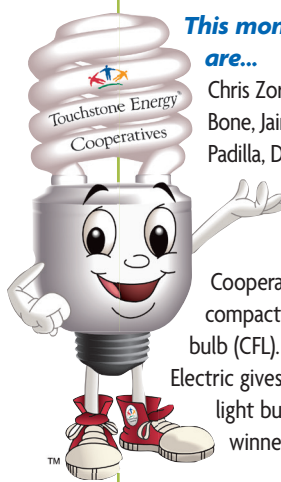


CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"



This month's lucky winners are...

Chris Zordel, Karen Blasi, Jean Bone, Jaime Hernandez, Lionel Padilla, Dick Sears, Jose J Alfaro, and Malinda Thayer.

Come by Victory Electric Cooperative to get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month, Victory Electric gives members free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations winners!

Visit our Website & Join us on Facebook



Visit our website at www.victoryelectric.net. On our website, 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 at www.facebook.com/VictoryElectric or by searching for The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc. Check our page for updates, outage information and energy efficiency tips. Facebook is a great way to stay in touch.

Happy Easter—April 5

The employees and Trustees of Victory Electric Cooperative hope you have a Happy Easter.



Programmable Thermostats Provide Options

Let's start with a little bit of history. Did you realize that the programmable thermostat is more than 100 years old? Honeywell introduced the first programmable thermostat in 1906, naming it the Jewell. It was a simple, clock-powered product that allowed you to establish times for the temperature to go up and down. While crude by today's standards, it was truly a pioneering product.

The basic programmable thermostat offers four programming periods: wake, leave, return and sleep. You set the time of day and target temperature for each period according to the days of the week. The lowest priced models will offer you a 5-2 day option. Here you set the four periods for the workweek (Monday through Friday) and the weekend (Saturday and Sunday).

There is also a 5-1-1 day option. This allows different schedules for Saturday and Sunday.

Finally, you can buy a model that allows you to program each day of the week individually, which can quickly become tedious.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established recommendations for proper programming, and over the years, we have seen thermostats that come pre-programmed with their suggestions. Remember the "tedious" comment? Purchasing a pre-programmed model solves that problem nicely. You can override this programming, but it makes for an easy set up.

So, what does the EPA suggest? A heating maximum of 68 degrees and a cooling minimum of 78 degrees for when you are home. They estimate you can save 1 percent on your energy bill for every degree of temperature change when away. On average, expect to save about 10

percent on your annual heating bill.

The size of the temperature change to use when away or asleep is another area of discussion. One camp recommends keeping the range narrow on the theory that the home loses too much of its conditioning and the energy saved is lost as the systems work to get back to the proper temperature. Another says systems run more efficiently when set at a rather modest temperature (cooler for heating and warmer for cooling) and left alone.

The EPA's opinion that a 10 to 15 degree change over an eight-hour period provides the best savings, a change from previous recommendations. A caveat offered by the EPA is that you should not use a programmable thermostat for heat pumps.

While fine in cooling mode, they make the heat pump inefficient in heating mode. Specifically designed thermostats are available for heat pumps to overcome this issue.

No discussion of programmable thermostats is complete without getting into their "smart" relatives. A smart thermostat can be programmed, but their true appeal lies in the ability to "set and forget" them, allowing software to build a program around the way you live. Their second major appeal is the ability to interact with them via the web or your smart phone. While expensive, more choices are hitting the market, so if this is an intriguing idea, keep an eye out as prices are starting to drop.

Experimentation will help you determine the best solution for your home as each is different due to insulation, weather sealing, system efficiencies and how you operate you it. That being said, a programmable thermostat will definitely save you money. Pick one of Jewell's descendants today, and start saving.



Usted tiene opciones para termostatos programables

Vamos a empezar con un poco de historia. ¿Te diste cuenta de que el termostato programable es más de 100 años? Honeywell introdujo el primer termostato programable en 1906, nombrando el Jewell. Era un producto simple, reloj-powered que permitía establecer tiempos para subir y bajar la temperatura. Quien es fanático del estilo Steampunk (piensa tecnología victoriana y estilo en ropa y artículos modernos) estaría orgulloso de tener este dispositivo en sus paredes. Mientras que es crudo por los estándares actuales, fue realmente un producto pionero.

El termostato programable básico ofrece cuatro períodos de programación: despertar, salir, retorno y dormir. Establece el tiempo de la temperatura de día y blanco para cada período según los días de la semana. Los modelos con precios más bajos le ofrecerá una opción de 5-2 días. Aquí puede usted ajustar los cuatro períodos de la semana laboral (lunes al viernes) y el fin de semana (el sábado y el domingo). El modelo siguiente para arriba será un 5-1-1 opción de día. Esto permite diferentes horarios para el sábado y el domingo. Y por último, usted puede comprar un modelo que permite programar individualmente cada día de la semana. Cabe señalar que cada día de la semana de programación puede convertirse rápidamente en tedioso.

La Agencia de protección ambiental (EPA) ha establecido recomendaciones para la programación adecuada, y con los años, hemos visto los termostatos que viene reprogramados con sus sugerencias. Recuerda el comentario "tedioso". Compra un modelo previamente programado soluciona ese problema muy bien. Usted puede anular esta programación, pero lo hace para un fácil montaje para arriba.

Así que ¿qué sugiere la EPA? Un calentamiento máximo de 68 grados Fahrenheit y un enfriamiento mínimo de 78 grados Fahrenheit para esos momentos cuando estás casa. Estiman que puede ahorrar el 1 por ciento en su factura de energía por cada grado de temperatura cambio cuando lejos. En promedio, esperan ahorrar alrededor del 10 por ciento anual de su factura de calefacción.

El tamaño del cambio de temperatura cuando ausente o dormido es otra área de discusión. Campamento recomienda mantener el rango estrecho sobre la teoría de que la casa pierde también mucho de su acondicionamiento y la energía ahorrada se pierde como los sistemas de trabajan para volver a la temperatura adecuada. Otro dice sistemas funcionan más eficientemente cuando está ajustado a una temperatura bastante modesta (refrigerador para la calefacción y calentador para enfriamiento) y dejen en paz. Y el último es opinión de la EPA que un cambio de 10 a 15 grados durante un período de ocho horas ofrece los mejores ahorros, un cambio respecto a las recomendaciones anteriores. Una advertencia ofrecida por la EPA es que usted no debe usar un termostato programable para bombas de calor. Al mismo tiempo bien en modo de enfriamiento, hacen que la bomba de calor ineficientes en modo calefacción. Termostatos diseñados específicamente están disponibles



El termostato programado ofrece cuatro periodos de programación: despertar, salir, retorno y dormir.

para las bombas de calor resolver este problema. Si usted tiene una bomba de calor, le recomendamos uno de estos.

No hay discusión de termostatos programables está completa sin entrar a sus parientes "inteligentes". Este fenómeno relativamente nuevo tiene tracción con la introducción del nido. Un termostato inteligente puede ser programado, pero su verdadero atractivo radica en la capacidad de "configurar y olvidarse" ellos, permitiendo que su software construir un programa alrededor de la manera de vivir. Su segunda mayor atractivo es la capacidad de interactuar con ellos a través de la Web o su teléfono inteligente. Aunque caro, más opciones están llegando al mercado, así que si esto es una idea interesante, vigila que los precios están empezando a caer.

Experimentación le ayudará a determinar la mejor solución para su hogar, ya que cada uno es diferente debido al aislamiento, sellado de tiempo, eficiencia del sistema y cómo te operas. Dicho esto, un termostato programable definitivamente te ahorrará dinero. Escoja uno de los descendientes de Jewell hoy y comience a ahorrar.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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www.victoryelectric.net

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews



The Victory Electric Co-op Assn., Inc.

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FROM THE CEO

The Value of Electric Cooperatives Why Being a Co-op Member Saves You Money



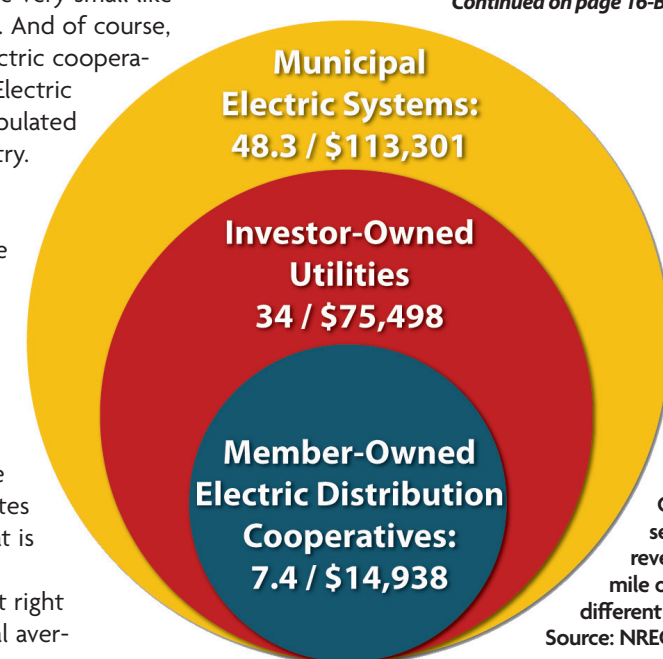
Shane Laws

There are three main types of electricity providers in the U.S. Investor-owned utilities (IOUs) serve primarily densely populated areas. Municipal-owned utilities also serve densely-populated cities from the very large, such as Los Angeles, to the very small like Robersonville, NC. And of course, there are rural electric cooperatives like Victory Electric that serve less populated parts of the country.

In the utility business, population matters. Since the costs to serve any given area are similar, the more customers that you have allows you to spread the costs among more people to keep rates lower. At least that is the theory.

The graphic at right shows the national aver-

ages of density and revenue per mile of electrical line for IOUs, municipal-owned utilities and electric co-ops. Municipal-owned utilities, which operate in cities and towns, have the greatest density—48.3 customers per mile of line, generating an average of \$113,301 of revenue. IOUs follow with 34 customers per mile of line, while generating average revenues of \$75,498. Finally, electric co-ops average 7.4 members per



Consumers served/revenue per mile of line for different utilities. Source: NRECA, 2013

Continued on page 16-B

2015 Youth Tour Winners Announced

Victory Electric is sponsoring five local high school juniors to participate in our Youth Tour programs.



Jalen Gifford

JALEN GIFFORD, Dodge City, and **ZALMA MOLINA**, Dodge City, will attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in June.

During Youth Tour, the students will join 1,600 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.



Zalma Molina

JO'BETH OCHS, Hodgeman County, and **AUNDRIA OGLES**, Cimarron, will attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO, in July.



Jo'Beth Ochs

At camp, the Kansas students will join youth from Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming. Campers will form a mock cooperative, learn leadership skills and learn about the cooperative industry.



Aundria Ogles

The four winners were chosen based on a résumé, two letters of recommendation, and an interview. Congratulations winners!

Join us April 14!

The 69th Annual Meeting of Victory Electric has been scheduled for April 14 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.

April 2015						
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		

Being a Co-op Member Continued from page 16-A

mile of line, bringing in an average of \$14,938 of revenue per mile.

Victory Electric serves 5.2 members per mile generating \$28,926 of revenue per mile.

If I were to give this data to any business school in the country and ask (based on this information) what the rates should be for each of the utilities, the answer would likely be that electric co-ops would have a rate 7.5 times greater than municipal-owned utilities and 5 times higher than IOUs—but that is not the case. Why not?

It has to do with the business model. IOUs are owned by outside investors that may or may not be users of the electric utility they own. These companies'

stocks are traded on Wall Street, and those investors demand a return on their investment. This drives up the price that their customers pay. Many municipal systems charge rates that generate a "profit" for their cities to help pay for other services. Victory Electric operates on a not-for-profit basis. Of course, we are a business and must generate enough revenue to cover costs (the largest being the purchase of wholesale power). But we don't have to charge rates to pay outside stockholders.

Since our members are our owners, we can provide safe, reliable and affordable power to you. That is just another way your co-op brings you value.

Thanks, Shane

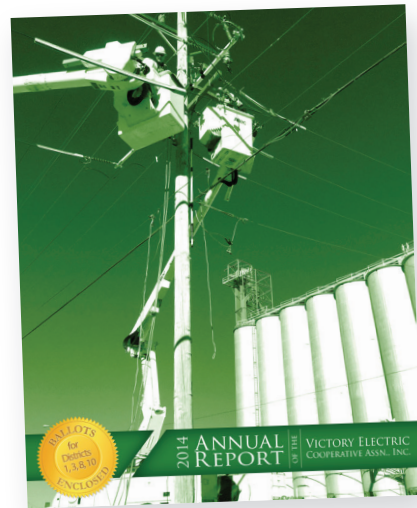
Annual Report & Voting Ballots Mailed

The business and affairs of the cooperative are directed by the board of trustees.

The cooperative territory is divided into districts, all of which are represented by a trustee. Trustees are elected at the annual meeting for a three-year term.

Districts 1, 3, 8 and 10 are up for election this year. Every member of Victory Electric will receive an Annual Report in the mail.

Inside this Annual Report will be ballots for the four voting districts.



Watch for your Annual Report and ballot in the mail.

2015 Candidates for the Victory Electric Board of Trustees

District 1

DARYL TIEBEN *Dodge City*

I want to thank everyone who put their trust in me to be your voice at Victory Electric. We, the board of trustees, strive every day to keep your electricity affordable, reliable and safe.



Daryl Tieben

My wife, Carol, and I are deeply rooted in the community. We live south of Dodge City and have rental houses and farmland. My family owns My-D Han-D Mfg. Company, TOLD, and TKO Oil Company. My business experience gives me the background and familiarity with commercial, residential and agricultural electric rates.

With your vote in this year's election, I will continue to advocate to keep your rates as low as possible. My phone is always available for your calls and concerns. Once again, thank you for your support and your vote.

District 3

KEN SCHULTE *Spearville*

I want to thank the members of Victory Electric for your confidence in electing me to be your representative on the board of trustees. We, the board, have focused on cutting costs and maintaining the integrity of safe, reliable electricity for all. Victory Electric was the first in this region to introduce the Automatic Metering Infrastructure (AMI) digital meters five years ago, and in doing so, we have saved the cooperative more than \$8.1 million. We continue to focus on other ways to cut costs, still maintain our system, and encourage growth in our region.



Ken Schulte

Thank you again for this opportunity to serve you. I would appreciate your vote again this next election.

District 8

CEDRIC DREWES *Dodge City*

I feel privileged to have served Victory Electric and its members for the past six years on the board of trustees. We have made many important and tough decisions recently. We have also embraced various technologies that keep us on the leading edge of the electric utility industry.



Cedric Drewes

I graduated summa cum laude from Fort Hays State University with a B.S. in agri-business and a minor in mathematics. I will do my best to ensure Victory Electric continues to bring its members affordable and reliable energy within a culture of safety. Victory Electric is a vital part of our community and I am committed to maintaining its future growth and success. With my education and experience, both on this board and in farm management, I feel that I am qualified and worthy of your continued support in District 8. As always, thank you for the opportunity and your vote.

TED SETZKORN *Jetmore*

Being a farmer and rancher, I truly appreciate what a rural electric association does for its members. If there is an outage, it's always great to see a friendly face getting your power back up and running. I believe one of Victory's strengths is its employees. They are professional, courteous and friendly. I am interested in learning more about our cooperative and in representing members in my district.



Ted Setzkorn

I am the fourth generation on our farm. I graduated from DC3 and continued my education at Kansas State University. In the past, I have served as an associate director at Dodge City Cooperative and have been the chairman of the stewardship board at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Currently, I am on the Hodgeman County FSA Committee.

This year my wife, Pam, and I will celebrate 21 years of marriage, and we have five children. Our family enjoys working and playing together. I believe that my experience, along with the wisdom passed to me by my dad, both through stories and actions, will allow me to represent Victory Electric members in a positive way. Thank you for your consideration.

District 10

TERRI LARSON *Dodge City*

It is a great honor and privilege to serve the members of Victory Electric Cooperative as a trustee. To the people of Dodge City, district 10, I say "thank you" for your consideration and support as I seek another term on the board of trustees.



Terri Larson

Victory Electric's mission is to provide safe, reliable service at a competitive rate. It is this mission statement that serves as my guide to making decisions on behalf of the Victory Electric membership. Also, on a personal level, I have made it my goal to educate myself and receive training so I can make sound decisions for the cooperative on behalf of the members. In my tenure on the board of trustees, I earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate and the Board Leadership Certificate. This training enables me to be well-informed of current issues and challenges facing electric cooperatives and to be an effective board member.

I earned my MBA from Fort Hays State University, am currently a long-term substitute teacher at Dodge City High School, and a proud 27-year Dodge City resident. I am married with three grown children, all who graduated from DCHS. Our two daughters are serving in the U.S. Air Force and one son is attending DCCC. I am so thankful for the people of Dodge City and I would appreciate your vote.

GARRY LEE MAIER *Dodge City*

I would be honored to obtain your vote to serve and represent you, the members of Victory Electric district 10. As a resident of Dodge City for more than 45 years and the general manager of Stewart Plumbing and Heating, Inc., I have the business experience as well as an understanding of energy efficiency and the future of energy for Dodge City.



Garry Lee Maier

I feel my two greatest strengths are my ability to build relationships and keep constant communication with the citizens of Dodge City and surrounding areas.

I would be dedicated to the time and responsibility that is necessary to fulfill this commitment and devoted to working through future challenges and changes. Victory Electric has always been a community leader and I am enthusiastic about the possibility of being a part of that leadership and keeping the best interests of members and the cooperative at the forefront. Thank you for your consideration in voting for me.

Victory Celebrates National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 13

America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day. On April 13, 2015, Victory Electric will honor the hard working men who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on.

The full text of the resolution, which the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Board adopted unanimously, follows: "Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen;

Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the Second on Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's Electric Cooperatives."

"Electric linemen do not often receive the recognition they deserve," said Shane Laws. "They work all hours of the day, often in hazardous conditions far from their families, going above and beyond to restore power to their communities. Our linemen, as well as linemen from across the nation, truly deserve this special day of recognition."

Victory Electric invites members to take a moment to thank a lineman for the work they do. Use #ThankLineman to show your support for the men and women who light our lives.