

THE COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE

Co-op Programs to Help Make the Holidays Bright

BY RUTH MARKS CEO | RUTH.M@MVEA.COOP

On behalf of the Mountain View Electric Association family, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! It is hard to believe the holiday season is upon us, and a new year is right around the corner. It is equally hard for me to believe how quickly the last five months have flown by in the blink of an eye. I will never forget the great pride and excitement I had in walking through the doors of the office for the first time as Mountain View Electric Association's CEO, participating in my first Board of Directors meeting or my first all-employee meeting. Some memories fade, but I am pretty sure that first day will stay with me through time.

In a previous article, I shared my six-month plan to listen and learn more about the needs of MVEA's membership. I discussed how important it is to work with the Board of Directors and co-op leadership to create and implement a strategic plan that supports initiatives that are in line with MVEA's mission to provide safe, reliable, responsible and affordable electric service and access to broadband service to the co-op membership.

Since that first day on the job, it has been an honor to participate in strategic planning sessions; town hall meetings; member appreciation and educational events; and employee focus groups to get us closer to that goal.

In fact, the strategic plan is being finalized as you read this article. It includes important focus areas such as safety; member relations; employee relations; reliability and resiliency; affordability; and technology and innovation. The strategic plan is an important tool in helping us better serve MVEA's members during an era of industry change and opportunity. Look for more details in the new year.

In the meantime, let's highlight two MVEA programs we hope you will take advantage of this holiday season. These programs exemplify the cooperative principle of "concern for community"—programs created to better the quality of life of co-op members.

Energy Efficiency & Beneficial Electrification Rebates

For many years, MVEA has offered rebates to members through a program made possible through a partnership with our wholesale power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association. Combining holiday sales with MVEA's rebate program is a great way to offset the purchase of select energy-efficient products and electric outdoor power equipment. Please make sure to contact us or visit www.mvea.coop/rebates as there are end of the year deadlines and requirements you may want to consider before making a purchase.



RUTH MARKS

Operation Round Up®

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.

MVEA is always looking for ways to make your electric co-op membership meaningful and to support our communities. If you have any questions about the highlighted programs, please do not hesitate to contact us. We hope you will think of MVEA not only as your electric provider, but also as a catalyst for good in our community.

Wishing You
A Bright &
MERRY
CHRISTMAS

●● MVEA's offices will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2022, and Monday, January 2, 2023. ●●

Photo Credit: Stephanie Gonzalez, MVEA Member, 2023 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 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 million. If you were an MVEA member in the years that were retired, you should receive a check mid-December. MVEA will issue more than 41,500 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.

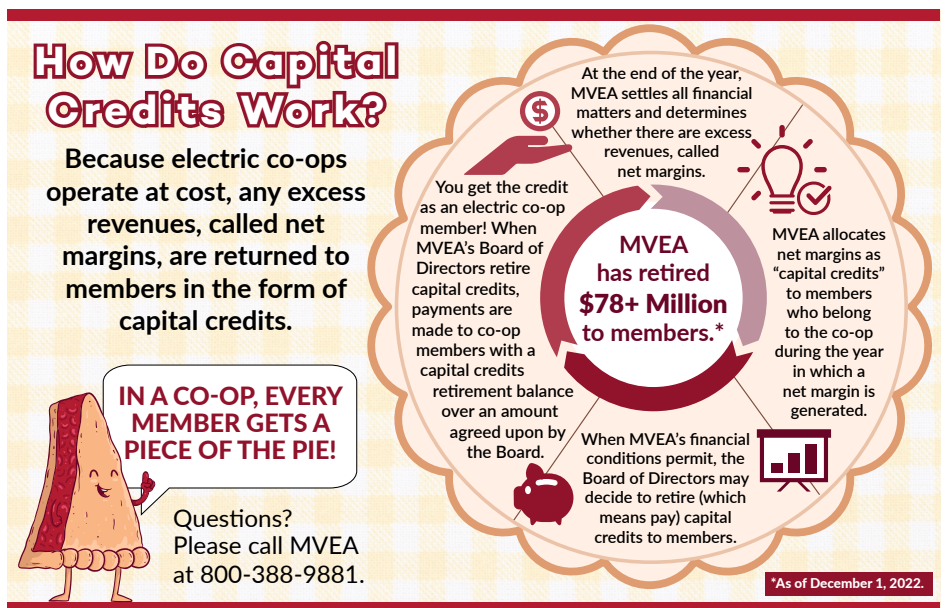
When the Board deems the co-op financially capable of doing so, capital credits are retired (paid) to members. Dedication to fiscally responsible business practices and planning has enabled MVEA to retire more than \$78 million in capital credits back to members since MVEA's first retirement.

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.



Don't Stay Frozen This Winter!

With fiber internet from Connect, your screen won't freeze up this holiday season.

Connect fiber internet will allow you to:

- Stream your favorite holiday movies seamlessly.
- Video chat with friends and family both near and far.
- Play online games with no buffering or lag.
- Get everything on your wishlist with online shopping.
- *and more!*

Check availability at
ConexonConnect.com,
call 1-844-542-6663,
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STAY AWAY from sagging or downed POWER LINES

Winter Weather & Power Outage Safety Tips

Are you prepared for Colorado's famously unpredictable winter weather? Taking inventory of essential storm readiness supplies on the inside of your home is just as important as taking time to get your property winter ready. Blowing wind, snow, and ice can knock down power lines and blow trees and limbs onto power lines, ultimately causing power outages. Keep the following safety tips in mind after a storm:

- **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. A downed power line can energize objects around it, such as chain link fences and metal culverts.
- Keep in mind that a line that is "dead" could still become energized during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators.
- Never drive over a downed line. It could cause poles or other equipment to come crashing down.
- If you are in a car that comes in contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. Wait until the utility crew arrives and deenergizes the line. Warn others not to approach the car. Only exit the car in the case of fire; and, in doing so, be sure to jump out and away from the car with both feet together. Then hop away while continuing to keep both feet together.
- Visit www.mvea.coop/safe-electricity or visit www.SafeElectricity.org to learn more about storm and outage safety.

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

Get your property storm ready. Look for possible problem trees close to utility lines and contact MVEA. Visit www.mvea.coop/tree-trimming to learn more about MVEA's tree trimming services.



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(719) 495-2283

Credit Card Pay-By-Phone

(877) 999-3415

Falcon Office

11140 E. Woodmen Road
Falcon, CO 80831

Limon Office

1655 5th Street • P.O. Box 1600
Limon, CO 80828

Monument Office

(Temporarily Closed)
15706 Jackson Creek Parkway, Suite 100
Monument, CO 80132

Office Hours

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

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4 Ways to Save Energy This Winter

- 1** Did you know that home heating systems use more energy than any other system in your home? In fact, heating accounts for nearly 29% of your energy bill. Consider setting your thermostat to 68°F in the winter. You can save as much as 10% a year on heating costs by simply turning your thermostat back 7°F - 10°F for eight hours each day. 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.
- 2** 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.
- 3** Lower your water heater temperature. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120°) 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.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy | www.energy.gov

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.



Don't Trash Your Christmas Tree or Wreath. Mulch It!

First, remove all decorations and metal from your natural 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**. 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.

We'll take that tree off your hands and turn it into landscaping mulch. The landscaping mulch is free to anyone who needs it.

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!



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



Need Cash For College? Win a Scholarship! \$28,000 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.

Deadline: Monday, January 16, 2023.

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