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1100 SW Auburn Rd, Topeka, KS 66615
785-478-3444
www.kve.coop

KAW VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

LightTalk



Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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FROM THE MANAGER

Cooperative Alliance Savings to Date

The Kaw Valley Electric (KVE) and Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative (LJEC) alliance announced in October 2014 has been working for members by generating savings, as well as projecting significant savings over the next 10 years.

Assuming a consolidated electric co-op following the vote in April 2016, we have forecasted an increase in savings of up to 75 percent over 10 years for our members.

How are we saving? We are doing this in a variety of ways, but it all comes down to the efficiency gained. In addition, a significant amount of savings comes from bulk pricing, taking advantage of special offers, retirements, and sharing resources and equipment.

We are already seeing direct savings since the alliance was announced. Cost-of-service studies have been

delayed that were planned for 2015 at LJEC, and 2016 at KVE. This means that a rate increase was immediately delayed due to the alliance between the two co-ops. This translates into savings for our membership—a priority of the alliance.

In April 2016, the members of both co-ops will vote on the consolidation. Members will have a say on whether the consolidation passes. Regardless of the vote, a management alliance will still be in place to manage the two co-ops. However, the savings will not be as great through the management alliance.

A consolidation vote renders a savings of \$13.5 million over 10 years. If the consolidation vote fails and the management alliance continues, the savings will be significantly less at only \$3.4 million over 10 years.

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Jerry Manning

Alliance Question of the Month

Why is the alliance happening now?

Kaw Valley Electric and Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative have been working hard to hold down rates by reducing operating costs without affecting our high quality, reliable service.

The greatest cost savings and timing for the alliance center on upcoming employee retirements at both cooperatives. Under the alliance, as employees retire, jobs will be filled internally based on how we blend our operations to ensure maximum cost savings and operating efficiencies, while providing high quality, reliable service.

Each month we'll address a question regarding the cooperative alliance between Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative and Kaw Valley Electric. Do you have a question you'd like us to address regarding the alliance? Feel free to submit your question to info@kve.coop.

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

ASHLEY BROXTERMAN and **GAVIN MITCHELL** were sponsored by Kaw Valley Electric on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., from June 11-18. Below are their reflections on their week long trip.

These local youth joined more than 1,700 high school students to tour important historical sites, learn about our nation's government, and to develop their leadership skills.

The youth toured the U.S. Capitol, Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Smithsonian museums, Mt. Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, several



memorials, along with seeing the Broadway musical Disney's *Newsies* at the National Theatre and attending a professional ballgame at the Nationals Stadium. The delegates also attended the NRECA Youth Day that brought together 1,700 youth from 43 states.

Kaw Valley sponsors the Youth Tour each year as part of our strong commitment to the community and our mission to help the future generations to become leaders. Kaw Valley sponsors two for the trip. For more information about the trip, contact Sarah Farlee at 913-796-6111.

Truly the Trip of a Lifetime BY GAVIN MITCHELL

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour was one of the most exciting, meaningful, and educational trips in my life. Being able to see all the rich history of the United States was purely amazing! The sponsors of the trip deserve a huge thank you!

The most touching part of the trip for me was when I had the opportunity to go to the Smithsonian museum of American History where I saw the Star-Spangled Banner. The very flag that was flown over Fort McHenry during

the War of 1812 in which inspired our National Anthem and to then travel to Fort McHenry to see where it was flown, was a very emotional experience.

On this trip, we did things that I will never forget; from the Holocaust Museum where I learned about the horrific trag-

edies that occurred, to touching the Berlin Wall and wreckage of 9/11 in the Newseum. My heart will always remember those emotions and the gratitude I feel toward the men and women that made a difference in those dark times.

The more places we went, the deeper my appreciation grew and I also learned more of our representatives in D.C. and gained a stronger respect for them. To summarize the trip in words wouldn't do it justice. Our trip was, truly, a trip of a lifetime.



Gavin poses at the Pentagon Memorial.



Gavin Mitchell was one of 37 Kansas delegates to visit our nation's capital.

An Opportunity I Will Never Forget BY ASHLEY BROXTERMAN

The 2015 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I will never forget. I not only made forever friends, but I experienced a lot of new things. I had my first airplane ride, visited my first big city, and learned so much each day.

We saw so many incredible sights in our nation's capital. Ford's Theatre, Peterson House, Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, and the International Spy Museum. We took in a wonderful performance of "Newsies" at the National Theatre. We also toured Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Holocaust Memorial Museum was very emotional, and the Smithsonian Museums were interesting. We took a moonlight cruise and dance on the beautiful Potomac River to meet other delegates from around the country.

The best tour guide I've ever met, Amy Gold, took us to see memorials including the Korean War, Lincoln, Vietnam War, and World War II.

On Youth Day, we gathered to eat breakfast and all the states participated in pin trading. We then heard from several speakers who inspired us to be the best version of us we could be.

We took a walk to Capitol Hill to meet with the Kansas congressmen and women. We later met with Senators Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran. We were able to ask them a variety of questions and got to know the politicians representing us.

My favorite moment of the trip was seeing the Iwo Jima Memorial, and Sunset Parade. I was blown away by the military marching band and the silent parade. We also took in the Martin Luther King Jr., and Jefferson Memorials, as well as the National Archives.

We even took a trip to Baltimore where we experienced their beautiful city, the National

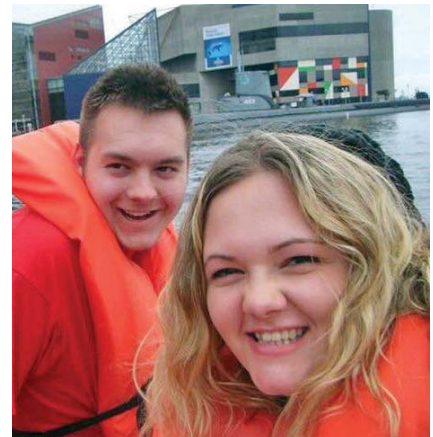


Above: Ashley Broxterman stops for a photo in front of the Washington Monument. Below: Ashley and a fellow delegate paddle boating in Chesapeake Bay.

Aquarium, and we could paddle boat on Chesapeake Bay. I even experienced my first Major League Baseball game between the Nationals and Tampa Bay Rays.

We didn't go hungry on our trip! We ate at the Hard Rock Café, Old Ebbitt Grill, the Sculpture Garden Pavilion Café, and Bens Chili Bowl, among others.

I want to thank Kaw Valley Electric for making this possible. This trip was an opportunity I will never forget.



The 2015 Kansas and Hawaii delegates stop in front of the White House for a photo.



FUN FIVE

Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

Lisa Scott

Director of Human Resources
20 years at Kaw Valley



Lisa Scott

Q: If you could have a super power, what would it be?

A. The super power I would like to possess would be being able to fly. I would love to soar with the birds.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do on a Sunday?

A. I love to hang out with my granddaughters, they are five and six and all girl. They love to play dress up and have tea parties.

Q: What is one thing most people don't know about you?

A. My nickname is Isado. When I was younger my father would ask "who wants to go with me?" I couldn't pronounce my Ls so I would answer Isado. My family and friends still call me that.

Q: Do you collect anything?

A. I collect Lady Head Vases from the 1950-60s.

Q: What is the best part of your job?

A. Helping and getting to know the people I work with.

Best & Zemek Achieve Credentials

BRYCE BEST and **DEREK ZEMEK**, Kaw Valley Electric linemen, have successfully completed one of the world's most comprehensive training programs for powerline personnel.

The Merchant Job Training and Safety (MJTS) program is administered to line personnel in 40 states throughout the United States. The academic program is administered electronically for immediate response including assistance through a website.

Each utility has an acting Training Coordinator assisting their Trainees by administering "closed book" testing. The coordinators manage their own people throughout the training process from rules set by the MJTS and the statewide association people.

Congratulations to Bryce and Derek on this achievement!

Alliance Savings to Date Continued from page 16-A

You may ask, if we are seeing these savings will rates go down? Unfortunately, the answer is no. Rates will not go down.

We are seeing increased costs across the business of co-ops related to production, distribution, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations. Savings we gain will help offset only a portion of the increases we are experiencing. The savings we see now (and savings projected) will help stabilize an eventual rate increase that will have to occur to maintain operating margins for the co-op. Without an alliance, and/or eventual consolidation both co-ops risk dramatic

increases in cost of service.

In the coming months we will be providing more information on the alliance, the consolidation vote, and your co-op. We will also provide more detailed long-term cost savings. As we look forward to the consolidation vote there is energy and excitement as we anticipate the positive impact this will have on members and the services and programs we can offer in the future.

As always, if you have any questions about the alliance, consolidation vote, or your electric service, we encourage you to email us at info@kve.coop, call 800-794-2011, or visit www.kve.coop.

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