A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 🔊

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

NEWS

TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP

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 MANAGER

Celebrating 75 Years of History



ectric Cooperative, Inc.

Seventy-five years ago, on Sept. 11, 1945, nine area farmers joined together to incorporate Twin Valley Electric Cooperative and acquired the membership ap-

plications of 300 prospective members in the Altamont area. Those founding members who made up Twin Valley's original board of directors were:

- Forrest E. Miksch, President
- ▶ J.J. Volmer, Vice-President
- ► E.V. Dickerson, Secretary-Treasurer
- Howard Billington
- John Evitts
- ► Francis Grillot
- Phil Hellwig
- Marvin Hine
- ► Robert Price

Twenty-eight electric cooperatives had already been formed in Kansas in the five years preceding the start of World War II. Efforts were put on hold during the war years. But after its conclusion in 1945, eight cooperatives were formed later that same year, including Twin Valley. One more would form in 1949.

In the 1930s, most of the cities and towns in Kansas already had electricity and the rural folks wanted it too. They wanted the same quality of life that electricity had given their friends who lived in nearby towns and cities. However, building power lines out into the country to serve only one or two farms per mile was anything but profitable and the investor-owned utilities would not agree to do it. If rural residents wanted electricity, they were going to have to make that happen themselves.

The Rural Electrification Act (REA) of 1936 provided for low-interest government loans, making it possible for these small, member-owned cooperatives to build electric systems in their areas. While there were funds available, the local co-ops still had the task of obtaining the loan and starting construction.

Twin Valley appointed W.K.Dillenberger as counsel and Frank Horton & Company were selected as the system engineers. The first phase of construction was 217 miles of line in Labette County with parts of Montgomery and Neosho counties at a cost of \$250,000. The loan for this construction was granted in November 1945 and brush clearing began in February 1946.

W.G. Hatfield was hired as the first manager of Twin Valley, and Charles Trickey was the project coordinator.

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FARM SAFETY EQUIPMENT REACH

Make sure everyone is trained in safe practices around electricity. Use these safety tips for you, your employees, seasonal workers, family members, and anyone else accessing your farm.

- Know the dimensions of any far-reaching equipment, such as chemical sprayers, tillage equipment, other extensions or augers.
- Machinery extension dimensions include the length when extended horizontally and upright for transport.
- Always use the lowest (shortest) setting for extensions when moving loads.
- These power line safety principles also apply to arms, booms, truck beds, ladders and other items or mechanisms that extend or are far-reaching.

If your equipment hits a power line, pole or guy wire, do no leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.



2020 Annual Meeting Highlights

There were 66 members registered to vote for the meeting. Boxed dinners were served to those in attendance by Chicken Annie's.

Temperatures were taken at the door and the cooperative provided face masks. Members were given the option to cast their ballots for the board election at registration. The meeting program was streamlined to include essential business and brief reports from the 2019 youth program winners. In lieu of door prizes, 40 members received \$50 bill credits.

Re-elected to the board were **RODNEY BAKER**, **TOM ELLISON** and **DARELD NELSON**.

'Standby' Me: Installing a Backup Generator

Many businesses and massive buildings rely on standby power when the power goes out — for the safety of their employees and customers and to power essential items.

More and more home generators are being installed so families can have backup power when they need it, whether to power appliances and essential medical equipment or simply for convenience.

There is more than one type of permanent generator. One has a transfer switch that must be manually "thrown" before turning on the alternate source of power, which is wired into a house. This type of generator is permanent but not considered "standby" because of the manual switch, and it should not be located near a home. (Always consult a professional electrician when installing or maintaining a permanent generator.) Not throwing the switch can result in backfeeding, which sends electricity back into power lines, and can seriously injure or kill electric lineworkers or others working to restore power.

Another type of fixed generator is permanently housed in a metal box and is usually located close to the house. It is the most expensive permanent generator — a standby version



that is permanently and professionally installed to power most of the appliances in your home. When needed, a

standby generator automatically transfers the power source from the electric grid to the generator. The cost of

this type of permanent generator varies depending on how much backup power you want.

Besides the cost of the system, there are also installation costs to consider, since it will need to be installed by licensed and bonded contractors. This is definitely not a DIY project! Fixr.com estimates the national average install cost between \$4,500 and \$9,000, which does not include the price of the unit.

When considering a standby generator, a representative from the supplier you select will assess your home's energy needs and should ask you what you would like to power in the event of an outage. Other required steps include preparing a site near your current electrical meter and pouring a concrete pad.

The contractor(s) will install a new subpanel and automatic transfer switch. Your generator supplier should also create a detailed plan of which appliances and electronics should not be supplied with power during an outage since the generator's power supply can fluctuate and possibly damage sensitive items.

Saving Money in the Laundry Room

A washer and dryer inside the home is a luxury many enjoy. There's no waiting for a machine, no coin slots, and no one taking out a wet load from the washer if you aren't there when the cycle ends.

Although it's cheaper per load and much more convenient to do laundry

at home, there's a somewhat hidden cost to consider, and that's the energy it takes to run your washer and dryer.

A dryer requires more energy to run than a washer, but there are ways to reduce your washing costs, too (think hot water versus cold). To save money in your laundry room, try these suggestions:

- WASH IN THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF WATER for the load — that is, don't select the "extra-large" setting when doing a small load. In fact, consider waiting to do laundry until you have full loads to conserve water.
- USE COLD WATER to save the money you would spend heating water. Some laundry detergents are designed to tackle stains in cold water.
- USE WARM WATER instead of hot to cut a load's energy use in half, and use cold water to save even more, according to energy.gov.
- ► USE DRYER BALLS, which help separate clothes and get more air to them, cutting drying time.
- CLEAN THE LINT OUT of your dryer between loads and scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

About 90% OF THE ENERGY used by washing machines goes to heating the water.

SAVE ON ENERGY COSTS by using cold or warm water.

Source: energystar.gov

- USE THE MOISTURE SENSOR OPTION on your dryer if it has one.
- UTILIZE LOWER SETTINGS WHEN YOU USE THE DRYER. Even if your dryer runs longer, you'll use less energy and be less likely to over-dry your clothes.
- PUT LIKE ITEMS TOGETHER since lighter-weight clothes take less time to dry. Drying towels and heavier cottons take longer.
- TAKE A CLUE FROM YOUR TEENAGE SON AND WEAR CLOTHES MORE THAN ONCE between laundering them (although don't wait until your jeans can stand by themselves).
- WHEN PURCHASING A DRYER, CONSIDER AN ENERGY STAR[®] VERSION, which uses 20% less energy than a conventional model.
- ENERGY STAR-CERTIFIED WASHERS use about 33% less water than regular clothes washers.
- THOROUGHLY CLEAN YOUR DRYER'S VENTS and duct system at least twice a year.

To learn more about how much you are spending to run your washer and dryer each year, refer to energy.gov's appliance energy use calculator.

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The first purchased power agreement was entered with Kansas Electric Power Company in May 1946, long before the system was ready to energize. Material shortages caused both delays in completion and increased costs. Contracted crews had been hired to construct the system and had to be paid even when there were no materials available causing labor costs to be higher than anticipated.

Despite these struggles, planning of the subsequent phases of construction

continued to move forward. In December 1947, the first phase was energized. By 1948, materials were more readily available for the remaining four phases of construction, which would cover the rest of Labette County and parts of Neosho and Cherokee counties.

In January 1949, a severe ice storm broke poles and put 80 miles of newly constructed line on the ground. Repairs were made quickly and progress resumed. By the end of 1950, nearly 1,600 services were connected. The system was completed in November 1952, with over 1,700 services.

An office building that would serve as the cooperative's headquarters had been purchased in January 1951. After major remodeling, it was formally opened in June 1957.

This month marks 75 years as a cooperative. While a lot has changed we are still serving our members, still governed by our members, and still looking to serve you even better in the future.



RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES WORD SEARCH

The electricity that powers our homes is generated by a variety of fuel sources, including renewables. Renewable energy comes from natural resources, like the wind and the sun. Can you find all the renewable energy-related words in the puzzle below?







WORD BANK:

- hydropower
- wind turbine
- ▶ renewable
- ▶ solar panels
- ▶ wind energy
- geothermal
- biomass
- generation
- solar energy