



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
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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

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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

Stay in the Know by Keeping Us in the Know



Angie Erickson

At Twin Valley Electric, we constantly strive to improve our operational efficiency to provide the most reliable electric service possible for you, our

consumer-members.

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service you expect and deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. It

also allows co-op members to receive information about other important programs, events such as the co-op's annual meeting and the election of your board's representatives, and co-op sponsored activities.

While we always do our best to provide reliable service, making improvements and repairs to our equipment occasionally requires that we interrupt service. Having current contact information will allow us to inform our members of these planned outages quickly.

Keeping the co-op updated with your information also helps us when there's a question about energy use or billing. Discrepancies on your account can be taken care of promptly if Twin

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You Have a Voice at YOUR

CO-OP

— attend annual meeting to use it.

APRIL 9, 2020
LCHS CAFETERIA



**CONNECT
ENGAGE
ELECT**

Twin Valley Electric Sponsors Ross as Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Delegate



Amber Ross

Each year electric cooperatives all over our country select students to attend the annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, an educational trip to Washington, D.C.

AMBER ROSS, a junior from Chetopa High School, will be sponsored by Twin Valley Electric to attend the Youth Tour in June. She will join 35

other Kansas youth who will travel with the four-student delegation from Hawaii. In total, more than 1,800 students from 45 states will be in Washington, D.C., for the experience.

During Youth Tour, Ross will get the opportunity to tour the Kansas State Capitol and FreeState Electric Cooperative in Topeka before flying to D.C. While touring D.C., Ross will meet with elected officials from Kansas, witness government in action, and visit several national memorials and historical sites including: The White House, the U.S. Capitol, Ford's Theater, the National Cathedral, Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the National Archives, the National Aquarium, the Law Enforcement Museum, Ft. McHenry, the Smithsonian museums and more.

Ross was chosen after submitting an application, testing, and completing an interview.

This program was inspired by Sen. Lyndon Johnson after the National Rural Electric Cooperative (NRECA) annual meeting in Chicago of 1957. Johnson stated, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

As Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

"Twin Valley Electric believes in investing in our youth because we are creating the leaders of tomorrow," said Angie Erickson, CEO. "Twin Valley Electric looks to our youth to use the knowledge they gain during Your Tour to advocate for the rural communities when they return home and throughout their lives."

This year marks Kansas' 60th year in the Youth Tour program. For a brief overview of the tour, please visit our website at twinvalleyelectric.com.



Sorrell to Attend Co-op Youth Leadership Camp

ELSIE SORRELL, a junior from Labette County High School, will be sponsored by Twin Valley Electric to attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, this July 10-16. She will join 33 other Kansas youth who will also travel with the nine-student delegation from Oklahoma.

While at camp, Sorrell will participate in activities designed to build leadership and communication skills. She will also learn about electricity generation by touring Craig Power Plant, and learn about the cooperative business model by forming a fictitious candy cooperative. In addition to the educational activities, students get to participate in a volleyball tournament, whitewater rafting, a talent show and a dance.



Sorrell was chosen after submitting an application, testing and completing an interview.

This is the 43rd year that Kansas electric cooperatives have participated in the camp, sending the first campers to what was then called the Energy Seminar in 1977.

"Twin Valley Electric believes in investing in our youth because we are creating the leaders of tomorrow," said Angie Erickson, CEO. "We are excited to play a part in developing leadership and communication skills in our youth. Our hope is that, as a result of this opportunity, these kids become adults who are actively involved in their community."

For a brief overview of the camp, please visit our website at twinvalleyelectric.com.



Elsie Sorrell

See You at the Annual Meeting

Planning has begun for the Twin Valley Electric Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the Labette County High School Cafeteria in Altamont.

Twin Valley is governed by a board of directors. Each year, three director positions open after the previous directors' three-year terms have 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 have been elected and qualified. Those directors whose terms are expiring this year are District 1: Rodney Baker; District 2: Tom Ellison; and District 3: Dareld Nelson.

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 co-op. No member of the board may serve on this committee.

The board has appointed the following members to the nominating committee: **QUINTON SAYE, TIM PEARSON, JACOB HOPPE, PAM BAKER, KYLE ZWAHLEN, PERRY SORRELL, CATHY KIBLER, WILLARD**

April 2020						
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		

ROSS and LARRY GREGORY. The nominating committee met at Twin Valley's office on Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. and prepared a list of nominations for director positions. Those nominated are as follows:

- ▶ **DISTRICT 1 – RODNEY BAKER**
- ▶ **DISTRICT 2 – TOM ELLISON & MATTHEW ATTEBERRY**
- ▶ **DISTRICT 3 – DARELD NELSON**

This list will be posted at the office of the co-op 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 in the same location as that of the committee nominations, which are received at least five days before the meeting, and shall be included on the official ballot. Later nominations by petition shall be treated as nominations from the floor. Additionally, 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, please call the office at 866-784-5500.

Stay in the Know by Keeping Us in the Know

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Valley Electric has accurate account information.

It's also important we have the most up-to-date information for capital credits allocations. Even if you move from our service territory, please let us know your new address and contact information to ensure you receive allocations when they are approved by the board.

Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it's likely your account information hasn't been updated for some time. We recognize some members now use a cell phone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system.

I want to emphasize that in providing your contact information to the co-op, we will never share this information with any third parties. It is only used by Twin Valley to send important information to you. Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information. In doing so, you will be helping us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Placing hot food in the refrigerator makes the appliance work harder than necessary, using more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the fridge. **Source: energy.gov**

Assistance Available for Home Energy Costs

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) helps low-income persons meet their home energy costs by paying a portion of their energy utility.

Applications for the 2020 year must be received by the Department for Children and Families (DCF) Service Center by 5 p.m. on March 31, 2020. If you need assistance locating your nearest office address, you can call 800-432-0043 or go to the website www.dcf.ks.gov/services/Pages/DCFOfficeLocatorMap.aspx

Applicants must meet the following criteria to qualify:

- ▶ The gross income (before deductions) of all persons living at the address may not exceed 130% of the federal poverty level as listed to the right.
- ▶ An adult household member must be personally responsible for purchasing home energy incurred at the current residence, payable either to the landlord or to the fuel vendor.
- ▶ The household must demonstrate a

recent history of payments toward the purchase of their energy. Payments may be a combination of payments for natural gas, electricity, propane and firewood. The total of the payments must be at least \$80.

- ▶ The household must meet citizenship or lawful residency requirements.
- ▶ The household must meet application requirements.

LIEAP payments are made only one-time per year. Benefit amounts are determined based on federal funding received, anticipated number of applicants, type of dwelling, type of primary heating fuel, number of household members and household income. All benefits are payable to the energy provider and will be mailed directly to the provider to be credited to your account.

To apply, you may fill out an application online at www.lieap.dcf.ks.gov, click on "Apply for Services," then click on

2020 Income Eligibility Guidelines

Persons Living at the Address	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$1,354
2	\$1,832
3	\$2,311
4	\$2,790
5	\$3,369
6	\$3,748
7	\$4,227
8	\$4,705
*+1 – \$479 for each additional person	

"Energy Assistance." Applications can also be obtained from the DCF, your local Health Department, Twin Valley Electric, or other utility providers.

For further assistance call 800-432-0043 or visit www.lieap.dcf.ks.gov.



For further assistance call 800-432-0043 or to apply online visit www.lieap.dcf.ks.gov.

WHY IS TREE TRIMMING NECESSARY?



Tree and foliage **OVERGROWTH** can **INTERFERE** with **POWER DISTRIBUTION**.



Power lines can give off a **SPARK OR ARC** that may land on nearby branches and **IGNITE**.



The lights in your house may **FLICKER** when tree branches brush power lines during **HIGH WINDS**.



Stormy weather can cause nearby limbs to **BREAK OFF** and land on power lines.



Accessibility to maintain equipment and **RESTORE POWER** is important to keep **LINEWORKERS SAFE**.

TRIMMED TREES = GREATER RELIABILITY

A Downed Line Always Means Danger

If you see a downed power line after a bad storm or at an accident scene, **NEVER** get out to help or go near the downed line. Always assume a downed power line is energized and deadly. This also applies to any electrical equipment, including pad-mounted transformers (green boxes), other utility cabinets or fenced substations.

If you are involved in an accident with a downed line or other utility equipment — whether in a car, tractor, or any other type of vehicle or equipment — do not get out. If you exit the vehicle and walk away, you could be electrocuted. Instead, call 911 and wait for the utility to arrive to cut the power.

If you must leave a vehicle due to smoke or fire, make a solid jump out with your feet together and without touching the car or truck, and then hop — **DO NOT WALK** — with both feet at the same time at least 30 feet from the vehicle. Hopping helps prevent two different voltages of electricity from entering your body at the same time, which can cause shock and electrocution.