

THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

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Sawnee EMC Announces \$10 Million Patronage Capital Retirement

Sawnee EMC will soon be retiring approximately \$10 million to over 95,000 active and former members through a general retirement of patronage capital. This patronage capital retirement will be provided to both residential and commercial customers who received electric service from Sawnee EMC during the years 1998 and/or 1999.

As outlined in Sawnee EMC's Bylaws, patronage capital is an allocation of the revenue received in excess of operating costs and expenses in a given year; and it is assigned to each member of record for that year.

Current members of Sawnee EMC, who received service at any time during these years, will receive their allocated portion of the general patronage capital retirement in the form of a "credit" on their March 2016 electric bill. Current members will also receive a letter which provides details about this 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, and have a valid forwarding address, will be mailed a check, less any amount they may currently owe, to their last known address on or around April 1, 2016.

It is important that former members notify Sawnee EMC of their new mailing address when they are discontinuing electric service. This helps to ensure that these members receive any future patronage capital retirements.

**SAWNEE EMC
IS COMMITTED
TO SUPPORTING THE
PRINCIPLES THAT MAKE
THE "COOPERATIVE"
BUSINESS STRUCTURE
A SUCCESS.**

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

Postal Address:

P.O. Box 266
Cumming, GA 30028

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

TDD: (770) 781-4271

Toll Free: (800) 635-9131



QUOTABLE QUOTE

To be prepared is half the victory."

~ Miguel de Cervantes

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Patronage Capital, cont.

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 430 such retirements were made, totaling almost \$438,000. If you know of someone who is recently deceased and was at one time a member of Sawnee EMC, please remind the executor of their estate to contact our Customer Service Center at (770) 887-2363 or via email at customerservice@sawnee.com to learn more about this process.

Sawnee EMC is committed to supporting the principles that make the “cooperative” business structure a success. Over the previous five (5) years, Sawnee EMC has retired over \$34 million to 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.

• SAY YES TO THE SWITCH

It has never been easier for you to help reduce peak energy demand and get paid for doing so. The only thing you have to do is say “Yes to the Switch” and we will do the rest. It really is that easy. Simply allow Sawnee to install a Load Management Switch on your outside AC unit. When you participate in our Load Management Program, you will receive bill credits of \$36 per year, for each switch.

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 average activating the Load Management switches about fifteen (15) times each summer.

How does the switch work?

The switch works on a radio signal. Sawnee will initiate the program on days when the demand for electricity is high. We transmit a radio signal from our office to turn off the AC unit for approximately 7 minutes out of every half hour (generally from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm). The fan will continue to run inside your home to help maintain the temperature – the majority of participants tell us that they never even know when we activate the switch. We currently have over 43,000 participants in the program.

Load Management helps all members.

Keeping your home or business comfortable during the summer uses a lot of electricity. Much of this electricity is

consumed during the afternoon, which is when we experience “peak demand”. As peak demand increases, more generation facilities must be operated to keep up. And just like any other item... higher demand generally equals higher costs. By conserving energy and helping to control our peak demand, you can help keep electricity rates as low as possible.

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 or online at www.sawnee.com/switch to request your switch.



Load management switches can be installed on most AC units, however, there are limitations and restrictions to the program. Additionally, the member must own the AC unit(s).



Announcing... 2016 RESIDENTIAL ENERGY REBATES

Anytime is a good time to make your home more energy efficient, but it's even better when you can receive a Sawnee EMC rebate* to help pay for it. Here are the residential energy rebate programs available to Sawnee's members for 2016.

- **Insulation Upgrade:** Increase your attic insulation to at least an R-49 and receive $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cost, up to \$200. The home must be at least five (5) years old.
- **Second Refrigerator / Freezer Turn In:** Replace your spare refrigerator or freezer, which must be in working condition 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 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 to receive rebate.
- **Duct Sealing:** Receive a rebate of $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cost, up to \$20 for each outdoor condensing unit, when you have a "tune up" performed by a licensed HVAC technician. Tune ups for "gas furnace only" do not qualify.
- **Program-It:** Sawnee EMC will pay a one-time incentive of \$5 per thermostat for submitting proof of programming a HVAC thermostat to ENERGY STAR guidelines. Visit www.sawnee.com/programit for instructions and details on how to upload your thermostat images.
- **Variable Speed Pool Pump:** Replace a single-speed swimming pool pump with a variable speed pool pump and receive $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cost, up to \$100 per pump.

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

*The rebates contained herein only apply for work completed in 2016.
Please be sure to visit www.sawnee.com/rebates for additional restrictions and limitations
on our 2016 energy related rebates and incentives.*



Are you a
commercial 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.

Easy Ways to *SLASH* Energy Costs

Sealing leaks and insulating can save you energy and money. Sawnee's in-house energy experts would suggest these quick and easy ways to help you detect and deal with pesky air leaks in your home.

DETECT LEAKS - TWO EASY TESTS

- **Try the incense test.** Turn off the furnace and water heater; turn on exhaust fans. Hold a lit incense stick by windows and exterior outlets. If the smoke blows sideways, you likely have an air leak that needs to be addressed.
- **Light test.** At night, shine a flashlight on door and window frames; if the person on the other side sees light, you may have an air leak that needs to be addressed.



DEAL WITH DRAFTS - HERE'S HOW

- **Caulk.** It's best for openings less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide. Make sure to buy caulk for the specific job (i.e. for windows and doors; purchase a caulk that's long lasting and made for outdoor use).
- **Spray foam.** Best for cracks between $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and 3 inches. Buy one that fits the job and be sure to do a practice run by dispensing it onto newspaper first.
- **Insulation.** If the insulation in your attic doesn't reach the top of the floor joists, you may need additional to help trap heat. Plus, we have a rebate to help you with the cost.

Questions? Contact one of our energy professionals today at 770-887-2363 or via email at marketing@sawnee.com.

Here's WATTS Cookin'

Warm Spinach Dip

Ingredients:

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped onions
- 2 tomatoes, chopped (about 2 cups)
- 1 (10 oz.) pkg. frozen spinach, thawed

1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese

- 2 cups Monterey Jack cheese, shredded
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup half and half

Instructions:

Mix all ingredients thoroughly in a medium bowl and pour into a greased oven-proof dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until bubbly on top. Serve warm with pita chips or soft tortilla chips.



Thanks to Baileigh Allen 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.