

# The CIRCUIT



\*\*\* Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 75 Years

October 2015

## Pay-By-Phone Update

Ark Valley Electric is finalizing the setup of the new automated phone payment system. We will still be accepting phone payments through our office until everything is in place. Feel free to call as normal and we will direct you to the new system when it is accessible.

We will continue to provide updates through our newsletter as they become available. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



## Drawing Winner

**JAY D. JONES** is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

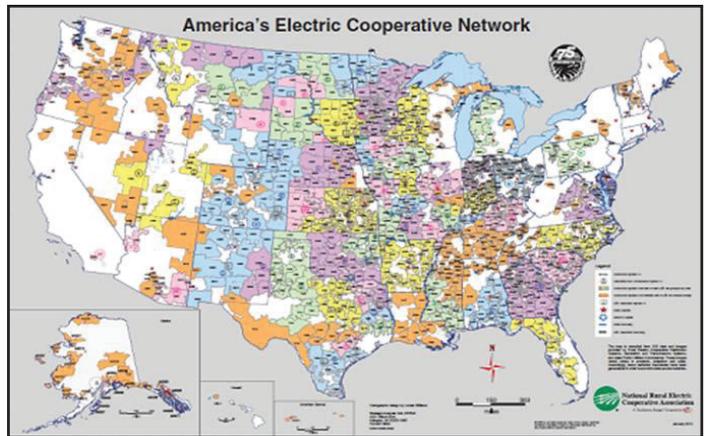
Jay, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by October 30, 2015 & give us the account number from your electric bill.

## Enter To Win!!!

As a member, you are an important part of our operations – we are here to serve you. And we would like to hear from you. Please take a moment to complete the 10 question survey on our website at [www.arkvalley.com](http://www.arkvalley.com) by November 30th. Be sure to have your account number handy (found on your bill) in order to have a chance to win one of four \$25 energy bill credits. Only one entry per member is allowed, and the drawing will be held December 1, 2015. For those without internet access, please contact the office for a paper survey to complete.

## Did You Know?

U.S. electric cooperatives cover 3/4 of the nation's landmass,



but we only serve 12% of the population.



## October Is Cooperative Month!

October is Co-op Month and to show our appreciation for our members, Ark Valley Electric is holding a drawing for a Blue-ray Disc/DVD Player during the month of October.

To be eligible, complete this registration form and mail it with your bill or bring it into the office. The drawing will take place at 8:00 am on November 2nd, so please have your registration form in before then. Also, throughout the month of October, we will be distributing an Ark Valley spray cleaning kit to each member that comes into the office.

### 2015 AVEC MEMBER APPRECIATION DRAWING

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



Ark Valley Electric Cooperative  
10 East 10th Avenue, South Hutchinson, KS 67505

(620) 662-6661  
[www.arkvalley.com](http://www.arkvalley.com)

# New Metering System

For several years Ark Valley Electric has been studying the benefits of installing an automated metering infrastructure (AMI). With advancements in technology, current AMI systems do much more than provide remote readings. The benefits include heightened reliability with preventative maintenance and improved trouble shooting capabilities. The communication also has the ability to remotely identify the location of outages, often times before the member would know there was an issue.

Along with the benefits and efficiencies that AMI will provide for the members, the study showed a decrease in the total cost of installing the system. Since AMI has become beneficial for the members, the Board of Trustees has approved the installation of an AMI system for Ark Valley.

The conversion to the new meters is expected to take a few months to complete and will begin in April 2016. The actual process of changing out each individual meter will only take a few minutes.

We will keep you updated with the process, but before it is completed please take a little time to thank your meter reader. Several of them have been long-term employees of Ark Valley. We appreciate the service and commitment of all of the meter readers, whether they've been employed for over twenty years or just a few years. We will miss their presence.

# Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of August on August 31, 2015 at 7:30 pm.

Staff updated the Board on the recently purchased peaking generator. Ark Valley installed a diesel generator at the Arlington substation at the beginning of summer. The generator is turned on when it is anticipated the Cooperative uses the largest amount of electricity, which is during the hottest part of summer. By running the generator during the Cooperative's highest usage, it lowers the Cooperative's peak demand from its electric supplier, KEPCo. In turn, since our electric rate charged by KEPCo for the months of October thru May is based on the peak demand set during the summer, the lowering of the peak demand also lowers the Cooperative's overall electric cost.

It is estimated that running the peaking generator saved Ark Valley members \$15,300 for July alone. Since the Cooperative's peak demand was lowered overall, Ark Valley members should save an additional \$95,700 from October thru May. While other electric utilities continue to increase their rates, efficiencies like this will help keep Ark Valley's rates from climbing.

## Have a safe and Happy Halloween!!!

And stop by the Ark Valley office  
the last week of October  
for a treat!



## Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour!



**Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**

# ATTENTION High School Juniors & Seniors

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative is offering two scholarships and one all-expense-paid trip to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp for qualified juniors or seniors.

### You Could Win:

- ▶ **First Place:** A \$1,000 College Scholarship and an all-expense-paid trip to Steamboat Springs, CO.
- ▶ **Second Place:** A \$500 Scholarship.

**Eligibility:** The student's parent(s) must be a member of Ark Valley Electric and either a junior or senior in high school to apply. Ark Valley members may nominate students that they know are eligible.

**To Apply:** Submit an application and a written copy of a 5-10 minute speech on the present and future value of the electric cooperative to its members and community. **Essays are due by December 1, 2014.** Finalists will be asked to present their speech to a panel of Board Members and Co-op staff.

**For More Information:** Contact Misty Merideth, Youth Tour Coordinator, at (620)-662-6661 before November 25, 2015.



Parker Maloney attends 2014 Youth Leadership Camp

The Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. 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 [http://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).