

Working on the LINE

Do you see Victory Electric crews working around town and wonder what they are doing? We recently captured crew chief, **LEROY WOODS**, crew working on south Second Avenue. Woods, along with linemen **NATE STORMONT**, **KEITH CONNELLY** and **JACOB LEDFORD** were tasked with replace two aging poles at Second and Beeson Ave.



Two poles in south Dodge City were in bad condition and in need of replacement.



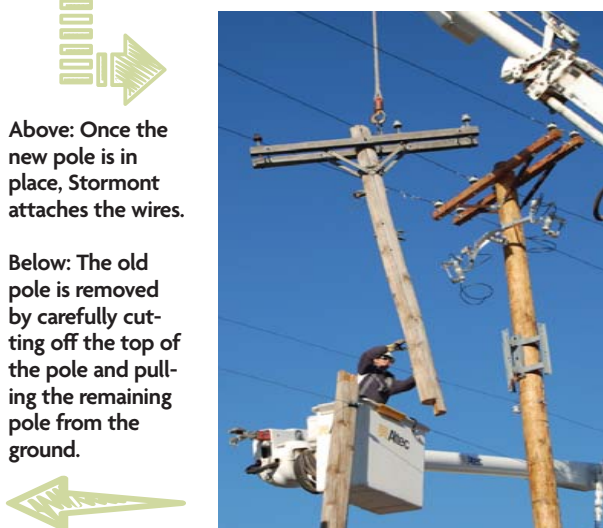
To complete the process, the transformers are attached and hooked into the phases above. The temporary transformer that was installed is removed and power flows normally again. This whole process allows the linemen to work safely and members to maintain power.



Crews prepared and hung a temporary transformer so power could be rerouted. This allowed the crew to safely replace the poles and equipment without the surrounding homes and businesses losing power.



Replacing poles is not always an easy task. In this instance, there was a 12 inch gas main less than a foot away, so the linemen dug the top of the hole by hand and located the gas main before using the auger.



Above: Once the new pole is in place, Stormont attaches the wires.

Below: The old pole is removed by carefully cutting off the top of the pole and pulling the remaining pole from the ground.



After the hole was dug, Woods lifted the pole into place while Stormont navigated the new pole around the existing wires and Ledford steadied the pole from below.

Cenando en la Oscuridad

Consejos de seguridad alimentaria durante un apagón

Apagones de energía inducida por las tormentas pueden tomar por sorpresa. Si usted ha perdido electricidad con la nevera llena de comida, asegúrese de que el tiempo y las temperaturas estén de su lado.

Si la electricidad de su casa ha sido interrumpida por dos horas o menos, perder alimentos no precederos no debería ser una preocupación. Cuando una interrupción es prolongada, es tiempo de decidir cuándo salvar o tirar la comida.

Un termómetro digital de respuesta rápida puede ser una de las herramientas más útiles que puede hacer de buen uso en la batalla para conservar los alimentos. El aparato comprueba la temperatura interna de los alimentos, asegurando que los productos estén fríos suficientemente seguros para comer.

Utilice estos consejos de seguridad de alimentos para ayudar a minimizar la pérdida de alimentos y reducir el riesgo de enfermedades transmitidas por alimentos.

Alimentos Refrigerados

- ▶ Mantenga las puertas del refrigerador cerradas tanto como sea posible. Un refrigerador sin abrir mantiene el alimento viejo durante unas cuatro horas.
- ▶ Si la comida (sobre todo carne, aves, pescado y las sobras) ha sido expuesto a
- ▶ temperaturas superiores a 40 grados Fahrenheit por dos o más horas, o tiene un olor inusual, textura o

color, deshacerse de él. Recuerda la regla de seguridad alimentaria de la Cruz Roja de los Estados Unidos: "en caso de una duda, tirarlo."

- ▶ Nunca probar los alimentos para determinar su seguridad o dependen de aspecto u olor.
- ▶ Utilice los alimentos no perecederos en primer lugar, entonces alimentos congelados.
- ▶ Para mantener fríos los alimentos no perecederos, colóquelos en un refrigerador o en una nevera portátil cubriéndola con hielo.

Alimentos Congelados

- ▶ Un congelador lleno permanece frío por más tiempo. Congele recipientes con agua para ayudar a mantener los alimentos fríos en el congelador. Si su suministro de agua se agota, el derretimiento del hielo puede suministrar agua potable.
- ▶ Si deja la puerta cerrada, un congelador lleno mantiene la temperatura durante aproximadamente 48 horas (24 horas si está medio lleno).
- ▶ Si la comida en el congelador está más frío que 40 grados Fahrenheit, es parcialmente descongelados y si tiene hielo en él, con seguridad usted puede congelarlos.
- ▶ Siempre deseche alimentos congelados o no perecederos que se entran en contacto con el jugo de la carne cruda.

Encuentre más consejos en www.FoodSafety.gov.

Estafadores están Utilizando Nuevas Técnicas su Objetivo Empresas y Residentes Locales

Victory Electric quiere que estén al tanto de los estafadores que han intentado estafar a sus miembros tratando de recaudar fondos por teléfono.

Estas estafas han ocurrido en el pasado, pero los estafadores son cada vez más sofisticados. En algunos casos, han falsificado el identificador de llamadas, así que cuando le llaman, el identificador tendrá el nombre de Victory Electric y número de teléfono. Individuos llaman pretendiendo ser un representante de la "compañía eléctrica", les dicen a los miembros que tienen que comprar una tarjeta pre-pagada para pagar su factura de electricidad, que podría ser desconectada en una hora.

Por favor no caer en estafas como esta. Desafortunadamente siempre hay estafadores tratando de aprovecharse de la gente. Lamentablemente es un delito económico.

Miembros nunca deben dar información personal o tarjeta de crédito por teléfono. Cuando miembros de Victory Electric son contactados, nuestros representantes se identifican claramente y si tiene alguna duda por favor cuelgue y llame a nuestra oficina.

La información de los miembros se mantiene confidencial. La información del consumidor nunca es compartida con terceras empresas o individuos. Victory utiliza la información que usted nos da única-

mente con el propósito de proporcionarle el servicio eléctrico. Es nuestra política no revelar o vender información de miembros a terceros por cualquier motivo.

Nos gustaría que compartiera esta información con sus empleados, amigos y familias. Ciudadanos que creen que han sido víctima de esta estafa, o cualquier otro tipo de estafa, se insta a llamar Victory Electric, e l Departamento de policía de Dodge City o la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Ford. De acuerdo con las autoridades, si los residentes o empresas tienen una pregunta acerca de una solicitud de una empresa desconocida, debe obtener el nombre de la empresa y un número de contacto.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
P.O. Box 1335, 3230 N. 14th Ave.
Dodge City, KS 67801
620-227-2139
www.victoryelectric.net

THE VICTORY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews



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Cooperative Assn., Inc.

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FROM THE CEO

Victory Electric is Asking Our Members to Vote 'Yes' for Self-Regulation

This letter is to explain the upcoming opportunity for you, as a member of The Victory Electric Cooperative, to once again vote on who should set rates for your electric cooperative.

In 1933, the Kansas Legislature made many public utilities, including electric cooperatives, subject to the jurisdiction of the KCC, giving the Commission authority over rates, rate setting, terms and conditions of service and many other aspects of the electric utility. Since 1992, however, small not-for-profit electric cooperative members have had the right to vote whether they want the KCC to oversee rates or whether they want to self-regulate.

In 2000, members of Victory Electric voted to self-regulate on rate matters, allowing Victory's member-elected board of trustees to set rates that are best for Victory's members. Currently, 28 of 29 Kansas electric cooperatives have voted to self-regulate.

The upcoming vote to self-regulate will include ALL members of Victory Electric, including the members of Mid-Kansas who became official members of Victory Electric in November 2013.

In April 2005, Victory, along with the other five Sunflower member cooperatives, formed Mid-Kansas Electric Company, LLC (Mid-Kansas), to acquire the electric assets of Aquila's Kansas Electric Network. This acquisition, a plan that included several stages, has benefited both the Mid-Kansas members and Victory's native members.

Since 2007, Mid-Kansas customers (former customers of Aquila) have been receiving service from Victory. However, another step was necessary in order for Mid-Kansas customers to become official members of Victory.

I am pleased to report that the final stage of the acquisition was recently completed when the Kansas Corporation Commission approved the transfer of the former Aquila customers from Mid-Kansas to Victory. One requirement in the acquisition is that all Victory members must have the opportunity to vote on who should set rates for Victory.

Continued on page 16-B ▶



Shane Laws

Vote on who should set rates for your cooperative.

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...

Jodie Ackerman, Ellie Elsen, Fred Maskus, Rodue G Peralta, JKurt Schneweis, Maria O Terrazas, Michael Wagner, D'Ann Wiziard, Alejandra Zepeda, & Blanca Garman. 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.

Self-Regulation Continued from page 16-A

Cooperatives are fundamentally democratic organizations. As not-for-profit organizations, it is the goal to provide the best service at the lowest possible cost. Any excess revenue beyond what is needed to provide reliable electricity is returned annually to the co-op's members—customers like you who take service from the co-op.

Under self-regulation, your board of trustees—your neighbors who pay the same electric rate as other members—will continue to follow proper procedure in setting rates: members must be notified ten days in advance of the time and place of any meeting when rates are discussed and voted on; those meetings must be open to members; and members must be notified of their right to request

the KCC to review rate changes.

When the KCC controls your electric rates, it adds layers of regulation, which increase costs and could harm reliability. In the coming months you will receive information about why your board of trustees is urging you to again choose self-regulation and keep control of your electric rates at home. Victory Electric staff and board members will also be available to answer your questions about the vote, which will occur by a mail-in ballot.

For more information please visit our website at www.victoryelectric.net. If you have additional questions, please call Victory at 620-227-2139 and we will be happy to answer your questions.

Shane Laws

Why All of The Crews In My Neighborhood?

Starting in March, you may notice extra crews in our service area carrying hand-held computers, cameras, and GPS devices. For the next 12 months, they will be looking at utility poles, street lights, transformers and other Victory Electric equipment in your neighborhood.

"They are here to conduct an inventory of our electrical system and record the location, condition, and photograph each piece of equipment using special GPS tools," said Greg Underwood, manager of engineering for Victory Electric.

These tools are very similar to GPS units you may be familiar with, but they are much more accurate. The information will be stored in an electronic map called a Geospatial Information System (GIS). Having this type of data will greatly improve our response to outages and improve service to our members in many other ways.

Accurate maps are an important part of the co-op's toolkit. With these maps, Victory Electric can plot power lines, locate problems more quickly, and

plan for future growth.

Victory Electric has grown rapidly through the years, and the maps that have been developed over the last 70 years are not always accurate. While Victory has been using geographic information system (GIS) maps, this project will allow the GIS maps to be corrected and have the same accuracy as GPS.

"The ultimate goal of the project is replace the co-op's old, inaccurate database with a new, accurate database," Underwood said.

The folks you will be seeing are experts with the Global Mapping Solutions, an industry leader in this field. Their pick-ups and 4-wheelers will be branded with the Victory Electric logo. They will also be carrying identification that confirms they are employees of GMS working for Victory Electric.

As they move through our service area, we will provide updates to keep you informed of their work locations. Should you have any questions please contact us at 620-227-2139 or visit www.victoryelectric.net.

Powering Up After a Storm

Lights out? Thirty-one percent of power outages are triggered by the weather. Lineworkers must battle the elements to find problem areas and restore service as quickly and safely as possible.

"We know our members want to know why the lights are out and when they're coming back," shares Ryan Miller, supervisor of operations at Victory Electric. "First we must find the problems. Then we follow a series of steps to bring the lights back on."

Efforts are made to restore power to the largest number of members as quickly as possible. Then crews fix problems impacting smaller groups of members.

Restoring power

When an outage occurs, line crews work to pinpoint problems. They start with high-voltage transmission lines. Transmission towers and cables that supply power to thousands of consumers rarely fail. But when damage occurs, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

Next, crews check distribution substations. Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of members. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to discover if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of members in communities or housing developments.

If local outages persist, supply lines (also called tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses,

schools, and homes.

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your home may need to be repaired. Always call Victory Electric at 620-227-2139 to report an outage. This helps crews isolate local issues.

Stay in the Know

Members can follow Victory Electric's Facebook page for news on outages restoration. There is also more information on outage restoration at www.victoryelectric.net.

Outage Safety Tips

Follow these safety steps at home during a power outage:

- ▶ Before calling Victory Electric to report an outage, first check to see if your home's circuit panel or fuse box hasn't tripped or blown a fuse. This can also cause a power failure. If tripped, reset the breaker or replace the blown fuse.
- ▶ If the power is out in your entire neighborhood, call Victory Electric at 620-227-2139 to report the outage.
- ▶ Turn off and unplug all unnecessary appliances and electrical equipment. When power is restored, turn on items one at a time.
- ▶ Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. An unopened refrigerator keeps food cold for about 4 hours. A full freezer keeps food cool for about 48 hours.
- ▶ Individual households may receive special attention if loss of electricity affects life support systems or poses another immediate danger. If you or a family member depends on life support, call Victory Electric at 620-227-2139 before a power outage happens.

Be Ready Before a Storm Strikes

Lights out? Store these items at home in case of an outage.




Water
Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



Tools
Flashlight and extra batteries, can opener, wind-up radio.



Food
Three-day supply of non-perishable, high-energy food.



First Aid, Medicine
First aid supplies, hand sanitizer, and at least a week's supply of medications for the family.



Documents
Include copies of passports, birth certificates, and insurance policies.

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency

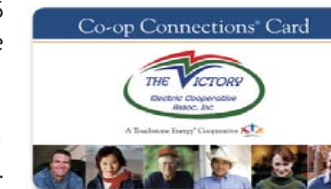
Co-op Connections Card

The Co-op Connections 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.

One of the most valuable features of the card is the pharmacy discount. While it is not insurance, the discount can mean savings of 10 to 60 percent 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.



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 bounce houses
- ▶ **FLATLAND GRAPHICS**—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**—745% 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 March 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.