



# Egyptian Electric News

1732 Finney Road • Murphysboro, IL 62966 • 800-606-1505 • www.eeca.coop

DECEMBER 2017



## Growing Up Co-op

I love the feeling of being able to walk into my favorite locally-owned shop, restaurant or store knowing that the profit, product, and labor can make positive impacts on my community. The spirit of main street is embodied in these local businesses, just like it is in Egyptian Electric Cooperative. Founded to bring electricity to communities that didn't interest investor-owned utilities (or IOUs), electric cooperatives have been a cornerstone of community and economic development in rural America and beyond for decades.

I am proud to be a part of an organization that serves the community in which we live, instead of a group of shareholders who may never have set foot in our service territory. Living on

co-op lines is more than just knowing there are people out there working to bring you safe, reliable, and affordable electric service. Living on co-op lines is an investment in our community and its members. You see, Egyptian Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit business. When we make more money than we need to keep the lights on safely, affordably, and reliably, we return it back to our members (that's you!) in the form of capital credits. This means after all co-op expenses are paid, any additional money we earn goes back into our community, instead of going into a shareholder's pocket, which is pretty great! And because we are owned by you, our members, we have a vested interest in making sure our communities are

prosperous. We do this by investing in economic development programs, community service projects, scholarships, Classroom Grants and various youth programs.

I hope that you view Egyptian Electric not just as your electric utility provider, but as a local business that brings pride to our community. We love being a part of this community, and we hope you feel the same way too! **54-31-0079**

*Meghaan Evans writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

### MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three map location numbers hidden throughout our Egyptian Electric News section. If you find your location number, that corresponds to the one on your bill, call our office and identify yourself and the page that it is on and you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.



1732 Finney Road  
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Business hours/After hours  
800-606-1505

24/7 Automated Pay-by-Phone  
844-759-3977

Office hours 8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. M-F  
www.eeca.coop

### Board of Directors

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



**Shane Hermetz**  
General Manager

### Choose your payment option!

- At our office lobby, drive-thru, drop-box, or payment kiosk
- Mail to: 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, IL 62966
- Set up recurring bank draft or credit card payments
- Use SmartHub portal, online or mobile app
- By phone, using credit card or checking account
- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N Reed Station Road in Carbondale and 1306 N Market Street in Sparta

## Tips to stay warm during cooler months

Heating your home uses a lot of energy, so making a few changes can add up to noticeable savings on your energy bills. Egyptian Electric Cooperative is here to help by providing you with these money-saving tips:



- **Take advantage of sunny days.**  
Take advantage of the sun's radiant heat energy, and open your blinds and shades during sunny days. Let your home make use of those rays!
- **Adjust your thermostat.**  
Program or adjust your HVAC thermostat to no higher than 68 degrees during the winter months for maximum cost savings. Make sure to turn down the temperature a few more degrees when you're sleeping and when you leave the house. For water heaters, save energy and money by lowering your thermostat to no more than 120-degrees Fahrenheit.
- **Utilize ceiling fans.**  
Hot air travels upward. If you have high ceilings, use your ceiling fans on a low, clockwise setting to circulate that heat back down.
- **Close off unoccupied rooms.**  
Close the heat registers and doors of unoccupied rooms during the winter months.

- **Close off attic fans.**  
If you choose not to permanently do away with these, make sure they are covered up and sealed in winter months, otherwise they act like a hole in your house letting heat quickly escape.
- **Close fireplace damper.**  
Make sure to close your fireplace damper when not in use; you don't want your warm air leaking out through the chimney!
- **Prevent drafts.**  
Check around your windows, doors and outlets on exterior walls for drafts. A tube of caulk, some weather stripping and a can of spray foam can go a long way to seal your home from blustery winds.  
With cooler temperatures here, call our office now to learn more about, or to schedule, an energy audit this winter. Speaking with one of our energy advisors at your home can show you ways to make your home more energy efficient and in turn lower your electric bills. **49-18-2015**

*Our office will be closed  
Monday, December 25 in  
honor of the Christmas holiday  
and Monday, January 1 for the  
New Year's holiday.*



## \$2,000 Scholarship



### 9 College Scholarships

available through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Program.

Scholarships are available for children of electric cooperative members or employees attending four-year colleges and universities or two-year community colleges.

**Deadline: December 31, 2017**



### 1 Line School Scholarship

available through the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship for Lincoln Land Community College.

Available for children of co-op members, co-op employees or directors, those presently enrolled in the lineworker school, or who have served/are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard.

**Deadline: April 30, 2018**

Nine of the scholarship applications will be accepted by completing the online application at [eeca.coop/community-youth-programs/iec-memorial-scholarships](http://eeca.coop/community-youth-programs/iec-memorial-scholarships). The information and application for the tenth scholarship, the LaVern & Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, is also available to print online, or available in our office.



*From our family to yours, we wish all of our Egyptian Electric Cooperative members a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!*

- |                     |                |               |              |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Andy Ahner          | Bryan Diercks  | Robbie Knop   | Art Pontow   |
| Brian Alexander     | Tim Edmonds    | Adam Korando  | Darin Prange |
| Gretchen Bame       | Mike Ellis     | Bill Korando  | Mike Smith   |
| Kevin Barlow        | Tom Ernsting   | Cindy Krisby  | Roger Stuva  |
| Sheila Becker       | Ronnie Gill    | Cody Lee      | Bart Swisher |
| Kendall Bunselmeyer | Sharon Gray    | Julie Loesing | Kay Taylor   |
| Mike Chamness       | Scott Gremmels | Dennis Luehr  | Jeremy Thies |
| Terry Cochran       | Jim Grothaus   | Matt McElroy  | Eric Turner  |
| Glen Degenhardt     | Brooke Guthman | Carla McNeely |              |
| Travis Deterding    | Shane Hermetz  | Tillie Nance  |              |



## Caring for Kids School Supplies Collection

Until mid-December, we will be collecting a variation of different items for the Steeleville and Murphysboro School Districts. After the school year starts, schools have found they are in need of shoes, socks, under garments and various hygiene products. We will be collecting the following items in our new office lobby. Please consider participating, and check out our new office location during this time!

- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste/toothbrushes
- Feminine hygiene products
- Socks
- T-shirts (Men's sizes XS-XL)
- Sweatpants/joggers (Boy's and Girl's Youth 12-16, Women's and Men's sizes S-L)
- Wal-Mart gift cards (for items such as shoes)

## Why do we plan outages?

Have you ever received a call from Egyptian Electric Cooperative informing you of a “planned outage?” You may have wondered, “what is a planned outage?” and “why does my electric utility need to perform one?” Occasionally, the equipment we use to bring power to your home needs to be replaced, repaired or updated. When this happens, as a way to keep our crews and you safe, we plan an interruption to electric service. We do our best to plan these outages during times when you will be least inconvenienced, so we often

perform planned outages during school and business hours. We also try to avoid planning these outages during winter or summer months. We understand these are peak times of the year when you depend on running your heating and cooling units the most. **44-34-0003**

While they may sound slightly inconvenient, planned outages are actually beneficial to you, our members. Regular system upgrades are necessary for optimal performance, and they increase reliability. Repairing and upgrading our equipment is also

critical to maintaining public safety. If older lines need to be replaced, we plan for it, repair or replace it, and that keeps everyone safe.

Planned outages also allow us to keep you informed of when and how long you will be without power. At Egyptian Electric Cooperative, we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep you safe and to keep our system running smoothly. So, the next time you hear about a planned outage, know that it is one of the best ways we can provide you with quality electric service.

### LIHEAP

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) heat and electric assistance is a one-time benefit payment per heating season that is intended to help pay a portion of a household’s heat and electric costs. The benefit amount depends on household size, income, and energy costs. In most cases, the benefit is applied as a credit directly to the household’s Egyptian Electric account. You do not need to duplicate your efforts by applying for assistance with both your local agency and Egyptian Electric Cooperative. We urge you to contact your local office as soon as possible if you believe you may qualify for the LIHEAP. Qualifications are based on income and household size.

Jackson/Perry/  
Randolph/Monroe Counties . . . . . 618/965-3458  
St. Clair County . . . . . 618/277-6790  
Washington County . . . . . 618/532-7338  
Williamson/Franklin Counties . . . . . 618/937-3581  
Union/Johnson Counties . . . . . 618/634-2201

**Or for more information contact:**  
Office of Community Assistance  
Illinois Department of Commerce  
877/411-9276  
217/785-2533  
[communityassist@illinois.gov](mailto:communityassist@illinois.gov)

## Egyptian Electric Cooperative has relocated

In case you missed it, Egyptian Electric Cooperative has relocated to our new headquarters facility, at 1732 Finney Road, approximately 5 miles north of Murphysboro on Route 13/127, just south of the Route 4 intersection. Our new headquarters site has available a drive-thru window that is operational during our regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, in addition to the counters in the lobby. At the drive-thru window, we feature an outdoor kiosk and drop-box for members to make payments during or after regular business hours. Also, keep in mind, we have two other off-site kiosks for members to make payments at in Carbondale and Sparta. Visit our website [www.eeca.coop](http://www.eeca.coop) to learn more!

### Wright Do-It Center

**1306 N Market Street  
Sparta, IL**

7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon-Fri  
7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays



### Marketplace Shell

**2301 N Reed Station Parkway  
Carbondale, IL**

6 a.m. to Midnight  
Open 7 days/week!

