

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC CO-OP

electronews



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FROM THE CEO

Cooperatives Drive Democracy

It has often been said that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. It is easy to take our right to vote for granted, maybe because there are so many opportunities to exercise that right. There are national, state and local elections for political offices. Then there are elections for social or other civic organizations. If you own stock, you are asked to vote in those elections. It is understandable to see how “election fatigue” happens.

Co-ops can and do play a role in cultivating a civil society where people can practice democracy at the hyper-local level. As a member of Victory Electric you have the right to run for the board of trustees. Even if you choose not to have that level of participation, you should feel empowered to reach out to current board members and candidates.

The beauty of belonging to a co-op is that every member has a voice, but you must use that voice if you want to be heard on the issues that matter to you. In their document, “A Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade,” the International Cooperative Alliance, a global organization made up of co-ops from more than 100 countries,

identified member participation as one of the five key ingredients for a co-op to be successful.

Voting and being actively involved in the affairs of the co-op are key ways members can participate. Take the time to get to know candidates running for Victory Electric's board. Seek ways you can help spread the word about the good work your co-op is doing.

The cooperative business model is a great one, it fosters engagement and creates strong communities. More than 100 years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt recognized this value when he said, “The cooperative is the best plan of organization. Under this plan, every business is [governed by a board], every person has one vote and only one vote. Everyone gets profits based on their use of the co-op. It develops individual responsibility and has a moral as well as a financial value.”

Those words are more true today than ever before. Let your voice be heard by participating in all the elections.



Shane Laws

Thanks, Shane

Labor Day Office Closing

Victory Electric's office will close Monday, September 5, in observance of Labor Day.



Axtell, Frink and Lampe Attend 56th

SHELBY AXTELL, South Gray, **CURT FRINK**, Cimarron, and **KYRA LAMPE**, Hodgeman County, were selected by Victory Electric Cooperative to attend the 56th annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., from June 9-16. Axtell, Frink and Lampe joined more than 1,700 other high school students nationwide to visit with their state's senators and members of Congress, tour historic memorials, and hear from several speakers, such as Olympic Gold Medalist Mike Schlappi.

This year's delegation of 36 Kansas youth were joined by four Hawaii youth. They began their trip on June 9 with a banquet in Topeka featuring youth tour alumni Mike O'Neal, Former Speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives; Brant Laue, Chief Counsel for Gov. Sam Brownback; Rep. Steven Johnson and Rep. Kyle Hoffman; and a night tour of the Kansas State Capitol. Before flying to Washington, D.C., the delegation had breakfast at Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative where linemen presented an electrical safety demonstration and gave bucket truck rides.

While in Washington, D.C., the students met with Congressman Tim Huelskamp and Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins. They also visited with Sens. Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran after their tour of Capitol Hill.

"Electric Cooperatives are more than just poles and wires. They're about people and communities," Moran said. "Recognizing that youth are the future of those communities is what the rural electric cooperative program is all about."

This trip opens the eyes of many students to future possibilities in leadership roles, while building lifelong friendships and memories.

"Seeing the shoes at the Holocaust Museum really impacted me," Axtell said. "There was a very small pair of shoes that I saw that left me heartbroken for the people and children who fell victims to this horrifying event."

The delegates toured the Holocaust Memorial



Shelby Axtell, Curt Frink and Kyra Lampe represent Victory Electric on the annual trip to Washington, D.C.

Museum, Smithsonian museums, Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, attended a professional baseball game at the Nationals Park, and had a laugh at the production of "Shear Madness" at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The delegates also attended the NRECA Youth Day that brought together youth from 43 states to hear speakers.

"I will never forget the feeling when I toured the World War II, Vietnam War and Korean War memorials," Lampe said "I was overcome with emotion just thinking about the men and women who fought and died to ensure the safety of the American people and defend the ideals of our nation. As we left the memorials, I felt proud to be an American, a feeling that will stay with me forever."

A unique and surprise turn of events also occurred on this year's trip. Delegates had the opportunity to see the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet while visiting the Capitol, watch from a distance as presidential candidate Donald Trump boarded his plane at the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and witnessed a vote in the Senate Gallery with several well-known senators who have also been a part of the current presidential campaign.

"Seeing all of the memorials and historic buildings had a profound impact on me and it made me really appreciate everything that has happened in American history that has formed our country to being what it is today," Frink said.

Victory Electric sponsors the Youth Tour each year as part of our strong commitment to the community. For more information, please visit our website.



The 2016 Kansas-Hawaii delegation included 40 students who had the opportunity to see memorials including the White House on their trip to Washington, D.C. for the Youth Tour.

Annual Washington, D.C., Youth Tour

Shelby Axtell

As I reflect back on my Youth Tour trip, I would like to give a much-deserved thank you to Victory Electric Cooperative for giving me this amazing experience of a lifetime. The week I spent on tour will be one I will remember forever.

During Youth Tour, I was given a new perspective on the United States government and found a new appreciation for those who have lost their lives to give us a free county. From touring the Capitol and seeing the Dalai Lama, to visiting the many different war memorials, the tour was jam packed with fun, knowledge and food. Literally, our chaperones made sure if we were hungry we had food. Besides the food, the tour was like a super fun history class with 39 new people.

Before the tour, the thought of meeting 39 new people seemed almost impossible. I didn't think I would be able to remember everyone's name or have the courage to talk to all of them. Proving myself wrong, I can now say I have 39 new friends and I know all of their names. Being a part of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour brought out a new side of me socially. I am not a person who can walk up to someone new and just introduce myself. On tour I was able to talk to my fellow tour participants, and I even talked to delegates from other state youth tours.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour was a trip of a lifetime and I will remember the fun times forever.

Thank you!



Axtell will cherish the Youth Tour trip for years to come.

Shelby Axtell

Curt Frink

The 2016 Youth Tour is a week I will never forget. I had the privilege of being in our nation's capitol with 39 other proud delegates, four of whom were from Hawaii. I got to see some of the most amazing things I had ever seen. Many of the things I had only read about in books but never imagined I would have the opportunity to see in person.

I was so moved the Vietnam War Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Iwo Jima Memorial. I came home from this trip with a brand new appreciation for our country.

My favorite part of the whole trip was meeting all of my fellow delegates. I became much closer to the 39 awesome people in my group than I had ever imagined. You really get to know people when you spend mostly every hour of a week together.

Lastly, I would like to thank Victory Electric for supplying me with the opportunity of a lifetime. I would go on this trip again in a heartbeat despite the amount of hours and miles we put in every day.

During the day while we were seeing the sights and looking around, we didn't think about how tired we were because it was just such a great time. I would strongly advise anyone thinking about applying for this trip to do it because it is an experience you won't soon forget.



Frink is thankful for the trip of a lifetime.

Curt Frink

Kyra Lampe

When I first found out I was going to Washington D.C., I was ecstatic. I was so excited to be in one of the most influential cities in our country—the center for U.S. political conduct.

I will never forget what it felt like to tour our nation's Capitol and experience the trip of a lifetime. One of my favorite activities was having the opportunity to sit in on a Senate meeting. I was so star-struck seeing many people who would read about or see all over the news.

I also took joy in visiting Mount Vernon—the home of our first president George Washington. It was incredible seeing his home and the way he lived. I thought I would never be able to say that I visited the home of our nation's first president and founding father, but now I can say I have.

I also made lifelong friends. It was incredible to be part of a group that shared the same passion to help and lead others as I do. We all were able to connect so well with another which made the experience that much more enjoyable.

I was sad to leave, but I was excited to share my experience with others. It was the trip of a lifetime and I learned so much about myself and how I can help others. It is a time I will always remember and I will cherish the friendship and memories I had the pleasure of making.

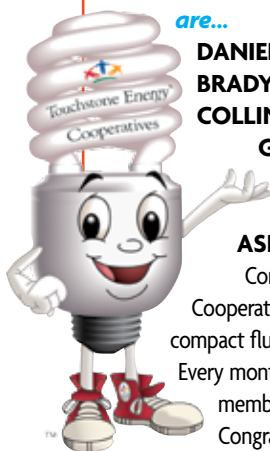


Lampe enjoys Mt. Vernon, the home of our first president.

Kyra Lampe

CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"

*This month's lucky winners
are...*



**DANIEL ARKELL, RYAN
BRADY, KARMON
COLLINS, DENNIS
GEORTZEN, ANNE
KONESKA, JERRY
PENNINGTON and
ASHLEY RUIZ.**

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!

Like us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter

Victory Electric is on Facebook and Twitter. Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/VictoryElectric](https://www.facebook.com/VictoryElectric). Check our page for updates, community engagements, outage information and savings tips.

Energy efficiency tips and more can also be found by following us on Twitter by searching @TheVictoryElec. Facebook and Twitter are great ways to stay in touch with Victory Electric.

Victory Electric Donates to Local 4-H Programs

Each year, every 4-H participant receives a free T-shirt from Victory Electric to be worn during their respective fairs.



Kurt Werth and Kathy Stefan from Gray County 4-H Extension receive their T-shirts from Victory Electric representative Kennedy St. George.

Working on the LINE



Victory Electric linemen (from left) Jason Rohr, Ted McAtee, Tanner Gemahlich and Chris Konrade aided sister co-op Lane-Scott Electric after a storm downed 30 poles.

When storms in Ness County left a sister cooperative without power, a Victory Electric crew helped repair the damage.

One of the seven cooperative principles is "cooperation among cooperatives." Many times when storms create a lot of damage, cooperatives are the first to help one another, both locally and nationally.

A crew from Victory Electric helped Lane-Scott Electric after storms on Tuesday, July 5, downed 30 poles in Lane-Scott's service territory.

According to Lane-Scott Electric general manager Ed Wiltse, power went out at approximately 11 p.m. on that Tuesday. After evaluation of the damage, all Lane-Scott Electric crews were at work repairing broken poles along the highway with the assistance

of our Victory Electric crew.

The storm did most of the damage along Kansas Highway 96 and left residents in Bazine and Alexander without power. Wiltse said there were 30 poles down between Ness City and Alexander, most of them were east of Bazine.

Power was restored to affected communities by the next afternoon and Victory Electric's crew returned to Dodge City Thursday night.

Cooperation among cooperatives is an important value at Victory Electric, which is why our crews traveled to help after Hurricane Katrina and are happy to help whenever—and wherever—they are needed.

Thank you to our linemen for the work they do to keep the power on for you and other cooperatives' members.

How to Beat the Summer Swelter and Your Electric Use

Because temperatures rise in the summer, so can electricity bills. Air conditioners consume more energy in summer months than at other times of the year. The Energy Education Council shares tips to help you stay safe, stay cool, and save money during peak times of summer swelter.

According to Energy.gov, two-thirds of all homes in the United States have air conditioners. Air conditioners and fans get more use in times of extreme heat. The increased demand for electricity can strain a home's electrical system, increasing the likelihood of an electric shock or fire. During times of excessive heat, the high demand is coming from many homes and many businesses, which can add to possibilities of electrical grid overloads and failures.

"Cooling your home efficiently this summer does not have to be difficult. There are many easy steps you can take to lower your electrical demand in the summer, which also saves you money on your energy bill," says Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council.

The Energy Education Council suggests ways you can help lower the demand while staying cool when the weather gets hot this summer, and some of these actions can even be taken before a heat wave hits:

- ▶ Seal cracks around the house with weather stripping and caulk to keep cold air in and hot air out.
- ▶ Use the outdoor air to your advantage. Open your windows at night to let cool air in, and then close them in the morning to trap it. Avoid unnecessary trips out the door in the heat of the day.
- ▶ Use curtains and blinds to keep the sun out on hot days.
- ▶ Consider shading your home by installing awnings over windows in direct sunlight.
- ▶ Operate ceiling fans in a counter-clockwise direction, which forces air down and creates a cooling effect.
- ▶ Ventilation is one of the most efficient ways to keep a building cool. In breezy, dry climates ventilation can eliminate the need for an air conditioner altogether.
- ▶ Operate your thermostat as efficiently as possible. The smaller the difference between your thermostat and the outdoor air temperature, the more you will save on your utility bill. Just a few degrees can make a big difference, so set the thermostat as high as you comfortably can. Additionally, programmable thermostats allow you to easily cool your home when you are there, and automatically increase the

temperature when you are not.

- ▶ If you are looking for a new air conditioning unit, be sure to check out an Energy Star-rated model.
- ▶ If a new AC unit is out of the question, a routine annual inspection and regular maintenance of your current unit can help prepare it to run more efficiently over the summer months. Turn off power to the air conditioner before you work on it. Clean or replace filters. Outside, clear leaves and other debris away from the condensing unit. Hose off any accumulated dirt.
- ▶ It is also a good idea to vacuum your air registers every spring to remove the buildup of dust and debris that block cold air from circulating throughout the house.
- ▶ Make sure your home has the insulation it needs. EnergySavers.gov has information about the best insulation to use in different geographic areas.

Your energy use is important, so do not simply ignore rising temperatures. If you have any questions on more ways to save and beat the heat and your electric bill, call the office at 620-227-2139 or visit our website at victoryelectric.net.



Air conditioners get more use in extreme heat. Regular maintenance can save on your energy monthly energy bill.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Running the dryer can create unnecessary energy use and costs. During the warmer months, air dry clothes if possible. Also, don't over-dry your clothes. If 50 minutes works, don't set the dryer to 70 minutes.

Mark Your Calendars

| September 2016 | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 9th Annual Victory Electric Community Health Fair has been scheduled for September 17 from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Western State Bank Expo Center.

Last year, thousands received medical attention and we are confident this year will be no different.

As an additional bonus, the Alzheimer's Association will be using the other half of the building for their annual Dodge City Walk to End Alzheimer's event. This will allow participants to conveniently attend both events.

Vittles for Vets Winners Announced

For the second year, Victory Electric is collecting items for Fort Dodge Solider's Home residents for the Vittles for Vets program. The first two winners were announced.

For the first drawing for a \$100 bill credit each, Michael Mayrath and Ripple and Leibl Vet Clinic were the winners.

Last year, more than 1,700 items were donated for the food pantry in Nimitz Hall. Already this year, members have been extremely generous and have collected more than 600 items for the food pantry at Fort Dodge.

Bring your items to the office for your chance to win a \$100 bill credit.



Victory Electric Hosts Candidates and Members



Member Ken Strobel shakes hands and talks with Senate candidate Bud Estes.

Victory Electric members took advantage of the opportunity to meet with area legislative candidates.

On Wednesday, July 6, six candidates and 37 members came to Victory Electric's headquarters in Dodge City for a legislative candidate meet and greet.

The event was planned as part of the Co-ops Vote tour sponsored by the Kansas Electric Cooperative. The six candidates each were given four minutes to speak and then mingled with the members.

Thank you to our members who came to the event.



Kim Christiansen, Kansas Electric Cooperative, addresses the members.



Brad Ralph, Kansas House Candidate, addresses the members.

Abrasar el Verano y el Uso Eléctrico

Debido a que las temperaturas suben en el verano, también lo pueden hacer las facturas de electricidad. Los acondicionadores de aire están consumiendo más energía en los meses de verano que en otras épocas del año. El Consejo de Educación Energía comparte consejos para ayudarlo a mantenerse a salvo, mantener la calma, y ahorrar dinero durante las horas pico de calor sofocante del verano.

De acuerdo con Energy.gov, dos tercios de todos los hogares en los Estados Unidos tienen aparatos de aire acondicionado. Aire acondicionado y ventiladores se ponen más en uso en épocas de extremo calor. El aumento de la demanda de electricidad puede tensar el sistema eléctrico de un hogar, aumentando la probabilidad de una descarga eléctrica o un incendio. Durante las épocas de calor excesivo, la alta demanda proviene de muchas casas y muchos negocios, que puede agregar a la posibilidad de sobrecargas de redes eléctricas y fracasos.

"Refreshando su casa no debe ser difícil este verano. Hay muchos pasos que puede tomar para reducir su demanda eléctrica en el verano, lo que también le ahorra dinero en su factura de energía," dice Molly Hall, director ejecutivo del Consejo de Educación de Energía.

El Consejo de Educación de Energía sugiere formas en que puede ayudar a reducir la demanda, mientras que mantenerse fresco cuando hace calor este verano, y algunas de estas acciones se puede tomar incluso antes de que una ola de calor golpea:

- ▶ Sellar las grietas alrededor de la casa con burletes y masilla para mantener el aire frío y aire caliente.
- ▶ Use el aire exterior de su ventaja. Abrir las ventanas por la noche para que entre aire fresco en, y luego cerrarlas por la mañana. Evitar viajes innecesarios por la puerta en el calor del día.
- ▶ Utilice cortinas y persianas para mantener el sol en los días calurosos.
- ▶ Considere la posibilidad de sombrear su hogar mediante la instalación de todos en las ventanas de la luz solar directa.
- ▶ Operar ventiladores de techo en el sentido contrario del reloj, lo que fuerza el aire hacia abajo y crea un efecto de enfriamiento.
- ▶ La ventilación es una de las maneras más eficaces

para mantener un edificio fresco. En ventoso, climas secos ventilación puede eliminar la necesidad de un acondicionador de aire completo.

- ▶ Operar ventiladores de techo en el sentido contrario al reloj, lo que fuerza el aire hacia abajo y crea un efecto de enfriamiento.
- ▶ Operar su termostato lo más eficientemente posible. Cuanto menor sea la diferencia entre el termostato y la temperatura del aire exterior, más se va a ahorrar en su factura de servicios públicos. Sólo unos pocos grados puede hacer una gran diferencia, por lo que ajustar el termostato lo más alto que pueda. Además, los termostatos programables le permiten fácilmente su hogar fresco cuando estás allí, y automáticamente aumentar la temperatura cuando no está.
- ▶ Si usted está buscando una nueva unidad de aire acondicionado, asegúrese de revisar un modelo nominal de Energy Star.

Si una nueva unidad de aire acondicionado está fuera de la cuestión, una inspección anual de rutina y mantenimiento regular de la unidad actual puede ayudar a preparar para que se ejecute de manera más eficiente durante los meses de verano. Apague la alimentación del acondicionador de aire antes de trabajar en él. Limpiar o reemplazar los filtros. En el exterior, las hojas claras y otros desechos fuera de la unidad de condensación. Manguera la suciedad acumulada.



Si usted está buscando una nueva unidad de aire acondicionado, asegúrese de revisar un modelo nominal de Energy Star.

Visite Sitio Web y Únase a Nosotros en Facebook

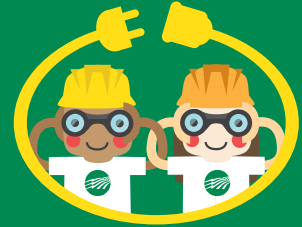
Visite nuestro sitio web www.victoryelectric.net. En nuestro sitio Web, usted encontrará un calendario de eventos, con frecuencia pregunta, pago de factura y energía calculadora sólo por nombrar algunas herramientas!

También puede ser una fan de Victory Electric en Facebook buscando Victory Electric Cooperative 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.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

SORTING THINGS OUT



Energy Explorers

Recycling is important for the future of our planet! Can you sort the items below into the correct bin? Write the name of the item in the correct category.

| RECYCLE | GARBAGE |
|---------|---------|
| | |



Water Bottle



Apple



Cardboard Box



Sandwich



Juice Box



Soda



Newspaper



Styrofoam Cup

Answer Key:
RECYCLE: Water Bottle, Cardboard Box, Juice Box, Soda Can, Newspaper
GARBAGE: Apple, Sandwich, Styrofoam Cup