



# Egyptian Electric News

1732 Finney Road • Murphysboro, IL 62966 • 800-606-1505 • [www.eeca.coop](http://www.eeca.coop)

JANUARY 2020

## Youth Tour 2020

Applications for the 2020 Youth Tour are now available! Youth Tour was established with one thought in mind – to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since 1964, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by electric cooperatives across the nation. Youth Day will be March 31, 2020 in Springfield and from there at least two students will be selected for Youth to Washington. It all takes place in June, when hundreds of electric co-op participants travel to Washington, D.C. to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing with newfound friends.

While in D.C., participants will meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Youth Tour will take place June 19-26, 2020. If you are or know a high school sophomore, junior or senior interested in traveling to Washington, D.C. to experience the trip of a lifetime, please contact us for more information. At least five students will be chosen to attend Youth Day on March 31 where students will meet their elected senators and representatives at the State Capitol alongside their counterparts from other southern schools and Illinois communities. From these students, at least two will be invited to attend the week-long trip to Washington, D.C.

Madelyn Asbury, a former Elverado High school student, Egyptian Electric member and Youth Tour representative, said that the trip had been a dream and it encouraged her to step outside her comfort zone and engage in meaningful relationships while understanding more about the importance of cooperatives. "I have never gone to Washington, D.C. before, but if I ever go back it definitely wouldn't be the same!" said Madelyn. Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Students have repeatedly shared that this experience has helped them grow into successful professionals. We have also heard of beneficial stories of this helping them

on scholarship applications. 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. **50-12-1002**

Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing the Youth Tour opportunity with a student in our community. For more information about Egyptian Electric's Youth Tour program, call Brooke at 618-684-2143, email [bguthman@eeca.coop](mailto:bguthman@eeca.coop) or visit [www.eeca.coop](http://www.eeca.coop). Deadline to apply is Feb. 14, 2020.

The image is a composite of several elements. On the left, there is a graphic for the "YOUTH DAY 2020 YOUTH TOUR". It features a portrait of Abraham Lincoln wearing sunglasses, surrounded by stars and the words "YOUTH DAY" and "YOUTH TOUR" in a circular arrangement. To the right of the graphic, three young women are standing on the wide stone steps leading up to the U.S. Capitol building. They are all wearing maroon shirts with white lettering. The U.S. Capitol's iconic dome is visible in the background. Below the photo, there is promotional text for the trip, including the words "WIN A TRIP to Springfield on March 31 & Washington D.C. June 19-26!", the website "Visit [www.eeca.coop](http://www.eeca.coop) to learn more & apply!", and a list of activities: "VISIT HISTORIC MONUMENTS • MEET STUDENTS ACROSS THE STATE • NEW FRIENDS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES • MEET YOUR STATE • U.S. REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS • STEP OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE • ENJOY A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!"



Egyptian Electric  
Cooperative Association  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

1732 Finney Road  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
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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

## New CSR, Holly Wettig



Holly started with Egyptian Electric as our new customer service representative on Monday, Nov. 4, 2019. She is a lifelong resident of Percy and lives with her husband of 15 years and two children; Josie and Ryder. **56-01-0033** Holly spent two years at John A. Logan College and obtained her medical transcription certificate. She previously was employed by the Memorial Hospital of Chester for 18 years as a Health Information Specialist and Medical Transcriptionist. Holly enjoys spending her free time with family and friends, but you will most likely find her watching her kids at a ballfield!

**SAVE!  
the DATE!**

Annual Meeting 2020,  
**Thursday, July 16, 2020,**  
at our EECA facility

## Board vacancy

Due to a retirement, a vacancy on our Board of Directors will become available. If you are a consumer-member living in eastern Jackson or Williamson county and are interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity, please visit our website at [eeca.coop/about-egyptian/board](http://eeca.coop/about-egyptian/board).

**2020**

HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Our office will be closed January 1.*



*Our office will be closed January 20 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.*

**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.

## Don't let old electrical wiring pose a problem

People who love older homes usually get drawn in by their grandeur. They see a Victorian home in the historic district and fall in love with its stately staircase and intricate architectural features. Once they sign on the dotted line, they painstakingly restore woodwork, make sure windows are in working order and tend to other repairs. One of the top priorities on their "To Do" list should be to get the electrical system inspected by a qualified electrician.

Just because the wiring in a home is old doesn't automatically mean there's a problem, but there could be. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), many older homes that still have outdated wiring can't handle the electrical load of today's modern appliances. That's not good because old, outdated wiring could pose a fire hazard.

As electrical components age or become overloaded, the system can overheat and wear out insulation. This can lead to arcs (electrical discharge) and short circuits — the two main causes of home electrical wiring fires, according to the CPSC. In addition, old rubber wire insulation can become brittle and easily flake, leaving wires exposed.

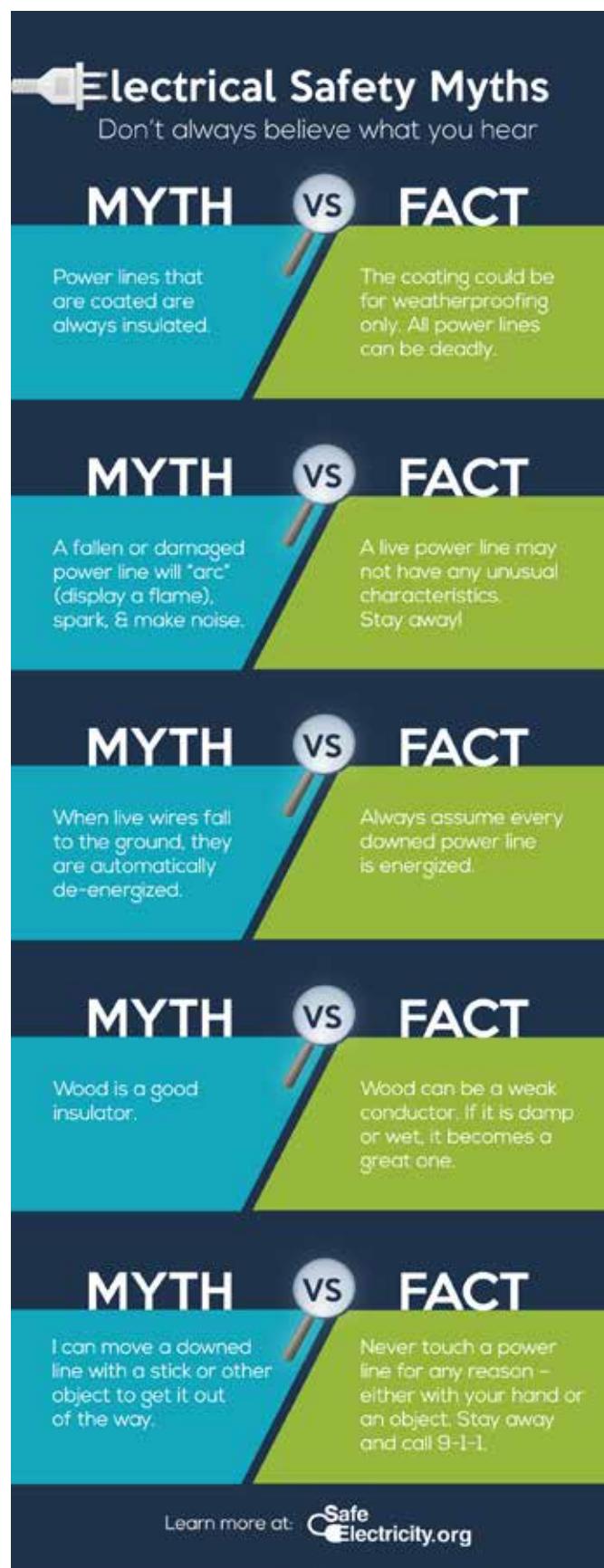
Older wiring called knob and tube can be found in homes built around 1950 or earlier. **24-23-0005** If your electrical system was not thoroughly inspected when you bought it, or if it was inspected but it has been several years, have it inspected by an electrician to make sure it is safe and that it adequately meets the electrical needs of your home.

If your house was built between 1965 and 1973, it could be dangerous for another reason. Aluminum is great for cans, but not for wiring since it can overheat. Unfortunately, it was used in 2 million homes that were built during that time period.

Regardless of the age of your home, be sure to get any potentially dangerous wiring issues checked out by a professional, especially if:

- Your circuit breaker keeps tripping or fuses blow often
- You notice unusual power draws or dimming or flickering lights
- You see discolored (dark colored) outlets or switch plates or they are warm to the touch
- You notice unusual odors like a burning smell but can't find a source
- Your outlets only allow you to plug in a two-pronged plug (and not a three-pronged plug), which means they are not grounded
- You don't have ground-fault circuit interrupters near faucets or other sources of water in your home
- Your house was built more than 40 years ago

For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



**Electrical Safety Myths**

Don't always believe what you hear

MYTH	VS	FACT
Power lines that are coated are always insulated.		The coating could be for weatherproofing only. All power lines can be deadly.
A fallen or damaged power line will "arc" (display a flame), spark, & make noise.		A live power line may not have any unusual characteristics. Stay away!
When live wires fall to the ground, they are automatically de-energized.		Always assume every downed power line is energized.
Wood is a good insulator.		Wood can be a weak conductor. If it is damp or wet, it becomes a great one.
I can move a downed line with a stick or other object to get it out of the way.		Never touch a power line for any reason – either with your hand or an object. Stay away and call 9-1-1.

Learn more at:  SafeElectricity.org



## Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



With an Operation Round Up program, Egyptian Electric Cooperative is in a unique position to be a catalyst for improving the quality of life of our membership within our service territory. It will help further facilitate member dialogue, identify community goals, and have the ability to act upon and support them.

**What is Operation Round Up?** The Operation Round Up program was started by Palmetto Electric Cooperative in South Carolina in 1989, over 30 years ago now. It was a way for their cooperative to act as a conduit and help facilitate the cooperative members in giving back to their communities. The program has been adopted by over 350 other rural electric cooperatives across the nation. One of the cooperative principles is Concern for Community. Cooperatives feel a strong responsibility to the people in the communities they serve that goes beyond simply providing reliable and safe electricity. One of the most rewarding aspects of Operation Round Up is that it is an extension of the concept of neighbors helping neighbors that built our electric cooperatives in the first place.

**How does this work?** Funding for Operation Round Up is donated by co-op members like you who volunteer or opt into indefinitely rounding up their monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar amount. For example, if your electric bill is \$86.75, it will round up to \$87.00 and your contribution for the month would be 25-cents. Your donation is tax-deductible and never goes above 99-cents per month; the average donation for the year is \$6.00 and the most it would ever be is \$11.88! It is small change, but when you multiply that by the thousands of Egyptian Electric Cooperative members participating

in the program, it delivers big benefits to the local community and charitable organizations. So if 1,000 people were registered and donated the average \$6.00/year, that would amount to \$6,000.00 that would go right back into the community. Employees can also contribute to the fund, and anyone else at any time. Think of it as a community foundation.

**What are possible uses for Operation Round Up?** The 501(c)(3) charitable organization program would be used to aid many worthy causes and not only charitable organizations. For instance, it could benefit community service projects, economic development, education and youth programs, senior citizen programs, supplies and equipment for rural and municipal fire departments, emergency response services, and food pantries to name a few. The funds would not be used to pay member bills, nor political purposes. An "Advisory Committee" will be assembled and comprised of members across our territory to make the funding determinations based on application.

**When will this begin?** Operation Round Up deductions will begin in January 2020, so you can go ahead and sign up at any time! You can opt back out at any time, should you ever choose to.

**What better way to celebrate 81 years of service than to join electric cooperatives across the United States to help cooperative member-consumers reach out to worthy causes in their communities to work together to help others!**  
**That's the coop way!**

### *Concern for Community*

**While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.**

# Why is my power out?

## When power goes out, we are working hard to restore it

We hate it when the power goes out just as much as you do. When there is an outage, we work hard to resume service as quickly and safely as possible. Many times, the reasons for outages are beyond our control. Here are the main reasons the power goes out.

### Storms

Conditions brought on by storms such as high winds, ice and lightning can interrupt service. Lightning itself does not impact outages as much as people think, but it can strike trees and cause branches or even whole trees to fall on distribution lines. Lightning can cause a problem, however, if it strikes substation equipment, such as a large transformer. Strong high winds and ice that accumulates on lines can also impact distribution.

### Trees and vegetation

Branches, limbs or trunks can fall on lines, and vegetation (such as vines) can grow around poles, lines or other equipment. Ice and wind can make matters worse. This is why we work so hard to keep power lines and equipment clear.

### Animals

It is estimated that 11 percent of outages are caused by our furry friend the squirrel. They love to chew on the weatherproof coating around lines. Other critters like turkeys, snakes and raccoons can interfere with service too. A bird on a wire is harmless and safe for the bird as long as it touches the line and nothing else.

### Accidents

Cars, trucks, and farm equipment that have a run-in with a utility pole can cause an outage.

### Public damage

Unsafe digging, equipment or line damage, vandalism, or theft can all cause interruptions in the energy chain.

### Overload

This happens when demand spikes, such as when too many air conditioners run on a hot summer day, causing blackouts or brownouts.

### Equipment issues

We maintain and inspect all our lines and equipment regularly; however, sometimes equipment malfunctions. We strive to address any problem as soon as it happens.

# WHY IS MY POWER OUT?

A storm or a squirrel may be to blame



When the power goes out,  
we work hard to resume service  
as quickly and safely as possible.

### Here are some common reasons the power goes out:



#### STORMS:

Mother Nature can interfere with power delivery.



#### TREES AND VEGETATION:

This is why we work so hard to keep power lines clear.



#### ANIMALS:

Curious animals can cause damage, especially squirrels.



#### ACCIDENTS:

Run-ins with a utility pole or other equipment can cause an outage.



#### PUBLIC DAMAGE:

Unsafe digging, equipment or line damage, vandalism or theft can all interfere.



#### OVERLOAD:

This happens when demand spikes, like on a hot summer day.



#### EQUIPMENT ISSUES:

We maintain and inspect equipment regularly, but sometimes malfunctions occur.

Thank you for your patience during outages.

Please contact Egyptian Electric Cooperative at 800-606-1505 with questions about outages. For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



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