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Electronews

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CEO MESSAGE

Successful Merger of Power Suppliers



Shane Laws

We are excited to announce the successful merger of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation and Mid-Kansas Electric Company Inc., two of the electric utilities that provide wholesale generation and transmission services to Victory Electric. The merger of the two utilities on Jan. 1, 2020, incorporated Mid-Kansas into Sunflower.

In 2005, Sunflower and its members, including Victory Electric, chose to form Mid-Kansas to successfully bid on the sale of Aquila's Kansas electric network assets. The acquisition essentially doubled the electric generation capability and the miles of transmission line in the system. The acquisition also meant more Kansans were served by the electric cooperative business model, which puts ownership and governance in the hands of the electric consumer versus private stockholders.

In addition to added electric load, Mid-Kansas brought diverse generation resources, and the enhanced utilization of the two fleets benefitted both Mid-Kansas and the native Sunflower system. Beginning in 2007, the two systems were jointly planned and operated.

However, since the formation of Mid-Kansas, the goal of Sunflower's and Mid-Kansas' member-owners was to capitalize and focus on the synergies of both Sunflower and Mid-Kansas by merging the two utilities into one larger cooperatively owned and operated utility.

In addition to other work for the merger, regulatory filings were submitted in August 2018 to the Kansas Corporation Commission, which approved the merger in March 2019. Sunflower and Mid-Kansas also filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to obtain approval to combine transmission zones and rates.

So, what does the merger mean for you as a member of Victory Electric? Benefits of the merger are many, the top benefit being lower overall cost of wholesale power. During several months in 2019, Victory Electric members received up to a penny per kilowatt hour credit on the Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA) portion of their bill. This equated to a monthly savings of \$10 on the average electric bill of \$118. At the wholesale power level, merging removes regulatory and operational duplication, allows access to lower cost debt, and better absorbs a fluctuating load that occurs due to industry and economic pressures.

Continued on page 16C ▶

REAFacts

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75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

1950: Life on the Farm by Alma Bowers

To celebrate Victory Electric's 75th Anniversary, we will be showcasing published cooperative newsletters articles from the past 75 years.

This specific article is from Victory Electric's 'REA Facts' newsletter published February 19, 1950, by Alma Bowers. Bowers was a clerk-stenographer who performed a variety of clerical and keying duties at the cooperative. Below is one of her monthly articles sent to members only five years after Victory Electric was formed.

February is always an 'itchy' month for me, because I'm always eager for spring to bounce around the corner. And when spring is finally here, I always want to be on the farm. Of course, we always have to weather the roaring winds of March. That's the sin of liv'in in Kansas. It seemns we always have to do so much suffern' before we can enjoy anything!

Back in barefoot days on the farm, we used to have a cow we called "Lizzie", and I always used to envy Lizzie because she could lay stretched out in the sun lazily chewing her cud, while I had to always be doing some fool thing like hoeing weeds, watering chickens or hunting kindling sticks. How I used to "dream" of the day that I would finish my school'in so I could get me one of those white collared fancy desk jobs so I could enjoy my life with the city fellers.

Now, here I am, and I catch myself dreaming of those good ole days on the farm. Funny thing – this life!

I was always being "switched" (a flexible rod used for reprimanding) for swiping Mom's ripe tomatoes out of the garden. One afternoon I felt my abuse had continued long enough, so my split bonnet and I sneaked to my paradise of big, red, ripe juicy tomatoes.

Just as my tongue started to lap my tomato, I heard a hissing sound. I had a partner- except my partner was a mad spreading adder snake spreading his head and chasing me! Don't know which got to the garden the quickest, my bonnet or my legs. But there was my Mom standing – with another switch.

And now that so many farms have the benefit of electricity and modern conveniences, life on the farm is ever so more wonderful – and did you know during the past three years, the farmer has produced 23% more products with 5% less man power than before the war? What a tribute and salute to the farmer and electricity!

ELECTRICAL TIPS FOR THE HOME

If You Read, Sew, Play Games in the Living Room . . .




DON'T assume that the lighting is adequate because each chair or table is furnished with a good lamp. Sharp contrasts between bright lights and surrounding dark shadows cause eye-strain and general fatigue.

DO add some general lighting in the room to chase away all harsh shadows. This can be done with a recessed ceiling unit, valance or cornice lighting. Whatever you install, be sure to provide handy switches near each entrance.

Much like today's newsletter, the REA Facts newsletter would feature electrical safety tips to advise members on how to best use electricity in their homes. The comic above dates back to the 1950s.

Victory Electric hires new groundsman

Cory Edmunds, a Dodge City native, is Victory Electric's newest lineman to join the operations department.

Cory Edmunds

Edmunds formerly worked for Western

Beverage for 10 years as a salesman before taking the leap of change in his career and attending Dodge City Community College's linemen program.

Upon graduation, Edmunds worked at Great Plain Power in Grand Island, Nebraska, as an apprentice lineman.

He is married to his wife, Amanda, and together they have two children. In his free time, Edmunds enjoys watching football and hockey.

We are excited to have Cory join the team! Please help us welcome Cory to Victory Electric!

Successful Merge

Continued from page 16A ▶

At Victory Electric, we take pride in our long history of serving our members, but we also take pride in being innovative so that we can best meet our members' current and future energy demands. Your well-being and quality of life are considered in each decision made at the board table, and the decision by Victory Electric and the other member-owners of Sunflower and Mid-Kansas to merge the two utilities is just one more example of the way we are taking care of you.

Thanks, Shane

Scholarships Available In 2020

Applications for Victory Electric's Lightner Community Spirit Scholarship are available now and due February 28. Victory Electric will award 10 \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors and current college students.

The Lightner Community Spirit Scholarship is designed to recognize students who have demonstrated academic success and have showed a commitment to bettering their community.

Scholarship Eligibility

To qualify 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 current student or entering into an accredited trade school, college or university. All applicants shall be considered on the above criteria without regard to race, age, color, religion, gender, national origin or existence of physical handicap.

How to Apply

Applications for the Lightner Community Spirit Scholarship can be found at victoryelectric.net. Required items of the application include:

- ▶ Completed application
- ▶ Résumé
- ▶ Official transcript in sealed envelope
- ▶ Copy of college acceptance letter (if in high school)
- ▶ Completed biographical statement and one-page essay
- ▶ Submitted to Victory Electric no later than **FEBRUARY 28, 2020**.

The scholarship's name honors the Lightner family of Plymell. Richard served on the board of trustees for 36 years, and his father, George, served 31 years previous. Both strongly supported community and youth programs.

For more information, please contact Carleigh Albers via email at askcommunications@victoryelectric.net.

Save the Date

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Western Bank Expo Center

Mark your calendars for Victory Electric's annual meeting. We will be celebrating our 75th Anniversary! Please join your cooperative team and fellow members for fun, fellowship, prizes and special celebration of you and our history.

We hope to see you at the annual meeting!



Prepare for Winter Storms to Stay Safe and Warm

When winter temperatures drop and storms hit, it can be a challenge to stay safe and warm. Snow and ice are an inevitable part of the winter season. They can lead to downed power lines and outages. During a power outage, our crews will continue to work as safely and quickly as possible to restore your power.

Victory Electric cares about your safety and we want you to be prepared. The following tips can keep you safe and warm if you find yourself in the dark after a winter storm:

- ▶ When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible, and report the situation to Victory Electric at 620-227-2139. Avoid contact with overhead lines during cleanup and other activities.
- ▶ In the event of an outage, an alternate heating source—such as a fireplace, propane space heater, or wood stove—may be used. Use extreme caution.
- ▶ Plan to stay in an area of the home where the alternate heat source is located.
- ▶ Fuel and wood-burning heating sources should be vented. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions.
- ▶ Make sure carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors are in proper working order.
- ▶ Do not use a gas-powered oven for heating. A gas oven may go out or burn inefficiently, potentially leading to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ▶ Do not use a gas or charcoal grill inside the home. Do not use charcoal briquettes in the fireplace.
- ▶ If you use a portable generator to power a heating source, be sure the generator is located outside your house for proper ventilation. Do not use a generator in an attached garage. Follow manufacturer's directions for operating the generator.

- ▶ Take special care not to overload a generator. If it is necessary to use an extension cord, use appropriately sized extension cords to carry the electric load. Make sure the cords have a grounded, three-pronged plug and are in good condition. Never use one that is frayed or pinched.
- ▶ Never run cords under rugs or carpets.
- ▶ Never connect generators to power lines. The reverse flow of electricity can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker. Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous, and planning ahead can often be the difference between life and death. Victory Electric is ready for what Mother Nature has in store, and we want you to be ready, too.

