



# Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

## News

January 2023

### BLAND HONORED WITH A.C. BURROWS AWARD

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### ! SAFETY FIRST !

### Sac Osage Electric Cooperative Recognized for Safe Work

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, El Dorado Springs, was one of 35 Missouri electric cooperatives recognized for working safely. Employees of the cooperative have now worked a total of 66,317.00 hours without a lost time accident.

“We are proud of the steps these cooperatives have taken to ensure each and every employee goes home to their families safe at the end of every day,” says Rob Land, vice president of risk management and training for the association. “We offer a tremendous amount of training that always stresses safety. But in the end, it is the employees themselves who have created a culture of safety at these cooperatives.”

“Our employees see the value in the training that is required to do their job well and safely. They have taken it seriously and their record shows it” says Aaron Ash, general manager.

The recognition came at the 2022 annual meeting of AMEC, which is the Jefferson City-based statewide service organization for Missouri’s electric cooperatives.



Ralph Bland, a retired employee of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, El Dorado Springs, was honored with the A.C. Burrows Award by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives (AMEC) at that organization’s annual meeting Oct. 6 in Branson.

The purpose of the award is to recognize directors and employees of electric cooperatives for outstanding service to their cooperative, community and service areas. Those who received the award were selected because of their leadership above and beyond the call of duty to strengthen and improve the economic and social conditions in their areas.

Ralph came to Sac Osage Electric Cooperative in December of 2007 as the financial administrative manager. Prior to coming to Sac Osage, he had 16 years of experience in the utility industry. He worked closely with the CEO and the board of directors. His broad range of duties included everything to keep the cooperative in good financial standing.

Ralph worked closely with many people in the cooperative network both regionally and nationally which included staff from the Missouri Electric Cooperative Employees’ Credit Union, Federated Insurance and NRECA. Ralph served both members and employees in keeping the cooperative on solid financial ground. Ralph retired in 2022 and enjoys spending time with his family (especially his granddaughter), playing golf and hunting with his bird dogs.

The award is named for the late Audrian Cleon Burrows of Van Buren, Mo., who rose through the ranks to become general manager of the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, which is the statewide service organization for Missouri’s 48 electric cooperatives. Burrows served in this position from 1968 to 1976. He was recognized as an outstanding leader in rural electrification and as a distinguished individual who dedicated his life to helping others.

The Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, Jefferson City, is the statewide service organization for Missouri’s electric cooperatives.



Ralph Bland holding his award and granddaughter.



## MEET THE FACES OF SAC OSAGE



Aaron Ash  
General Manager



Kim Jones  
Work Order Clerk



Ronnie Simmons and Scott Witt  
Crew Forman and Line Superintendent



Kelly McPeak  
Financial & Administrative Manager



Gina Whitlock and Janna Dody  
Accounting



Dustin Bray  
Staking Engineer



Amanda McLaurin, Christie Hull, and Rhonda McKinnney ---- Cashiers



Chance Cyr  
Member Services/Marketing Representative



Justin Wrinkle and Josh Berning  
Stockton Servicemen



Brooke Norval and Kelly Nissley  
Consumer Services



Robby Jones and Kyle McCullick  
Warehouse



Randy Ridgway, Jarod Asmus,  
Randy Fletcher, and Kelly Eck  
Linemen



Randon Marshall, Brian Fugate, and Rodney Williams  
Linemen



Troy Lasley  
Osceola and El Dorado Springs Serviceman

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 2001 and 2002 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 2001 to 2002 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 \$160,000 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.



Tysen Sayler, Garret Mays, Josh Heiserman, and Mark Boultinghouse  
Linemen



Richard Johnston  
Engineer

## BOARD APPROVES DISTRIBUTION OF 1.2 MILLION OF CAPITAL CREDITS

In 2022, the Sac Osage Electric Cooperative Board of Directors authorized the distribution of One Million Forty Thousand Dollars (\$1,040,000) 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.



Orville Oehring  
Mechanic



Mike Coleman  
Osceola Serviceman

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