



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

Tip of the Month

Your heat pump can use 10 percent to 25 percent more energy if it's not properly maintained. Keep brush and plants tidy around the outdoor unit, and dust the return registers inside. For more details on heat pump maintenance, visit EnergySavers.gov.

FROM THE MANAGER

Making Life Better

What would make life better in our service territory? I'm not talking about winning the lottery—that only makes life better for one person or a small group. But more jobs? Better health care? Improved parks? Those are areas that benefit everyone in southeast Kansas.

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative exists to power communities and empower you, our members, to improve your quality of life. The cooperative business model offers the perfect tool for tackling tasks too big for one person to handle alone. But we need a common purpose to effectively wield the power of cooperation.

Think about the impact electricity made in rural areas 66 years ago. Women's life expectancy increased, because they no longer had to work from dusk-to-dawn at backbreaking chores. Farm production jumped. Things like running water, lights, and stored food were possible—and with those leaps, our ancestors' lives were given new opportunities.

A few of you may remember our beginnings from your younger days—you know full well the power of neighbors uniting behind a common purpose. But the vast majority doesn't remember when this area rolled up its sleeves and worked together to get the lights on. Back when life was hard—before cooperation changed the landscape of the communities we serve.

Does that mean we don't need a

cooperative anymore? Is our job done? Are there no challenges, no roadblocks to a brighter future for our children? What's next for us? To be honest, that's up to you.

Twin Valley is more than a power provider. We're proof that when folks unite with a single focus, we can bring dreams to reality. Our purpose—powering this community and empowering you, our members—can make life better in southeast Kansas.

You, our members, have the power to enact change—all with a little cooperation. So think about it—what's important to you? What would make life better?

Please tell us what you're working on to improve your quality of life. We're here to support your efforts, and we want to know how we can help bring people with common needs and interests together. Remember, electric co-ops can be a mechanism you use to make life better. Send your ideas to memberservices@twinvalleyelectric.coop or TVEC, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, 67330 or call us at 866-784-5500.

We exist today because 66 years ago co-op members, like yourself, believed they could turn darkness into daylight. Thanks for sharing your ideas with us—we can't wait to work cooperatively with you!



Ron Holsteen

We're Visiting Your Neighborhood!

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. is implementing a geographical information system (GIS) to better serve our members. GIS is a digital mapping system that will give us detailed information about our electrical network. Among other benefits, GIS will help us restore your power more efficiently during outages.

To create our GIS system, we must do a field inventory. This calls for physically visiting and recording information about every pole and meter on our network.

We have contracted Davey Resource Group (DRG), A Division of The Davey Tree Company to do this work.

The DRG professionals will be easily recognized by their uniform, which identify them as GIS contractors.

They will be on foot or riding a four-wheeler, sporting bright yellow backpacks with an antenna and carrying handheld GPS computers.

For more information about our GIS project, visit www.twinvalleyelectric.coop or call us at 866-784-5500.

We are happy to answer questions you may have about this project.



A Division of The Davey Tree Expert Company

DRG professionals will be sporting yellow backpacks and will have the above logo on their uniforms and equipment.

NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

Love is in the Air

February...love is in the air. Time for roses and chocolates to be delivered to the ones that have been touched by Cupid's arrow. Cupid, that's a strange myth there. Whoever thought that a winged, chubby toddler shooting a weapon (no ban on bows and arrows yet) was the sign of romance...strange?

Anyway, as I look back on 2012 at the number of hours our linemen and staff worked beyond their regular hours, the number surprised me. We had three major storm events where our cooperative employees were out all night and beyond. This coupled with outages due to other acts of nature, small animals, inattentive people, etc., made up for over 1,600 hours of maintenance overtime in 2012.

Our linemen and office personnel know overtime is part of working for an electric cooperative, and they take these things in stride. However, sometimes, and more often than not, these hours come right in the middle of dinner with their Valentines, birthday parties, family get togethers, dance recitals or junior's tee-ball games. For that reason, I would like to thank the spouses, children and families of the Twin Valley employees who sacrifice time with their loved ones when the thunder rolls and the telephone rings.

Each time our linemen roll out, they have no idea what awaits them. It could be as simple as a fuse blown or a bad connection up to poles and wire lying on the ground, because someone lifted a dump bed up at the wrong time. Our linemen are well trained and follow strict safety rules when it comes to restoring power to our members. The men know that bending or breaking safety rules can lead to injury, death or a strict punishment if violated, and they know the reason for these rules

is to make sure they get back to their family in one piece. Twin Valley is very proud of its safety program and our people for following it.



William Worthy

Another danger we face are the vehicles that drive past our work sites. The majority of our work is on the side of the road. We try to get as far off the road or on to private property as much as possible, but at times, it is not feasible. Big white trucks and flashing lights would lead a person to believe that it would be impossible for a driver not to see people working.

However, drivers paying attention to where they are going seems to be falling further down the list when the driver is distracted by sending a "tweet," looking at the cute kitten picture or texting "LOL." Social media distractions seem to be more important than keeping the hands at "ten and two" and the eyes on the road.

In 2012 elsewhere in the country, three linemen lost their lives and five were injured because a text was more important than paying attention to the road. Please pay attention and pass along this information to all of the drivers in your home. The life they save may be their own.

In closing, I again want to thank the families of all the Twin Valley Electric Cooperative employees for understanding and accepting the calls of duty. Whether it is 4 p.m. or 4 a.m., our people do what is needed to get the lights back on. Until next month, stay warm and have a safe February. Always feel free to drop me a note or suggestion for this article to wworthy@twinvalleyelectric.coop.

Mark Your Calendars!

We hope to see you at the Twin Valley Electric Annual Meeting April 11, 2013, at the Labette County High School Cafeteria. A meal will be served at 6 p.m. and the meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m.

We hope to see you there!

April 2013						
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				

Help Us Locate These Members

The people listed below are due capital credits, but we can't locate them. If you have information that would be of help in finding them, please call the office or tell them to call 866-784-5500.

Amann, Donna J	Gwillim, Mark C	Peterson, Grace H
Anderson, Art	Hafenstine, Jim	Pilkington, Sue
Baugh, Mike	Hammer, Allen	Pousher, Richard
Beeson, James L	Harris, Porter W	Pride, Michael B
Benning, Ella P	Hedge, Larry	Rhodes, Charles C
Blackburn, Lyle	Hicks, Ken	Riley, Jerry
Brees, Robert D	Hodges, John W	Robison, David E
Brewer, Ron	Holmes, Stanley	Schabel, W R
Cartright, Carolyn J	Hubbard, David D	Shamrock Bay Operating Co
Chambers, Gary	James W Hubbard Jr	Sharp, Phyllis
Clark, Chester R	Johnson, Dean	Shearer, Richard
Cotten, DJ	Jones, Johnia	Shultz, Tim
Curtis, Albert H	Karleskint Real Estate	Stevenson, Clarence
Dickerson, Lucille M	Kennedy, Emil T	Suddock, Mark
Dowd, Darrell	Lake, Rocky	Thomas, Lula M
Dunn, Garold L	Larson, Edward L	Thompson, Emma J
Eisenbart, Melody	Lett, David R	Thompson, Terry D
Ewing, Glen K	Lewis, Paul	Tollett, Loyd
Federal Resource Income Program	Marlow, Catherine	Trout, Jon K
Francoeur, Verla	Maxson, David A	Vi-Con Petroleum
Gaier, Ralph W	McCoach, Beverly	Waun Sr, Jerry
Galloway, Vicki	Mitchell, Fred W	Webb, Ronald L
GEO Map	Monroe, Richard W	Wimp, Don
Giefer, Charles	Oliphant, Arietta P	Wood, Drue
Gilpin, Terry	Page, Mike	Worldcom MCI
Gwartney, James C	Palmer-Benton, Patty J	

Rennie Smith Retires



Kelly Walker (right) presented Rennie Smith with a Stihl chain saw during his retirement party at Twin Valley.

RENNIE SMITH retired on January 4 after 24 years at Twin Valley as a member of the line clearance crew.

Smith is looking forward to spending time with his family and running his bait shop in retirement.

Rennie, thank you for all of your contributions to Twin Valley throughout the years.

Strasser & Robinson Join Twin Valley Staff

Twin Valley Electric has had two recent additions to the operations staff.

SETH STRASSER was hired by Twin Valley Electric as a groundsman in December. Strasser recently graduated from Oklahoma State Institute of Technology in Okmulgee, OK, with a degree in Construction Technologies, High Voltage, Associate in Applied Science.

JORDAN ROBISON is currently serving his internship. He currently is attending Oklahoma State Institute of Technology and will graduate in July.

Welcome to the cooperative family!



Seth Strasser



Jordan Robison

Support Food-4-Kids & Fight Child Hunger



Check YES to donate to the Food-4-Kids program on your monthly bill in the bottom-left corner.

Twin Valley Electric's Food-4-Kids program raised \$1,125.60 in 2012 for the Kansas Food Bank.

Several elementary schools in Twin Valley's service area send backpacks filled with food provided by the Kansas Food Bank home with students on Friday afternoons.

For most of these children, the food is the difference between having enough to eat on Saturdays and Sundays—or not. The backpack provides some kids their only source of food all weekend. Teachers and students benefit from the program when all students return on Monday morning ready to learn.

A stronger, more secure backpack program in the Twin Valley service area means a lower dropout rate and a higher graduation rate among our most vulnerable and disadvantaged school children. Over time, it also enhances our economic development efforts. In other words, the program benefits all of us.

The Twin Valley Electric Board endorses the Food-4-Kids program to support the work of the Kansas Food Bank.

Twin Valley members are encouraged to round up of their bill to the next dollar amount, or more, to be added to their monthly electric service bill.

Check "Yes!" to support Backpack programs and the children who use them.

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 on Tuesday, March 26 at 2 p.m. 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.

Youth Tour Selection Process

Applicants must complete an application and return it to the cooperative office. Finalists



The "Government in Action" Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., is scheduled for June 13-20, 2013.



The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp to Steamboat Springs, CO, will be July 13-19, 2013.

will be quizzed and interviewed by a panel of judges at the cooperative offices.

For More Information

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

Application for Youth Tour Contest

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 2013 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____