

# PowerLines

January 2017

## Happy New Year!

One of the questions that I like to ask myself and others at this time of year is this. Would you take another year like the one that just ended? There are many different things to consider. As a follow up, consider this question. What would you like to accomplish this coming year?

From your cooperative's perspective, 2016 turned out to be a very good year all around. We were fortunate to meet or exceed virtually all of our corporate goals (safety, financial, reliability, member satisfaction). We also expect energy sales for the year to be close to the forecast value.

Our net operating margin for the year will end up much better than forecast in the initial budget. Your board of directors is pleased to return about \$480,000 of this year's operating margins to you immediately in the form of a rebate on your January power bill. **This is a benefit of being a member/owner of your not-for-profit cooperative!**

The board also authorized a portion of those margins to provide financial flexibility for future energy purchases from our power supplier.

The credit on this month's bill is based on your 11-month average electric use from January through November. **You can find your credit amount on the "2016 Margin Rebate" line on your bill included with this mailing.**



**MESSAGE FROM  
THE PRESIDENT**

Last month (November electric use billed in early December) you may have also noticed a fairly large credit on your bill for the Power Cost Adjustment. A good operating year at the Prairie State power plant enabled us to pass along some savings as our power supply costs were a bit better than budgeted.

The balance of 2016 operating margins will be allocated as capital credits to be returned to you at a future date. Speaking of capital credits, this year your directors voted to return approximately \$1.6 million of member patronage capital. Many of you have already received these checks within the past month or so.

We are also pleased to let you know that your rates are projected to remain stable for 2017. Based on our latest five-year financial projection, we expect stable rates into the near future as well.

I would also like to highlight our participation in the Youth to Washington Program (see pages 5 & 6 of this publication for more information). It is a life-changing experience! This is just one example of how we are pleased to be able to give back to our community.

We look forward to a safe 2017, and we thank you for the opportunity to serve!

Sincerely,

*Bob Hunzinger*

## In this issue:

Co-op Connections Card  
Participating Business Listing  
Youth to Washington Experience



**SmartHub is your online  
and app portal to:**

**View and pay your bill  
Report an outage  
Track your electric use  
Update your account info**

**Visit [www.eiec.coop](http://www.eiec.coop) to  
get started!**

## High School Students

Applications are now available for the Youth to Washington experience. Recipients will travel to Washington, D.C. this summer for an expenses-paid trip to our nation's capital. See pages 5 & 6 of this publication for more information.

Your Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup>  
Cooperative

# Discover the value of co-op membership and save!

**The Co-op Connections Card is a tangible benefit of being a member of Eastern Illini. It is a free membership card that gives you discounts on everyday expenses.**

As a card-carrying member, you can use your Co-op Connections Card or key fob at any participating business and receive discounts at restaurants, retail shops, hair salons, flower shops, hotels, and more.

Finding a participating business is easy. The next two pages of this publication include a complete list of local offers, and each participating local business will have a Co-op Connections Card sticker on their window or register.

Since new deals are being added all the time, the best place to find all the latest deals is online at [www.eiec.coop](http://www.eiec.coop). Just click on the picture of the Co-op Connections Card and follow the links. There is also a Co-op Connections app available for both iOS and Android devices. Simply search for "Co-op Connections" on your

favorite app store. With the app, you can find offers, and have carry a digital version of your card.

Besides local offers, there are many savings opportunities available online and nationally. There are more than 32,000 retail discounts nationally – ranging from dining and clothing to golf and auto repair. The website and app will give you more information on those offers.

The Co-op Connections Card is also accepted at over 60,000 participating pharmacies and can save you 10% to 85% on many prescription medications. In fact, EIEC members have saved over \$193,000 in prescription discounts since 2007! PLUS, you can receive Healthy Savings discounts on dental,

vision, chiropractic and more through participating providers.

If you need a new Co-op Connections Card for any reason, or if you have any questions about the program, you can call us at 800-824-5102 or send an email to [info@eiec.coop](mailto:info@eiec.coop).



## National and online offers

### National Offers

*The Co-op Connections' Cash Back Mall lets you can earn cash back on purchases from more than 3,000 leading online merchants. Download and use the free Shopping Assistant for your browser or get the free mobile app. Get paid to shop on your favorite websites today!*

### Healthy Savings

*Healthy Savings helps you save more and live healthier every day! Our highly successful prescription discount offer is now joined by discounts on dental, vision, hearing, lab work & imaging and chiropractor visits. Best of all, you get all these great benefits for FREE!*

### Cash Back Mall

*The Co-op Connections' Cash Back Mall lets you can earn cash back on purchases from more than 3,000 leading online merchants. Download and use the free Shopping Assistant for your browser or get the free mobile app. Get paid to shop on your favorite websites today!*

### Simply Rewards

*Co-op Connections has partnered with Simply Rewards to bring you the best prices on hotels, cruises and rental cars – including a Best Price Guarantee! You'll also find big savings on direct deals like Kenneth Cole, Under Armour, Sony, Nike and more.*

### Coupons.com

*Co-op Connections has teamed with Coupons.com to bring you valuable coupons – every day! Keep coming back to take advantage of hundreds of printable grocery coupons, discounts on top brands, and promo codes for online shopping.*

### Appliance Rebate Finder

*Our Appliance Rebate Finder widget allows you to locate rebates for energy efficient appliances. You can filter by appliance type, brand, or search for specific models. Once you find the deal you want, link to the rebate form and submit it to save on your purchase.*

# Co-op Connections local offers

## Arts & Crafts

**The Clay Corner**  
(815) 867-7035  
Paxton

\$1.00 off a purchase of \$10.00 or more.  
Excludes specialty classes.

## Automotive

**C&C Tire & Auto**  
(815) 432-6105  
Watseka

2% discount on parts & labor, excluding  
farm tires, commercial tires & oil changes.

**Greg Bates Automotive**  
(217) 253-2721  
Tuscola

10% discount on labor.

**Greg's Auto Body & Car Wash**  
(217) 897-6622  
Fisher

10% off new sprayed-in bedliner.

**Jeff's Custom Exhaust**  
(217) 379-4415  
Paxton

\$2.00 off any oil change, by  
appointment only.

## Dining

**Butcher Boy Burgers**  
(217) 215-0201  
Rantoul

Free side of French fries with the  
purchase of a drink and burger.

**Cornerstone Cafe & Gallery**  
(815) 268-5848  
Onarga

\$1.00 off of any beverage purchase.

**Country Cheese & More**  
(217) 543-3544  
Arthur

Free cup of coffee with your purchase of  
breakfast.

**Dutch Kitchen Restaurant**  
(217) 268-3815  
Arcola

Free drink with purchase of any menu  
item over \$4.00. Not valid with any  
other discount.

**Pauly's BBQ**  
(217) 543-2400  
Arthur

\$5.00 off a purchase of \$25.00 or more.

## Dining, cont.

**Pueblo Lindo**  
(217) 379-5200  
Paxton

Free dip (bean, guacamole, or cheese)  
with the purchase of a meal.

**The Copper Pot**  
(815) 785-1031  
Watseka

10% off your Friday night dinner.

**The Eagle's Nest**  
(815) 657-7084  
Forrest

Free coffee with breakfast or free soft  
drink with lunch or dinner.

**The Front Porch Cafe**  
(815) 265-4635  
Gilman

Free iced tea, lemonade, or coffee with  
the purchase of a sandwich.

**The Red Door Restaurant**  
(815) 265-7793  
Gilman

Purchase two entrees and receive \$3.00  
off your bill.

**Yoder's Kitchen**  
(217) 543-2714  
Arthur

Free drink with the purchase of a buffet.

## Entertainment

**Bement Country Opry**  
(217) 377-0550  
Monticello

\$1.00 off your purchase of a ticket.  
Offer valid for regular shows only.

## Florists

**Arthur Flower Shop**  
(217) 543-2822  
Arthur

Receive a 1/2 pound of fudge for free  
with the purchase of 1 pound of fudge.

**Flora Design Studio**  
(217) 590-0581  
Mahomet

\$5.00 off a purchase of \$40.00 or more.

**Flower Shak**  
(815) 432-3887  
Watseka

\$5.00 off a purchase of \$25.00 or more.  
Must be cash and carry out.

## Florists, cont.

**Flowers Etc. Ltd.**  
(217) 897-1604  
Fisher

10% off floral arrangements over \$30.00,  
excluding weddings & funerals.

**Gilman Flower Shop**  
(815) 265-7342  
Gilman

\$5.00 off a purchase of at least \$35.00.  
Offer excludes major holidays.

**Heaven's Designs Floral**  
(815) 707-5080  
Gilman

10% off your purchase of \$35.00 or more.

**Petals and Plants**  
(217) 253-4162  
Tuscola

10% off of your purchase.

**Sheila's Sunny Bloomers**  
(815) 457-3030  
Cissna Park

\$5.00 off a purchase of at least \$35.00.

**The Flower Cart**  
(217) 379-9245  
Paxton

10% off of arrangements of \$35.00.  
Excludes Valentine's & Mother's Day.

## Food

**Cissna Foods, Inc.**  
(815) 457-3074  
Cissna Park

One free movie rental with the purchase  
of an 8-piece bucket of fried chicken.

**Dutch Valley Meats**  
(217) 543-3354  
Arthur

Buy one pound of regular pork sausage  
and get the 2nd pound at half price.

**Flesor's Candy Kitchen**  
(217) 253-3753  
Tuscola

Free scoop of our homemade ice cream  
with the purchase of a meal.

**Gibson City Meats**  
(217) 784-4344  
Gibson City

10% off cafe and retail purchases.

Continued on page 4





# Co-op Connections local offers

## Food, cont.

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### **Hometown Family Foods**

**(815) 265-4763**

**Gilman**

*Receive one pound of cole slaw free when you purchase a 12-piece deli fried chicken.*

### **Ingold's Grocery**

**(217) 897-1245**

**Fisher**

*Free 2-Liter of soda with the purchase of one Digiorno specialty pizza.*

### **Rockome Garden Foods**

**(217) 268-4107**

**Arcola**

*Buy one deli sandwich and get one free.*

### **The Woodloft**

**(217) 543-2766**

**Arthur**

*20% off all coffee bean purchases.*

### **Yoder's Homestead Shop**

**(217) 268-3841**

**Arcola**

*20% discount on gift and food items.*

*10% off furniture.*

## Furniture

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### **K&S Furniture**

**(309) 928-9382**

**Farmer City**

*Free bed frame when you buy any bedding set.*

### **Kingdon's Home Center**

**(815) 432-5448**

**Watseka**

*\$25.00 off any Lane recliner.*

### **The Fashion Shop**

**(217) 784-4830**

**Gibson City**

*30% off all furniture items.*

## Gifts & Crafts

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### **Closet Boutique**

**(815) 644-0864**

**Watseka**

*\$5.00 off a purchase of \$30.00 or more.*

### **Corner Store**

**(217) 745-2570**

**Sibley**

*Free kitchen gadget with \$25.00 purchase.*

### **Debbie's Gifts & More**

**(217) 784-4556**

**Gibson City**

*10% off all items.*

## Gifts & Crafts, cont.

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### **Hooked on Wool Primitives**

**(217) 369-2086**

**Tuscola**

*Receive a free dryer ball with your purchase of felted goods of at least \$30.00.*

### **Jill's Creative Expressions**

**(217) 892-5555**

**Rantoul**

*Free setup on engraving (\$10 value).*

### **Shepherd's Closet, Inc.**

**(217) 784-8038**

**Gibson City**

*25% off your total purchase.*

### **The Gathering**

**(815) 265-4635**

**Gilman**

*\$5.00 off a purchase of \$25.00 or more.*

### **The Prairie Peddler**

**(217) 268-3311**

**Arcola**

*30% off all items in store.*

### **Whistle Stop Resale**

**(217) 892-5599**

**Rantoul**

*10% off all Whistle Stop items. Not valid for consignment items.*

## Health & Beauty

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### **Dick's Pharmacy**

**(217) 543-2913**

**Arthur**

*\$1.00 off any fountain item or 10% off any non-prescription item.*

### **Hoopeston Health & Fitness**

**(217) 283-7399**

**Hoopeston**

*10% off Advocare purchases over \$50.00.*

### **Hudson Drug & Hallmark Shop**

**(217) 379-4858**

**Paxton**

*25% off Good Neighbor Pharmacy brand.*

### **Main Attractions Salon & Spa**

**(217) 784-1124**

**Gibson City**

*\$5.00 off a spa pedicure.*

### **Massage Elements**

**(217) 781-1820**

**Paxton**

*Free upgrade to specialty message with the purchase of a 60-minute massage.*

## Health & Beauty, cont.

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### **Nordic Total Fitness**

**(217) 579-1047**

**Paxton**

*10% off monthly membership dues.*

## Home Improvement

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### **Hood's Ace Hardware**

**(217) 784-4273**

**Gibson City**

*10% off all paint accessories with the purchase of a gallon of paint.*

### **Hoveln Heating & Cooling**

**(217) 643-2125**

**Thomasboro**

*\$10.00 off a service call during regular business hours.*

### **JC's Heating, Cooling & Plumbing**

**(217) 784-2099**

**Gibson City**

*\$10.00 off a service call during regular business hours.*

### **Kirchner Building Center**

**(217) 379-2121**

**Paxton**

*10% off of your purchase.*

### **Ropp's Flower Factory & Greenhouse**

**(217) 784-5400**

**Gibson City**

*Free delivery of 6 yards of mulch, within 20 miles of Gibson City.*

## Outdoor

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### **Illiana Backyard Fun**

**(815) 432-1100**

**Watseka**

*10% off gift store or 5% off chemical purchases.*

### **Millrich Outdoors**

**(217) 543-3848**

**Arthur**

*15% off of a purchase of \$50.00 or more.*

### **Paxton Hardware & Rental**

**(217) 379-3611**

**Paxton**

*25% off first rental, or 10% off paint accessories with a 1-gallon paint purchase.*

## Printing

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### **Pro-Type Printing**

**(217) 379-4715**

**Paxton**

*\$10.00 off your first order of \$100.*

# High School Students: Win a trip to Washington, D.C.

**Eastern Illini Electric Co-op is proud to offer high school students the opportunity to win the trip of a lifetime.**

High school students (sophomores, juniors or seniors) with a passion for leadership and government are encouraged to apply for an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June!

Students that are daughters or sons of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative members are encouraged to apply for the Youth to Washington Tour.

## **How the program works**

Up to eight applicants will be selected to attend Illinois Cooperative Youth Day in Springfield on March 29, 2017.

From that group, up to three students will be chosen to represent

Eastern Illini Electric Co-op by attending the Youth to Washington Tour, June 9-16, 2017.

## **About the trip**

The trip brings together 1,500 high school students from across our nation for an incredible week in our nation's capital.

The Youth to Washington Tour has been sending high school students to Washington, D.C. for over 50 years. On the tour, students learn about electric cooperatives, American history and government, and will walk away with a greater understanding of their role as an American citizen.

They will visit with their elected officials and explore the sights around our nation's capital, including the White House, the Smithsonian museums, the Washington Monument, Lincoln

Memorial, the FDR Memorial, the Supreme Court, and more!

## **How to Apply**

Eligible students can apply online at [www.eiec.coop](http://www.eiec.coop). Simply click on the "Community Involvement" tab and follow the link to the Youth to Washington Program.

The application process is very simple - just a few basic questions and a couple of extended answer questions.

The Youth to Washington Tour is sponsored locally by Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, statewide by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, and nationally by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

You can find more information on the next page, or contact us at 800-824-5102, or visit [www.eiec.coop](http://www.eiec.coop).





# Youth to Washington Experience

## The trip of lifetime!



"I learned more than I ever thought I would, developed a passion for cooperatives and our country, experienced the United States government, and made life long friends." -Emma J.

"Youth to Washington is a once in a lifetime experience! I've never felt more patriotic or proud of our country than I did during and after that trip!" - Cecily H.

"The Youth to Washington tour opened my life up to so many experiences and very many wonderful people." -Kirsten W.

"Being on this trip has impacted my life forever." -Sophia M.

"The opportunity to experience our Nation's Capitol in person (with a bunch of youth my age!) is a memory I'll never forget. This trip really gave me a deeper appreciation for our magnificent country." -Sarah C.

"I had the opportunity to not only learn about cooperatives and government but I had the opportunity to hang out with 74 complete strangers who ended up being some of the coolest people I've ever met." -Brittany D.



- For complete rules and to apply, visit [www.eiec.coop](http://www.eiec.coop).
- For more information, call us at 800-824-5102.
- The application deadline is January 31, 2016.
- The Illinois Youth to Washington Facebook page has more information and plenty of pictures.