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80th Annual Meeting of the Members

Egyptian Electric Cooperative (EECA) held its 80th Annual Meeting of the Members at its new headquarters facility on the evening of Tuesday, July 17, 2018. Approximately 738 guests, (including the 431 registered members) were served dinner beginning at 4:30 p.m. and had the opportunity to take bucket truck rides, watch a Live Line demonstration and enjoy kettle corn, Dilly Bars, and balloon animals. **07-09-0010**

Paul Hicks, EECA board treasurer, reported that the year-end audited balance sheet for 2017 showed assets and liabilities totaling \$93 million. Electric sales revenue was almost \$39 million, and of that total, wholesale power costs amounted to \$27.8 million, more than 70 percent of the total cost of electric service. He also stated that no margins will be allocated as capital credits for the 2017 year.

During the meeting, members re-elected Paul Pyatt of Pinckneyville, Paul Hicks of Carbondale and Randall Campbell of Chester to new three-year terms on the EECA board of directors.

EECA General Manager Shane Hermetz looked back over the 80 years of the cooperative and noted

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the changes that have occurred. Hermetz noted the strength and leadership it took to make the cooperative what it is today, including the newly constructed headquarters. "The construction of this headquarters facility is a standing commitment to all members that we stand ready, willing and able to take on the challenges that the next 80 years and more will present," he said.

Hermetz reminded members of the expected increase in rates noted last year due to increased generation and transmission costs to Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), the EECA transmission provider. EECA received a 5.6 percent rate increase from SIPC, but members only saw an average of a 4.7 percent rate increase beginning on their April 2018 statements.

This year, the EECA board of

directors approved its first rural economic development project in partnership with USDA. Funds were secured for the Degognia-Fountain Bluff Levee District for \$360,000. Egyptian Electric is the intermediary for the loan and 20 percent funder, with USDA funding 80 percent of the loan that the levee district will repay over the next 10 years. As the funds are repaid to EECA, the co-op can revolve the money to fund more economic development projects in the area through the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant (REDLG) program.

At the close of the meeting, numerous attendance prizes were given away and drawings held for scholarships for college or college-bound students that are members or dependents of a member. Seventy-seven scholarship applicants, of the

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- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N Reed Station Road in Carbondale and 1306 N Market Street in Sparta

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90, were present for the five \$1,000 Annual Meeting Scholarship drawings that took place. During the evening, due to overwhelming participation, the board of directors elected to award an additional five scholarships, to make ten. The winners were:

- Lindsay Hammel, 2015 Steeleville High School graduate, attending Southeast Missouri State
- Joel Rahlfs, 2016 Sparta High School graduate, attending SIU Edwardsville
- Kyle Chambers, 2013 Murphysboro High School graduate, attending SIU Carbondale
- Calvin Clendenin, 2018 Chester High School graduate, attending John A. Logan Community College
- Marshall Brown, 2018 Carterville High School graduate, attending SIU Carbondale
- Kelsey Stanton, 2018 Murphysboro High School graduate, attending St. Louis Community College
- Elizabeth Koester, 2016 Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School graduate, attending Concordia University at Chicago
- Connor Graeff, 2017 Murphysboro High School graduate, attending Monmouth College
- Olivia Savka, 2018 Carterville High School graduate, attending SIU Edwardsville
- Adam Krisby, 2018 Sparta High School graduate, attending Southwest Illinois College



Recipients of the ten \$1,000 Annual Meeting Scholarships include (front row L to R) Lindsay Hammel, Joel Rahlfs, Kyle Chambers, Calvin Clendenin and Marshall Brown. (back row L to R) Kelsey Stanton, Elizabeth Koester, Connor Graeff, Olivia Savka and Adam Krisby.

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.

Southern Illinois local recognized for outstanding leadership

State Representative Terri Bryant, R-115th District, received the 2018 Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting, held Friday, July 27 in Springfield. The award was made in recognition of Rep. Bryant's

dedicated public service to all citizens of the state of Illinois and for outstanding contributions to the rural electrification program. She has served in the Illinois House since 2014. **51-11-0013**

"Representative Terri Bryant has spent a lifetime working

for those of us who live in and around southern Illinois," said Shane Hermetz, general manager of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association. "I've been extremely impressed in how she has been responsive to the needs of the co-op nation."

Representative Terri Bryant met with electric cooperative leaders during Lobby Day on May 15 to discuss key issues important to electric cooperatives and their members.



General Manager Shane Hermetz and the board of directors congratulate Representative Terri Bryant on receiving the Public Service Award.

AIEC Member Survey

As discussed last month, the 2018 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) Statewide Survey will be conducted this fall on your behalf. You may be randomly selected to participate in the project. You could receive the survey via mail, be given a link to complete the survey online or receive a telephone survey. People who complete the survey by one of the above-listed methods will be entered in a drawing to win a bill credit.

Neither the AIEC or the survey vendor, Inside Information, will not ask for credit card information or sell or share your private information.

They will provide us with the anonymous survey results, and we will evaluate the information that is gathered to help improve our service to you. **41-09-0018**

The more completed survey questionnaires we receive, the more accurate the information will be, so if you're selected to participate, please take the time to answer the short survey. We anticipate mailed post cards will go out the last week in August, and email survey questionnaires will be distributed the middle of September. Please contact us at 800-606-1505 with any questions you may have about this.



Modified Budget Billing Program

Our modified Budget Billing Program gives you a way to guard against large fluctuations and uncertainties in your monthly electric bill. With Budget Billing now being recalculated every four months, opposed to once a year, your monthly electric bill will become more of a rolling average of your electric usage. May will still be the true-up month but will be recalculated (raised or lower), and denoted in the message box of your September, January, and May bills. Your new amount will be effective on your October, February and June bills for four consecutive months. By averaging your changes more frequently, ideally your bill will remain more consistent and current, as well as truer throughout the year.

Our Budget Billing Program is completely free for members and can be joined at any time throughout the year with accounts in good standing and with at least 12 months of service history at that location. Call our office to learn more!



Send your current email to info@eeca.coop



for a chance to win a \$25 bill credit.

Tips for a Safe Harvest



Harvest season brings hard work and can be an exhausting, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous (even deadly!) when working near overhead power lines. We urge farm operators and workers to keep the following safety tips in mind:



Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.



Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.



Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.



Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.



If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call us immediately.

Source: SafeElectricity.org



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES