



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



FROM THE MANAGER

Electric Co-ops are Engines of Economic Development

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative is deeply committed to providing affordable and reliable electricity to our consumer-members and empowering the communities we serve. This means being more than just an electricity provider; it means being a partner in economic development and other activities that improve the lives of our members.

Have you ever stopped to wonder how the nation's roughly 900 electric co-ops impact the United States?

A new report shows that electric co-ops supported nearly 612,000 American jobs and contributed \$440 billion in U.S. Gross Domestic Product from 2013 to 2017, or \$88 billion annually. Those are some big numbers.

The study, "The Economic Impact of America's Electric Cooperatives," was conducted by FTI Consulting for

the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.

The report quantifies what many rural American families and businesses know well—electric cooperatives are powerful engines of economic development in their local communities. Affordable and reliable electricity is a key ingredient for a successful economy. Because electric co-ops were built by, belong to and are rooted in the communities they serve, they play a vibrant role as economic cornerstones for millions of American families, businesses and workers.

Access to electricity was a vital component of economic development and diversification in the mid-20th century, and that remains true

Continued on page 16C ▶

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

AIR CONDITIONING TIP: Avoid placing items like lamps and TVs near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the A/C to run longer than necessary.
Source: energy.gov



SUMMER SAFETY for Kids

- ▶ Fly kites in large open spaces away from overhead power lines.
- ▶ Always check trees for nearby power lines before climbing. Choose another tree if lines are close by.
- ▶ Keep long tools, like pool skimmers, stored and secure when not in use. They can be long enough to reach electric lines connected to the home.
- ▶ Ensure all outdoor outlets have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to help prevent electric shock.
- ▶ Recognize the green metal boxes in yards contain electrical equipment and are not to be used for playing.



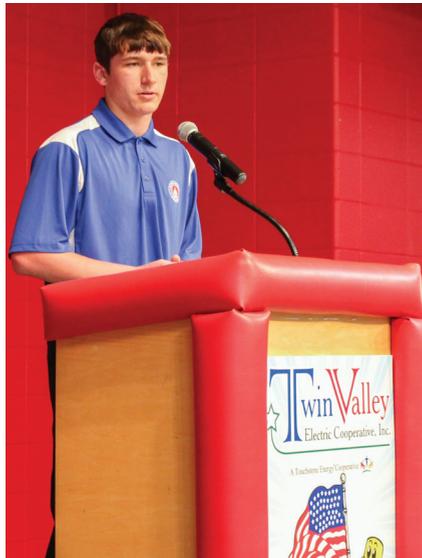
Twin Valley Annual Meeting Highlights

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative's annual meeting was held on April 11 in Altamont. The meal was catered by Pichler's Chicken Annie's of Pittsburg and was served by employees to over 175 guests in attendance.

BRYAN HUCKE, District 1; **JARED NASH**, District 2; and **LARRY "DAVID" HUBBELL**, District 3; were elected to the Board of Directors. Reports were presented from **ANGIE ERICKSON**, CEO; President **DAN PETERSON**; and Treasurer **DARELD NELSON**.

Door prizes provided the finale with **WAYNE BANZET** winning this year's drawing of a \$200 electric credit.

If you were unable to attend, we hope you can attend next year. The annual meeting is when you, our members, have a chance to learn more about your cooperative, elect directors to serve you, enjoy a good meal and, perhaps, win a door prize. Thank you to all who attended and made this year's annual meeting a success. We hope to see you next year.



Derek Ross provided a presentation as the 2018 Youth Tour recipient.



Member Charles Hugo enjoys the meal catered by Chicken Annie's.



Members in attendance enjoy the meal and spend time meeting other members.



MEMORIAL DAY

Our office will be closed on May 27.



Electric Co-ops are Engines of Economic Development

Continued from page 16A ▶

today. About one in eight residents nationwide are served by an electric co-op, meaning direct co-op employment and investments can ripple throughout the economy and create additional economic value for local communities, regions and the country.

From 2013 to 2017, electric co-ops contributed \$881 billion in U.S. sales output, \$200 billion in labor income and \$112 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues.

Nationally, electric co-ops spent \$359 billion on goods and services across the economy, including \$274 billion on operational expenditures, \$60 billion on capital investments, \$20 billion on maintenance and \$5 billion on credits retired and paid in cash to members under the structure of co-ops.

In conducting its analysis, FTI Consulting used data from 815 distribution cooperatives and 57 generation and transmission cooperatives as inputs into a national model to simulate the economic effects from the direct expenditures by co-ops. Additionally, the model calculates the indirect effects throughout the industrial supply chain and the induced effects from consumer spending by the employees of co-ops and their suppliers.

The result of all this effort is a first-of-its-kind study that reveals electric cooperatives to be economic anchors all across rural America. And it demonstrates on a macroeconomic scale one of the seven guiding cooperative principles: Concern for Community.

Staying Safe after a Spring Storm

Lightning, high winds, heavy rains and tornadoes are all signs of a severe storm that can cause damage. After the storm clears we assume it is safe to move about with our busy schedules, but even as the storm passes, danger can remain. Destruction left behind from severe storms can mean downed power lines, flooding and other electrical safety hazards.

Damaged power lines can still be live and energized. Stay away from all damaged power lines, downed lines and any object or water that may be in contact with the lines. Instruct others to do the same. Call 911 to inform your local utility of damaged lines.

Follow these safety tips to keep you and your family safe:

- ▶ Listen to your weather radio, tune in to a local radio station or check the weather app on your phone for up-to-date information and instructions.
- ▶ Never enter a flooded basement if electrical outlets, cords or appliances are under water. The water could be energized by electricity.
- ▶ Do not turn off power if you have to stand in water to do so. Call your utility and have them turn off your electricity at the meter.
- ▶ If you detect the smell of gas or suspect a leak, leave the house immediately. Call 911 and your utility to alert them of the issue. Do not light an open flame or flip any switches in the house.
- ▶ If at all possible, stay home and off the roadways to allow emergency personnel and utility crews to tend to injured individuals and damaged areas.
- ▶ Before entering storm-damaged buildings, make sure the gas and electricity are turned off.

▶ Never drive through a flooded roadway. There is no way of knowing how deep the water is. Remember to turn around, don't drown.

▶ If you are driving and come across a downed power line, stay away and warn other drivers to stay away as well. Contact emergency personnel or your local utility to address the downed line. If you come in contact with a downed power line while driving, stay in your vehicle and wait for a utility to make sure the line is de-energized before exiting the vehicle.

When cleaning up storm damage outdoors, do not use electrical tools if the ground is wet. Also, do not use electrical equipment that has been damaged by water. Have your water-damaged items inspected and approved by a professional before using them.

For more information on how to stay safe after a storm, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Peterson Retires from Board

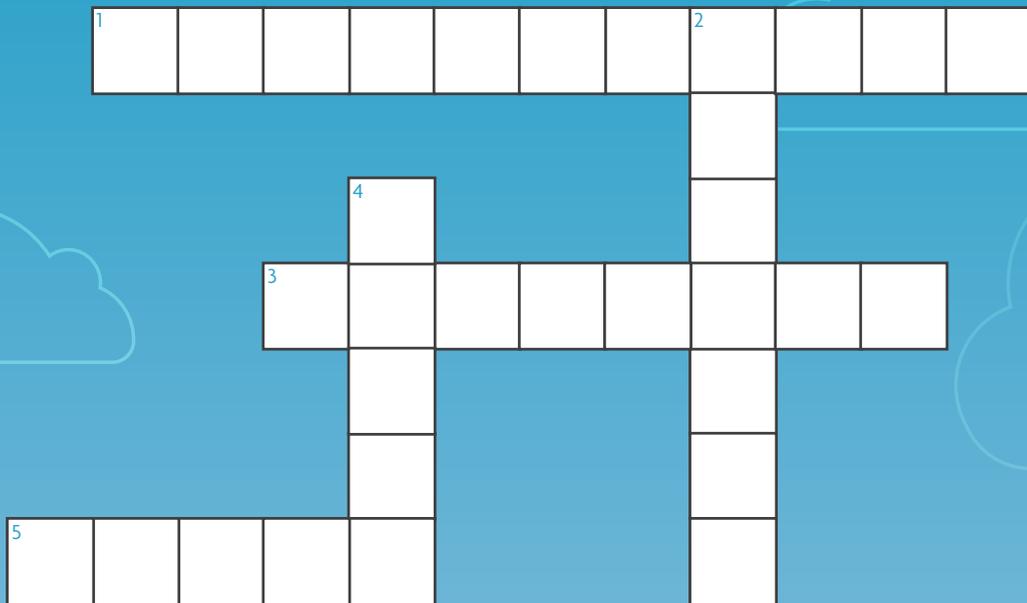
Board President, **DAN PETERSON**, attended his last board meeting and celebrated 30 years of dedicated service with the Twin Valley board. Thank you Dan for your service!



HOW SOLAR PANELS WORK



Did you know energy from the sun can be used to create electricity? Complete the crossword puzzle below to find out how! Use the answer key if you need help.



1. **ACROSS:** Solar panels contain photovoltaic cells that convert sunlight into _____.
2. **DOWN:** Sunlight hits the solar panels and generates a direct _____, or DC.
3. **ACROSS:** The direct current flows to an inverter, which _____ it to an alternating current, AC. (This is the kind of electricity we use in our homes.)
4. **DOWN:** The alternating current flows from the inverter to the home's breaker box, where it's used to _____ appliances and other electrical items in your home.
5. **ACROSS:** If the _____ panels generate more electricity than the home needs, the unused electricity is sent back to the power lines, or electric grid.



ANSWER KEY

1. ACROSS: ELECTRICITY
 2. DOWN: CURRENT
 3. ACROSS: CONVERTS
 4. DOWN: POWER
 5. ACROSS: SOLAR