



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1511 14,000 Rd, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330

866-784-5500

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

TWIN VALLEY  
ELECTRIC CO-OP

# NEWS

## Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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

### Contact Us

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### FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

## Looking Back on 14 Years of Service



**Dan Peterson**

A little more than 14 years ago, with Lester Murphy serving as interim manager for Twin Valley Electric, and with Lester's help and support, the board undertook hiring

a new manager. After interviewing Ron Holsteen, the decision of the board of directors was unanimous to offer him the position. Ron brought a lifetime of experience to Twin Valley, having grown up in rural Nebraska, became a Nebraska Cornhusker, managed rural electric systems in Nebraska, and served as statewide director in South Dakota. Ron assured us he would be available to us for 10 years, but it is now 14 years down the road. In all, Ron has 49 years of co-op experience.

During Ron's tenure, and with his leadership, Twin Valley has made tremendous strides to update and upgrade the co-op's technology and equipment:

- ▶ Electronic meters, able to communicate outages and usage data back to headquarters – so much information available, it takes a lot of time and training to use it all.
- ▶ GIS mapping of the entire system, allowing for easier outage locating, repair and maintenance.

- ▶ Trucks and key equipment kept in good condition and on a scheduled rotation.
- ▶ Up-to-date and well-planned headquarters facility, which allowed us to organize inventory, clean and protect equipment from the elements, load and unload trucks out of the weather, and streamline all aspects of daily work.
- ▶ Encouragement of board and staff to take advantage of training opportunities to better understand the industry, and thus make better decisions.

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Ron Holsteen's 14 years of service were honored at retirement reception on June 4.

## ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR

# Twin Valley Electric Sends D

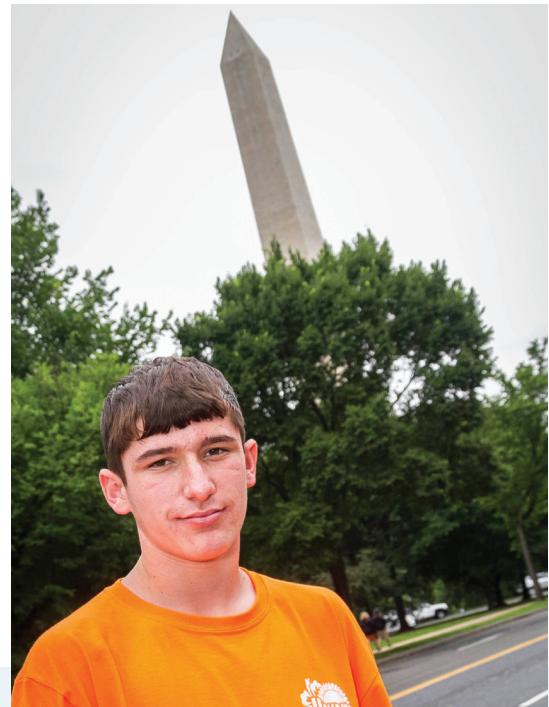
**DEREK ROSS**, Bartlett, was awarded the opportunity to attend the 58th Annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour with 1,800 peers from across the nation from June 7 through 14. Twin Valley selected Ross as our representative through a quiz and an interview process.

Ross joined other teens from across Kansas and Hawaii to spend a week touring Washington, D.C. There, delegates learned how to become community leaders.

"This trip is a huge inspiration for me to do more for my community, my state and my nation," Ross said. "It is a wake up call to live more in the moment so you don't miss out."

While in D.C., the students toured the White House, the U.S. Capitol, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Smithsonian museums, Mt. Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral and many memorials and historical sites. The students also attended a professional baseball game, a theater performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts and saw the pandas at the National Zoo.

As part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's National



Derek Ross, Bartlett, enjoys the view of the Washington Monument during the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Youth Day on June 11, all of the state groups convened to learn from inspirational speakers. This year's keynote speaker was Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic Medalist and two-time world wheelchair basketball champion, who shared his inspiring message, "Just because you can't stand up doesn't mean you can't stand out!"

"The entire trip inspired me," Ross said. "From Mike Schlappi's amazing speech to all the things we experienced and the friends I made. D.C. is an amazing city with more to experience than you could even image to see in three lifetimes."

Twin Valley Electric is proud to have sponsored

**The entire trip will be a memory that I will carry around with me for the rest of my life. This experience was amazing, and I will always cherish the people I met and the things I saw.**

DEREK ROSS



# Derek Ross to Nation's Capital



Derek Ross (center) wears keynote speaker Mike Schlappi's bronze medal. Schlappi is a four-time Paralympic Medalist and two-time world wheelchair basketball champion.

students on this trip.

"Youth Tour is a great opportunity that can change these students' lives," said Jennifer Manahan, Twin Valley Youth Tour Coordinator. "After touring our nation's capital, meeting our senators and congressional representatives and learning firsthand about how our government operates, they return home with a greater knowledge and memories that will last a lifetime."

To learn how you can participate in Twin Valley Electric's Youth Tour program, contact Jennifer Manahan at 620-784-5500. For more information about Youth Tour, visit [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop).



Before heading to Washington, D.C., students received a guided tour of the Kansas State Capitol from Youth Tour alumni including state representatives Kyle Hoffman and Steven Johnson, and Gov. Jeff Colyer's chief counsel Brant Laue.



Thirty-nine delegates from Kansas and Hawaii stand in front of the White House during their tour of Washington, D.C., July 7-14.

# Save Energy with LEDs

LED lights last up to 30 times longer than incandescents. Below are LED lighting suggestions for your home.



## Living Room Lamps

Table or floor three-way lamps using LED bulbs provide 620, 1,600 or 2,150 lumens of soft white light and deliver up to 25,000 hours of light.



## Kitchen

Dimmable recessed LED conversion lights add a warm glow of up to 1,200 lumens and add far less heat to your kitchen. Each bulb could last 10 years.



## Bedrooms & Hallways

Long-life LEDs are ideal for ceiling fixtures. A 9-watt LED produces the same 800 lumens of light as a 60-watt incandescent and uses about 80 percent less energy.



## Bathrooms

Omnidirectional LED globe bulbs are designed to provide a warm glow ideal for bathrooms. A 6-watt bulb produces 450 lumens and lasts up to 15,000 hours.



## Outdoors

A 6-watt, 500 lumen LED bulb can replace a 40-watt incandescent bulb. Designed to last up to 30,000 hours, it could be a one-time switch.



# Looking Back

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► Distribution system backbone allowing us to back feed other parts of system when we lose a substation transformer or delivery point in cases of severe storms or other catastrophic occurrences.

Ron has also been extremely involved in and supportive of the rural electric industry at the state and national level. He shares ideas with other managers throughout the state and is well respected in the industry. He also is a strong advocate for our industry in Topeka and Washington, D.C.

At the local level, Ron has worked tirelessly to make our corner of the state the best it can be. He's been active in the Rotary Club, Ducks Unlimited, Altamont Community Improvement, SEK, Inc., Parsons City Zoning Board, United Methodist Church Financial Board Chairman, Labette County Business Leader Group—just to name a few of his local involvements.

We are extremely grateful that Ron has served the members of Twin Valley Electric the past 14 years, and we will miss him tremendously. Ron, enjoy retirement!

DAN PETERSON, BOARD PRESIDENT

# Posting on Poles Poses Safety Hazards

We all have seen or hung posters of missing pets, garage sales and other announcements on utility poles. While it may seem harmless, these little pieces of paper can cause a big problems for utility workers and are illegal in many areas.

Utility workers must climb those same utility poles to work around power lines that carry 7,200 or more volts of electricity. Foreign objects, such as staples or nails embedded in the pole, can lead to the utility worker snagging or getting a hole in their gloves. Those gloves are meant to insulate workers from high voltage and protect them from being electrocuted.

Hunting stands, basketball hoops and satellite dishes are other items that have been found attached to utility poles. These items are extremely dangerous for utility workers and anyone who uses these items. Keep as much distance between yourself and overhead power lines when enjoying any outdoor activity.

The nails, staples and other materials used to attach items to a wooden utility pole can cause the pole to deteriorate more quickly, reducing its structural integ-



Attaching signs to power poles creates serious safety hazards.

rity and increasing the risk for the pole to fall when struck by a vehicle.

Downed poles mean power outages, which also creates danger for pedestrians and motorists. If you see a downed power pole or lines, stay away and call 911.

Keep everyone safe by not hanging anything on utility poles. Find other alternatives to post in your community, such as yard stakes or online community groups.

# Happy 4th of July

Twin Valley Electric will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Have a safe and happy holiday.

