

A monthly newsletter for the members of

Egyptian Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



November 2014

www.eeca.coop
800-606-1505

At cost service

By mid-November, many members and former members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association that received service in 1983 and 1984 will receive a check from the cooperative that is a return of their capital credits from those periods. While some may think of it as an early Christmas present, it is actual proof that your cooperative is a not-for-profit organization that provides “at cost” electric service.

Capital credits are generated when the Cooperative receives more revenue in a year than what the expenses were. This margin as we call it, (private industry would call it profit) is allocated to each member that used electricity during that year. It does not go to shareholders or to employees. It is allocated back to those that created it and is based on the amount of electricity they used that year. Upon allocation to a member’s account, we call it capital credits.

This does not mean we refund or distribute capital credits at the end of the year. As our business is a high capital intensive industry (meaning it takes a lot of money to build and operate an electric system) we use member capital credits to continue to build and improve our system instead of borrowing all of the funds required. This helps keep our cost of borrowing lower and reduces our expenses.

As bank loans at some point

must be paid back, capital credits should also be returned to our members. How soon or how frequently capital credits should be paid is set by a board selected by the membership. Boards must look at many things when determining if capital credits should be returned or distributed back to the membership. Is the cooperative in a growth period where large amounts of capital will be required, is the cooperative fiscally sound, and will it still be in a sound position after the distribution?

Your board has determined that Egyptian Electric Cooperative is fiscally sound and is in a position to make a distribution of the capital credits from the remainder of 1983 and a portion of 1984. While we budget and set rates as low as possible in order to not take any more of your dollars than we need, we will be in sound financial condition after this refund. A portion of the dollars needed to fund the distribution will be borrowed but this is the right thing to do as a cooperative.

I say it is the right thing to do because we’ve used the capital credits from those members from 1983 and 1984 to help build the cooperative to the benefit of those using it today. It is only fair that these members begin getting their capital credits returned to them. Since these excess margins are being returned to those that generated them, we

can honestly say we provide “at cost” service.

Your cooperative is basically on a 30 year cycle of returning capital credits. The board’s goal is to budget for a distribution of 1/30th of the total capital credits presently outstanding. This allows us to budget a somewhat consistent amount each year, similar to the budget billing program we offer you for monthly payment of your electric bills. This year’s distribution will be nearly \$678,000.

If you did not receive service from the cooperative 30 years ago, your time will someday come. That’s why it is so important for members that leave the system to provide us a forwarding address. We also encourage you to make a note in financial records you leave for your

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Jim Riddle -- Executive Vice
President and General Manager

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descendants indicating you may have capital credits available from Egyptian Electric Cooperative. We do make early discounted returns to estates.

In the meantime, I hope each and every one of you has a great Thanksgiving and are thankful for all the blessings we have in this great country.



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Jim Riddle

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.



Have you ever wondered what it's like to climb a pole or to work around 7,200 volts of electricity? While we cannot put you in a three axis motion simulator like you might find at a Disney World theme park, we can offer you a firsthand glimpse of what it looks like from the top of a pole.

Several of our linemen have offered to wear a GoPro camera while climbing poles and performing various tasks, from building a new line, to changing out a pole on an energized line at 7,200 volts ... referred to as rubber gloving.

We're putting these short video clips into a collection entitled

"Through the Eyes of a Lineman." Be sure to check them out on our web page www.eeca.coop or on our Facebook page, Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association (be sure to click on the 'Like' button while on the page so you'll see when we post new items to Facebook).



Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

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With Egyptian Electric Cooperative's Shopping Assistant you can shop online at many of the stores you shop at every day and still receive cashback. Many stores allow you to shop online, place your order, and then pick it up at the local store at your convenience. Saving you time and earning you cashback!

You can even search for coupons for even more savings.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative receives no information concerning your purchases or any financial incentive for your shopping. The savings are brought to you by the power of the Touchstone Energy brand, a nationwide alliance of nearly 750 member-owned electric cooperatives serving 46 states.

Calling all teachers!



Applications for Egyptian Electric Cooperative's Classroom Empowerment Grant program are due back to the cooperative by November 7. Applications are available on the website at www.eeca.coop.

There will be six grants of \$500 each awarded for projects that improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school.

Any grade, junior high or high school within the service area of the cooperative is eligible, both private and public.

Cash Back Mall

Several years ago, I made the statement I would never purchase anything from the Internet. Thank goodness no one has printed those words on a piece of shoe leather and laid them in front of me. I doubt eating the words I said then would taste very good today.

Nearly all of us have made a purchase over the Internet—for a unique item, to save money or purely out of convenience. Now you can use our Cash Back Mall Shopping Assistant to save time and travel AND get cash back.

That's right, cash back, at no additional cost or membership dues. Just download the shopping assistant from our website, setup an account so they know how and where to send your cash back and

start shopping at over 4,000 vendors nationwide.

We're not advocating you should quit shopping locally. In fact, the Shopping Assistant may make it even more convenient to shop at many of your local and favorite stores. Just search for your favorite store on the Shopping Assistant toolbar, find your store, such as Best Buy and activate the Shopping Assistant. Pick out the items you want, pay for them with your credit card like you usually would, then stop by the store and pick up your items. Then wait for the cash back to arrive through either a check, direct deposit or a deposit to your Paypal account.

Cash back averages from two to six percent of your purchase and

varies from vendor to vendor. You will find a variety of vendors participating in the Cash Back Mall. From satellite TV to pharmaceuticals to food to travel to lodging. You'll find nearly every kind of vendor you can think of. You can search by vendor, keyword or by category. You'll even find special savings coupons and offers.

No standing in a checkout line. No visit to the store to only find they were out of the item you wanted. Convenient, time saving and cash back. Brought to you by Touchstone Energy, our national brand representing a nationwide alliance of nearly 750 electric cooperatives like us. Visit our website and download the Shopping Assistant today.

IEC Memorial Scholarships

We are pleased to announce that the Illinois electric cooperatives will again award academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” Additionally, a scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

Nine scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each will be awarded in 2015 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Five scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A sixth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. Three additional scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

A tenth annual scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” was



created in 2011 to help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC), Springfield, Ill. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the new scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for the lineworker’s scholarship.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring

past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says Jim Riddle, EECA Executive Vice President and General Manager. “Egyptian Electric and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker’s scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker.”

For more information regarding the scholarships and to apply online, visit www.eeca.coop. All necessary paperwork has been sent to area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative’s website. All applications must be submitted to the Cooperative by December 31, 2014.



Office closing

Veterans Day

Tuesday, November 11th

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 27th

Friday, November 28th



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