



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

501 S. Huston Ave, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330  
866-784-5500  
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

# TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

## Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Ron Holsteen General Manager

### Board of Directors

**Daniel Peterson**  
President

**Bryan Coover**  
Vice President

**Ronald McNickle**  
Secretary

**Larry Hubbell**  
Treasurer

**Michael Allison**  
Trustee

**Tom Ellison**  
Trustee

**Bryan Hucke**  
Trustee

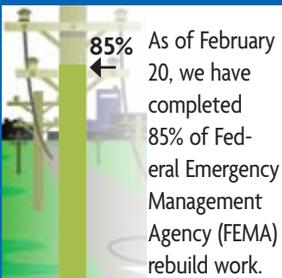
**Wayne Revell**  
Trustee

**Robert Webster, Jr.**  
Trustee

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

**Contact Us**  
501 S. Huston Ave., P.O. Box 368  
Altamont, KS 67330  
620-784-5500  
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

## FEMA Rebuild Update



## FROM THE MANAGER

# Join us at Annual Meeting April 19

The Board of Directors has set April 19 as the date for the 2012 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held in the Labette County High School cafeteria with registration beginning at 6 p.m. A meal will be served as you register and the business meeting will begin at 7 p.m. As always, this will be a great opportunity to visit with your neighbors and friends as well as the board members and staff here at Twin Valley.

The board has selected a nominating committee and they will meet on March 6 to make their nominations for candidates to run for the board of directors. The cooperative is divided into three districts for the purpose of electing members to the Board of

Directors. Each district has three board members. Each year, one position from each of the three districts is open for election for a three-year term. The three board positions up for election this year are District 1: **BRYAN COOVER**; District 2: **RONALD MCNICKLE**; and District 3: **ROBERT WEBSTER**. Twin Valley's bylaws also allow for nominations by petition and nominations can be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

All members of Twin Valley are encouraged to attend and participate in the Annual Meeting. You will be voting to determine who will serve on the Board of Directors as well as hearing updates on the activities of your cooperative and

learning more about the issues that are affecting the cost of electricity. Representatives from Kansas Electric Cooperatives (KEC), our statewide association, and Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), our power supplier, will be present to answer any questions you might have about the impact of new laws, rules and environmental regulations that are causing issues with reliability and costs of providing electric power.

You will get a free meal and a chance to win some nice door prizes. We hope to see you at the meeting.



Ron Holsteen

## Mark Your Calendars!

The 2012 Annual Meeting for members of Twin Valley Electric is Thursday, April 19, at 7 p.m. following a meal at 6 p.m. at the Labette County High School cafeteria.

**We hope to see you there!**

April 2012

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					

## NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

## Preparing for Spring Storms



William Worthy

Safety  
of our  
linemen  
takes  
precedence  
over  
everything  
we do.

As spring approaches southeast Kansas, I think about what a difference a year makes in the way of the weather. Last February, we had record snow and cold temperatures followed by record highs in the summer, which stayed around for a good while. Some of the temperatures this past summer Kansas had never seen before and the duration of the temperatures was unheard of as well.

This winter, across our great country, the temperatures this January were 5.5 degrees above the long-term average—the fourth warmest January on record, and the warmest since January 2006. Precipitation across the nation was just 1.85 inches. This was more than a third of an inch less than the long-term average. Of course, there was some slight variance between regions.

As we look to March, temperatures are forecasted to stay above average and precipitation below the normal. April and May will be cooler than normal with near normal precipitation. We can expect a drier summer with cooler than normal temperatures, except for the occasional hot spell in July. Now, I'm not a meteorologist, and I will not pretend to be in this column, but I did get the majority of this information from a very reliable source. No, not the famous rodent of Gobbler's Knob, I researched The Old Farmer's Almanac. Believe me...I will trust that source more than a groundhog or an overdressed Ken doll on the local news.

In 27 years of being in the electric cooperative world, spring generally brings one thing—storms. How else can we have May flowers if we don't have April showers? What does this mean to your electric cooperative? Thunderstorms, rain showers, hail and tornadoes; the first three are easily handled by your electric cooperative due to the dedication of Twin Valley's linemen and office support staff that work hard every day, and if needed, every night to keep the lights on.

However, the threat of tornadoes brings a different set of challenges. With the devastation

that our neighbors in Joplin, MO, dealt with last year still fresh in our minds, we are all well aware of the destruction that Mother Nature can bring. If this unfortunately happens to us, Twin Valley has support that can be called in from around the state to assist in restoring power.

Just remember, repairs are made to our distribution system that will affect the most members and individuals who may have localized damage will be restored next. Safety of our linemen takes precedence over everything we do, and we do not place any member above another when restoring power.

We are also subject to federal and state guidelines and directives from agencies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) that govern how long we can work or operate our equipment.

Also, if you and your neighbors are without power and have damage to your home or property, the men and women of Twin Valley probably have the same at their homes. Once our employees know their families are safe, they will be out working hard to get your lights back on. I am very proud of the dedication I've seen from all of the Twin Valley linemen and office personnel when it comes to taking care of our membership.

On a public safety note, any downed line or wire should be considered energized until checked by a cooperative lineman. Stay a minimum of 35-feet away from any down lines due to the possibility of step-voltage. Step-voltage occurs as the voltage ripples out as it get further away from the source creating two different potentials. The two potentials can cause a variance in the voltage that can be deadly. Many funerals have been attended by the families of people who thought they knew what they were doing. Please discourage anyone from attempting to handle or move a downed line. Again, wait for the professionals.

As always, I welcome any comment, question or idea concerning this column and I can be reached at [wworthy@wavewls.com](mailto:wworthy@wavewls.com).

# 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 and return the application below to Twin Valley, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330.



Students from Kansas join more than 1,500 youth in Washington, D.C. This year's Youth Tour is scheduled for June 14-21, 2012.

## Youth Tour Selection Process

Applicants must complete an application and return it to the cooperative office by March 9. Finalists will be quizzed and interviewed by a panel of judges at the cooperative offices on March 30.

## For More Information

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



Kansas delegates will attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp July 14-20, 2012.

## Application for Youth Tour Contest—Due March 9

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 2012 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



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SECOND FRIDGE  
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ON GROCERIES.**

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money on our electric bill, so we kicked  
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Find out what you can do at

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Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup>

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