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Electronews

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Jerri Imgarten – Vice President

of Communications

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Information Technology

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CEO MESSAGE

We're Thankful for Our Community and Your Membership

“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.” In the spirit of the holiday season and this quote by author William Arthur Ward, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your membership in our electric co-op. Because of your connection to Victory Electric, we are able to make our community a better place.

I generally use this space to provide updates on new projects and developments, and report on the progress of ongoing initiatives. We share these updates so our members have a window into our priorities, progress and challenges. However, during this season of holiday cheer and giving thanks, I think it's equally important to let you know just what an impact you have on our co-op and the greater community, likely in ways you may not even realize.

As part of the co-op business model, one of our core principles is “Concern for Community.” While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, we view our role in the community as a catalyst for good.

The co-op is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs.

We are purposeful in partnering with local groups and organizations to bring the community a variety of events and services including the

Victory Electric Community Health Fair, Pumpkin Painting and Carving Festival, Christmas Parade of Lights and Chili Cook-off, Easter Egg Hunt and others.

We work closely with our local schools to provide safety demonstrations, award college scholarships and more.

Victory Electric also participates in an annual youth tour where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action. The trip is inspirational for many students, and we are both humbled and honored to be a part of this leadership development journey. Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you! You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

When you attend co-op events, alert

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Shane Laws

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Victory Electric Seeks Board Nominations



John Leis

DEAR VICTORY ELECTRIC MEMBERS,

Once again, it is time to start thinking about Victory Electric's annual membership meeting to be held April 9, 2019.

We are currently soliciting nominations for Victory Electric's Board of Trustees. Positions up for election are in District 5, currently held by **GARY GILLESPIE**, Copeland; District 7, currently held by **JIM OCHS**, Jetmore; District 9, currently held by **RICHARD LIGHTNER**, Garden City; and District 10, currently held by **PAT MORSE**, 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 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 at Victory Electric, P.O. Box 1335, Dodge City, KS 67801 by Dec. 27, 2018.

Sincerely,
JOHN LEIS, PRESIDENT

\$1,000 Scholarships Available

The Victory Electric Cooperative is excited to offer scholarships for high school seniors and current college students. In the spring, Victory Electric will award 10 students each a \$1,000 scholarship.

The Lightner Community Spirit Scholarship is designed to recognize students who have demonstrated academic success, as well as show a commitment to their community.

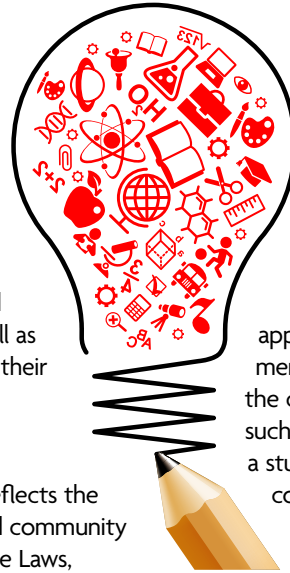
"We are thrilled to offer this scholarship program again, which reflects the importance of civic and community engagement," said Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO. "As a not-for-profit cooperative, one of our guiding principles is 'commitment to community,' and I can't think of a better way than a scholarship program to give

back to the communities we serve and encourage youth to be involved in their own community."

The name of the scholarship honors the Lightner family of Plymell. Richard Lightner has been on Victory Electric's Board of Trustees for 34 years and his father, George, served 31 years previous. Both strongly supported Victory Electric's community and youth programs.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be an active member in good standing with the cooperative or a dependent of such member. Applicants must be a student or entering an accredited college or university (two- or four-year). Applications must be received no later than **March 1, 2019**.

Applications can be found on the website or at our office. For more information, please contact Kennedy St. George at 620-371-7738.



Youth Tour Winners Announced

Victory Electric is sponsoring four local high school juniors to participate in our 2019 youth programs.

KACEE COAST, Cimarron, and **RILEIGH HEEKE**, Dodge City, will attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., in June.

During Youth Tour, the students will join 1,800 youth from across the nation in Washington, D.C. Participants will visit the monuments and other attractions, as well as Capitol Hill to learn more about how our government works.

CHARLOTTE OCHS, Jetmore, and **KELLIE RHODES**, Mullinville, will travel to Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in July.

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.

The four winners were chosen based on their résumés, two letters of recommendation, and an interview. Congratulations to our winners!



Kacee Coast



Raleigh Heeke



Charlotte Ochs



Kellie Rhodes

Local Youth Enjoy Victory Electric Pumpkin Festival



The annual Pumpkin Painting and Carving Festival was attended by more than 550 area youth and their families.

The 12th Annual Pumpkin Painting and Carving Festival was held on Oct. 26 at Victory Electric.

Sponsored by Victory Electric and Ladies Community Outreach, the event was free for the 587 youth who participated.

“The kids really love creating something that is their own. I love the look on their faces when their pumpkin is just right,” said Kennedy St. George, communications specialist at Victory Electric. “I enjoyed helping with such a fun and festive

event for the youth of Dodge City and surrounding communities.”

Victory Electric sponsors the event to provide a safe environment for kids to enjoy Halloween activities. It is also a way to give back to the community and supply a pumpkin to those kids in our community who may not otherwise get a pumpkin to paint or carve.

In addition to painting and carving, there was also face painting and Halloween and fall-themed games for the youth to enjoy.



Vice President of Operations Ryan Miller hands a young man his pumpkin.



A young fireman personalizes his own pumpkin with paint.



A Ladies Community Outreach member applies a temporary tattoo.



Amy Grasser, Becca Unruh and Angela Unruh prepare popcorn.



Lineman, Kody Stockton, drives a train full of passengers.



The Literacy Bus provides activities for the youth attending the Pumpkin Festival.

Merry Christmas!



Shane Laws
CEO



John Leis
President



Pat Morse
Vice President



Daryl Tieben
Secretary/Treasurer



Cedric Drewes
Trustee



Gary Gillespie
Trustee



Jim Imel
Trustee

Victory Electric; Shane Laws, CEO; the board of trustees; and employees wish all of our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We will be closed Dec. 24-25, in observance of the Christmas holiday, and on Jan. 1 for New Year's.



Terri Larson
Trustee



Richard Lightner
Trustee



Jim Ochs
Trustee



Randy Quint
Trustee



Ken Schulte
Trustee



Kenny Wehkamp
Trustee

Thankful for You

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us to problems, provide suggestions online or to our employees, you help us improve operations and thereby better serve the larger co-op membership.

We are thankful our co-op board members carve out time to attend important training sessions, participate in planning meetings and keep abreast of industry trends. This investment in time results in better informed advisers who serve the co-op's interests in a way that our members expect and deserve.

On a more personal note, we appreciate the countless acts of kindness our lineworkers and other employees receive when they are working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. Our employees are thankful for your patience and consideration when we are trying to restore power during challenging situations and prolonged periods.

Victory Electric was originally established 73 years ago to bring electricity to the rural areas surrounding Dodge City when no one else would. The co-op is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. Together, let's continue making our corner of the world a better place. We can't do it without you, and for that, we're thankful for your membership.

Thanks, Shane

Victory Gives Back to Local Schools



Students from Northwest Elementary choose the pumpkins they want to take home.

Victory Electric donated pumpkins to Northwest Elementary. Each student picked their own pumpkin to take home. This is one way Victory Electric likes to give back to the communities we serve. Victory Electric serves as a community partner to Northwest Elementary and donates pumpkins each year so students have the opportunity to have pumpkins for Halloween.



Armando Ceja, Victory Electric tree trimmer, helps students pick their pumpkins.



Alexa Lozano, member service rep., poses with her daughter.

Tired of looking at the calendar to avoid late fees?
Simplify life and sign up for AutoPay!



With Victory Electric AutoPay, a recurring monthly payment is established using your credit/debit card or bank account routing number and paid directly to Victory Electric.



Daniels Announces Retirement



Joel Daniels

More than a dozen grandkids will keep this retiring lineman busy.

Victory Electric crew chief Joel Daniels will retire in January after serving Victory Electric for 22 years.

Daniels was hired at Victory Electric in April 1996 as a journeyman lineman.

"Joel's dedication and service through the years means a lot," said Ryan Miller, vice president. "We hope he has a relaxing and enjoyable retirement."

Daniels began his career as a lineman after completing Pratt Community College's line program in 1985. He then worked for CMS Electric in Coldwater, Kansas, prior to joining Victory Electric.

The Kalvesta area native wanted to be a lineman after some of the men in his family influenced him.

"My cousin is a lineman for Prairie Land Electric Cooperative and both my father and father-in-law were linemen," Daniels said.

Daniels was promoted to crew chief in 1997 and has worked with and mentored a lot of young crew members. In 2017 he participated in the 2017 International Lineman's Rodeo in Bonner Springs, Kansas.

"I've seen a lot of young linemen come in and make careers at Victory Electric," Daniels said. "That's my favorite part about this career--appy people. That's why we do what we do, to keep members happy."

With more than 30 years of experience, Daniels also knows there are some hardships with the job, too.

"The weather is the biggest challenge. I know a lot of men say that, but it really is," Daniels said. "The nights are late and long when you're trying to get the lights back on for members."

As a family man, Daniels and his wife have four children and 17 grandkids between here and Missouri. He also plans to play guitar and write worship music.

"We will travel a bit more to see the grandkids and I will have time to play guitar, which I like to do a lot," Daniels said. "It's been a good career and I've learned a lot, but retirement will be nice, too."

Victory Electric appreciates Joel's years of service and wishes him a happy retirement.



Marlon Hernandez, Joel Daniels and Felix Strauss get ready to leave for the 2017 International Lineman's Rodeo competition in Bonner Springs.



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Visit our office today to sign up!

The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.
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Dodge City, KS 67801
620.227.2139 or 800.279.7915
victoryelectric.net



Holiday Safety Crossword Puzzle



Energy Explorers

This holiday season, remember to keep safety in mind! Complete the crossword puzzle below.

Tip: Use the word bank if you need help.



Clues

1. **Down:** _____ cords used for holiday decorations should be checked for damage or exposed wires.
2. **Across:** Do not overload electrical _____ with too many decorations or appliances.
3. **Across:** Turn off all electrical _____ before leaving home or going to sleep.
4. **Down:** Make sure your Christmas _____ is watered daily.
5. **Across:** Never leave a _____ burning if you're not in the room.

1

2

3

4

5

Word Bank

Outlets

Decorations

Tree

Extension

Candle