

# The Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

"Owned By Those We Serve"



August 2007

501 Huston St. ❖ P.O. Box 368 ❖ Altamont, Kansas 67330-0368

Phone: (866)-784-5500

Fax: (620) 784-2464

## From the Manager ...Innovation is the Key to Future Needs

The success of a co-op is dependent on how well it responds to the needs of its local members. Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives are dedicated to meeting the needs of their members by following four cornerstones: integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment to community.

Each of these cornerstones is key to providing excellent service and helping improve the quality of life in rural communities across the country. Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives are responding to member's needs with innovative new technologies and services.

Electric cooperatives lead the industry in automated meter reading (AMR). Twin Valley Electric has installed an AMR system and is in the final stages of replacing every meter in the cooperative with new electronic meters.

The AMR system uses existing power lines as a communication path to every meter on the system. And while the main objective is accurate and efficient meter reading, the AMR system actually provides much more.

For example, the AMR system is being used to provide improved end of line voltage monitoring. This means better power quality for co-op members. The

AMR system will also be used to respond to and track outages, as well as perform remote connects and disconnects. This high-tech meter system will help shorten the length of outages, improve efficiency, and save money. With the AMR system, Twin Valley can provide members with information about their daily energy use and improve their energy budget.

Our AMR system has reduced the need for sending trucks and personnel to accounts. Twin Valley will also be integrating the AMR system with supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems that remotely control and monitor our substations.

By combining AMR with SCADA and other systems like automated outage notification and computerized mapping systems, Twin Valley will be creating a powerful new system that will offer faster and better service.

Beyond the core business of providing electricity, Twin Valley has teamed up with another industry partner the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) to provide some desperately needed infrastructure systems, such as broadband Internet service.

Twin Valley is now promot-

ing WildBlue satellite broadband service to our members.

Without broadband service in place, enticing new businesses and jobs to rural areas is nearly impossible.

In today's society, electric cooperatives are devoted to their focus on innovation and new technology. Twin Valley is promoting the use of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) to promote energy efficiency and encourage conservation.

Last year, Twin Valley needed a pressure digger to drill the holes in rock. Instead, we purchased a compact rubber track loader that is not only capable of digging holes in rock, but has provided other essential services such a forklift, loader and tree remover at a fraction of the cost of a pressure digger.

Each co-op is different with local needs that will dictate the innovative approach it takes to provide better service. Twin Valley will continue to use the four cornerstones as a foundation for doing the right thing now and in serving the future generations of our co-op members.



Ron Holsteen

# Frazier Experiences the Trip of a Lifetime

*Charity Frazier, was among the nearly 1,500 high school students from across the country who participated in the "Government in Action" Youth Tour held June 7-14, 2007, in Washington, D.C.*

*Charity was selected from a field of applicants based on a quiz and personal interview. Her all-expense-paid trip was sponsored by Twin Valley Electric Cooperative.*

My trip to Washington, D.C. was a great experience! I was able to visit many sights many people only see in pictures.

Before leaving for Washington we visited some places around Topeka. One of which was Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant. They gave us a presentation on the plant and nuclear energy. It was informative and interesting. Lyon-Coffey Electric, Burlington, gave us a demonstration on electricity and provided bucket-truck rides!

In Washington, D.C., I was happy to visit Arlington National Cemetery where we saw the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Changing of the Guard.

At the Smithsonian Natural History Museum I was able to view the Hope Diamond!

We had the opportunity to hear from Representatives Jerry Moran and Todd Tiahrt, along with Senator Pat Roberts. They spoke and answered questions from the students. On our way back to Kansas, Senator Sam Brownback was on our plane!

The day we toured the capital, President Bush was supposed to be there. We did not see him, but on our way to the bus to leave that area, we saw a motorcade pass through. There was a lot of security and we thought it could have been him.

Not only did we get to be in Washington, D.C., but we were frequently in Virginia and even got to visit Baltimore, MD. While in Maryland we visited Ft.

McHenry and the Inner Harbor where we went to the National Aquarium.

Our last day in Washington, we took a tour of the White House.

Although we did not get to tour the whole building, just being able to go in at all was neat. Our group also went to the Holocaust Memorial Museum, which was a moving experience.

We were busy a lot with all the places we were going and things we were doing.

We got to eat at a place called Ben's Chili Bowl. We were told Bill Cosby likes to eat there and had been there a few days before.

I hadn't ever been on a cruise before, and we took one on the Potomac River.

Along with all of the exciting and interesting places we went, the Kansas students were able to meet students from across the country, we even got to travel with students from Hawaii. One of them brought a ukulele! I got to room with one of the girls from Hawaii. We learned things from each other and I'm glad our group got to travel with them. It made the trip even more interesting.



Charity Frazier stops for a photo in front of the White House.

I know I haven't covered everything we got to do on this trip. One thing that sticks out in my mind was just having so many famous things around us. We drove by the Pentagon on several occasions and almost everywhere you went there was something interesting to see. When we were driving around I would sometimes scramble to get the camera out to take a picture of something neat.

I would like to thank everyone who had a part in making this trip possible for me. I am thankful for the opportunity I had to grow and learn and the experiences I gained. We had fun with each other and with our sponsors. THANK YOU Twin Valley!

It was very impressive that a trip like this was possible for me to take; one whole week jam-packed with fun, learning, and sightseeing. I would like to encourage more students to try out for it next year.