

HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

April 2019

News about your community and cooperative

419.394.4110 | 1.800.962.3830
www.midwestrec.com

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

more \$1 MILLION ↑ IN CASH BACK

We're returning additional money to members this month!

We're returning another \$1 million in patronage cash back to Midwest Electric members this month. The average residential member from 2018 will receive a \$71 check.

This \$1 million patronage cash back is in addition to the \$1.5 million cash back (bill credits) we paid out in November. This month's \$1 million is due to the high margins we had in 2018. Even though we're not-for-profit, we need to generate a small profit (margins) to help pay for electric system reliability upgrades. But those margins still belong to you, the member-owners. We had budgeted \$2.6 million in margins for 2018. Due to high sales and lower expenses, our actual margins came in at \$3.6 million, so we wanted to share the good news with you!

This month's \$1 million patronage cash back will go to those who were members in 2018. The amount you receive is based on the amount of electricity you used in 2018. The average residential member will receive \$71. (Amounts under \$20 will be a bill credit on the March electric bill.) The average small commercial member will receive \$631. Our larger commercial accounts will get thousands of dollars back.

This is a special, one-time event. This is the first "special retirement" we've ever done. (Patronage retirement is a fancy word for cash back.) It's not likely that this would happen again next spring. We typically return at least \$1 million to you every November in our "general retirement" and at this time, we expect to continue that. Those payments go to members for electric use from 16 years ago. If we do a "general retirement" this November, it would likely be for electric use in 2003. This month's "special retirement" is for electric use in 2018.

Two things to notice about your patronage this month:

1.) On this month's electric bill, near the top right, is the amount of 2018's margins that have been allocated, or assigned, to your patronage account. This amount is payable to you at a future date, as we'll be using it to pay for electric system reliability upgrades over the coming years. As a consumer-member, all

the margins you pay us throughout the year – above our operating costs – are tracked and entered into a special patronage account earmarked for each individual member. This is patronage allocation; we do it every year.

2.) You're getting a check this month, as explained above. This is the amount of your 2018 allocated margins that we're retiring (or patronage cash back) this year. The remainder of your 2018 allocated margins are payable at a future date, such as 16 years. The patronage cash back you're receiving this month represents 27% of your 2018 allocated margins; the rest is payable to you at a future date.

The patronage allocation and retirement are examples of The Cooperative Difference. You won't get this from an investor-owned utility (AEP and DP&L), nor from municipal electric utilities. Only electric cooperatives have this member-owner aspect and all the benefits that come with it.

Enjoy your extra cash on us, your hometown electric cooperative. Thanks for being a member!



Be on the lookout for your check in the mail!

Your Annual Meeting

is Saturday, June 1

St Marys Memorial High School,
2250 State Route 66, St. Marys

8:15 a.m.

Registration, FREE breakfast buffet, and activities begin

9:15 a.m. - Business meeting

- \$3,000 in cash prizes
- \$1,000 scholarship drawing; must be present to win
- Energy efficiency booths
- Health Fair with various tests
- Trustee election results
- Children's activities include bounce land and games!



Lineman *Appreciation* Month

When is the last time you thought about lineworkers during an outage?

The U.S. power grid was recently declared the most significant engineering achievement of the 20th century by the National Academy of Engineering. The lineman's work helps improve the quality of life and productivity of the United States, and that's why we salute them.

Please join us in thanking a lineworker this month by sending a card, giving a lineman a hug, or using the hashtag #ThankALineman on social media. Thanks in advance to all of our thoughtful members!



WORRIED ABOUT HIGH ELECTRIC BILLS? CONTACT US FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HOME ENERGY AUDITS.

READY FOR Cool Returns?

CALL NOW!

Midwest Electric, Inc.
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Introducing Cool Returns

Allow us to install a radio-controlled load management switch on your central AC and earn a \$1 monthly bill credit (\$12 annually). Existing equipment will receive a one-time clean and checkup from a local heating and cooling contractor (\$100 value).

Looking to buy a new AC unit this summer? We'll help pay for that, too! You can also receive a \$100 rebate for purchasing an ENERGY STAR-certified central AC or mini-split unit with a minimum 14 SEER rating, as long as you install a Cool Returns switch.

The switch cycles the compressor on your AC unit for brief periods during the summer when we have peak alerts. Cool air will continue to circulate in your home, and most members don't recognize a difference in comfort.

Load control saves us \$500,000 a year in lower power costs and is one reason why we haven't had a rate increase since 2010!

To see a full list of our rebates, visit midwestrec.com > My Home > Rebates. Call 800-962-3830 for details.

MEMBER SATISFACTION SURVEY COMING!

Surveys will be conducted this month by both phone and email, so if you are contacted, please take a few minutes to give your honest opinions about us. **Your information is confidential.**



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NO RATE INCREASE
— since —
2010
VALUE & STABILITY
for your Family!

We care about YOU and know budgets are tight, which is why our board of trustees and employees prioritize efficient, cost-effective practices, doing more with less. We haven't had a rate increase in almost a decade yet still provide immense value and electric reliability to our members. THAT's the hometown Cooperative Difference.

Community Calendar

- ◆ April 5-14 **Newsies CHS Spring Musical**, Celina HS Auditorium (419-586-1494)
- ◆ April 6 **Triumph & Farewell**, Lima Symphony Orchestra (419-222-5701)
- ◆ April 6-7 **Tri-State Gun Show**, Allen County Fairgrounds (419-647-0067)
- ◆ April 7 **The Hit Men**, James Dicke Auditorium, New Bremen, lockone.org (567-356-2048)
- ◆ April 12 **Celtic Woman**, Lima Civic Center, Lima (419-224-1552)
- ◆ April 12-13 **A Vintage Inspired Market**, Allen Co. Fairgrounds, Lima, allencofair.com/events
- ◆ April 13 **Back to Life Women's Conference**, St. Mary's High School, info@trishafissel.com
- ◆ April 14 **Sanctus Real Concert**, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert (419-238-6722)
- ◆ April 26 **Fish Fry**, St. Marys American Legion, St. Marys (419-394-3792)
- ◆ April 27 **Community Garage Sales**, Mercer County Fairgrounds, Celina
- ◆ April 28 **Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone**, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert (419-238-6722)