

## THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

# TheVoice

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

Allen Zadorozny—General Manager

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#### Contact Us

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Cedar Vale, KS 67024

620-758-2262, Fax: 620-758-2926

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#### Office Hours

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

#### Power Cost Adjustment

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for May is \$.00660/kilowatt hour. This amounts to an additional \$6.60 per 1,000 kilowatt hours.

The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase (or decrease) in power costs (over and above 7¢/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.

#### FROM THE MANAGER

### Electric Co-ops and a Culture of Safety



Allen Zadorozny

In the spirit of May being National Electrical Safety Month, let's take a look at how electric cooperatives have been stepping up to the plate when it

comes to safety at the co-op.

Up until 2007, there was an alarming national trend of increasing "lost time" accidents among electric co-ops. Lost time is anything resulting in an employee missing time at work. These accidents could range from a sprained ankle to the ultimate tragedy of a fatality.

As an initiative to raise awareness about safety practices at all electric co-ops, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, which insures the vast majority of electric co-ops nationwide, initiated the campaign "Culture of Safety."

Through the use of strategy labs across the country, Federated brought together cooperative CEOs, general managers, operations supervisors, safety directors and linemen to better understand how each group viewed safety. In doing so, differences in perceptions regarding safety within cooperatives were identified, allowing for much needed conversations and

evaluations of how to raise awareness and improve local safety cultures. As a result, the "Speak Up, Listen Up" program was designed to empower anyone who sees a potentially unsafe situation to "speak up" and encourages everyone to "listen up" to their concerns. The results have been dramatic, resulting in a more than 30 percent decline in the number of accidents during the past nine years.

Personnel at Caney Valley Electric participate in this program each time it is offered. Your cooperative also provides monthly safety training meetings for all employees, and encourages personnel to attend outside training programs offered by our statewide cooperative, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

As a member, you also play a role. If you see any potential dangerous situations or practices, report them as soon as possible to Caney Valley Electric.

The implementation and success of the Culture of Safety program demonstrates a very important point: If we are intentional about our actions, we can change the safety culture in our cooperative.

We look forward to being your safe electricity provider and energy adviser long into the future.

**Allen A. Zadorozny, Manager**

# Caney Valley Bill Payment Options

Caney Valley Electric has several convenient payment options for our members. All members receive a standard monthly bill for electrical use. Bills are due and payable upon receipt, and past due if not paid by the due date printed on the bill. We realize one method of payment does not fit every Caney Valley member's need, so the following options are available for your convenience.

- ▶ **Mail** – Caney Valley's monthly bill comes with a return envelope. To pay by mail, insert your check or money order and mail to PO Box 308, Cedar Vale, KS 67024-0308. (Please note that all area mail goes to Wichita first to be sorted, so please allow additional time if using the postal service. Payment must be received in our office on or prior to the due date. We **DO NOT** use the mailing post date for the payment date.)
- ▶ **Caney Valley's Office** – You may pay by check, cash, money order, or credit/debit card at our office at 401 Lawrence, Cedar Vale. We are open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, except for holidays.

- ▶ **Phone** – Members can call 620-758-2262 or 800-310-8911 to pay via credit/debit card or e-check. We recommend members use their account number when calling to ensure accuracy. For security reasons, and to comply with cooperative policies, you may be asked to provide information for identification purposes.
- ▶ **Online Bill Pay** – You can view and pay your bill online on our website [caneyvalley.com](http://caneyvalley.com). Follow the link on the View/Pay Bill page, or you can go directly to our customer service portal at <https://ebill.caneyvalley.com/oscp/>.
- ▶ **Auto Payment/Bank Draft** – Members have the option to have payments automatically withdrawn from their bank accounts or credit/debit cards. Sign-up is available through our customer service portal, or you may contact our office for a bank draft authorization form. Members will continue to receive a monthly bill, but no further action is necessary after automatic payments are initially set up.

Caney Valley also has residential

payment plans available as follows.

- ▶ **Budget Billing Plan** – Qualifying members may sign up for a Budget Billing Plan in March or October. A bill amount is estimated based on the average of the previous 12 months' bills and may be revised every March and October. Any difference between the total actual billings and the total budget payment plan payments shall be charged or credited annually at the end of each contract period, and the member shall pay any amount due before the next period begins.
- ▶ **Levelized Billing Plan** – Qualifying members may sign up for a Levelized Billing Plan at any time. Members will pay a "rolling average" amount based on the current bill and the previous 12 months, so the payment amount may fluctuate slightly. However, this method should not leave a large balance at the end of any 12-month period.

To qualify for these programs, members must be current and shall have paid without penalty for the previous 12 months of service.

## Champlin Completes Lineman Training

**MARC CHAMPLIN**, journeyman lineman, has successfully completed one of the world's most comprehensive training programs for power line personnel. The Merchant Job Training and Safety Program is administered to line personnel in 40 states. The academic program is administered through computers and fax machines for immediate response including assistance through a website.

By completing this four-year program, Champlin has attained journeyman lineman status. He and the support staff of Caney Valley Electric can be proud of his accomplishment. Each utility has an acting training

coordinator assisting 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.



Marc Champlin

Congratulations to Marc Champlin who can look forward to a very rewarding lifelong occupation!

## Like Us on Facebook!

Be sure to check out our new Facebook page under Caney Valley Electric.

We will post current information, safety and energy tips, information on large or extended outages, etc.

Our goal is to improve communication with our members in a timely manner. Please continue to call us at 800-310-8911 or 620-758-2262 to report trouble or outages. Our Facebook page is not monitored 24/7.

# 2016 Caney Valley Annual Meeting Highlights

Caney Valley's 68th Annual Meeting was held Friday, April 1, 2016, at the school gymnasium in Cedar Vale. There were 360 members registered, and approximately 548 were served a hamburger supper.

The following trustees were all re-elected: District I, **KENNY BATES** Cedar Vale; District II, **CARL JOHNSON, JR.**, Atlanta; and District III, **JIM CLARK JR.**, Havana.

Special guests in attendance included Marcus Harris, Executive Vice President/CEO, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo); Phil Wages, Director, Member Services, Government Affairs and Business Development, KEPCo; and Bruce Graham, CEO, Kansas Electric Cooperatives (KEC), Topeka.

Debbie Wall, cashier/receptionist, was recognized for 35 years of service to the cooperative.

In his annual report, manager Allen Zadorozny stated that the automated metering installations were completed last year, and the cooperative is receiving numerous benefits from the system. Members can access detailed information on their



Allen Zadorozny awarded Caney Valley's 2016 scholarship winners: (left to right) Adam Clark, Braylee Unruh, Benjamin Call, Leah Steward, Bailee Ellis and Saydi Loewer (not pictured Faith Ferguson).

usage and billing. He also highlighted the valuable information available on the cooperative's website such as copies of newsletters, rebates, and the seven cooperative principles.

The cooperative's cornerstone throughout its operations is safety. Zadorozny reminded members to be aware of possible electric utility line hazards and to have good electrical safety practices in place at home and business.

Scholarship winners for the 2016-2017 school year were announced as follows: **BENJAMIN CALL**, Cedar Vale High School; **ADAM CLARK**, Sedan High School; **BAILEE ELLIS**, Central of Burden High School; **FAITH FERGUSON**, Dexter High School; **SAYDI LOEWER**, Central of Burden; **LEAH**

**STEWARD**, Sedan High School; and **BRAYLEE UNRUH**, Sedan High School.

The Youth Leadership Camp winners were also announced: **DAWSON COX**, Sedan High School, and **WADE HAND**, Cedar Vale High School.

**DONNA REED** won the grand prize of a 32 inch flat screen TV. Numerous other prizes were distributed.

The following companies contributed several of the

prizes: Diversified Electric, Electric-Comm, KEPCo, KSI, and Kriz-Davis.



KEPCo's CEO, Marcus Harris, greets Caney Valley's members.



Allen Zadorozny, general manager, gave Caney Valley's annual report.



Bruce Graham, KEC's CEO, addresses Caney Valley's membership.



Allen Zadorozny, general manager, honors Debbie Wall, cashier/receptionist, for her 35 years of service to Caney Valley.

# Common Home Electrical Hazards

Caney Valley Electric is teaming up with the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) for National Electrical Safety month to spearhead the annual effort to raise awareness of potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety.

“Extension cord misuse and overburdened electrical systems are two of the main causes of home electrical fires,” said ESFI President Brett Brenner. “It is important to be aware of these common and preventable hazards, as well as other safety measures you can take to ensure that your home is electrically safe.”

The National Fire Protection Association estimates 47,700 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments each year involve some type of electrical failure or malfunction as a factor contributing to ignition. These fires result in 418 civilian deaths, 1,570 civilian injuries and \$1.4 billion in property damage. Awareness and education are critical to reduce the incidence of electrical fires, and ESFI sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May to educate the public.

ESFI encourages the sharing of

its campaign resources and developed The National Electrical Safety Month 2015 Electrical Safety Advocate Guide to provide the resources necessary to raise awareness of safe practices. Whether you want to educate a loved one or raise awareness in your community, school or workplace, this guide provides step-by-step instructions on how to be an Electrical

Safety Advocate and help champion the cause of minimizing electricity related deaths and injuries.

Electrical safety awareness and education among consumers, families, employees, and communities will prevent electrical fires, injuries and fatalities. For more information about electrical safety, visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).



## Caney Valley's Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015
Meters Billed	5402	5,498
kWh's Purchased	5,122,924	6,125,834
Cost per kWh	\$ 0.07603	\$ 0.07044
kWh Sold	5,642,310	6,141,603
Total Revenue	\$ 760,645	\$ 835,218
Purchased Power	\$ 389,748	\$ 431,638
Operating Expenses	\$ 187,859	\$ 197,219
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 63,685	\$ 57,530
Interest Expenses	\$ 39,867	\$ 33,586
Other Expenses	\$ 400	\$ 100
Operating Margins	\$ 79,085	\$ 115,146
Non-operating Margins	\$ 1,737	\$ 1,697
Total Margins	\$ 80,823	\$ 116,842

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form found online at [www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

## Outages for March 2016

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Listed below are the larger outages that occurred in March 2016.

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
3/6	Maple City area	30	1 hr 15 min	Burned pole
3/8	Cedar Vale west circuit	265	1 hr 15 min	Bad insulator
3/15	Howard area	45	2 hr 30 min	Basket burned and broken jumper
3/24	West of Cedar Vale	64	1 hr	Floater on 69 underbuild