserve.

Over the years, we have become the go-to contractor for agricultural, irrigation, residential, commercial, and industrial electrical work across southwest Kansas.

Combined, the electricians at Victory Electric have more than 103 years of experience, and they have a reputation of maintaining integrity, quality work, positive attitudes and reliability.

Call us today! 620-227-2139 or 800-279-7915

ADVERTENCIA: No Hornear Todas las Bombillas

Luces del horno son muy útiles. ¿Curiosidad por saber si la cazuela está lista? Prenda el interruptor; no necesita abrir el horno para obtener una cocción actualizada. Tener cuidado al cambiar el foco. Nunca ponga un foco en el horno que no está construido para altas temperaturas.

Las lámparas compactas fluorescentes (CFL) utilizan menos energía que las bombillas incandescentes clásicas, pero no son seguras en temperaturas extremas. La mayoría de las etiquetas de iluminación designan a temperaturas seguras, traer por escrito las advertencias. ¿Necesita reemplazar la bombilla del horno? Buscar aparatos de bombillas. Encontrará en Home Depot, Lowe's y en otros minoristas, estos focos están diseñados para temperaturas extremas en los hornos y refrigeradores. Las bombillas resistentes están aquí para quedarse; electrodomésticos de 40 vatios.

¿Por qué no funcionan CFLs? En lugar de calentar un filamento hasta candente para producir luz como una bombilla incandescente, una lámpara fluorescente contiene un gas que produce la luz ultravioleta (UV) cuando se calienta por la electricidad. La luz UV y la capa blanca dentro de la bombilla resultan en luz visible. Dado que las LFC no utilizan calor para crear luz, son 75% más eficiente de energía. Pero la tecnología que reduce el uso



Miembro de la cooperativa arrancaron esta bombilla CFL derretida al lado de su horno. Sustitución general utilice bombillas CFL eficientes de ahorra energía LED, pero no todos los trabajos de bulbo bajo temperaturas extremas. Fuente: Empire electric Association, CO.

de la energía no puede ganar en 400 + grados de calor de un horno

CFLs es bueno para el bolsillo pero no perfecto en cada situación. Tenga en cuenta estas sugerencias:

- ▶ **No le baje a menos que sea regulable.** Comprar un CFL específicamente diseñado para una aplicación interruptor más débil.
- ▶ **No girar demasiado rápido.** CFL funcionan mejor si se dejan en más de 15 minutos cada vez que se encienden en. Bulbos mayores se toman 30 segundos a 3 minutos para llegar a una operación eficiente. Con frecuencia los encendidos y apagados a corta la vida de la bombilla. Un CFLs cuentan con una característica 'al instante'; fijarse en la etiqueta de iluminación.

▶ **Darles aire.** CFLs pueden utilizarse en dispositivos encerrados mientras el aparato cerrado no es empotrable. Luminarias totalmente cerradas crean las temperaturas demasiado altas para CFLs.

▶ **Proteja las CFL fuera.** Mira el paquete o el bulbo para restricciones de temperatura antes de usar un exterior CFL.

▶ **No sacuda.** No use CFLs en vibrante entornos como ventilador de techo o a un abridor de puertas de garaje

▶ **Hacer el giro.** Siempre atornillar y destornillar la lámpara por su base. Nunca fuerze tuerza el CFL en una toma de luz por los tubos de vidrio.

Para aprender más sobre cómo utilizar y reciclar CFLs, visite www.epa.gov/cfl.



Visite Sitio Web y Únase a Nosotros en Facebook

Visite nuestro sitio web www.victoryelectric.net. En nuestro sitio Web, usted encontrará un calendario de eventos, con frecuencia pregunta, pago de factura y energía calculadora sólo por nombrar algunas herramientas!

También puede ser una fan de Victory Electric en Facebook buscando Victory Electric Cooperativa Assn, Inc. Consulte nuestra página en Facebook para actualizaciones, información de interrupción y consejos de eficiencia de energía. Facebook es una excelente forma de mantenerse en contacto con nuestros miembros.