




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
 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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Happy Holidays

Office Closed Dec. 24-25 & Jan. 1



Kaw Valley wishes our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our offices

will be closed December 24-25 and January 1 in observance of these holidays.

FROM THE MANAGER

Reflecting This Holiday Season

It's hard to believe that the holidays are upon us. It is such a busy time of year for all of us, but I wanted to take a few moments to reflect and rejoice this season about the year we've had in 2015.

As we work to better communicate with our members, we hope you have enjoyed receiving *Kansas Country Living*. We made the move to this monthly publication to better serve our membership with more frequent updates on the cooperative. This is a positive change that will continue into the future.

Another progressive move forward has been the installation of the automatic metering infrastructure (AMI) System that will assist in more accurate meter readings, allow you to monitor your electric consumption, and allow us to help you pinpoint better ways to conserve and save you money. This process will continue into 2016. Currently, the installation is nearly two-thirds complete.

As we wrap up 2015, we also finish the third year of an \$8.8 million, four-year construction work plan that provides capital investment in our delivery system. This work plan will continue to provide our members with reliable service.

In addition, we were able to retire \$350,000 in capital credits in 2015! This was a great way to celebrate our outstanding customer satisfaction score

of 93 points on the American Customer Satisfaction Index, which was quite an accomplishment for the staff here at Kaw Valley, and something of which we are very proud.

As we look to 2016, we will continue working with our alliance partner Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative as we move toward consolidation, and the membership vote on April 19. We have realized even greater savings since the consolidation was announced just over a year ago.

The original projected savings amount of \$13.5 million has increased to \$18 million in savings assuming a consolidated state in April. That increase of projected savings is due in large part to the outstanding staffs at both cooperatives.

As you can see, we have a lot to reflect on this holiday season and many positives coming in 2016.

On behalf of the entire staff at Kaw Valley Electric, I want to wish you, our members, and your families a very happy holiday, and prosperous new year!

As always, we encourage you to contact us with any questions about this publication, or the cooperative. You can reach us at info@kve.coop, or by calling our office at 1100 SW Auburn Road in Topeka at 800-794-2011.



Jerry Manning

Find Help Paying Your Utility Bills

The following agencies have been known to assist people who may need help paying utility bills. Kaw Valley is not affiliated with any of these organizations. Contact information is provided as a courtesy to you, our members.

- ▶ **AMERICAN RED CROSS**
 - ▶ Topeka: 785-234-0568
 - ▶ Leavenworth: 913-682-6222
 - ▶ Atchison: 913-367-5355
- ▶ **DOORSTEP TOPEKA**
 - ▶ 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., 785-357-5341
- ▶ **KANSAS CHILDREN'S SERVICE LEAGUE**
 - ▶ 785-357-4763
 - ▶ Must have children living in the house
- ▶ **LET'S HELP**
 - ▶ 200 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, 785-234-6208, By appointment only
- ▶ **NORTHEAST KANSAS COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM (NEK-CAP)**
 - ▶ Holton: 785-364-3266
 - ▶ Topeka: 785-235-9296
- ▶ **PENN HOUSE**
 - ▶ 1035 Pennsylvania St., Lawrence, 785-842-0440
- ▶ **SALVATION ARMY**
 - ▶ Topeka, 785-233-9648
- ▶ **SHARE THE WARMTH**
 - ▶ 816-285-2796
- ▶ **SRS - SOCIAL REHABILITATIVE SERVICE LIEAP - LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**
Available January-March
 - ▶ www.ks-energy-assistance.com/lieap
 - ▶ 800-432-0043
 - ▶ 500 Van Buren, Topeka, 785-296-2500
 - ▶ 1901 Delaware, Lawrence, 785-832-3700
- ▶ **TOPEKA NORTH OUTREACH**
 - ▶ 785-286-1370
- ▶ **WARM HEARTS**
 - ▶ 785-841-5756

Kaw Valley Welcomes Murray & West

Kaw Valley Electric recently hired two new Member Services Representatives.

KELSEY

MURRAY comes to Kaw Valley Electric from CoreFirst Bank & Trust where she worked as a teller and personal banker. A native of southwest Topeka, Murray currently lives in the Scranton area. Outside of the office, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, playing with her dogs, exercising, and



Kelsey Murray



Lindsey West

hunting with her fiancé Rodger.

LINDSEY

WEST comes to Kaw Valley Electric from CoreFirst Bank & Trust where she worked for three years as a

teller and personal banker. A native of Topeka, West and her husband reside in the Auburn area. In her spare time, she enjoys recreation, hunting, and being outdoors.

Kaw Valley welcomes Murray and West to the cooperative family!

Cold Weather Policy—Effective Nov. 15-March 15

Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative follows the Cold Weather Rule (CWR) to allow for special payment and disconnection procedures for any residential member with unpaid arrearages to retain or restore electric service throughout the cold weather period, which extends from November 15 through March 15.

The cooperative will not disconnect a member's service between November 15 and March 15 when the local office forecasts the temperature will drop below 35 degrees within the following 24-hour period unless:

- ▶ It is at the member's request;
 - ▶ The service is abandoned;
 - ▶ A dangerous condition exists on the member's premises;
 - ▶ The member violates any rule of the cooperative which adversely affects the safety of the member or other persons, or the physical integrity of the cooperative's delivery system;
 - ▶ The member causes or permits unauthorized interference with, or diversion or use of (meter bypass) electric service situated or delivered on or about the member's premises.
- In any of these situations, the cooperative may disconnect the service immediately.

In order to keep from getting dis-

connected when the local office forecasts the temperature to be 35 degrees or above within the following 24-hour period or to get reconnected regardless of temperature, a member must comply with the following provisions:

- ▶ Inform the cooperative of the member's inability to pay the bill in full;
- ▶ Give sufficient credit information to allow the cooperative to make a payment agreement;
- ▶ Make an initial payment of the arrearage, plus the bill for consumption during the most recent billing period for which service was provided, divided by six;
- ▶ Apply for federal, state, local or other funds for which the member is eligible;
- ▶ Enter a level payment plan for current and future consumption with arrears paid in equal installments over the months remaining through October with the final installment payment due October 9;
- ▶ Not illegally divert (bypass meter) electric service; and
- ▶ Not default on a payment plan.

For more information or to review the complete cold weather rule policy visit <http://bit.ly/KVEcoldweather> or call the office in Topeka at 785-478-3444.

Think About It: Safety When Using Backup Generators

As we look toward the winter months it is time to start thinking about a standby or backup generator system for your home. Although Kaw Valley Electric works hard to keep your power on all winter long, winter storms can sometimes have devastating results to the area – leaving your family without power for an extended period of time.

If your household requires medical or life support devices, or you require power to house or feed livestock, or perhaps you have temperature sensitive materials on your farm, you may consider purchasing a generator for your home.

There are two types of generators for homeowners to choose from: portable and standby.

- ▶ **PORTABLE GENERATORS** are usually gas powered and can be moved around. You can power your home by plugging appliances into it.
- ▶ **STANDBY GENERATORS** are installed directly to the house and are typically powered by natural gas or propane. These generators start automatically when the power goes out.

Begin by identifying your basic electrical needs in the

event of a power outage and calculating the number of watts needed. You will want a generator that produces more power than all the equipment combined plus the initial surge when it is turned on.

You may want contact the cooperative to determine your needed power usage. Your needs will determine the type, and wattage that makes the most sense.

Typically, the recommended size is greater than 6,500 watts because there is less sensitivity to voltage fluctuation and more control. However, generators of with a minimum of 8,500 to 10,000 watts are best.

One important aspect of a generator is a transfer switch. This is often an extra charge, and is installed and connects the generator to your circuit box.

The switch also eliminates cumbersome extension cords, and protects the generator and appliances once power is restored. The transfer switch also is key in safety and will keep lineman working on power lines safe.

For more information on generators, or to determine if a generator is a good fit for your home, contact Kaw Valley Electric at 785-478-3444.



Remember to install a transfer switch before operating a generator to keep our lineman working on power lines safe.

2016 Youth Tour Contest Application – *Deadline: February 15, 2016*

If you are a high school junior and your parents or guardians are Kaw Valley Electric members residing in the coverage territory 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.

When you mail in the application below, you will be sent an official packet. 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@ljec.coop or call 913-796-6111.

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 Electric member residing in the coverage territory)

Return application request to:
Kaw Valley Electric
Attn: Sarah Farlee
PO Box 750640, Topeka, KS 66675

This form is a request for an official application packet. Request forms are due 2/15/16.
You will be notified of application process details upon receipt of this request form.

Alliance Question of the Month

Where can I find more information about the consolidation?

Visit www.voteeyesApril19.com to find the latest information. There we will post resources, as well as important dates and locations where we will share information with members throughout the coverage territory. Contact us if you have questions or concerns regarding the consolidation vote on April 19. We are happy to discuss this important step in the stability of rates.

Do you have a question you'd like us to address regarding the alliance? Feel free to submit your question to info@kve.coop.

FUN FIVE

Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

Loren Goss

Staking Engineer
6.5 months at Kaw Valley



Loren Goss

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

A: To see the future, and what's going to happen next.

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

A: Spending time with my family and go to church, and fishing and hunting.

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

A: I grew up on a farm in Western Kansas.

Q: Do you collect anything?

A: No, I have enough stuff. I don't need any more junk!

Q: What is the best part of your job?

A: Meeting with our members and creating great customer relationships. It's about giving them the best service possible, and making our members happy.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Jerry Manning, General Manager

Kevin Gregg, Assistant General Manager

Joe Ackley

Britton Anderson

Darren Anderson

Larry Barker

Mary Barker

Ron Bereiter

Bryce Best

Sarah Broxterman

Jessica Bryan

Corey Calvert

Rod Crowder

Ervin Donaldson

Loren Goss

Kyle Hallgren

Curtis Havenstein

Kim Howbert

Dana Mercer

Shane Miles

Michelle Meyer

Kelsey Murray

Carolyn Nichols

Frank Ortega

Liz Ortega

Mark Raines

Randy Richards

Lisa Scott

Noah Schreck

Justin Seele

Bryce Shaver

Paula Spreer

Zach Sterling

Adella Taylor

Brooks Vaughn

Lindsey West

Mitch West

Kasey Whitaker

Derek Zemek

Board of Trustees

Pete Allen

Larry Butel

Dallas Caster

Bill Conley

Bob Lynch

Don Montgomery

Rob Sage

Lloyd Wulfkuhle

Mark Wulfkuhle

Greg Lee – Legal Counsel

