

A monthly newsletter for the members of
Egyptian Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

June 2015

www.eeca.coop
800-606-1505

Annual meeting time

It will soon be your Cooperative's annual meeting time again! On behalf of Egyptian Electric Cooperative, I want to personally invite you to join us on July 23, at the Steeleville American Legion. We look forward to gathering with you – members of the cooperative community – to catch up, hear what you have to say and enjoy some good food and fellowship. We start serving hot dogs and refreshments at 4:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

This event is not only a chance to visit with fellow members of our cooperative – it's also a great opportunity to learn about programs we offer and to get to know your cooperative staff and Board of Directors. Our annual meeting lets us gather feedback from you by providing a forum where you can let us know how we can better serve you and your family.

This is an occasion to discuss and learn more about the issues affecting our communities, the electric industry and our future. If you have a question about what is going on in our industry or Egyptian Electric Cooperative and how it may affect you, reach out to one of our staff members, directors or me. If they don't have an answer immediately for you, they'll make sure someone who knows the answer will get with you.

There are no hidden agendas at your cooperative. We have one purpose here and that's to improve your

quality of life at a reasonable cost. We believe that bringing you reliable, affordable electric energy, and programs to support that, is the best way for us to improve your quality of life today.

Our annual meeting is also an opportunity for you to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of an electric cooperative – electing members like you to represent you as directors on the Board.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative is not owned by far away investors, and it is not run by an appointed board of directors. We are run by a democratically elected board of directors – a board who is given the privilege to serve because of your vote.

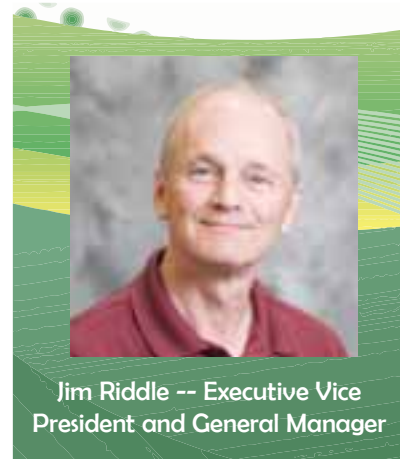
Our directors are members of your community. They are concerned with the same issues you face every day because they face them as well. And don't forget – any member of Egyptian Electric is eligible to run for the board – including you!

A democratic and open election is one of the many elements that make our electric cooperative stand out from other utilities. Having a voice in who makes the major decisions that directly affect your life and your family is a right we all share as Americans. We all vote for our state and federal Congressional representatives, but not every American has the right to vote for those who will represent community interests within their electric utility. You have



that right though as a cooperative member.

Rest assured, no matter what happens, we remain dedicated to providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service and the quality of life it brings, but we encourage you to take part in helping us improve how we deliver that service. So make it a point to join us on July 23, at our annual meeting. We promise we will make it worth your while!



Jim Riddle -- Executive Vice President and General Manager

How energy-efficient is your home?

How energy-efficient is your home? There are several methods you can use to find out how energy-efficient your home is. You might hire an independent energy auditor to conduct an energy audit for you, you could have an auditor from the Cooperative do an audit, you could ask your contractor buddy, your heating and air-conditioning friend or you might go on-line and find information. Each has their advantages and disadvantages, just like most things in life. An auditor might do a more thorough job than your buddies, but it will cost you. On-line tools will be less expensive,



system that might be in the attic more efficient. You'll also find information as to how much insulation you should have, or how to insulate an attic access hole.

For those members that are more do-it-yourselfers, this is a great tool to get you started. Just go to our website, www.eeca.coop, then the My Home

but anyone can post anything on the internet, so you never know what the quality might be.

As a good starting point, Egyptian Electric Cooperative now has an on-line Home Efficiency Analysis tool made available through our national branding cooperative, Touchstone Energy. This tool has been looked over by many energy experts in the field and we believe it has valid and reliable information for our members.

To start, you will be asked to model your home; square footage, multi-story, split level or single story, age, basement or crawlspace, etc. You'll also be asked how many occupants reside in the home.

Once you've modeled your home, you can search the different parts of a home like an attic, the living space, basement or the systems. Here you'll find information sheets informing of projects you can do to make your home more energy-efficient.

For instance, under attic projects you'll find information about how to make a heating and air-conditioning

section and click on the Home Efficiency Analysis Tool page.

If you are not a DIY type of person, we do offer two types of energy audits. A walk-through audit for \$50 and a complete diagnostic audit for \$400. With a walk-through audit, there are no diagnostics and no written report. We take a look at the attic, crawlspace, etc and will verbally give you our recommendations. With a diagnostic audit, we'll measure air leakage and other items and provide a written report. If you perform any of the measures we recommend within 120 days, we'll refund up to \$300 of the audit cost.

The new on-line Home Efficiency Analysis tool may not be for everyone, but even for those that are non-DIY, it's an excellent teaching tool that helps you understand why a home may use more energy than necessary. It will also provide you the understanding you need to make wise choices when choosing a weatherization contractor.

Board of Directors

Randall Campbell, President
Ken Jarrett, Vice President
Steve Prest, Secretary-Treasurer
Larry Ebers
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Paul Hicks
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Kevin Liefer
Paul Pyatt

Executive Vice President/ General Manager

Jim Riddle

Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

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800-606-1505 • Office hours 8 a.m. -- 4:00 p.m. M-F • www.eeca.coop

Annual Meeting Scholarships

Five Egyptian Electric Cooperative college or college-bound students will walk away from the 77th Annual Meeting of Egyptian Electric Cooperative on July 23, as very happy individuals.

The Cooperative will be giving five \$1,000 scholarships to members, or dependents of a member, that attend the Annual Meeting and has completed and returned the Scholarship Application by July 10. The selections will be made by drawing during the Annual Meeting.

- The applicant must be a member in good standing of Egyptian Electric Cooperative, or is the dependent of a member of the Cooperative who is in good standing, and must have been a member for one year prior to July 1, 2015.
- All applications must be signed by the applicant and parent or legal guardian (if a dependent) and returned to

the Cooperative by 4:00 p.m. July 10. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

- The applicant, or if a dependent of a member, and the parent or legal guardian must attend the Cooperative's Annual Meeting on July 23, 2015 at the Steeleville American Legion. The applicant and parent/legal guardian (if a dependent) must be present at the time of the drawing.
- All applicants must check in at the registration table before 7:00 p.m. the evening of the Annual Meeting
- The applicant must be enrolled, or have applied for enrollment, in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two or four-year College, university or vocational school for the Fall 2015 term.



- The scholarship will be sent directly to the recipient upon verification of enrollment.
- Prior recipients of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting Scholarships are not eligible to receive a second scholarship.

Applications are available by contacting an Egyptian Electric Cooperative office or downloaded from our website, www.eeca.coop and clicking the scholarship link in the News and Events tab.

Independence Day office closing

The office will be closed July 3 in honor of Independence Day. We urge everyone to have an enjoyable holiday. To help make it safe, we offer these tips.

1. Be a safe swimmer. Do not swim near docks with electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power.
2. Teach children to never play around pad-mounted transformers, solar panels, wind turbines, or electrical substations. If a ball or other toy goes over a substation fence, call your utility for help.
3. Keep children away from fireworks at all times.
4. Never climb trees near power lines.
5. Storm fronts can move rapidly, and lightning is a potential danger 10 miles in advance of a storm. Make sure that your children know "If thunder roars, go indoors" and not to seek shelter under a tree or open picnic shelter.
6. Use alcohol responsibly.
7. Apply sunscreen.
8. When using extension cords outdoors, never use near swimming pools or water and ensure all cords are plugged into GFI receptacles.



SmartHub on-line account access

“You can’t manage what you don’t measure” is an old management adage that’s been around for quite some time. While the saying is true, there is more that should be added to it—“or don’t know”. There are times something may be measured, but if you don’t have access to the data, the measurement might just as well have not been made. In years past, your electric consumption was measured by a meter, but you didn’t have access to the data until you received your bill. Pretty much too late to manage or change

your consumption habits or spot a problem.

With SmartHub, online account access now provides you with data about your electric consumption so that you can actively manage it. You can graphically see your monthly data along with the high, average and low temperature for the month. You can also see your daily usage with the daily temperature information.

While the data is not “real” time, it is what we call day behind.

In other words you can see yesterday’s consumption today. Still close enough that you can control your usage or spot a problem before it’s too late.

To access your SmartHub account, you will need several pieces of information to sign up the first time: the last name on the account, your eight digit account number, the social security number associated with the account and an email address and password you wish to use to login in the future.

Once you gain access to SmartHub, you can use Usage Explorer to look at monthly or daily energy use; Bill Comparison to compare monthly bills and temperatures against each other; and you can look at your average energy usage.

Under the Billing & Payments section, you can view billing and payment history, pay your bill with a debit or credit card, and even make an electronic payment from a checking or savings account. If you’ve misplaced your bill and would like another paper copy, you can even print out billing statements, current or past.

If you’re tired of receiving paper bills, you can opt out of printed bills and receive them electronically. You can also set your bill up to automatically be deducted from a bank account.

Have a smart phone or tablet? You can download a free app from the Apple App Store or the Google play store so you can do all of this from your device with a simple tap on the phone or tablet. Just go to the appropriate store and search for SmartHub. There’s no charge for the app or to use it.

All because we want you to have the tools you need to manage your account. Your way, any time, at your convenience. Just another way we keep things “Always On” for you.

