



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**  
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**Michael Allison**  
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**Tom Ellison**  
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**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

## Co-op Connections Card Savings Update

In March, Twin Valley members filled 52 prescriptions using the Co-op Connections Card and saved **\$739.71!** That makes an annual savings of **\$827.72.**

## NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

# A Three-Year Review

In this month's article, I'm going to reiterate a few points made in past column. Let's call it "Notes from Operations, a Three Year Review" I have been walking the hallways of your electric cooperative for just over three years now and it is a privilege to serve the membership of Twin Valley.

My day-to-day tasks are managing the linemen that install and maintain the lines that provide electricity to you. I have brought some Texas habits up here and have learned some of the Kansas ways of doing things as well. We have a great group working for you every day and I am proud to be a part.

In dealing with the membership of Twin Valley, it is usually not to hear "Those R.E.A. boys sure set that pole real fast!" No, it's usually something not so positive, "Why is my bill so high?" is the most common. Now, I'm not complaining. I know that is the nature of the job and feedback from the membership, positive or negative, can be beneficial to us in improving your cooperative's electric system.

Let's address "Why is my bill so high?" As covered in a previous article, several factors come into play when it comes to your bill. Both modern conveniences and old faithful appliances can cause your bill to be higher than normal. A lot of modern appliances and gadgets are 'Vampires' and draw kilowatt hours when you

think they are off. DVRs, computers, televisions, satellite receivers and all sorts of other gadgets go into a standby mode so they can save information like channels and volume settings or carry out a scheduled task like recording "Duck Dynasty" or brewing your morning cup o' Joe. As with anything in today's time, convenience costs. If you're not worried about saving settings in the entertainment center, plug your TV, satellite receiver and DVR into a power strip. When you flip the switch on the strip, OFF will mean OFF.

In the kitchen and utility room, dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers, freezers and water heaters have a big appetite for electricity. For the first three listed, make sure they are full and run them as little as possible. With the dishwasher, turn off the heated-dry setting. Let the dishwasher cycle and then open the door a bit or just towel dry them as you put them away. With your washer, again make sure you have full loads and wash on cold. The dryer, again, make sure it's full and turn the heat setting to low. The dryer will run longer, but the heating element will not come on as much.



William Worthy

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# 2013 Annual Meeting Highlights

The Twin Valley Electric Annual Meeting held April 11 in Altamont was well attended.

A great meal was served by employees to more than 200 guests catered by Pichler's Chicken Annie's of Pittsburg.

During the meal, John Smith provided musical entertainment. He presented a great program and all enjoyed his harmonica talent.

Bryan Hucke, Dan Peterson and Larry "David" Hubbell were re-elected to the Board of Directors. Reports were presented from Ron Holsteen, CEO; Dan Peterson, President; Larry "David" Hubbell, Treasurer; and Ronald McNickle, Secretary.

If you were unable to attend, we hope you plan on it next year. It is a meeting when you, our members, have a chance to learn more about your co-op, elect directors to serve you, have a good meal, enjoy excellent entertainment and perhaps win a door prize.

Door prizes are always a thrilling finale to the meeting. This year we gave away \$200 cash for the early bird drawing won by Rod Brimm. We also gave away three \$100 and three \$50 electric credits along with several other wonderful prizes.

Thank you to all that attended and making this year's annual meeting a success. We hope to see you next year.



Above: More than 200 guests gathered for the 2013 Annual Meeting.  
Below: Twin Valley employees Seth Strasser, Kelly Walker and John Hibbs served Pichler's Chicken to members.



Bill Lassen won a door prize and his daughters chose the ipod touch.



John Smith provided musical entertainment during dinner.



## Newland Wins Guess the Seal Contest

Can you guess how many seals are in the meter at the left? If you guessed 128 you are correct! **WANDA NEWLAND** was the closest with her guess of 123 seals in the meter. She won a \$25 electric credit.

If you would like a chance to win, simply stop by the Twin Valley office **between April 15 and May 15** to submit your guess or send your guess in with your payment.

- ▶ You must be a Twin Valley member to win.
- ▶ One guess per person per month.
- ▶ In the event of a tie, the final winner will be chosen by random. So, all members with the correct guess will have their name thrown in for the luck of the draw.

# 2012 Cooperative Operating Statistics

The following financial information was provided to members at the cooperative's Annual Meeting. Please call the cooperative office at 620-784-5500 if you have any questions.



## Twin Valley Electric Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2012

ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS	2011	2012
Total Utility Plant in Service	\$18,332,731	\$18,110,704
Construction Work in Progress	\$159,771	(\$312,853)
<b>Total Utility Plant</b>	<b>\$18,492,502</b>	<b>\$17,797,851</b>
Accum. Provision for Depr. & Amort.	\$6,170,055	\$5,254,262
<b>Net Utility Plant</b>	<b>\$12,322,447</b>	<b>\$12,543,589</b>
Invest. in Assoc. Org. - Patronage Capital	\$1,305,556	\$1,548,615
Invest. in Assoc. Org. - Other - General Funds	\$27,502	\$27,502
Invest. in Assoc. Org. - Other - Non-general Funds	\$156,649	\$156,649
Investments in Economic Development Projects	\$1,029,166	\$902,283
<b>Total Other Property &amp; Investments</b>	<b>\$2,518,873</b>	<b>\$2,635,049</b>
Cash - General Funds	\$158,350	\$159,843
Accounts Receivable - Net Electric	\$500,547	\$507,975
Accounts Receivable - Net Other	\$1,926,999	\$3,657,853
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0
Prepayments	\$23,093	\$56,904
Other Current & Accrued Assets	\$1,973	\$1,995
<b>Total Current &amp; Accrued Assets</b>	<b>\$2,610,962</b>	<b>\$4,384,570</b>
Other Deferred Debits	\$13,511	\$72,564
<b>TOTAL ASSETS &amp; OTHER DEBITS</b>	<b>\$17,465,793</b>	<b>\$19,635,772</b>

LIABILITIES & OTHER CREDITS	2011	2012
Memberships	\$9,745	\$9,690
Patronage Capital	\$5,684,525	\$6,039,607
Operating Margins - Current Year	\$174,954	(\$142,382)
Non-Operating Margins	\$277,426	\$303,733
Other Margins & Equities	\$362,329	\$391,051
<b>Total Margins &amp; Equities</b>	<b>\$6,508,979</b>	<b>\$6,601,699</b>
Long-Term Debt - RUS (Net)	\$7,982,507	\$9,228,969
<b>Total Long-Term Debt</b>	<b>\$7,982,507</b>	<b>\$9,228,969</b>
Notes Payable	\$1,960,000	\$2,652,773
Accounts Payable	\$316,259	\$467,214
Consumer Deposits	\$233,556	\$236,676
Other Current & Accrued Liabilities	\$270,567	\$280,886
<b>Total Current &amp; Accrued Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,780,382</b>	<b>\$3,637,549</b>
Other Deferred Credits	\$193,925	\$167,555
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; OTHER CREDITS</b>	<b>\$17,465,793</b>	<b>\$19,635,772</b>

## Statement of Operations December 31, 2012

Revenues	2010	2011	2012
Electric Revenue	\$5,165,209	\$5,725,570	\$5,531,960
Forfeited Discounts & Misc. Revenue	\$136,189	\$118,648	\$104,027
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$5,301,398</b>	<b>\$5,844,218</b>	<b>\$5,635,987</b>

Expenses	2010	2011	2012
Cost of Power	\$2,921,950	\$3,358,222	\$3,403,620
Operation & Maintenance Expenses	\$1,531,472	\$1,514,561	\$1,510,041
Depreciation	\$460,188	\$467,281	\$486,017
Current Interest	\$309,655	\$329,200	\$378,691
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,223,265</b>	<b>\$5,669,264</b>	<b>\$5,778,369</b>

Operating Margins	\$78,133	\$174,954	(\$142,382)
Non-Operating Margins	\$255,744	\$277,426	\$303,733
<b>Gross Margin</b>	<b>\$333,877</b>	<b>\$452,380</b>	<b>\$161,351</b>

## Yearly Property Tax Comparisons

County	2010	2011	2012
Labette	\$176,777	\$189,282	\$211,464
Montgomery	\$5,172	\$5,176	\$5,689
Neosho	\$24,741	\$25,193	\$28,551
Cherokee	\$874	\$935	\$990
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$207,563</b>	<b>\$220,586</b>	<b>\$246,694</b>



## Would You Like to Become a Lineman?

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative offers a \$500 scholarship to any graduating senior, high school graduate, or recipient of an equivalent degree (GED, etc.) who plans to enroll in a high voltage line school. Applicants must be a resident of Labette, Neosho, Montgomery or Cherokee Counties.

For more information, please call 620-784-5500 or visit [www.twinvalleyelectric.coop](http://www.twinvalleyelectric.coop).

## A Three-Year Review Continued from page 16-A ▶

Not only will these tips help your electric bill, they will extend the life of your appliances.

The old faithful appliances that can hurt you are your water heater and the 20-year-old freezer. Scale builds on heating elements in your water heater and if you are using your dishwasher or clothes washer in the wrong way, this will compound the problem. In addition, having a teenager take a two-hour shower is devastating when it comes to efficiency of your water heater. Also, check your water temperature setting. Anything above 120° is not good and can lead to higher water bills as well.

As far as the freezer, compressors get old, insulation breaks down or the automatic defrosting quits or is not done as often as needed. In short, using old appliances or new ones in an inefficient manner is probably one of the bigger reasons for your high usage. If you do not want to upgrade your appliances to more energy-efficient ones, you may have to settle for spending more on your monthly Twin Valley bill.

A couple of smaller tips that I also have previously covered:

▶ **Look around your house.** Cell phones, MP3 players, iPads and tablet PCs, electric razors, electric toothbrushes, laptops, portable game systems and a whole bunch of similar devices all have a tiny transformer in their charging cord that is constantly drawing electricity whether the device is connected or not. If you're not charging, unplug

the cord from the wall socket.

▶ **Check your ceiling fan.** In the winter, when you are heating your house your ceiling fan should turn clockwise. When warmer temperatures get here and you start cooling your home, the fan should turn counterclockwise. Simply turn off your fan and find the toggle switch on the side of the motor. Also, remember to turn off the ceiling fans when a room is unoccupied.

▶ **Use proper lighting.** When it comes to lighting, many people make the mistake of using lights to affect the brightness of an entire room, which can contribute to high electric bills. However, lighting is efficient only when used directly to provide light to specific areas of a room, such as couches, chairs, kitchen tables and workspaces. You will also pay more on your electric bill if you keep lights on when nobody is using them. Try using compact fluorescent bulbs or the latest LED technology.

I hope the information provided provides some insight for you. If you have any questions or comments, you can give me a call at the office or e-mail me, [wgworthy@gmail.com](mailto:wgworthy@gmail.com). Until next month, congratulations to all the area high school seniors who will begin a new phase in life after graduation. If you're looking for an awesome career, Twin Valley Electric provides scholarship assistance to graduates looking to go into line work. More information can be found at [www.twinvalleyelectric.coop](http://www.twinvalleyelectric.coop).

## Hibbs & Walker Recognized for Years of Service

Recently, **JOHN HIBBS** and **KELLY WALKER** were recognized for their years of service to the cooperative. Hibbs has been with Twin Valley for 35 years and is currently the maintenance supervisor. Walker is Twin Valley's crew foreman and has been with the cooperative for 30 years.

Loyal employees are a valuable asset to the cooperative and we appreciate their dedicated services. Thank you to all of our long time employees for the dedicated service to Twin Valley and its members.



John Hibbs



Kelly Walker