

## May 2020

News about your community and cooperative

## VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 6, 2020 | 9:15 AM

Watch the mail for your director voting ballot in mid-May, which will include annual meeting details.

# WHY WE'RE DOING A VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING THIS YEAR

Your Board of Directors and I have decided to not hold our June 6 annual meeting in person this year. Instead, due to COVID-19 concerns about safety, we are using a virtual format.

Our annual meeting typically attracts 800 people. Due to uncertainty around public gatherings, we decided the safer decision for our members is to hold a virtual meeting. This was a very difficult decision and was not something we wanted to do.

We're hopeful that by June all of the social and event restrictions will be lifted. However, due to magazine printing deadlines and annual meeting notification requirements, we had to decide in late March what to do with our June annual meeting. We hope our members understand this call.

### Director elections & prizes are still a go

All members will still receive a ballot in mid-May for the board of directors elections. **Included with the ballot will be detailed instructions on how to participate in the virtual meeting.** Cash prizes will be awarded.

Because voting is done ahead of time by mail and online, no election business is conducted at our annual meeting anyway. However, it is a great opportunity for members to be informed about their cooperative, hear



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what projects we're planning for, and for managers and directors to hear YOUR questions and concerns. We'll still provide a co-op update during the virtual meeting, and we hope to allow members to submit questions.

Please watch for your ballot in mid-May and plan to attend this year's annual meeting virtually from the comfort of your home. If you have questions, don't hesitate to call us.

Watch the mail mid-May for your voting ballot!

06029 County Read 33A P.O. Box 10	U.S. POSTAGE DAS
St. Marys, OH 45885	
MPORTANT BALLOT ENCLOSED	
	Important Dated Material



## Looking for remote payment options?

Manage your account online with SmartHub (\*\*and see our new incentives)

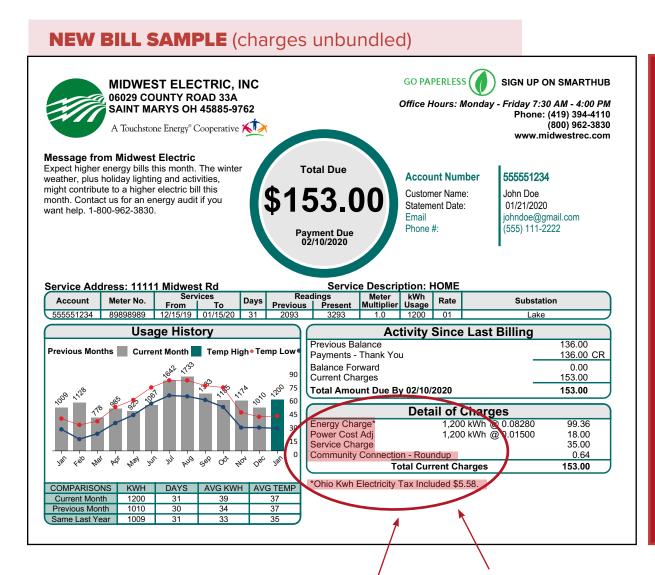
We urge members to learn how to manage their electric accounts from home via SmartHub, our online system that allows you to pay bills, monitor your daily electric use, sign up for outage texts and alerts, and more. There's also a free mobile app so you can access your information 24/7/365 from anywhere. Learn more at www.midwestrec.com under the "My Home" tab.

\*\*Through June 1, we are increasing our auto pay/paperless sign-up incentives! Call us for details on how to confirm your sign-up through SmartHub.

### Pay by phone (800-962-3830), mail, or drop box outside our office.

## Your electric bill got a revamp!

We broke out charges and added new features to make reading your bill easier



None of these things are new charges or increases; it's the same charges you've been paying since Aug. 2010.

- ENERGY CHARGE: This shows the number of kilowatt-hours (kWh) you used during this billing period (typically 30 days), times our electric rate. You can lower this charge through energy efficiency measures, including our energy audits.
- **POWER COST ADJUSTMENT:** This is not directly a Midwest Electric charge, but reflects changes in the cost we have to pay for the generation and transmission of electricity. Items paid by the Power Cost Adjustment include the cost of fuels to generate electricity; high voltage transmission to move the electricity from the generating plant to our local substation; and peak demand costs when electric use is high for all members. You can lower this charge through energy efficiency measures, including our energy audits. You can also help by joining our load management program.
- SERVICE CHARGE: This is a flat monthly charge to pay the fixed costs of an electric distribution system, including poles,

wires, substations, transformers, meters, tree trimming, pole testing, interest, depreciation, as well as the cost of repairs, maintenance, and upgrades. The Service Charge helps pay for electric reliability investments.

PLEASE

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This is

**NOT** an

increase.

Our rates have

not changed —

just the look of

your monthly

electric bill.

- COMMUNITY CONNECTION FUND: 88% of Midwest Electric members round up their electric bill to the next highest dollar, with those pennies going to our Community Connection Fund. Since 1998, more than \$1.1 million has been raised and ALL OF THOSE FUNDS have been donated to local charitable causes such as fire departments, food pantries, libraries, playgrounds, and more. NO administrative fees are taken. A separate board of Midwest Electric members reviews applications and makes fund decisions.
- OHIO KWH ELECTRIC TAX: This is levied by the State of Ohio. It averages around \$0.004 per kWh. We simply collect it from you and pass it all on to Columbus.

#### Have questions? Call us at 800-962-3830.