



Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

July 2021

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Visit us on the Web - www.sacosage.com



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

A New Light Coming to Rural America

On May 27, 2021 Sac Osage Electric Cooperative's board of directors and General Manager Jim Davis met with partners and community leaders to make an historic announcement. In the community room at Cooperative headquarters, Sac Osage announced a partnership with Conexon Connect that will provide fiber-optic Internet access to every cooperative member.

"In the 1940's coops were formed to electrify rural America. Now, some 80 years later we're being called on to close the digital divide as many of our members are either underserved or not served at all with broadband." – Jim Davis, General Manager

The importance of this momentous undertaking was recognized by the guest speakers at the event. U.S. Representative Vicky Hartzler said, "This is going to change the lives of people in this community for the better. This is a generational change." Missouri State Representative Jim Kalberloh pointed out the spotlight the pandemic shined on the issue saying, "Not only do we need it for businesses, but we need it for tele-medicine, we need it for schools..." The event stressed the needs that will be met by this project in much the same way electric cooperatives met the rural areas' need for electricity when no one else could.

The fiber to the home (FTTH) build-out, encompassing 2,302 miles of fiber, will ultimately reach 100% of Sac Osage's 8,700 members in Henry, Benton, Saint Clair, Hickory, Vernon,



Tony Underwood, District 2 Director; Neale Johnson, District 9 Director; Gary Ashby, District 5 Director; Gene Brockus, District 6 Director; Jim Murray, District 7 Director; Ray Huesemann, District 4 Director; Vicky Hartzler, U. S. Representative; Tim Minehardt, District 1 Director; Ken Hacker, District 8 Director; Ted Woodrell, District 3 Director; Jim Kalberloh Missouri State Representative; Jim Davis, SOEC General Manager

Cedar, Barton, Polk, and Dade counties. Sac Osage Electric Cooperative is partnering with Conexon Connect, the newly formed Internet services provider (ISP) arm of rural fiber broadband design and construction management leader Conexon for this ambitious project. Under the partnership, design and construction of the FTTH network will be led by Conexon, with the network managed and operated by Connect. The project is expected to be completed within 3-4 years.

Connect powered by Sac Osage Electric Cooperative will offer a package with a minimum of 100 megabits (Mbps) per second upload and download speeds (symmetrical service) for \$49.95 per month. We also will offer a package with a maximum of 1,000 Mbps (1 gigabit) per second upload and download speeds for \$79.95 per month. Managed Wi-Fi services (always recommended) will be included

for an additional \$4.95 per month for either speed package. Crystal-clear home phone service with unlimited local and long-distance calling to the U.S. and Canada is also available for a base price of \$29.95 plus applicable regulatory fees and taxes (fees vary by county). Although we cannot control the costs of these local taxes and regulatory fees, Connect residential phone service is, in most cases, very competitive with other services in the market.

Jonathan Chambers is a partner with Conexon and spoke at the announcement. He talked about the jobs and opportunities lost when outside interests offer pie in the sky solutions to local problems. He stressed the importance of the network being built by the local electric cooperative. Said Jonathan, "If you want to build something to last, you roll up your sleeves and build it yourselves."



We Are Looking For Former Members

Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, Inc. (the "Cooperative") is trying to locate members who are the owners or joint owners of unclaimed capital credit refunds who were mailed checks by the Cooperative for previous years. Those mailed refund checks were returned to the Cooperative by the U.S. Postal Service as being undeliverable. The list of those members' names and the amounts of the unclaimed capital credit refunds may be found on our website at (www.sacosage.com). If your name appears on the list or if you are the legal representative of a named deceased member, the Cooperative requests that you notify us so that these unclaimed capital credit refunds can be paid to the rightful owner.

To submit a claim, please visit our website to either submit your form online or obtain a printable UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDIT REFUND INFORMATION form. You may also obtain this form at our headquarters located at 4815 E Highway 54, El Dorado Springs, or by requesting it on our voicemail box at 1-800-876-2701. If these unclaimed capital credit refunds are not claimed by the September deadline, by or on behalf of the member, then those funds will be reallocated to the accounts of the current members in accordance with the Cooperative's Bylaws.



Enter the Cooperative Calendar Contest for 2022

Each year Sac Osage Electric gives free calendars to members from our cooperative headquarters. This year members have the opportunity to submit their own pictures to be a part of the calendar. Winning members will receive a \$25 credit on their electric bill. Requirements are:

- Photo must be taken by the member of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative submitting the entry.
- Photo must be taken within the cooperative territory.
- Photos should be in a landscape (wider than it is long) to fit the calendar.
- By submitting the photo through the website, the member is giving permission to Sac Osage to use the photo in the calendar and other promotional material.

Members can submit multiple en-



tries, but a new form must be filled out with each one. Sac Osage encourages members to take photos in all seasons as this will increase the chances of being included in the calendar. An online submission form can be found on the cooperative website at <https://www.sacosage.com/2022-cooperative-calendar-contest>.

Use Your Thermostat to Combat Summer Electric Bills

Summer heat means higher electric bills. For most Sac Osage Members air conditioning is the largest portion of the electric bill in the month of July. A programmable or "smart" thermostat can reduce electrical usage and keep money in members' pockets.

It is recommended to purchase a thermostat that has the ENERGY STAR label. Thermostats with the ENERGY STAR label have been independently certified, based on actual field data, to deliver energy savings. Learn more at: www.takecontrolandsave.coop

Offices will be closed Monday, July 5 in observation of Independence Day.