




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

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

Contact Us

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Co-op Connections

Use your Co-op Connections card at Big Chief Drive in Oswego to get a **FREE DRINK** with any meal purchase.

FROM THE MANAGER

Save with the Co-op Connections Card

Summer has quickly come and almost gone, but that doesn't mean the fun has to end! Did you know Twin Valley Electric Cooperative has a program in place to help you save on a variety of goods and services, from hotel discounts to fitness club memberships?

The Co-op Connections Card is a free program that saves Twin Valley members money on everyday expenses. The card also gives you access to Cash Back Mall, where you can get money back for shopping online at more than 3,000 leading online national retailers.

But it doesn't just help you save at big box stores and chains. The card also provides discounts for businesses right here in our local community. In fact, it was created specifically to help businesses on our community's main street! Lavender Landscapes Nursery & Gift Shop, Reliable Medical Supply, H&D Tire & Battery, Altamont Builders Supply, The Corner Store, Mound Valley Grocery, Vail's Automotive, Labette Avenue, Big Chief, Sonic Drive In (Oswego), Slane's Floral Shop, Parsons Fine Jewelry, George's Gifts & Cards, Riggs Drug Store and Oswego Veterinary all offer discounts when you show you Co-op Connections Card. And the program consistently

adds new retailers to help improve our members' experience and offer more savings in more places.

One of the most popular features is the prescription discount benefit. Even if you don't have insurance, the card will help you save up to 85 percent on your medications at more than 60,000 national, regional, and local pharmacies. Since 2008, members have saved \$272,000 on prescriptions using Co-op Connections. You can find participating pharmacy

locations at www.connections.coop/healthy-savings/locate-providers.

We know how important it is to save, and we want to make sure that you are taking full advantage of the programs we offer. The Co-op Connections card is an easy way to see the value of being an electric cooperative member. Don't let the end-of-summer blues get you down. Plan a trip for the family, get discounted rates for hotels and rental cars or take advantage of other deals available to you. It really is the one card that does it all.

You can learn more about the discounts by visiting www.twinvalleyelectric.coop or www.connections.coop, or call our office at 866-784-5500.



Ron Holsteen





WE NEED YOU

If you are **purpose-driven**, **community-oriented** and **service-focused**, we want you to join our national network of dedicated, electric co-op employees. We are seeking talented individuals in these diverse fields:

- ▶ **Engineering and Operations**
- ▶ **Business Administration**
- ▶ **Community & Economic Development**
- ▶ **Information Technology**
- ▶ **Member Services**
- ▶ **And many more!**

Join the co-op family today by visiting touchstoneenergy.jobs



NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

Twin Valley Linemen Participate in Pole-Top and Bucket Rescue Training



William Worthy

OSHA 1910.269(a)(2)(i) requires that workers be trained in and familiar with the safety-related work practices, procedures, and requirements

that pertain to their job assignments. This includes pole top rescue for those who work on overhead lines and manhole rescue for those who work underground.

On Thursday, July 14, Twin Valley Electric Cooperative journeyman linemen and apprentice linemen participated in their annual OSHA required training of pole-top rescue and bucket rescue. This training is done in the unfortunate event of an injury to a lineman in the air. No lineman ever wants to put this practice into motion in real life, but we have to be prepared for anything. We also require our all of our employees to have first aid and CPR training in the event a fellow employee or a member is injured or suffers a medical emergency.

Falls or injuries related to walking over uneven terrain that can lead to sprains and strains are a constant issue, and climbing a 40-foot pole with upward of 50 pounds of tools and safety equipment can be stressful on every joint in the body. Balance, strength and confidence are what linemen mostly rely on when

ascending a pole. Fortunately, we are able to get an aerial lift (bucket truck) to the majority of poles we have to work on. Climbing is the reason for most falls and strains. Plus if there is contact with the primary conductor, the line will need to be de-energized and grounded before any work can be done. This delay can extend a service interruption and inconvenience our members.

We do most of the work out of a bucket truck while the line is energized or "hot" as to not interrupt and inconvenience our members. This also saves wear and tear on the linemen. On a normal work day, it is not uncommon for a Twin Valley lineman to handle 7,620 volts for most of the day. Untying an energized, aged conductor that has been in the air for 50-plus years can be stressful. Along with the concern of the conductor potentially breaking, linemen must watch their every move as to not come in contact with anything at a different potential that could cause an arc or flashover.

As a result of our training, safety meetings, personal protective equipment (PPE) and well-cared-for equipment, Twin Valley Electric Cooperative has an impeccable safety record. I am very proud of our linemen and office staff as we go about the daily tasks of keeping the lights on. As always, if you have any questions or comments, email me directly at wworthy@twinvalleyelectric.coop.

Twin Valley Offices to Close for Labor Day on Sept. 5

Twin Valley Electric will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of Labor Day.



Co-op Linemen Qualify in Pole-Top Rescue

Say hello to your Twin Valley Electric linemen. We took the opportunity during our 2016 Pole Top Rescue training to put a name and a face to the men that keep your lights on.

Adam



Joe



Kelly



Tyler



Scott



Kendall



Seth



Avoid Hazards with Grain Bins and Power Lines

Electrical power is an indispensable part of modern agricultural operations. In fact, electricity is so commonplace a farm operation that it can easily become a part of the scenery. One often overlooked safety consideration is the power line clearance required for grain bins.

Equipment and vehicles, such as augers and grain trucks, around grain bins are particularly at risk of coming into contact with overhead power lines. It is important that bins be built a safe distance from power lines to help ensure the safety of all farm workers.

The National Electrical Safety Code sets minimum clearances around grain bins. It requires that high-voltage power lines (over 600 volts) be at least 18 feet above the highest point on a grain bin. Additionally, the code sets the minimum distance that power lines must be from grain bins, depending on the bin's height. For instance, a bin that is 15 feet tall must be at least 55 feet from power lines on its loading side, and a bin that is 50 feet tall must be at least 143 feet from power lines on its loading side.

The State of Kansas may have

additional requirements. If you're planning to build a new grain bin, contact Twin Valley Electric before any construction begins. We can help you determine minimum safety requirements.

Remember these additional tips when you operate farm equipment around power lines:

- ▶ Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines, at all times, in all directions;
- ▶ Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance;
- ▶ Always remember to lower extensions when moving loads;
- ▶ Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines;
- ▶ Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance; and
- ▶ If a power line is sagging or low, contact Twin Valley Electric.



Building a structure too close to overhead power lines can create an electric shock danger during and after construction.

If equipment does come into contact with a power line, remember, stay on the equipment until Twin Valley Electric has arrived to de-energize the lines. Warn others to stay away, and call the local utility provider immediately. The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, "bunny hop" away to safety.

For more information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Souders Retires after 31 Years of Service

Twin Valley Electric Journeyman Lineman **BUDDY SOUDERS** retired on July 8, after 31 years of service to the cooperative.

Souders began his career with Twin Valley in 1985.

"Paul was a great employee," said Ron Holsteen, Twin Valley's CEO. "His knowledge, experience, and dedication will be missed at the cooperative."

Souders and his wife, Susan, live in Altamont.

The Twin Valley employees and board of Trustees wish Buddy the best in his retirement.



Left: Twin Valley celebrates Buddy Souders' 31 years of service at Twin Valley Electric as a Journeyman Linemen.



Right: Buddy and his wife, Susan, pose for a photo at the retirement party.