




20
23
ANNUAL
REPORT

Better TOGETHER



Egyptian Electric
Cooperative Association

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Murphysboro, IL 62966
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Fax: (888) 554-8181
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Egyptian Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Murphysboro, Illinois, is a consumer-owned cooperative that supplies electricity to our members in south-western Illinois. More than 14,900 households and businesses receive electricity from Egyptian Electric Cooperative. We are a distribution utility and purchase our power from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), which is located south of Marion, Illinois, at Lake of Egypt.

Mission Statement

Our mission of “improving the quality of life of our members at a reasonable cost” guides us as we meet the diverse needs of our service area in Southern Illinois. Serving members in portions of 10 counties, including Franklin, Jackson, Johnson, Monroe, Perry, Randolph, Union, Williamson, Washington, and Saint Clair, we provide high-quality electric service at reasonable rates. We benchmark our efforts by our four core values: integrity, accountability, teamwork and commitment to community. At Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, our employees serve you, and we make management decisions based on these values. In other words, we desire to truly live up to your expectations!

Executive VP/General Manager

Shane Hermetz, P.E.

Board of Directors

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

2023

Annual Meeting of the Members

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Feel free to join us at the stage for the Annual Meeting, or remain in your vehicle and tune into 87.9 FM to listen live.



Notice of Annual Meeting

Notice was given to the membership by method of the July 2023 Illinois Country Living magazine, that was mailed out the end of June. Notice included that the 85th Annual Meeting of the Members would be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 13 at our headquarters facility at 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, Ill. Gates open, registration, and food service will begin at 4:30 p.m. Boxed hot dog dinners, dilly bars, kettle corn and drinks will be provided to all in attendance, extension cords and \$10 bill credits will be issued to each registered member (credit will be applied to August bills, one per membership) upon registration. Entertainment will be

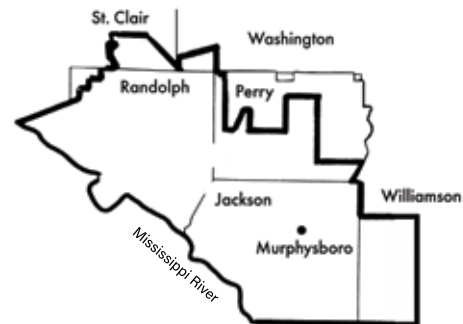
provided by Bill Harper until 5:30 p.m., and then a live line demonstration will be performed by our linemen. The business meeting will take place on-stage outdoors inside our truck storage bays. Consumer-members will have the choice to join the meeting near the stage, or by listening to the radio broadcast on 87.9 FM in their vehicle on-site. Employees will assist with directing traffic and parking inside of our fenced area. Attendance gifts will be drawn throughout the evening. Scholarship winners will be drawn and \$1,000 in cash prizes will be given out at the conclusion of the business meeting. Winners must be in attendance.

Annual Meeting Agenda

- 1 Credential Committee Report**
The Committee will report on the number of members present and determine a quorum.
- 2 Reading of the Notice of the Annual Meeting**
and proof of the due publication or mailing thereof, or the waiver(s) of notice of the meeting as the case may be.
- 3 Reading of the minutes**
of the 2022 Annual Meeting and action to approve the minutes.

- 4 Election**
of three (3) board members.
- 5 Presentation of reports**
from the Board Secretary-Treasurer, Board President and Executive Vice President/General Manager and consideration of necessary action thereon.
- 6 Unfinished business**
- 7 New business**
- 8 Adjournment**

**Egyptian Electric Cooperative
Service Territory**



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Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting



Randall Campbell
Secretary/Treasurer

July 14, 2022

Pursuant to notice, the 84th annual membership meeting of the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association was held at the office of the Cooperative, located at 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, Ill., on Thursday evening, July 14, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 5:59 p.m. by President Paul Pyatt. After the national anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, the invocation was given by Rev. Paul Hicks, board member and pastor of the Murdale Baptist Church of Carbondale.

Mr. Pyatt reported that a quorum was present prior to the start of the meeting. There were 356 registered members and 647 total attendees. A list of those members is attached to these minutes.

Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Liefer then presented the official notice of the meeting and the certificate of mailing and moved that said notice and certificate be approved. Motion was seconded by Ralph Timpner. Motion carried. Mr. Liefer moved to dispense with the reading of the 2021 minutes and that they be approved as printed. Motion was seconded by Leonard Crane. Motion carried.

Mr. Stuart Langrehr, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the report of the Nominating Committee meeting, held on May 17, 2021, at which Kevin Liefer of Red Bud, Ken Jarrett of Jacob, and Kevin Bame of Murphysboro were officially nominated for the office of directors for the ensuing three years.

Attorney Elisha Sanders was called upon to conduct the election of directors. There were no nominations by petition for the 2022 slate of directors. A motion was made by Gilbert Kroening, seconded by Leonard Crane, to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Kevin Liefer,

Ken Jarrett and Kevin Bame as the 2022 directors for a three-year term. Motion carried.

Mr. Liefer presented the Treasurer's Report for 2021 and moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved. Motion was seconded by Butch Hicks. Motion carried.

President Pyatt welcomed everyone and reminded them that every registered member would receive a \$20 electric credit on their August bill. He shared with the membership that the Board of Directors recently approved the retirement of approximately \$1 million in Capital Credits for the Fall of 2022. He also announced that since its inception, EECA has given away \$72,000 in annual meeting scholarships, with a plan for 10 more \$1,000 scholarships at this meeting. He then introduced the Executive Vice President/General Manager, Mr. Shane Hermetz.

Executive Vice President/General Manager Shane Hermetz started his remarks by welcoming all members to the 84th Annual Meeting of Members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative. Mr. Hermetz started by introducing the guests in attendance from the AIEC and SIPC. He started his discussion by mentioning multiple cooperative projects in the area that signaled growth in the region. He followed up by mentioning that he wanted to discuss the changing energy landscape and high prices in the electricity market.

Mr. Hermetz reminded members that last year we had discussed the changing energy landscape and that unless it was properly managed, we could see higher energy prices. He stated that not only were we seeing high energy prices this year, but that we have an electricity supply issue and discussed the possibility of electric

blackouts. He discussed the regional independent system operator (MISO), their role in the electric grid, and how EECA, along with Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), are navigating in the world of high electricity prices.

He stated that while the cooperative was at minimal risk of higher electricity prices due to market factors, that the Cooperative was not immune to inflation and supply chain concerns. He told the membership to expect a 1/10-of-one-penny rate increase on the Power Cost Adjustment line on their bill (\$1 for every 1,000 kWh purchased). He indicated that this was a necessary first step to curb inflationary pressures. He concluded his rate discussions stating that management would review inflationary pressures monthly, and if any additional charges would be needed, they too would be found on the PCA line of the billing statement. He stated that it was too early to discuss rate implications for the upcoming year, stating that any additional rate adjustment would be announced to the membership in a timely manner and would also be published in the Illinois Country Living magazine.

In closing, Mr. Hermetz discussed the Operation RoundUP program and how members could participate.

There was no old business.

Under new business, Mr. Hermetz took questions from the membership related to the possibility of electric blackouts, high electricity prices and the overall energy landscape.

President Pyatt called to adjourn the business meeting at 6:28 p.m., and on a motion by Butch Hicks, seconded by Jean Kroening, motion carried.

Before the business meeting, drawings were held for attendance prizes. Winners of the gift bag with a T-shirt,

hat and fuel card included the following members: Ronald Partin, Juanita Dean, Tony Mayberry, James Winter, Shirley Franklin and Gyle Rodewald.

Following the business meeting, the 2022 scholarship winners were announced. The winners were as follows: Molly Biggs, Benjamin Hyink, Aren Abell, Harris Ehlers, Lilli Robinson, Kory

Behnken, Kody Behnken, Madison Falkenburry, Corbin Guthman and Mitchell Gale.

Upon completion of the scholarship announcements, the remaining attendance prize winners were announced.

The winners of \$50 were as follows: Maxine Harrouff, Van Robinson, James Buitt, Paul Penrod and Peggy

Darnell. The winners of \$100 were as follows: Dennis Phoenix, Carl Handel, Gary Jatho, Marcia Krisby and Larry Inselman.

Respectfully submitted,

Randall Campbell

Secretary-Treasurer

Where does your dollar go?

66¢ Cost of Power
 13¢ Operations & Maintenance
 12¢ Depreciation, Interest & Taxes
 9¢ Administration, Consumer Accounting & General



Illinois Country Living

If you are a consumer-member of Egyptian Electric Cooperative, unless you have opted out, you receive a monthly magazine, called the Illinois Country Living (ICL), that is edited and published by our statewide association, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). The magazine covers rural issues, provides commentaries from Illinois leaders, columns on safety, health, energy conservation, gardening, a calendar of events, and of course, ever-popular recipes from Illinois' best country cooks. The magazine's duty is to help the Illinois electric cooperatives communicate with their consumer-members. AIEC has been designing and printing these magazines for more than 75 years. Egyptian Electric is one of 20 Illinois electric cooperatives that provide the ICL magazine to their consumer-members monthly.

The Illinois Country Living magazine is the largest circulation of any monthly publication in Illinois. In fact,

more than 190,000 magazines are mailed statewide each month, with just over 12,000 of those going to Egyptian Electric consumer-members!

The center four (4) pages of the magazine are exclusively reserved for EECA and are published each month by EECA staff. We refer to it as our "center section" or "monthly newsletter," and specific to our cooperative that include topics such as official member news releases, Annual Meeting notices, office closing dates, information on energy efficiency, storm preparation, how to pay your bills, and employee milestones. Page 6 in the magazine is also given to Egyptian Electric and utilized for important cooperative information as well. As reader incentives, we award three consumer-members monthly with \$10 bill credits, if they locate their member information within the body of our center section.



Capital Credits

A primary difference between an investor-owned company, or any business for that matter, and a cooperative, is that we operate with a not-for-profit business model - owned by the member-consumers we serve. An investor-owned (for-profit) company gives excess revenue (dividends) back to its investors, or to those who own stock in the company. When you pay your Egyptian Electric bill each month, you are accumulating equity in your cooperative through capital credit allocation. When the cooperative has a positive margin (excess of income over expenses), the margin is allocated through a

“It is important to keep your address, email, and other personal information up to date in our system in the event you move off our lines to ensure you receive your capital credits as they are paid out.”

capital credits system according to each member’s contribution to the positive margin. Members are assigned an individual capital credit account, separate from their billing account.

The Board of Directors, on an annual basis, weighs the financial condition of the Cooperative and the want to distribute Capital Credits. Capital credits are refunded when the board determines that it will not jeopardize the financial condition of the Cooperative and these general capital credits are refunded in accordance with the Cooperative bylaws.

Sometimes when a distribution of Capital Credits is made, past members of the cooperative cannot be found. When this happens, these Capital Credits are placed in an Unclaimed Capital Credits account. If you know of or are related to anyone that may have distributed Capital Credits due them, please call us or email us at capcredit@eeca.coop. It is important to keep your address, email, and other personal information up to date in our system in the event you move off our lines to ensure you receive your capital credits as they are paid out.

Capital Credits allocated from the previous year are reported on your June bill yearly, and the methodology to calculate these amounts are also published yearly in our Illinois Country Living magazine.

Board of Director Elections

The 2nd Principle of the Rochdale Principles – democratic member control - states, “Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Those serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary, cooperative members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.”

You may ask, what does a Director do? Not only do board members attend monthly board meetings (board meetings are typically the last Tuesday of each month at the Cooperative headquarters), they are involved in mitigating risk, setting rates, understanding power supply, strategic planning, financial decision making, promoting the cooperative business model, gaining insights on political and environmental impacts, among others.

Voting in the Cooperative Board Election is one of the things that make EECA a cooperative. Each year at our annual meeting, the membership elects three (3) members to represent them on the board. We can’t do it without you, so vote!

Board candidates are co-op members, like you! When elected, board members serve three-year terms and seat a board of nine (9) directors.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee met at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday May 16, 2023 at the headquarters office to nominate directors to be elected at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Members. The nominating committee nominated the following members, for director seats, to serve a three-year term beginning in 2023:

- ✔ Rick Asaturian, Carbondale
- ✔ Mary Jo Homan, Chester
- ✔ Steve Prest, Coulterville

There were no nominations filed by petition during the 2023 director's cycle by the May 15, 2023 due date. Members of the 2023 Nominating Committee are: Matt Crain (Carbondale), Richard Fager (Murphysboro), Wes Fritsche (Marissa), Kenneth Hollmann (Gorham), Royce Hoops (Chester), Stuart Langrehr (Chair, Evansville), Jefferson Lindsey (Carbondale), Donald Stallman (Chester), and Cynthia Winter (Pinckneyville).

Board Candidate Profiles



Rick Asaturian, Carbondale, is Vice President and Director of Building Systems Engineering at Asaturian-Eaton and Associates Engineering and Land Surveying Inc. in Carbondale and has worked there for 38 years. He has an Architectural Degree from SIU Carbondale. Rick and his wife, Suzanne, are longtime members of Egyptian Electric. They have been married for 35 years and have two daughters. He was appointed to the Board of Directors in 2020 and has since completed his National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Certified Credentialed Director (CCD) certification.



Mary Jo Homan, Chester, currently serves as the President/CEO of First National Bank in Pinckneyville and has been in the banking community for 40 years. She attended Belleville Area College and Career Development Banking School in Champaign/Urbana and currently serves on the Board of Directors for Community Bankers of Illinois (CBAI) and the Community Bankers Service Corporation (CBSC). Mary Jo was a board member of the Randolph County Startup and previously served as a Startup mentor and as members of the Chester Rotary District #6510 and Chester Chamber of Commerce. Mary Jo is a life member of Girl Scouts of the USA and was a troop leader for 13 years. Along with her husband Kevin, she resides in Chester, IL. She was appointed to the Board of Directors in 2021 and has since completed her NRECA CCD certification.



Steve Prest, Coulterville, has served on the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Board since 2013. He has successfully completed his CCD and BLC, as well as maintained his NRECA Director Gold status. During his tenure, he has served in all officer roles, most recently as Board President until 2020. Steve also represents our local cooperative on our statewide board, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) in Springfield. He and his wife Carol have been married for 44 years and have a son, daughter, and two grandchildren. He has a Master of Science Degree in Plant and Soil Science from SIU Carbondale and worked in the Agricultural Industry for 40 years prior to retirement in 2015.

Treasurer's Report



Randall Campbell
Secretary/Treasurer

The information below is from the Egyptian Electric Cooperative's 2022 audited financial statements.

The year-end balance sheet lists assets and liabilities totaling \$107,674,557. This compares to year-end assets and liabilities of \$103,998,436 for the year ending 2021.

Our long-term debt for the year ending 2022 was \$33,974,274 compared to \$35,565,823 for the year ending 2021.

Revenue, as reported in the Statement of Earnings, from electric sales increased from the prior year; revenue reported for the year ending 2022 was \$42,770,661; in comparison, revenue for the year ending 2021 was \$40,834,646.

Total Operating Expense for the year ending 2022 was \$42,078,394, increasing 10.17% from \$38,194,704 in 2021.

The wholesale cost of power continues to be our largest Operating Expense. Electric power, as purchased

from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), for the year ending 2022 totaled \$27,546,832 up from \$25,138,524 for the year ending 2021. Our wholesale power cost is 65.47% of our total cost of electric service.

Other operating expenses break down as follows. Distribution line operations and maintenance totaled \$5,651,770, or 13.44% of our cost. This is the second largest group of expenses at our Cooperative. Depreciation, interest, and taxes collectively as a group totaled \$4,933,686, or 11.73% of our total cost.

Administration, consumer accounts, and consumer service totaled \$3,946,106, or 9.36% of our cost. Non-operating margins, which show up as other income, amounted to \$248,536.

The bottom line is that we finished the year with a positive margin of \$940,803 for 2022 to be allocated back to you, the members of the Cooperative, as Capital Credits.


2022 Statement of Earnings

Operating Revenue	\$42,770,661
Cost of Power	\$27,546,832
Operations & Maintenance	\$5,651,770
Depreciation, Interest and All Other	\$8,879,792
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$42,078,394
Operating Margins	\$692,267
Non-operating Margins	\$248,536
Total EECA Margins	\$940,803
Total SIPC Capital Credits	\$1,112,668
Other Capital Credit Allocations	\$227,038
Total Capital Credits	\$2,280,509

2022 EECA HIGHLIGHTS



2022 REVENUE
\$42,770,661



330,730,399
KWH SOLD

103  **NEW MEMBERS CONNECTED**



13,682
RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS



2022 EXPENSES
\$42,078,394

12,294
ACTIVE MEMBERS

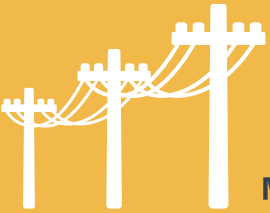
15,664
ACTIVE METERS




1,982
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL MEMBERS




CAPITAL CREDITS PAID OUT
\$848,612



1,991
MILES OF LINE

7.9
METERS PER MILE OF LINE



TOTAL ENROLLED IN OPERATION ROUND UP
197



\$1,000
AMOUNT AWARDED THROUGH OPERATION ROUND UP




318
INTERCONNECTED MEMBERS CONNECTED THROUGH 2022



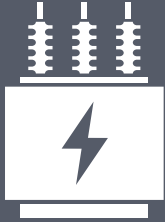
1,238
AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL KWH USAGE PER MONTH

99.975%
(or average of 2 hours, 11 minutes)



PERCENTAGE OF RELIABILITY IN 2022

NUMBER OF SUBSTATIONS MAINTAINED BY EECA
20



Manager's Report



Shane Hermetz
Executive VP / General Manager

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to attend our annual membership meeting.

I hope that you take the time to review the materials presented in this program so that you stay up to date on the activities of your Cooperative. It has been a very busy time since the last Cooperative Annual Meeting and while we use tools such as the Illinois Country Living magazine, the local news media, and social media to get our message out, the information inside this program is extremely relevant to the current finances and vision of the Cooperative.

In the Spring of 2023, we started taking our message into the local communities in a program we call "Coffee with the Coop." We have been meeting in local coffee shops from Murphysboro to Coulterville, from Sparta to Carterville, all in the effort to engage with members to get a feel for what you are thinking and to share how the Cooperative is addressing the issues of the day. Thank you to all members that participated in these local area meetings, your comments and feedback help us as we continue to build upon the success of the past 84 years of Cooperative history.

We are all witnessing change in the electric industry that is unparalleled. A changing power supply that is transitioning away from always available generation from coal and natural gas and toward intermittent resources such as wind and solar, the increase in popularity of electric vehicles, inflation, and supply chain concerns are all challenges being addressed daily by the Cooperative.

More and more members are becoming the proud owners of their very own power stations, i.e. solar panels or wind turbines. Illinois has set the electric generation path to move away from coal and natural gas as fuel sources and toward renewable sources such as wind and solar. This transition will be exciting and challenging for the Cooperative.

Electricity has long been considered an essential part of modern life. We all use electricity to light our homes, to refrigerate our milk, to pump water, to power up computers and other modern appliances, and the list goes on. We are living in a time when the transportation industry is moving toward electrification. From passenger vehicles to school buses and everything in between, the industry seems to be all in toward the movement to electrify the transportation industry. This transition is also going to be both exciting and challenging for the Cooperative.

Inflationary pressures are not only affecting the nuts-and-bolts side of the business, the production of electricity and cost of fleet ownership have continued to increase as well. The price of fuel (Southern Illinois coal) has more than

doubled in recent years and the cost to transport the fuel from a local mine to the power plant in Marion has also increased. Your cooperative owns and operates a large fleet of vehicles. Large bucket and digger trucks also cost substantially more to acquire.

On top of the growth of electric vehicle adoption, the transition of electric power supply, and inflationary pressures, our industry is struggling with supply chain shortages. Every workday, cooperative employees go into the community, and we work on the 'electric grid.' One day we may be adding a new transformer and some wires to the electric grid for the family excited to be moving into their first home while on other days we are replacing and retiring aged equipment. Every workday, items leave our warehouse and storage yard and every day we continue to monitor inventory levels. Simply put, as material leaves our warehouse to be placed into service, the replacement material to refill our warehouse shelves is taking 3 times as long to get and costing 2-3 times more than the item that left the warehouse. This includes fleet vehicles, with lead-times of 2-3 years to get a new bucket or digger truck.

The theme of this year's meeting is 'Better Together.' I could not think of a better theme. As we look back to the beginning in 1938, our Cooperative started with the basic concept of rural electrification and the promise that it would help improve the quality of life for all of us in rural America. July 13, 2023 will mark the 85th annual meeting of Egyptian Electric Cooperative members. Our membership has risen to every challenge laid before it, from a world war shortly after our formation to a worldwide pandemic, we have always grown from the experience.

Our mission and our priority has not changed. We will continue to provide our member-owners with safe, reliable electricity. We continue to adapt to the changes around us to ensure that we will always have the ability to provide our members with the superior service and expert advice that you expect. We pledge our dedication to provide best in class service, reliability, affordable rates, commitment to serve our communities, and much more.

Thank you once again for being a member of this great organization.

Shane Hermetz, P.E.
Executive Vice-President/General Manager

Board President's Report



Paul Hicks
Board President

As your board president, I am pleased to once again report that Egyptian Electric Cooperative ended 2022 on a strong note. Our goal has been to keep members and employees safe and healthy, with the ongoing mission to improve the quality of life for our member-owners at a reasonable cost. The safety of members and employees continues to be a top priority. Working around electricity can be extremely hazardous. We want every employee to go home to their families at the end of their workday in the same condition that they came. This is and will always be our number one goal.

Finances continue to remain strong in 2023. Keeping to our cooperative principles, this year, we are refunding \$752,729 in capital credits to current and former members. Over the years, Egyptian Electric has returned more than \$15 million to our members.

Commitment to Community and Member Education and Training are two of our seven Cooperative Principles which we strongly believe in. We support our consumer-members with involvement at both the local and regional levels. We support local food pantries, we support the continuing education of our children, we ensure local first responders are trained to recognize electrical hazards, and lastly, we support economic development with grants and low-interest loans with our involvement in the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG).

If you are looking for a way to help, our Operation RoundUp program is a great place to start. For an average of 50 cents a month, or \$6 dollars a year, each member can round up their electric bill to the next whole dollar, or any additional amount and it will be automatically donated to our 501(c)3 charitable organization. If over 15,000 members participate in the program, 50 cents a month per member could turn into over \$90,000 a year. These funds would go right back into our communities.

It is our commitment as directors and employees to work every single day to ensure our membership is the best it can be. We take our role as community leaders seriously. By being leaders in the industry and by being engaged with our communities, we will ensure that every member is the most important member and that all will have access to safe, reliable electric service, now and well into our future.

Thank you for being an integral part of our Cooperative.

Sincerely,

Paul Hicks
Board President

Hayley Drake 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 2-year or 4-year college, university or vocational/technical school in the U.S. 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, scholarships, worth \$2,000 each, are given out to Illinois students who are sons or daughters of cooperative consumer-members, directors and/or employees. Funds to support the scholarships are raised yearly at the AIEC annual meeting as well as through other private donors. Of the 292 applications from all Illinois electric cooperatives, Egyptian Electric Cooperative had a winner! Hayley Drake, a 2023 graduate of Sparta High School, was the recipient of one of the 14 scholarships awarded this year. Congratulations to Hayley on her accomplishments!

Annual Meeting Scholarships

Each year, Egyptian Electric Cooperative awards scholarships to college or college-bound students who are members or dependents of members during the Annual Meeting.

The applicant must be a member in good standing of Egyptian Electric Cooperative or is the dependent of a member of the Cooperative who is in good standing and must have been a member for one year prior to July 13, 2023, and is enrolled, or applied for enrollment, in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two or four-year college, university or vocational school for the Fall 2023 term.

Prior annual meeting scholarship applicants are eligible. Prior scholarship recipients are ineligible. Attendance for student and parent or legal guardian (if a dependent) is mandatory.

2022 Scholarship Winners

- Mollie Biggs, 2022 Agape Christian High School Graduate, attending SIU Carbondale
- Benjamin Hyink, 2021 Carbondale Homeschool Graduate, attending Bob Jones University
- Aren Abell, 2020 Graduate of Murphysboro High School, attending SIU Carbondale
- Harris Ehlers, 2022 Trico High School Graduate, attending Arkansas Elite Welding Academy
- Lilli Robinson, 2020 Murphysboro High School Graduate, attending SIU Carbondale
- Kory Behnken, 2020 Trico High School Graduate, attending University of Illinois
- Kody Behnken, 2022 Trico High School Graduate, attending John A. Logan Community College
- Madison Falkenburry, 2022 Murphysboro High School Graduate, attending John A. Logan Community College
- Corbin Guthman, 2019 Murphysboro High School Graduate, attending Southeast Missouri State University
- Mitchel Gale, 2022 Trico High School Graduate, attending Southeast Missouri State University



Front Row (L-R): Corbin Guthman, Mollie Biggs, Madison Falkenburry, Lilli Robinson, and Aren Abell. Back Row (L-R) Kory Behnken, Kody Behnken, Mitchel Gale, Harris Ehlers, and Benjamin Hyink.

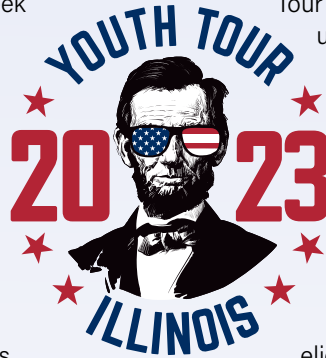
Youth Tour

For over 56 years, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour offered by their local electric cooperatives. Each June, hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C. for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing and social networking. While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable leadership program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Each year, Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association selects local high school students for the annual Youth Day in Springfield and Youth to Washington! Youth Day to Springfield was held on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 and Youth Tour (Youth to Washington) June 16-23, 2023 in Washington D.C. This year three students were selected to represent EECA in

Washington – Benjamin DeShazo of Trico High School, Isak Fagerland of Elverado High School, and Sarah Restoff of Pinckneyville Community High School.

Students have repeatedly shared that this experience has helped them grow into successful professionals. Youth Tour participants return home with a deeper understanding and skillset of what it takes to be a leader. As a result, they put these skills to use right here in our community. Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing the Youth Tour opportunity with a promising student. Sophomores, juniors and seniors, attending a public or private high school within the Egyptian Electric service territorial footprint, or otherwise a consumer-member of the cooperative, are eligible to apply each year. EECA school districts include: Marissa, Sparta, Chester, Pinckneyville, Murphysboro, Elverado, Trico, Carbondale, Steeleville, Red Bud and Carterville. All expenses are paid by Egyptian Electric Cooperative, and transportation provided. **More information can be found at eeeca.coop.**



Benjamin DeShazo
Trico High School



Isak Fagerland
Elverado High School



Sarah Restoff
Pinckneyville Community High School



Guthman attends Youth Tour

Caroline Guthman, daughter of Brooke (Ryan) Guthman, EECA Member Services Manager, was selected to attend the NRECA Youth to Washington Tour June 16-23, 2023. Caroline is currently a sophomore at Murphysboro High School and feels honored to have been selected to attend in Tootie's name. Congratulations to Caroline on her award of the 2023 Tootie Holmes Youth to Washington Scholarship and for her opportunity to attend this leadership experience!

Congratulations to our Egyptian Electric Cooperative Youth to Washington delegates!





Ways to Pay

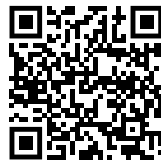
• Pay online

Visit eeca.coop to pay on your account online through your browser on the:

- Pay Now portal on our homepage that is used for a quick one-time payment, or
- SmartHub, where you can pay online 24/7 with a checking account or credit/debit card.

• SmartHub app

View and pay your bill with your smartphone or other device. Find this FREE app in your app store!



• Pay by mail

Mail your payment check with the stub, located at the bottom of your bill. Allow up to 10 business days for delivery.

• Pay by phone

Call us during or outside business hours, 24/7, through our secure payment system at (844) 759-3977, to pay your bill, update your account information or set up recurring payments.

This is an automated service, available in English and Spanish. It accepts Visa, Mastercard and Discover cards, and checks though E-Check!

• Recurring payments

Choose an automatic payment deduction from the account of your choice. This is set up as a recurring payment draft from your credit, debit, checking or savings account on the due date shown on your bill.

- Sign up for recurring credit/debit card payments through SmartHub or at (844) 759-3977.
- Sign up for recurring checking/savings account withdrawals through SmartHub or complete the Automatic Bank Draft Authorization Form (from our office or online).

• Pay at our office

Stop by our office at 1732 Finney Road, north of Murphysboro, during business hours to pay your bill. An after-hours kiosk and drop box is available on the south side of our building. This kiosk accepts cash (no change given), E-checks, Visa, Mastercard and Discover cards.

• Offsite payment kiosks

Make secure payments at one of two offsite kiosk locations! Kiosks accept cash (no change given).

→ *Marketplace Shell*

2301 N Reed Station Pkwy
Carbondale, IL
6 a.m.-midnight daily

→ *Neighborhood Co-op Grocery*

1815 W Main Street
Carbondale, IL
8 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

Other offsite payments can be made by Moneygram. See below for more information.

For questions, contact us during business hours to speak with a Member Service Representative at (800) 606-1505.

• VanillaDirect Pay

VanillaDirect is an alternative method to transact real-time cash payments conveniently and safely to Egyptian Electric from Vanilla Direct's expansive retail network, allowing our cash-preferred consumer-members to thrive in today's evolving digital world. By scanning the barcode on your Egyptian Electric payment stub, you can make secure cash payments to your Egyptian Electric Cooperative account at any cashier location at any participating VanillaDirect retailer

across the U.S. Participating locations include stores such as Walmart, Walgreen's, Dollar General, Family Dollar and CVS, to name a few. A third-party retailer fee of \$1.50 is charged by the vendor for each transaction made, and fee amounts and terms associated



with Vanilla Direct Pay are subject to change at any time. For additional information visit pay.vanilladirect.com.

• Moneygram

Moneygram is also an alternative off-site cash payment method at retailer locations such as participating CVS and Walmart stores. For all Moneygram payment locations, visit moneygram.com. Fees associated with this payment method are also third-party.



The Power of Operation Round Up

Today, hundreds of electric cooperatives across the country, including 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. 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 financially support qualified group and organization initiatives that contribute to the betterment of communities within the EECA service footprint.

Funds are raised through a voluntary round-up process on

consumer-member bills. EECA consumer-members voluntarily enroll in the Operation Round Up program – agreeing to round their monthly electric bills up to the nearest dollar (or other specified amount). With the traditional round up, 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 members can opt out anytime. Please consider joining our efforts today by signing up at eeca.coop/roundup, calling our office or checking the box on your payment stub to enroll!

Since inception, the Operation Round Up program has accumulated more than \$7,000 in funds from its

consumer-members and employees. To date, the program has been able to award \$4,000 in funds to applicants!

- ▶ St. Francis Animal CARE - \$500
- ▶ Toys for Tots - \$500
- ▶ Giant City School, Carbondale - \$1,500
- ▶ 724 Ministries - \$1,500

The application can be completed online, or forms downloaded from 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, that would also include public educational institutions and municipalities.

Visit eeca.coop/applytoroundup, check the box on your electric bill, email request to info@eeca.coop or call our office at (800) 606-1505 to sign up!

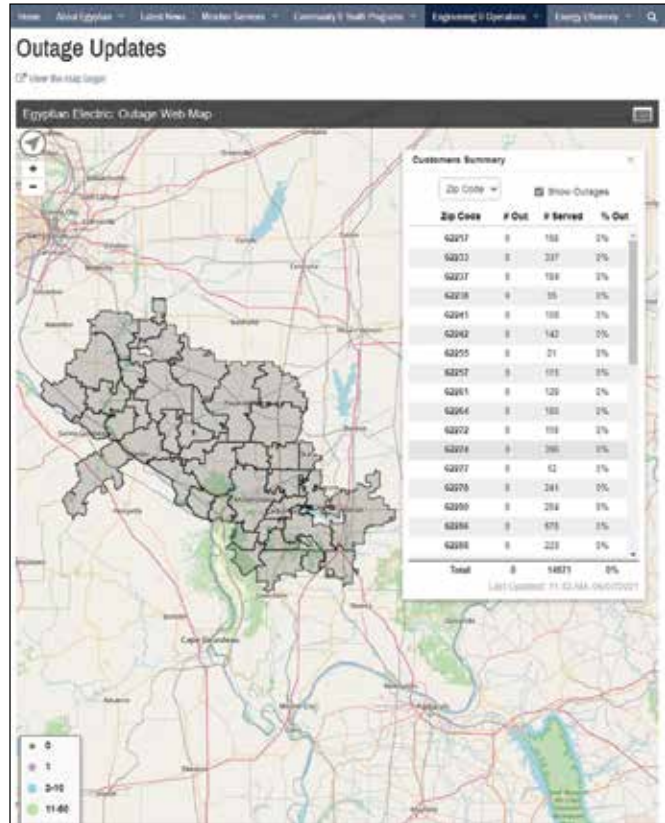
Outage Reporting

If your power goes off, first check our Outage Map to see if any outages in your area have been or are being reported. To find our Outage Map on our website homepage or in the main menu select, Engineering & Operations>Operations>Outage Updates. Preferably, the Outage Map can be found through logging into your SmartHub account and selecting the Outage Map icon on the home screen. The Outage Map is in real time and a great source to view the extent of an outage.

You should also check 1) your circuit breakers in your service panels to make sure they are in the "ON" position, 2) your main breaker panel outside below/next to the meter socket to make sure it is in the "ON" position and that your meter is reporting/flashing, and 3) with your neighbors to see if they have power.

You can report an outage through your SmartHub account, by selecting "Report an Issue/Inquiry" at the very top of the home screen. You can also describe any observations you see (a limb is on the line, a pole has been hit by a car, etc.) and monitor the status of the outage you created. Informing us of the nature of the outage saves a great deal of our time and your inconvenience.

You can always call us at (800) 606-1505, 24/7 to report an outage or emergency. When you call to report an outage, give us your phone number, name, and address as it is listed on the bill. If an outage occurs after hours, our call service will ask to what extent you checked your side of



the meter, take your information and dispatch a serviceman to check it out. Please do not report via social media, but instead by phone or SmartHub. Visit eeca.coop to sign up for SmartHub, visit the live Outage Map and for more information.

SIGN ME UP FOR OPERATION ROUND UP

Name _____ (as listed on your account)

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

EECA Account Number(s) _____

Sign me up for Operation Round Up

I want to increase my community support by donating monthly, instead of rounding up, a flat fee in the amount of

\$1 \$2 \$5 \$10 Other \$ _____ /month

You may opt-out of your donation at any time.

Signature _____ Date _____