

THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

Volume 39 • Issue 2

SAWNEE EMC ANNOUNCES \$10 Million Retirement of Patronage Capital

Sawnee EMC will soon be refunding approximately \$10 million to approximately 109,241 active and former Sawnee members through a general retirement of patronage capital. These funds will be refunded to all members, both residential and commercial, who received electric service from Sawnee at any time during 2001 and/or 2002.

As outlined in Sawnee's Bylaws, patronage capital is a member's allocation of the revenue in excess of operating costs and expenses in a given year; those funds are assigned to each member of record for that particular year based on the amount of revenue (money) they provided the cooperative by paying their electric bills.



Active Sawnee members, who received service during 2001 and/or 2002, will receive their patronage capital retirement in the form of a "credit" on their March 2019 electric bill. Active members recently received a letter, which provided details about this general retirement; including the amount of their refund, as well as a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Former members who no longer have an active account with Sawnee EMC, but have a valid forwarding address on file, will be mailed a check to their last known address on or around April 1, 2019. It is important for former members to notify Sawnee of their current mailing address when they no longer receive electric service from Sawnee. This helps to ensure that these members receive any future patronage capital retirements, once they are approved to occur.

Continued on page 3

CONTACT US

Web Address & Email:

www.sawnee.com

customerservice@sawnee.com

Business Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Physical Address:

543 Atlanta Highway
Cumming, GA 30040

Customer Call Center:

Mon. - Fri. 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sat. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Phone: (770) 887-2363

Fax: (678) 947-3368

Text: (678) 999-8124

TDD: (770) 781-4271



QUOTABLE QUOTE

**Success is how high you
bounce when you hit
bottom. "**

— George S. Patton

*This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

Announcing 2019 Residential ENERGY REBATES

Anytime is a good time to get more energy efficient, but it is even better when you can receive a Sawnee EMC rebate to help pay for it. Below is information about the eligible energy rebate programs available to residential accounts for 2019.

- **INSULATION UPGRADE:** Increase your attic insulation to a level of R-49 or greater and receive ½ of the cost, up to \$200. The home must be at least five (5) years old to qualify.
- **SECOND REFRIGERATOR / FREEZER TURN IN:** Replace your second refrigerator or freezer, which must be in working order and at least 10 years old, with an Energy Star model and receive a rebate of \$30, plus "free" removal of the old unit. This rebate does not apply to the replacement of the main kitchen refrigerator.
- **ELECTRIC HYBRID WATER HEATER:** Replace an existing water heater with a new hybrid heat pump water heater and receive a \$100 rebate.
- **NEW HVAC UNIT:** Replace an existing HVAC unit with a new 17 SEER unit. Please note, the yellow ENERGY GUIDE label located on the outdoor unit must clearly state 17 SEER or greater. Recipients must also agree to participate in Sawnee's Load Management program in order to receive a rebate of \$50 per ton.
- **DUCT SEALING:** Receive a rebate of ½ of the cost, up to \$100, for sealing all accessible HVAC ductwork with mastic. Visit Sawnee's Energy Center (www.sawnee.com/rebates) for full details.
- **HVAC TUNE UP:** Receive a rebate of ½ of the cost, up to \$20, for each HVAC unit, when you have a "tune up" performed by a licensed HVAC technician. Tune ups for "gas furnace only" units do not qualify.
- **VARIABLE SPEED POOL PUMP:** Replace a conventional swimming pool pump with a variable speed pump and receive ½ of the cost, up to \$100 per pump.

Are you a commercial Sawnee EMC member? If so, please be sure to visit us online at www.sawnee.com for a list of rebates that your business may be eligible for.

Questions? Contact a member of Sawnee EMC's Energy Services staff at 770-887-2363 or via email at marketing@sawnee.com if you have any questions about rebate eligibility.



Please note...

These rebates only apply for work completed in 2019. Be sure to visit www.sawnee.com/rebates for additional information and limitations on the 2019 energy related rebates and incentives.



**"Highest in
Customer
Satisfaction
Among
Cooperatives"**

—J.D. Power

For J.D. Power
2018 award information,
visit jdpower.com/awards.

PATRONAGE CAPITAL

continued from page 1

In addition to the general retirement of patronage capital, Sawnee EMC also retires patronage capital to the estates of deceased members. In the past 12 months, approximately 386 such retirements were made, totaling approximately \$411,746. If you know of someone who is deceased, and they once were a Sawnee EMC member, please remind the executor of their estate to contact our Customer Service Center at (770) 887-2363, by text at (678) 999-8124, or via email at customerservice@sawnee.com to learn how they can apply for this patronage capital.

Sawnee is committed to supporting the principles that make the “cooperative” business model a success. Over the previous five (5) years, Sawnee has retired over \$49.6 million to active and former members through general retirements of patronage capital.

If you have any questions about this patronage capital retirement, please contact our Customer Service Department at (770) 887-2363 or via email at customerservice@sawnee.com.

CHANGES IN WEATHER WILL CHANGE ENERGY BILLS

No one ever likes to receive a high energy bill. However, the fact is, the weather affects energy usage more than anything else...especially during the cold winter months for those that heat with electricity. Given this, some Sawnee EMC members could experience higher than normal electric bills in the coming winter months.

As winter progresses, keep in mind that on very cold days, your heating system must operate longer to keep it warm inside. Due to its direct correlation, cold weather can cause an increase in your electricity usage. The staff of Sawnee EMC wants you to be aware of steps you can take now to be energy efficient as temperatures get colder outside.

- **Lower the thermostat:** Set your thermostat as low as possible while remaining comfortable in your home. Energy experts recommend a temperature setting of 68 degrees in the winter. In general, you can reduce your heating costs by 2 percent for every degree you lower the thermostat.
- **Don't heat an empty space:** Take advantage of times when your home or business are unoccupied. Set the thermostat lower than normal during those times.
- **View your energy usage:** It's a free, online resource created specifically for you. View your daily and hourly energy usage at www.sawnee.com. Simply log in to SmartHub to view your energy usage data and start taking a closer look at when you are using the most electricity. Also, pay attention to the temperature for the day – you will likely see that you use more electricity when the weather is the coldest. Use this data to develop an energy efficiency plan for both winter and summer.
- **Need information on the go?** Download the free Sawnee EMC app today – simply search “Sawnee EMC” on Google Play or the Apple App Store.
- **Visit the Energy Center:** Online and easy to access, Sawnee EMC's Energy Center at www.sawnee.com/energy provides energy saving tips, energy calculators and energy saving videos that can help you gain a greater understanding of your electricity usage. There is a great deal of information at the Energy Center and we hope you will check it out soon.

Questions? Contact a member of Sawnee EMC's Energy Services Department at 770-887-2363 or via email at marketing@sawnee.com.

LOAD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM Makes “Cents”



Would you like to get paid for helping Sawnee EMC reduce peak energy demand? The only thing you have to do is say “Yes” and we will do the rest. It is that easy. Simply allow Sawnee to connect a Load Management switch to your outside AC unit. When you participate in Load Management, you will receive bill credits equaling \$36 per year, per connected AC unit.*

What is the Load Management Program?

It helps Sawnee EMC manage the load on its electrical distribution system during times of peak demand; normally on the hottest summer afternoons. Historically, we operate the load management switches about fifteen (15) days per year.

How does the switch work?

The switch works on a radio signal. Sawnee will activate the program on days when the demand for electricity is extremely high. We transmit a signal to cycle the AC unit off for a period of approximately 7 minutes. The fan will continue to run to maintain the temperature in the home

– the majority of participants tell us that they never even know when we activate the switch.

Smart Savers program will return in 2019

In the coming months, Sawnee will, again, open its Smart Saver program for new enrollment. The Smart Savers Program helps reduce energy usage during times of peak energy demand; it has the same goal as the existing Load Management program. However, with the Smart Savers program, there is no need for a physical “switch” to be connected to your outside AC unit...your smart thermostat acts as the switch. You can learn more about this program at www.sawnee.com/smartsavers.

Call today and request a load management switch to be installed on your AC unit(s). Contact one of our helpful Customer Service Representatives at (770) 887-2363, text 678-999-8124 or email at customerservice@sawnee.com to request your switch. *Program not available to apartments.

Here's WATTS Cookin' Simple Fish Tacos

Ingredients:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <i>½ cup fresh cilantro, chopped</i> | <i>2 cups tomato, diced</i> |
| <i>½ pkg. low sodium taco seasoning</i> | <i>2 cups red cabbage, shredded</i> |
| <i>1 lb. cod or white fish fillets, cut into 1 inch pieces</i> | <i>12 (6 inch) corn tortillas, warmed</i> |
| <i>1 tbsp. olive oil</i> | <i>Lime wedges for serving</i> |
| <i>2 tbsp. lemon juice</i> | <i>Dash of salt</i> |

Instructions:

In medium bowl, combine fish, oil, lemon juice and taco seasoning mix. Pour into large skillet. Cook, stirring constantly, over medium-high heat for 4 to 5 minutes or until cod flakes easily when tested with a fork. Fill tortillas with fish mixture. Top with cabbage, tomato and cilantro. Squeeze lime on top and add a dash of salt, if desired.



👉 Thanks to Anna Duncan for the recipe! Do you have a recipe to share with us? If we print it, we'll credit your account \$5.00. Send your favorite recipe to marketing@sawnee.com.