



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1511 14,000 Rd, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330
866-784-5500
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

TWIN VALLEY
ELECTRIC CO-OP

NEWS

Twin Valley Electric Co-op, Inc.

Ron Holsteen, CEO

Board of Directors

Daniel Peterson
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Bryan Coover
Vice President

Dareld Nelson
Treasurer

Bryan Hucke
Secretary

Rodney Baker
Trustee

Tom Ellison
Trustee

Larry Hubbell
Trustee

Diane McCartney
Trustee

Jason Zwahlen
Trustee

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

Contact Us
1511 14,000 Rd
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Altamont, KS 67330
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www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

Concern for Community

In 2017, Twin Valley donated **\$1357.28** to Food for Kids.

FROM THE CEO

Value of Electricity Continues to Shine



Ron Holsteen

How many of you remember dropping into the Twin Valley Electric Co-operative office with your parents and grandparents to pay the light bill? Whether you do that in person,

by mail or online today, paying your monthly bill does a lot more than just keep the lights on. Electricity connects us to our modern world. Consider all the necessities and conveniences we enjoy in part because of the power lines running to the electric meter outside your home.

Count your televisions, desktop and laptop computers, tablets and

mobile devices, printers, gaming consoles and music players. Whether these devices get used every day or just occasionally, the electricity that powers them comes from Twin Valley Electric.

Have you looked around your kitchen lately? Between the coffee maker, toaster, microwave and electric skillet, a lot of us have added several other modern small appliances.

If you've got a craft nook or workshop, the power tools and machines you use to cut and shape your projects are either plugged in or recharged from the electrical outlets connecting your household wiring to Twin Valley.

You use electricity to run all these devices, and we still keep the lights on, use the stove, heating and air

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TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC
ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
Labette County High School Cafeteria, Altamont

Farm Bill Update: How the Policy Impacts You

Every five years, the U.S. Congress considers the Farm Bill, a bill that has huge implications for America's electric cooperatives, including Twin Valley Electric. The bill sets food and agriculture policy for the entire nation, affecting everything from which crops are grown to funding for food nutrition programs. The Farm Bill is due to be reauthorized by the federal government this year.

The Farm Bill is about much more than agriculture policy. It promotes rural economic development and allows co-ops to finance basic electrification activities, deploy high-speed communications and enhance smart grid technologies. Through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), our national service organization, America's electric cooperatives are working to ensure lawmakers in Washington know our priorities for the 2018 Farm Bill. Here are a few.

Rural Broadband

Increasing high-speed internet access in rural communities is a priority for many co-ops. Broadband access isn't a luxury—it's a necessity. Broadband allows rural Americans to stay connected and provides crucial job, healthcare and educational oppor-

tunities. But 34 million Americans in mostly rural areas lack access to high-speed internet. So co-ops have asked Congress to use the Farm Bill to provide significant funding for broadband loans and grants to all viable internet providers, including cooperatives.

Economic Development

Co-ops aren't just electricity providers. They are engines of economic development, powering and empowering the communities they serve. The Farm Bill's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program is an important source of financing for economic development projects in rural communities. Over the last two decades, electric cooperatives have partnered with community stakeholders on hundreds of projects to renovate hospitals, build libraries and expand businesses. Co-ops have asked Congress to ensure ample funding for this program in the next Farm Bill and beyond.

Innovation

Not-for-profit electric co-ops are natural incubators of innovation, because they are driven solely by the needs of members like you. The USDA runs a number of programs that help fund

innovative projects, including the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) and Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP). Co-ops use these programs to save members money by financing investments in energy efficiency, constructing new renewable energy resources and deploying electric grid modernization technologies. REAP and RESP help ensure that co-ops are poised to meet the evolving needs of their members.

USDA Rural Development

The health of our nation is dependent on a healthy rural America. Rural America grows most of the food, generates much of the power and manufactures many of the goods consumed by the nation. The USDA's office of Rural Development operates many different programs that provide fundamental assistance to those rural communities. Co-ops have asked Congress to maintain a strong rural development in the Farm Bill to reaffirm the importance of these programs.

We look forward to working with Congress and other stakeholders to pass a Farm Bill that promotes economic growth in rural America and allows co-ops to continue meeting the needs of their members.

Value of Electricity Continues to Shine Continued from page 16-A ▶

conditioning, and get hot water from the tap. The good news is, even as we rely more on electricity, it's still a bargain, especially compared to other things we pay for regularly.

Co-ops across the country have reported a decline in average residential use per household since 2010. That means we're doing more things with less energy. Twin Valley's kilowatt-hour use per household has dropped by 12 percent between 2010 and 2016, slightly more than the 9 percent decline reported by all electric utilities, nationwide.

When it comes to value, electricity is a clear winner, and we're always looking for ways to work with you to make it even better. That's why Twin Valley urges energy efficiency, encourages you to look for Energy Star® appliances, and promotes technology designed to give members more control over their electricity use.

Energy performance dashboards, smart thermostats and power

strips, and appliance settings that shift most water heating, laundry and dishwashing outside of peak rate periods help reduce the co-op's overall power demand. They also give you opportunities to control or even trim your monthly utility bills.

That's good for families, couples and individuals trying to live within their budgets. And it's going to become even more important as digital devices and internet-connected technologies become even more important in our lives. The average home now has 10 Wi-Fi connected devices. That number is expected to explode to 50 by 2020. Technology and the gateways that keep it working use electricity, so you'll depend upon Twin Valley Electric for more than the power that keeps the lights on.

That's why we're always working to provide service that's reliable and affordable, while making it even more valuable to you, your family and your neighbors.

Avoid Delinquent Penalty on Your Bill

Every month, Twin Valley Electric receives numerous calls from members who did not receive their electric bill. If you have not received your bill by the 15th of the month, we encourage you to call our office at 866-784-5500 during normal business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Bills are mailed from the St. Louis, Missouri, area on the sixth business day of each month and should be received no later than the 15th. Bills are always due on the 25th of each month.

To ensure we receive your payment on time, please be sure to place it in the mail several days before the 25th. This will allow sufficient time for delivery. Payments are processed daily, and anything received after the 25th will result in a delinquent penalty.

Join Us for the Annual Meeting April 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Twin Valley Electric has started planning for the Annual Meeting, which will be held on Thursday, April 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the Labette County High School Cafeteria in Altamont. Twin Valley is governed by a board of directors, and each year, three director positions become open after their three-year term has expired. Twin Valley's bylaws state that one director shall be elected from each district each year for a term of three years as terms of office expire or until successors have been elected and qualified.

Those directors whose terms are expiring this year are **BRYAN COOVER**, District 1; **DIANE MCCARTNEY**, District 2; and **JASON ZWAHLEN**, District 3.

The bylaws require the board to appoint a nominating committee not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days before the annual meeting. The committee shall consist of not less than five nor more than 13 members who shall be selected from different areas of the cooperative. No member of the board may serve on this committee.

The board has appointed the following members to the nominating committee: **PHILLIP BILLMAN, SHANE EATON, TOM JACKSON, PERRY SORRELL, LARRY GREGORY, KEITH TUCKER, KYLE ZWAHLEN, GARY HUCKE** and **PAM BAKER**.

The nominating committee met at Twin Valley's office at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 12 and prepared a list of nominations for director positions. Those nominated are as follows:

- ▶ **District 1 – BRYAN COOVER**
- ▶ **District 2 – DIANE MCCARTNEY**
- ▶ **District 3 – JASON ZWAHLEN**

This list will be posted at the office of the cooperative at least 20 days before the meeting. The secretary shall mail a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by the committee at least 10 days before the date of the meeting.

Fifteen or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition. Any nominations made by petition shall be posted at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations made by petition, which are received at least five days before the meeting, shall be included on the official ballot. Later nominations by petition shall be treated as nominations from the floor. In addition to those persons, nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting. No member may nominate more than one candidate.

If you have questions regarding the nominating and election process, please call the office at 866-784-5500.



Apply ^{FOR} Electrical Lineworker Scholarship

Twin Valley Electric will award up to \$2,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors going on to an approved lineworker training program.

Please contact Twin Valley Electric at 866-784-5500 or your high school counselor for further information.

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

In spring and summer months, set your ceiling fans to turn counterclockwise. This will create a cool breeze. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you leave the room.



Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:

1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2. Distribution Substation

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.

3. Main Distribution Lines

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

4. Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

5. Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always report an outage to help line crews isolate local issue.