




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
 501 S. Huston Ave, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330  
 866-784-5500  
 www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

# TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

## Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Ron Holsteen General Manager

### Board of Directors

**Daniel Peterson**  
President

**Bryan Coover**  
Vice President

**Ronald McNickle**  
Secretary

**Larry Hubbell**  
Treasurer

**Michael Allison**  
Trustee

**Tom Ellison**  
Trustee

**Bryan Hucke**  
Trustee

**Wayne Revell**  
Trustee

**Robert Webster, Jr.**  
Trustee

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

**Contact Us**  
501 S. Huston Ave., P.O. Box 368  
Altamont, KS 67330  
620-784-5500  
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

## Tip of the Month

Keep energy efficiency in mind as the ground thaws and you plan spring landscaping. Properly selected and planted trees, shrubs, and bushes can create a windbreak that lowers home heating bills in the winter and insulates your home year-round. Before you start, check on the right plants and techniques for your climate at EnergySavers.gov.

## FROM THE MANAGER

# Join us on April 11 at the Annual Meeting



Ron Holsteen

The 66th Annual Meeting of Twin Valley Electric will be held on April 11 at the Labette County High School Cafeteria in Altamont.

Registration begins and a meal will be served from 6 to 6:30 p.m., with entertainment by John Smith at 6 p.m.

All members are invited to attend this annual meeting. You are a member and an owner of the cooperative. This membership affords you the privilege of participating in this meeting and voting for Directors of the Board.

If you have never been to an annual meeting before, come and see what it is all about! You will get a free meal, enjoy great entertainment, receive a registration gift, and a chance to win some great prizes.

As usual, there will be many prizes given away along with an early bird drawing. Members must be present to win prizes.

The nominating committee met February 26, 2013, to nominate candidates to be placed on the official notice of the Annual Meeting of Twin Valley Electric for the purpose of election to the Board of Directors. The following persons were nominated to be placed on the ballot.

### ► District 1

**BRYAN HUCKE**, Parsons

### ► District 2

**DAN PETERSON**, Mound Valley

### ► District 3

**LARRY "DAVID" HUBBELL**, Chetopa

A short bio of each board candidate can be found on page 16-C of this newsletter.

If you have questions regarding the nomination or election process, please feel free to contact the office.

## Mark Your Calendars!

We hope to see you at the Twin Valley Electric Annual Meeting April 11, 2013, at the Labette County High School Cafeteria. A meal will be served at 6 p.m. and the meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m.

**We hope to see you there!**

April 2013						
S	M	T	W	U	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

## Finding the Needle in a Haystack



William Worthy

**“A wire, smaller than the cord on your phone charger, was causing all the headaches.”**

Everyone knows the sayings, “it’s like a needle in a haystack” or “it’s always in the last place I look.” Of course, I’ve never understood the second one...it’s always going to be in the last place you look. If you find it, why would you keep looking? Anyway, your electric cooperative had a situation like this on March 10.

The first call concerning a line outage came in at 7:40 a.m. and the phone never stopped ringing. The section of line was roughly 13 miles of three-phase with numerous taps feeding off it. Our on-call linemen arrived quickly and found the device, an oil circuit recloser (OCR), open at the corner of 26,000 and Meade Road.

They patrolled the line looking for a source of the fault and found nothing. This is common. At times, a squirrel or large bird will get on our structures and get tangled up. By the time the OCR goes through its operations (three times) it will be knocked off the structure and fall to the ground. The linemen saw nothing apparent and went back to close the OCR. The OCR went through its operations and opened back up.

So, the search was on. Let me put this into perspective—13 miles, averaging 18 structures per mile equals approximately 234 structures. Each structure has at least three insulators. In addition, some have transformers, lightning arrestors, fuses and other pieces of hardware. Any of which can lead to potential problems. The linemen began the tedious process of inspecting each of the 234 structures.

After careful inspection, the condition of the OCR was brought into question and it was removed. A fuse was tried and...well, if you were anywhere in the area near where the linemen tried the fuse, you might have thought a Howitzer was loose in Labette County. Once the dust settled and their ears stopped ringing, the hunt was on again.

Tap lines, transformers and other equipment were taken offline in an effort to cut down the amount of line that needed to be

inspected. The fuse was tried again and again, BOOM! Frustrated, the linemen made a call to get another set of eyes out there to help.

Upon the arrival of the second crew, a game plan was devised and a safety tailgate discussion was held. It was decided to break the mainline up. An opening was cut, the men were in the clear and BOOM!

The men went back to patrolling and inspecting, nothing. Another opening was cut, the fuse was tried again and NO BOOM. Progress, finally.

The fault was in a one-mile stretch and the linemen knew the end of this outage was in sight. With 18 poles, a few trees and a truck at either end of the stretch, this fault could run, but it would hide no longer from the trained eagle eyes of the four linemen on the ground.

Finally, the two-way radio in the truck came alive, “found it!” An unraveling, twisted copper wire was faltering. One rogue strand from the neutral had untwisted and fallen across the energized phase making a dead short.

Just imagine, in a mixture of trees, right next to the pole going over the railroad tracks south of 20th and Meade Road in Neosho County, a wire, smaller than the cord on your mobile phone charger, was causing all the headaches for our linemen and an inconvenience for our members in the area.

A truck was set at the fault to repair it and the other prepared to energize the line. With the unraveling repaired, protective grounds removed, men and equipment in the clear, 7,620 volts returned to the line and the lights came back on.

Twin Valley would like to thank the members affected by this outage for their patience. This particular line section will be rebuilt in the coming months as part of our current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Mitigation project. Until next month, you can drop me a line at [wworthy@twinvalleyelectric.coop](mailto:wworthy@twinvalleyelectric.coop).

## Board of Directors Nominees

### District 1

**BRYAN HUCKE**, Parsons.

Hucke and his wife, Loretta, live in rural Parsons, they have two children.



Bryan Hucke



Dan Peterson



David Hubbell

Hucke graduated from Wichita Automotive and Electronics Institute in Wichita in 1985. He enjoys ranching and raising crops.

They have lived on the Twin Valley system for 20 years, and he has served on the Twin Valley Board for three years.

### District 2

**DAN PETERSON**, Mound Valley.

Peterson and his wife, Kathy, live in rural Mound Valley, and have one grown daughter.

They have lived on the Twin Valley system for 32 years, and he has served on the Twin Valley Board for 24 years.

He has attended many classes for Twin Valley and has received the Credential Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certificates.

Peterson graduated from Kansas State University, and taught Agricultural Education for 31 years, served on the Labette County Fair Board, Altamont United Methodist Church Board, and various other community positions.

Currently, he raises cattle, collects antiques, restores autos, and spend time working on community development projects.

### District 3

**LARRY "DAVID" HUBBELL**, Chetopa.

Hubbell and his wife, Phyllis, live in the rural Chetopa area. They have one grown son.

Hubbell attended Pittsburg State University and has degree from both the university and vocational technical school. He also served in the United States Air Force.

He works as a journeyman electrician and raises cattle. In his spare time, he enjoys being with his new granddaughter and family.

He has attended many classes for Twin Valley and has received the Credential Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certificates.

Hubbell has been a Twin Valley member since 1977 and an active Director for 12 years. He has also been the Board Treasurer for the past 12 years.

## We're Visiting Your Neighborhood!

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., is implementing a geographical information system (GIS) to better serve our members. GIS is a digital mapping system that will give us detailed information about our electrical network. Among other benefits, GIS will help us restore your power more efficiently during outages.

To create our GIS system, we must do a field inventory. This calls for physically visiting and recording information about every pole and meter on our network.

We have contracted Davey Resource Group (DRG), A Division of The Davey Tree Company to do this work.

The DRG professionals will be easily recognized by their uniform, which identify them as GIS contractors.

They will be on foot or riding a four-wheeler, sporting bright yellow backpacks with an antenna and carrying handheld GPS computers.

For more information about our GIS project, visit [www.twinvalleyelectric.coop](http://www.twinvalleyelectric.coop) or call us at 866-784-5500.

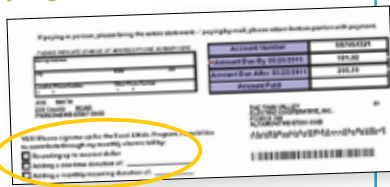
We are happy to answer questions you may have about this project.

## Support Food-4-Kids & Fight Child Hunger

Check **YES** to donate to the Food-4-Kids program this month

Twin Valley Electric's Food-4-Kids program supports elementary schools in our service area that send food-filled backpacks, provided by the Kansas Food Bank, home with students on Friday afternoons. For most of these children, the food is the difference between having enough to eat on Saturdays and Sundays—or not.

Twin Valley members are encouraged to round up of their bill to the next dollar amount, or more, to be added to their monthly electric service bill. Check "Yes" on your next bill to support the program.



**DRG professionals will be sporting yellow backpacks and will have the above logo on their uniforms and equipment.**

# Would You Like to Become a Lineman?



Twin Valley Electric Cooperative offers a \$500 scholarship to any graduating senior, high school graduate, or recipient of an equivalent degree (GED, etc.) who plans to enroll in a high voltage line school. Applicants must be a resident of Labette, Neosho, Montgomery or Cherokee Counties.

For more information, please call 620-784-5500 or print off an application at [www.twinvalleyelectric.coop](http://www.twinvalleyelectric.coop).