



# SALT RIVER ELECTRIC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

A Publication For Members Of Salt River Electric Cooperative Corporation



**Mutual aid: Answering the call to help our sister cooperatives**

# Salt River News

A monthly publication for the 53,593 members of the Salt River Electric Cooperative Corporation, serving Bullitt, Nelson, Spencer, and Washington County, plus portions of six surrounding counties, since 1937.

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## Board of Directors:

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Treasurer - Gayle Troutman  
Secretary - Linda West  
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## President & CEO

Tim Sharp

## On Our Cover

On the heels of ice, snow and flooding, Salt River Electric sent crews to three sister cooperatives to help restore power.

Shown is the crew that went to assist Big Sandy RECC in far eastern Kentucky.

Salt River Electric always makes sure its members are covered before sending crews to help with mutual aid, but we are happy to help out other co-ops in their time of need and know they've done the same for us.  
Photo: Big Sandy RECC

# Salt River Electric offers scholarships to four area students

Four academic scholarships are available to high school seniors in the Salt River service area.

The four \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to seniors enrolling in an accredited college, university or trade school.

To enter, candidates must reside in the Salt River

Electric service area, or the primary residence of his or her guardian must be on co-op lines. High school seniors must be enrolled or have plans to enroll in an accredited institution.

Candidates must have a minimum of 2.5 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale and must be in good standing. In addition, students must complete a typed, 500-word essay chosen from a topic list. The essay will be judged on originality and content with consideration given to spelling and grammar.

Submissions become the property of the co-op.

Entries must be typed and include an application, biography, the essay and notarized proof of grade-point average.

In addition to the essay, applicants will be judged on grades, activities and financial need. The scholarship committee will reside outside the Salt River service territory.

Winners will be announced during the co-op's annual meeting, on Monday, June 7.

Applications can be picked up at any Salt River Electric co-op office. They are also available on our website at <https://billing.srelectric.com>, under the "Community" tab.

To have an application mailed, contact Diana Edwards at (502) 350-1522, or visit our main office located at 111 W. Brashear Ave., Bardstown.

**Deadline: Entries must be submitted and received by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 9, 2021.**



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# Sustainability—ensuring we’re here to serve you into the future

You hear a lot about “sustainability” these days, especially from corporate America. It is not just another fashionable corporate buzzword.

Sustainability is critically important to you and to me. For a business, “sustainability” means doing what is necessary to continue operating far into the future. It means meeting changing expectations, keeping pace with technology and remaining relevant in a rapidly changing world.

Are things changing for the energy industry? You bet.

Our grandparents weren’t nearly as dependent on electricity as we are today. If their lights went out, it rarely stopped them doing what needed to be done. Today, if the power goes out, our lives are likely to come to a screeching halt. Equipment stops running, networks go down, devices can’t be recharged, and most of us are stuck until it gets fixed.

Clearly, expectations have changed, and electric co-ops are evolving to meet those changes. Salt River Electric’s power provider recently released a sustainability plan to help guide the way.

East Kentucky Power Cooperative



(EKPC) spent nearly a year developing the plan. Just as standards for reliable service have changed, EKPC’s plan recognizes shifting expectations among co-op members, employees, policy-makers, regulators, lenders and many other stakeholders.

For example, increasingly, co-op members want to know how their energy is generated and how it affects the environment. EKPC’s plan sets targets for using more renewables and reducing emissions of carbon dioxide. Not only does this help meet changing expectations, but, as the cost of renewables

decreases, it helps us keep our energy affordable. It is the right thing to do and it is also good business.

Don’t get us wrong, fossil fuels—coal and natural gas—will remain essential to providing reliable, affordable energy for years to come. But, as EKPC diversifies its energy portfolio, that helps control costs and manage risks for all of us.

That’s just one way our power provider is evolving to better serve our needs. If you are interested in EKPC’s plan, we encourage you to check out an overview at [www.ekpc.coop](http://www.ekpc.coop).

## Salt River Electric returns more than \$2.5 million to members

Salt River Electric is returning over \$2.5 million to co-op consumer-members this year. The payments, or capital credit refunds, are a type of dividend left over after all costs of doing business have been met.

The return of money to more than 54,000 members will begin later this month and continue into May.

In an era of higher energy costs, co-op officials are working to keep costs down while operating the local utility as efficiently and effectively as possible. “Our

board is very pleased to make this announcement,” says Tim Sharp, president and CEO. With this year’s refund, Salt River Electric has now returned almost \$41 million since 1995.

That money has been returned even though the co-op has not had a rate increase at the local level since 1993. “Our board and all of our employees feel good about this because Salt River Electric is a member-owned utility,” Sharp says. “We work hard to keep costs down.”

# Salt River Electric crews help sister co-ops restore power during storms

Though Salt River Electric territory was spared the worst of the ice storms that crippled other parts of Kentucky in February, our crews played a key role helping sister electric cooperatives restore power.

After restoring power here, Salt River Electric crews joined the mutual aid effort at Big Sandy RECC, Inter-County Energy and South Kentucky RECC. In addition to helping fellow co-ops, crews gained valuable experience which will help them respond to future outages here at home. Big Sandy RECC alone reported 300 broken poles and more than 30 miles of line on the ground.

“This ice storm was the largest and most damaging outage in our history,” says Bruce Aaron Davis, Big Sandy’s president. “The assistance of Salt River Electric and other mutual aid crews was imperative to getting all power restored quickly and safely.”



*Salt River Electric lineworkers provided mutual aid to help restore power at Big Sandy RECC following three back-to-back winter storms. From left are Sean Sharpe, Isaac Tucker, Rick Hoops, Tim Dugger, Jon Scott, Kelly Ballard, Tim Thornsberry and Brad Clements. Photo: Natasha Wiley*



*The crew utilizes a digger truck to secure a pole while conductors are being repaired and reattached to the pole. Photo: Roger Auxier*



*Salt River’s Isaac Tucker receives thank you donuts from Laurel Creek Farm Home Bakery for helping restore power for Big Sandy RECC co-op members.*



*A track hoe assists crews in getting a bucket truck to a pole so they can repair conductors. Photo: Roger Auxier*

# What's in a word?

There is one word that Salt River Electric uses when describing the people who receive service from us that carries a lot of weight.

The word is “member.” And it is so much more than just a word.

In cooperatives like Salt River Electric, being a “member,” sometimes referred to as a “consumer-member” or a “member-owner,” means more than simply the right to buy electricity. It means that you literally are a part-owner of Salt River Electric. A co-op, by its very definition, is dedicated to the mutual interest of the entire membership, including you.

Unlike other businesses like Costco or Sam’s Club that refer to their customers as “members” because people pay a fee to shop there, being a member of Salt River Electric actually means something.

For instance, your membership in Salt River means you have an equal vote to decide who serves on the co-op board. Board directors are fellow members of the co-op who

are democratically elected by the membership to govern and direct the affairs of Salt River Electric. These community leaders represent your interests by guiding how the co-op’s money and assets are used to fulfill the cooperative’s mission. They must do so in such a way that protects the cooperative and the interests of all its members.

Many of the senior members of Salt River Electric have the benefit of growing up with the cooperative, so they are very acquainted with the notion of the co-op belonging to them. But for our younger members, it’s understandable if the concept of being a member of an electric utility is less obvious.

Unlike a for-profit utility, Salt River Electric does not have shareholders or out-of-town interests making decisions about how this business is run for the benefit of others. Instead Salt River is a community-focused organization that works to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable, and safe energy for you.



*Salt River Electric’s Crystal Riley registers a member for prizes at the Bardstown office during the 2020 drive-thru Customer Appreciation Day.*

So, don’t be confused when the news media refers to you as a Salt River Electric “customer.” You are a Salt River Electric member.

And that’s a word with real meaning.



*Salt River Electric’s Katelyn Watrous registers a member for prizes at the co-op’s drive-thru Customer Appreciation Day in Shepherdsville in September 2020.*

**2021** Save the Date  
**SALT RIVER ELECTRIC**  
**MEMBERS**

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**AND CUSTOMER**  
**APPRECIATION DAY**

**MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021**


# Celebrating lineworkers in the month of April

Even though all of us at Salt River Electric are dedicated to our members and the communities we serve, our lineworkers play a critical role in making sure Salt River's service area infrastructure is built and maintained to consistently provide our members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

Our lineworkers are an important part of what we do. They are often called upon at all hours of the

day and night, working long hours, in all kinds of weather and we'd like to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

On Monday, April 12, we're celebrating our lineworkers with Lineworker Appreciation Day. Use the hashtag #thankalinerworker on social media to show your support for the lineworkers who keep the lights on each and every day.



**Build. Maintain.  
Repair. Repeat.  
That's how  
lineworkers  
power our lives.**

**LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY • MONDAY, APRIL 12  
#THANKALINEWORKER**

## Safety Matters

### April is National Safe Digging Month: Call 811

As spring temperatures arrive, many people begin home improvement and construction work. These projects often require digging and excavation.

You must contact Kentucky 811 two full business days prior to all digging projects, such as installing mailboxes, fences or landscaping. Utility lines sometimes are buried only a few inches underground, which means that even small digging projects can cause major problems.

Once in contact with 811, give them your contact information, explain where you're planning to dig and what type of work you'll be doing.

Local utility companies will be notified and dispatched to place markers, showing the location of any underground lines beneath your construction project site.

Knowing where these lines run prevents unintentional damage to underground utilities. Such accidents can result in property

damage, the interruption of utility services, personal injuries and even loss of life.

Two full business days after submitting the 811 request, all affected utilities should have responded. If you are unsure whether to proceed with digging, call 811. Try not to dig closer than two feet from any flags to make sure you do not strike a line that could have shifted.

Whether you hire a professional or do it yourself, call before you dig! Salt River Electric cares about you!



## A Message From Salt River Electric

# Don't add an electrical tragedy to the trauma of a flood

### If you live in a flood-prone area:

- Keep an emergency kit of batteries, medications, etc., ready if you have to leave immediately, or if services are cut off.
- Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies.
- If your basement requires a sump pump, install a backup pump that uses a battery and sounds an alarm in case the main pump fails or the electricity is out for an extended time during the storm.

### If flooding is forecast or imminent:

- Move electrical appliances and devices out of your home or to an area in the house above the expected level of flood water.
- Follow any directives to turn off utilities. To switch off the main power to your home, flip each breaker off first, and THEN turn off the main breaker. You may also need to shut off the valve for your home's gas and water.



## Springtime electrical checklist

It's almost time to throw open the windows and welcome warm spring weather. It's also time to invest in a few springtime upgrades that will keep your house more comfortable and help you do your part to use energy wisely.

Check off these five chores before it gets hot outside:

✓**Inspect and maintain.** Have a licensed HVAC technician come to your home to inspect and maintain your air conditioning system. Paying a little bit now could prevent a huge expense this summer if your system breaks down on a hot day and you have to have it repaired or replaced in a hurry. Maintenance goes a long way toward preventing emergencies and can prolong the life of your equipment.

✓**Clear and trim.** While you're outdoors planting and pruning, trim all the bushes and pull all the weeds near your air conditioner's outside condenser unit. Remove any fallen tree limbs that landed on it, brush off leaves that have collected on or around it, and pick up trash that found its way there as it sat unused all winter. Anything that touches the unit and prevents air from circulating around it will make it perform inefficiently.

✓**Plant and shade.** While you've got your shovel and spade out, consider planting some shade trees on the sunny side of your house. As they grow, they will filter the sunrays that can beat so fiercely on your windows in the summer and make your air conditioner work harder.

✓**Replace and upgrade.** Speaking of windows, if your house still has single-pane versions, this is a good time to replace them with double-pane models. Single-pane windows are energy inefficient and can drive your air conditioning bills through the roof. You could save several hundred dollars on cooling and heating bills every year if you replace your drafty, old single-pane windows.

✓**Clean and shine.** Clean your windows, inside and out. Newer models are simple to clean because you can tilt them toward the inside of the house so you can reach both sides. Clean windows let more sunlight into your house, which means you won't have to turn on as many lights.



## MEMBER MATTERS

For decades, we've been leaders in environmental stewardship. We offer educational programs to students, renewable energy options and have partnered with many Kentucky wildlife organizations to ensure the well-being of our planet.



Kentucky's  
Touchstone Energy  
Cooperatives®

## Members now have three ways to report a power outage

Salt River Electric members now have three options when reporting a power outage.

- You can use our **mobile app** on any smart phone or mobile device. Download the app at the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.
- You can also go to our website at **www.srelectric.com** and click on the outage tab. Be sure to set up a username and password in advance so you'll be ready if you lose power.
- You can call our 24-hour outage phone line **(800) 221-7465**.

Outages can be reported 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. Our line crews are on the ready to respond to outages as quickly and efficiently as possible.

When power outages occur, be sure to check your breakers first to be sure nothing has gone wrong inside your home. Have your account information handy when reporting an outage.



## Our office will be closed for Good Friday on April 2, 2021.