



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.

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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 **\$922.25** in pre-prescriptions using the Co-op Connections Card.



FROM THE MANAGER

Cooperatively Connected

Every day, Twin Valley Electric Cooperative is hard at work to make sure all of our members have the electric power they need at the best possible price. And behind the scenes, we are working with a network of co-ops to make that happen.

Twin Valley, along with 18 other distribution co-ops, formed the Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo). KEPCo owns part of the Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant and the Iatan 2 coal-fired generation plant, as well as having an allocation of hydro-power from the Southwest Power Pool. KEPCo contracts with other generation companies to provide the all of the power that the 19 co-ops require. We helped to create this second-tier co-op so that we have more control over power supply and pricing.

It takes a lot of money to run an electric co-op, so when we need to borrow capital beyond that available through the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), we turn to either the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) or CoBank. Both of these organizations are also co-ops. CFC is owned by electric co-ops throughout the country, and CoBank is owned by electric and agricultural co-ops nationwide.

As you know, every month we generate an electric bill that we send to you either electronically or through regular mail. We use the National Information

Solutions Cooperative to ensure we can apply the latest technology, help lower your energy costs and send timely, accurate bills to you.

No business can operate without several different types of insurance, such as general liability, auto and workmen's compensation. So once again, along with other electric co-ops across the country, we are members of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. This allows us to maintain reliable coverage at an affordable price.

Twin Valley is a member of Touchstone Energy, a nationwide alliance of 750 local, consumer-owned electric co-ops. Our participation allows us access to a wealth of informational materials. It also allows us to benchmark our performance in comparison with other co-ops so that we can learn from others as we constantly strive to serve you better.

Twin Valley is also part of the Cooperative Response Center, which allows us to answer your calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

So, while you are a member of one electric co-op, you are actually connected to many other co-ops. And being connected to this co-op network ensures your needs are met in the most efficient and cooperative way possible.



Ron Holsteen

NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

Thank You to Our Co-op Valentines



William Worthy

I again want to thank the families of all the Twin Valley employees for understanding and accepting the calls of duty that we get.

February...love is in the air. Time for roses and chocolates to be delivered to the ones that have been touched by Cupid's arrow. Cupid, that's a strange myth there. Whoever thought that a winged, chubby toddler shooting a weapon (no ban on bows and arrows yet) was the sign of romance...strange? Anyway, as I look back on 2015, and the number of hours our linemen and staff worked beyond their regular hours, the number surprised me. We had major storm events where all the cooperative employees were out all night and beyond. This coupled with outages due to other acts of nature, small animals, inattentive people, etc. made up many hours of maintenance overtime for 2015.

Our linemen and office personnel know this is part of working for an electric cooperative and take these things in stride. However, sometimes, and more often than not, these hours come right in the middle of dinner with their Valentine, a birthday party, a family get together, a dance recital or junior's tee-ball game. For that reason, I would like to thank the spouses, children and families of the Twin Valley employees who sacrifice time with their loved one when the thunder rolls and the telephone rings.

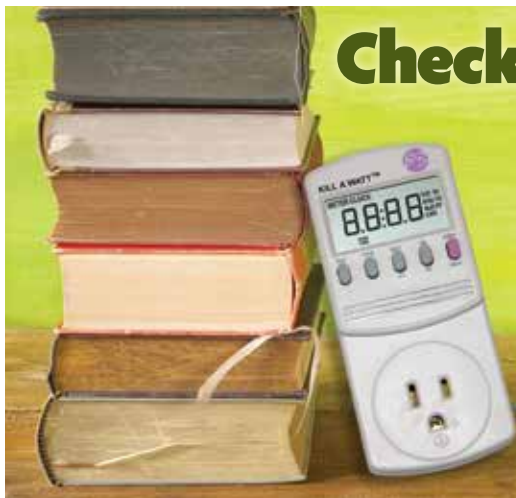
Each time our linemen roll out, they have no idea what awaits them. It could be as simple as a fuse blown or a bad connection up to poles and wire lying on the ground because a farmer caught a guy wire while plowing the back 40. Our linemen are well-trained and follow strict safety rules when it comes restoring power to

our members. They know that bending or breaking safety rules can lead to strict punishment if violated and they know the reason for this is to make sure they get back to family in one piece. Twin Valley is very proud of its safety program and our people for following it.

A new danger we are facing, and it is getting worse, is the public itself. The majority of our work is on the side of the road. We try to get as far off the road or on private property as much as possible, but at times, it is not feasible. Big white trucks and flashing lights would lead a person to believe that it would be impossible for a driver not to see people working.

However, these days, paying attention to where you are going seems to be falling further down the list when a person gets behind the wheel. Sending a "tweet," looking at the cute kitten picture or "LOL" seems to be more important than keeping the hands at 10 & 2 and keeping your eyes on the road. Please pay attention and pass along this information to the young drivers in your house. The life they save may be their own.

In closing, I again want to thank the families of all the Twin Valley employees for understanding and accepting the calls of duty that we get. Whether it is 4 p.m. or 4 a.m., our people do what is needed to get the lights back on. Until next month, stay warm and have a safe February. Always feel free to drop me a note or suggestion for this article to wworthy@twinvalleyelectric.coop.



Check Out a New Way to Curb Your Energy Usage

The Kill-A-Watt™ EZ is an electricity monitoring device designed to easily measure how much electricity is being used by your plug-in appliances at home or work. Find out how much money you would save in your electricity bills by turning them off and being smarter in your home energy management. The Kill-A-Watt EZ is now available for checkout at the Twin Valley office for a \$10 deposit, which will be refunded when the device is returned.

Borrow a Kill-A-Watt at Twin Valley Today!

Reliable Medical Supply & Rental Offers Co-op Connections Discount

RELIABLE MEDICAL SUPPLY & RENTAL, INC., offers 15 percent off any retail purchase to our Co-op Connections Card members.

Owner **MARK JACKSON** signed up for our card program back in 2012. Reliable Medical Supply & Rental, Inc., specializes in Enteral Nutrition. They also offer a full line in ostomy, wound care, incontinence and other medical needs.

Their office is located at 416 Huston Avenue in Altamont. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. You can also call 620-784-2580.



**CO-OP CONNECTIONS®
PHARMACY DISCOUNT**

By the numbers...

In one year, Co-op Connections processed 412,570 prescriptions.

The pharmacy discount saved members an average of **47%** on prescriptions. **94%** of these prescriptions were generic.

That's **\$9,925,763** in total savings.

54% On these prescriptions, members saved an average of

PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED BY AGE

Age Group	Percentage
0-19	3%
20-24	22%
25-44	44%
45-54	31%

NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED BY AGE

Age Group	Number of Prescriptions
0-19	11,012
20-24	39,653
25-44	47,570
45-54	81,653
55-64	98,211
65+	134,471

MOST POPULAR PRESCRIPTIONS

- ANTI-DEPRESSANTS/ ANTI-ANXIETY
- BLOOD PRESSURE/ BETA BLOCKERS
- PAIN RELIEVERS
- DIURETICS
- ANTIBIOTICS
- ANTI-SEIZURE
- ADHD

Parents saved \$232,533 on medications for children under 19!

For more information about Co-op Connections Card visit: www.connections.coop/healthy-savings

Pharmacy discounts are NOT insurance, and are NOT intended as a Substitute for insurance. This discount is only available at participating pharmacies.

Need Help With Home Energy Costs? LIEAP Can Help

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a Federally funded program that helps eligible households pay a portion of their home energy costs by providing a one-time per year benefit.



The 2016 application period is through Tuesday, March 31. Applications must be received prior to 5 p.m. on March 31. Online applications are available at www.ks-energy-assistance.com.

The following summary describes basic LIEAP eligibility provisions. Additional information may be obtained by calling 800-432-0043.

In order to qualify, applicants must meet the following requirements:

An adult living at the address must be personally responsible for paying the heating costs incurred at the current residence, payable either to the landlord or the fuel vendor.

Applicants must demonstrate a recent history of payments toward purchase of the primary heating energy.

The combined gross income (before deductions) of all persons living at the address may not exceed 130 percent of the federal poverty level according to the guidelines listed in the chart at right.

For more information call 800-432-0043 or visit www.ks-energy-assistance.com.

Persons Living at the Address	2016 Max. Allowable Monthly Income
1	\$1,276
2	\$1,726
3	\$2,177
4	\$2,628
5	\$3,078
6	\$3,529
7	\$3,980
8	\$4,430
9	\$4,881
10	\$5,332
11	\$5,783
12	\$6,234

+ add \$451 for each additional person

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 small participation gift.

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 _____