

A SEASON OF GRATITUDE & GIVING

MVEA Programs Provide a Helping Hand

BY JIM HERRON CEO | HERRONJC@MVEA.ORG

On behalf of the Mountain View Electric Association family, I wish you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. With the holiday season upon us and the new year just around the corner, I can't help but reflect on the gratitude I feel for our co-op community as we continue to navigate an ever-changing world due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Perhaps one of the most important things I am grateful for is the opportunity to gather with friends, family and members of our co-op community again. While we were not able to gather for our 80th Annual Meeting of Members in June, we were able to host smaller member events in September and October. These events are important as there is a strong sense of community that makes us stronger as a co-op when we gather, converse, and grow together.

I am grateful for technology and the way it allowed MVEA to quickly adapt to changing staffing mandates, while still providing safe and reliable electricity to our members at a time when more people were at home relying on the service that we provide. If there was one thing we all learned together in 2020, it was the vital

role that access to reliable and fast internet service plays in our interconnected world. To that end, we have much to celebrate with the June announcement of MVEA's partnership with Conexon Connect to bring access to highspeed fiber broadband internet to 100% of our membership over the next five to six years.

I am also grateful to be part of a co-op community that has a long history of coming together and being resilient through uncertain times. With that said, I want to highlight two MVEA programs we hope members will participate in to support our local businesses as well as our neighbors in need of a helping hand this holiday season.

Power a Small Business Comeback

Locally-owned businesses are the heart of any community. In November 2020, we started promoting the Co-op Connections program to support local businesses through the "Small Business Comeback" campaign. While businesses have been able to reopen to full capacity, we also know that they are still struggling through staffing and supply challenges.

Your participation in this free program and your support of local businesses can make a meaningful impact this holiday



JIM HERRON

season. Co-op Connections provides easy access to discounts from hundreds of locally-owned and national businesses. To get started, please visit www.mvea.coop/co-op-connections.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The Operation Round Up® program assists charitable organizations, communities with special needs and individuals who have suffered from loss, personal disaster, or medical emergencies. For less than \$12 per year, you can round up your monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar, turning your coins into CHANGE to help support your community and your neighbors.

If you want to donate more, you have that option as well. If you are in need of a helping hand, please apply for funds. To learn more, apply for funds, or make a tax-deductible donation by opting into the program, please visit www.mvea.coop/round-up.

As an electric co-op, we are proof that small groups of people can make a significant impact on their community for generations to follow. It is a legacy we are proud of, and one that we look forward to continuing.



Photo Credit: Alana Thrower, MVEA Member, 2022 MVEA Photo Calendar Contest Featured Winner

The Check is in The Mail! It Pays To Be A Co-op Member.

MVEA Retires More Than \$3.9 Million in Capital Credits

You are both a member and an owner of Mountain View Electric Association. It is a business model unique to cooperatives. Your investment in the cooperative helps to ensure the financial health and stability of the co-op, and is returned to you through the allocation and retirement of capital credits. Capital credits represent your investment in MVEA — your piece of the co-op pie.

In October, the Mountain View Electric Association Board of Directors voted to retire (which means pay) capital credits in the amount of more than \$3.9 million. If you were an MVEA member in the years that were retired, you should receive a check in mid-December. MVEA will issue more than 37,800 checks to active and inactive members with a capital credits balance over \$10. For those with a capital credits retirement under \$10, the amount is held until the total cash value of the retirement is greater than \$10 or until the final payment will close-out the account.

MVEA members receive a capital credits allocation every year. Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called net margins, are allocated to members in the form of capital credits.

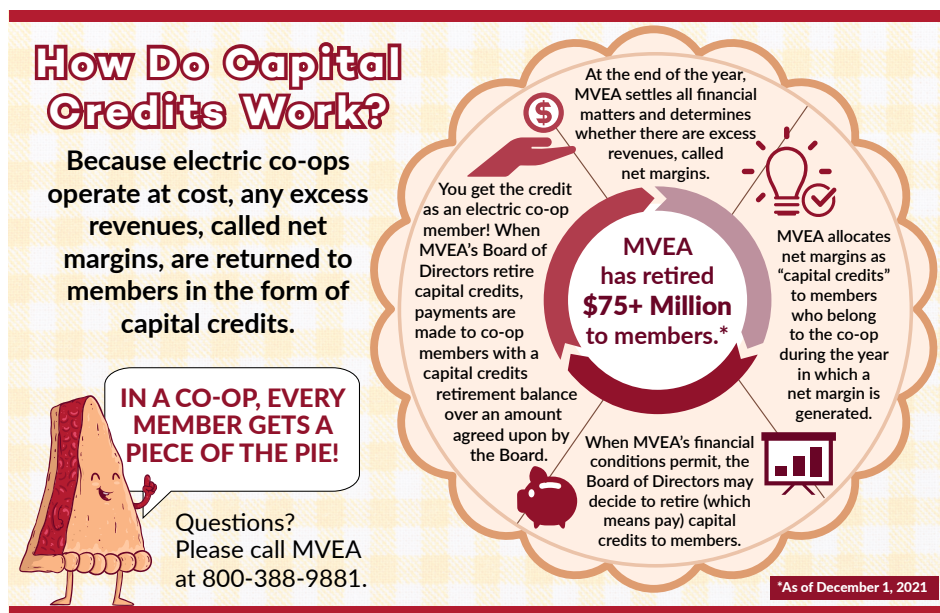
When the Board deems the co-op financially capable of doing so, capital credits are retired (paid) to members. Dedication to fiscally responsible business practices and planning has enabled MVEA to retire more than \$75 million in capital credits back to members since MVEA's first retirement.

The MVEA Board of Directors is firmly committed to retiring capital credits. It is the directors' belief that the allocation and retirement of capital credits is one of the most unique and rewarding benefits of being a member of an electric cooperative. MVEA's Board of Directors strives to use a hybrid first-in, first-out (FIFO) 80% with a last-in,

first-out (LIFO) 20% capital credits retirement system to increase the number of checks issued to members.

Simply put: Not all co-ops retire capital credits, and not all co-ops retire capital credits in a way that benefits the most members. It's one aspect of co-op membership that is unique to MVEA.

Don't miss out on your share of the cooperative! If you move out of MVEA's service territory, please be sure to provide us with your new mailing address every time you move.



To MVEA's Members,

It was a pleasure meeting you at community and co-op events over the last six months!

From the public announcement in June, the Black Forest Festival in August, and MVEA's Member Appreciation Days events in October, the Conexon Connect team has enjoyed answering questions and getting to know the unique fiber broadband needs of the communities within MVEA's service territory. We will see you in the spring to answer more questions about our fiber-to-the-home project!

Until then, follow us on Facebook for the latest Connect, powered by Mountain View Electric Association, project updates.



We're Almost There!

We are so excited to announce that fiber services will be available in the first phase of our project by Q2 2022! Our crews are hard at work bringing high-speed fiber internet to all MVEA members. Areas of Black Forest, Colorado Springs, Falcon, and Limon will be the first to receive fiber broadband services.

Pre-register today at
ConexonConnect.com/MVEA



We Don't Just Brighten Homes, We Brighten Futures.



Need Cash For College? Win a Scholarship! \$26,000 In Scholarships Available

MVEA's scholarship program includes scholarships to accredited colleges, universities, junior or community colleges, as well as Vocational/Technical Scholarships. Additional scholarships include Power Lineworker Scholarships for students pursuing a career through a lineworker training program, as well as a Power Engineer Scholarship for current college students pursuing a power engineering career. [Visit www.mvea.coop/scholarships to learn more.](http://www.mvea.coop/scholarships)
Deadline: Monday, January 17, 2022.

Questions? Contact Erica,
(719) 494-2654,
erica.m@mvea.coop.



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Office Hours

Monday - Thursday • 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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Visit our website: www.mvea.coop

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This Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

4 Ways to Save Energy This Winter

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

- 1 Caulking is an excellent energy efficiency tool! Seal air leaks and insulate well to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering your home.
- 2 When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as is comfortable. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills.
- 3 Lower your water heater temperature. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.
- 4 Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home. Close blinds and curtains at night to keep cold, drafty air out.

BONUS TIP! Explore MVEA's "Save Energy & Money" website section to use a home energy calculator, research energy efficiency rebates, and visit the "Together We Save" resource for many more ways to save.

Visit www.mvea.coop/save-energy-money.





This holiday season, let's keep small businesses thriving.

Power a Small Business Comeback

The Co-op Connections program is a free member benefit for every MVEA member, and provides easy access to discounts from local (and national) businesses. Download the free app to save money while you shop and support community business owners.

Find all the ways to save locally with Co-op Connections!

- Shop & Save Locally
- Prescription Savings
- Hotel & Rental Car Discounts
- National Retail Partner Deals

With more than 25,000 businesses participating in the program, there are savings opportunities for every occasion. You can show your mobile app or print out the offer from your computer to get discounts on dining, services, and at retail locations. Save money on everyday purchases while we get our local businesses thriving again.

Visit www.mvea.coop/co-op-connections to get started and download the Co-op Connections® app today.



Don't Waste That Christmas Tree or Wreath — Mulch It!

First, remove all decorations and metal from your tree or wreath to prevent damage to MVEA's chipper. Then, bring it to Mountain View Electric Association's office at **11140 E. Woodmen Road in Falcon**. We'll take that tree off your hands and turn it into landscaping mulch.

The landscaping mulch is free to anyone who needs it. Take the first entrance into the side parking lot and go to the back of the lot. You will see a sign to recycle your tree.

Questions? Please call us at 800-388-9881.

Holiday Lighting Contest

MVEA will provide credit on electric bills as prizes for nonprofit organizations wishing to organize home lighting contests over the holidays. Homeowner organizations are also eligible for the sponsorship. For more information on sponsoring a contest, contact Nikki Ricciardi at 719-494-2657 or email nikki.r@mvea.coop.

Be merry, bright and energy efficient with LED lights!



Downed trees can create power outages for you and your neighbors. Let's work together to keep the lights on and be safe this winter.

When you see power lines on the ground, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact MVEA or 911. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.

Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines that are sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized power line, also making them dangerous. So, stay away from all lines.

Downed trees and power lines do not mix well. Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Downed power lines can energize objects around it, such as chain link fences and metal culverts.

Get your property winter ready. Look for possible problem trees and contact MVEA. Visit www.mvea.coop/tree-trimming to learn more about MVEA's tree trimming services. To learn more about storm and outage safety, visit www.mvea.coop/safe-electricity.