

THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Voice

Caney Valley Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.

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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 December is \$0.03231/kilowatt-hour. This calculates to an additional \$32.31.

The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase in power costs (over and above 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

Keeping Costs Stable in 2013



Allen Zadorozny

As we approach the end of 2013, the overall average cost of the cooperative's electricity paid by the members is nearly the same as last year.

The average per kWh last year was 14.3¢; through October this year, it is 14.4¢.

The main reasons for this are the cost of wholesale power has remained stable and the kWh sales have also remained nearly the same as last year.

The cooperative's board and employee staff continue to work toward controlling operating costs in order to keep the electric rates as reasonable and stable as possible while maintaining financial integrity. Unfortunately, operating costs are approaching the maximum coverage which the basic electric rates were designed to accommodate when established in 1993.

Open communications between members and the cooperative's staff and board are essential as we con-

sider the proper steps to keep the cooperative as strong as it can be as it provides your electric service.

Please contact us any time to discuss suggestions, questions, or problems you may have.

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

Please contact me 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.

Allen Zadorozny, Manager

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Our office will be closed Christmas Day, December 25, and New Year's Day, January 1, so that employees may spend the holidays with their families. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, management and employees, we'd like to wish all of our members a very Merry Christmas and blessed New Year!

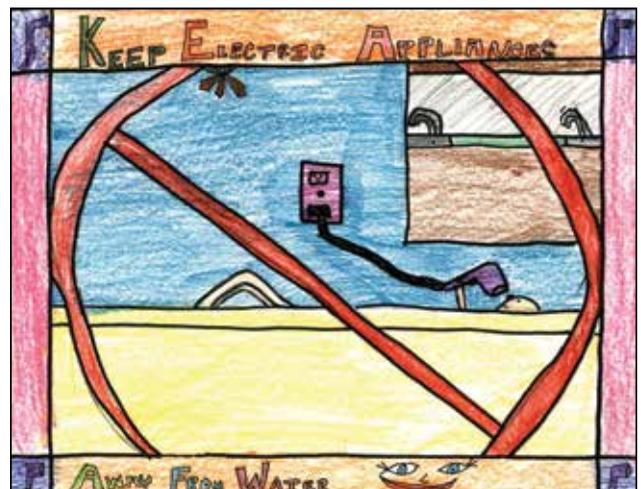
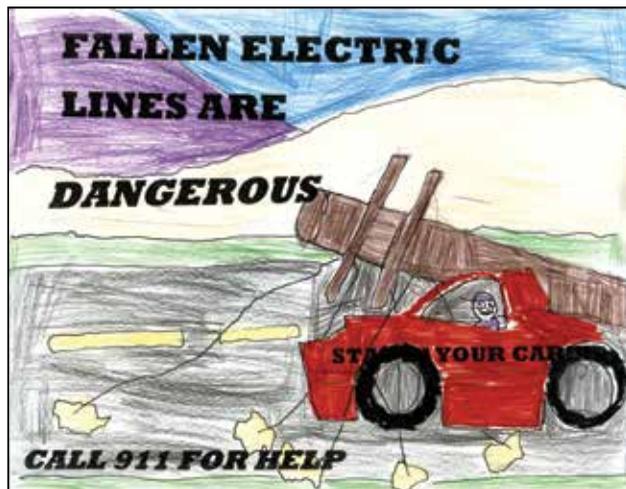
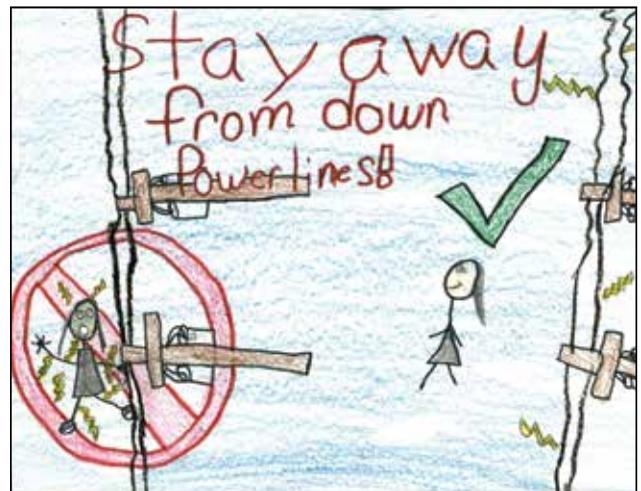
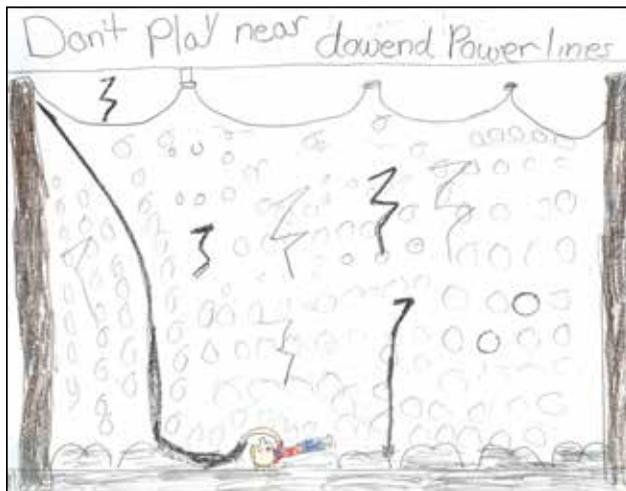
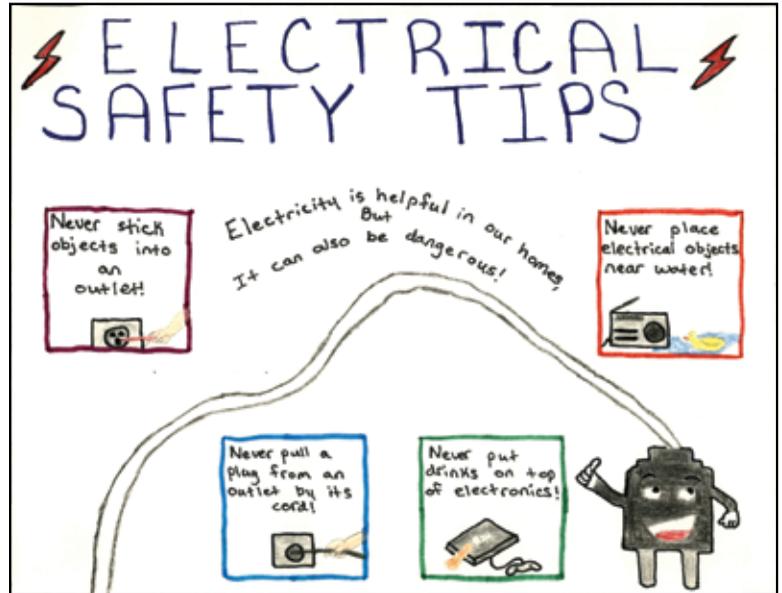


Fifth Graders Participate in Poster Contest

In honor of National Cooperative Month, Caney Valley Electric invited area fifth graders to participate in an electrical safety poster contest. Students were asked to submit original drawings or posters that depicted electrical safety. The posters were judged by a three-person committee, and one winner from each school won \$25. The winning posters are included in this month's centerspread.

Thank you to all the students who participated. There were a lot of excellent posters submitted, and the committee had a hard time deciding on a winner from some of the schools. Thanks again, kids!

Winning posters clockwise from top are: Dakota Wiseman, West Elk Elementary; Tabitha Byrd, Sedan Elementary; Cera Krueger, Central of Burden; Matthew McDow, Elk Valley Elementary; and Ciarra Corbett, Cedar Vale Elementary.



Don't Take the Merry Out of Your Christmas

Before your family puts up a tree or hangs the stockings this holiday season, start a new tradition. Put safety at the top of your list. Too often the twinkling lights people see are on top of a fire truck or ambulance—the result of holiday accidents that could have been prevented.

Trees and lights are danger-prone holiday decorations. According to the United States Fire Administration, Christmas trees start an average of 260 house fires each season, resulting in more than \$16 million in property damage. Another 150 house fires are sparked by holiday lights and decorative lighting, costing \$8.9 million in damage. Typically, all of these fires are more severe and damaging, resulting in twice the injuries and five times the fatalities per blaze compared to average winter home fires.

Safety steps don't end with bright decorations. Gifts trigger injuries, too. Toys that are not used as intended or used without proper supervision lead to avoidable accidents. Electrical shocks, burns, or injuries from sharp, pointed, or moving parts are to blame for many of these injuries according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

When it is time to deck your halls, take these precautions to ensure the safety of you, your family, and holiday guests:

Lights

Festive lights give homes a magical glow both inside and out. When decorating this season, a few simple safety tips can keep your spirits bright.

- ▶ Do not overload electrical outlets. Most lights are designed to connect no more than three strands. Inspect the wires periodically to make sure they are intact and not warm to the touch.

- ▶ Never leave lights on overnight or when no one is home.
- ▶ Only use lights that have been approved by an independent testing laboratory.
- ▶ Replace any strands that show signs of damage, such as bare or frayed wires, broken bulbs, or loose connections. Faulty lights can send an electrical charge through a tree and electrocute anyone who comes in contact with a branch.

Trees

Real or artificial, short or tall, Christmas trees are often the culprit for danger. Incorporate these safety guidelines in your decorating routine:

- ▶ Make sure an artificial tree is labeled "fire resistant." Be aware that "fire resistant" does not mean "fire proof." Exercise caution when it comes to your tree.
- ▶ Make sure a live tree is fresh and green. Dry, brittle limbs and shedding needles are a breeding ground for sparks. Water a live tree regularly to prevent it from drying out.
- ▶ Place any type of tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, vents, and radiators.

Make sure safety ranks at the top of your "to do" list this holiday season. Like the old Christmas song says, there is no place like home for the holidays—especially when your family is safe and your home is filled with good cheer.



Only use holiday lights that have been approved by an independent testing laboratory.

Caney Valley Trustee Achieves Credentials

CORAL ANN MAGNUS

from Caney Valley Electric received the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Magnus was recognized at NRECA's Region 7 & 9 meeting in October for her com-

mitment to education and attainment of the certificate in front of more than 750 electric cooperative officials from Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Today's electric utility environment imposes new demands on electric cooperative directors, particularly increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a working knowledge of the cooperative principles. Caney Valley has a commitment to work through Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. and NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative members.

The CCD program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses:

- ▶ Director Duties and Liabilities
- ▶ Understanding the Electric Business
- ▶ Board Roles and Relationships
- ▶ Strategic Planning
- ▶ Financial Decision Making



Coral Ann Magnus

In Memory of Raymond Williams

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of **RAYMOND WILLIAMS**, who passed away November 4, 2013.

Raymond served on Caney Valley Electric's board from 1987-1996 as a trustee from District 3, which includes the towns of Sedan, Chautauqua, Peru, Niotaze, Havana, and Wayside.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

Say Goodbye to the Cold BY DOUG RYE



Doug Rye

It is that time of the year again. Many of the trees are still beautiful, and we have much for which to be thankful. I am thankful for health, shelter, food, family and

friends, and a job that pays me to help many people just like you.

Part of my job is to receive your calls about energy efficiency. I enjoy helping folks and I love to hear your stories. Likewise, I'm humbled when I can be of assistance. I'm especially thankful for the support of electric co-operatives. We have worked together for years to help co-op members find solutions to lower their utility bills and improve the comfort of their homes. We've also taught many how to build a new home with low utility bills and optimum comfort.

We are well into the holiday season, which means you had better hurry and buy those Christmas gifts before they disappear from the shelves. It is also the season when you turn the thermostat from cool to heat. Many folks dread the coming of the heating season because they remember high heating costs of winters past. Even though financial resources may be very limited for some, almost everyone can afford to do something to help lower their heating bills.

I remember an elderly couple whose only income was from Social Security, but the two of them were

determined to make their house more energy efficient. Their house had no ceiling insulation at all. They decided to buy two bags of cellulose insulation each month, and the husband would spread that insulation in the attic using a garden rake. I became aware of this when he called my radio show and told us that they were finally finished insulating the attic and how they did it.

Well, it took the caller about 15 bags of cellulose insulation to provide a R-19-rated ceiling insulation for the couple's 900-square-foot house. At that time, a bag of cellulose insulation cost about \$5 for a total cost of \$75 for all 15 bags. It took about seven and a half months to finish the job. The payback was probably about one cold winter and one hot summer. At today's price, the cost would be about \$150, but the payback would probably still be about one year. This took place about 12 years ago, so the family has probably saved at least \$900 for a \$75 investment.

The preceding real-life story is a perfect example of how most energy efficiency improvements are investments. The return on investment is a more comfortable home, with lower utility bills. Many of you are learning about the benefits of stopping air infiltration and installing the "proper amount" of "proper insulation" in your existing homes from this publication and your electric cooperative. I commend you for doing so!

For those who are thinking about doing the same thing, let me give you some encouragement and help. The recommended amount of insulation

for a Kansas attic is R-38 to R-60. However, many barely have an R-19. Attic insulation is much like a quilt on a bed. If you are cold, the first quilt helps a whole lot. The second quilt may help a little more, and, if it's deer camp cold, it may take three quilts to really be warm. However, it is the very first quilt that does the most good. Likewise, it is the first inch of insulation that gives the most benefit.

So, simply buy as much insulation as you can afford up to the recommended amount. If you can only afford three inches of cellulose (R-13), then buy three inches and be proud that you did what you could do. If it is necessary for you to hire someone to purchase and install the needed insulation, you could expect to pay somewhere around 55 cents per square foot to add R-19 to your attic.

If you want help determining the feasibility of installing insulation at your house, you may call me at 501-653-7931. Time for me to go Christmas shopping!

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	Sept. 2013	Sept. 2012
Meters Billed	5,577	5,617
kWh's Purchased	5,888,532	5,456,515
Cost per kWh	\$ 0.0884	\$ 0.0919
kWh Sold	5,722,424	6,446,441
Total Revenue	\$ 871,932	\$ 945,265
Purchased Power	\$ 520,499	\$ 501,346
Operating Expenses	\$ 197,103	\$ 166,523
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 51,946	\$ 50,253
Interest Expenses	\$ 30,302	\$ 30,792
Other Expenses	\$ 50	\$ 359
Operating Margins	\$ 72,032	\$ 195,991
Non-operating Margins	\$ 1,726	\$ 13,749
Total Working Margins	\$ 73,758	\$ 209,740
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ 45,105	\$ 184,086

Outages for October 2013

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

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
10/16	North & East of Cedar Vale	100	135 min	Bad Nova switch in substation
10/17	North Peru	30	2 hrs	Scheduled-crews installed new conductor
10/29	Line to Niotaze	290	3 hrs	Tree on line