



# Egyptian Electric News

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

MAY 2020

## Egyptian Electric's Response to COVID-19

ECCA has modified its business model in response to Governor Pritzker's order to Shelter in Place. Until further notice, our office, including the drive-up window, will be closed. We strongly encourage members to follow the Governor's Shelter in Place order. Members are encouraged to utilize methods of payment such as the following:

- SmartHub – available for both Apple and Android smart devices
- Pay Now on our website – eeca.coop
- Usage of one of our three payment kiosks – locations in Carbondale, Sparta or outside of our Murphysboro office. We would suggest confirming that the businesses are open before attempting to utilize the inside kiosks
- By telephone – Our 24/7 automated phone system at 844-759-3977 to make a payment or report an outage

In support of the Shelter in Place directive, payments sent by mail or deposited in our drop box are not preferred for immediate attention. Payments of this type will be accepted but not guaranteed to be processed in a timely manner due to these circumstances. Also, to keep members safe from cyber thieves, payments by phone with assistance from a customer service representative will not be allowed during this time.

We will continue to be available by phone at 800-606-1505 to assist you during regular business hours. All essential services will continue. Our team of dedicated employees will continue to work on your behalf. Most employees will be working remotely, while a few employees will report to the office, when possible.

We will continue to adapt our business to address any challenges that are yet to be determined. By the time this has been published, our plans will mostly likely have already changed. We will continue to keep you updated and communicate via SmartHub alerts, our website and Facebook. We greatly appreciate your patience during these times of uncertainty.

### SOCIAL DISTANCING

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Social distancing is the practice of maintaining a greater than usual physical distance from other people or avoiding direct contact with people or objects in public places during the outbreak of a contagious disease in order to minimize exposure and reduce the transmission of infection.

- |                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Group gatherings                  | Malls                 |
| Sporting events                   | Retail stores         |
| Sleep overs                       | Parties               |
| Non-essential workers in the home | Playdates             |
| Gyms                              | Concerts              |
|                                   | Public transportation |

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Banking        | Pharmacy         |
| Parks          | Drive-thrus      |
| Traveling      | Curbside pickups |
| Grocery stores |                  |

- Take a walk
- Go for a hike
- Yard work
- Play outside
- Read a book

- Listen to music
- Cook a meal
- Clean house
- Facetime
- Phone calls

- Play a game
- Group video chats
- Stream a show/movie
- Conference calls
- Remote working

**AVOID**

**CAUTION**

**SAFE**



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  
eeca.coop

### Board of Directors

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



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 Pkwy in Carbondale and 1306 N Market in Sparta

## Nominating committee meeting

At this time, the 82nd Annual Meeting of the Members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association (EECA) is planned for Thursday evening, July 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the EECA headquarters facility located at 1732 Finney Road in Murphysboro. At that meeting, the terms of directors Steve Prest of Coulterville, Larry Ebers of Steeleville and Rick Asaturian of Carbondale will expire. The board of directors of the cooperative has appointed the following persons as a nominating and credentials committee:

- **Matt Crain**, *Carbondale*
- **Richard Fager**, *Murphysboro*
- **Tony Goodin**, *Makanda*
- **John Helmers**, *Steeleville*
- **Kenneth Hollmann**, *Gorham*
- **Stuart Langrehr**, *Evansville*
- **Roger Morganstern**, *Pinckneyville*
- **Dwayne Mulholland**, *Marissa*
- **Donald Stallman**, *Chester*

The nominating and credentials committee will meet at the Murphysboro headquarters office of the cooperative, 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, Illinois, on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., for the

purpose of nominating candidates for election to the board of directors. All interested members may attend the meeting.

Upon making their nominations, the committee will post a list of the nominations for directors at the office of the cooperative. Any 15 or more members may make additional nominations in writing over their signature not less than 60 days prior to the annual meeting. **50-07-0025** The bylaws provide that each active member of the cooperative is entitled to one vote for each matter submitted to a vote at the annual meeting of the members, and therefore proxy voting is not allowed. Any member having questions regarding the matters above may contact any officer or member of the board of directors for clarification or further information. Copies of the cooperative bylaws are available and can be obtained at the cooperative office located at 1732 Finney Road Murphysboro, the cooperative's website (eeca.coop) or mailed to you upon request.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Pyatt, Secretary-Treasurer

## Board appoints Asaturian following Kroening retirement



Until Feb. 14, 2020, the board of directors accepted applications for a vacant board seat due to the retirement of Gilbert Kroening of Carbondale in December 2019. Gil is a long-time Carbondale resident and retired professor from SIU Carbondale. At his retirement, he had been an Egyptian Electric Cooperative board member for 19 years.

The board appointed Rick Asaturian as his replacement on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020. He will also be nominated to run in Kroening's place at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Members.

## 2019 capital credit allocation

As we discuss every year, the most important difference between an investor-owned company and a co-operative, such as Egyptian Electric, is that it allocates its excess revenue (above operating expenses) to its member-consumers. An investor-owned (for-profit) company gives excess revenue (dividends) back to its investors, or those that own stock in the company. The more you contribute as a member-consumer to the revenue through the electricity you purchase, the more that is given back to you when there is additional revenue in proportion to your contribution. We call this an allocation of capital credits. Excess revenue can be used by your cooperative for maintenance, replacements, storm damage

and other contingencies. Our board of directors balance the need for sound business practice, with the desire to return capital credits back to our member-consumers. **41-21-0010** The amount of capital due to you is recorded on accounts established in your name and is a part of Egyptian Electric Cooperative's permanent records. Should the board of directors determine a refund of capital credits be made, they will be refunded in accordance with the bylaws of the cooperative.

To calculate the amount of margins allocated to you for 2019, you will need to know two amounts for each account in your name. The total dollar amount billed (not necessarily what you paid), and the total

kilowatt-hours (kWhs) billed in 2019. Using the calculation table shown, multiply the total kilowatt-hours billed by 0.083131908 and subtract the result from the total dollar amount billed. Multiply this number by 0.0967532819 to get the amount of Egyptian Electric capital credit allocated to you for 2019. To calculate your capital credits allocated to you through our membership in Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), our wholesale electric provider, take this dollar amount and multiply it by 0.0877159867, as shown below.

In June, we will be printing the dollar amounts of capital credits allotted to your account for 2019 on your billing statement. You should place this in your financial records for future use and reference. Please remember, this cannot be used to pay or reduce the amount of your bill. It is for record keeping only.

Our board of directors also established a policy that allows discounted capital credit payouts for deceased members. If you or someone in your family is the beneficiary of an estate of someone that you believe is eligible to receive a refund, please contact us at 800-606-1505 or email us at [capcredit@eeca.coop](mailto:capcredit@eeca.coop) with the name and date of death of the deceased party. We will then send out the applicable paperwork to have you complete and return to us. Should you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at any time.

*To calculate your capital credits for 2019 by account, just fill in the information below:*

### EECA Capital Credits

Total amount billed in 2019 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (a)

Total kWhs billed in 2019 = \_\_\_\_\_ (b)

Line (b) x multiplier (.083131908) = \_\_\_\_\_ (c)

Line (a) - Line (c) = \_\_\_\_\_ (d)

Line (d) x EECA margin factor (.0967532819) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (e)

### SIPC Capital Credits

Line (d) x SIPC margin factor (.0877159867) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (f)

# 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.

# ★ MEMORIAL ★ DAY

**Our office will be closed May 25**

## Electric co-ops are contributing to a smarter grid

It's a familiar scene: poles and wires stretching into the distance alongside a rural highway. This image might appear no different now than it did years ago but look more closely.

Invisible to most of us is an overlay of new equipment—chips, sensors and fiber—linking remote distribution infrastructure to the utility's operations center using advanced communications technology.

Those iconic poles and wires are now part of a "smart grid" that can be operated using software and automation. **07-05-0011**

For electric cooperatives, "digitalization" of electric infrastructure kicked into high gear in 2013 when the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) funded new technology research at 23 electric co-ops across the country. That partnership has now evolved into a robust research program exploring everything from drones and smart solar inverters to cybersecurity training and carbon capture technology.

Here are some ways co-op consumer-members are already benefiting from a smarter grid:

- **Fewer power outages.** In certain situations, smart feeder switching can re-route power around problems such as downed power lines, which reduces the number of people affected by an outage.
- **Pre-pay programs.** Most co-op pre-pay billing programs no longer impose hefty reconnection fees because, thanks to advanced digital meters, the co-op doesn't need to send out a truck to physically reconnect the home.
- **Cost savings from increased efficiency.** Many of the new technologies are improving the efficiency of co-op operations—from reducing the amount of electricity lost in transmission to reducing the need for sending out trucks. These cost savings are passed on to co-op members.
- **Improved safety for co-op workers and members.** The data from smart technologies provide utility operators a more detailed view of what is happening on the electric system. Co-ops have found the data can help them identify electrical hazards faster.

The research partnership between electric co-ops and the U.S. DOE, including the national laboratories, has enabled co-ops nationwide to increase their total solar energy capacity, install cutting-edge batteries for energy storage and microgrids, develop data analytics tools and find new ways to capture emissions from coal and natural gas power plants.

This partnership gives electric co-ops in some of the most remote regions of the country access to an amazing

network of researchers, including researchers at Carnegie Mellon University, Purdue University and the University of California at Berkley, to name a few.

In exchange, the researchers can see how these new technologies operate in the real-world.

So, the next time you drive down a highway and see poles and wires stretching into the far distance, know there's more to that system than meets the eye. While the electricity in your home powers the toaster just as it always did, that electricity is more efficient, reliable and safer thanks to innovation made possible by cooperation.

### ELECTRICAL Safety

for Teens





**DO NOT use generic chargers** or cords. They could **overheat** or shock or burn you.



**DO NOT** put your cell phone **under your pillow** or take it to bed with you.



**DO NOT** use charging cell phones or other electrical devices **with wet or damp hands**.



**DO NOT** bring a charging cell phone or other electrical devices **near water**, including a **bathtub or pool**.



If you are in a car accident involving a downed power line, **DO NOT get out of the vehicle** unless you see smoke or fire.

**If you must exit a burning vehicle** near or on a downed power line, make a **clean exit from the car** and **land on both feet**; then **hop** with feet together, **DO NOT WALK**, to safety.



