

# Attention High School Juniors

*Don't Miss This FREE Trip of A Lifetime!*



Keith Geren, Altamont, puts in a hard days work at the "President's desk" in Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, one of the many stops on the "Government in Action" Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.



Cole Penrod, Coffeyville, (third from left) toured Craig Station Power Plant to learn how electricity is generated while at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO.

## Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

**Ron Holsteen - Manager**

### Office Hours

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

### Board of Directors

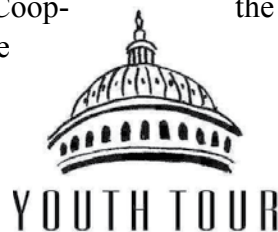
Daniel Peterson - President  
Bryan Coover - Vice President  
Norman L. Leistikow - Secretary  
Larry Hubbell - Treasurer  
Ronal E. McNickle  
Tom Ellison  
Michael Allison  
Wayne Revell  
Robert E. Webster, Jr.

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., will send one high school junior to the "Government in Action" Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and one to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO.

### To Qualify

The applicant must be a high school junior living within the cooperative's territorial boundaries and

the child of a Twin Valley Electric member.



### To Apply

Applicants will be expected to study and take a quiz over information sent by Twin Valley regarding electric cooperatives. There will also be a short interview to pick the winner. All participating students will receive a prize.

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# We Need Your Recipes!

## Twin Valley Adds a Cooking Feature

Twin Valley will be adding a new feature to *Kansas Country Living*.

Earlier this year, *Kansas Country Living* readers were surveyed and through the survey, we found that the most popular content in the magazine is our food and cooking section. As a result, Twin Valley would like to showcase some local cooks with their fantastic recipes.

To submit your recipe please send the following information:

- Your name, contact information and Twin Valley account number
- The recipe (clearly printed or typed)
- A photo of you cooking the recipe or of you and the finished product
- Send your entry to:

Twin Valley Electric

Attn: Recipes

P.O. Box 368

Altamont, KS 67330

If your recipe is used on pages 16-A to 16-D in any issue, you will receive a \$10 credit toward your electric bill.

## Submit a recipe and get a \$10 credit!

If your recipe is used in *Kansas Country Living* magazine, you will receive a \$10 credit toward your electric bill

## From the Manager... FEMA & Cooperatives Reach Agreement

I am pleased to report that we have had some positive progress in resolving the issues with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding approval of



Ron Holsteen

reimbursement for repairing and rebuilding our distribution lines damaged by the December 2007 ice storm.

The original decision of the FEMA Joint Field Office (JFO) group was to allow only \$371,000 of the \$4 million our engineers had estimated the work to cost. Twin Valley appealed this decision and we were able to convince FEMA Region VII to establish a working group to revisit the criteria set by the JFO.

Meetings with FEMA were held during the second week of December to address the issues, including the development of the conductor replacement criteria and how FEMA will determine the pre-disaster condition of an electrical system. The working group included representation from the Kansas electric cooperatives and municipalities affected by the ice storm as well as some observers from other states and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The criteria developed by this group will be used as a standard for all future disasters affecting electric cooperatives and municipalities in the nation.

FEMA appears ready to endorse a process for adminis-

tering the remainder of the issues specific to the December 2007 ice storm, including appeals, which appear to be satisfactory to everyone. They recognize the criteria devel-

oped during the working group meetings will be used in future disasters, but also acknowledge we may not have gathered all of the data necessary to apply the new criteria.

We will be meeting with representatives from FEMA and the Kansas Department of Emergency Management (KDEM) this month to review the recommendations made by our consulting engineer and the already-gathered data that supports their recommendation. If there is an agreement, we will be able to begin the process of getting the lines repaired and rebuilt where necessary.

This has been a lengthy and frustrating process at times, but it once again shows the value of the cooperative principal of cooperation among cooperatives. By working together with the other electric cooperatives and our statewide association, Kansas Electric Cooperatives (KEC), we have been successful in getting FEMA to develop a set of standards and criteria that allow us to devote all of our attention to restoring power to our members and be able to effectively plan for the restoration of our facilities when we experience disasters in the future.

# Capital Credit Questions & Answers

**When was the last time you received a check from your utility provider?**

Your electric co-op makes every member an owner of the business. Unlike other electric utilities, your co-op exists to make sure your needs are always met, not to make a profit.

Instead, any revenues over and above the cost of doing business are considered “margins”. These margins represent an interest-free loan of operating capital by the membership to the co-op. This capital allows Twin Valley Electric Co-op (TVEC) to finance operations and – to a certain extent – construction, with the intent that this capital will be repaid to you in later years. We have provided answers to some questions for a better understanding of capital credits.

**What’s the difference between allocated and retired capital credits?**

Allocated capital credits appear as entry on the permanent financial records of the co-op and reflect your equity or ownership in TVEC. When capital credits are retired, a check is issued to you and your equity in the co-op is reduced.

**How often will I receive an allocation notice?** You should receive an allocation notice annually after the finances for the previous years books have been completed.

**What do I have to do to start accumulating capital credits?** Capital credits are calculated by TVEC for every member that purchased electricity during a year in which the utility earned margins. No special action is required to start a capital credits account. Your membership activates your capital credits account.

**How are capital credits calculated?** The amount of capital credits you earn in a given year is based upon the amount of capital you contribute to the co-op through payment of your monthly bills. The more electric service you buy, the greater your capital credits account – although the percentage will remain the same. The sum of your monthly bills for

a year is multiplied by a percentage to determine your capital credits.

**What percent of my bill is returned as capital credits?** The percentage of your total payment that is allocated as capital credits varies from year to year, depending upon the success of the co-op. Capital credits are only allocated for a year in which TVEC earns margins. Since capital credits are a member’s share of the margins, no credits are allocated for a year with no margins.

**Do I have to be a member for an entire year to earn capital credits?** No. Capital credits are calculated based upon a member’s monthly bills. If you are billed for service for even one month, you will accumulate some capital credits if TVEC earned margins in that year.

**What happens to the capital credits of a member that dies?** The capital credits of a deceased member may be paid at a discount without waiting for a general retirement. However, these estate payments are not automatic. A representative of the estate must request the credits by submitting a certification of entitlement form and a copy of the death certificate. If the membership is jointly held by a spouse, the estate will only be retired after both the member and spouse are deceased.

**Will I receive a capital credit check every year?** Not necessarily. The Board of Directors must authorize a retirement before you receive a check. When considering a retirement, the Board analyzes the financial health of the association and will not authorize a retirement if TVEC can not afford it.

**What happens to my capital credits when I leave the TVEC service area?** They remain on the books in your name until they are retired. You should ensure that TVEC has your current mailing address.

## 1986 Capital Credits to be Retired

The Twin Valley Electric Cooperative Board of Directors has authorized retiring the remaining Capital Credits that were earned in 1986. The Board is excited to return your investment in your electric cooperative with this capital credit retirement. As a member of Twin Valley Electric Cooperative during 1986, you helped provide the funding to build and maintain the electric system. As a not-for-profit cooperative, all funds not used to pay the wholesale power bill and operating expenses are invested in the facilities, as opposed to borrowing all the money needed for upgrades and growth.

The capital credit check you will receive reflects your portion of the margins made and invested during that time period. With this general retirement, over \$1 million has been returned to the members who participated in the cooperative’s business. Unlike investor-owned utilities that pay dividends to their stockholders who are often far removed from the service provided, cooperatives return their margins to the members – those who used the service and provided an important investment.

We believe this is just one of the cooperative differences that makes serving you and our communities a pleasure.

## Keeping Warm with Window Treatments

Window treatments and coverings aren't just for decoration – they can also go a long way in saving energy.

Carefully selected window treatments, such as draperies and insulating panels, can keep heat from escaping through windows in the winter.

A drapery's ability to reduce heat loss and gain depends on several factors, including fabric type and color. Although it's difficult to generalize about energy performance, when drawn during cold weather most conventional draperies can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10 percent. In winter, you should keep draperies that don't receive direct sunlight closed during the day, and close all draperies at night.

Draperies should be hung as close to windows as possible to reduce heat exchange, and they should fall onto a windowsill or floor. For maximum effectiveness, install a cornice at the top of a drapery, or place the drapery against the ceiling. Then seal the drapery at both sides with Velcro or magnetic tape, and overlap it in the center.

Of course, window treatments aren't effective at reducing air leakage or infiltration – use caulk and weather strip around windows to reduce drafts.

For more information, visit [eere.energy.gov](http://eere.energy.gov).

# Attention High School Juniors

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Keith Geren admires a photo of Arlington National Cemetery at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.



Cole Penrod, enjoys the view at Fish Creek Falls in Steamboat Springs, CO.

To apply please complete, sign and return the application below to Twin Valley, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330.

cooperative office by March 4, 2009. Finalists will be quizzed and interviewed by a panel of judges at the cooperative offices on March 27, 2009.

### Youth Tour Selection Process

Applicants must complete an application and return it to the

### For More Information

For more information contact Jennifer at 1-866-784-5500.

### Application for Youth Tour Contest - DUE March 4, 2009

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Twin Valley Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parents or Guardians \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby grant permission for the above named applicant to enter the 2009 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_