



85th Annual Meeting of the Members: Your go-to key takeaways!

Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association (EECA) held its annual meeting on July 13 at EECA headquarters in Murphysboro. All registered members received an August bill credit and a complimentary extension cord. EECA was delighted to treat members to live music by Bill Harper, live line demonstrations, jumbo hot dogs, and the always-popular dessert: a Chocolate Dilly Bar.

EECA board members worked to address questions, comments and feedback from the membership in the days following the annual meeting, with the aim of making ongoing improvements for the years ahead. If you could not attend the annual meeting, here are the key takeaways we believe will be of interest to our members.

Highlights included:

- Shane Hermetz, Executive Vice-President/General Manager of EECA, highlighted that in 2022, EECA's percentage of reliability was 99.975% and **"that means your power was on 99.975% of the time!"**
- EECA proudly returned \$848,612 in 2022 and **will be returning**

\$752,729 in capital credits this summer to members who had service in 1992! **James E. Murray**

- Members saw a minimal rate increase despite rapidly rising industry costs. Hermetz projected stable rates into the foreseeable future.
- Three members were reelected to the Board of Directors — **Rick Asaturian** of Carbondale, **Mary Jo Homan** of Chester, and **Steve Prest** of Coulterville. All will serve new three-year terms.

Hermetz then discussed the challenges facing the electric industry and EECA, noting:

- **Power supply changes:** The electric industry is undergoing an unparalleled transformation. The power supply is shifting from coal and natural gas and transitioning towards renewable sources like wind, solar and battery storage.
- **Inflation and rising costs:** "Like many industries, we've faced inflationary pressures, which have increased electricity production costs and the cost of maintaining a large fleet of vehicles," said

Hermetz. He added, "The price of Southern Illinois coal has more than doubled in recent years, and the cost to transport it from a local mine to the power plant in Marion has also increased. However, our rates have remained stable."

- **Supply chain struggles:** Industry-wide supply chain shortages have affected EECA operations. Replenishing inventory and acquiring new equipment now takes three times longer and costs two to three times more.
- **Electric vehicle adoption:** The transportation industry is rapidly moving toward electrification, and in response, EECA is preparing for increased demand to its system. EECA preparations also include strategic placement of charging stations throughout its footprint and actively educating members on electric vehicles.

At the close of the meeting, ten (10) names were drawn to receive \$1,000 scholarships to college-

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Egyptian Electric
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bound students who are EECA members or dependents of members. Scholarship winners were:

- **Jacob Powers**, a 2023 Carbondale Community High School graduate attending Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
- **Michael Fisher**, a 2018 Trico High School graduate attending Bellevue University **Matthew C. Dudek**
- **Alek Abell**, a 2022 Murphysboro High School graduate attending Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
- **Timothy Reiman**, a 2023 Trico High School graduate attending McKendree University
- **Logan Salger**, a 2023 Red Bud High School graduate attending Southeast Missouri State University
- **Annie Kennedy**, a 2020 Murphysboro High School graduate attending the University of the South
- **Jesse Heath**, a 2023 Chester High School graduate attending Lincoln Land Community College
- **Hunter Havens**, a 2016 Eldorado High School graduate attending Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
- **Claire Deterding**, a 2021 St. Vincent de Paul Catholic High School graduate attending Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
- **Madison Kribs**, a 2022 Chester High School graduate attending Southeast Missouri State University



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.

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.



Winners of \$50:

- John Freebern
- Louis Glidewell
- Karla Heinz
- Bill Gottschalk
- Neil Rodewald
- Edwin Stearns

Winners of \$100:

- Rolland Hargis
- Hunter Havens
- Barry Newman
- John Rieckenberg
- David Jennings
- Russell Greer
- Donald Stallman



Operation Round Up, where together we make the difference!

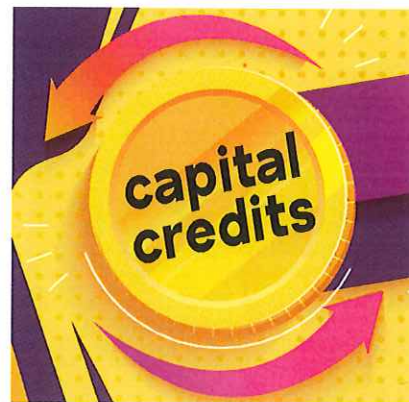
Sign up at eeca.coop/roundup

\$752,729 in capital credits returned to members in 2023

In 2023, EECA will retire (or pay) \$752,729 in capital credits to consumer-members who were served by our cooperative in 1992. When you sign up to receive electric service from EECA, you become a member, as well as a consumer. When you pay your monthly EECA bill, you accumulate equity in EECA through capital credit allocations. When EECA has a positive margin, the margin is allocated through a capital credits system according to each member's usage. An allocation represents the member's share of ownership in our cooperative.

Checks began mailing on Aug. 28, 2023. The check you receive represents a portion of the margins allocated in 1992, proportional to the amount you contributed to the year's revenue. Over our 85-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.

Typically, our capital credit returns have been distributed yearly, by



check, to those who received service from us approximately 30 years prior.

To learn more about our capital credit allocations and retirements, visit eeca.coop. If you have any questions regarding capital credits or your check, please contact us at 800-606-1505 or capcredit@eeca.coop. To keep our records up to date for future capital credit check mailings, please keep us informed of any contact information and address changes to ensure any future checks can be received. We also recommend that all consumer-members complete our beneficiary form for capital credits, which is available online or by calling our office.

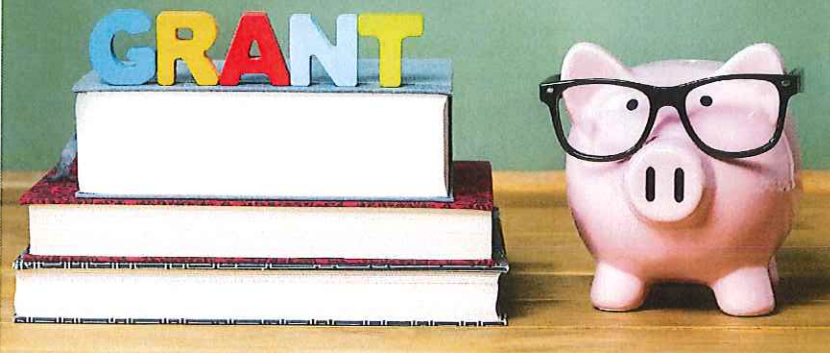




EECA is sending a big shout-out to its incredible linemen and forestry personnel! They've been hard at work restoring power to thousands after recent storms in the metro-east, central Illinois, and western Kentucky areas. The EECA linemen who stayed back worked tirelessly to keep the lights on in our own communities. We're proud of their dedication and skill!

COMING SOON Classroom Grant Opportunities

School teachers & administrators can apply for one of the ten \$500 Classroom Grants that will be offered again this year. On Aug. 21, grant applications will become available and will be due on Nov. 3. Selections will be made and awarded mid-December. To learn more, visit eeca.coop



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment.

Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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