

PowerLines

December 2021

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

This year, 2021, is in the home stretch with just December and the Christmas and related holiday season remaining. Compared to last year when there were COVID-19 related travel and gathering limitations, this holiday season seems to be at a better point, but COVID-19 is still impacting many things.

Here at Eastern Illini, since September 2020, nearly 40% of our workforce has tested positive for COVID-19, with many other employees missing work due to quarantines with close contacts. EIEC employees have performed in an exemplary manner this year to maintain normal services, in spite of the continuing unusual circumstances. Please take the necessary precautions to keep yourselves, family, and the larger community safe.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

News Briefs

We have results from the October member survey. We had a record number of responses totaling over 1,400. Overall, members rated their cooperative very highly, with a score of 87 (out of 100) on the member satisfaction benchmark. Additionally, member ratings for employee interactions ranked very high (95 or above) in most every category. Members also identified areas for improvement. We use this annual member feedback to continually strive to improve service and to create a positive experience for members.

As previewed in detail last month in PowerLines, the return of capital credits to members totaling approximately \$1.1

million is in process. The mailing of checks began the week of Thanksgiving for members active during the years of 1996, 1997, and 1998. The return of member equity in the form of capital credit payments is a tangible investment return which is unique to the cooperative business model.

Your Board of Directors recently voted to return a portion of the 2021 net operating margins to members as a margin credit in the December usage bills (next month). This will provide some assistance to members during the holidays in the continuing abnormal COVID-19 times. We will provide additional details next month, but the estimated total credits are expected to be more than \$900,000.

Time is our most precious gift. Please take time this holiday season to share some of your time – not only with family and friends – but with those

less fortunate that need a compassionate listening ear, or maybe just a helping hand, or a smile to know that someone does care.

On behalf of our directors and employees, it is our sincere hope that you have a safe and joyous holiday season, and a great start to 2022.

Sincerely,

Bob Hunzinger

In this issue:

- Vets and Cowboys receive grant
- Use energy wisely this holiday season
- Deck the halls safely
- Thirteen scholarships available
- Holiday giving made easy



- View your bill
- Make a payment
- Compare usage by month
- Review known issues
- Report an outage
- Update account information

SmartHub is available online or through an application on your cell phone. Sign up today!

Unclaimed Capital Credits:

If you or anyone you know, received electricity from Eastern Illini in the past, please search the unclaimed capital credit database on our website: <https://www.eiec.org/capital-credits>

Give us a call at 800-824-5102 to claim your capital credits.

Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

SHARING SUCCESS GRANT FROM EASTERN ILLINI AND COBANK

Vets and Cowboys receive \$5,000 grant



property are individual cabins used by attendees. The cabins eliminate the need for hotel rooms, save on travel time, and provide a get-away at the end of a long day of learning. The future plans include moving the cabins to the recently purchased wooded area.

In June of 2020, Vets and Cowboys was awarded a State of Illinois grant to support minority-owned businesses across Illinois. The money was used to build a stable and horse stalls, training facilities, fencing, an arena area, and purchase equipment.

The vision of David and Sharon is to expand Vets and Cowboys to provide therapeutic horse back riding classes, drone services, and camps for kids from metropolitan areas who may have never been to a ranch or farm.

Eastern Illini's contribution to the Sharing Success Grant was matched by CoBank. Sharing Success was established in 2012 to celebrate the International Year of the Co-op. Together, CoBank and its customers have provided more than \$56 million in support to charitable organizations.

If you are aware of a 501 (c) (3) or a non-profit organization that is located in the Eastern Illini service territory that could benefit from a grant, call us at 800-824-5102.

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative along with CoBank, awarded Vets and Cowboys a \$5,000 Sharing Success Grant to continue their mission of providing training about horses and ranching to Veterans and minorities who can benefit from skills, new job opportunities, and exposure to the care, feeding, and riding of horses.

Vets and Cowboys is located at the former Lou's Route 1 Auction in Watseka. David Anthony is CEO and Sharon White is CFO.

Ten acres for their endeavor was purchased from Lou in 2014. An adjacent 89 acres of wooded area was purchased in 2020.

There are usually between 18 and 20 horses on the property at any given time. Some are boarded and some are used for racing. Vets and Cowboys has recently begun a breeding program as well.

Many of the horses are part of the training program that teaches job skills to those who attend training sessions. A unique feature of the training session held on the



GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT OF ENERGY SAVINGS

Use energy wisely this holiday season



Keep the winter chill outdoors by sealing air leaks around your home.



Deck the halls with LED holiday lights.



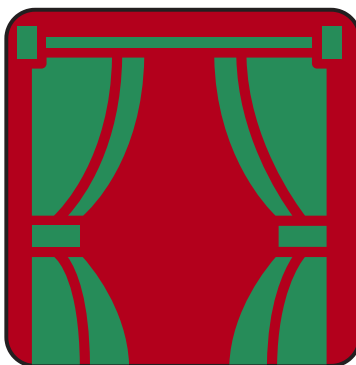
Close the fireplace damper when a fire is not burning.



Lower the thermostat when guests arrive.



Use a timer to turn off holiday lights at night when you're sleeping.



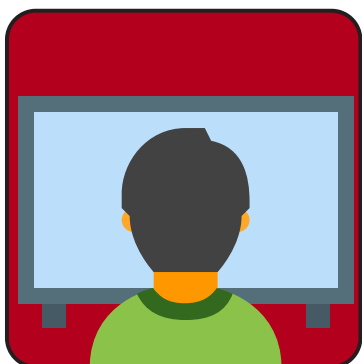
Open the curtains during the day to let sunlight in to warm your home.



Cooking a holiday feast? Use the oven light to check the progress of your dish.



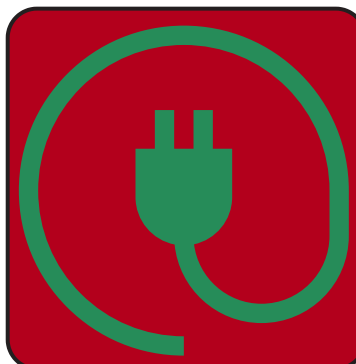
When your holiday tree is lit, turn off lamps and enjoy the cozy ambiance.



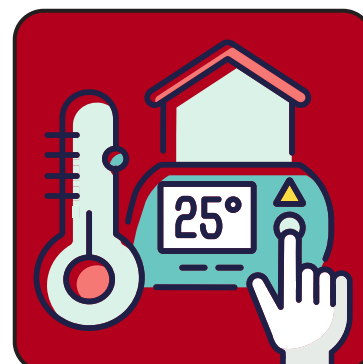
When gifting electronics, look for the ENERGY STAR logo.



Rechargeable batteries make great stocking stuffers.



Heading out of town? Unplug appliances and electronics.



Ask Santa for a smart or programmable thermostat.

Make safety a tradition this holiday season

There's nothing like putting up lights and decorations to get you in the holiday spirit. It's something that many do each and every year without incident, yet the holidays are also one of the most hazardous times of the year when it comes to electrical fires and accidents. Here are several tips as you deck the halls this season:

- When decorating outside, look up and around for power lines. Never throw light or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Keep ladders, equipment, yourself, and your family at least ten feet from all power lines.
- Match plugs with outlets. Do not force a three-pronged plug into an extension cord or two-pronged outlet.
- Outside, use only lights, cords, animated displays, and decorations rated for outdoor use. Follow the

manufacturer's instructions on how to use them. Ensure outdoor outlets or extension cords are equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs).

- Never string more strands of lights together than recommended by the manufacturer.
- Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords. Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights.
- Do not attached cords to utility poles.

The outside of your home is not the only place where you need to be cautious regarding electrical dangers. Also be careful when placing and decorating trees inside your home. The best decorations are safe decorations.

- Avoid running electrical cords under rugs or furniture. This is not only a fire hazard, but a tripping hazard.

• Place fresh-cut and artificial trees away from heat sources such as registers, fireplaces, and radiators. Remember to water fresh-cut trees frequently.

• Always turn off your lights and decorations when you leave your home and when you are sleeping. Most deadly fires happen while people are asleep.

• Be mindful of how you are using electrical outlets. If you're using extension cords that add receptacles, consider having a qualified electrician add more outlets to your home. Extension cords are a common cause of home fires.

• Keep decorations at least three feet away from heat sources. And remember to blow out your candles and turn off your fireplace when you leave the room or go to sleep.

EIEC wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.



Deck the Halls SAFELY

- Use only lights, cords, animated displays, and decorations **rated for outdoor use**.
- When decorating outside, **look up and around** for power lines. **Never throw lights** or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself **at least ten feet away** from power lines.
- Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)**.

For more safety tips visit:

EASTERN ILLINI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Thirteen scholarships available

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

for deserving high school seniors in the electric cooperative family

Apply Today!

Applications are due by
December 31, 2021

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
<https://aiec.coop/iec-scholarship/>



8

scholarships are awarded to high school students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member.

4

scholarships are reserved for high school students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

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scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, is awarded to a high school student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director.



Eastern Illini
Electric
Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Holiday giving made easy

with Eastern Illini Electric Co-op Connections



Fun

Local Deals

National Deals

Saving While Giving

Free Member  Benefit

Cooperative Healthy Savings



For more information about the one card that does it all, visit <https://eiec.coop/co-op-connections-savings> or call us to sign up for savings at 800.824.5102.

Happy (stress-free) Holidays!