

HOT LINES

December 2023

News about your community and cooperative



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

419.394.4110 | 1.800.962.3830
www.midwestrec.com

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

We are returning nearly **\$2 million** in patronage

Patronage capital is the cooperative's margins, or profits. We use the margins to help pay for capital investments, such as building or replacing power lines and other electric system improvements. Then, at a later date, the margins are returned to you as cash back. It represents each co-op member's ownership — or equity — in their cooperative. Patronage capital is allocated to members in proportion to the dollar amount of electricity you used. (Read more about this on our website at www.midwestrec.com/patronage-cash-back)

This month's payment will go to those who used Midwest Electric's service in 2007. A typical residential member from that year will receive, on average, \$175 in patronage cash back this month.

The electric co-op model is not an investment tool but a way to provide an essential, community-based service at reasonable costs. If positive margins are made then they can be invested back into electric system upgrades and assigned and returned to those that used the service and provided the margins. It is a perpetual service that should always benefit its users.

Consider reinvesting a portion back into your co-op's political efforts

Another way we prove the value of the cooperative difference is when we work with legislative leaders on your behalf. For as little as \$25 per year (\$2.08 per month) added to your electric bill you can join the America's Electric Cooperatives Political Action Committee. You will be a part of almost 700 Midwest Electric members and more than 36,000 co-op members, employees, and trustees across the nation supporting legislators dedicated to keeping your electric bills affordable.

Fell free to call us at 800-962-3830 with any questions about patronage cash back. If you would like to reinvest a portion of your cash back into our political action efforts to ensure your voice is heard by lawmakers, visit www.midwestrec.com/PAC to learn more and to sign up. Thank you for your consideration!



2024 GRADS

Are you parents of a high school senior?

We are giving away

\$11,000

in scholarships!

Obtain rules and applications by scanning the QR code or visiting midwestrec.com/scholarships



Deadline to apply: February 2, 2024

Community Calendar

- ◆ Nov 23–Dec 31 **Drive Through Light Display**, Auglaize County Fair Grounds
- ◆ Nov 25–Dec 24 **Merry & Bright Christmas Lights**, Mercer County Fair Grounds
- ◆ Nov 25–Dec 24 **Bright Nights**, Allen County Fair Grounds, allencofair.com/mercy-health-bright-nights
- ◆ Dec 1–3 **Winter Wonderland Craft and Vendor Market**, Van Wert Fairgrounds, vanwertcountyfair.com
- ◆ Dec 1–3 **Children's Hometown Holiday**, Wapakoneta, wapakoneta.com/events
- ◆ Dec 2 **Christmas at Apollo Craft Show**, Apollo Career Center, apollocareercenterhs.com/craft-show
- ◆ Dec 2–3 **Tri State Gun Show**, Allen County Fairgrounds, allencofair.com/events
- ◆ Dec 3 **Women's Civic League of Wapakoneta Annual Showcase of Homes**, wapakoneta.com/event/showcase-of-homes
- ◆ Dec 8–9 **The Mini Mayberry Market**, Auglaize County Fair Grounds, www.themayberrymarket.com
- ◆ Dec 9 **Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer**, Niswonger, vanwertlive.com
- ◆ Dec 9 **Bells, Brass & Bows**, Veterans Memorial Civic & Convention Center, limaciviccenter.com/shows
- ◆ Dec 10 **A Christmas Carol**, Veterans Memorial Civic Center, limaciviccenter.com
- ◆ Dec 13 **Winter Dreams: A Tour of Homes**, St. Marys, stmarysohio.org/winter-dreams-a-holiday-tour-of-homes
- ◆ Dec 17 **Church Basement Ladies**, Niswonger, vanwertlive.com
- ◆ Dec 31 **A Swingin' New Years Eve with Sinatra and Friends**, Veterans Memorial Civic Center, limaciviccenter.com/shows

Midwest Electric Wants to Help You **SAVE!**

Our expert team is here to help you conserve energy and save on your monthly bill. During the cold winter months, it's not uncommon for your energy bill to increase as your family uses more electricity to keep the house warm. Here are a few winter savings tips to help lower your bill:



Change your thermostat settings to 68°F. Your savings will add up by lowering your thermostat by just a few degrees.



Update your Christmas tree with LED lights! LED lights are more energy efficient, last longer, and are safer for indoor and outdoor use.



Close shades and drapes at night to keep heat in and open them during the day to allow the sun to warm your home.



Make sure your furnace filters are clean. Dirty filters can impact your home comfort and increase your energy bill.



Ceiling fan direction matters! Make sure your ceiling fan is blowing upward and set on its lowest setting.



Minimize use of space heaters. They can cost more than \$100 per month to operate! Turn them off when leaving the room.

Midwest Electric offers FREE energy audits to members! Our friendly energy advisor is available for in-home visits to help identify savings opportunities and improve your home's efficiency. To schedule your free energy audit, give us a call at 1-800-962-3830.

For more ways to save on your monthly bill, visit us at www.midwestrec.com/energy-audits-and-tips-homes



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