



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

Save energy and money by lowering your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees. This will also slow mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

FROM THE MANAGER

Looking Forward



Jerry Manning

At Kaw Valley Electric, we're looking forward to 2016 because it is shaping up to be one of our biggest years yet.

One of the highlights of the year will be our annual meeting on April 19. This year the annual meeting will also include the vote on the consolidation with Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative. This consolidation is something that both cooperatives have been hard at work on since October 2014. The work continues behind the scenes, and will continue as we move forward.

We're working on updates to our regulations, and how we can better serve our members. We want each and every one of you to benefit from programs and offerings that will help you save money and be as energy efficient as possible.

As you all work to be more energy efficient to save on your electric bill, here at Kaw Valley we are working to be more efficient to keep the cost of business down. We'll be improving our billing processes, identifying and implementing best practices, and we'll implement easier ways for you to

pay your bill over the phone. We are looking at new technology available and how we can utilize it to make your overall experience better and more secure.

The introduction of new member service practices doesn't mean your first-class service will go away. We are still fully committed to giving you the quality service you deserve. You will still be able to call on us to answer questions, and we'll be available for you when you visit the office.

I've been asked about how the consolidation will change the cooperative. To be really honest, the biggest changes won't be noticeable to our members. Those changes will be on the business side of the cooperative. However, you may notice a new name and logo, and more resources and programs available.

Next month we'll provide more information on the consolidation, including the introduction of the new name and logo. We'll also introduce you to the board of trustee candidates up for election.

We look forward to April 19, and we hope you are too!

As always if you have questions about your service or the cooperative, we encourage you to contact us at 785-478-3444 or email us at info@kve.coop.

BOARD PERSPECTIVE

Seeing the Bigger Picture

BY MARK WULFKUHLE, DIST. 7 TRUSTEE



Mark Wulfkuhle

We are a global society. People, products and services have become more accessible. We can buy just about anything with the tap of a finger, and we can have conversations about our services through email, text messaging and even social media. Businesses, farms and rural communities are on an equal playing field nowadays due to this accessibility.

However, that doesn't mean excellent hometown customer service has to disappear.

Rural electric cooperatives are no exception when it comes to being more accessible. We are able to provide our members with up-to-date information on usage and efficiency practices. Members are able to receive information about outages, and they are also able to provide us with feedback through social media platforms. Business is constantly evolving, and in order to stay ahead and competitive, it is important to embrace change and look at the big picture to take advantage of opportunities ahead.

As we look to the consolidation vote on April 19, it is important to remember that the joining of Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative and Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative is nothing new to the rural electric industry. It has almost become a necessity in some areas in order to keep power reliable and affordable.

We can do both with the proposed consolidation. By joining LJEC, we are doubling our coverage area and that means we have more resources available. More resources not only helps our members, but it helps our staffs, and it

gives us buying power.

The increased buying power helps us share costs. We can look at ways to share equipment, and we can purchase materials more efficiently. This all leads to saving the cooperative money, and that means saving our members money and putting us in a position to keep rates as stable as we can for as long as we can.

Our staffs now have an opportunity to become more specialized, and our larger size can also provide more opportunities for development and will help us recruit top-notch talent. In the field and on the line, the consolidation essentially doubles our workforce. We're able to rely on LJEC for assistance with major outages, and we can provide them with assistance when needed as well. This consolidation benefits both cooperatives' members.

Membership will always be first priority. I feel fortunate to be working with LJEC because they view members as a priority, just like we do here at Kaw Valley. Both cooperatives are committed to providing that first-class service you all deserve. You will continue to see the linemen you have come to know working at your homes and along our lines. You'll also still get that great hometown feel and local service when you visit with our staff in the field or in the office.

I am proud to support the proposed consolidation between Kaw Valley and LJEC by voting "yes" on April 19 because it means gaining resources, saving money, and seeing the bigger picture.

MARK WULFKUHLE lives near Berryton and has served as a Trustee of District 7 since 2009.

Kaw Valley Offers Safety Training to Firefighters

MARK RAINES, Engineering Operation Technician, and **RANDY RICHARDS**, Safety and Compliance Manager, both from Kaw Valley, trained volunteer firefighters from Delia Rural Fire District No. 5



on electrical safety. The training was organized to instruct first responders, like firefighters, on what to do if they encounter downed lines at the scene of an accident or natural disaster.



Mark Raines leads a group of volunteer firefighters in safety training (left). Raines performs a table top safety demonstration using a power line model (right).

2016 Youth Tour Contest Application

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour – June 9-16, 2016

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp – July 16-22, 2016

If you are a high school junior, and your parents or guardians are Kaw Valley Electric members, you are eligible to apply.

Kaw Valley Electric will send two students to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 9-16, 2016, and one student to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO, July 16-22, 2016.

Complete the application below by **February 15, 2016**.

When you mail in the application below, you will be sent an official packet.



Ashley Broxterman visits the White House during the 2015 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Applicants will complete a quiz and personal interview at the Kaw Valley offices on Sunday, March 6, 2016.

For more information, contact Sarah Farlee at sarah.farlee@ljeec.coop or call 913-796-6111.



Gavin Mitchell stops in front the Washington Monument while on the 2015 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. This year's tour is June 16-22, 2016.

Scan these Codes to Get More Information

Washington, D.C.



Steamboat Springs, CO



Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

High School: _____

Email Address: _____

**Please provide an address that is checked often, as materials and requests will be emailed to the provided address.*

I hereby grant permission for the above named applicant to enter the 2016 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative.

Signature of parent/guardian (must be an Kaw Valley member residing in the coverage territory)

**Return application request to:
Kaw Valley
Attn: Sarah Farlee
507 N. Union, McLouth, KS 66504**

This form is a request for an official application packet. You will be notified of application process details upon receipt of this request form.



Join the conversation about the upcoming consolidation vote. Join leadership from Kaw Valley and Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperatives to discuss the future of your electric cooperative and learn how plugging in to the future can stabilize your rates, and improve your service.

March 2, 2016
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Kaw Valley Electric Office

March 8, 2016
2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Sommerset Hall Cafe, Dover

March 3, 2016
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
LJEC Office

March 24, 2016
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Auburn Community Center

www.voteyesApril19.com