



## The Power of



Today, hundreds of electric cooperatives across the country, including Egyptian Electric Cooperative (EECA), have implemented Operation Round Up, as a community focused program within their business! As all cooperatives adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including "Concern for Community," the Operation Round Up program is the perfect embodiment of this core principle. Over the years, millions of dollars have been collected from other cooperatives through this program and distributed for a wide range of activities. **38-11-0001** This has included stocking the local food pantry, providing funds for the local fire department to purchase a needed piece of equipment, and dozens of other humanitarian efforts that bring electric co-ops even closer to the communities we serve. Operation Round Up is a perfect example of that cooperative spirit.

Operation Round Up was initiated by EECA in early 2019 as a way to help our consumer-members and organizations close to home. Operation Round Up is a 501(c)(3) charitable program designed to provide financial assistance to qualified groups and organizations that contribute to the betterment of communities within the EECA service footprint. Funds are raised by



Shane Hermetz, EVP/General Manager of EECA presents \$500 to Diane Daugherty of St. Francis CARE in Murphysboro.

consumer-members of EECA that voluntarily enroll in the Operation Round Up program - agreeing to round their monthly electric bills up to the nearest dollar. The average individual contribution is 50 cents per month and never exceeds \$11.88 per year. This may not seem like a large amount, but when combined with over 12,000 members, it adds up fast and could make a significant impact. The program is always voluntary, and at any time, members can change their minds about participating. Please consider joining our efforts today by signing up at [eeca.coop/roundup](http://eeca.coop/roundup) or by calling our office to enroll!

Since inception, EECA's program has accumulated more than \$4,000 from its consumer-members and employees. On May 9, 2022 we were able to present our first two awards from the program - \$500 to Toys for Tots, out of Carbondale, and \$500 to St. Francis CARE, out of Murphysboro!



Shane Hermetz, EVP/General Manager of EECA presents \$500 to Mark Cosgrove, Assistant Coordinator of Toys for Tots in Carbondale.

Operation Round Up Grant Applications to receive the next round of grant funds are due July 5, but applications are continuously accepted year around. The application can be completed online, or forms downloaded from [eeca.coop/applytoroundup](http://eeca.coop/applytoroundup). Operation Round Up grant dollars are available to any group or organization recognized as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) and Section 170 of the IRS Code. Among the exceptions to the 501(c)(3) designation are public educational institutions which are defined by the IRS in Section 170 or municipalities.



Egyptian Electric  
Cooperative Association  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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### 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 at (844) 759-3977, using credit card or checking account
- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N Reed Station Pkwy in Carbondale and 1306 N Market in Sparta

## 2022 Annual Meeting Thursday, July 14

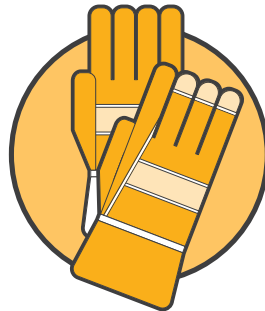
The 84th EECA Annual Meeting of the Members will be held on **Thursday, July 14, 2022**. Boxed hot dog and chip dinners will be given to those in attendance, and a \$20 bill credit issued to each registered member. Gates open for registration at 4:30 p.m., with the business meeting beginning at 6 p.m. Scholarship and door prize drawings immediately following. Applications are now available for the EECA \$1,000 Annual Meeting Scholarships. Scholarship applications are due July 5 and can be found at eeca.coop, our office, or on page 6, or at our office.

Congratulations to Clint Pyatt on becoming our new Line Clearance Foreman. Clint started with EECA on April 18. He has worked in outside line clearance the last 15 years, since 2013 working for Oil Field Electric. **50-07-0003** He is from, and resides in, Pinckneyville with his wife and two children. Welcome Clint!



### Five Tips for Hiring an Electrician

A licensed electrician can help with a variety of home projects from lighting upgrades to full renovations. Keep the following tips in mind if you're looking to hire an electrician.



- 1. Hire a licensed, qualified electrician for the job.**  
Look for a master electrician to manage the project. Master electricians have the most experience and will often oversee the work of a journey-level electrician or apprentice.
- 2. Make sure the electrician is insured.**  
Seasoned electricians know the importance of protecting themselves in case of an accident.
- 3. Read *all* the reviews.**  
Hire an electrician that has several positive reviews – not just one or two. Read reviews on different sites, like Nextdoor, Yelp and HomeAdvisor, and consider asking your neighbors for recommendations.
- 4. Determine your budget. Get two quotes.**  
Knowing your budget upfront helps move the process along. Prices can greatly vary, so get multiple quotes (at least two).
- 5. Talk timeline.**  
Some electricians accidentally overbook projects. If your job is time-sensitive, convey that early on and discuss a realistic timeline with the electrician.

## 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.

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OPERATION

ROUNDUP

[eeca.coop/roundup](http://eeca.coop/roundup)



By signing up to round up your monthly bill, together we can financially support needs in our communities.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative collects member & employee contributions in our 501(c)3 charitable fund.



100% of the funds will go directly to organizations who support community service projects, at-need community efforts, economic development, education, safety and other local services.



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Please join us in making our part of Southern Illinois a better place for all of us!

Visit [eeca.coop/roundup](http://eeca.coop/roundup), email [info@eeca.coop](mailto:info@eeca.coop) or call our office at (800) 606-1505 to sign up.

## Before you jump in: consider potential electrical hazards

If you own a pool or hot tub, you know there are several steps required to keep it clean and well maintained. One aspect of owning a hot tub or pool that is often not top of mind for homeowners is the electrical system, which can pose a significant or even deadly hazard.

Since pool and hot tub areas mean wet skin and wet surfaces, the

### Electrical safety also includes:

- Making sure ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are installed on all:
  - ◆ underwater lighting circuits operating at 15 volts or more.
  - ◆ electrical equipment, including 120- and 240-volt heaters close to the pool.

- Using battery-operated electronics whenever possible.
- Ensuring that hands and feet are dry while using electrical devices.
- Keeping long-handled tools and poles away from nearby power lines, including the drop-down lines to your home.
- Holding pool skimmers and other long-handled tools as low as possible to the ground.
- Keeping electrical cords, wires and devices out of reach and at least 5 feet from the water.
- Unplugging a device that has fallen into the water before touching it. Even submersible pumps designed to run under water may not be safe to use when someone is in the water.



chance of electrocution increases when electricity is present.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) points out that electricity around pools, hot tubs and spas can be found in underwater lights, electric pool equipment (e.g., pumps, filters, vacuum), extension and power cords, electrical outlets or switches, electrical devices such as TVs and overhead power lines.

To keep swimmers and hot tubbers as safe as possible, be sure to have the electrical system inspected, repaired and upgraded to local and National Electrical Code (NEC) by a licensed contractor. **40-16-0011** Also, do not set up a pool (temporary or permanent) where power lines are overhead or within 25 feet of water.

- ◆ outdoor receptacles (outlets) within 20 feet of the water's edge.
- Testing permanently installed GFCIs monthly. Test those that are portable or connected to a cord before each use.
- Looking for signs of mold or other growth on the inside lenses of lights, which can indicate water leakage.
- Ensuring that the power switch and GFCI for underwater lights are clearly marked and easily accessible in an emergency.
- Labeling power switches for pool, hot tub and spa equipment, as well as lighting.

### What to look for

Swimmers may feel a tingling sensation, experience muscle cramps or may not be able to move. You may see panic behavior by others or a motionless swimmer in the water. You might also see underwater lights that are not working properly. You might also hear complaints of tingling or other odd sensations.

If you think you are being shocked while in the water, move away from the source of the shock and get out of the water. If possible, exit without using a metal ladder; touching metal may increase the risk of shock.

If you think someone in the water is experiencing an electrical shock, immediately turn off all power. If the power is not turned off, rescuers can also be shocked or electrocuted. After the power is disconnected, call 911, or have someone else make the call.

For more about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

