

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 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[®]
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. 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.



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
Watseska

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

Watseska
\$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.

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

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

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.

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

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 massage with the purchase of a 60-minute massage.

Health & Beauty, cont.

Nordic Total Fitness
(217) 579-1047
Paxton

10% off monthly membership dues.

Home Improvement

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

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

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. 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.



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.
- 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.