South Central Power Co.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Offices

LANCASTER
2780 Coonpath Road NE
P.O. Box 250
Lancaster, OH 43130
740-653-4422
1-800-282-5064

CANAL WINCHESTER
10229 Busey Road
Canal Winchester, OH 43110
614-837-4351
1-800-524-0802

CIRCLEVILLE
2100 Chickasaw Drive
Circleville, OH 43113
740-474-6045
1-800-206-0745

HILLSBORO
110 Danville Pike
Hillsboro, OH 45133
937-393-3421
1-800-207-0020

BARNESVILLE
37801 Barnesville-Bethesda Rd.
Barnesville, OH 43713
740-425-4018
1-800-468-4717

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
www.southcentralpower.com

Keep This Number

When reporting an outage, an automated outage reporting system may answer your call. It may ask for your 12-digit account number to help locate the outage site. This number is found on your monthly bill. It's handy to write it down and keep it near the phone.

Suggestions

Please send your *Country Living* story ideas or comments to the attention of Lisa R. Hooker at South Central's Lancaster office.

SOUTH CENTRAL POWER COMPANY

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Co-op returns capital credits for 29th consecutive year

For 29 years, South Central Power members have received capital credits from their electric Cooperative.

Capital credits are your share of the margins. Annually, the Cooperative determines its margins (revenue less expenses) and allocates them to each consumer's capital credit account. Your allocation is based on the dollar amount of electricity you purchased during a particular year.

For customers served by South Central Power in 2007, capital credit allocations totaled nearly $14.1 million

The 2007 allocation notice appeared as a detachable section on the April 2008 electric bill of approximately 86,000 consumers who were Co-op customers last year.

Former consumers received a notification letter.

After 20 years, allocated capital credits are returned, or retired, to consumers — provided the Co-op's financial position is not jeopardized. Capital credits also are paid to the estates of deceased consumers. In the meantime, South Central Power uses the capital credit money as operating capital.

In 2008, about $5.6 million in capital credits are eligible for retirement from allocations made in 1987.

If you still are a Cooperative consumer receiving electric service from South Central Power, the amount of your capital credit will appear as a credit on your June 2008 electric bill.

If you have more than five electric accounts, or are a large power consumer, please complete the notice that was sent to you in May so we may process your capital credits.

Former consumers who were due a refund of at least $10 received a capital credit refund notification in May. A check will be sent when the notice is returned. For lesser amounts, a capital credit refund check will be sent once the accumulated amount exceeds $10. Former customers still receive their refund, but it is more efficient and economical if South Central Power doesn't issue checks for just a few dollars.

By notifying consumers of their current-year capital credit allocation with a detachable section on the monthly bill, as well as crediting retired capital credits to your electric account, the Co-op is saving its member-owners more than $16,000 annually in printing, mailing and check issuing expenses.

If you have questions about your capital credit account or the general retirement process, contact your local South Central Power office.

Steps to establishing new electric service

When the weather warms up like it does this time of year, more consumers inquire about establishing new electric service for their new home.

The process is more time consuming and involved than most consumers realize. It's possible for it to take from four to six weeks from your initial request to completion.

First contact. With your initial contact to the Cooperative, South Central Power will need to know your name, Social Security number and the location where service is requested. It's helpful if your new home site has been assigned an address by the U.S. Postal Service. If not, a nearby address can help us pinpoint your home's exact location.

Join the Cooperative. If you are not already a Cooperative member when you call or visit, it's necessary to sign a South Central membership application.

Meet the field engineer. If your home is already staked, a field engineer will meet with you at the site of your new home. If the house is not staked at the time of your service request, contact us again when work has progressed to that point. If applicable, the well and septic systems should be identified, too.

When you meet with the field engineer, he or she reviews your construction plans and assesses the steps needed to provide you with electricity. Depending on the house's location, he or she will determine such things as whether or not new electric poles will need to be set, as well as the type of meter, transformer and wire size to be used.

Easements. If providing your new service requires setting poles, South Central Power must have an easement from the property owner and any affected adjacent neighbors. This assures that the Co-op is able to maintain the line and the equipment, as well as keep the equipment on the property whenever it transfers to someone else in the future.

In order to draw up an easement, the Co-op's right-of-way specialists prepare a legal easement description based on survey records, plat maps and other records. South Central Power's standard easement width varies depending on the type of line being built. The right-of-way specialist contacts you about the easement, which must be signed by the property owner and two witnesses. It must also be notarized before South Central Power files it with the appropriate county recorder's office.

In some cases, the new lines require the Cooperative to cross another property owner's land to provide you with electric service. The right-of-way specialist contacts those neighbors and secures the needed easements. If a neighbor is not agreeable, he attempts to find another service route to your home.

Occasionally, there are cases where South Central Power must run a line across a state highway to reach a consumer. If that's the case, a highway permit is needed. Unfortunately, this step alone can delay new service by four to six weeks, depending on the classification of the highway.

Vegetation Control. It might be necessary to cut or trim trees before your electric line can be built. Vegetation Control will work with you to schedule cutting and trimming.

Building the line. The day before the job is scheduled, the warehouseworker gathers the needed materials. In the morning, line crews load their trucks with the equipment they need for that day's jobs.

Your responsibilities. There are certain tasks that our consumers are required to complete. Meeting the Co-op's specifications and following our suggested timeline will go a long way to keeping your service request moving promptly.

South Central Power will do everything it can to keep your construction on schedule, as well as providing you with safe, reliable and economical electricity.

Consider a security system, too

Construction is a perfect time to consider a South Central Power security system. The benefits of working with the Co-op at this stage are that the telephone and electric hookups for the control panel can be pre-wired. Once you're in the home, South Central Power then can install the wireless monitors and sensors to protect you from intrusion, fire and environmental concerns. Personal safety and medic alert devices also are available.

Typically, families choose a combination of intrusion, fire and carbon monoxide sensors, but additional sensors that monitor sump pumps and temperature are available, too.

The low monthly monitoring fee includes 24-hour monitoring and a lifetime warranty on all of your security equipment. The installation is free, and the the Co-op's security equipment is very affordable.

Co-op awards college scholarships

Krystin Bachman of Bloom-Carroll High School and Daniel Johnson of Logan Elm High School are the 2008 recipients of South Central Power's $600 first-place college scholarships. The Co-op has awarded scholarships for 48 years.

Students were judged on their academic performance, school and community activities, as well as their knowledge of electric Cooperatives. South Central Power awards scholarships to the first-, second- and third-place girl and boy. The judges were educators Jim Davis and Ed James. They interviewed 45 students representing 29 high schools. And the winners are:

FIRST PLACE: $600 for each student

Krystin Bachman
Bloom-Carroll H.S., Carroll

Krystin ranked first in her class with a 4.0 GPA. She was National Honor Society president and co-president of student council. She also played varsity softball on two state championship teams. Krystin was FFA president, active in 4-H and Fairfield County Junior Fair activities. She plans to study food, agricultural and biological engineering at The Ohio State University. Krystin is the daughter of Cheryl and Doug Majors of Lancaster.

Daniel Johnson
Logan Elm H.S., Circleville

Daniel was first in his class with a 4.20 weighted GPA. He was a National Merit Commended Student, National Advance Placement Scholar and National Honor Society member. The senior class treasurer also played basketball, was an FFA member and attended American Legion's Buckeye Boys State. Accepted at The Ohio State University, he plans to study engineering. Daniel is the son of Jeffrey and Nancy Johnson of Kingston.

SECOND PLACE: $500 for each student

Emily Woods
Logan Elm High School, Circleville

Emily earned a 4.054 weighted GPA and was a National Honor Society member. She also was recognized as an academic All-Ohio athlete in golf. She was a member of Student Union, and participated in golf and track. She also established a summer reading club at a neighborhood elementary school. She'll study architecture at Kent State University. Emily is the daughter of Tim and Heidi Woods of Amanda.

Christopher Dychala
Liberty Union High School, Baltimore

Christopher had a 4.055 weighted GPA. He was National Honor Society vice president and Knowledge Bowl co-captain. An Eagle Scout, he participated in the People to People Future Leaders Summit and the Cambridge College Programme in England. He'll study international relations at The Ohio State University. Christopher is the son of Lori and Richard Dychala of Baltimore.

THIRD PLACE: $400 for each student

Jill Habursky
St. John Central High School, Bellaire

Jill had a 4.0 GPA. She was a National Honor Society member, student council member and senior class treasurer. She participated in Spanish club, Interact club and was named 2007 chemistry student of the year. She also was a varsity cheerleader and served as co-captain. She plans to study biochemistry at John Carroll University. Jill is the daughter of Jerald and Mary Jo Habursky of St. Clairsville.

Michael Paulus
Monroe Central High School, Woodsfield

Michael had a 4.0 GPA and was first in his class. A National Honor Society member, he was a thespian, played golf and baseball, and participated in Business Professionals of America. Michael was a Boys' State delegate and winner of the American Legion Americanism test. He'll study petroleum engineering at Marietta College. Michael is the son of Edwin and Valerie Paulus of Woodsfield.

In May, Krystin and Daniel represented South Central Power in the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives' contest. Each competed for a top prize of a $2,500 cash scholarship.

During the last 48 years, South Central Power has helped more than 275 students (and parents) with college expenses. This commitment to our members' children is one example of why your electric Cooperative is more than just an electric utility. South Central Power is proud of all the scholarship applicants through the years. Congratulations and all the best to the Class of 2008, and the 2008 Cooperative college scholarship candidates and winners!

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NEWS CURRENTS

Avoid identity theft

Identity theft occurs when your personal information is stolen and used without your knowledge to commit fraud or other crimes. It can cost you time and money, destroy your credit and ruin your good name.

Deter identity thieves by safeguarding your personal information.

Shred financial documents before discarding them.

Do not carry your Social Security card in your wallet or print it on your checks. If asked for it, offer another form of identification. Never use the last four digits as an ATM or computer password.

Do not give out personal information over the phone, through the mail or on the Internet unless you know with certainty who you are dealing with.

Never click on unsolicited e-mail links. Install firewalls, anti-spyware and antivirus software to protect your home computer.

Detect suspicious activity by monitoring your financial accounts. Some signs require immediate attention:

- Bills that do not arrive as expected.
- Unexpected credit card or account statements.
- Calls, letters or bills about purchases you did not make.
- Credit denials for no apparent reason.

Inspect your credit report regularly. All three major credit reporting agencies are required to provide you with a free credit report annually if you ask for it.

Call 1-877-322-8228 or you also may visit www.annualcreditreport.com to request your free annual report.

June 14 is Flag Day

The U.S. flag represents a living country and is considered a living thing emblematic of the respect and pride Americans have for their nation.

Colors. The red stands for hardiness and valor. The white represents purity and innocence. The blue stands for vigilance and justice.

Displaying the flag. When flying the flag from a staff that projects at an angle, the union, or blue field with the 50 stars, should be at the peak.

The Stars and Stripes should be flown at the top of a flagpole. Other flags are flown beneath it.

When flown at half-mast, hoist it briefly to the peak, then lower it to half-mast. Before removing it for the day, raise it again to the top.

If hung against a wall vertically or horizontally, the union should be to the observer's left.

Illuminate the flag if flown through the night.

The flag should not be drawn back, up or restricted in any way. It always should fall freely. It never should touch the ground.

Disposal. When a flag is weather-worn and tattered, destroy it in a dignified way, preferably by burning. Some veterans organizations dispose of flags for citizens.

Parades. When Old Glory passes by, stand at attention and place your right hand over your heart. Hats should be removed. It is proper for military personnel in uniform to salute.

Flag Day also is an appropriate time to recall the moving words of the "Pledge of Allegiance" and all that Old Glory has stood for the past 232 years.

ASK YOUR ENERGY ADVISOR

As a member of an electric Cooperative, you have access to free energy-savings tips and information that also will help save you money.

Whether your question is about heating and cooling systems, weatherproofing and insulation, water heaters or other appliances, the Energy Advisor at your local office can help.

Call your local office today and to have your questions answered.

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