

## THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

# TheVoice

### Caney Valley Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.

Allen Zadorozny—General Manager

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#### Contact Us

401 Lawrence, P.O. Box 308  
Cedar Vale, KS 67024  
620-758-2262, Fax: 620-758-2926  
cve@caneyvalley.com.

#### Office Hours

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

#### Power Cost Adjustment

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for January is \$ .02693/kilowatt hour. This calculates to an additional \$26.93 per 1,000 kWh used.

The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase in power costs (more than 5¢/kWh) charged to us by our wholesale power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) in Topeka. The PCA varies each month depending on the wholesale charges from KEPCo and is a flow-through on your electric bill.

#### FROM THE MANAGER

## Automated Metering Examined

Your Cooperative's board of trustees and employee staff continue to research and consider automated metering systems. Within the past several years, we have had presentations and proposals made from a variety of vendors. We have purposely taken our time to learn about the various types of metering systems, including their reliability, efficiency, longevity, applications flexibility, and overall costs.

The discussion surrounding the benefits received from automated metering versus the installation costs invite debate. Basic reasons for installing automated metering include the following:

- ▶ Ability to accurately read all meters remotely
- ▶ Electric bills reflect most recent usage
- ▶ Remote notification of outages and reduced time for locating outage
- ▶ Remote capabilities to connect and disconnect electricity
- ▶ Improves evaluation of electric system losses

## Nominating Committee Members Needed

Members are needed to serve on the nominating committee to provide candidates for the board of trustees. Nominees for the board are considered for election by the members at the annual meeting May 6.

The nominating committee is appointed by the board of trustees in February. Members are encouraged to participate in the nominating

- ▶ Immediate theft detection
- ▶ Elimination of most labor and vehicle expenses involving obtaining meter readings and service connects and disconnects
- ▶ Future enhancements: time-of-use rates and prepaid electricity usage
- ▶ Significantly reduced issues with members involving incorrect and/or estimated readings and billings



Allen Zadorozny

The significant costs of the automated metering are deemed to be acceptable for the improved operations of the cooperative. The value placed upon automated metering can be seen in Kansas. At least 25 of the 30 electric cooperatives in Kansas are using automated metering.

If the appropriate product is presented to the cooperative, there may be one more Kansas electric cooperative added to that number.

Please contact me to discuss this topic, or any other questions or concerns you may have.

process by contacting your district's board trustee and letting them know that you are willing to serve on the nominating committee.

Please contact Allen Zadorozny or your district's trustee if you can serve on the nominating committee, or would be willing to be nominated to run for election to the board of trustees.

### Our Condolences

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Donald Jackson, who passed away November 10 in Chautauqua.

Jackson served on Caney Valley Electric's board from 1973 - 1982 as a trustee from District 3, which includes the towns of Sedan, Chautauqua, Peru, Niotaze, Havana, and Wayside.



## Caney Valley Electric Offers Scholarships to High School Seniors

**Application Deadline  
March 31**

Caney Valley Electric Cooperative has scholarships available for high school seniors going on to college or a vocational-technical school.

**Application deadline for August enrollment is March 31, 2014.**

Please contact Caney Valley Electric or your high school counselor for further information.

Award recipients will be announced at our Annual Meeting on May 6, 2014.

### Efficiency Tip of the Month

Sleek new flat-panel TVs can consume almost as much electricity as a refrigerator. In general, the bigger the screen, the more power it draws, and HD pulls more, too. Plasma screens use the most energy, while LCD TVs use much less. And remember to change your new TV's default settings to a power saver mode, and turn down the LCD backlight to save energy without sacrificing picture quality.

## Caney Valley Policy on Power Theft

Due to continuing problems with some cooperative members found tampering with the meter or other electrical devices and the resulting theft of services, the Caney Valley Electric Board of Trustees implemented a policy on power theft as follows:

Members are advised that Caney Valley Electric will hold members responsible both civilly and criminally for any theft of electric energy and/or meter tampering, pursuant to Kansas Statutes, plus any fees that may arise as a result of same. Kansas Statute 21-3704 specifies that theft of services is:

- ▶ Obtaining services from another by deception, threat, coercion, stealth, tampering or use of false token or device.
- ▶ "Services" within the meaning of this section includes, but is not limited to... public or municipal utility services... and rural electric cooperatives shall be considered public utilities.
- ▶ "Tampering" within the meaning of this section includes, but is not limited to:
  1. Making a connection of any wire, conduit or device to any service or transmission line owned by a public or municipal utility...;
  2. Defacing, puncturing, removing, reversing or altering any meter or any connections for the purpose of securing unauthorized or unmeasured electricity...;
  3. Preventing any such meters from properly measuring or registering;
  4. Knowingly taking, receiving, using or converting to such person's own use, or the use of another, any electricity... which has not been measured; or
  5. Causing, procuring, permitting, aiding or abetting any person to do

any of the preceding acts.

- ▶ In any prosecution under this section, the existence of any of the connections of meters, alterations or use of unauthorized or unmeasured electricity...shall be evidence of intent to violate the provisions of this section.
- ▶ Theft of services of the value of:
  1. Less than \$1,000 is a class A misdemeanor
  2. At least \$1,000 but less than \$25,000 is a level nine felony.

Indications of meter tampering or obvious theft witnessed by an employee or member of the public will be immediately investigated. The reporting party's name and other information shall be held confidential.

Members will be charged a \$100 fee if an account is found, for a second time, to have missing or tampered-with sealing devices.

For any subsequent occurrence, the members will also be responsible for all time and materials needed to repair and install any additional locking devices.

If a member is found to have willfully diverted power to any account for any reason, that account will be immediately disconnected. Power will not be restored until the account holder has paid a diversion charge of \$250 plus any estimated lost revenue charges.

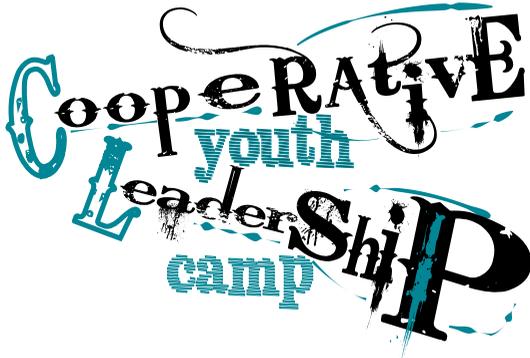
Any damage to cooperative property will be billed on a time and material basis. Willfully diverting power a second time will result in a fee of \$500 plus any other charges. Management may seek prosecution under Kansas Statute #21-3704 of any person found diverting power or tampering with the meter.

### Outages for November 2013

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. We were fortunate to have only one large outage.

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
11/11	Dexter, Burden, Cambridge, & Atlanta Areas	238	2 hr 10 min	Westar off

# Attention High School Juniors Win a FREE Trip!



The Caney Valley Electric Cooperative is sponsoring two students to an all-expenses-paid trip to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, July 12-18, 2014.

This trip is part of a four-state Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp sponsored by rural electric cooperatives in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming.

Contest winners will learn about electrification, cooperatives, energy problems, safety, and interpersonal

communications.

The contest is open to all current high school juniors in Caney Valley's service area, whose residence is served by Caney Valley Electric.

If you are a high school junior and are interested in this trip, please complete the application form below and send **by February 14** to:

**CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
PO BOX 308  
CEDAR VALE, KS 67024**

## 5 REASONS YOU SHOULD APPLY

- Make new friends from across Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming.
- Experience the beautiful Rocky Mountains.
- "Attended Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp" will look great on your resume.
- Whitewater rafting, dancing, shopping and volleyball—all in one camp.
- It's all FREE!



2013 Camp Winners, Sarah Bellar (left) and Jonathan Howard enjoy the view on top of Lookout Mountain.

## Apply for Your FREE Trip Today

Complete and return this application to Caney Valley Electric Cooperative (P.O. Box 308 Cedar Vale, KS 67024)

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Year in School \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parents/Guardians \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby grant permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to enter the 2014 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Caney Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

# A Comforting Thought BY DOUG RYE



Doug Rye

“Some problems don’t have such easy solutions, but I am confident I can help all of you.”

No, it can't be. It can't possibly be time to write a column for a new year. It seems like I just wrote one for 2013 a few weeks ago. Unless you are a teenager, you know exactly what I am talking about. Well, time really flies when you are having fun. Of course, the frog says that time is really fun when you are having flies. Please smile.

As I think of a new year, I also think of the past. I just love it when you tell me that you were helped by something that you read in this column. I have received a lot of calls lately from folks with comfort problems in their homes. Some have older houses, and others have fairly new ones. It really doesn't matter, because if you are not comfortable, you are not happy. I can tell you that the subject of comfort has changed over the years.

My first bedroom as a youngster was six feet by nine feet. I had my own bunk bed, a place for my electric train, and I didn't have to share it with three older sisters. The problem was that I had to go through their room to get to my room. And my room had no source of heat whatsoever, except what seeped into my room through the curtain [door] from the big non-vented gas heater in the girls' room, and they didn't have to share the heat with me.

On many cold mornings, I would draw pictures in the frost on the window before I would jump out of bed and run through their bedroom to get to the non-vented gas heater in the living room. Think of it. My room was freezing; their room was smothering hot; the temperatures of the other rooms were anybody's guess, and basically we were all thankful and happy just to have a house with heat.

What a difference a few years can make. Now, we expect every room in our house to be the same comfortable temperature. I

know of a case this past year where the homeowner threatened to file suit against the builder of his new house because upstairs was always a few degrees hotter than downstairs in the summer. We have proven many thousands of times that there is no excuse for a new house not to have affordable comfort. It is not always possible that every room will have the exact same temperature 24/7, but it can be very close. All you have to do is build it like the electric cooperatives and I have been teaching you to do for the last 20 years. It is easy and affordable, and it works every single time. Just ask us for help.

I recently received a call from a lady in Illinois who said that she and her family had been in their new house for seven months and the house was cold.

I said, "I assume that you meant cold in the winter." She said, "Yes, it was just great in the summer." I said, "You should have built the house to my standards." She replied, "We did."

My heart skipped a beat and I asked her every question I could think of. Did you caulk; did you use cellulose; did you use good windows, etc.? And yes, they even installed geothermal. I couldn't imagine what the problem might be, so I asked the age-old question. "What is the thermostat setting right now?"

Her answer was 60 degrees. I told her to turn it up to 75 degrees. She said that if she did, her husband would come through and turn it back down to 60 degrees. I told her to go whack her husband upside the head and tell him who was boss, and if that didn't work, stop cooking his meals. She laughed and said that might work.

This is a true story, and it has what appears to be an easy solution. Some problems don't have such easy solutions, but I am confident I can help all of you. See you next month when I will give you more ways to make your house more comfortable. In the meantime, Happy New Year!

**DOUG RYE** is a licensed architect and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show. You can contact Doug at 501-653-7931. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.

Caney Valley's Operating Statistics		
For Month Ending	Oct. 2013	Oct. 2012
Meters Billed	5,583	5,583
kWh's Purchased	5,563,226	4,997,662
Cost per kWh	\$ 0.07998	\$ 0.07980
kWh Sold	5,739,516	5,200,385
Total Revenue	\$ 854,222	\$ 806,273
Purchased Power	\$ 444,970	\$ 398,809
Operating Expenses	\$ 197,458	\$ 186,304
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 52,272	\$ 50,361
Interest Expenses	\$ 30,073	\$ 30,755
Other Expenses	\$ 665	\$ 700
Operating Margins	\$ 128,784	\$ 139,343
Non-operating Margins	\$ 27,911	\$ 1,738
Total Margins	\$ 156,695	\$ 141,081
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ 201,800	\$ 325,167