Sac Osage Electric Cooperative

News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Board Performs Budget "Balancing" Act

Question: What does a Sac Osage Electric Board Member sometimes have in common with a tightrope walker? Answer: They both need to be very good at performing a "balancing" act.

At the December board meeting, the Board of Directors discussed how to balance the need to ensure our electrical system remains safe and reliable with the need to meet our financial obligations. At the heart of the discussion was a $625,699 (6.8%) expected increase from our power supplier. Power costs represent about 53% of our total cost of electric service and due to this and other increases over the last 3 years, the board was expecting a budget shortfall of approximately $1.1M in 2018.

Sac Osage Electric has been absorbing increases since our last rate increase on April 1, 2015. To offset the expected budget shortfall, the Board made $706,000 in cuts to the proposed 2018 Budget and Work Plan. They also approved a 2.24% overall increase in revenue effective April 1, 2018 through an increase in electric rates. This rate increase should generate an additional $398,000 in revenue.

The proposed rate increase will be accomplished by increasing the availability charges by $4.00 per meter each month. For example, residential availability charges will go from $26.00 per month to $30.00. Residential "seasonal" availability charges will go from $29.00 to $33.00. Further cost-based rate design changes involving the addition of kW demand charges have been postponed until later in the year.

The combination of budget expense decreases and revenue increases should allow the Cooperative to balance these three goals:
1. meeting its financial obligations in 2018
2. providing safe, reliable electric service
3. providing energy at an affordable price

The Board is working hard to make decisions in the best interest of its members and believes the approved 2018 Budget and Work Plan achieves these three goals.

Operation Round-up Awards Local Projects

The Board of Directors authorized the Sac Osage Electric "Operation Round-Up" Committee to distribute funds collected from our members throughout the year to several local and regional projects. The Operation Round-Up program uses the generosity of cooperative members who participate to provide these additional funds.

As members of Sac Osage Electric Cooperative, you can voluntarily choose to have your monthly electric bill "rounded up" to the next whole dollar. The most money individual members could possibility contribute is $11.88 over a 12 month period. These excess payments are collected in a special account that is used for such special purposes. "This program is a very easy way for our members to help families who need a little help", said Jim Davis, General Manager of the cooperative.

Please contact our customer service representatives to set up your account, and start putting your pennies to work.

Together your little change may make a big change for someone else.

The Operations Round-Up committee awarded $300 to the following organizations:
1. El Dorado Springs Christmas Basket Fund
2. Christmas Fund, Stockton, MO.
3. Christmas Fund, Community Outreach, Nevada, MO.
4. St. Clair County Senior Center, Osceola, MO.

Sac Osage Electric's Board Secretary/Treasurer, Jan Neale presents Steve Wiseman a check for the El Dorado Springs Christmas Basket Fund.

Youth Tour: Trip of a Lifetime

Youth Tour DC

CYCLE
Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience

TWO lucky students will win an all-expense-paid week in Washington D.C. this summer. Local winners will join about 80 Missouri high school students and will unite with a thousand other students from across the nation for a whirlwind tour of our nation's capitol and an opportunity to learn more about how government works. You will visit Capitol Hill, the Smithsonian, Arlington National Cemetery, the Vietnam Wall and other war memorials, including many other sites such as the Jefferson and the Lincoln Memorial, just to name a few.

The purpose of the tour is to provide an opportunity for outstanding youth to better understand the value of rural electrification and to become more familiar with the historical and political environment of the nation's capitol. This is achieved through visits to monuments, government buildings and cooperative organizations. Also, the opportunity to visit elected officials allows youth to better understand how the federal government works.

TWO other winners will visit Jefferson City for an award winning Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience (CYCLE) trip with lots of fun and an opportunity to learn more about our government, co-ops, and develop their own leadership skills.

If you know a high school junior, please encourage them to participate. It's their world to discover. It is an opportunity to see the process of government up close and personal. With the support of Sac Osage Electric members, it truly is an opportunity of a lifetime for these students and a chance to open more windows of opportunity for their future.

TRIP DATES:
Washington, D.C. Youth Tour:
June 8-14, 2018
Jefferson City, MO CYCLE:
July 18-20, 2018

To participate, high school juniors must fill out an application. The schools in the following counties in our service area can participate in the contest: Cedar, Barton, Benton, Dade, Henry, Hickory, Polk, St. Clair and Vernon counties.

Applying is simple. Visit our website www.sacosage.com/content/youth-tour and print out application complete and return to Sac Osage Electric.

SAFETY FIRST!

It's shocking what some people don't know about electricity. For example, did you know that overhead power lines are not insulated? For this reason, make sure you never touch a downed power line, even if you think it's not energized. Also keep well clear of overhead lines with ladders, farm equipment and other tall objects.

Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as you can and still be comfortable. You can set it lower when you are sleeping or away from home. A smart or programmable thermostat can do this for you. Keep in mind any pets you have that may need warmer temperatures. According to DOE, a 10-15 degree cut in temperature for 8 hours could save you 10 percent on winter heating bills.