



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1511 14,000 Rd, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330

866-784-5500

www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

**TWIN VALLEY
ELECTRIC CO-OP**

NEWS

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Angie Erickson
CEO

Board of Trustees

Bryan Coover
President

Larry Hubbell
Vice President

Dareld Nelson
Treasurer

Bryan Huckle
Secretary

Rodney Baker
Trustee

Tom Ellison
Trustee

Diane McCartney
Trustee

Jared Nash
Trustee

Jason Zwahlen
Trustee

Office Hours

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

Contact Us

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

Concern for Community

In 2019, you contributed **\$1,499.66**
to Operation RoundUp.

FROM THE MANAGER

We Love Our Community



Angie Erickson

"To move forward, you have to give back."

This quote from Oprah Winfrey reflects the special bond and obligation that ties Twin Valley Electric Cooperative

to the community we serve. With Valentine's Day approaching, we can't think of a better time to express how much we love this community and serving you, the members of the co-op.

We know when we helped bring electricity to rural Kansas many years ago, the quality of life improved for all. Through the years, other issues needed to be tackled, and we have been at the forefront of helping to address some of those issues. Most recently, we asked for your help in convincing our elected officials in Washington, D.C., to pass the RURAL Act. Because of these grassroots efforts, the bill was signed into law protecting more than 900 electric co-ops throughout the nation from losing their tax-exempt status. We want to continue to help meet the long-term needs of our community to ensure it continues to thrive – because just like you, we live here too.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to

you, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the consumer-members (that's you!) we serve. This focus to benefit the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. Twin Valley knows electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to make a community.

Over time, our co-op has evolved to meet the changing needs of our community, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone. And that can mean many different things. It can mean programs for Kansas' youth, such as education scholarships, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action, or Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, where students learn about the cooperative structure while gathering leadership lessons. It means contributing to Food 4 Kids, a program that provides food for local children who might otherwise go without. It means providing electrical safety education and demonstrations at local schools and other public events.

Over the last eight decades, our community-focused programs and other giving projects have built community parks and playgrounds, fed hungry

Continued on page 16C ►

Four Tips for Winter Safety

It's no surprise that winter months bring the increased potential for fire risks and electrical safety hazards. During the coldest months, individuals are using additional electrical devices and appliances, like space heaters, electric blankets and portable generators along with cooking inside more often.

The National Fire Protection Association estimates 47,700 home fires occur each year in the U.S. due to electrical failure or malfunction. These fires result in 418 deaths, 1,570 injuries and \$1.4 billion in property damage annually. This winter, safeguard your loved ones and your home with these electrical safety tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

DON'T OVERLOAD OUTLETS. Overloaded outlets are a major cause of residential fires. Avoid using extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliance connections — they should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. If you're relying heavily on extension cords in general, you may need additional outlets to address your needs. Contact a qualified electrician to inspect your home and add new outlets.

NEVER LEAVE SPACE HEATERS UNATTENDED. If you're using a space heater, turn it off before leaving the room. Make sure heaters are placed at least 3 feet away from flammable items. It

should also be noted space heaters take a toll on your energy bills. Space heaters should be used to warm up small spaces like a bedroom or office. If you're using them throughout your home, it may be time to upgrade your home heating system.

INSPECT HEATING PADS AND ELECTRIC BLANKETS. These items cause nearly 500 fires every year. Electric blankets more than 10 years old create additional risks for a fire hazard. Inspect your electric blankets and heating pads — look for dark, charred or frayed spots, and make sure the electrical cord is not damaged. Do not place any items on top of a heating pad or electric blanket, and never fold them when in use.

USE PORTABLE GENERATORS SAFELY. Unfortunately, winter storms can cause prolonged power outages, which means many consumers will use portable generators to power their homes. Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. For portable generators, plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator. Start the generator first, before you plug in appliances. Run it in a well-ventilated area outside your home. The carbon monoxide it generates is deadly, so keep it away from your garage, doors, windows and vents.

HELP KEEP LINEWORKERS SAFE

Lineworkers take great pride in providing safe and reliable service, but they depend on you to keep them safe. Remember to move over when you see a utility vehicle pulled over and never affix signs to electrical poles.



We Love Our Community

Continued from page 16B ►

families, enabled those in need to keep the lights on and so much more — and we couldn't do any of this without you, our members.

We all benefit from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the TVEC through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our community. We hope you will continue to guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we plan for the future. The energy landscape is undergoing dramatic change fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same. By working together, I'm certain we can continue to do good things for our community.

You Have a Voice at YOUR

CO-OP

— attend annual meeting to use it.

APRIL 9, 2020
LCHS CAFETERIA



CONNECT
ENGAGE
ELECT