



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

501 S. Huston Ave, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330

866-784-5500

[www.twinvalleyelectric.coop](http://www.twinvalleyelectric.coop)

## TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# NEWS

### Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Ron Holsteen CEO

#### 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](http://www.twinvalleyelectric.coop)

### Co-op Connections Card Savings Update

In January, Twin Valley members filled four prescriptions using the Co-op Connections Card and saved **\$31.25!**

### FROM THE MANAGER

## Spring Cleaning Delivers Safe, Reliable Power

Spring gives us a chance to thaw out after a chilly winter. I take advantage of longer daylight hours by doing a little spring cleaning and yard work. But the seasonal shift isn't all good news. The rapid change from harsh, cold air to warmer temperatures can trigger severe weather. To protect our lines and keep power flowing safely to your home, Twin Valley Electric Cooperative maintains our rights-of-way. Think of it as spring cleaning for power lines.

Right-of-way (ROW) maintenance keeps tree limbs and other obstacles away from high-voltage power lines. It's an important part of the service we provide to you, our members, for three reasons: safety, reliability, and cost.

Our primary concern is the safety of our workers and members. Properly maintained ROW keeps our crews safe when they are restoring service and maintaining our system. Keeping trees clear of power lines also keeps your family safe. From making sure a child's tree house doesn't hit power lines to creating a safe environment while doing yard work, a well-maintained ROW helps avoid tragedy.

Power lines are a constant part of our landscape; it's easy to forget they are around. We work hard to keep the area around our lines clear,

but we need your help. Be alert this spring. Don't plant trees or tall vegetation under power lines, and keep an eye out for power lines when working in your yard.

If severe spring weather blows through, a well-maintained ROW leads to fewer outages and faster response time. Trees are less of a threat. When trees do fall, crews are able to restore service more quickly than they could with poorly maintained areas.

As a not-for-profit company, Twin Valley Electric e, strives to keep costs affordable for you, our members. Maintaining our ROW is an important part of controlling costs. Fewer and shorter outages save money for everyone. When crews work in well-maintained areas, we can reduce risks for employees and equipment too—another way to keep costs low.

Safety, reliability, and cost: this is why we believe in ROW "spring cleaning." If we compromise on one of these areas, it impacts the others. At Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, we aren't willing to compromise. Maintaining our ROW is a priority for your safety, comfort, and pocketbook.



Ron Holsteen

## NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

# Property Access is Important During Outages



William Worthy

“Think about your neighbors who may be in the dark because a line went down on your property and we cannot gain access.”

As the sun sets on another winter in Kansas, I look forward to spring and the warmer weather it brings. However, spring also brings storms that can give the lineman of your cooperative heartburn. With storms comes the possibility of outages and other problems with your electric system. Our linemen will be out making necessary repairs at all hours of the day and night and will need access to the properties we serve. An issue we have dealt with in the past and continue to deal with is access to member's property.

When you became a member of Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, you signed an application for membership to the cooperative. By signing the application, you agreed to follow the cooperative's Bylaws and Rules and Regulations.

In Twin Valley Electric Cooperative's Rules and Regulations, Section 6—Member's Service Obligations, Subsection B—Access to Member's Premises: *The member shall give the duly authorized agents and employees of the Cooperative full and free access to the premises of the Member for the purpose of constructing, installing, inspecting, adjusting, repairing, maintaining, replacing, or removing any of the Cooperative's facilities on the premises of the Member, reading meters or for any purpose incidental to the electric service supplied by the Cooperative.*

Some of you have locks on your property gates that were installed or given to you by Twin Valley. We are continuing the process of removing those locks and replacing with new locks in an attempt to provide you with more security. The locks are labeled Twin Valley and numbered. The keys issued to Twin Valley employees are numbered, as well. Our employees will be held to a high standard for responsibility of the key issued. The keys are made from a special blank that cannot be duplicated.

It is understandable that some members are reluctant to allow access to their property, and we understand your concerns. This is

why we are going to be changing our locks. We would like to install our lock on your chain on the opposite side from the lock you normally use. This way we'll avoid the potential lock out situation.

Keep in mind that we could potentially need access to your property at any time day or night. Some members have requested, “Call me, I'll come let you in.” this would be okay in a planned situation, but if we need to get into your property during a storm at 3 a.m., it might not be feasible for you.

If a line goes across your property, feeding additional members, they might not be as patient in waiting on you to come let us in. In the event of us not having access to a property, and we determine the fault of an outage is on your property, we will isolate your line to the best of our ability and leave you off until we can gain access. This might cause you an inconvenience, but understand we have the rest of the membership to think about.

Remember, your Twin Valley linemen and employees are hard-working, family people and property owners, as well. We strive to respect and protect the property of members that we have to access for any reason. Thank you for your understanding as we make these changes that will benefit the entire Twin Valley family.

As always, I welcome comments or suggestions and can be contacted at [wworthy@twinvalleyelectric.coop](mailto:wworthy@twinvalleyelectric.coop).



Yours truly, a few years ago, energizing a line after repairs in a storm.

## Mark Your Calendars!

We hope to see you at the Twin Valley Electric Annual Meeting April 24, 2014, at the Labette High School Auditorium in Altamont.

**We hope to see you there!**

April 2014						
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			

## 2014 Annual Meeting Scheduled

*Thursday, April 24 at Labette County High School in Altamont*

Twin Valley has started planning for our Annual Meeting which will be held on Thursday evening, April 24, at the Labette High School Auditorium in Altamont.

Twin Valley is governed by a Board of Directors and each year three Directors positions become open after their three year term has expired. Twin Valley's bylaws state that one director shall be elected from each district each year for a term of three years as terms of office expire or until successors shall have been elected and qualified.

Those directors whose terms are expiring this year are:

- ▶ **DISTRICT 1— WAYNE REVELL**
- ▶ **DISTRICT 2— TOM ELLISON**
- ▶ **DISTRICT 3— MIKE ALLISON**

The bylaws require the Board to appoint a nominating committee not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days before the Annual Meeting. The committee shall consist of not less than five nor more than 13 members who shall be selected from different areas of the cooperative. No member of the Board may serve on this committee.

The Board has appointed the following members to the nominating committee: John Bebb, Mound Valley; Keith Tucker, Mound Valley; Phillip Billman, Altamont; William Billman, Altamont; Diane McCarty, Coffeyville; Larry Gregory, Cheryvale; Kimet Geren, Altamont; Pam

Baker, Bartlett; Fred Vail, Edna; and Mike Fultz, Mound Valley.

The nominating committee will meet at Twin Valley's office on Tuesday evening, March 4 at 7 p.m. The nominating committee shall prepare and post a list of nominations for directors at the office of the cooperative at least 20 days before the meeting. The Secretary shall mail a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by the committee at least 10 days before the date of the meeting.

Fifteen or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition. Any nominations made by petition shall be posted at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations made by petition, which are received at least five days before the meeting, shall be included on the official ballot. Later nominations by petition shall be treated as nominations from the floor.

In addition to those persons, nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting. No member may nominate more than one candidate.

If you have questions regarding the nominating and election process you can call the office at 620-784-5500.

## Twin Valley's New Headquarters Building in Progress

Construction is under way on the new Twin Valley headquarters. Below are some pictures of the progress.

The new facility is located on the south side of Highway 59 and about 650 feet east of the intersection. Construction began in October and is scheduled to be completed this summer.



Crews pouring the foundation for the office building.



A view from the northeastern corner of the new office building.



Members will enter from this side of the building when construction is complete.

# Help Us Locate These Members

The people listed below are due capital credits, but we can't locate them. If you have information that would be of help in finding them, please call the office or tell them to call 866-784-5500.

## A

Bonnie Acklin  
Art Anderson

## B

Gary Bailey  
Earl Bennett Jr  
Linda Berry  
Lyle Blackburn  
Ron Brewer  
David Brown  
Henry Burkle

## C

Lawrence Campbell Sr  
W R Capital  
Bessie Cary  
John Clarenson  
M R Cook  
N A Coots  
D J Cotten  
Jeri Cunningham

## D

Dean Davis  
Eddie Dixon  
Raymond Dixon Jr

## E

Carole Evans

## F

Paul Froelich

## G

F J Gallagher  
Charles Garrison  
Terry Gilpin  
Pamela Goodnight  
James Gwartney

## H

Jim Hafenstine  
Rose Hamilton  
Allen Hammer  
Porter Harris  
Lowell Harvey  
Galyn Heady  
Lovetta Hilderbrand  
Cathy Hough

## I

Intrepid Enterprises Inc.

Jim Irwin

## J

J A Johnson  
Lisa Johnson

## K

Kanmap Inc.  
W R Kallenberger  
Wilma Karstetter

## L

David Lett  
Donna Lewis  
Paul Lewis

## M

Paul Madl  
Wendell Martin  
C C Mathis  
Steve McGovney  
Daniel Merry  
Mid-Am Production  
Sylvia Milks  
Richard Monroe  
Thomas Moore  
John Myers

## N

Carrie Nading

## O

Arietta Oliphant

## P

Mike Page  
Grace Peterson  
Harold Pruitt

## R

Verlyn Reneau  
Charles Rhodes  
Hubert Rhodes  
Gary Robison

## S

Tim Schultz  
Julie Scott  
Phyllis Sharp  
Kurt Smith  
Michael Spradling  
Floyd Stephens

## T

Loyd Tollett

## V

Vi-Con Petroleum

## W

K S Waun  
Carla Wells  
Bill White  
George Wilson

## Efficiency Tip of the Month

Programmable thermostats can save up to \$160 a year in energy costs. Match thermostat settings to your schedule: cold when you're away and warm when you're at home. In winter, set the thermostat to 68 degrees during the day (lower at night when you're snug in bed). By turning your thermostat down 10 to 15 degrees for at least eight hours, you can shave five to 15 percent from your heating costs.