



2026 Annual Meeting: Key Takeaways

EECA held its Annual Meeting on Thursday, July 9 at its headquarters in Murphysboro. As a thank-you for attending, all registered members received a \$20 bill credit on their August bill and were entered to win attendance prizes.

Each year, this meeting is an opportunity for EECA members to hear important updates about their cooperative and participate in the cooperative's democratic process. There was no contested director election this year, but Directors Rick Asaturian of Carbondale, Mary Jo Homan of Chester, and Steve Prest of Coulterville were elected by acclamation. During his annual report, EECA General Manager and Executive Vice President Shane Hermetz shared updates on the cooperative's financial health, system improvements, and future priorities.

If you weren't able to attend, here are the key takeaways from his remarks.

Capital Credits Return to Members

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, EECA returns margins to members through capital credits. Later this year, more than \$1.3 million will be returned to members who received electric service from EECA in 1996, 1997, 1998, and/or 1999. For more information about this year's capital credit retirement, see page 18C.

Rates Remain Stable

Hermetz shared that members have seen the benefit of recent Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) and



Distribution Cost Adjustment (DCA) changes, which have resulted in lowered electric bills/rates in recent months. While inflation, supply chain challenges, and growing energy demand nationwide continue to influence the cost of providing electricity, EECA expects rates to remain stable for the remainder of the year, with no significant changes anticipated at this time.

Bringing Outside Dollars Back to Members

Over the past several years, EECA has secured more than \$6M in state and federal grant funding to improve reliability, strengthen infrastructure, and support economic development across southern Illinois. By pursuing grant opportunities whenever possible, EECA can make system improvements while helping keep costs down for members.

This outside funding has supported projects including expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure; constructing a shared materials warehouse to improve outage response for multiple cooperatives; building two new substations to support business

growth and reliability—one in the Baldwin area and the other near the I-57/I-24 interchange; accelerating pole replacements and right-of-way maintenance; and installing advanced technology in substations to improve system monitoring and reliability.

Members Can Earn Bill Credits

Members were encouraged to enroll in Peak Power Rewards, a voluntary demand response program that rewards EECA members with bill credits when they can reduce their energy use during short periods of high demand. Over 900 EECA accounts have already enrolled, and members who participate can earn credits simply by making temporary adjustments to their energy use during notified events. To learn more or sign up, see page 6 of this magazine or visit eeca.coop/ppr.



**PEAK POWER
REWARDS**

Annual Meeting Scholarships

The evening concluded with attendance prize drawings and the

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- 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

Annual Meeting continued from 18A



Front row L to R: Jillian Price, Rylie Myers, Bryce Edwards, Emma Rogers. Back row L to R: Tucker Deming, Isaac Mayer, Brayden Ellis, Tate Schaber, Layne Young, Isak Fagerland

announcement of the 10 recipients of EECA's \$1,000 Annual Meeting Scholarships. Congratulations to:

- **Isak Fagerland:** 2023 Elverado High School graduate, attending Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville
- **Emma Rogers:** 2025 Carterville High School graduate, attending Southern Illinois University – Carbondale
- **Tate Schaber:** 2026 Trico High School graduate, attending John A. Logan College
- **Layne Young:** 2026 Steeleville High School graduate, attending Murray State University
- **Brayden Ellis:** 2026 Trico High School graduate, attending Purdue University
- **Bryce Edwards:** 2025 Murphysboro High School graduate, attending Quincy University
- **Isaac Mayer:** 2026 Pinckneyville Community High School graduate, attending Rend Lake College

- **Tucker Deming:** 2026 Trico High School graduate, attending Ranken Technical College
- **Rylie Myers:** 2026 Chester High School graduate, attending Southern Illinois University – Carbondale
- **Jillian Price:** 2026 Homeschool graduate from Carbondale, attending Southern Illinois University – Carbondale.

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 2027!



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.

\$1,309,520 in capital credits to be returned to members this year

This fall, Egyptian Electric Cooperative (EECA) will retire (and pay) \$1,309,520 to our consumer-members who were served by our cooperative (coop) between 1996-1999. This means if you had service in one of these years, you will receive a portion of margins allocated in that year, proportional to the amount you contributed to those years' revenue. This year, the capital credits will be returned in a first-in, first out (FIFO) method, returning 100% of 1996, 100% of 1997, 100% of 1998 and 50% of 1999.

When you sign up to receive electric service from EECA, you become a member, as well as a consumer.

While investor-owned utilities return excess revenue or profits back to shareholders, electric coops operate at-cost, and over time retire capital credits to its consumer-members. Over our 88-year history, excess margins have helped keep rates affordable, reduced the amount of money needed to borrow to build, maintain, and expand a reliable electric distribution system, and covered emergency expenses.

Traditionally, EECA capital credit returns have been distributed yearly to those who had service with us approximately 30 years prior.

Where does the money come from?

Electric coops set rates to generate enough money to pay operating costs, make payments on loans and provide an emergency reserve. At the end of each year, we subtract operating expenses from the operating revenue collected during the year. The balance is called an operating margin. Margins are then allocated as capital credits to be distributed in future years.

What are capital credits?

A primary difference between an investor-owned company and a cooperative, such as EECA, is that we operate with a not-for-profit business model, owned by the consumer-members we serve. When you pay your monthly EECA bill, you accumulate equity in EECA through margins. Margins, more than the cost to serve members, are utilized as operating capital. When the coop has a positive operating margin (excess of income over expenses), the margin is allocated through a capital credits system. These account allocations are communicated each year on your June bill, with the information from the prior year. We also publish the methods used to calculate capital credit allocations each year in the Illinois Country Living magazine.

Merry R Lee

How are capital credits allocated and retired?

Each year, members are allocated the previous year's margins, based on the amount of electricity purchased by each member in relation to the amount of electricity purchased from all members. An allocation represents the member's "share of ownership" in our cooperative.

The previous year's allocation will be noted on the member's bill; however, the member does not receive the retirement until completed in future years. The margin allocations accumulate over time in the member's name. They are periodically retired (or refunded) when directed by the board, based on the financial condition of EECA in accordance with EECA bylaws. When capital credits are issued, bill credits or checks are issued depending on the amount returned. It is important to keep your address up to date even if you move off our lines so we can find you when a retirement is made.

What do co-ops do with capital credits?

Every business needs to maintain a suitable balance between debt and equity to ensure financial health. Capital credits are the most significant source of equity for electric coops. Equity is used to help meet expenses, such as paying for new equipment and repaying debt. Capital credits help keep EECA rates at a competitive level by reducing the amount of borrowed funds.

2024 Unclaimed Capital Credits List



EECA has published an updated list of unclaimed capital credits for previous members. If you know a former member, please let them know.

capcredit@eeca.coop

For more information about capital credits, please visit our website, eeca.coop, or call us at 800-606-1505 or email capcredit@eeca.coop.

Egyptian Electric is returning \$1,309,520 in capital credits in 2026 to members who had service between 1996-1999!



BLOOD DRIVE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4
10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

1732 FINNEY ROAD, MURPHYSBORO, IL

Make appointment at redcrossblood.org.

Youth Tour 2026 opens minds and builds leaders

Each summer, students from across Illinois pack their bags, board a charter bus, and set out for a life-changing journey to Washington, D.C. This year's participants included Summer Skelly of Murphysboro High School, Maddox Seaman of Carterville High School, and Peyton Rixmann of Pinckneyville Community High School, who represented and were sponsored by Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association (EECA).



Illinois Youth Tour delegates on the steps of the U.S. Capitol with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin.

For a full week in June, Skelly, Seaman, and Rixmann joined dozens of Illinois students sponsored by their local electric cooperatives and more than 2,000 students from across the country for an unforgettable week of learning, leadership, and connection.

The program, hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and coordinated locally by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, immerses students in U.S. history, civic responsibility, and the cooperative business model.

"This trip is so much more than sightseeing," said Brooke Guthman, EECA's Member Services Manager. "It's an opportunity for students to experience history, gain a deeper understanding of how our government works, and realize that their voices have the power to make a difference."

Kirk C Adams

Throughout the week, students visited Arlington National Cemetery, Gettysburg, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the U.S. Capitol, and numerous Smithsonian museums. They also explored the National Mall and experienced many of the nation's most iconic monuments during a memorable Monuments by Moonlight tour.

For Peyton Rixmann, seeing historic sites firsthand made a lasting impression.

"It was really impactful to see the things we had only seen in textbooks," Rixmann said. "Experiencing them in person made them feel real ... and you could feel the heaviness of those moments in history, especially at the Holocaust Museum and the WWII Memorial."

Summer Skelly said one of the week's most meaningful moments was meeting with Illinois Senator Dick Durbin.

"Talking with Senator Durbin was really eye-opening," Skelly said. "I knew we had elected officials representing

us in D.C., but it clicked for me that these are real people working on real issues back home. He encouraged us to get involved and reminded us that sometimes it starts by just showing up."

Beyond the educational experiences, the students formed friendships with peers from across Illinois and the nation that will last long after the trip ended. Judging by the hugs exchanged as students stepped off the bus back home, it was clear the week made a lasting impact.

Youth Tour applications for next year will open this

winter. High school sophomores, juniors, and seniors who live within EECA's service area are encouraged to apply for the opportunity to represent their cooperative on this once-in-a-lifetime experience.





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MEMBER APPRECIATION & RECYCLE DAY

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING & ON-SITE PAPER SHREDDING



SATURDAY, OCT 17
8 AM - 12 PM
EECA HEADQUARTERS

