



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Board Approves Distribution of 1.2 Million Dollars of Capital Credit Funds

In 2021, the Sac Osage Electric Cooperative Board of Directors authorized the distribution of One Million Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$1,090,000) of capital credit retirements. Capital credit distributions from member owned, not-for-profit utilities like Sac Osage Electric Cooperative are somewhat similar to the dividends paid to shareholders of investor-owned utilities. The difference is that a co-op's "shareholders" are also the members that it serves and the "dividends" (capital credits) are distributed to the co-op's member/owners.

In December, members from 2000 and 2001 received capital retirements reflecting their contribution of capital to, and ownership of, the Cooperative

during those years. Those funds reduced the amount of money the Cooperative needed to borrow from outside lenders to build, maintain, and expand a reliable electric distribution system and to cover emergency expenses. Members from 2000 to 2001 who are currently members will receive a credit on their primary electric account in January. For former members without an active account, checks are mailed to the last known address if the distribution amount is above the five-dollar minimum. Inactive account distributions of less than five dollars will roll over to future years and a check will be issued when the minimum amount is reached.

The Cooperative Board has also authorized the return of \$110,000 for estate retirements. These are capital credits of deceased members being returned to their heirs. Each year, the Board of Directors makes a decision on whether to retire capital credits based on the financial health of the Cooperative. During some years, the Cooperative may experience high growth in the number of new accounts, or severe storms may result in the need to spend additional funds or repair lines. These and other events might increase costs and decrease member equity, causing the board not to retire capital credits. Sac Osage Electric Cooperative's ability to retire capital credits this year reflects the Cooperative's strength and financial stability.

Work Continues on Fiber Project That Will Bring Broadband Internet to Sac Osage Members

The first fiber huts were set into place in December. Setting the huts is one of the necessary steps to providing high speed broadband to our members.

To learn more about the broadband that will be offered, and to pre-register for fiber visit:
www.conexonconnect.com/sacosage.





News

Youth Tour is Going Back To Washington D.C.



Every year electric cooperatives in Missouri sponsor contests to select delegates to the annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. COVID has not allowed travel to Washington for the last two years, but in 2022 the Youth Tour will return. High school Juniors will once again be selected. These fortunate high school students will represent their local cooperative on a whirlwind tour of the nation's capital. They will tour museums, visit America's most cherished monuments, and even meet their elected officials. All the while they will learn about electric cooperatives and their role in the community.

Sac Osage also sponsors students for the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience(CYCLE). The CYCLE program is a three-day conference held in Jefferson City in late July.

It brings in some of the brightest young leaders from across Missouri. The focus is to show students more



about electric cooperatives, teach leadership skills and experience Missouri state government. The program includes nationally known speakers and a day at the state Capitol. There is also time for some fun things like an outdoor barbecue and a hypnotist. The group is also divided up into smaller teams that compete in various events like the "build a cooperative" game.

To be a part of the 2020 Youth Tour, high school juniors in the Sac Osage Electric Cooperative area can start by filling out a simple application. The application can be found on our website (<https://www.sacosage.com/youth-tour>) or picked up at Sac Osage headquarters.

Please call Aaron at 800-876-2701 for more information.



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative is offering two convenient automatic payment plans to members. By choosing one of the plans, you can pay your electric bill(s) automatically each month without the hassle of writing a check and mailing or delivering it to the office of the Cooperative.

If you would like the convenience of automatic payment, please provide the required information for the plan you prefer, sign and date this form, and return it to our office.

It will take one to two billing cycles for the Automatic Payment Plan to be activated. You will know when the Automatic Payment Plan you have chosen is working because your electric bill(s) will state that your bill will be paid automatically.

Application for Automatic Monthly Bank Draft Payment Plan	Application for Automatic Credit Card Payment Plan
<p>Please transfer my electric bill account(s) listed below to the Automatic Monthly Bank Draft Payment Plan.</p> <p>Account Number: _____ Account Number: _____ Account Number: _____ Account Number: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Instructions for Automatic Bank Draft Payment Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enter the electric bill account number for the account(s) you wish to be transferred to automatic bank drafting. 2. Return your bill(s) and your payment with this completed form. 3. Include a voided check from the account to be drafted. 4. In one to two billing cycles your account(s) will be transferred to the automatic bank draft payment plan. When activated, the draft will occur on the 20th day of the month following the due date of the bill. <hr/> <p>Member Signature _____</p> <hr/> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>Please transfer my electric bill account(s) listed below to the Automatic Credit Card Payment Plan.</p> <p>Account Number: _____ Account Number: _____ Account Number: _____ Account Number: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Instructions for Automatic Credit Card Payment Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enter the electric bill account number of the account(s) you wish to be transferred to automatic monthly credit card payment plan. 2. If payment is due at this time, return your statement with this completed application. Your credit card will be charged for the amount currently due. 3. Your credit card will automatically be charged for future monthly bills. The amount due on the accounts listed above will be charged to your credit card on the 20th day of the month following the due date of the bill. <hr/> <p>Type of Card: American Exp. _____ MasterCard _____ VISA _____</p> <hr/> <p>Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Zip Code Card is Billed To: _____</p> <hr/> <p>Member Signature _____</p> <hr/> <p>Date _____</p>



Set Up AutoPay to Save Money and Hassle

With today's hectic lifestyle members can find themselves in the embarrassing situation of having a past due bill for a multitude of reasons. Maybe the paper bill got stuck with some junk mail and thrown away. Maybe the check was written, but Mom was interrupted before she got it in the envelope. Maybe it was in the car to be dropped off that evening, but it fell down between the seats and "out of sight, out of mind." These things have all happened to Sac Osage members and can be extremely frustrating.

At Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, we are always looking to provide services that make things easier and more convenient for our members. The Auto Pay program does just that, and is offered at no additional cost to you. With Auto Pay, your payments are sent to us directly from your bank or credit card. You'll save time, postage costs, and the hassle connected with the traditional way of paying bills.

How It Works

The withdraw is done on or very near the 20th of each month. Here's how it works; each month you'll receive a copy of your bill approximately 15 days before the amount will be automatically deducted or charged to your account. This way, you'll have time to review your bill and discuss any questions you may have with us.

Sign Up Now

The easiest way to sign up for Auto-Pay is through SmartHub. Inside SmartHub "Auto Pay Program" is available under the "Billings and Payments" tab. There, members can manage payment methods as well.

The other option to sign up is to use the form on the other side of this page. The member can mail the form to the cooperative, and it will be the last stamp they have to buy for their electric bill.

The image shows a screenshot of the SmartHub mobile application. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Billing & Payments, My Promise, and More. Below the navigation bar, there is a sidebar titled "Quick Links" with options like "Pay My Bill", "View Bill", "View Usage", "Report An Issue/Inquiry", and "Get Help". The main content area features a large button for "Billing & Payments" with sub-options for "Billing History", "Payment History", and "Auto Pay Program". To the right of this, there is a section titled "We've improved" with a green bar chart. At the bottom, there are download links for "Available on the App Store" and "ANDROID APP on Google play".

the area and find issues faster than ever before in cooperative history.

Blinks can often occur on clear days. Traffic accidents or farm vehicles can cause an outage in one area but only be a blink to members closer to the substation. A problem with a transmission line miles away from Sac Osage territory may cause these momentary power losses to multiple substations in the service area.

Members who are concerned about damage to sensitive electronic devices from these momentary power losses can get some peace of mind from an uninterruptable power supply. An uninterruptable power supply is an electrical device that runs your plugged in appliance through its battery. So even for a momentary power loss, your appliance sees no voltage change. Generally, uninterruptable power supplies only provide power for a few minutes in any single outage. They gained prominence for giving computer users enough time to save and shut down systems in case of a power loss. But they will keep a television and satellite receiver going right through a "blink".

Blinking Lights

Sac Osage is committed to providing reliable power to our members. It is a fundamental cooperative principle. Part of that commitment is designing a system with equipment in place to help ensure that reliability.

Members will sometimes experience very short power outages often called "blinks." These are generally caused by breaker operations somewhere up the powerline. The breaker operation happens when there is a short or fault on the line. Often breakers will attempt to reclose up to three times.

If a branch comes into contact with the powerline it may conduct electricity to the pole or ground creating a dangerous situation. In that case the safety device would open the line and members would experience a power

outage until a lineman can locate the problem, clear the branch, and reset the breaker to close the circuit. However, if the branch contacts the line but then falls harmlessly away, the device can reclose the circuit. In this instance the member would only see a "blink" instead of a lasting outage. This means that the annoying blinking lights may have saved the member a prolonged outage.

To the member the blink is still an irritation, and it may return. There may be some place along the line where vegetation needs to be cut back or some cooperative equipment such as lightning arrestors or insulators have been damaged and need to be repaired. The cooperative's digital meters are capable of remembering blinks and can help employees narrow down