



SALT RIVER ELECTRIC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

A Monthly Publication For The Members Of Salt River Electric

Zachary Epperson, Editor



Buckets and bulbs galore!
Annual meeting is coming up

Salt River News

A monthly publication for the 55,669 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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Treasurer - Darrell Tingle
Secretary - Wm. George Maddox
Director - John Hutchins
Director - Joe Osbourne
President & CEO
Tim Sharp

On Our Cover

Buckets and LED light-bulbs will be available in full force next month as Salt River Electric's Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day takes place on Monday, June 5. Photo: Zach Epperson

Official Notice

2023 Salt River Electric Annual Business Meeting

MONDAY, JUNE 5

Streaming live on Salt River Electric's Facebook page

When: Monday, June 5
Time: 5 p.m.

The annual business meeting will consist of the following:

- Call to order
- Determination of a quorum and official meeting notice
- Minutes of the previous meeting
- Report of the financial condition of the co-op
- Report of the 2023 board election
- Old business
- New business
- Adjournment

Drive-Thru Member Appreciation Day Monday, June 5, 2023

At all four office locations:

**BARDSTOWN • SHEPHERDSVILLE
TAYLORSVILLE • SPRINGFIELD**

Members can register for gift card giveaways and pick up their bucket and bulbs at any office location between 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday, June 5.

Prize winners will be notified at a later date.



Tim Sharp, President & CEO

Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day

May is an important month here at Salt River Electric, as we make final preparations for our Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day that take place next month.

You've heard us say it before, but cooperatives are truly unique in the utility industry. We were started by and are still accountable to our members, required by our bylaws to inform them on how the cooperative is doing every year through an annual meeting, which will take place this year on June 5. During our 86th annual meeting, members will once again hear from their democratically elected board about the well-being

of the cooperative, and how we have fared over the past year. As you'll find in our annual report next month, we once again continued to support our communities and improve the quality of life for our members.

Additionally, members will hear the results of this year's board election for the Nelson County district.

Though we're required by our bylaws to hold an annual meeting, it has evolved into more than that over the years. It has given us our Member Appreciation event, a time to thank our members face to face for their help in keeping the cooperative model alive and well.

As many of you know, the change to a drive-thru format was made out of necessity several years ago, but we're pleased to see the change has significantly boosted member engagement. Just last year, nearly 3,000 members drove up to get their buckets and bulbs, the most of any Member Appreciation event in over 30 years, regardless of format.

So, make plans to see us June 5 from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. at any of our four office locations, and make sure to tune in and watch your annual meeting online at 5 p.m.

After all, we wouldn't be here without our members.



Annual meetings have grown to include our Member Appreciation event, a time to thank our members for keeping the cooperative model alive and well. Photo: Zach Epperson

Move over

Changing lanes to keep workers safe

Electric lineworkers face many dangers—high voltage, heights and extreme weather conditions. Despite these challenges, one of the most dangerous parts of the job is working alongside busy roadways, often only feet away from passing vehicles.

That’s why it’s important for all drivers to do their part to ensure safety.

It’s been 20 years since Kentucky passed its Move Over law, requiring motorists to move over to the adjacent lane when approaching an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle with flashing lights. If changing lanes is impossible or unsafe, motorists must slow down and use caution.

Failure to do so can result in a fine of up to \$500, 30 days in jail, or both.

As we often share with you

here in these pages, safety is a priority for us here at Salt River Electric. We work to encourage a safety culture both within our co-op’s workforce and for our consumer-members.

Because the Move Over law has been around for 20 years, some drivers may have forgotten about it. For the record, the Kentucky statute is KRS 189.930(5):

Upon approaching a stationary emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle, when the emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle is giving a signal by displaying alternately flashing yellow, red, red and white, red and blue, or blue lights, a person who drives an approaching vehicle shall, while proceeding with due caution:

(a) Yield the right-of-way by moving to a lane not adjacent to that of the authorized emergency vehicle, if:

1. The person is driving on a highway having at least four (4) lanes with not fewer than two (2) lanes proceeding in the same direction as the approaching vehicle; and

2. If it is possible to make the lane change with due regard to safety and traffic conditions; or

(b) Reduce the speed of the vehicle, maintaining a safe speed to road conditions, if changing lanes would be impossible or unsafe.

Several years ago, a legal analysis found that public utility vehicles, such as Salt River Electric trucks, fall within the definition of “public safety vehicles” in the Kentucky law, so the “move over” obligation applies.

We all have a role to play in keeping our communities safe. In this case, it’s as simple as just moving over.



ZACH EPPERSON

40 years later: Celebrating Taylorsville Lake

For years, Taylorsville Lake has been a destination for thousands, if not millions of visitors. The lake serves as a popular summertime getaway for families, nature lovers, and those just wanting to leave the hustle and bustle of large cities behind in order to enjoy a slower pace of life.

This year, the lake is hitting an important milestone, celebrating 40 years of existence. The anniversary will be marked with quite the celebration later on this month, thanks in part to a dedicated group of individuals who have worked tirelessly to preserve and enhance the park over the past few years.

Taylorsville Lake was created out of necessity in the early 1970s. Decades of flooding on the Salt River called for a dam to be built in order to better protect residents and communities that were downstream. “The primary function and purpose of Taylorsville Lake was, and still is, flood control,” explains Evan McKinney, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ project manager at the lake. The Corps of Engineers began construction on the earthen dam in 1974, finishing the structure in 1983. The dam is 1,280 feet long and 163 feet high, McKinney says.

The lake itself covers 3,050 acres and extends into three different counties, and also features a state park with many additional recreation features.

The lake and state park remain popular four decades later, thanks to dedicated enthusiasts and community groups like the Friends of Taylorsville Lake State Park.

The group—a Taylorsville offshoot of similar organizations found throughout the state—was formed in 2016 as a nonprofit, focused on benefiting the lake, as well as the state park and its trails and paths.

“One of the first things we did was to work on a grant for the Recreational Trails Program,” explains Stacey Koon, the group’s treasurer. “We worked with the Kentucky Department of Parks and the local park manager and secured a grant. And with a matching donation that the Friends group brought on, we were able to purchase a couple pieces of equipment for the state park and upgrade the trails with that equipment and volunteers to make them more accessible.”

Other projects over the years have included new trail signs and maps, boat ramp cleanups, a life jacket loaner



STACEY KOON/FTLSP

program, tree planting and a new fossil dig area.

As the group expanded, so too did their projects and partnerships.

“We’ve always had a good working relationship with the local Army Corps of Engineers,” Koon says. “... We’ve also had to work with them on any projects we’ve done, so it’s always been a two-step process.”

That partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers came in handy when it was time to celebrate the lake’s anniversary this year with the 40th Anniversary Dam Celebration, taking place this month during Memorial Day weekend.

“It’ll be an all-day festival,” Koon explains. “We’ll have food trucks, craft vendors, other non-profits on hand. We’ll have a kids area [as well].”

Fireworks are also on the agenda—something that hasn’t happened at the dam for a while. “It takes a local group, a nonprofit, to put something like this on,” McKinney says. “We get calls every year about fireworks: when they’re coming back, how much folks loved the festivals. When I saw the opportunity with FTLSP...with their fundraising efforts, they’re what makes it happen.”

“We haven’t had fireworks over the dam in 10 or 15 years,” Koon says. “We’re really excited about it.”

Tickets for the much-anticipated celebration go on sale this month.

Interested in residential solar? Questions to ask and consider

Ah, the month of May! The time where the sun shines more, the weather is nicer, and people begin to see the return of door to door sales-people for residential solar programs.

Residential solar has become more and more popular over just the last few years, with a greater number of people wanting to harness the power of the sun for their home energy. Though Salt River Electric is not involved in the residential solar business, we are dedicated to one thing: making sure our members are educated and that they ask the right questions before signing the dotted line. So in that spirit, here are a few questions to ask and consider before signing up for residential solar.

Know your goals

Are you trying to save money? Are you trying to offset all the energy you use with renewables or are you trying to offset just a portion? Do you want backup sources of power to ensure that the lights stay on during storm outages? Answering these questions for yourself can help you decide what options are best for your situation.

Use realistic assumptions about power from the sun

The average U.S. home uses about 10,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity each year. Just two or three solar panels will not power your home. If you are looking for energy

independence by installing solar power, here are some other points to consider:

■ Even if you power your entire home you will still have an electric bill as long as you are connected to the grid.

Your monthly power bill will still include a service fee to pay for the poles and wires, as well as the people to maintain them, so they are ready to provide energy if your panels aren't making the power you need, like at night.

■ If the power produced from the panels exceeds your usage, you will not receive a cash payment.

Under Kentucky's net metering law, when you generate more energy than you consume, the value of the excess energy is credited on your bill, but the energy credits are never converted to cash payments. Unused credits will be carried forward to future bills to offset times when you use more energy than you make.

There are good third-party sites like PVWatts Calculator

(<https://pvwatts.nrel.gov>) from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory that you can use to estimate production of a system based on your address.

Get warranty promises in writing

Key warranty questions to ask private installers include:

■ For roof-mounted systems, is there a warranty against my roof leaking?

■ If it does leak, who pays for roof repairs?

■ Are labor costs for installation included in the warranty for failed components?

■ If you go out of business, does the solar panel manufacturer honor the warranty?

For more questions and points to consider, check out our "Solar 101" booklet on our website, srelectric.com/solar-energy.

Always remember that we're here for you if you have any kind of questions regarding solar power. After all, we're your trusted energy advisor!

We have renewable power resources and two great options

Net Metering



For members with a net-metered system already installed, we have a workbook to track the amount of power that the panels produce and how much energy you are using.

Get a copy of our "Net Metering Workbook" at www.togetherwesaveKY.com or stop by our cooperative for a copy.

Cooperative Solar

For a one-time fee of \$460, you get a 25-year license for a single solar panel, located at our 60-acre solar farm near Winchester.

Each panel produces between 23 and 50 kilowatt-hours of solar energy monthly, and you can license as many panels as you need to offset your annual usage. The energy output of your licensed panels is credited to your bill.

Learn more at www.cooperativesolar.com.

envirowatts

You can select energy generated from environmentally friendly solar, wind, biomass and/or hydro sources for as little as \$2.75 monthly. Learn more at <https://www.envirowattsky.com>.



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Safety Matters

May is Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month and a good time to sweep your home for electrical safety risks. Here are five that many homeowners overlook:

- 1** Unplug and store all extension cords. They are not designed for prolonged use. If yours are hiding under carpets, they could overheat or get stepped on and damaged, which could start a fire.
- 2** If you have more than one power strip plugged into an outlet, chances are good that you are overloading your circuits, especially if you live in an older house. If you don't have enough outlets, ask a licensed electrician to add more.
- 3** Kitchen countertop appliances should be plugged into three-prong, GFCI receptacles. Any electric appliance that you use near water could shock or even electrocute someone.
- 4** Change the batteries in your smoke alarms twice a year and test them monthly to make sure they're operating properly.
- 5** Did you know table lamps and overhead light fixtures are designed for specific lightbulb wattages? Check yours and change any lightbulb with a wattage that exceeds the fixture's capacity.



Take advantage of your co-op's rebate program

Looking to upgrade from your home's old electric furnace, ceiling cable or baseboard heat? Or are you getting ready to build a new home? Make sure to check with us about possible rebates for these projects!

Salt River Electric is proud to offer residential rebates to our members as they look to increase energy efficiency in their homes, whether by upgrading their heating source or creating an energy efficient home from the ground up!

Heat pump retrofits

Electric-resistance heating is proven to be one of the least efficient and most costly ways to heat your home in the colder months of the year. Think about switching it out in favor of a high-efficiency heat pump. Rebates are available for split system heat pumps or a package unit, and they vary depending on the energy efficiency rating of the new unit.

It is important to note that while eligible members do not need to fill out a rebate form, they will need to send us a copy of the new heat pump's AHRI Certificate of Product Rating.

Touchstone Energy Home Rebate

Another available option is the Touchstone Energy Home Rebate. Specifically designed for members who are building a brand-new home, this rebate incentivizes members to build their new home to high-efficiency standards, helping eligible members save up to 30% annually on their energy costs.

More information about qualifications and rebate incentives can be found by going to our website, srelectric.com/rebates.

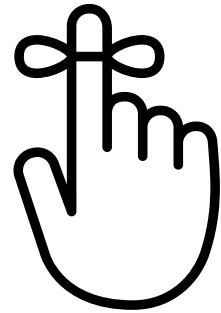




Salt River Electric offices will be closed Memorial Day, Monday, May 29

REMINDER!

To all Salt River Electric members: Remember to mail in your annual meeting proxies



FLAGPOLE SAFETY

Memorial Day, the last Monday in May, honors those who have died in American wars. To mark this day, many people fly the American flag.

Being patriotic is important, but so is being safe when working with flagpoles. Whether you are installing a fiberglass or a metal flagpole, follow these tips to be safe:

1. Call 811 before digging to install a flagpole.
2. Be overly cautious when working around power lines. Maintain at least a 15-foot clearance around power lines and any nearby trees. Consider both the flagpole and the flag for the 15-foot clearance.
3. If a pole comes in contact with a power line, serious injury or death can occur to anyone holding the pole or standing nearby.
4. A typical residential flagpole, which is installed in the ground, is 20–25 feet tall. When using a 20-foot pole with a recommended maximum flag size of 3x5 feet, the pole should be no closer than 45 feet to any overhead power lines. If you are using a 25-foot pole with a recommended maximum flag size of 4x6 feet, the pole should be no closer than 51 feet from any existing overhead power lines.
5. Any object touching an overhead power line could serve as a conduit for the electricity should it reach the ground, including humans.
6. Check local regulations and building codes before installing a flagpole.

