

# Illinois Country Living

**2024  
ANNUAL  
MEETING**

**POWERFUL  
PAST**



**FUTURE  
FOCUSED**

## Notice of Annual Meeting

Notice of the 86th Annual Meeting of the Members is being given to the membership by method of this July Illinois Country Living magazine. The Annual Meeting of the Members will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 11 at our headquarters facility at 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, Ill. Gates will open, registration, and food service will begin at 4:30 p.m. Boxed hot dog dinners & drinks will be provided to all in attendance. \$20 bill credits will be issued to each member upon registration (credit will be applied to August bills, one per membership). You can bring the registration card with the barcode below for expedited registration, but it is not required to attend. Live entertainment will be provided by Honey & Tar beginning at 4:30 p.m. The business meeting will begin promptly at 6 p.m. onstage outdoors within our truck bays. Consumer-members will have the choice to attend the meeting in person near the stage, or by listening to the radio broadcast at 87.9 FM in their vehicle in on-site parking. Scholarship and attendance prize drawings will immediately follow the business meeting. Winners must be in attendance to claim their prize.

*Registration Card. Cut out and bring to the meeting as your official registration.*

# Annual Meeting Scholarships

- ▶ The applicant must be a member in good standing of Egyptian Electric Cooperative (EECA), 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 11, 2024.
- ▶ The applicant must be enrolled, or have 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 2024 term.
- ▶ Application must be signed by the applicant and parent or legal guardian (if a dependent). Proof of college registration for Fall 2024 should be included with application.
- ▶ Verification of enrollment could include a payment installment, copy of school schedule, or equivalent proof. If proof of college registration is not provided with the application, winners will have until July 25, 2024, to produce verification of enrollment, or scholarship award will be passed on to alternate recipient.
- ▶ Applications and proof of enrollment must be returned to EECA by 4 p.m., July 5, 2024. Applications will be accepted by mail, fax, email or by dropping off in our after-hours drop box.
- ▶ Prior annual meeting scholarship applicants are eligible. Prior scholarship recipients are ineligible.
- ▶ Scholarship drawings will take place live following the business meeting. Attendance for student and parent or legal guardian (if a dependent) is mandatory. Scholarship funds will be sent directly to scholarship winners in the mail.



## 2023 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

*Pictured left to right: (back) Jacob Powers, Michael Fisher, Alek Abell, Timothy Reiman, and Logan Sagler; (front) Annie Kennedy, Jesse Heath, Hunter Havens, Claire Deterding, and Madison Kribs.*

# Where does your dollar go?



## 2023 Statement of Earnings

Operating Revenue .....	\$45,263,891
Cost of Power .....	\$27,600,894
Operations & Maintenance .....	\$6,033,280
Depreciation, Interest and All Other .....	\$9,396,008
Total Cost of Electric Service .....	\$43,030,182
Operating Margins .....	\$2,233,709
Non-operating Margins .....	\$82,086
Total EECA Margins .....	\$2,315,795
Total SIPC Capital Credits .....	\$1,127,334
Other Capital Credit Allocations .....	\$221,929
Total Capital Credits .....	\$3,665,058

## 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), but 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 many other responsibilities.

Voting in the cooperative board election is one of the things that make EECA a cooperative. Board candidates are co-op owners, like you! When elected, board members serve three-year terms and seat a board of nine (9) directors. Each year at our annual meeting, the membership elects three (3) member-owners to represent them on the board. We can't do it without you, so vote!

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee met at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday May 14, 2024 at the headquarters office to nominate directors to be elected at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Members. The nominating committee selected the following members for director seats, to serve a three-year term beginning in 2024:

- ▶ **Randall Campbell, Chester**
- ▶ **Paul Hicks, Carbondale**
- ▶ **Paul Pyatt, Pinckneyville**

There were no nominations filed by petition during the 2024 director's cycle by the May 13, 2024, due date. Members of the 2024 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)**
- ▶ **Cynthia Winter (Pinckneyville).**

## Board Candidate Profiles



**RANDALL CAMPBELL, CHESTER**, currently serves as EECA Board Secretary-Treasurer and will be completing 12 years on the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. In that time, Campbell has held every office on the Board including Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President, and President. He is a Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and holds Board Leadership (BLC) and Director Gold Certifications from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Campbell was appointed this year to the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Board of Directors.

Campbell retired from Thrivent Financial in Chester, where he worked for more than 27 years. His previous experience includes working as a Control Operator for Illinois Power's Baldwin Power Plant.

He and his wife Myrna have been married 46 years and have two children.



**PAUL HICKS, CARBONDALE**, has served as the EECA Board President the last three years and is completing 26 years on the Board of Directors, having also served in every officer role on the board over his tenure. He has completed training to earn his CCD, with his BLC and Director Gold Certification.

He has two degrees from SIUC and has been the Pastor at Murdale Baptist Church in Carbondale since 1970. Paul is active in the Illinois Baptist Disaster Relief Association and has been involved in numerous community initiatives and disaster relief activities over the years.

Hicks and his late wife Donna were married for 52 years and share two sons, a daughter-in-law, and five grandchildren.



**PAUL PYATT, PINCKNEYVILLE**, has served as all officer roles on the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Board and is seeking reelection after serving 28 years. He has completed coursework to become a CCD, has obtained his BLC and, most recently, his Director Gold Certification.

Pyatt has served on the Power Production Committee for the Southern Illinois Power Cooperative Board, but retired from his position earlier this year. He is a retired farmer of Pyatt Brothers Farms, LLC. Paul and his wife Joyce have been married 53 years. They have a son, daughter-in-law and three grandsons. Pyatt also currently serves as the Secretary for the Trinity Lutheran Church in Conant.

# Meeting Agenda

- 1. CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**  
The Committee will report on the number of members present and determination of 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 2023 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 the Executive Vice President/General Manager and consideration of necessary action thereon.
- 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**

*Randall Campbell*

Randall Campbell, Secretary-Treasurer  
EECA Board of Directors



## Voting Authorization for Organizations

*For Churches, Schools, and Other Public & Business Accounts*

EECA requires a Letter of Authorization for all organization accounts, such as churches, schools, hospitals, etc., registering at the Annual Meeting of the Members. This can be done one of two ways: by completing this form or bringing an actual authorization letter.

To the right is the form that can be brought in place of a letter. Please note, all information needed in your letter is also required on this Letter of Authorization form and is to be brought to the Annual Meeting. The Letter of Authorization will also be available on our website under Annual Meeting.

Authorization letters must be on the organization's letterhead and include:

- 1. Organization name and address**, as it appears on the monthly billing statement.
- 2. Current Date**
- 3. The EECA Account Number**
- 4. The name of the Authorized Representative** that will attend the meeting and will be asked to sign the letter upon presentation at registration.
- 5. Title and signature** of the Office of the Organization, or name on organization's billing statement, who is designating the Authorized Representative to register on their behalf.

### Letter of Authorization

Account Number (Required): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of authorized representative who will be presenting this document at the time of the Annual Meeting for the purpose of registration and/or voting on behalf of the organization named above:

Signature of officer granting authorization to the above named representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form, I am authorizing the said name of authorized representative to register this organization at the Annual Meeting with my permission.

**Bring this form with you to the Annual Meeting.  
Please do not mail to our office.**

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**2023 Annual Meeting Minutes**

**July 13, 2023**

Pursuant to notice, the 85th annual membership meeting of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association was held at the office of the Cooperative, located at 1732 Finney Road, Murphysboro, Ill., on Thursday evening, July 13, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by President Paul Hicks. After the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance, the invocation was given by EECA employee, Mr. Matt McElroy.

Mr. Hicks reported that a quorum was present prior to the start of the meeting. There were 344 registered members and 674 total attendees.

Secretary-Treasurer Randall Campbell then presented the official notice of the meeting, the certificate of mailing, and moved that said notice and certificate be approved. Motion was seconded by Mary Wunderlich. Motion carried. Mr. Campbell moved to dispense with the reading of the 2022 minutes and that they be approved as printed. Motion was seconded by Al Yancey. Motion carried.

Mr. Stuart Langrehr, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the report of the Nominating Committee meeting, held on May 16, 2023, at which time Steve Prest of Coulterville, Richard Asaturian of Carbondale, and Mary Jo Homan of Chester were officially nominated for the office of directors for the ensuing three years.

Attorney Casey Twomey was called upon to conduct the election of directors. There were no nominations filed by petition. A motion was made by Ralph Timpner, seconded by Stephen Schlager, to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Steve Prest, Richard Asaturian, and Mary Jo Homan, as the 2023 directors for a three-year term. Motion carried.

Mr. Campbell presented the Treasurer's Report for 2022 and moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved. Motion was seconded by Dan Connelly. Motion carried.

President Hicks welcomed everyone and reminded them that every registered

member would receive a \$20 electric credit on their August bill. He then introduced the General Manager, Mr. Shane Hermetz.

Executive Vice President/General Manager Shane Hermetz started his remarks by welcoming all members to the 85th Annual Meeting of Members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative. Mr. Hermetz introduced past employees and directors and asked the membership to recognize the hard work of EECA employees. He asked members to review the annual meeting program, where he referenced the Cooperative's reliability was at 99.975%, the Cooperative had returned \$848,612 in 2022 and will be returning \$752,729 in Capital Credits during the summer of 2023 to members who had service in 1992. He discussed the Operation Round Up program and gave an update on its success since its inception in 2019.

He continued his discussion, updating members on how the cooperative was addressing inflation, supply chain concerns, blackout concerns, and the changing power supply landscape. He discussed that the cooperative was addressing the electrification of the transportation fleet by adding electric vehicle charging equipment in strategic locations.

In closing, Mr. Hermetz discussed rate concerns and stated that pressures on electric rates were dropping and rates should remain stable for the remainder of the year. Mr. Hermetz took questions from the membership related to the possibility of electric blackouts, high electricity prices, and the overall energy landscape.

There was no old business or no new business to come forward at the meeting.

President Hicks called to adjourn the business meeting at 6:35 p.m., and on a motion by Butch Hicks, seconded by



**FUTURE  
FOCUSED**

Ryan Fischer, 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 include the following members: James Buitt, Troy Deming, and Patsy Wilson. Winners of the water jugs were the following members: Paul Penrod, and Delores Bender. The winners of the weather radios were members Christine Davis and Joyce Kramer.

Following the business meeting, the 2023 scholarship winners were announced. The winners were as follows: Logan Salger, Madison Kribs, Tim Reiman, Hunter Havens, Alek Abell, Michael Fisher, Claire Deterding, Annie Kennedy, Jesse Heath, and Jacob Powers.

Upon completion of the scholarship announcements, the remaining attendance prize winners were announced. The winners of \$50 were as follows: John Freeberg, Louis Glidewell, Bill Gottschalk, Karla Heinz, Neil Rodewald, and Edwin Sterns. The winners of \$100 were as follows: Rolland Hargis, Hunter Havens, Barry Newman, John Rieckenberg, David Jennings, Russell Greer, and Donald Stallman.

Respectfully submitted,

*Randall Campbell*  
Secretary-Treasurer