



MJM
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

ALONG THE LINES

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www.mjmec.coop

MJM Refunds \$659,163 in Capital Credits

All nonprofit organizations which are truly cooperative in nature recognize three essential principles: democratic control, limited return on equity capital and net margins distributed according to patronage. Refer to page 2 regarding Democratic Control. For this article, let's look closer at the latter two principles


Perhaps the most significant difference between a cooperative and other corporate businesses is that in a cooperative the net margins, or capital credits, belong to the patron who is the owner, the consumer and the equity contributor. The cooperative customarily refunds all or part of these margins as patronage refunds to its Members because, in a nutshell, capital credits are a Member's payments in excess of the cost of providing goods or services.

Electric cooperatives, as with any capital-intensive utility and business, require a heavy capital investment. Yet, the operating revenue is relatively small because of relatively low consumer density, such as MJM's 4.4 members per mile. To ensure adequate, reliable power for present consumer needs requires ever-increasing amounts of capital.

This means that electric cooperatives must charge their Members rates that are high enough to repay loans. This is in addition to paying the increasing cost of wholesale power and the expenses of providing service. The revenue requirements must therefore be greater than actual operating costs.

Because of the cooperative nature of rural electric systems, every dollar of payment by an electric cooperative Member in excess of the cost of providing electric service is paid in by them as capital. Each Member is credited for his/her share of the capital furnished to the business and will get it back eventually when the co-op has accumulated sufficient capital to insure its financial stability. The deferment of the payment of these patronage capital credits meets with sound business practices. Capital credited to Members' accounts are not necessarily represented by money on hand, which can be paid out directly at one time, but are Members' share in co-op property represented by poles, wires, transformers and other property of the cooperative.

Since 2013, MJM has been financially able to retire approximately \$400,000 a year of Members' capital credits. This year, MJM will be retiring the remainder of 1982 which is \$228,676. Allocated separately and not yet retired, were capital credits from MJM's wholesale power supplier during the period of 1964-1982, Western Illinois Power Company (WIPCO). The WIPCO retirement is \$430,487. Anyone receiving power during that time period will also be receiving this additional retirement. The total 2020 retirement is \$659,163.

Active Members who have been named as an heir of an estate and Members no longer on MJM lines are receiving this capital credit via check. All other Members received their refund as a credit on their current electric bill. This will clear out all capital credits from 1982 and prior. Total capital credits retired to-date are \$4,367,846. 

By Laura Cutler



ALONG THE LINES

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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. Collect calls will be accepted to report outages.

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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Member Trading Post

FOR SALE: 42" flat screen television and TV entertainment cabinet. \$40 each or \$70 for both. Call/text 217-473-3734

FOR SALE: Wooden double pedestal table with six chairs - \$225. Modern queen size four poster bed - \$100. Please call 217-854-8743.

FOR SALE: Approximately 100 bales of straw for three dollars a bale. Please call 618-535-5828.


FOR SALE: Two very heavy, old metal milk cans. No paint except for some numbers painted in red. Lids included. \$35 each. Also have an antique treadle sewing machine for sale. Dimensions: 36" x 18" on top and stands 30" high. On the metal base, it says Singer but on the sewing machine, it reads Franklin. Have no idea if sewing machine works--\$100. Call 618-585-4824.

To list your free add, 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 restrictions may apply.



Calling All Leaders!

MJM follows the basic principle of democratic Member control: one Member, one vote. Did you know that as a Member of our Co-op, you are eligible to run for a Board of Director position? Directors are your friends and neighbors and the decisions they make for your Cooperative effects their electric service the same as yours. This year, District 2 –Robert E. Moore, District 3 – Paul Bartlett and District 8 – Dennis J. Stewart are up for re-election which will be held at our annual meeting Saturday, March 13, 2021 at the Carlinville High School.

To know which Director represents you, you must know what district you fall in. To find your district and more refer to the MJM bylaw booklet (Articles IV – Board of Directors; V – Meetings of Director; and VI – Officers, Misc.) available online at www.mjmec.coop. For participation details contact us at 217-707-6156 or email us at info@mjmec.coop by **Monday, November 23, 2020.** 


Keep Your Furry Friends Safe Around Electricity

You do all you can to keep your pets healthy: you take them to the veterinarian for checkups, feed them well and ensure they are up to date on vaccinations. After all, for many people, pets are part of the family.

Two-thirds (67 percent) of U.S. households, or about 85 million families, own at least one pet, according to the 2019-2020 National Pet Owners Survey. The survey was conducted by the American Pet Products Association. The numbers are up 11 percent from 1988.

There is something else you can do for your pets and that is to keep them safe around electricity. MJM Electric and Safe Electricity offer these tips:

- Puppies and other pets love to chew on electrical cords. Keep cords out of sight or hidden with a cord cover. Provide teething or play alternatives.
- Watch your pet around dangling or sagging cords, including phone or tablet charging cables. Unplug charging cables once your devices are charged. Not only do they draw a small amount of energy when not in use, but the dangling cords are just crying to be played with.
- Watch where you place lamps and other plugged-in items. Lamps can be a fire hazard if they are knocked over, especially if they have halogen bulbs.
- Do not leave your pet alone around items that get hot: curling irons and straighteners, an outdoor grill, a portable heater and other electric appliances, including cooktops.

Pet proof your home much like you would for a baby or toddler. If you suspect your pet has been shocked or burned, take it to the vet right away. Owners may not realize a pet has been shocked until a few hours later when it has trouble breathing. Other symptoms include ulcers in the mouth and lesions on the tongue and gums. 



By Safe Electricity

Do You Have the Electric Heat Discount?

If you have recently added electric heating as the primary heating system for your home, you may be eligible for a discounted electric rate.

The electric heat discount is applied during November through March at \$.03716 per kilowatt-hour (kwh) for energy used in the 2,500-kwh block between 1,000 kwh and 3,500 kwh for a maximum discount of \$92.90 per month.

The discount will be approved after an inspection by a MJM Electric representative to verify that an electric heating system has been installed and is the primary source of heat for the home.

You are still eligible for the discount if you have gas appliances or a gas back-up heating system. Your main source of heat must be electric in order to receive the discount.

Call Communication and Member Service Coordinator Brooke Gross at 217-707-6028 for more information. 

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I certify that all information furnished
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false or misleading information on this
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/s/ Brooke Gross, Editor

Then. Now. Always.
We're proud to power your life.
October is National Co-op Month.



#PowerOn

POWER ON: OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

As an Electric Cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the Consumer-Members we serve. Because we are a Co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our Members and serve the long-term interests of our local community—and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months. One of the seven principles that guides *all* Co-ops is “concern for community.” To me, this principle is the essential DNA of MJM, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and Electric Cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we “Power On.” Keeping this theme in mind, I recognize the essential role we play in serving a special community like ours.


Who would have fathomed in March, that the COVID-19 virus would amount to a test of our community *and* our nation? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we’ve all been challenged to operate differently, and MJM has stepped up to help our Members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors.

As an essential service, and to ensure reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. Our line crews and other employees began working on staggered schedules to maintain separation. Some staff worked remotely. In the office, we limited and modified meetings and gatherings to allow for safe separation. We also adjusted our walk-in office availability and in-person service calls to ensure the health and safety of our employees and our valued Members. When MJM began working out of the new headquarters, and since the lobby was designed for both the safety of our employees and our Members, we were able to open for business. For the health and safety of everyone, we think the measures taken were the prudent course of action for the times.

For our Members impacted by COVID-19 who needed help with their electric bills, we waived late fees and worked with those who were hardest hit to make special payment arrangements.

I tell you about all of these efforts not to boast about MJM but to explain how much we care about this community—because we live here, too.

We’ve seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time, because that’s what communities do. While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, I’m heartened to see how everyone is pulling together.

In 1939, MJM was built by the community to serve the community, and that’s what we’ll continue to do – Power On. 

By Anne Prince

Deadline to apply for the \$1,000 Scholarship Program is Dec.31st

MJM's Scholarship Program Available Now!

Laura Cutler, President/CEO, has announced that MJM and the Illinois Electric Cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors in 2021. The MJM Scholarship Program and the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program are designed to financially assist deserving students in the Electric Cooperative family.

What is the MJM Scholarship Program?

MJM will award up to 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.

What is the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Program?

Twelve scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2021 through the IEC Memorial Scholarship Program.

Out of these awards, six scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois Electric Cooperative Member receiving service from the Cooperative.

Four scholarships are reserved for high school seniors enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughter of Illinois Electric Cooperative

Members, employees, or directors.


One scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, is awarded to a high school senior who is the son or daughter of an Illinois Electric Cooperative employee or director.

One scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, is awarded to an individual to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL.



"We hope to assist Electric Cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships," says Cutler. "MJM and the other Illinois Electric Cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities.

One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker's scholarship. It will benefit not only Electric Cooperative youth but also those fine, young men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker."

For more information regarding the scholarship program, visit <https://mjmec.coop/scholarships> or call Brooke Gross at 217-707-6028. Information will also be shared with area high school guidance counselors. 

VOTE CO-OP VOTE

Our Co-op's number one priority is providing our Members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. But doing this job requires a lot more than stringing and maintaining power lines throughout our service territory. It requires political engagement. That may seem far removed from our core mission, but it's absolutely essential to serving you, our Members.

That's why we're participating in a national program of America's Electric Cooperatives called Co-ops Vote.

Co-ops Vote encourages all Co-op Members to participate in national, state and local elections while educating political candidates and elected officials about the important role played by electric cooperatives in their communities.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the service organization representing the nation's Electric Co-ops, launched Co-ops Vote in 2016. Co-ops Vote started as a national non-partisan get-out-the-vote initiative that helped drive rural voter turnout in the 2016 presidential election.

More than 700 electric co-ops in 47 states responded by joining the Co-op Vote program to increase voter engagement in the communities they serve, and it was a tremendous success. Rural voter turnout in 2016 increased by more than a half-million Americans. Together we grew our political influence and encouraged lawmakers to pay more attention to the issues affecting rural Americans.

Through this program, Electric Co-ops realized they had a unique advantage: As Co-ops, the civic virtue of voting is in our DNA. We show concern for community—one of the seven cooperative principles—through participation in our democracy.

Co-ops have another advantage. Elected officials and decision-makers across the political spectrum trust us because of the work the Electric Cooperative family has put into political engagement. When we all get involved, we can make things happen politically and in our local communities.

Our participation in Co-ops Vote helps to ensure that rural issues remain part of the national

discussion—and are supported by our elected officials. But Co-ops Vote isn't just for Co-ops. It's for Co-op Members just like you.

We need to harness the same momentum we did in 2016 and ensure that Co-ops Vote continues to thrive. Critical elections are often ignored by the majority of voters, even the local and state elections. Many people see these "smaller" elections as less important than national elections. In reality, state and local elections have an even greater impact on local communities because the candidates are running on local issues - issues that are closer to voters' everyday lives than many national issues.

You can participate by registering to vote and committing to cast your ballot on November 3rd. Co-op Vote has a number of activities to help rural Americans stay engaged in the political process. Visit www.vote.coop to learn more about the upcoming elections and access online tools that can help you participate. We look forward to seeing you at the polls on Election Day! 🗳️



You're Invited to MJM's Auction!



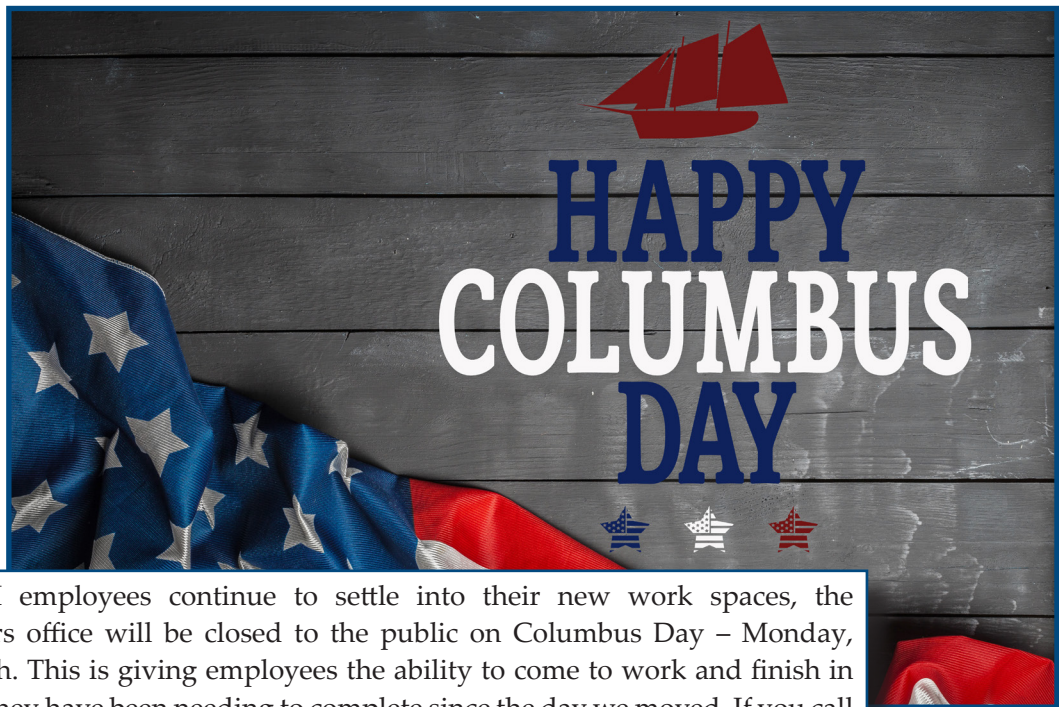
When: Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 10 a.m.

Where: 264 N. East St., Carlinville (MJM's old headquarters)

What to expect: MJM will be auctioning off all three of MJM's facilities and many more items including a C 185 tractor with loader, office furniture, content that won't be needed at the new headquarters and so much more!

At the time of printing this newsletter, not all details were finalized. More information will be available via Facebook and our website at www.mjmec.coop. Please call our office at 217-707-6156 with any questions.

No Tricks!
Just a treat!



As MJM employees continue to settle into their new work spaces, the headquarters office will be closed to the public on Columbus Day – Monday, October 12th. This is giving employees the ability to come to work and finish in house jobs they have been needing to complete since the day we moved. If you call in on the 12th, the back up call center will be assisting you on that day. By closing to the public, this will *not* affect our phone payment system or the SmartHub app. Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, October 13th. We are preparing to BETTER serve you! 🇺🇸