



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 Cooperative, Inc.

Board of Trustees

Daniel Peterson
President

Bryan Coover
Vice President

Dareld Nelson
Treasurer

Bryan Hucce
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.
P.O. Box 368
Altamont, KS 67330
866-784-5500
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop



FROM THE CEO

The Power Behind Your Power



Ron Holsteen

As April arrives, it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Twin Valley Electric Cooperative strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst—co-op lineworkers.

One of the Most Dangerous Jobs

Braving stormy weather and other chal-

lenging conditions, lineworkers often climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect lineworker from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They

Continued on page 16-B ►

Mark Your Calendar! *Annual Meeting April 19*

The Twin Valley Electric annual meeting will be held on April 19 at 6:30 p.m., at Labette County High School Auditorium in Altamont.

We hope you will attend the annual meeting and take part in the business of the cooperative.

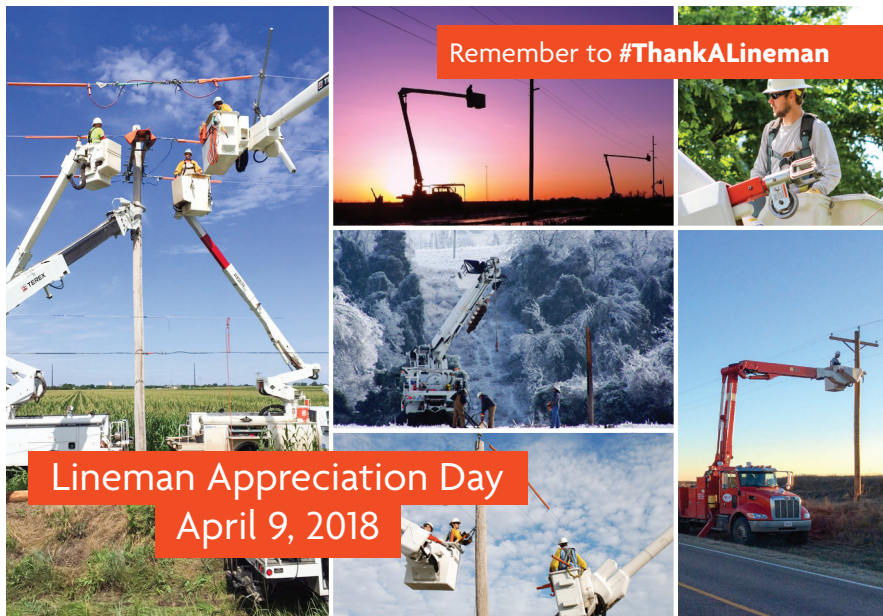
April 2018

S	M	T	W	Th	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					

The Power Behind Your Power Continued from page 16-A ▶

are also information experts who can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their tablets and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, Twin Valley Electric Cooperative lineworkers are responsible for keeping 1,000 miles of line across four counties working in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that lineworkers use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, the job is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any time of the day or night. During storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “thank a lineworker.”



LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY IS APRIL 9. During the month of April, if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.

Get to Know Your 2018 Trustee Nominees



District 1

**BRYAN
COOVER**

and his wife, Debbie, live in the rural Galesburg area and have seven children. Coover attended and Graduated from Kansas State University. He and Debbie own and operate Coover Feed in Galesburg. He enjoys woodworking, bee keeping, tending to his cow-calf operation and spending time with family. Coover has been a Twin Valley member since 1990 and an active Director for 18 years. He currently is the Vice President on the board.



District 2

**DIANE
MCCARTNEY**

lives in the rural Coffeyville area between Valeda and Angola in Labette County. She and her husband, David, moved to Labette County and became members of Twin Valley Electric in 1986. Together, they have two grown children and now have two grandchildren. David passed away unexpectedly in 2003. McCartney has worked in various positions for USD 506 since 1989. She graduated from Labette Community College in 2005 with an AAS in Office Technology. She has served two years on Twin Valley's board.



District 3

**JASON
ZWAHLEN**

and his wife, Sunny, live in rural Oswego with their three children. He is a graduate of Labette County High School, as well as Coffeyville Community College and Kansas State University. Zwahlen works for Agrilogic Insurance Services based out of Overland Park. He has served on many boards and also has been active with community events. During his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family, hunting and fishing. He is also an avid K-State fan. He has served on Twin Valley's board for three years.

Ross and Sorrell Win Youth Program Contest

On March 2, applicants participated in Twin Valley Electric's annual youth contest for a chance to win all-expenses-paid trips to Washington, D.C., and Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

The winners were selected by a three-member judging panel based on an interview and a quiz about electric cooperatives.

DEREK ROSS, Chetopa High School, son of Willard and Terri Ross, will join 1,800 youth from across the nation in Washington, D.C., June 7-14. During the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, students will visit their legislators and sites of historical significance.

RILEY SORRELL, Labette County High School, son of Jessica and Perry Sorrell, will join approximately 100 youth from four states at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, July 13-19. At camp, the



Derek Ross



Riley Sorrell

youth form a candy cooperative, learn more about energy challenges and tour one of the largest electrical generating plants in the Rockies.

Twin Valley Electric has a strong commitment to the communities and members we serve, and sponsoring students for these exciting, educational trips is just one of the ways we're investing in our youth. We would like to congratulate the winners and thank all contestants for participating.

For more information about our annual youth program contest, please contact the office at 866-784-5500.

Stay Back!

Know the difference between types of lines and wires. If you see a downed electric line, be aware that it could be live and dangerous!

Electric Wire

Electric wires are larger and easily identified by the three separate twisted wires, one being uniquely silver or uninsulated.

Cable Wire

Cable lines are round and look similar to the coaxial cable that connects to the TV in your home.

Phone Wire

Telephone wires are typically smaller, flat wires.

POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

Set these items aside for extended outages only, and storm prep will be a breeze.

- ▶ BEANS
- ▶ CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
- ▶ CANNED TUNA
- ▶ CEREAL
- ▶ DRIED FRUITS
- ▶ DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- ▶ GRAHAM CRACKERS
- ▶ PASTA
- ▶ RICE
- ▶ SPAM
- ▶ OATMEAL



Don't forget to stock up on disposable goods, like paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery and cups.



COOPERATIVE

Energy Explorers

Help the Lineworker Reach the Substation

Lineworkers work in dangerous conditions to restore electricity after major storms and other types of power outages. Many times, lineworkers make substation repairs to get the power back on.

Can you help the lineworker get to the substation?

