

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Ron Holsteen - Manager

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Board of Directors

Daniel Peterson - President
Bryan Coover - Vice President
Norman L. Leistikow - Secretary
Larry Hubbell - Treasurer
Ronald E. McNickle
Tom Ellison
Michael Allison
Wayne Revell
Robert E. Webster, Jr.

Holiday Closing



Labor Day

Our office will be closed on Monday, September 1, in observance of the holiday.

From the Manager... FEMA Project Update

Last December, the southeastern corner of Twin Valley's service area was severely damaged by an ice storm.

The storm was declared a disaster by the President, which makes the costs of restoring the power and rebuilding the lines eligible for reimbursement by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

We started accumulating paperwork immediately. Timesheets, truck logs, invoices, and anything else that we knew would be required to document the repair process.

The summary of initial recovery costs came in at \$372,280. After entering data on spreadsheets, re-entering and editing, and giving several field inspections of damage to the FEMA personnel, we were approved to send in a project worksheet to hopefully recover 85 percent of that amount.

Now we need to go back and

If we don't get FEMA reimbursement, costs for needed permanent repairs would be borne by our members through utility rates.



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re-span the poles, replace the sagging and/or weak conductors, and make the improvements required by the Rural Utility Service (RUS) standards and other applicable construction codes.

Our consulting engineers immediately surveyed all of the damaged areas and have estimated this restoration cost at an additional \$4.4 million. This was approved construction in previous storms, but now FEMA appears to be denying the cooperative the funds needed to make permanent repairs following the ice storm.

FEMA has brought in different project engineers and staff and they are interpreting the Stafford Act, which is the under-

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From the Manager... *continued from page 16-A*

lying legislation, differently than before. This action by FEMA in this storm is unprecedented. This denying of funds has not happened before in Kansas nor in ice storms occurring in other states this past December.

FEMA is disregarding the professional advice of licensed Kansas electrical engineers on the permanent repairs needed to the electrical system, instead relying on former utility employees from other states who viewed the areas that sustained damage from their vehicles in June 2008, six months after the ice storm.

This delay by FEMA, even to this date, in providing the funding required under the law is eating away the time during which much of the construction activity for the needed repairs should be taking place.

All of the other Kansas rural electric cooperative and municipalities (cities) are having the same problem and we are working together to get the situation resolved.

If we don't get FEMA reimbursement, costs for needed permanent repairs would be borne by our members through increased utility rates.

The cooperative will appeal any decision by FEMA that is contrary to the law and harmful to our members. We continue to work with Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., (KEC), our statewide association, Kansas state officials and our congressional delegation to address this action by FEMA.

Acuff and Walker Complete NJATC Training

Some of the finest electrical workers in the country receive their training through the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (NJATC) of National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). Twin Valley Electric is proud to announce that Dustin Acuff and Kelly Walker have completed this training.

Acuff and Walker have both passed three years of classroom education and hands on experience to earn their certificates.

NJATC was created over 58 years ago and has developed into what is perhaps the largest apprenticeship and training program of its kind. Local programs



Kelly Walker (left) and Dustin Acuff recently completed training through the National Electrical Contractors Assn.

affiliated with the NJATC have trained over 300,000 apprentices to journeyman status without cost to the taxpayers. This joint program between the NECA and IBEW has clearly demonstrated the most cost effective way to train qualified craft workers.

The NJATC developed uniform standards that are adopted and used nationwide to select and train literally thousands of qualified men and women.

Outage Report for June 2008				
Date	Metering point	# of members effected	Hours w/ out power	Cause
4-Jun	Parsons West M.P.	56	4	Trees
4-Jun	Mound Valley Sub	209	2	Snake
5-Jun	Altamont M. P.	56	2	Wind Broke Pole
5-Jun	Parsons West M.P.	42	2	Wind
8-Jun	Parsons East M.P.	5	2	Lightning
8-Jun	Parsons West M.P.	5	2	Line Broke
13-Jun	Parsons West M.P.	48	9	Bad Insulator
16-Jun	Altamont M. P.	17	2	Phase down
16-Jun	Parsons West M.P.	4	2	Pole on Fire
18-Jun	Mound Valley Sub	13	1.5	Ravlin in Phase
21-Jun	Chetopa Sub	157	2	Empire
22-Jun	Altamont M. P.	12	2	Storm
22-Jun	Mound Valley Sub	27	2.5	Ravlin in Phase
23-Jun	Parsons East M.P.	35	3	Storm
28-Jun	Altamont M. P.	556	4	Storm/Phase Down
28-Jun	Mound Valley Sub	6	6	Storm/Trees
28-Jun	Parsons West M.P.	6	7	Storm/Lightning
28-Jun	Mound Valley Sub	2	6	Storm/Lightning

Geren Travels to Washington, D.C., with the "Government In Action" Youth Tour

The opportunity to be a delegate on the 2008 "Government in Action" Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., was an excellent experience, one I'll never forget!

I met many new people and made many new friendships while on this trip, not just from Kansas, but from across the nation.

The days were filled with exciting activities, and I learned a lot about our nation's history. We also attended many fun activities such as a soccer game and a wax museum.

Most of our touring group consisted of the 34 delegates from Kansas and Hawaii, but I also had the chance to meet people from across the nation while on a riverboat cruise on the Potomac River and at National Youth Day.

Some of the places we visited in Washington, D.C., included the White House, the Holocaust Museum, the Vietnam Memorial, Mt. Vernon, and the World War II Memorial.

At the numerous Smithsonian museums, we saw dinosaur fossils, rocks and minerals from across the world, Native American artifacts, and many airplanes from the beginning of flight to cur-



Above: Keith Geren poses in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, just one of the many stops on the "Government in Action" Youth Tour. **Below:** The 2008 Youth Tour delegates.



rent day aeronautics. At Arlington National Cemetery, I experienced the changing of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This was a very humbling experience.

At the Iwo Jima Memorial I saw and heard the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps along with their silent drill team, and they were amazing.

While in Washington, D.C., we had the chance to tour part of the nation's Capital, which broadened my knowledge of how our government works.

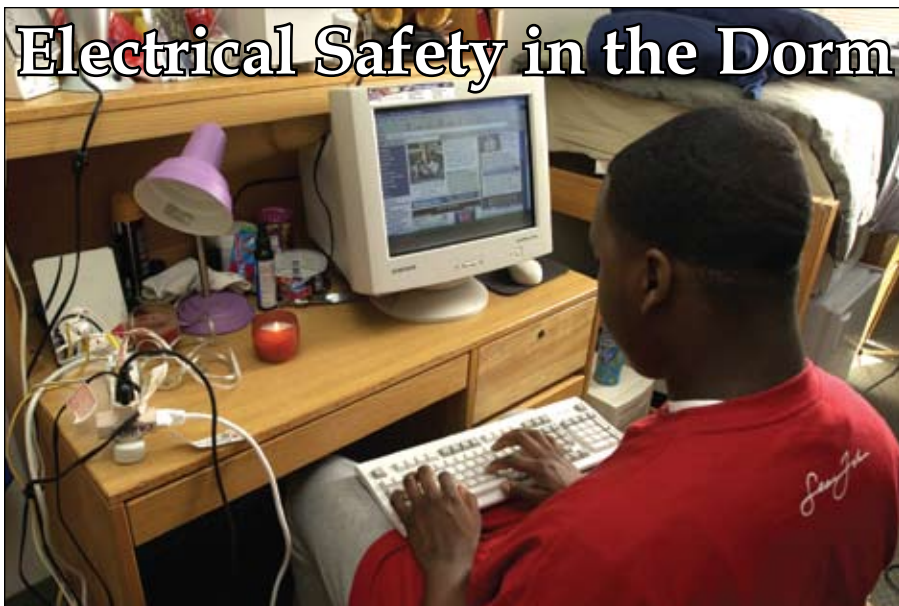
While at the Capital, we had the privilege of meeting and discussing the issues that face our country with Senator Pat Roberts and Congressman Todd Tiahart.

I had a terrific time on this trip! I would like to thank everyone at Twin Valley Electric Cooperative for the chance to attend this youth tour.

Also, I would like to thank Kansas Electric Cooperative, Inc., for coordinating the trip along with the NRECA for making this trip available to all youth to learn about their government and the cooperative way.

*Thank you,
Keith Geren*

Electrical Safety in the Dorm



According to the National Fire Protection Association, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 3,300 structure fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and barracks from 2002 to 2005. The group Campus Firewatch has identified 129 student-related fire deaths across the nation since 1999.

A lack of automatic sprinkler systems, disabled smoke alarms, careless smoking, unattended candles, and cooking, as well as overloaded extension cords and power outlets are among the most common causes of campus fires.

Because many residence halls were built before students arrived with computers, CD players, microwaves, and refrigerators, wiring in dorms sometimes can't handle the increased electrical load. This makes it especially important not to overload circuits and follow university rules with regard to electricity use.

The following tips will help college students and others stay safe this fall:

- Do not overload extension cords, power strips, or outlets. Overloading these can cause

overheating and deterioration, resulting in a shock or fire hazard.

- Use adaptors in rooms with old-fashioned, two-prong outlets.
- Buy a power strip with an over-current protector. It will shut off power automatically if too much power gets drawn.
- If an outlet is hot to the touch, unplug appliances immediately and notify the resident assistant. It could be a potential fire hazard.
- Do not connect multiple extension cords together.
- Extension cords are only for temporary use.
- Do not route extension cords under carpet or doors. Do not staple or puncture through extension cords.
- Look for the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) mark on any electrical product you use.
- Use light bulbs with the correct wattage for lamps. The wattage specification should be indicated near the bulb socket.

Energy-Efficient Clothes Washers

Energy Star-qualified clothes washers use the latest technology to substantially reduce energy and water consumption. They must boast a modified energy factor of at least 1.72 and a water factor no greater than 8.0.

Front-loading clothes washers use a horizontal or tumble-axis basket to lift and drop clothing into the water, instead of rubbing clothes around a central agitator in a full tub. These units use less energy than conventional clothes washers by reducing the amount of hot water needed to clean clothes. Front-loading models also squeeze more water out of clothes by using spin speeds that are two to three times faster than conventional washers, thereby reducing drying time and energy use.

New top-loading models typically employ spray valves to rinse clothes instead of using a new tub of water. Repeated high-pressure rinses that remove soap residue not only reduce the energy required for water heating, but typically save an average of 15 gallons of water per wash.

Qualified top-loading models also have sensors that monitor the incoming water temperature, keeping it hot enough to dissolve detergent and provide high-performance cleaning, but cool enough to save energy and minimize damage to fabrics. This technology results in less hot water and less energy consumption.