

SALT RIVER NEWS

A monthly publication for the members of Salt River Electric | MAY 2025

www.srelectric.com



Message from the President

Knowing your co-op: more than a question for students

When you've been in the same office for over 75 years, you never know what you'll find going through old boxes.

Recently, we came across a dozen or so booklets that, 40 years ago, were given to students attending the Washington Youth Tour. These booklets helped students understand the role of electric cooperatives and even included fill-in-the-blank questions for students to answer about their own co-ops:

How many members are on your co-op's board?

When was your co-op first organized?

When and where is your annual meeting held?

Next month, Salt River will send three local high schoolers to Washington, D.C., with our statewide delegation (more on page 30F). Looking back at that old booklet, it's a reminder that those questions aren't just for our students—they're questions every co-op member should be able to answer. Understanding how an electric cooperative operates, why it exists and engaging with the co-op isn't just valuable on a trip to Washington; it's part of what makes our co-op strong.



**SALT RIVER
ELECTRIC**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



That's why I hope to see you at our annual meeting and member appreciation day next month on Monday, June 2.

Our annual meeting and member appreciation day is more than a tradition—it's a chance for members to engage with their co-op, hear important updates and visit with the people who work every day to provide safe, reliable and affordable power. As always, members who stop by will receive their free bucket and bulbs, as well as other giveaway items. This year, members will receive a bag of kettle corn in each bucket.

Since those first members went door to door signing rural residents up for electricity in the 1930s, Salt River has been built on the idea that its members—not shareholders or corporate executives—are at the heart of every decision. No matter if you're a student traveling to D.C. or a member stopping by to say hello next month, your connection and engagement with this co-op is what will keep us strong for years to come.

*President and CEO
Tim Sharp*





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Salt River News

A monthly publication for the 57,260 members of the Salt River Electric Cooperative Corporation, serving Bullitt, Nelson, Spencer, and Washington County, plus portions of six surrounding counties, since 1937.

Zachary Epperson, Editor

Headquarters

111 West Brashear Avenue
Bardstown, KY 40004

Office Telephones

Bardstown: (502) 348-3931

Shepherdsville: (502) 543-3083

Springfield: (859) 336-5080

Taylorsville: (502) 477-5133

To report outages call:
1-800-221-7465

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Announcements

Official Notice

2025 Salt River Electric's Annual Business Meeting MONDAY, JUNE 2

**111 W. Brashear Ave.
Bardstown, KY 40004**

When: Monday, June 2
Time: 5 p.m.

Streaming live on our YouTube and Facebook pages

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
- Old business
- New business
- Adjournment

**Drive-Thru Member Appreciation Day
Monday, June 2, 2025**

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 2.

Prize winners will be notified at a later date.



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Office Closure:



Our offices will be closed Monday, May 26, for Memorial Day.

BRAD PICTADOBIE STOCK

Get ready for our 2025 member appreciation day and annual meeting!

Whether you need to clip this article, cut it out or mark it on your calendar, remember this date:

Monday, June 2.

Remember it well, because that's the date of Salt River Electric's Member Appreciation Day and Annual Meeting.

First up that day is our member appreciation drive-thru event, which will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at all four Salt River Electric office locations. Members will have the opportunity to drive up at their local office to register for gift card giveaways and to receive their free bucket and bulbs. This year, members will also receive a bag of classic kettle corn to go along with their bucket, bulbs and other giveaway items.

"Seeing our members drive up throughout the day and visit with us is something we really look forward to each year," says Manager of

Communications Zach Epperson. "A bucket and a few lightbulbs might seem like an insignificant thing, but you'd be surprised the connections they help foster between members and co-op employees."

While our member appreciation event is the day's big draw, it's only the lead up to the main event, our annual business meeting. At 5 p.m., settle in at home, grab your fresh kettle corn, and hop over to our Facebook or YouTube channel for the annual business meeting.

Here members will receive updates from their board of directors and will hear from the co-op's leadership.

"Unlike investor-owned utilities, co-ops like Salt River were built and are owned by those we serve: our members," President & CEO Tim Sharp says. "An engaged and informed membership is a central part of who we are as a co-op. So, we encourage every member to drive up to see us throughout the day, and to watch our livestreamed annual meeting."

Save time in line!

Our member appreciation event is always popular, and we want to get as many members registered as quickly as possible. Consider bringing a copy of your latest bill with you so our representatives can look up your account or address faster, and save you time waiting in line.



ZACH EPPERSON

Honoring those who served

Bardstown-Nelson County Veterans Park nears completion

For the last few years, a plot of land in front of the Nelson County Justice Center has remained empty—save for a simple white triangular sign promising to be the *Future Home of the Bardstown-Nelson County Veterans Park*.

Today, you won't find the sign standing at the front of the lot; it's now been dismantled and lies among construction debris at the rear of the lot. Instead, it's been replaced by vibrant brick walls, pristine concrete walkways and striking metal flagpoles that now draw the public's attention to the nearly-complete Bardstown-Nelson County Veterans Park.

Though Nelson County's military history runs deep, the idea for a park dedicated to local veterans and service members didn't get off the ground until just a few years ago. That's when Jerry Janes, the chairman of the group behind the project, got the inspiration for it on a trip to see his son.

"On the way to his house [outside Milwaukee], we went by a veterans park," Janes explains. "It was a small park, but it was very eye catching. I turned around and went back to look at it."

If that small community outside of Milwaukee could have this kind of a public place, Janes thought, why couldn't people back home experience something similar?

"You know what, this is nice," he recalls thinking to himself. "This is something we need to do [in Nelson County]."

Laying the foundation

Planning and design work took time, as did fundraising for the project. Though the group applied for several grants to help with construction, none were awarded. For some, a lack of grants or other awarded funds would be a cause for concern. But not for Janes and his group.



Situated in front of the Nelson County Justice Center and East Stephen Foster Avenue, the Bardstown-Nelson County Veterans Park is already garnering attention from the public ahead of its anticipated summer 2025 opening.



The park will feature a number of amenities for the public to use, including free public Wi-Fi, a large stage and a covered pavilion, shown, with restroom facilities. Though the patriotic underlayment is certainly eye-catching, a metal roof will be installed on top.

"It's all private-funded," he explains. "It's all private funds, and our local people have been generous."

Generous not only monetarily, but in the construction and development of the park, too. Janes points to local contractors and companies who have

donated their time, resources and services to help bring the park to life.

"A lot of the work we've had here is in-kind [work], which people have stepped up and said, 'Well, we'll do this for you,'" he says. "Most all of our contractors have discounted their work and have been



Instead of a sign promising the future home of a veterans park, seven flagpoles representing each branch of the military now greet drivers on East Stephen Foster Avenue in Bardstown. Photos: Zach Epperson

very cordial and professional in what they've done for us."

That includes the Nelson County Fiscal Court, which, under former Judge-Executive Dean Watts, gave the group the choice of which lot to build the park on.

"They were 110% with us on this veterans park, and still are," Janes says. "And we're most appreciative of that, and they've given us a lot of support."

Though the park looks nearly finished, a few features are still being worked on, including an eternal flame that will rest just behind the flagpoles, as well as 12 black granite monuments, six on each side of the stage. Those markers, nearly 7 feet tall, will include the name of every Nelson County veteran, including those who have made Nelson County their home.

"We have a lot of veterans who have moved into this community, who have

lived here for 15, 25 years and who have made this their home," Janes says. "They're veterans ... and we're all underneath the same flag. And we wanted them to be involved."

The granite markers will also feature QR codes that provide details on each war and military conflict that local veterans have served in, offering local schools a tech-savvy educational opportunity for their students.

"If you had a school teacher who wanted to teach a class [at the park] ... they have access to that information with the QR code," explains Janes.

Commitment to the community

Yes, the park certainly will honor the veterans of Nelson County and their service. But Janes and his fellow committee members see that as just one of the many ways the park can be utilized.

Just as it's explained over the executive committee's six mission statements, the park is intended to be a place where the community can come together.

"This is not only a veterans park, it's a community park and we want the community to use it," he says.

When it opens in July, the park will include several amenities for public use, including a 50-foot by 75-foot stage (large enough to accommodate groups like the Louisville Orchestra), free public Wi-Fi and a large covered pavilion with restroom facilities. The idea of hosting military funerals has also been raised, something that Janes says contributes to the overall goal of creating a facility that can host a number of community gatherings and events.

"This is a multipurpose facility for our community," he explains. "It is a veterans park primarily, but the veterans want to share [with the community]."

Announcing our Washington Youth Tour students

Next month, three local high school juniors will travel with dozens of their peers to our nation's capital to participate in the annual Washington Youth Tour.

Salt River Electric announces that Noah Downey of Bethlehem High School, Makayla Meyer of Bullitt East High School and Ella Sharp of Bardstown High School have been selected to represent the cooperative.

"For the first time in many years, Salt River Electric is proud to once again participate in the Washington Youth Tour," says Manager of Communications Zach Epperson. "This program provides our students with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage with their government and develop leadership skills, while also showcasing to them the important role cooperatives play in the communities we serve."

"I'm incredibly grateful to represent Salt River Electric in Washington, D.C., this summer," Meyer says. "I hope to use the experience and knowledge I gain to grow as a leader and community member."

Kentucky is one of more than 40 states that sends students to Washington, D.C. each summer, where participants will meet with their U.S. congressional members, tour national landmarks and museums and learn about how electric cooperatives contribute to their communities. Salt River Electric's students will travel as part of Kentucky's statewide delegation, providing them with the opportunity to connect with fellow students from across the state as they represent Kentucky's electric cooperatives.

In addition to next month's trip, the three students first participated in the Frankfort Youth Tour in March, where they joined approximately 100 students from various Kentucky electric cooperatives at the Kentucky State Capitol. There, students engaged with state lawmakers, toured the capitol and discussed civic



Ella Sharp, left, Noah Downey and Makayla Meyer will represent Salt River Electric during the Washington Youth Tour. Photos: Tim Webb



Noah Downey



Makayla Meyer



Ella Sharp

engagement and the utility industry.

"What I liked most about the trip to Frankfort was getting to meet new people, and even make new friends in the process," explains Downey. "I also enjoyed gaining more knowledge about my state capital, and having the opportunity to represent Salt River Electric."

"At Frankfort, I enjoyed learning about how our elected officials are working to make a better future for us," Sharp explains. "I also loved getting to meet some amazing people from other cooperatives, and I am honored to represent Salt River [this summer] in D.C."

STEP UP AND LEAD



2025 YOUTH TOUR
WASHINGTON, D.C. | JUNE 16-21





Stay safe in the sun!

Memorial Day arrives at the end of the month, signaling the unofficial start of summer's fun-in-the-sun season. Salt River Electric reminds members to protect themselves from the dangers of excessive sun exposure. The American Academy of Dermatology recommends sunscreen, hydration and avoiding intense sun.

Sunscreen smart

- Apply a broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher to all skin not covered by clothing. Don't forget ears and tops of feet. Apply a lip balm with SPF 30 or higher.
- Apply sunscreen BEFORE going outside. It takes about 15 minutes to protect your skin.
- Reapply sunscreen every two hours when outdoors, or after swimming or sweating, even if the product is labeled waterproof.

Water wise

- Drink water frequently to avoid dehydration while spending time outdoors in the sun.

Ray reminders

- Try to avoid the most intense sun from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stay in the shade if you have to go out during those hours.
- Block UV rays with protective clothing and accessories: wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeved shirts and pants, shoes that cover feet and sunglasses labeled for UV protection.
- Don't be fooled by a cloudy day. Up to 80% of the sun's UV rays can make it through the clouds and damage your skin.
- Reflective surfaces like water and sand reflect UV rays onto you—even under a hat.

Conserve energy during change of seasons

During the in-between months of winter and summer, it can feel tricky to manage your home's temperature. It's not cold enough for the heater, but it's also not warm enough to rely on air conditioning. Luckily, there are several ways to save electricity during this transitional period without sacrificing comfort. Here are a few tips to help you make the most of this in-between weather:

- **Use natural ventilation.** Open windows and doors when the outside temperature is comfortable to let in fresh air and create a cross breeze. This can help naturally cool down your home without relying on air conditioning or fans.
- **Adjust your thermostat.** When temperatures are mild, you can often get away with not using the heater or air conditioner. Set your thermostat to off or turn it down to a neutral temperature, like 70 degrees, and dress in layers to stay comfortable. A programmable thermostat can automatically adjust to the changing temperature so that you don't waste energy.
- **Use fans to circulate air.** If it's a little warm inside, ceiling or box fans can help move air around and make the space feel cooler. Place fans strategically to create a cross breeze and remember to turn them off when you leave a room to avoid wasting energy.
- **Seal any drafts.** Even though it's not freezing outside, drafts can still make your home feel colder than it is. Check windows and doors for gaps and seal them with weather stripping or caulk to prevent warm or cool air from escaping. This will help maintain a consistent indoor temperature and reduce the need for heating or cooling.
- **Limit appliance use during peak hours.** Appliances like ovens, stoves and clothes dryers can generate extra heat. Use them during cooler parts of the day or in the evening to prevent unnecessary heating of your home. If you're cooking, consider using a microwave or slow cooker instead of the oven.
- **Turn off lights when not in use.** As the days get longer, it's tempting to keep lights on longer. Make sure to turn off lights in rooms you're not using, and use energy-efficient LED bulbs to reduce energy use.

By making a few simple adjustments, you can keep your home comfortable without running up your energy bills during the in-between months.



Co-op returning capital credits

Members to receive capital credits over the next month

Next month, Salt River Electric members will once again see a much-loved line item on their bill.

During the April board meeting, Salt River's board of directors approved the allocation of \$2.6 million in capital credits across 56,000 members. Salt River members who received electric from the cooperative during 2006, 2007 and 2024 will receive a credit on their bill. The amount a member receives is based on how much electricity they used in those years.

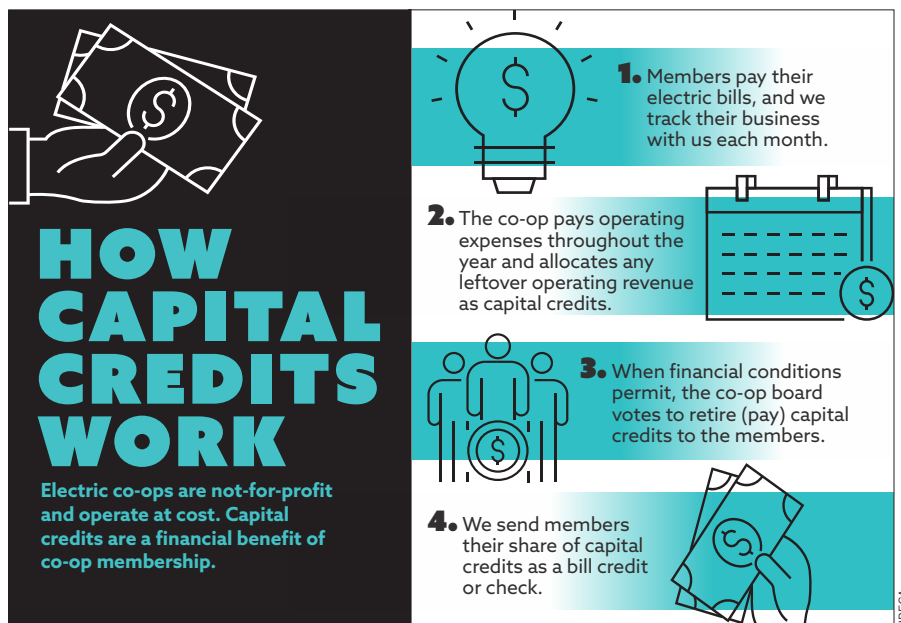
"Approving the return of capital credits is a longstanding tradition of Salt River Electric," board chairman Linda West explains. "And this year is no different. Our members' cooperative is financially sound, and returning capital credits to our members reflects that."

We get questions from members all the time about capital credits. How do they work? It's a fairly simple process.

Electric cooperatives, like Salt River Electric, are not-for-profit organizations. That means we cannot make money. At the end of the year, when all expenses have been paid, the money that is left over is returned to our members, so long as financial conditions allow.

Returning capital credits is nothing new at Salt River Electric. The cooperative was the first in the state to return capital credits to members all the way back in 1956. Since 1995, the co-op has returned a collective \$41.2 million to its membership.

"We're asked all the time what makes



Salt River so different from other utilities," says Manager of Communications Zach Epperson. "It comes down to our core values and principles. We're dedicated to taking care of our members—the people

who make up this co-op. Returning capital credits is just one way we commit to those principles." Members will begin to see these capital credits reflected on next month's bill.

Families can inquire about deceased members' credits

Capital credits are with a person throughout their time as a member of Salt River Electric. When the time comes, and a member has passed, it's important for families to know that they can inquire with the cooperative about their family member's capital credits. Each situation is different, so please reach out to one of our customer service representatives for additional information.

Salt River Electric Offices

Nelson County

111 West Brashear Ave,
Bardstown
M–F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
(502) 348-3931

Bullitt County

6260 Hwy 44 E,
Shepherdsville
M–F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
(502) 543-3083

Spencer County

127 Settlers Center Road,
Taylorsville
M–F, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
and 1–4 p.m.
(502) 477-5133

Washington County

805 Bardstown Road,
Springfield
M–F, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
and 1–4 p.m.
(859) 336-5080