



Projected rate increase

For 2018 March usage, April bills

As discussed in last month's issue, Egyptian Electric Cooperative (EECA) conducted a current Cost of Service Study Analysis (COSA) to assess utility rates on our 14,979 meters. The purpose was to present different options to fairly and equitably break down the costs of providing service to each rate class and to reasonably and responsibly allocate costs to each class of members that avoids any class paying more, or less, than their fair share. In order to align these different rates on behalf of our member-owners, all line items were evaluated including the member's basic charge, service availability, the charge to all members in order to have an electric delivery system, as well as the energy charge, or kilowatt hour (kWh) charge, and for larger consumers, the demand and power factor charges.

It has been 5 years since Egyptian Electric has undergone a rate change, last being in 2012. Few consumers per mile of line (7.5 average) coupled with wholesale power cost variables and various terrain throughout our service territory causes EECA's costs incurred per mile of line to be higher compared to investor owned utilities at 35 average consumers per mile of line. However, there is a balance to maintain to keep your bill as low as possible, and yet maintain a system that will provide you with the electricity you need when you need it, now and into the future. Increasing

wholesale power costs is the largest culprit for the 2018 rate increase.

Our wholesale energy rate (kwh) from our wholesale power producer and supplier, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), will increase 9.3 percent effective Jan. 1, not including any additional power adder charges to us considered. For larger services, the wholesale demand rate

(kW) will increase 1.7 percent, from \$18.67 to \$19.

Majority of our membership are single-phase non-demand users, which 89 percent of EECA's electric accounts are made up of, correlating to 13,344 meters. At the December board meeting, it was compromised between management and the board to raise the service availability charge for these accounts \$2.50 and slightly increase the energy charge \$0.004/kwh. This will increase the service availability charge from \$36 to \$38.50 and the energy charge from \$0.103 to \$0.107 per kilowatt-hour. For example, based on an average EECA user of 1,200-kwh, the average bill would increase from \$159.60 to \$166.90, a \$7.30 or 4.57 percent increase.

Our cost of service study also recommends security and outdoor lighting charges to increase a dollar across the board. The 100W equivalent, or small LED, will increase from \$9 to \$10, and 250W equivalent, or large LED, will increase from \$13 to \$14 for the monthly rate. The rates on these lights have not changed since our

last increase in 2012. Rising lighting rates are a direct reflection of rising energy costs. Note: members who rent lights in addition to their electric service will see this same increase.

23-05-0016

The remaining accounts or services fall into small commercial, large power and industrial rates. Larger loads are billed differently because of the demand they put on the electrical grid and power production. These accounts can require four billing components: a service availability charge, an energy charge, and depending, power factor and demand charges. Accounts with a smaller usage and lower demand will experience less of an increase versus those with higher usage and higher demand factors, varying from an 4-8 percent increase overall.

Rate increases to us from SIPC will be effective Jan. 1, 2018, but we will not implement our rate increase to the membership until March usage, or April bills, and instead will see the difference needed adjusted in the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) line item. Since 2008, there has been a line item for the PCA and is currently a charge of \$0.004/kwh. Once the rate increase has taken place, the PCA will be reevaluated monthly.

Now that your board of directors have made their final decision on the rates, management will educate our employees to ensure that members understand the cooperative's strategy and how they will lead to reliable supply and acceptable costs for you, the consumer, our member.

It has been 5 years since Egyptian Electric has undergone a rate change.



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Office hours 8 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. M-F
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Board of Directors

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- By phone, using credit card or checking account
- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N Reed Station Road in Carbondale and 1306 N Market Street in Sparta

Employee News



Abbie Weil joined the EECA family Dec. 11 as our newest customer service representative! She was raised in Vergennes but later moved to Carbondale, graduating from Carbondale High School in 2013. Abbie graduated Summa Cum Laude from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in paralegal studies. She was previously a supervisor at Rule of Pie Shop in Murphysboro.



Brian Alexander was promoted to apprentice lineman on Nov. 27, 2017. He was hired at Egyptian Electric on Nov. 1, 2012 as the warehouseman and building maintenance for the Murphysboro office facility, and after five years, he will be making the move to the line department. Congratulations Brian!



Robert Aaron Richards began his career at Egyptian Electric Cooperative on Tuesday, Jan. 2 as a journeyman lineman. Aaron is a 2005 Murphysboro High School graduate and started his career as a tree trimmer with Nelson right out of high school. He was hired in 2007 at SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SEIEC), now headquartered in Carrier Mills, as a tree trimmer. Aaron was promoted to an apprentice lineman in 2010, and by 2015, he was a line foreman.

Before relocating closer to home at Egyptian Electric, he was employed by SEIEC for 10 years. He lives in Murphysboro and is married to his wife Brooke, and they have two sons, Kaiden and Kanton. **42-04-0003**



Our office will be closed on
Monday, February 19 for
Presidents Day.

OPEN HOUSE
MARCH 14TH.

MORE DETAILS
IN THE
NEXT ISSUE.

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.

Youth Tour 2018

Egyptian Electric Cooperative will select local teenagers for the 2018 Youth Day in Springfield and Youth to Washington! Sophomores, juniors and seniors attending a public or private high school within the Egyptian Electric service territorial footprint, or otherwise a member of the cooperative, can apply. At least eight students will be chosen to attend Youth Day in Springfield on April 18. During the day, these students and their Illinois counterparts will meet their elected senators and representatives on the floor at the Capitol to learn first-hand about the workings of state government and electric cooperatives. In addition, the students will tour the Old State Capitol and the Abraham Lincoln Museum. The top two students will be selected to represent Egyptian Electric Cooperative and our state, by attending the Youth to Washington trip June 8-15, 2018.

The two winners, chaperones and approximately 60 Illinois students will travel by bus from Mt. Vernon to Washington, D.C. to join over 1,500 high school students from around the country on one of the most recognized youth programs. They will enjoy several activities such as:

- **Tour monuments and memorials:** Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean Veterans Memorial, Iwo Jima Statue, World War II Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, and Arlington Cemetery.
- **Tour historic sites:** Smithsonian Museums, Holocaust Memorial Museum, Newseum and the 9/11 Memorial.
- **Interact with:** peers from across the U.S. sponsored by rural electric cooperatives, members



of Congress, chaperones and leaders from state cooperatives.

Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Students have repeatedly shared that this experience has helped them grow into successful professionals. It has also benefited our local communities. Youth Tour participants return home with a deeper understanding and skillset of what it takes to be a leader.

Applications have been made available to the area high school guidance counselors, can be found on our website www.eeca.coop/content/youth-washington, and in our office. **51-21-0011** The application form includes completing short summaries of the student's school activities, civic activities and other accomplishments, plus short answers pertaining to southern Illinois and rural electric cooperatives. Students will be judged on their written application and demonstrated understanding of the rural electric program. A blind independent panel



of judges will select the winners for Youth Day with the top two selected as the Youth to Washington delegates. All applicants must be able to attend Illinois Youth Day to be considered for Youth Tour. All expenses will be paid by Egyptian Electric Cooperative, and transportation will be provided. If you have any questions on the application or the program, please contact Brooke Guthman at 800-606-1505 or bguthman@eeca.coop. All applications must be received by March 16.

Dates to Remember

Application Deadline – March 16

Illinois Youth Day – April 18

Youth to Washington – June 8-15



Classroom Grant Winners



Principal Matthew Foster and students of Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School in Evansville, winner of 3-D Printer in the Classroom project.



Jordan Suits and her third grade class from Carruthers Elementary School in Murphysboro with their check to fund her Reading for Success program.



First grade teacher Cathy Lay and students, winner of the Chick Research project at Tri-C Elementary School in Carterville.



Brooke Guthman (right), of Egyptian Electric Cooperative, presents check to Kayla Bower to fund the Daily Grind project at Carterville High School.

*"Education is not the filling of a pail,
but the lighting of a fire."
- William Butler Yeats*

Eleanor Gillespie and students, winner of the Science Cart program at Trinity Christian School in Carbondale.

