



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
 1511 14,000 Rd, 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 CEO

Board of Directors

Daniel Peterson
President

Bryan Coover
Vice President

Dareld Nelson
Treasurer

Bryan Hucke
Secretary

Rodney Baker
Trustee

Tom Ellison
Trustee

Larry Hubbell
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
620-784-5500
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

Co-op Connections Card Savings Update

In 2015, members saved **\$900.82** in pre-prescriptions using the Co-op Connections Card.



FROM THE MANAGER

Apply for Youth Tour Now!

What do 1,700 high school students, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives have in common? The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, of course!

Youth Tour was established with one thought in mind—to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since 1964, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperative, and Twin Valley alone has sent 12 students since 2004.

It all takes place in June, when electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C., for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing.

While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives youth an experience that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

We will also send one student to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO in July where students have an opportunity to experience the cooperative model first-hand, while being a part of this award-winning experience.

Twin Valley is taking applications for the 2016 Youth Tour until February 19. If you are a high school

junior interested in traveling to Washington, D.C., or Steamboat Springs, CO, to experience these trips of a lifetime, please complete and return the application included on page 16-C.

Perhaps you know of an exceptional student who would be a great candidate for these programs. If you do, and they meet the qualifications, please share this article with them. All students who complete an application and return it to Twin Valley's office will be invited for an interview on March 4, 2016. One student will be awarded the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip and another student will be awarded a trip to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

Students have repeatedly shared that these experiences have helped them grow into successful professionals. In addition, they have also benefited our local communities. Participants return home with a deeper understanding and skill set of what it takes to be leader, and as a result, they put these skills to use right here in our community.

Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing these experiences. For more information, call 866-784-5500 or visit www.twinvalleyelectric.coop.



Ron Holsteen

NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

Developing Better Leaders & Americans



William Worthy

A few years ago, Chelse Trollope, Twin Valley Electric's Accounting and Billing Analyst, and I, were fortunate to accompany 38 future leaders on an all-expense paid trip of a lifetime to our nation's capital. Thirty-four young men and women from Kansas and four from Hawaii were chosen to go on the 2012 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. We met up with representative delegates from 43 other states and had a great trip. The delegates spent six days touring and seeing the sites, documents, etc. that formed this great land we call home. Honestly, I was just as excited as the high school juniors and seniors that we accompanied. All the history that I have read and is taught in school was right in front of me.

Entering the National Archives and seeing the Declaration of Independence, the Magna Carta and the Constitution brought pride in my heart and a lump in my throat. Walking in the halls of the Capitol building and seeing the people that make the decisions for our future was humbling and very thought provoking. Running my hand along the wall at the Vietnam Memorial and seeing the names of men and women that gave their all to fight an unwinnable conflict made me feel pride in the sacrifice that many have given. Observing the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a moment in time that will forever be etched in my memory. We witnessed all of these great parts of our history and many, many more.



Chelse and I in 2012 with Twin Valley's winner Orren Taylor stand in front of the White House.

With all that is going on in our country today, and I will try to stay as neutral as possible while writing this, every American needs to see these glorious monuments and memorials to try to get back to the roots of what our founding fathers dreamed for this country. At times it seems the vision is lost or, at least muddled, in our society. No one gets anywhere by being given anything. Hard work, perseverance, determination and integrity get us through our lives. When I saw what was written more than 200 years ago in person, I know I am not alone in this thought. We are the land of the free, because of the brave, and the further we get away from the core founding beliefs, the more we begin to lose the very freedoms that so many have sacrificed life and limb for. If you ever have the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., do it. Not only is it an enjoyable trip, I feel it will make you a better American.

If you are a Twin Valley Electric member and you have a junior in high school, I encourage you to have them apply for this wonderful trip into history. A panel reviews applications and makes a selection based on the feedback of the students applying. For more information, contact our Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Winters. As always, feedback, comments or suggestions are welcome. You can email me at wworthy@twinvalleyelectric.coop.

By the way, the Pentagon has 284 restrooms.



One of the most eerie and thought provoking stops we made was the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

“Walking the halls of the Capital building and seeing the people that make the decisions of our future was very humbling and thought provoking.”

Attention High School Juniors

Don't Miss this FREE Trip of a Lifetime!



Each year, students from Kansas join more than 1,700 youth in Washington, D.C., to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. This year's Youth Tour is scheduled for June 9-16, 2016.



Kansas delegates attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp along with students from three other states to develop leadership skills and learn about co-ops. The 2016 CYLC will be July 16-22.

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., will send one high school junior to the Electric Cooperative 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 on

March 4 to pick the winners. All participating students will receive a prize.

To apply please complete, sign and return the application below to Twin Valley, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS, 67330 **BY FEBRUARY 19, 2016.**

Youth Tour Selection Process

Applicants must complete an application and return it to the cooperative office. Finalists will be quizzed and interviewed by a panel of judges at the cooperative offices.

For More Information

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

Application for Youth Tour Contest - Due by February 19, 2016

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 2016 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

Reminder: Mailing Address



It has been brought to our attention that there are still a few of our members and vendors that use our old mailing address. This error could cause a delay in Twin Valley receiving important mail. If you could please double check your address on your online banking payments and any other form of mailing you may send Twin Valley Electric, it would be appreciated.

Correct mailing:

Twin Valley Electric Co-op
P.O. Box 368
Altamont, KS 67330-0368

Corner Store Joins Co-op Connections

THE CORNER STORE has joined the Co-op Connections Card discount program and is offering card holders a free 20 oz. fountain drink with the purchase of \$20 in fuel.

The Corner Store is open 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week and is located at the corner of Ness Road and Hwy 160 in Altamont. They offer a wide variety of items including: breakfast, daily lunch specials, made to order pizza's, snacks, fountain drinks, fuel and so much more.

Altamont residents Ronnie

and Cindy Vanderford purchased the vacant convenience store in 2013. With the help of their family and friends, they opened for business in no time. The store has become quite a busy business in town. Special orders and the daily routine in the kitchen keeps things quite hectic inside while the fueling stations are always busy pumping fuel outside.



Twin Valley Dist. 2 Board Vacancy

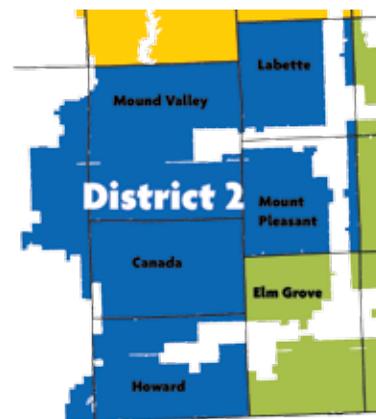
With the passing of a board member, there is a vacancy on the Twin Valley Electric Cooperative Board. If you are a member living in District 2 and are interested in serving on Twin Valley's board, please contact the office to receive an application.

District 2 consists of the area served by the cooperative in Montgomery County and the Labette County Townships of Canada, Howard, Mound Valley, Mt. Pleasant, and Labette.

Applications will be accepted until January 15, 2016. The Board of Directors will review the applications and fill the vacancy by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors.

The person selected will serve until the next annual meeting in April

2016 and then will have to stand for election by the members at that meeting for the two years remaining on the term of that office.



If you are a member living in District Two and are interested in serving on Twin Valley's board, please contact the office to receive an application.

Strict Federal Robo-calling Requirements

At Twin Valley Electric, maintaining good communication with our members is top priority. Advancements in technology offer more options for keeping lines of communication open, but many businesses are required to operate within the boundaries set by law and regulation, such as those issued by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC). In particular, FCC regulations control the use of auto-dialed and prerecorded calls—sometimes called “robo-calls”—sent to land lines and cell phones.

The steps Twin Valley must take to comply with FCC requirements stem from the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991, which was designed to help consumers avoid unwanted telephone solicitations. Over the years, the FCC has made it clear that this law also applies to robo-calls and texts sent to wireless devices. The bottom line, Twin Valley may use robo-calls/texts to communicate with members if consent was given prior to placing the call or text or if there is an “emergency purpose.”

This gets tricky when a co-op member discontinues use of a cell phone number that is subsequently assigned to a non-member.

We could face possible violations of \$500 per violation, or \$1,500 if the violation is found to be willful. The FCC may issue penalties of \$16,000 for each violation.

This is important to you, as a member, because we use notifications to communicate with you, such as past due reminders and disconnect notices, that could be considered violations to the requirements.

Twin Valley is working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) on this issue, and comments have been submitted to the FCC. Still pending before the Commission is a petition by the Edison Electric Institute and American Gas Association arguing that by simply providing a utility a phone number constitutes consent to receive non-telemarketing service-related calls.

We understand the importance of our members receiving information, and it is our hope that the FCC will issue a new order addressing these issues. We will keep you updated on this important issue, but in the meantime, let's keep the lines of communication open. Stop by our office, call or email us and to make sure we have your current contact information on file.