



## 87th Annual Meeting of the Members: Your Go-To Key Takeaways!

Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association (EECA) held its annual meeting on July 10 at the EECA headquarters in Murphysboro. As a thank-you for attending, all registered members received a \$20 bill credit on their August bill.

The Annual Meeting is a chance for members to connect, hear important updates, and take part in the democratic process that powers

the cooperative. If you couldn't attend, here are the highlights:

### Board of Directors Election

Alongside the Executive Vice President/General Manager and management team, the Board oversees EECA's financial health, sets policy, and stays informed on key operational and strategic matters affecting the cooperative.

In a contested election, cooperative members reelected the following directors to serve new 3-year terms on the EECA Board of Directors:

- Kevin Liefer, Red Bud
- Ken Jarrett, Jacob
- Kevin Bame, Murphysboro

### Rising Power Costs

Members were notified of adjustments to the PCA/DCA

beginning on their August bills. The adjustments are necessary to offset:

- The rising cost of power supply, and
- Significant material cost increases due to anticipated tariffs.

By the end of 2025, EECA estimates an overall 3-3.5% increase in members' bills, with additional adjustments expected in 2026.

Despite these challenges, EECA's rates have remained significantly lower than other electric utilities in our area.

### Capital Credits

One of the many benefits of cooperative membership is the return of Capital Credits. This month, EECA will return \$1,347,967 to members who received electric service in 1995 and 1996.

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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  
855-939-3675

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

## Board of Directors

Kevin Liefer, President  
Randall Campbell, Vice President  
Kevin Bame, Secretary – Treasurer  
Rick Asaturian  
Paul Hicks  
Mary Jo Homan  
Ken Jarrett  
Steve Prest  
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 at 855-939-3675, using credit card or checking account
- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N. Reed Station Parkway and 1815 W. Main in Carbondale



Front row L to R: Anna Booker, Brianna Carnes, Haleigh Tarrants, Jessie Pyatt. Back row L to R: Madison Hine, John Voss, Skylar Soto, David Koester, Karleigh Ellis, Megan Fleege.

## Congratulations to our 2025 Annual Meeting Scholarship winners!

We received 51 applications this year, and the winners were drawn during our Annual Meeting. Each of these 10 outstanding students received a \$1,000 scholarship to support their academic endeavors. Congratulations to the following scholarship recipients:

- **Anna Booker:** 2025 Carterville High School graduate, attending Maryville University.
- **Brianna Carnes:** 2025 Murphysboro High School graduate, attending SIU Carbondale.
- **Karleigh Ellis:** 2023 Cobden High School graduate, attending Southeast Missouri State University.
- **Megan Fleege:** 2024 Carterville High School graduate, attending SIU Carbondale.
- **Madison Hine:** 2024 Murphysboro High School graduate, attending SIU Carbondale.
- **David Koester:** 2022 Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School graduate, attending Concordia University.
- **Jessie Pyatt:** 2022 Pinckneyville Community High School graduate, attending Southwestern University.
- **Skylar Soto:** 2025 Trinity Christian High School graduate, attending SIU Carbondale.
- **Haleigh Tarrants:** 2023 Murphysboro High School graduate, attending SIU Carbondale.
- **John Voss:** 2024 Murphysboro High School graduate, attending Southeast Missouri State University.

Each year, EECA offers these ten scholarships to eligible students. Applicants must be full-time, or soon-to-be full-time, college students who are dependents of EECA consumer-members, or consumer-members themselves, receiving electricity from EECA for at least one year prior to the Annual Meeting. **Keith Dailey**

Scholarship recipients are qualified by application and selected through a drawing held each year during the Annual Meeting of the Members, which takes place in July at EECA's headquarters in Murphysboro. Applications will be available April 2026 for next year.





## Operation Round Up Helps Meet Local Needs

Thanks to the generosity of EECA members enrolled in Operation Round Up, a recent donation of \$750 was made to the Family Outreach Center in Murphysboro. These funds are being used to provide hygiene kits to individuals in need — a simple but vital resource for dignity and well-being.

Between May 1 and June 20, the center distributed more than 200 hygiene kits, and Center Director Paulette Sparling says the demand continues to grow. She expressed

deep gratitude for the funds and asked us to pass along her heartfelt thank you to all the EECA members who make support like this possible.

Want to join other members in supporting local nonprofits through your electric bill? Follow the QR code below!

**Learn more about  
Operation Round  
Up and how to  
enroll here:**



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of “shoulder months,” which refer to the transitional periods between peak heating and cooling seasons. During the fall, these milder weeks typically occur between September and November. Shoulder months offer a great opportunity to reduce home energy consumption as the need for extensive heating or cooling is reduced. Look for simple ways to boost indoor comfort without running your heating and cooling system. Use ceiling fans and open windows on breezy days to ventilate your home. On cooler days, add a layer of clothing and avoid running the heat.

## Employee News



In August, Sheila Becker, one of our dedicated Operations Coordinators, quietly marked an impressive 30 years with EECA. Over the past three decades, Sheila has been a vital part of our day-to-day operations and a steady force

behind the scenes. She plays a key role in connecting our Operations, Warehouse, and Engineering departments, ensuring everything runs seamlessly.

Her hard work, reliability, and deep knowledge of both our industry and service territory have been essential to our continued success. We're incredibly grateful for Sheila's dedication and proud to celebrate this remarkable milestone. Congratulations, Sheila!



This year we are celebrating our Finance Manager Cheryl Bauersachs' five-year anniversary with EECA!

Cheryl came to us after 24 years with SIU Carbondale and has continued to grow professionally each year. She completed the

intensive Management Internship Program (MIP) through the University of Wisconsin-Madison and earned her Director Gold Certificate from NRECA; both accomplishments reflect her commitment to our cooperative values and dedication to leadership excellence.

Cheryl and her husband are proud members of our co-op. Thank you, Cheryl, for five years of hard work and dedication to EECA and our members!

## MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three member names hidden throughout our Egyptian Electric News section. If you find your name, 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.

"Annual meeting" Continued from 18A

## Food, Fun & Prizes

Members enjoyed live music, face painting for the kids, jumbo hot dog meals, and Chocolate Dilly Bars. The event had something for everyone — and we topped it off with chances to win exciting prizes. If you've never attended the Annual Meeting, consider joining us next year! Registered members who are



in attendance are automatically entered into the prize drawing.

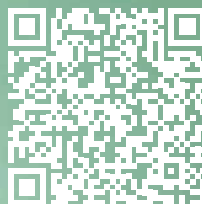
This year, 25 lucky members walked away with prizes. Congratulations to our winners!

- **Laurel Toussaint** — Rechargeable Neck Fan
- **Brian C. Greer** — Weather Radio Combo
- **Roger Morgenstern** — Owala Water Bottle
- **Elizabeth Phipps** — Stanley Water Bottle
- **Sarah Koester** — \$100 Cash
- **Emily Kaufmann** — \$100 Cash
- **Julie Cason** — \$100 Cash
- **Kelly Vaughn** — \$100 Cash
- **Dennis Garver** — Pickleball Set
- **Tara Mason** — JBL Speaker
- **Barry & Debbie Newman** — Outdoor Weather Pod
- **Troy & Andrea Deming** — Hammock
- **Jack Raino** — \$100 Cash
- **Mary Huseman** — \$100 Cash
- **Sylvia Drake** — \$100 Cash
- **Kendall K. Doly** — Nespresso Machine
- **Praveen Sunny** — Bissell Little Green Cleaner
- **Billy Korando** — Nugget Ice Maker
- **Jason Huseman** — Bamboo Sheet Set (Queen)
- **Michael Ellis** — \$100 Cash
- **Neil Heins** — \$100 Cash
- **Patsy Goss** — \$100 Cash
- **Charles McCann** — Solo Stove
- **Nicholas Sabella** — Blackstone Griddle
- **Kristin Glenn** — Dyson Handheld Vacuum

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's meeting. We're proud to serve you, and we look forward to seeing you again in 2026! **Melissa D Hicks**

## APPLY NOW Classroom Empowerment Grants

School teachers & administrators can apply for one of the ten \$500 Classroom Grants that will be offered again this year. On September 2, grant applications will become available and will be due on November 7. Selections will be made and awarded in early December. To learn more, visit [eeca.coop](http://eeca.coop) or scan the QR code.



**Our office will be closed Monday, September 1 for the Labor Day holiday.**