

EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Echoes of the Empire

OCTOBER 2024

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85 Years of Service

BY ANDY CARTER MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Imagine a business that was formed by people in an area to meet a critical need. And imagine the business was owned by the very people it served. And what if that business was founded on principles of voluntary membership, democratic control, member-owner economic participation, independence, education, cooperation, and concern for the community they serve? If you are thinking this sounds a lot like Empire Electric Association, you are right! EEA is a member-owned rural electric cooperative and our day-to-day work serving our member-owners is guided by the seven cooperative principles summarized above.

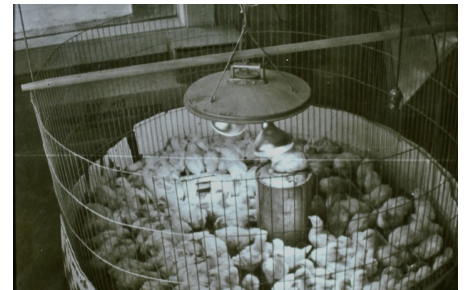
EEA was formed 85 years ago in 1939 in response to a need expressed by many of your families. Electric power had been available in major cities in the United States in the early 1900s, but in 1930 only one in 10 farms had electricity.¹ After filing a certificate of incorporation on November 9, 1939, EEA was able to secure a loan through the Rural Electrification Administration in February 1941 that allowed them to construct the first line and energize the first 50 member-owners in Dove Creek. In 1943 EEA expanded by purchasing the assets of Highland Utilities Company and began serving members in Montezuma County. The last large expansion of the EEA system was in 1980 when EEA purchased the Monticello, Utah, electric system and began serving Monticello and the surrounding area in southeastern Utah.

From the beginning, EEA's mission has been to provide power that improves our members' lives and supports the community at the same time. Originally, providing electricity meant improving the living standards of rural member owners with light, refrigeration, and the electrification of common tasks like pumping water. Providing electricity today means more than meeting basic needs. It allows communication and information transfer only dreamed of in 1939 and is a minimum requirement for almost any business.

Beyond powering our communities, EEA has ensured member-owners' economic benefit by operating the cooperative in a fiscally responsible manner. EEA has provided over \$39 million in capital credit retirement payments since 1939. Any revenue remaining after all expenses have been paid in a fiscal year are termed "margins." Margins are allocated to member-owners who took service from the cooperative during that fiscal year and are placed into a patronage capital credit



ANDY CARTER



Whether it was keeping chicks warm, stacking hay, or pumping irrigation water, electricity eased the burden of many rural cooperative members. Photos courtesy of EEA archives.

YOUR CO-OP NEWS

account in each member-owner's name. This capital, along with borrowed funds, provides EEA with the funds it needs to maintain our system infrastructure. Each year EEA's board reviews the financial condition of the cooperative and authorizes capital credit retirement payments to member-owners when possible.

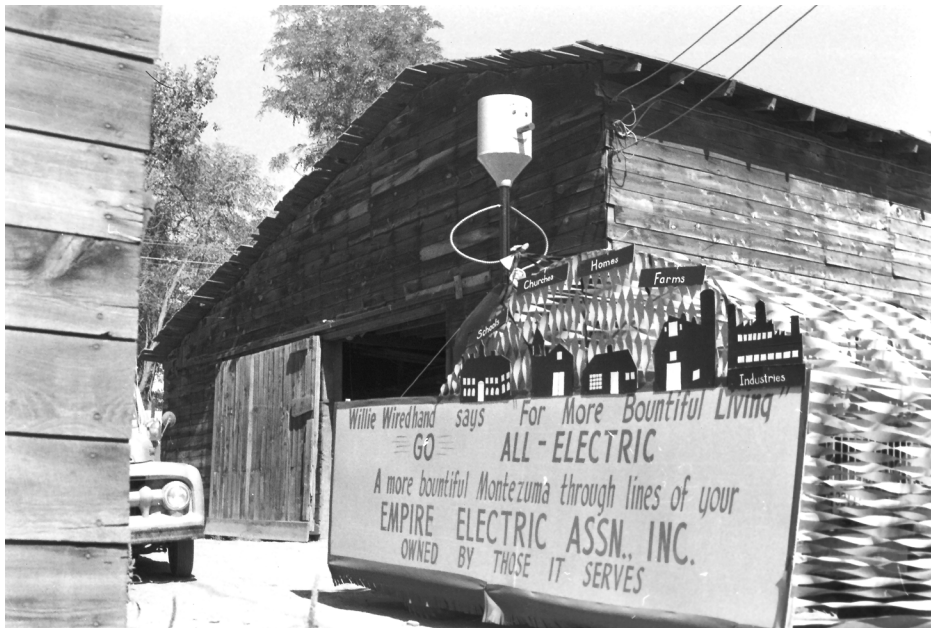
EEA also supports our community through a scholarship program that provides up to 45 scholarships of \$1,000 each for member-owners or dependents pursuing a degree at an accredited college.

The cooperative also offers scholarships for lineworker training and other electric cooperative related trades.

The electric industry is undergoing a transformation today to support increasing demand for data processing, transportation, and beneficial electrification. EEA is committed to providing excellent service to our members like we have for the past 85 years. We will remain focused on safely, responsibly, and reliably meeting your electrical energy needs. We value our partnership

and the trust you have placed in us, and we look forward to serving you well into the future.

¹Electrifying Rural America, Tim Sablik, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond



▲ A 1940s parade float spreads the good news of rural electrification in southwestern Colorado. Photos courtesy of EEA archives.

TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

Get set for online safety.



Setting up Two-Factor Authentication is Easy!

Start by logging into SmartHub and going to SETTINGS > Two-Factor Authentication in the lefthand menu and select "Enable Two-Factor Authentication".

Choose your preferred method for receiving an authentication code.



Email



Text



One-time code generator app

Reply with the confirmation code sent to complete setup. You will be prompted for an authentication code the next time you log in.

For more information go to eea.coop/smarthub-tips

Monthly Calendar & Co-op Photo Contest Winner



October 8 – Utah Rural Electric Cooperative Association Day of Service. EEA will host a refrigerator and freezer recycling event in Monticello. Please see ad on page 7.

October 11 – EEA's board meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. at its headquarters in Cortez. The agenda is posted 10 days in advance of the meeting at eea.coop. Members may attend in person or remotely. Instructions to attend remotely are included on the agenda.

October 31 – EEA Member Appreciation Day! Stop by for snacks and giveaways at 810 N. Broadway.

◀ *Trail Through the Aspens* by Sarah Balfour

October is National Cooperative Month



Empire Electric Members are the most important part of our business!

Stop by our office on October 31 at 801 N Broadway in the Calvin Denton Room. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will have snacks and giveaways!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources such as lamps, computers, or TVs near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use, and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight, and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort, and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: energy.gov



NOTICE OF A CHANGE IN THE TARIFFS OF EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Empire Electric Association Board of Directors reviewed and updated EEA's Rules and Regulations at its August 9, 2024, meeting. The changes are primarily minor wording changes meant to add clarity to the document. No substantive changes to normal business practices were made. The updated Rules and Regulations went into effect on October 1, 2024. For any questions about the updated rules and regulations, please contact EEA at 970-565-4444 or toll free at 1-800-709-3726. Copies of tariffs and other governing documents are available on EEA's website at eea.coop. Tariffs and other governing documents are also on file at EEA's main office at 801 N. Broadway in Cortez and are available for inspection during regular business hours.



EEA Refrigerator & Freezer Recycling Event in Monticello, UT

San Juan County Fair Grounds
October 8 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

EEA employees will be there to greet you.



Bring your unit(s) to recycle to the San Juan County Fairgrounds, fill out a recycle form, and we will do the rest. (Two units per member per year allowed.) You will receive a \$15 credit per unit on your bill.

Must have an active EEA account.



Cybersecurity Tips

The average household with internet access owns about 17 connected devices. That figure covers a wide range of electronics including smartphones, computers, streaming devices, smart speakers, home assistants, and more. Given our increasing reliance on internet-connected technologies, the likelihood of new cyber threats is ever-present.

Empire Electric Association is committed to ensuring our information systems are safe and secure. We routinely monitor and manage cyber risks and evaluate the latest advancements in cybersecurity measures to ensure your information remains safe. But you can help, too. When we all work together to stay safe online, we lower the risk of cyber threats to our systems, online accounts, and sensitive data.

October is National Cybersecurity Month, and while good cyber hygiene should be practiced year-round, we'd like to share a few cybersecurity tips to help you bolster your online safety.

- Learn how to spot and report phishing attempts. Phishing occurs when criminals use phony emails, direct messages, or other types of digital communications that lure you to click a bad link or download a malicious attachment. If you receive a suspicious email or message that includes urgent language, offers that seem too good to be true, generic greetings, poor grammar, or an unusual sender address, it could be a phishing attempt. If you spot one, report it as soon as possible to the

Federal Trade Commission's Anti-Phishing Working Group at reportphishing@fpwg.org. Also, don't forget to block the sender.

- Create strong, unique passwords. When it comes to passwords, remember that length is more important than complexity. Strong passwords contain at least 16 characters and include a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols. Create unique passwords for each online account you manage and use phrases you can easily remember. Also remember to change the default passwords on all internet-connected devices like routers, security cameras, internet connected appliances, or printers.
- Enable multi-factor authentication when available. Multi-factor authentication (also known as two-factor authentication) adds an extra layer of security to your online accounts. These extra security steps can include facial recognition, fingerprint access, or one-time codes sent to your email or phone. EEA offers MFA for SmartHub and we recommend you use it.
- Update software regularly. Software and internet-connected devices, including personal computers, smartphones, and tablets, should always be current on updates to reduce the risk of infection from ransomware and malware. When possible, configure devices to automatically update or notify you when an update is available.

Let's all do our part to stay cyber smart and create a safer digital world for all. Visit www.staysafeonline.org to learn about additional cybersecurity tips.

