

A monthly newsletter for the members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



September 2014

www.eeca.coop

800-606-1505

2014 Annual Meeting of the Members

Egyptian Electric Cooperative's 76th Annual Meeting of the members was held on July 24, at the Steelville American Legion Hall. Over 350 Cooperative members registered and over 500 total people attended the meeting. As in the past, employees and directors of the Cooperative grilled nearly 700 hot dogs for those attending.

Kevin Liefer, President of the Board of Directors, thanked the employees of the Cooperative for their stellar safety record that was recently recognized by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. President Liefer noted Egyptian Electric was recognized in 2012, 2005, 2004 and 1999 as well for this accomplishment.

President Liefer also discussed the Cooperative's rates past, present and future. He noted that the last rate increase was in February of 2012, and was due to an increase in wholesale power costs resulting from ownership in the new Prairie State Energy Campus (PSEC) in Marissa. The PSEC coal-fired power plant will provide a reliable and clean source of electricity for years to come.

Since then, President Liefer reminded members that Egyptian lowered the rate to our members by three percent in January of 2013, through a negative Purchased Power Adjustment (PCA) on their bills. That reduced rate has been in effect since then and is anticipated

to continue through the end of the year. While he could not guarantee anything for 2015, President Liefer indicated projections are that no rate increase would be needed next year. This means the Cooperative would be able to provide service with no increase in rates for nearly four years in a row.

President Liefer also informed the members the Board plans to once again return Capital Credits to members this fall for the year of 1983.

In my address, I focused on three things, improvements to the distribution system, programs we offer for our members and the possible impact of proposed USEPA regulations on carbon.

While our goal has always been to keep rates as low as possible, we must continue to maintain the electric system in order to provide you with reliable electricity. We have nearly \$2.5 million in system maintenance and improvements planned for this year. We continue to change poles on a regular basis, as well as replace some of the underground cables that are beginning to fail as they age.

Later this year, we will begin installing a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system at our substations. A SCADA system will allow us to monitor the substations and their feeder lines on a real time basis, allowing us to more efficiently balance system loads.

While one of the goals of using technology is to be more efficient in serving you, we also want to use technology that provides services you can use. I've listed several of these programs in the blue side-box.

My greatest concern for the future as your Cooperative's Executive Vice President and General Manager is the proposed regulations the USEPA has published in regard to carbon dioxide reductions. If these rules become law, they will cause electricity prices to increase and may decrease the reliability of the U.S. electric grid. While we all wish to be stewards of the environment, the huge impact that will be placed on U.S. citizens is huge compared to the global reduction of CO2 the rules will have.

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Jim Riddle -- Executive Vice
President and General Manager

We need your help in telling the USEPA that the impact of these regulations are too severe in comparison to their benefit. A more balanced approach of "All of the Above" which includes the use of coal, nuclear, natural gas and renewable energy is preferable than to the Administration's 'All but One' approach which excludes the use of coal. I urge you, and urge you to ask your friends and neighbors, to go to www.action.coop to send a message to the USEPA.

I also wish to thank our members who re-elected Larry Ebers, Gil Kroening and Steve Prest to the Board of Directors for another three-year term. These are three gentlemen who represent you well and share the same concerns for keeping rates low and service quality high. I also want to report that following the Annual Meeting, the Board met and selected Randall Campbell, Chester, as the Board President; Ken Jarrett, Jacob, as Vice President; and Steve Prest, Coulterville, as Secretary-Treasurer.

Remember, being able to attend your Cooperative's Annual Meeting and having a voice is a benefit of receiving electricity from an electric cooperative, one you will not have if your electric supplier is an investor-owned utility.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

**Egyptian Electric
Cooperative Association**

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Steeleville, IL 62288

800-606-1505 • Office hours

8 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. M-F

www.eeca.coop



Selected as officers for 2014-2015 are l-r: Steve Prest, Secretary-Treasurer; Ken Jarrett, Vice President; and Randall Campbell, President.

Programs for our Members:

- ◆ **SmartHub**—A web portal that allow you to pay bills on-line any time of the day with credit cards or electronic checks, view your usage on a daily basis and view past electric usage.
- ◆ **Outage Texting**—With outage texting, you can report a service outage by sending a text with the word "outage." Receive a reply message that your outage was received and when service is restored. You can set up multiple service locations and additional cell phones for family members.
- ◆ **Easy-Pay**—Think of it like a prepaid cell phone. And with Easy-Pay, there may not be a deposit requirement.
- ◆ **Account Payment**—Tied closely to the SmartHub system, you can set up automatic monthly payments from your checking or savings account, or credit card that will automatically be paid on the due date. You can also opt for paperless bills that arrive by email so you never have to worry about being home to get the mail or the mail service not delivering your bill.
- ◆ **Energy Audits**—The most effective way to reduce your electric bill is through energy efficiency. To help you get the most out of your home energy efficiency efforts and investment, we have two employees capable of providing our members with energy audits.



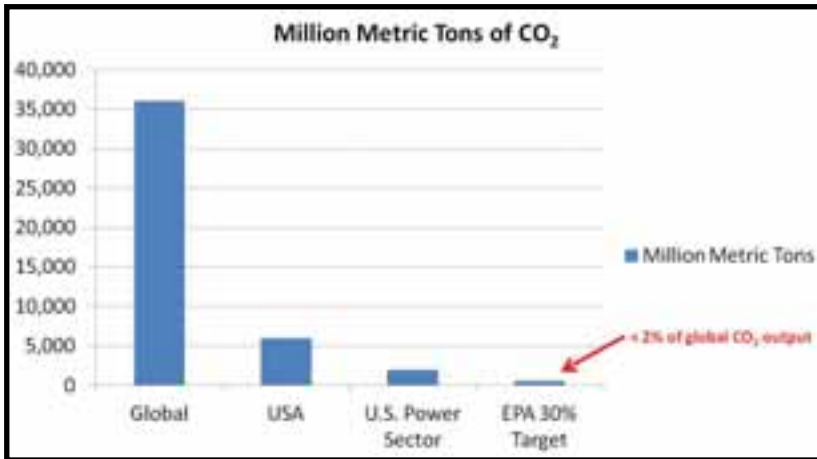
**Like us on
Facebook**

We now have a Facebook page!

To keep up with news about your cooperative, search for Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association from your Facebook account. Then click on the LIKE link. We're putting cooperative, energy efficiency and other news we believe you are interested in on our Facebook page.

We do not monitor the Facebook page 24-7 so it should not be used to report outages or other service related issues.

Go to www.Action.coop to send a message to the USEPA



The proposed USEPA regulations will have a huge impact on electric cost and reliability in the US, while providing a minuscule reduction in global CO₂ emissions.

College dorm electric safety

A limited number of electric outlets in dorm rooms are a temptation for students to use multiple extension cords and outlet taps. Overloaded outlets and extension cords can lead to fire hazards. Small rooms crammed with the necessities of student life away from home, can exasperate the problem with pinched and broken power cords. Share these tips with your college student.

- ✓ Don't use extension cords on a continuous basis; they are for temporary use only.
- ✓ Don't overload outlets or power strips. Most outlets are rated for 15 amps. Most appliances have the wattage on the label. Divide the watts by 120 volts to get the amps.

- ✓ Don't tack or nail cords to surfaces or put them under rugs or furniture.
- ✓ Keep appliances away from bedding.
- ✓ If an item causes the breaker to trip or outlet or cord to feel hot, unplug

the item and report the condition to the landlord/housing staff.

- ✓ Check smoke detectors, and know the location of fire extinguishers and emergency exits.





Scholarship winners with EECA Board President Kevin Liefer, l-r: Virginia Smith, Robert Wingerter Jr., Brennen Huseman, Rachael Reid and Stephanie Waggoner

Annual Meeting Scholarships

Five students were selected by random drawing at the 76th Annual Meeting of the Members to receive Annual Meeting Scholarships of \$1,000. To have a chance to win, students of members had to return a scholarship form beforehand and attend the Annual Meeting, along with their parent or guardian.

The students will be attending several different universities with study plans ranging from aeronautical engineering to being a heart physician.

The scholarship recipients were: Brennen Huseman, Campbell Hill; Rachael Reid, Coulterville; Virginia Smith, Ava; Stephanie Waggoner, Carbondale; and Robert Wingerter, Jr., Chester.

We wish each of these students and the 30 other students who registered and were in attendance, much success in the future as they continue their education.

These young adults are our future and this is one of the many ways Egyptian Electric Cooperative is building a better community.

Attention All Farm Workers!

The fall harvest will be in full swing shortly. Remember to look overhead for power-lines and use all safety precautions when entering grain bins. Entrapment is the leading cause of death in storage bins.

Pay your bill online

Don't forget you can pay your bill online with a credit card or electronic check, as well as view your historic usage at www.eeca.coop. Just click on the Pay Online button.

If it's your first visit, you'll need to create an account and password.

If you wish to make an online payment without establishing an account, you can do so by going to the SmartHub Online Payment link under My Billing and using the Pay Now option. All you will need is the account number on your bill.

Board of Directors

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

Executive Vice President/ General Manager

Jim Riddle