



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Contact Us
501 S. Huston Ave., P.O. Box 368
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Co-op Connections Card Savings Update

In July, Twin Valley members filled 35 prescriptions using the Co-op Connections Card and saved **\$280.90!** That makes an annual savings of **\$1,517.41!**

FROM THE MANAGER

Loyal Connections

Loyalty is a prized virtue—to country, family, even the schools we attend. We keep those ties strong throughout our lives, myself included: I still wear the colors of the university that I received my degree from.

We at Twin Valley Electric Cooperative also have loyalties, to the members and communities we serve. We have deep connections here because southeast Kansas is our home, and you are our neighbor.

When you signed up for service with Twin Valley, you became a member, not a customer—because each of our 2,000 consumer-members owns a portion of the utility.

That means we care about improving the quality of life in the areas we serve. From sponsoring activities of the local 4-H clubs, FFA, and high school activities to taking donations for the local food bank, Twin Valley invests in the places where you live and work.

Twin Valley doesn't exist to make profits for distant investors on Wall Street. We exist to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electric service—and doing so in a way that makes things better for future generations. Because electric co-ops operate on a not-for-profit basis, we have no need to increase revenues above what it takes to run our business in a financially sound manner.

We have deep connections here because southeast Kansas is our home, and you are our neighbor.



Ron Holsteen

This structure helps keep your electric bills affordable.

We take our jobs seriously, but we also take our community roles seriously, too. That's why we offer scholarships to students attending lineman school, send a high school junior to Washington, D.C., every summer to learn about history and government and send a high school junior to a cooperative camp in Colorado every summer to learn leadership skills. Twin Valley recently provided some revolving loan funds to the Labette County Fair board to purchase bleachers for the new arena at the county fairgrounds.

We don't participate in these activities simply because it's nice to do, or even the right thing to do. We do it because we remain loyal to our members, our neighbors, our home—and a mission to make life better in the areas we serve.

Want to work with us? Tell me what would make life better in your community. Send your ideas to memberservices@twinvalleyelectric.coop.

NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

The Many Things That Cause Blinking Lights



William Worthy

If you run across a galvanized guy wire that shines like the front bumper on a '57 Chevy, let us know.

12:00, 12:00, 12:00, 12:00 “Call the R.E.A., the electricity must have blinked.”

We know this is frustrating for you and your family, and it is not something we take lightly at your electric cooperative. Here at Twin Valley, we investigate every report of blinking lights until we find and repair the source of the problem.

At Twin Valley, we have 3,500 meters spread out over nearly 1,000 miles of line; this averages just about 3.5 meters per mile. Delivery of your co-op's power is supported by over 18,000 structures that are susceptible to any and all things that can be detrimental to the system.

Trees are usually the culprit, but wind, lightning, birds, squirrels, possums, cats, snakes and people are also something we battle nonstop. Plus, a 2,000-pound Black Angus bull trying to relieve a summertime itch by rubbing on a guy wire is also a challenge that we have had to face.

Your cooperative's system is set up like your home's electric system. We have fuses and switches just like you do; only the ones we use are a lot larger and more complicated. Working backward from your house meter, you have a transformer that is protected by a lightning arrestor (that's a different article) and a fuse protects the system from your transformer.

Depending on your location, you may have a line fuse that protects the rest of the system from your particular line section. Going upstream, we have oil circuit re-closers (OCRs)

or, to make it simple, a breaker. When you have a fault in your home, the breaker trips and the lights go off until you reset it. Our OCRs work a little differently. If a fault occurs, our OCR will open temporarily allowing the fault to clear, and then close back. Yes, you will probably have to reset the clocks, but you will not be out of power for an extended period.

If the fault does not clear itself after the first try, the OCR will open again. This can happen three times. After the OCR has gone through its operations, it will stay open if the fault is still on the line. This all happens in a matter of seconds. At this point, the OCR will need to be manually reset after the line has been patrolled by our trained line crews.

We are at times at the mercy of our generation and transmission provider. Like recently in the Chetopa area, our members were affected by a situation that was above and beyond our control. But your dedicated Twin Valley employees were out double checking every piece of our equipment to insure we did not have a problem.

So, keep an eye on your trees, don't feed the squirrels near your transformer pole, and if you are out on the back 40 and run across a galvanized guy wire that shines like the front bumper on a '57 Chevy, let us know and we'll come see what needs to be done to repair it. That's no bull.

As always, any comments or suggestions are welcome at wworthy@twinvalleyelectric.coop.

Bill Lassen Wins Guess the Seal Contest

Can you guess how many seals are in the meter at the right? If you guessed 94 you are correct! **BILL LASSEN** was the closest with his guess of 98 seals in the meter. He won a \$25 electric credit.

If you would like a chance to win, simply stop by the Twin Valley office **between now and September 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 drawing. So, all members with the correct guess will have their names thrown in for the luck of the draw.



Nelson & Whitt Attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

Kansas electric cooperatives sent 32 high school students to join youth from Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 13-19, 2013, near Steamboat Springs, CO.

NATALIE NELSON, Edna, was selected from a group of high school applicants by Twin Valley Electric. To win this trip, students completed a test over cooperative history and participated in an interview with a panel of judges.

Also attending camp this year was **LANE WHITT**, Parsons, who was elected by his peers during the 2012 camp to return as an ambassador this year.

While in Colorado, the students learned about cooperatives by creating a “candy cooperative.” When the students arrived at camp, they paid membership dues, established a board of trustees and selected a general manager who held daily membership meetings. At the end of the week, the group decided how to handle any profit margins. The students earned a \$194 margin from their co-op canteen. Rather than receive a capital credit refund, they made donations to the Tourette’s Syndrome Foundation and the Muscular Dystrophy Association Foundation. There are students who attended camp this year with these disabilities.

“I learned most from all of the kids that we all came from all different backgrounds and places, but we could all get along to help make things better,” Nelson said. “Being a part of the Board helps me see what a cooperative was really about and how if people can work together can lower the price of anything.”



Natalie Nelson (left) and Lane Whitt enjoy the view on top of Lookout Mountain outside of Denver.

The campers also took part in legislative presentations, a high voltage safety demonstration and a competition to build a model transmission line from craft supplies. They also toured the Craig Power Plant and Trapper Mine.

“Twin Valley is proud to support the camp program and send our youth to experience a great leadership camp,” said Ron Holsteen, General Manager. “Our hope is that local students will gain some awareness of cooperatives and how important it is for the youth to be involved in our community.”

The annual leadership camp is coordinated by KEC, the statewide service organization for the rural electric cooperatives in Kansas.

Twin Valley sponsors the trip for one student each year. For more information, contact Jennifer at 866-784-5500.



The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp included more than 100 students from four states.



Touchstone EnergySM
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You might not think about it, but it takes miles of cable from your electric co-op to keep us connected and fully charged. Thankfully, it's all at an affordable charge. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com.

MOBILE PHONES NEED WIRES, TOO.

