



SALT RIVER ELECTRIC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

A Monthly Publication For The Members Of Salt River Electric

Zachary Epperson, Editor



Going the extra mile for our members

Salt River News

A monthly publication for the 55,321 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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Tim Sharp

On Our Cover

Going the extra mile for our members is something Salt River Electric is committed to doing as you'll learn in our President/CEO Tim Sharp's column this month on page 26C. Photo: Dewey Yates

Salt River Electric celebrates the retirement of nine employees

In 2022, Salt River Electric said goodbye to several longtime employees, many of whom you probably interacted with or talked to over the course of their time here at the cooperative. In total, nine individuals officially retired from Salt River Electric in 2022. Those individuals are:

Randy Burba, Vice President of Customer Service and Marketing, 36 years

Theresa Cammack, Bullitt County District Supervisor, 38 years

Betty Keaton, Customer Service Representative, 41 years

Linda Matthews, Customer Service Representative, 42 years

Dooley Mattingly, Nelson County Staking Engineer, 20 years
Nicky Rapier, Chief Information Officer, 36 years

John Talbott, Customer Service Representative, 22 years

Tim Thornsberry, First Class Lineman, 33 years

Danny Wimpsett, First Class Lineman, 30 years

We thank each of these individuals for their years of service to the members of Salt River Electric. Whether they were out in the field daily or helping members at one of our offices, they all played a crucial role in helping to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable power to you, the members of Salt River Electric.



Randy Burba



Theresa Cammack



Betty Keaton



Linda Matthews



Dooley Mattingly



Nicky Rapier



John Talbott



Tim Thornsberry



Danny Wimpsett



Tim Sharp, President & CEO

Going the “extra mile” for our members

Sometime last year, a Salt River member in Bullitt county brought an interesting item into our office, wanting to know if we'd like it.

According to the member, they had been helping a relative clean when they found the item, a black and white print, behind a piece of furniture. Entitled *The Extra Mile*, the print shows an unnamed lineman trudging through the snow toward a pole in the distance. The photo, credited to Dewey Yates/'68, is a great visual reminder of the challenges our Salt River crews face around this time of year. The title also works to remind cooperative members and employees alike of how Salt River Electric and other electric cooperatives do their best to go the extra mile for members.

We go the extra mile for our members in two ways. First, we serve more than 4,400 miles of line throughout our service territory—going the extra mile in order to power to some of the most remote members in the far reaches of our region. On average, Salt River serves around 12 members per mile of line, compared



DEWEY YATES

to traditional utilities that serve around 32 customers per mile of line. By using responsible practices, expert management and careful planning, we're able to serve a less-densely populated area while providing some of the lowest rates in the state.

In another sense, we go the extra mile for our members by observing one of the most important of the seven cooperative principles: concern for community. That's most apparent to the public and our members in how we interact with and support our communities, whether through program

sponsorships or civic engagement.

What's not as apparent are the one-on-one member interactions that showcase the cooperative's commitment to going the extra mile. More often than not, it's the small deeds that go a long way, like a customer service representative checking in on a member they haven't seen or heard from in a while, or a lineman helping an elderly member carry something to the curb when they're in the neighborhood. Sure, it's small act, but it and other gestures like it are what set electric cooperatives apart from the rest.

Understanding outages when winter weather hits

Outages are an unfortunate reality that electric cooperatives have to deal with from time to time, with the winter months becoming a particularly hazardous time of year for the lights to go out. Here at Salt River Electric, it's our goal to keep the lights on. But when Mother Nature wreaks havoc, we feel it's important that our members know our restoration plan and the effort it takes to restore power to their homes and businesses.

First things first, though, our crews need to know where an outage is. While many pieces of our grid infrastructure can alert us to an outage, it's never a bad idea to report it yourself. The quickest and easiest way to report an outage is on our mobile app, SR Electric, which can be downloaded from the Google Play store or Apple App



When Mother Nature wreaks havoc, it's up to our crews to get the power back on as soon as possible. Photo: Salt River Archives

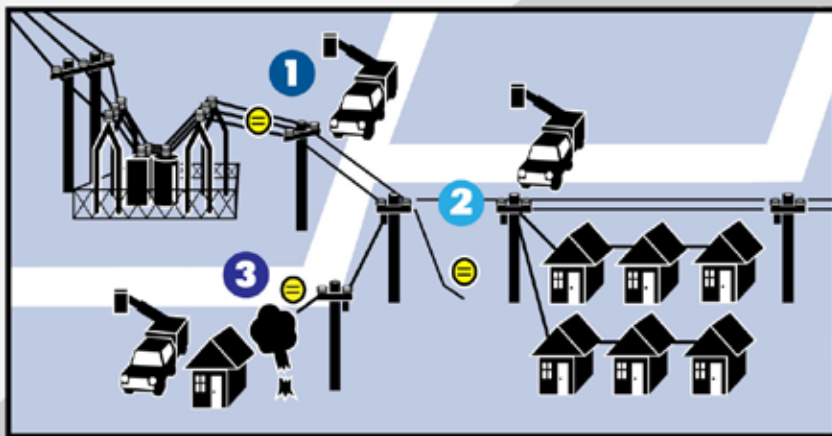
store. Once you submit an outage, it takes approximately 10-15 seconds to appear in our dispatch center.

Once we identify an outage, our crews will start repairs as long as it is safe to do so. Crews will begin

their restoration process with the main distribution lines, then focusing on the lines that service the greatest number of homes and businesses. That means if you live in a remote, hard-to-reach area, prepare for the possibility of a prolonged outage if the problem is nearby.

After those repairs are made, crews will begin to work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformer and the home are repaired.

A common question we get during power restoration: why is power back on at my neighbor's house but not mine? If your home doesn't have service restored at the same time as your neighbor's, there are a couple of possible reasons: there may be damage to the service wires that connect your home to our grid. Also, even though your neighbor is next door, their power may come from a different substation, transformer or line than yours.



- 1** The main distribution line from the substation must be fixed before anyone can have power.
- 2** Next, repair crews fix the lines bringing power to the greatest number of people in the community.
- 3** After larger pockets of members are back on line, crews fix service lines to individual homes.

Controlling costs is our focus

Salt River Electric is among 16 electric cooperatives that own East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC), which owns and operates the power plants that make your electricity. Our top priority—and theirs—is providing energy that is as affordable and as reliable as possible.

Together, we are constantly looking for ways to save dollars on making and delivering your power. EKPC maintains a diversified portfolio of power plants using different fuels such as coal, natural gas and solar, as well as contracts to purchase hydroelectric power. Every hour of the day, EKPC determines what the most cost-effective way is to make the next increment of electricity, keeping costs down.

EKPC also belongs to PJM, the world's largest power grid. Sometimes, it is more affordable to buy power from the grid than generate it at our own power plants. Being a part of PJM also helps maintain reliable service, providing options should the demand for electricity ever exceed our locally-generated supply.

Closer to home, we're taking steps to ensure continued reliability as well as the lowest possible cost of electricity. Our line technicians maintain existing lines, poles and electricity delivery infrastructure so they'll last longer. We keep vegetation trimmed away from power lines to prevent costly damage that falling trees can cause. In the office, we're adopting new practices

and technologies that streamline work and reduce overhead.

We're also doing our part to help every consumer-member save on energy costs. Whether it's a virtual energy audit, a rebate on a heat pump retrofit, or simply some common-sense tips to help you save money, we're here to help. Visit our website at srelectric.com and click on Energy Tips under the products and services tab to find tools and resources for better managing your energy usage to lower monthly bills.

Controlling costs isn't just something Salt River Electric says each year. We're committed to delivering your electricity at the lowest possible cost every day. That's part of the cooperative difference.



TIM WEBB

Visit togetherwesaveky.com for energy-saving ideas.

New Year's resolution: Clean electrical hazards out of your home

What's your New Year's resolution? Will you quit smoking, start exercising, lose weight, volunteer your time?

How about something even easier: Remove risk factors for electrical shocks, tripping and house fires from your home.

Here are 10 simple ways to keep that resolution and protect your family from harm:

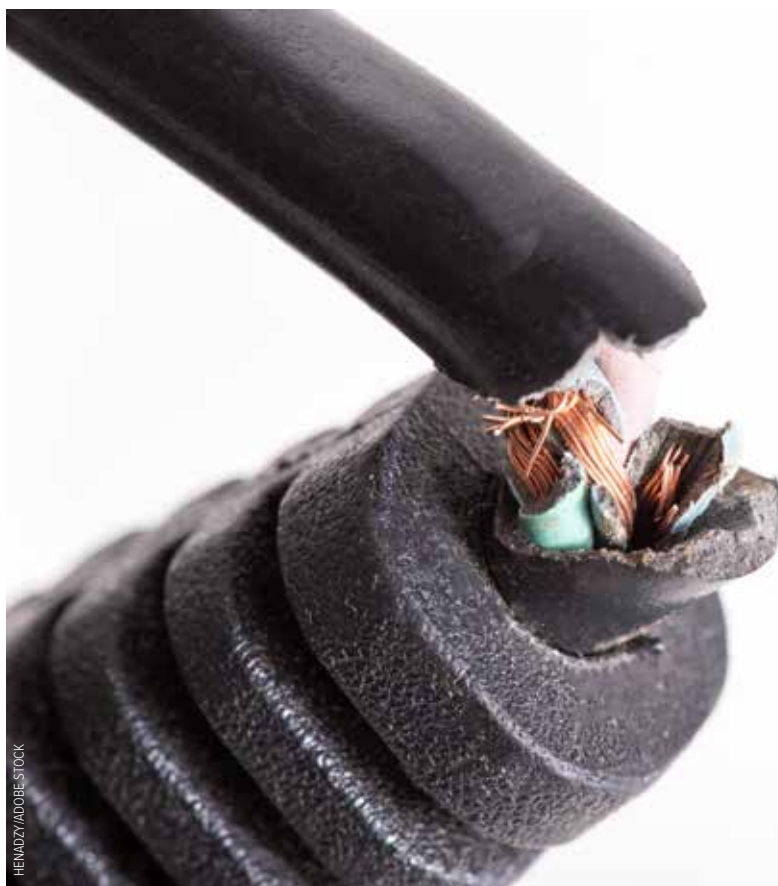
1 Secure plugs. When loose-fitting plugs hang halfway out of an outlet, they put you at risk of an electrical shock and can even start a fire. Replace older outlets and insert plastic safety caps into unused outlets if your family includes young children.

2 Use three-prong plugs, especially outdoors and in bathrooms, basements and kitchens. The third prong is a grounding outlet. If you only have two-prong outlets, ask an electrician to update your home. Never remove the grounding pin to fit a three-prong plug into a two-prong outlet.

3 Replace cords. They're not designed to last forever. Toss frayed or cracked cords. And move them out from under carpets or rugs.

4 Avoid extension cords. They're fine for connecting strands of holiday lights together and for helping decorations reach plugs during December. But come Jan. 1, pack them up and store them. Extension cords are designed for temporary use.

5 Pay attention to wattages. The lightbulbs in your lamps and overhead fixtures should match the specifications on those fixtures. A bulb whose wattage is too high can overheat.



6 Add GFCIs. Ground fault circuit interrupters, or GFCIs, are a must in every outlet in the kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, basement, garage and outdoors.

7 Resize your fuses. If you don't know whether your fuses are the right size for the circuit they're protecting, call an electrician.

8 Update appliances. If a circuit trips every time you plug in your hair dryer, or if your coffee maker has ever shocked you when you plugged it in, you either have faulty appliances or an overloaded circuit. An electrician can identify and solve your problem.

9 Check your wiring. Faulty electrical wires start many

house fires. If you hear popping or sizzling sounds behind the walls or if light switches feel hot, do not use those fixtures or switches until a licensed electrician has replaced them.

10 Get more power. Unless you live in a brand-new house, you are probably using more electricity than the builder ever dreamed you would. Call an electrician to determine whether your home needs more electrical capacity.

Safety Matters

Generate safely

10 tips for portable generator safety

Planning to use a portable generator if your power goes out during a winter storm? Taking a few simple precautions can keep you and your family safe from the dangers resulting from the improper use of a portable generator.



JJ GOJINAWOBE/STOCK

- Never operate a generator inside your home or in other enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. Generators can very quickly produce high levels of carbon monoxide (CO), which can be deadly.
- Position the generator outside the home at least 20 feet away from doors, windows and vents to CO from entering the home.
- Never connect a generator directly to household wiring without first installing a transfer switch. Power from generators connected directly to household wiring can backfeed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including utility line-workers making repairs.
- Ensure the generator is properly grounded. Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. Portable GFCIs are widely available at home improvement stores.
- Use only extension cords that have a three-pronged plug and are rated for the intended load.
- Do not overload the generator.
- Store generator fuel away from living areas, in properly labeled containers, and away from fuel-burning appliances. Always turn the generator off and let it cool before refueling.
- Equip your home with a battery-operated or battery back-up CO alarm.
- Opening doors and windows or operating fans to attempt to ventilate a generator will not prevent CO buildup in the home.
- Carbon monoxide is the “silent killer.” Don’t take chances. Get to fresh air right away if you feel dizzy or weak.

Turn down the thermostat, turn up the savings

January is typically the coldest month of the year here in Kentucky. To avoid getting scorched by heating bills, button up your home with easy, inexpensive fixes found at togetherwesaveky.com.

■ **Hands off the thermostat.** The easiest way to control your heating bill is to resist the urge to push up the thermostat every time you feel cold. Even an adjustment of a degree or two can significantly drive up your electric bill. Set your thermostat to 68 degrees—and leave it there.

■ **Stop the leaks.** Warm air can sneak out through small spaces found throughout your home, pushing your heating bill higher. Some common culprits: doors, windows, utility cut-outs, electrical outlets, recessed lights, bathroom fans, vent pipes, chimneys and attic accesses. Use weather-stripping, caulk, spray foam and other sealants to insulate.

■ **Ditch the space heater.** Space heaters are energy hogs. A typical portable electric space heater consumes anywhere from 1,000 to 1,500 watts per hour. Running one 1,000-watt space heater 12 hours per day (at a cost of 10 cents per hour) will add \$36 more to your monthly electric bill.

■ **Doctor the ducts.** Inspect your HVAC system ductwork in attics, basements and crawl spaces while the system is running, looking for telltale signs of leaking air. Efficiency can be improved by as much as 30 percent by sealing discovered leaks.

Take measures now, so you won’t receive a shock when wintertime electric bills arrive. Find do-it-yourself instructions for energy-saving projects and more at togetherwesaveky.com.



TIM WEBB



KHSAA

**Congratulations to Bullitt East High School
the 2022 KHSAA 6A State Football Champions!**

Salt River Electric Offices

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111 West Brashear Ave, Bardstown
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(502) 477-5133

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(859) 336-5080



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Salt River Offices will be closed Monday, January 2, 2023.