




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
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**KAW VALLEY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# LightTalk



**Kaw Valley Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**  
 Jerry Manning—General Manager

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**Energy Efficiency  
Tip of the Month**

Keep cool this summer! Energy Star certified refrigerators are about 9-10 percent more energy efficient than models that meet the federal minimum energy efficiency standard.

**FROM THE MANAGER**

## 2015 Annual Meeting Highlights



**Jerry Manning**

On April 1, we welcomed several hundred of our friends, neighbors and members to the Annual Meeting of Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative. Mother

Nature was kind to us once again and we enjoyed a large crowd. Members were welcomed to a barbecue style buffet dinner catered by Aboud's. It was a time to catch up with friends, vote for trustees and hear about the status of the cooperative.

The makeup of the Board of Trustees changed in 2015. Shirley Henderson retired from her posi-

tion on the Board after 15 years. In Trustee elections, she was replaced by Don Montgomery from Burlingame. Bill Conley, Delia, was also officially elected to serve on the Board. Bill had been appointed to serve a vacancy on the Board when his father, Joe Conley, retired after 50 years of service to Kaw Valley. I want to extend a warm welcome to our new Trustees and a hearty congratulations to Shirley and Joe for their commitment to the members of Kaw Valley.

The primary topic of the evening was the strategic alliance with Leavenworth Jefferson Electric Cooperative (LJEC) in McLouth. Our two cooperatives are close in distance, territory

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A large crowd of members and guests enjoyed a barbecue dinner on April 1.

## Kaw Valley Makes Way for Construction Projects

Two major construction projects are ongoing and directly affect Kaw Valley. The first, in Topeka, is the beginning phase of a roundabout project at 29th and Indian Hills Road. In conjunction with the project, a bus turnaround is being built at the adjacent school.

Kaw Valley crews have moved poles, trimmed trees and relocated services while working with city and county engineers. All utilities in the area are being relocated including all electrical, water, cable television and telephone services.

The project has caused closure of 29th street from an area east of the school nearly all the way to Urish Road in addition to the closure of Indian Hills from 29th to 33rd Streets. Please be aware of crews working in the area.

Another project in the Kaw Valley territory creating some anticipation is a road and bridge project in Douglas County over the K-10 bypass in west Lawrence. Dirt work is being completed for the ramps and the support structures for the bridge are taking shape.

Once this construction is complete it may open a significant opportunity for growth in that vicinity with easy highway access in a good location near Lawrence. Much of the area west of the bypass is served by Kaw Valley and we look forward to future expansion in the area.

## 2015 Annual Meeting Highlights *Continued from page 16-A*

size, number of members served, number of employees and we both serve a primarily residential membership. We have used these things to our advantage as we continue to examine how we can best serve you while maintaining the reliability you expect and keeping your cost of electricity down. We will be able to accomplish this moving ahead by not filling positions left vacant by retirements, as well as combining processes that are the same, yet being performed by two different people 40 miles apart.

We hired a consultant to look thoroughly at our operations and help us find these savings. Very simply, there is \$13.5 million we may be able to save in the next 10 years. However, this amount will only be realized with a positive vote from the membership at next April's Annual Meeting.

If each membership, Kaw Valley and LJEC, votes in favor, we are



Children fishing for prizes in the "Fish Pond."



William Lucero (right) won the drawing for an LED HDTV donated by Kriz-Davis.

confident we can hit and exceed our savings targets. This means more stable rates for you moving ahead and less frequent rate increases. We are in a period where rates will continue to rise, but through this consolidation, we are working to slow that increase as much as we can.

Tell your fellow members to keep up with the latest information about the consolidation by reading this magazine, going to our website, following us on Facebook or by calling the office. We are at your service and working for you, our members!



Board President Dallas Caster updated members on the changes at the cooperative.

## Survey Results Say Members are Satisfied with Service

A telephone survey was taken during December and January of 365 randomly-selected members of Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative. A group from Pittsburg State University conducted the survey and tabulated the results. The firm was hired to establish a baseline to help us evaluate your opinion of the cooperative, services you may be interested in and what you may or may not know about the cooperative.

Our findings were interesting in several areas. Overall, members are very satisfied with our service. Those surveyed found three or less to be an acceptable number of outages at their residence per year.

Members were asked which services they would like to see the cooperative offer including energy audits, internet service and discount programs. Overwhelmingly, our members prefer discount programs almost 2-1 over anything else

the cooperative may offer.

Perhaps most striking was the awareness of our potential consolidation with LJEC. We found that of all 365

members surveyed, not a single person knew about these plans. Further, not a single person was in favor of it—that is until they found out it would save them money—then every single person was in favor.

Moving ahead we know that we must do a better job of communicating with our members. We must also deliver on our assurance that a consolidation will save you money. We'll keep

delivering our top rated service both from our line crews as well as our inside personnel.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey. With your help, we will build a better, stronger cooperative.

Did You Know the  
**Kaw Valley &  
LJEC Alliance**  
will **SAVE YOU  
MONEY?**

## Putting Safety First This Month & Throughout the Year

It's May—and Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative is celebrating National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our members is the top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of safety excellence.

This year, we're focusing on electrical safety in the home. Electricity is the cause of more than 140,000 fires each year, resulting in approximately 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries and \$1.6 billion in property damage, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of your loved ones. Use these helpful tips from ESFI to safeguard your home.

### In the kitchen

- ▶ Vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards.
- ▶ Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink.
- ▶ All appliance cords should be

placed away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.

- ▶ The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.

### Light the way to safety

- ▶ The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- ▶ Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition—not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center.
- ▶ Extension cords should not be used to provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional receptacles installed by a profes-

sional to provide power where needed.

### Be prepared

- ▶ Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- ▶ Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once a year—or sooner if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions. All smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.
- ▶ Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency escape route—they are more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it.

Electrical safety awareness and education can save lives. For more tips and information about electrical safety, visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).





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**REPLACE, NEVER REPAIR DAMAGED EXTENSION CORDS.**

Helping members use electricity safely, that's the power of your co-op membership.  
Learn more from the experts themselves at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).



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**TOGETHERWESAVE.COM**