

MJM
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

along the lines

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The Directors, CEO and Staff of MJM wish you a
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!

IN THIS ISSUE

- Pg 2 - Office Closings, Annual Meeting Delayed
- Pg 3 - Capital Credits
- Pg 4 - Safe Electricity
- Pg 5 - Scholarships, MJM Towers
- Pg 6 - PowerShift, Energy Efficiency
- Pg 7 - Operation Round Up
- Pg 8 - Member Trading Post



ALONG THE LINES


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A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

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Office Hours
Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 

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- Vice Chairman
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- Treasurer
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- Joe Heyen..... Director of
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- Jeremy Pattillo..... Director of
Finance and Accounting
- Jennifer Peterson..... Executive
Administrator

Editor

- Brooke Gross..... Communications
and Member Services Coordinator

Holidays observed

New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, day following Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

How to report an outage

Call 217-707-6156. When you report an outage, give your name and location number. Before calling, check your fuses or circuit breakers. Check with your neighbors. Call to report hazardous conditions. Please do not report outages on Facebook.

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OFFICE CLOSINGS:


DEC. 24 - CLOSED AT 11:30
DEC. 25 - CLOSED ALL DAY
DEC. 31 - CLOSED AT 11:30
JAN. 1 - CLOSED ALL DAY

Happy Holidays!

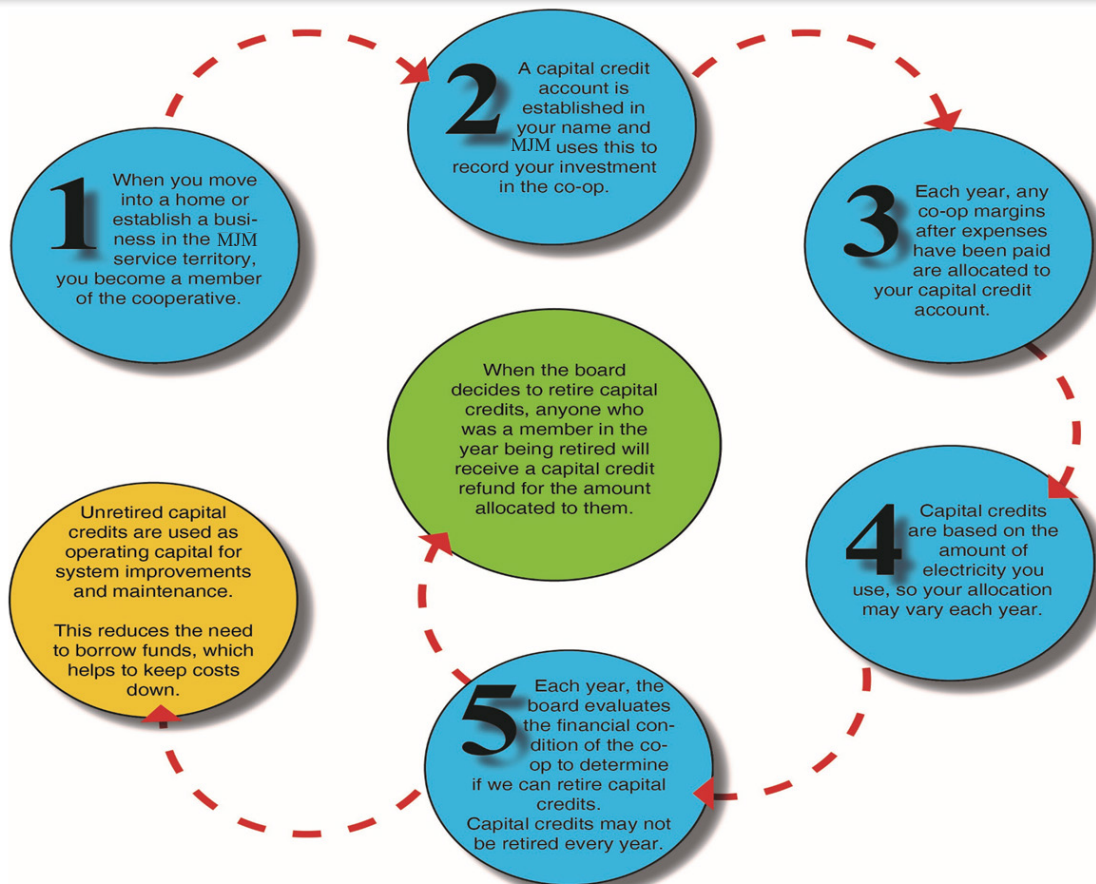


ANNUAL MEETING



Due to the increasing numbers of Covid-19, the Board of Directors and CEO have decided it would be safest to postpone the Annual Meeting from March 13, 2021, to a possible June meeting. A specific date and location will be announced at a later time. We look forward to hosting a safe meeting for all Members and guests. 

Allocation VS. Retirement for Capital Credits



ALLOCATION: An allocation is made annually for each member, based on the amount of electricity purchased. An allocation is the Member's share of the net margins. The co-op sets the money aside to be used as operating capital for improvements and maintenance over a period of years.

MEMBERS 2019 ALLOCATION was made on the November 1st bill as shown below:

Message from MJM

Your 2019 PATRONAGE CAPITAL ALLOCATION IS \$86.64

Members who did not have an active account as of November 1st will receive a letter of notification in the mail as a record of their patronage allocation.

RETIREMENT: A retirement is the amount of money returned to the Member. It is a portion of the total allocation. When capital is not needed for operating expenses, it is retired. The amount paid is decided annually by the board of directors based on the financial needs of the cooperative.

MJM retired \$659,163 in capital credits for the remainder of 1964-1982 which appeared as a credit on Members October 1st bills if they had service during that period. Members no longer on MJM lines received this capital credit via check.

As a reminder, if you move, please make sure to call or write us to keep your information current so that we can continue to send you any applicable capital credits!! 🌈



Shop Smart: Don't Wrap Up Unsafe Electronics

Electronics are on the top of many wish lists this year. Safe Electricity shares tips on what to look for so that you can help ensure the electronic gifts you choose will be safe for your loved ones.

If you are purchasing electronics for a child, that means making sure that batteries, small pieces, and cords do not present safety risks. Remember not to purchase electronics that plug into the wall for children under the age of 10. Instead, opt for battery-powered products.


Buying refurbished electronics can cut back on the costs of a new product, however you should always buy used products from brands and manufacturers that you know and trust. If the packaging seems tampered with or is already opened, make sure that the product is undamaged and still under warranty. Before you purchase electronics that have already been opened, be sure that all safety components are still in place.

Products that are packaged in boxes that do not display a brand name and do not have a certification mark should be regarded with suspicion. Electronics without official markings could be counterfeit products, which are often cheaply made, presenting safety concerns. Stay away from electrical products that are sold at temporary venues where you will be unable to make returns.

Although these products are often much less expensive than their certified counterparts, they lack the reliability of electronics that have been tested and marked by an independent laboratory. If the price is well below market value, there is a likelihood that it is a counterfeit.

A certification mark indicates that a product is in compliance with safety standards and has been approved based on quality tests. While these marks, often found on the bottom of a product, cannot guarantee safety, they do indicate compliance with the preset standards. To help ensure safe use of the product, consumers must also properly maintain it and follow all manufacturers' directions for use.

Safe Electricity recommends you keep the following tips in mind to help weed out fake safety labels:

- Take a close look at the label for signs of quality. If the label is blurred or torn, do not trust it.
- Check the packaging to ensure that there are no misspellings or incorrect information. This is a sure sign of a counterfeit product.
- Buy from brands and certification laboratories you can trust. If you come across a labelling standard you are unfamiliar with, check for the legitimacy online. Some common, legitimate marks are UL, CSA, and ETL. 

By Safe Electricity



Scholarship Applications are Due December 31st!

MJM will award two \$1,000 scholarships to sons and daughters of MJM Members. The applicant must be a high school senior who is planning to enroll in a full-time (at least 12 hours) undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, community college, or vocational/technical school in the United States.

By applying to our MJM Scholarship Program, you will also be entered into the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Program.

The total of twelve scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2021 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Program:

- 6 Six scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons and daughters of an Illinois Electric Cooperative Member receiving service from the Cooperative.
- 7 A seventh scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois Electric Cooperative employee or director.
- 4 Four additional scholarships are served for students enrolling fulltime at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric Cooperative Members, employees or directors.
- 1 Students also have the oppurunity to apply to the Lavern and Nala McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship. This will be awarded to a student attending linework school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, IL.

For the application and more information, please visit www.mjmec.coop. Applications are due by December 31st. If you have questions, call Brooke Gross at 217-707-6028 or email brookeg@mjmec.coop. 🚀

Building for the Future


MJM Electric is excited to announce the purchase and installation of three 190' towers placed at our headquarter in Carlinville, Piasa Warehouse, and Taylor Springs Warehouse. These towers will be used to enhance communications for MJM. We are partnering with Royell Communications of Virden to upgrade our network infrastructure and improve our ability to safely communicate with linemen in the field and advance our data collection from substations. We also anticipate, as resources allow, Royell Communications will expand its offering of Internet services to households within line of site of a tower. The towers are sized for use by multiple entities and we are open to dialogue especially to those in the cellular industry to improve coverage. 🚀 *By Chris Franzen*



YOU HAVE THE POWER

Enroll in the PowerShift Program.

In 2018, MJM was able to offer Members the PowerShift program through Wabash Valley to help shed load during MISO called peak events. Since then five Members have taken advantage of the program and have saved a total of \$23,030 in 2018, \$23,030 in 2019 and \$18,818 in 2020. To participate in the 2021 PowerShift program, a Member must act fast and before the end of December. If interested, please contact Nathan Hatalla at 217-707-6019 or nathanh@mjmec.coop. He will then determine if your account can shed a minimum of 10kw consistent load Monday through Friday during peak times in June-September. Meter data from the Member's load for August will be used to determine participation in the program along with a current test completed before the end of the year. If you qualify, an agreement must be signed and you will be also be required to follow the guidelines below to receive the PowerShift incentive:

- Member will be notified 6 hours before an event.
- Member must shed load for 4 hours during each event.
- Member must shed load during the first 5 events.
- If there are no events there will be a test event typically in August.
- If there are no events, Member will receive credit for their participation in the PowerShift program based on the test event and MISO peak day results.
- If all requirements have been met, the incentive will be applied to October's bill. 

Four Ways Santa Saves in His Workshop

The holiday season is finally upon us, and Santa and his elves have been especially busy as they gear up for their biggest night of the year.

It's no secret that Santa is known for running an efficient workshop—how else could he make all those toys in time for Christmas Eve? Rumor has it that one way Santa ensures an efficient workspace is through energy-saving measures.


Here are four ways Santa saves energy in his workshop.

1. Santa leaves his decorations up year-round, so by using LED holiday light strands, he's able to save on his monthly energy bills. LED holiday strands can last up to 40 seasons, which make them a great option for any festive home.

2. Santa requires several power tools to make a year's worth of new toys. That's why he insists on using cordless power tools with the ENERGY STAR® rating. According to energystar.gov, if all power tools in the U.S. used ENERGY STAR®-rated battery chargers, 2 billion kWh hours of electricity could be saved—that's equivalent to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 million tons!

3. Mrs. Claus loves to keep warm by the fire in the evenings, and Santa knows one of the best tricks to ensure fireplace efficiency. While a fireplace can keep a small area of your home cozy and warm, it can also pull heated air from the room through the chimney. That's why Santa always closes the fireplace flue when a fire isn't burning.

4. Santa also saves energy by using power strips. Power strips are ideal for workshops, craft nooks, game rooms and other spaces in your home. With one simple switch, you can conveniently control several devices and electronics that are plugged into the power strip.

This holiday season, let's take a page from Santa's book and remember to save energy when possible. With these four tips, you'll be well on your way to savings (and hopefully, Santa's "nice" list!). 

Operation Round Up **Opt Out** Form

Name on Account: _____

Account Number(s): _____

Current Phone Number: _____



Operation Round Up - The Gift to Give This Holiday Season



Christmas is right around the corner! How are you planning to give this year? While 2020 has been a unique year due to the pandemic, I think we are all thankful to see 2020 coming to an end and hopes for a brighter 2021! I know MJM is ready to begin 2021 on a positive note and proceed with Operation Round Up (ORU) that has been placed on hold for many months now.

The MJM Membership unanimously voted to launch ORU at the March 7th, 2020 annual meeting and chose the opt out program because it would reap rewards for their communities at **an average donation of \$6.00 per year per account**. ORU will begin with the billing statement you will receive in February 2021 for January's usage. Since Members are automatically enrolled in the program, if they do not want to participate, they may opt out. **To opt out**, please fill out the form above and mail it to MJM Electric, P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL, 62626. Once the program begins, Members still have the opportunity to opt back in or out at any time. To contact MJM about ORU, please call 217-707-6032 or email roundup@mjmec.coop. When you call our ORU phone number, you will reach a voicemail to leave your information. With each form of contact, please include the name on the account, your account number(s), and a current phone number.

It's obvious that Members are already finding themselves in the holly jolly spirit as there has been an overwhelmingly positive response welcoming this program. Members may also choose to contribute extra money each month in addition to the rounded up amount. If so, please contact us via the above mentioned means. We thank YOU for voting 'yes' at the 2020 annual meeting last March which gives YOUR co-op this opportunity to assist in serving YOUR communities. This is an opt out program so you do not have to do *anything* if you wish to participate. 🎁



Member Trading Post

FOR SALE: Dark wood, handicap accessible blind 8'x6' trailer with ramp. Title blind is 7'x5' with solar charger and inverter storage box. Four windows allows 360 coverage. Just pull to site and hunt in comfort. \$1,200. Call 618-977-9536.

FOR SALE: 2003 Chevy Trailblazer 4W Drive, Dark Metallic, 206,000 miles. Looks, runs and drives excellent with good tires. Asking \$3,000. Call 217-532-6917.

FOR SALE: American Walnut Art Deco Table & 5 chairs and Waterfall Buffet \$1600, Maytag Electric Dryer \$150, Stainless Steel Smoke Stack with Cap 7', \$300 Call or Text 618-580-7413

To list your free ad, email brookeg@mjmec.coop, call 217-707-6156 or mail the ad to MJM Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL 62626. Each ad will run for one month. Some restriction may apply. Thank you.