



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 MANAGER

The Commitment of an Electric Lineworker

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm for a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Twin Valley's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

Family Support System

To perform their jobs safely and successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience and each other.

Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family understands and

supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages.

This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineworker may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

Community Commitment

In southeast Kansas and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities and serving on local advisory boards.

Thank You

Monday, April 8, is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of Twin Valley's lineworkers, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or around town, please offer them a thank you as well.

Get to Know Your 2019 Trustee Nominees



District 1

BRYAN HUCKE and his wife, Loretta, live in rural Parsons. They have two children. Hucke graduated from Wichita Automotive and Electronics Institute in 1985. He enjoys ranching and raising crops. Hucke has served on the Twin Valley Board for nine years and is the current secretary. Hucke has attended many classes for Twin Valley and has received the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate. The Huckes have lived on the Twin Valley system for 26 years.



District 2

JOHN BEBB JR. and his wife, Carla, live in rural Mound Valley. They have two children. Bebb is an insurance agent with Corner Post Insurance. He graduated from Labette County High School and Coffeyville Community College. He has held positions in the community with the Labette County Fair Board where he has held the office of president and has been an active board member for nine years. He has also served at his local church as pastor, parish chairman and administrative board member. Bebb would like to see Twin Valley maintain a dependable and cost-effective utility that can serve their members and continue to keep costs low. Bebb has been a member of Twin Valley for 18 years.



District 2

KEVIN GUDDE and his wife, Lorie, live in rural Edna. They have three children. Gudde was a graduate of Labette County High School and Pittsburg State University. He is a self-employed farmer. Gudde is the treasurer of the Labette County Farm Bureau. Gudde foresees in the near future that distributed generation (DG) will be crucial and ensuring rates are structured such that fixed costs of serving DG are recovered will be key. Gudde has an analytical perspective and is vigilant in current affairs and legislation, which is often impactful to the utility industry. He has been a member of Twin Valley Electric for 10 years.



District 2

JARED NASH and his wife, Kimy, live in the rural Parsons area and have two children. Nash is a graduate of Labette County High School, Coffeyville Community College in 1998 and Kansas State University in 2000. He is a self-employed farmer and works as a crop insurance adjuster. He is currently a board member of the Kansas Soybean Association, Labette County Conservation District board member and is the Labette County 4-H shooting sports instructor. Nash would like to see Twin Valley's Board continue improving and maintaining the infrastructure of the electric cooperative. He would like to serve on the Twin Valley Board of Directors to give back to the community and to help the members with fair utilities. Nash has been a member for 4 years.



District 3

LARRY "DAVID" HUBBELL and his wife, Phyllis, live in the rural Chetopa area. They have one grown son. Hubbell attended Pittsburg State University and has a degree from both the university and the vocational technical school. He also served in the United States Air Force. He recently has retired from the electrical field. In his spare time, he enjoys being with his granddaughter, family and raising cattle. He has attended many classes for Twin Valley and has received the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate, Board Leadership Certificate and the Directors Gold Certificate. Hubbell also serves as Twin Valley's representative to the Kansas Electric Cooperative Board. Hubbell has been a Twin Valley member for 41 years and an active Director for 18 years.



TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 11, 2019, at 6 p.m.
Labette County High School Cafeteria, Altamont

No Foolin': April is Safe Digging Month

Spring showers bring May flowers but digging on your own this spring could spell big trouble. Even one or two small holes can matter. Don't take for granted what lines might lurk beneath the soil in your yard or easement.

Before you use that post-hole digger or other unearthing tools, STOP and call 811 (Kansas One-Call) to request that buried electric, gas, cable and other live lines in or near your yard be marked. The service is free but digging in an unmarked yard may not be.

Keep in mind, 811 does not mark private utilities such as sprinkler systems or invisible fences. To have these utilities located and marked, you will need to call a local private utility marker.

You may be considering skipping over the whole process. After all, what's the

worst that can happen?

There are several consequences you could face, some as serious as death.

Digging blindly could cause a power outage. You could hit a gas line and get burned or cause an evacuation in your neighborhood. You could be fined. If you hit a telephone line or fiber optic line, you might lose your telephone, cable TV or internet service. Worse yet, it could interfere with your neighborhood's emergency assistance technology.

Although it is your yard, utilities have the right of way to the live lines buried underground in places where you might dig. In fact, an underground utility line is damaged once every six minutes across the nation because someone started digging without having their yard properly marked, according to data

collected by Common Ground Alliance.

Take a deep breath, look over your landscaping or fencing plans, and call 811 before you dig. Each state has its own call center to help you get digging safely. You might know the service in Kansas by Kansas One-Call, but 811 is the one-call-fits-all in the U.S. Utilities or contract companies will come to your home and mark your yard with one simple phone call to 811 or online request.

Call811.com lists the name and contact information for each state's digging notification service. The site also lists the advance notice required for marking services, which is usually two to three days.

So as you tiptoe through the tulips this spring and summer, know exactly what lines are underneath that flower bed and everywhere else in your yard.



Can You Dig It?



An underground utility line is damaged once every 9 minutes because someone didn't call 811.



Call 811, the "Call Before You Dig Number," at least 2 business days prior to digging.



811 locators **do not detect** underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas lines to a garage. Call a private utility locator for these.



Even if you have previously had underground utilities marked, **utilities can shift**, so it's best to call before starting a new project.



Once **all of your utilities** have been located, then you can start your digging project!

Learn more at
safeelectricity.org

Reap What You Sow: Stay Safe During Planting Season

Farmers face long hours and fatigue during the lengthy planting season. If you farm, take care of yourself by getting as much rest as possible and allowing yourself breaks to clear your head.

Be especially aware of electrical hazards around the farm. Be cautious and think twice before acting around electricity. Safe Electricity offers farmers the following reminders:

- ▶ If your machinery or vehicle (tractor, truck or otherwise) comes in contact with a power line, do not get out. Once contact has been made with a live line, you are now a pathway to ground and you could get electrocuted if you step out. Instead, stay where you are and call 911 to dispatch the appropriate utility to de-energize the power.
- ▶ If you come across an accident or incident near a downed power line, stay a safe distance away and alert individuals to stay in the tractor or vehicle as long as there is no imminent danger. Do not approach the scene.
- ▶ When using machinery with long extensions or tall antennas and when using ladders, look up to avoid contact with overhead power lines.
- ▶ An electrical current can jump or arc even without making contact so keep equipment at least 10 feet from surrounding power lines at all times.
- ▶ Visually inspect overhead lines, which may not meet height codes due to age or pole damage. If a wire is hanging low or is on the ground, consider it energized and stay at least



- 50 feet away; call 911 to have the operator dispatch the utility.
- ▶ Remember, non-metallic materials such as tree limbs, ropes and hay can conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust/dirt accumulation. Do not use these materials to raise power lines.
- ▶ If you are aware of clearances that do not meet your equipment needs, call Twin Valley Electric at 866-784-5500 and we will address the issue.
- ▶ Every day, map out where equipment will be moved to ensure it will clear power lines.
- ▶ When working in the vicinity of power lines, always use a spotter who has a broad vantage point.

- ▶ Train anyone working with or for you, including seasonal employees, to be aware of power line locations and teach them proper clearance distance. Design and implement a safety training program that includes a review of electrical hazards and how to safely deal with power lines.
- ▶ According to American Family Insurance, "know your PTO." To stay safe when working with a power take off (PTO), always disengage the PTO, turn off the engine and remove keys before getting off the tractor. Never step across a rotating power shaft.

For more information on electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

SUMMER TIP: Spring is here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

