

## 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  
Ronald E. McNickle - Secretary  
Larry Hubbell - Treasurer  
Michael Allison  
Tom Ellison  
Norman L. Leistikow  
Wayne Revell  
Robert E. Webster, Jr.

## PCA Hearing Scheduled

The Twin Valley Board of Directors will hold a hearing at the beginning of their April board meeting to take input from the members on a proposal to change the formula for the energy cost adjustment clause on all rate schedules to include all charges and credits for power and transmission service.

The board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 27, at 6 p.m. If you plan to attend the meeting, please let the office know so we can arrange a properly sized meeting room.

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee met at the Twin Valley Electric Cooperative office, March 3, 2009, to nominate members to fill the three Trustee positions open for election at the Annual Meeting April 16, 2009.

The following members of the nominating committee were present: Keith Tucker, Dave Peterson, Bill Billman, Donald Richardson, Pam Baker and Carla Bebb. Billman was elected Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

After short discussion, the following persons were nominated to stand for election as Directors of the cooperative for a three-year term: District 1, Bryan Coover, Parsons; District 2, Ronald McNickle, Cherryvale; and Bobby Myers, Cherryvale; and District 3, Robert Webster Jr., Oswego.

Additional members can be nominated for these positions by written petition of any 15 or more

### Board of Directors Nominees

#### District 1

Bryan Coover, Parsons

#### District 2

Ronald McNickle, Cherryvale  
Bobby Myers, Cherryvale

#### District 3

Robert (Bob) Webster Jr., Oswego

members, or by nomination from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Any member is eligible to become a Board member of the cooperative provided they are a bona fide resident of the particular district which is open for election and are not in any way employed or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy. Active employees are not eligible to become a Board member or actively support candidacy of a member for election.

The nominating committee also serves as the election tellers at the Annual Meeting.



## WildBlue Equipment Service Plan

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative has found it necessary to make changes in the way we handle our Wildblue service calls.

We would like to introduce Twin Valley's equipment service plan that will help protect you against expensive equipment replacement or service calls.

The manufacturer's warranty covers the equipment for the period of one year, but does not cover the actual service call.

Examples of the current equipment costs would include a modem (indoor unit) for \$189 and the outdoor unit for \$249. Service calls typically run about \$80. Twin Valley's Equipment Service Plan protects you from these potential costs for only \$7.50 per month.

Since 2005, Twin Valley has not charged customers for any of these services. Starting April 1, 2009, Twin Valley will start charging customers the service call and the price of the equipment that is changed out if the customer does not have the Equipment Service Plan.

If you would like to take advantage of this service, please contact our office at 1-866-784-5500.



## From the Manager...

### FEMA Update

We have submitted a complete construction work estimate for the 2007 Ice Storm Restoration project to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) using the new criteria that FEMA developed for these projects.

We surveyed the damaged areas, completing mile-by-mile line inventory forms developed by FEMA, documenting the work needed to be completed. This analysis shows that we need to rebuild and/or repair approximately 153 miles of line in the southern parts of our service territory. Our cost estimate for this work is over \$5.7 million.

We would expect to get some official confirmation from FEMA in early April that the project has been approved. Once that approval and funding are confirmed, we anticipate that it will take another couple of months to complete the engineering and staking before we can actually begin the rebuilding work. A project of this size will take about two years to complete.

### Annual Meeting

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be held on Thursday evening, April 16 at

the Labette County High School cafeteria at 7 pm.

We encourage all members to attend this

important meeting as it is your opportunity to learn more about the activities of your cooperative and what you can expect in terms of future power supply as well as participating in the election of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors has spent a lot of time this past year reviewing the Bylaws and has recommended several amendments designed to bring them into compliance with state and federal statutes as well as clarifying some of the language in the Bylaws. If you have not attended one of the area meetings held to cover review of the proposed amendments to the Bylaws, you may visit [www.twinvalleyelectric.coop](http://www.twinvalleyelectric.coop) to view the proposed language.

The official notice of the annual meeting will also contain the complete wording for the proposed amendments. If you have any questions, please give us a call at the office and we can explain the proposed changes.



Ron Holsteen

## February Outages

Date	Substation	Cause	Reason for Failure	Members Out	Duration	
					Hrs	Min
2/26	Chetopa	Vandalism	Insulator	18	0	24
2/26	Chetopa	Vandalism	Insulator	46	0	12
2/26	Parsons West	Storm	Pole	855	0	52
2/26	Parsons West	Maintenance	Jumper	9	2	5

## Lahey Takes Internship at Twin Valley

Ty Lahey is currently working for Twin Valley for his internship rotation.

He is presently in his first year of lineman school at Okmulgee.

Lahey graduated



*Ty Lahey*

from Labette County High School in 2004.

In his spare time, he enjoys hunting and fishing and enjoying life to the fullest.

Welcome to the cooperative family!

## Twin Valley Offers Truck for Sale

Twin Valley Electric is selling a 2000 Chevrolet Cab and Chassis 1 Ton with a 36' Versalift boom with bucket and fiberglass bins.

This truck has 9,434 hours and 140,381 miles. We are asking \$10,000. Please call 866-784-5500 for more information.



## From Twin Valley Kitchens

### Crockpot Lasagna

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Lb. ground beef  | 1 (1 Lb.) jar alfredo sauce       |
| 1 26 oz. Jar Prego sauce (or any prepared spaghetti sauce) | 4 cups shredded mozzarella cheese |
| 1 8 oz. can tomato sauce                                   | ¼ cup parmesan cheese             |
| ½ pkg lasagna noodles                                      |                                   |

Brown beef until cooked; drain. Spray slow cooker with cooking spray. Spread ¾ cup of the tomato pasta sauce on bottom of the crock pot. Stir remaining tomato pasta sauce and tomato sauce into the beef. Layer 4 noodles over sauce in slow cooker-break as needed. Top with 1/3 alfredo sauce, 1 cup mozzarella cheese and then 1/3 of the beef mixture. Repeat layering 2 times, sprinkle with parmesan cheese. Cook 1 hr on high and 3 hours on low or 5 hours on low.



*Submitted by Leaann Myers*

### Submit a recipe and get a \$10 credit!

To submit your recipe please send the following information:

- Your name, contact information and Twin Valley account number
- The recipe (clearly printed or typed)
- A photo of you cooking the recipe or of you and the finished product

Send your entry to: Twin Valley Electric,  
Attn: Recipes, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330.

**If your recipe is used in *Kansas Country Living* magazine, you will receive a \$10 credit toward your electric bill**

## Our Energy, Our Future™

### Campaign Helps Keep Electric Bills Affordable

America's families are facing tough economic times. Many struggle to afford the basics: food, housing, and energy. The cost of residential electricity climbed an average of 26 percent from 2002 to 2007, and it is projected to go higher. As if that wasn't bad enough, today's electricity supplies won't be able to keep pace with future demand.

Now, elected officials in Washington, D.C., are poised to make important policy decisions that will determine our nation's energy future. To guide lawmakers in a sound direction, electric cooperatives are making sure that your voice, gets heard during legislative debates.

Through the "Our Energy, Our Future"™ grassroots awareness campaign, hundreds of thousands of electric cooperative consumers have already sent more than 1.5 million messages to their members of Congress. Through this outreach, co-ops have shared our insight drawn from decades of offering safe and reliable electricity at affordable rates; service that always makes consumers – not the bottom line – priority one.

Ask your elected officials to work with America's consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. Together we can face these hard times with resolve to build a brighter future. Visit [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) today.

# Electric Meters: More than Kilowatt Counters

No matter the size, style, or age, all homes across the country have one thing in common: a small meter, constantly keeping a tally of electricity use. Some dutifully track kilowatts with spinning discs – a technology that dates back to 1888 – while many have been upgraded to handle the information demands of our digital age.

Most digital meters contain chips that enable them to send kilowatt-hour use readings and other data to your electric cooperative – what’s called automated meter reading (AMR). Some units go a step further and can send and receive signals from a co-op, opening up a world of possibilities. This allows co-ops to install advanced meter infrastructure systems (AMI).

“AMR has existed in one form or another since the mid-1980s,” explained Brian Sloboda, senior advisor with the Arlington, Va.-based Co-operative Research Network, a division of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. “Initially it was simply a more efficient way to conduct monthly meter readings. Today, the collection of monthly meter reads is just the tip of the iceberg. Faster, two-way systems allow the co-op to view meter reads once an hour and in some cases even more often. When teamed with other automated equipment at substations and on distribution lines, AMR can evolve into an advanced me-

ter infrastructure system.”

Once AMI systems are in place, a wide range of applications can become available, including electricity theft detection, outage management, remote disconnect and reconnect, and “blink” monitoring, among others.” Caney Valley is among the 50 percent of electric

co-ops that have deployed AMI – exceeding the electric utility industry standards.

AMR and AMI are also key components of what’s called a “smart grid,” an evolving, “self-healing” transmission and distribution network that can track the flow of electricity with great precision and efficiency.

## Electricity Meters: A Field Guide

Meters have evolved beyond spinning dials, and electric co-ops are leaders in deploying new meter technology. While the device on your home could be a classic, you may be surprised at what it can do.



### Electromechanical Meter

Invented in 1888, this meter tracks electricity use with spinning dials.

**Pros:** Inexpensive

**Cons:** Dials slow with age and require testing every few years

Can only be used for measuring kWh consumed

### Solid-State Electronic Meter

An LED screen displays electricity use on this digital meter.

**Pros:** Accurate, without a need for testing, and inexpensive

**Cons:** May not include advanced features

### AMR Smart Meter

Supports **Automated Meter Reading**, which sends use information to a central database.

**Pros:** Can record and analyze electricity use, and be upgraded to support AMI (see below)

**Cons:** Expensive

### Advanced (AMI) Smart Meter

Supports **Advanced Meter Infrastructure**, which allows for two-way communications with the utility.

**Pros:** Co-op can offer consumers enhanced options, such as variable time-of-use rates

**Cons:** Expensive

Image Source: Elster Metering Holdings Ltd.