



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

501 S. Huston Ave, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330

866-784-5500

[www.twinvalleyelectric.coop](http://www.twinvalleyelectric.coop)

## TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# NEWS

### Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Ron Holsteen CEO

#### Board of Directors

**Daniel Peterson**  
President

**Bryan Coover**  
Vice President

**Ronald McNickle**  
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**Robert Webster, Jr.**  
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**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  
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### Co-op Connections Card Savings Update

In February, Twin Valley members filled eight prescriptions using the Co-op Connections Card and saved **\$134.97!**

### FROM THE MANAGER

## The Life of a Lineman

They wake before the sun, pour steaming cups of coffee, and kiss their family goodbye. After swinging by the office to get the day's orders, 12 men climb into their trucks and head out. Our linemen form a solid team with one job: to deliver safe, reliable electricity. But that job can change in a million ways when rough weather steps in.

We often take power—and the men and women who provide it—for granted. Let's take a moment and stand in their boots.

Linemen have to work safely, smart, and efficiently—all while 30 feet in the air wearing sturdy, thick rubber gloves. On a typical day, our linemen maintain electrical distribution lines or build service to new homes and businesses in southeast Kansas. They have a lot on their plates. But when our dispatch center calls crews with a problem, everything else takes a backseat.

Power restoration takes precedence on a lineman's to-do list. These brave men are always on call. We have four crews standing by to serve you 24-hours-a-day, in the middle of the night or wee hours of the morning, weekends and holidays.

Can you imagine getting a call at 3 a.m. telling you to work outside during bad weather? Not many people are willing to face storms. Our linemen face harsh elements daily, all to serve you.

Linemen also focus on safety; the lives of coworkers are on the line. Job

safety is important to everyone, no matter your occupation. But for linemen, there can be no slip ups or careless actions. Mistakes can cost a limb or life. That's one of the reasons linemen form a brotherhood. When you put your life in the hands of co-workers every day, they become more than colleagues. They're family.



Ron Holsteen

That sense of family extends to electric co-ops across the nation. One of our principles is cooperation among cooperatives. We help other co-ops in their time of need, and they extend that service to us, too. It's reassuring to know if a severe storm strikes, a national team of linemen stand ready to answer the call.

To be ready to respond no matter the situation or weather conditions, linemen are highly trained. At Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, linemen go through regular training to ensure they can work safely with various kinds of equipment. The equipment gets tested regularly, too.

These highly skilled men light our homes and businesses every day. They endure harsh weather and long hours, all to make our lives better. Today (and every day), please take a moment to thank them. Twin Valley's 12 linemen are the heart of the Co-op Nation, proud and strong.

## NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

## Electricity & Propane, a Comparison



William Worthy

**The electricity vs. propane battle has been waged for years. Here's a totally unbiased, non-technical breakdown.**

With the recent spike in the cost of propane, we received many questions regarding the cost difference between electricity and propane. To do this comparison, first you have to look at the nature of the two and then convert them into an “apples to apples” comparison.

Electricity is measured and sold in kilowatt-hours (kWh) and the usable energy is measured in kilowatts (kW). Propane is measured and sold in volumes (gallons, pounds, etc.), and the usable energy is measured in British Thermal Units (BTU). Appliances powered by either sources are both labeled in “per hour” efficiency for energy consumption. Electric appliance consumption are listed as kilowatt-hours (kWh) while propane appliances are listed as BTU/hr.

With this said, let's get both forms of energy on the same playing field:

27 kWh = 1 gallon of propane; 1 gallon of propane = 91,500 BTU, or we can say 27 kWh = 91,500 BTU. A 100-watt incandescent light bulb left on for a full day (24 hrs) will use 2.4 kWh of electricity. If propane were to power the same light bulb (I know, hypothetically) for 24 hours, it would use .09 gallons of propane.

The electricity vs. propane battle has been waged for years and some diehard believers in their preferred form of energy will probably never be convinced that the other is better no

matter what the cost. I will give you a totally unbiased, non-technical breakdown.

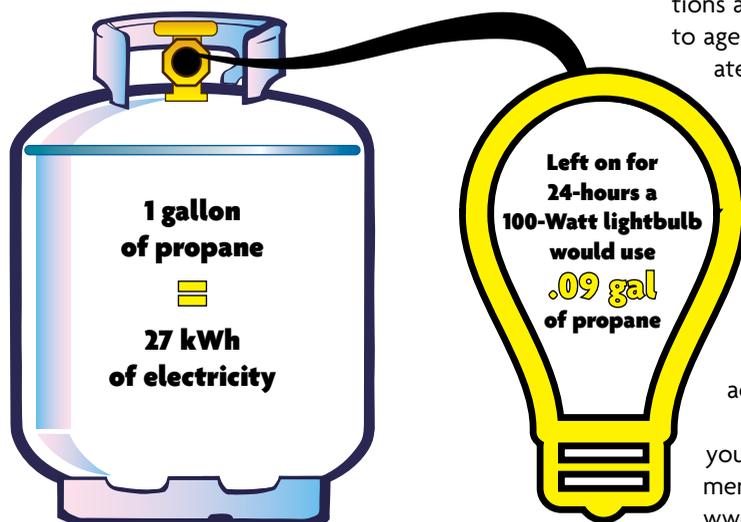
By the way, if you know what size heating unit you have, electric or propane, here is an example of what they equal to in the other form: A 29.3 kW central electric heater is equal to 100,000 BTU central furnace fueled by propane. Of course air exchange, insulation, age and maintenance of the units can cause these numbers to vary slightly.

If 27 kWh of electricity is equal to one gallon of propane, then we can compare the costs of these fuels directly by looking at the price per unit (kWh or propane gallons) and finding the difference in price. This can easily be done by looking at your electric bill and multiplying the price per kWh by 27. The resulting number will be a dollar figure that will be either greater than or less than the price of a gallon of propane.

For example, if you are paying 12¢ per kWh, the electrical cost comparison figure to a gallon of propane will be \$3.24 ( $\$0.12 \times 27 = 3.24$ ). Electricity is cheaper than propane if propane is selling for \$3.24 or more per gallon and propane is cheaper than electricity if it is selling for less than \$3.24 per gallon.

Safety and environmental issues also need to be brought to the table if you are comparing the two forms of energy. Electrical connections and propane flames are both susceptible to age and other elements, which can degenerate over time. In addition, in fairness, emission issues cannot be leveled at propane alone; electricity is generated through many forms, natural gas, hydroelectric, nuclear and up to recently, 49 percent of electricity was generated through the burning of coal. The cleanliness of the power plants are top-notch, but saying electricity is 100 percent clean is not completely accurate.

I hope this answers some questions for you and, as always, I welcome your comments, questions and concerns. Email me at [wworthy@twinvalleyelectric.coop](mailto:wworthy@twinvalleyelectric.coop).



# Twin Valley Electric Annual Meeting Notice

The 67th Annual Meeting of Twin Valley Electric will be held on April 24 at the Labette County High School Cafeteria in Altamont. Registration begins and a meal will be served from 6 to 6:30 p.m. All members are invited to attend this annual meeting. You are a member and an owner of the cooperative.

This membership affords you the privilege of participating in this meeting and voting for Directors of the Board. If you have never been to an annual meeting before, come and see what it is all about!

Attendees receive a free meal, enjoy great entertainment, receive a registration gift, and a have

April 2014						
S	M	T	W	U	F	S
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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			

We hope to see you at the Twin Valley Electric Annual Meeting on April 24 at the Labette High School Auditorium in Altamont.

chance to win some great prizes. As usual, there will be many prizes given away along with an early bird drawing.

Members must be present to win prizes.

The nominating committee met March 4, 2014, to nominate candidates to be placed on the official notice of the Annual Meeting of Twin Valley Electric for the purpose of election to the Board of Directors. The following persons were nominated to be placed on the ballot.

- ▶ **District 1**—LARRY STEEBY, Parsons
- ▶ **District 2**—TOM ELLISON, Cherryvale
- ▶ **District 3**—DARELD NELSON, Edna

A short bio for each board candidate can be found below. If you have questions regarding the nomination or election process, please feel free to contact the office.

## Get to Know Your Board of Directors Nominees

### District 1

**LARRY STEEBY**—Parsons

Steeby and his wife, Teresa live in rural Parsons and have two sons, James, 24 and Heath, 20.

Steeby served briefly on the Twin Valley Board to fulfill an unexpired term several years ago.

He has worked for the City of Parsons for 28 years and is currently the Fire Chief for the Parsons Fire Department, he annually budgets and spends approximately \$1.25 million for the City of Parsons. Steeby manages 18 employees throughout southeast Kansas and has experience and understanding in both Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) related disasters and code



**Larry Steeby**  
District 1

compliance through inspections performed on various jobs sites around the City of Parsons. He has also served on a local school board for four years and many other organizations.

### District 2

**TOM ELLISON**—Cherryvale

Ellison and his wife, Gwen, have lived in the rural Cherryvale area for 20 years.

Ellison attended Labette County High School, Coffeyville Community College and Pittsburg State University. In the past, he has been employed by Boeing and later Funk Manufacturing where he was a Senior Cost Estimator and Pricing Analyst. In 1999, the Ellisons started their own



**Tom Ellison**  
District 2

machining business, which continues today.

He is also the Rural Water District #6 manager. He has been on the Twin Valley board for 12 years. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing and being with family.

### District 3

**DARELD NELSON**—Edna

Nelson and his wife, Carolyn, live in rural Edna and have two daughters. He is originally from Minnesota and graduated from Mankato State University with a degree in Business Administration.

He has lived in the Twin Valley system for 20 years. He currently works for John Deere Coffeyville in Purchasing. He also raises cattle.



**Dareld Nelson**  
District 3

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

# Check Out Cedar Tree Barn

for Your Next Event in the Parsons Area

Cedar Tree Barn, a barn with heart, is not only ideal for weddings but for corporate and civic events, family reunions, anniversaries, etc.

Owners **RON AND JOYCE MCMUNN** have been members of Twin Valley Electric since 1995.

In July 2012, the McMunn's daughter, Ashley, came to them suggesting they build an events center. The events center would be used for her wedding that was planned for June 2013. After researching and strategizing, they came up with the idea of using the farmstead that has been in the McMunn family for over 100 years to construct what would become Cedar Tree Barn.

Cedar Tree Barn is located in rural Labette County just a few miles

South of Parsons off Pratt Road.

Features include heated concrete floors, handicap accessible bathrooms, a small kitchenette and plans are underway currently to add separate dressing quarters to the barn premises. The atmosphere is romantically lit with a rustic feel. The family used items that were found on the home- stead, updated or re-purposed and being used again. Exposed trusses, large barn doors and the décor just add to the country touch.

For more information regarding this large indoor facility for a reception, meeting, or a wedding, contact Ron or Joyce at 620-423-5536, visit [www.cedartreebarn.com](http://www.cedartreebarn.com) or like them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CedarTreeBarn](http://www.facebook.com/CedarTreeBarn).



Book your next event at Cedar Tree Barn, a barn with heart, by calling 620-423-5536.