

## TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# NEWS



### Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Ron Holsteen General Manager

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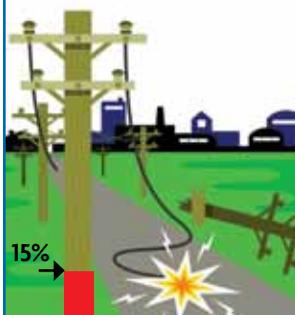
**Robert Webster, Jr.**  
Trustee

#### Office Hours

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

#### FEMA Rebuild Update

As of January 15, we have completed 15% of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) rebuild work.



## From the Manager

The New Year certainly started off with a bang. As I write this newsletter we still have snow on the ground from the Christmas Eve blizzard and have experienced several days of sub-zero weather the first 10 days of January.

The good news is that we have had very few problems because of the weather. Our kilowatt demand during those days almost reached our peak levels from last summer, which will translate into higher than normal electric bills for January.

### Annual Meeting

This is the time of year that we begin planning our annual meeting. We have tentatively scheduled the annual meeting to be held on Thursday, April 15 at the Labette County High School.

The board will be selecting a nominating committee at the January board meeting. The nominating committee will meet in early March to nominate candidates for those director positions which are at the end of their three-year term.

### FEMA Rebuild Update

The crews hired to rebuild the lines damaged by the 2007 ice storm have been able to continue their work throughout the inclement weather.

They will move over to the Chetopa area and rebuild the line along Highway 59 south of Chetopa in early February and then return to the area south of Edna for the rest of the winter months.

### Building Upgrades Needed

The weather has caused us to step up our

need to address issues we are having with our headquarters facilities.

We have outgrown our existing facilities and need to find a better solution for keeping our fleet of trucks inside at night. We also need considerably more space to store and stage the materials for our jobs.

Another significant problem is that we don't have a proper facility to install and maintain all of the electronic equipment and computer servers that will be required as we move forward in installing a smart grid. The smart grid system will provide more reliable and efficient electric service to our members. We will keep you informed of the progress as we move forward with this project.

### Climate Change

We continue to actively work with our Congressional delegation to ensure that any new climate change legislation has the least impact on our wholesale power costs and on the retail rates that you pay.

There is a possibility that no legislation will be passed this year due to the fall elections. However, the Environmental Protection Agency is moving ahead with rule making to regulate carbon emissions.

You can follow these developments by checking our Web site, [www.twinvalleyelectric.coop](http://www.twinvalleyelectric.coop) and by going to [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop). Plan to attend the annual meeting for a complete update on all of these issues.



Ron Holsteen

## Fire Extinguishers:

A Little Preparation  
Can Go a Long Way

House fires can happen in seconds: in one instant, you could go from whipping up dinner to watching flames spring up from the stovetop.

Fire extinguishers should be placed in easily-accessible areas of the home, close to where they might be needed (such as in a kitchen, garage, or bedroom). Some basic rules to keep in mind when using household fire extinguishers:

- ▶ **If the fire is not spreading** and remains confined to a small area, use the appropriate type of extinguisher. Select a multi-purpose extinguisher (rated A, B, or C) with the UL mark that can be used on all types fires such as wood, cloth, paper, flammable liquids (gasoline, oil, grease, oil-based paint), and energized electrical equipment including wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers and appliances.
- ▶ **Know both your limits** and that of the fire extinguisher.
- ▶ **Periodically inspect** your extinguishers to determine if they need to be recharged or replaced. Extinguishers need to be recharged or replaced after each use—even if you haven't used the entire extinguishing agent. Check the gauge on the fire extinguisher for this information.
- ▶ **When operating a fire extinguisher**, stand at least six feet away from the fire and keep your back to a door so you can escape easily, if necessary.
- ▶ **Remember the word PASS:**
  - ▶ **Pull** the pin, hold the extinguisher away from you and release the locking mechanism.
  - ▶ **Aim** low, pointing the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
  - ▶ **Squeeze** the lever slowly and evenly.
  - ▶ **Sweep** the nozzle from side to side.

"Fire extinguishers for home use are not designed to fight large or spreading fires," Drenenberg said. "Rather than fighting the fire, your number one priority should be getting out safely."

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

# Why Not Start Now?

BY DOUG RYE

Baby, it's cold outside. As I write this article, it is 14 degrees on my back porch. It was 45 degrees below zero at West Yellowstone yesterday. According to the Weather Channel, the Midwest, most of the South and the Northeast are near record cold temperatures for this date.

After several years of above-average temperatures, we may have been a little spoiled. As I woke this morning, I could not help but think of those who did not have a nice warm place to sleep last night.

I also thought about you getting your utility bills about the time you read this column. Some simply will not have the money to pay those bills. My heart bleeds for you. I wish I could personally go to each of your houses and make them energy efficient. (I really do.) The rest of you probably have at least some money to make energy improvements, which would reduce your utility bills every day for as long as you live in that house.

I say to you, it is a new year and you can do something about it. Start now.

Do one item at a time, and you will be amazed at what you can do. I've also been asked many times, "What can those with no extra money to spend do to weatherize their homes?" Here are two actual cases I would like to share with you.

I received a call recently from a fellow who said, "My wife and I have been listening to your radio program

for several years. We are on a fixed social security income. Two years ago, we started buying two bags (\$8 worth) of cellulose insulation at the first of each of month. I would take the two bags to the attic and spread insulation with a garden rake. I continued buying until we have now completed the insulation in our attic and, for the first time, our house is warm in the winter."



Doug Rye

The other case is about a lady I have known for 20-plus years. She is also on a fixed social security income. She called me about three weeks ago and told me with a very happy voice, "I finished replacing my last window today."

She has been buying one replacement window every six months for six years—two a year. Her house is now more modern, more comfortable and her utility bills are less thanks to her patience and perseverance.

I hope that these two stories encourage all of you, regardless of your income, to make changes to improve your homes' energy efficiency. Why not start now?

**DOUG RYE** is a licensed architect and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show. You can contact Doug at 888-Doug-Rye. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.

## Mark Your Calendars!

We hope to see you at the Twin Valley Electric Annual Meeting April 15, 2010.

Look for more information in the next issue of *Kansas Country Living*.

**We hope to see you there!**

April						
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	

# Attention High School Juniors

*Don't Miss this FREE Trip of a Lifetime!*

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., will send one high school junior to the "Government in Action" Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and one to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO.

## To Qualify

The applicant must be a high school junior living within the cooperative's territorial boundaries and the child of a Twin Valley Electric member.

## To Apply

Applicants will be expected to study and take a quiz over information sent by Twin Valley regarding electric cooperatives. There will also be a short interview to pick the winner. All participating students will receive a prize.

To apply please complete, sign



Students from Kansas join more than 1,500 youth in Washington, D.C., this year's Youth Tour is scheduled for June 10-17, 2010.

and return the application below to Twin Valley, PO Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330.

## Youth Tour Selection Process

Applicants must complete an application and return it to the cooperative office by March 10, 2010. Finalists will be quizzed and interviewed by a panel of judges at the cooperative offices on March 26, 2010.

## For More Information

For more information contact Jennifer at 866-784-5500.



Kansas delegates will attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp July 10-16, 2010.

## Application for Youth Tour Contest—Due March 10

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Twin Valley Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parents or Guardians \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby grant permission for the above named applicant to enter the 2010 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

## KEPCo Revises Rebate Program

There have been changes in the Energy Efficiency Rebate Program that will take effect February 1, 2010. To qualify for a rebate, the unit(s) must be installed on the cooperative's line. The new efficiency requirements and rebate amounts are listed below.

The items in bold must be met in order to receive the rebate.

Twin Valley Electric will match these rebates for our members. If you have questions concerning this program please call the office at 866-784-5500.

### Water Heaters

- ▶ Less than 60 gallons, must have a minimum **Energy Factor (EF) of .93**
- ▶ 60 gallons or greater, must have a minimum **EF of .91**

### Rebate Amounts

- ▶ \$100 for a non-lifetime water heater
- ▶ \$150 for a lifetime water heater

### Air Source Heat Pumps

- ▶ Minimum unit size of two tons
- ▶ Must have a minimum **Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) of 14.5**
- ▶ Must have a minimum **Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) of 8.2**

### Rebate Amounts

- ▶ \$100 per ton for a 14.5 SEER\*
- ▶ \$150 per ton for a 15.5 SEER\*
- ▶ \$200 per ton for 16.5 SEER\*

### Ground Source Heat Pumps

- ▶ Minimum unit size of two tons
- ▶ Open loop—must have a minimum **Coefficient of Performance (COP) of 3.6 and a minimum Energy Efficiency Rating (EER) of 16.2**
- ▶ Closed loop—must have a minimum **COP of 3.3 and a minimum EER of 14.1**

### Rebate Amounts

- ▶ \$125 per one-half ton\*
- \*Less \$200 for heating contractor

# Capital Credit Returned Checks

Do you know the address of the following people or person(s) taking care of the estate of these past members? If so, please contact our office at 866-784-5500.

Allen, Sharon	Evans, John	May, Brian	Sink, Edwin
Altom, Coy	Featherson, Ralph	McDaniel, Fern	Sisson, Robert
Baker, Alice	Fleming, Rodney	McElroy, Cindi	Smith, William
Barnard, Nichole	Foister, Kenyon	McGovney, Steve	Stover, Jerry
Bates, Brent	Franklin, Letha	McNay, Valerie	Stringer, Dale
Bennett, OE	George, Terry	Mercer, Ralph	Swafford, Judith
Billingsly, Michael	Good, Rick	Merrick, Jim	Titsworth, Ted
Bohnenblust, Jeffrey	Graves, Beverly	Messer, John	Trayer, Jeffrey
Bolinger Jr, William	Harmon, Steve	Mitchell, Jeannie	Treat, Robbie
Brown, Kirk	Harris, Greg	Monroe, Renea	Vanmieghem, Charles
Bryan, Sarah	Herman, Michael	Moore, Gary	Walker, William
Bryson, Clayton	Higgins, Steve	Morrow, John	Wallis, Deborah
Burns, April	Hill, John	Mozingo, George	Watts, James
Butler, Gary	Hoffman, James	Myers, Donna	Welch, Brandy
Cagle, Norma	Holmes, Alice	O'Brien, Robert	Wells, Dale
Caldwell, Cuba	Hough, Rod	Paff, Fern	Wheeler, Betty
Callier Jr, Lawrence	Howard, Richard	Parsons, Doug	White Jr, Edwin
Cline, Robert	Hull, LE	Pennington, David	Williamson, Lawrence
Cole, Teri	Humphrey, Ruby	Polk, Dolores	Willoughby, K A
Cook, Maynard	Humphrey, Donna	Presley, John	Winchester, Mike
Coons, Dottie	Hyatt, Vaughn	Rea, Ivan	Winter, James
Courtright, Dorothy	Janssen, Leo	Rector, Jay	Mid America Federal S&L
Crain, Bobby	Julich, Janis	Reust, Andrew	VW&B Drilling Co
Day, Douglas	Keith, Carolyn	Rhodes, Philip	Petro 85 Inc.
Detar, Leona	Kellogg, Raymond	Rogers, Sam	Chetopa Inc
Dick, Ronald	King, Evert	Ross, Danny	K Triple S
Dixon Jr, Jerry	Kirkpatrick, Kelly	Ryder, Dan	Steele Trust Delbert
Donnelly, H.H.	Lacen, Leroy	Samples, Roy	Shiloh Community Center
Dunn, Garrold	Lamb, Velma	Self, Vernon	Montgomery Co Gas Partners
Durbin, Kenny	Mahan, Doyle	Sharp, Melvin	Independent Oil & Gas
Evans, Barbara	Mahan, Dale	Shultz, Tim	



## I THOUGHT I WAS TIGHT WITH MY MONEY. NOW I'M AIRTIGHT.

All it took was a tube of caulk and half an afternoon. Now, I'm saving \$212 a year by sealing a few cracks around the house. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

