



# Egyptian Electric News

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

JUNE 2020

## Youth to Washington Winners

Five students from our service territory were selected to represent Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day in Springfield on March 31, but because of COVID-19 travel restrictions, Youth Day was unfortunately canceled.

- Yasmina Amley, of Murphysboro High School, is the daughter of Dean Amley of Murphysboro and Christina Barnes of Vienna.
- Landon Buser, of Elverado High School, is the son of Brandon and Kim Buser of Vergennes.
- Alexis Degler, of Pinckneyville Community High School, is the daughter of Richard and Casey Degler of Pinckneyville.
- Claire Deterding, of St. Vincent High School in Perryville, Mo., is the daughter of Grant and Cindy Deterding of Rockwood.
- Hannah Kerkhover, of Mt. Summit Homeschool, is the daughter of Ed and Rhonda Kerkhover of Chester.

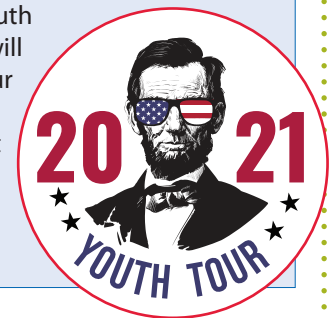


*Claire Deterding*



*Hannah Kerkhover*

From the Youth Tour applications, Claire Deterding and Hannah Kerkhover were selected as the EECA Youth to Washington winners for the annual trip that was to take place this June. **08-08-0004** Due to lingering COVID-19 travel restrictions, NRECA made the decision in early April to cancel Youth Tour for 2020. Both students will be eligible to attend Youth Tour 2021 or in lieu of traveling, receive a scholarship-equivalent scholarship in the amount of \$1,500. Congratulations to Claire and Hannah!



## ANNUAL MEETING! 2020

Join us for our 82nd Annual Meeting of the Members on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at our headquarters office at 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro. Registration and dinner begin at 4:30 p.m. and Business Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

Final decisions about the Annual Meeting will be made at the May board meeting and will be published in the July issue.

Ten Annual Meeting scholarships will be awarded. Scholarship applications can be found on page 13 and on our website at eeca.coop. Applications are due to the cooperative by July 3.



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](http://eeca.coop)

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- Use SmartHub portal, online or mobile app
- By phone to 844-759-3977 with credit cards or checking account
- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N Reed Station Pkwy in Carbondale and 1306 N Market in Sparta

**With your elbow grease and worn out boots, you never failed to put us first.**

**Happy Father's Day on June 21st.**



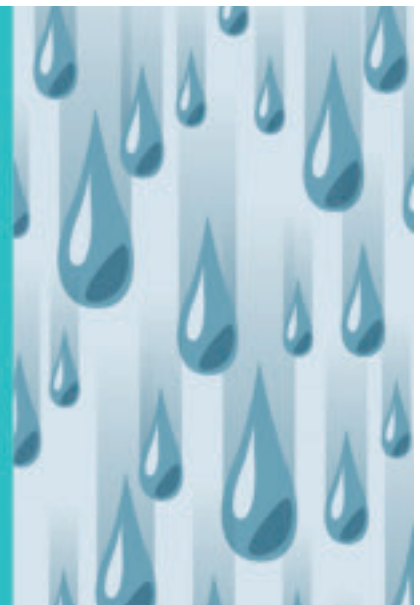
## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save.



## Did You Know?

- All thunderstorms produce lightning.
- Lightning often strikes outside the area of heavy rain and can strike as far as 10 miles from any rainfall.
- If you hear thunder, you're in the danger zone.



## Brennen Thomas Egyptian Electric IEC Scholarship Winner

The Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by a unanimous vote of the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) in Springfield, Ill. in January 1994. It was designed to provide financial assistance to deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.”

Scholarship applicants must be high school seniors who plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school in the U.S. **48-06-0009** Scholarships are awarded based on grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, biographical statement and knowledge of electric cooperatives, as demonstrated by a short essay.

Each year, 12 scholarships, worth \$2,000 each, are given out to these Illinois students who are sons or daughters of cooperative members (receive electric service from a cooperative), directors and/or employees. Funds to support the scholarships are raised yearly at the AIEC annual meeting as well as by other private donors.

Of the 265 applications from 24 Illinois electric cooperatives, Egyptian Electric Cooperative once again had a winner! Brennen Thomas, a 2020 graduate of Carterville High School, was one

of the six scholarships awarded to students that are children of electric cooperative consumer-members and attending a four-year college or university.



*Brennen Thomas*

Brennen is the son of Howard and Cheryl Thomas of Carbondale and is attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign this fall to study chemical engineering. Traditionally, he would be presented with his award by Egyptian Electric Cooperative Vice-President/General Manager Shane Hermetz at the Carterville High School’s Awards Banquet. Given the COVID-19 restrictions, that was precluded this year. Congratulations to Brennen and his family on his accomplishments!

To learn how to apply and when applications open for these scholarships, please contact Brooke

Guthman, bguthman@eeca.coop or visit eeca.coop. Below is the complete list of statewide winners.

### 4 Year College/University (6 are awarded)

- Daphne Moss – Adams Electric Cooperative
- Brennen Thomas – Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association
- Olivia Seaman – EnerStar Electric Cooperative
- Jennifer Bingham – Illinois Electric Cooperative
- Kathryn Walters – Jo-Carroll Energy
- Jack Kessinger – M.J.M. Electric Cooperative

### Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship (1 is awarded)

- Elizabeth Stremming – Corn Belt Energy Corporation

### Full-Time two-year Community College (4 are awarded)

- Brady Clark – Clay Electric Co-operative
- Travis Wilke – Norris Electric Cooperative
- Jessie Lewis – Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative
- Sara Timm – Tri-County Electric Cooperative

## 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.

## Follow us on



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## Let's talk about scams

The energy industry is undergoing rapid change, and technology is paving the way for innovation in the way energy is used, produced, stored and shared. Consumers are interested in more green energy alternatives while smart homes and apps make managing energy use and paying electric bills more convenient than ever.

While the changing energy market has created more options for consumers, it has also resulted in more utility scams and misleading information surrounding solar installations, in particular. **49-12-0010** That's because of two factors.

Utility scams are common because of the vast number of utilities that exist, and consumers are understandably anxious with the threat of disruption to their electric, heating or water service. Second, new products and services in the energy industry provide an opening for scammers and pop-up companies to provide misleading information or shoddy products and services.

A common phone scam typically begins with a phone number that appears to be from a valid utility company. The scammer will claim you have a past due account and threaten to disconnect service or



take legal action. The scammer will typically demand that you use a prepaid debit card or money order, often within a short, urgent time frame to pay the "past due" amount.

You can combat this scam by being aware of the status of your account. Never give your banking or personal information over the phone to someone you did not call. If you have a question or concern about your energy bill, call us directly at (800) 606-1505. Do not use the phone number given by the scammer.

In this ever-changing environment, it's important to remember you have a trusted energy advisor – your local electric cooperative. We are a community-focused organization that works to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable and safe energy to our members.

**Remember, we're just one call or click away, so please reach out with any questions about your electric service or bills – we're here to help.**

## Exciting technology news

Egyptian Electric is in the early stages of deploying a new metering system. Our current automatic meter reading (AMR) system has reached its intended end of useful life. When we think of our metering system as a computer, our computer is now 15 years old. We are launching a new advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system and will begin the installation of the new metering communications equipment in the next few months. The first of the new meters will be implemented in June, and we are hopeful to have the system fully deployed by the end of 2021.