

Give the Gift of Your Time



A NOTE FROM CEO/GENERAL MANAGER DEBBIE ROBINSON

MANY OF US HAVE THAT ONE FAMILY MEMBER— or maybe even a few—who, when asked what items are on his or her Christmas wish list, invariably answers, “I have everything I need.” This well-intentioned reply can frustrate a desire to cross a name off your list or check a box during the frenzied run-up to the holiday. But it’s also an opportunity to present a loved one with a more meaningful gift.

Time spent completing an errand or task that might be impractical or difficult for a relative or friend is a way to express affection without resorting to the often-impersonal gesture of pulling an item off a store shelf in defeat.

Tasks like changing the filter in a heating, ventilating and air conditioning system; replacing batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; or caulking around windows can help make someone’s home safer or shave a few dollars off an electric bill. While you’re at it, make lunch or bring a baked good. The trinity of time together, a needed home repair or chore accomplished, and a homemade treat or meal is a tough one to improve upon, as gifts go.

Wood County Electric Cooperative also appreciates the gift of your time. Whether it’s spent in attendance at the annual meeting, where we get valuable feedback on how to continually improve our processes and operations, or it’s a moment taken to alert us to a problem you notice with a power line or meter, those small yet meaningful measures of your time allow the cooperative to thrive.

Your willingness to engage with the co-op and frequent role as our eyes and ears in the field enable us to maintain a level of service that we’re proud of.

So why not extend that tradition of providing gifts of time and service to those closest to you this year? Take a look around an older relative’s home for any leaky faucets or outdoor light-bulbs that need replacing. Check for loose door or window locks, or clean an out-of-reach window. Your thoughtful gift will keep on giving, as it makes someone’s life that much easier or safer.

From all of us at your electric cooperative, merry Christmas and happy holidays.



“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

—James 1:17



Merry Christmas

and sincere best wishes from the directors, employees
and management of Wood County Electric Cooperative.

WCEC Members To Receive Capital Credits Retirement



BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A LITTLE SOMETHING ON YOUR DECEMBER bill that will make the holidays a little brighter—and the bill load a little lighter. It's capital credits retirement time, and that means a little extra jingle in the pockets of all Wood County Electric Cooperative members. That's because payments are

allotted on a percentage basis of the capital credits each member has accrued over the years.

Capital credits represent members' capital participation in WCEC and are based on their electricity purchases. Each year, WCEC's board of directors reviews the financial condition of the cooperative to determine what amount can be paid to members from their capital credits accounts. The board's decision is based on the previous year's margins and the co-op's current financial situation. This year, the board approved retiring \$1.5 million in capital credits. This is an increase over last year of \$500,000.

Payments will be made in the form of bill credits. WCEC has several billing cycles. The credits will appear on bills mailed from December 6 through January 2, 2020, and your bill will be reduced by the amount of the credit. For those using a prepayment plan, the amount will be credited to the account and uploaded as electricity is purchased.

Bill credits are eco-friendly and eliminate costs associated with mailing checks. As a nonprofit electric cooperative, WCEC strives to keep your bills low. We adopted this efficiency two years ago, simplifying the process for members and the cooperative while also saving money.

Over the past 30 years, WCEC has returned more than \$26 million to our members, resulting in a tremendously positive impact on our local economy. Credits earned are not a vested interest in the cooperative. They are only paid out when capital credits on the books are retired. The amount of retired capital credits paid to each member varies depending on the amount of electricity purchased and the number of years as a member of the cooperative.

As a reminder, be sure to inform us of any mailing address changes—even if you are no longer a member—to ensure timely receipt of any future payments. If you have such a change or a question about your capital credits return, email us at info@wcec.org or call one of our member services representatives at (903) 763-2203.

NOTICE OF CAPITAL CREDITS ALLOCATION

Capital credits represent members' capital investment in WCEC, based on their electricity purchases. Members can calculate the amount of capital credits allocated to them for 2018 by multiplying their total 2018 patronage by 0.0716.



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Decorate Your Home Safely During the Holiday Season

IT'S TIME TO DECK THOSE HALLS—SAFELY. MORE THAN 800 HOME FIRES ARE CAUSED by holiday decorations each year, according to the National Fire Protection Association. An additional 170 home fires are caused by Christmas trees each year.

Keep these tips in mind for a safe holiday season.

Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets and loose or exposed wires can cause serious shocks or start a fire.

Make sure all extension cords and electrical decorations are being used properly— indoor-rated cords indoors, outdoor-rated cords for outside decorations.

Inspect extension cords for damage and discard (not repair) any that are not completely intact.

Never mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.

Outdoor electrical lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters.

Exercise caution when decorating near power lines. Keep yourself and your ladder at least 10 feet from power lines.

Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.

Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can overheat and cause a fire.

Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights together.

Water your Christmas tree daily.

Keep all decorations at least 3 feet away from heating elements.

Avoid using candles. Open flames are just too dangerous in proximity to flammable decorations.

Purchase electrical decorations from reputable retailers and that are approved by a nationally recognized testing lab such as UL, Intertek or CSA.



Wood County Electric Cooperative

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Debbie Robinson

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MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES

- Online account access and bill payment
- Paperless E-Bill services
- Free bill-paying app
- Visa, Mastercard and Discover accepted
- SmartPower prepay electric system
- Scholarships and youth programs
- Safety and energy conservation programs

MOBILE CONVENIENCE CENTER

Monday, First Methodist Church, *Van*

Tuesday, Family Dollar, *Mount Vernon*

Wednesday, City National Bank, *Hawkins*

Thursday, Brookshire's, *Winnboro*

Friday, Economy Drug, *Grand Saline*



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS