

Time to Give Back



MARK ROLLANS
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

The holiday season is a time of giving. In fact, isn't giving to others what the holiday season is essentially about?

This has been a tough year for many people. More and more individuals are finding the need to ask for help when they never would have expected to before.

We all give back in different ways.

From donating canned goods to a local shelter, to volunteering, to giving away gently used

clothes or toys, everyone has the opportunity to help during the holidays.

I would like to encourage you to spread that giving spirit throughout the year through Medina EC's Operation Round Up® program.

Co-ops believe in the enormous power of people working together and that's what this program is about. With this program, you agree to have your electric bill rounded up to the nearest whole dollar and the difference going into a trust.

Operation Round Up is completely voluntary and every cent is given back to individuals, families and organizations in need within the communities we serve.

Each member donates an average of \$6 a year and the donation to the fund is automatic. Discover more about the Operation Round Up program, and who has been recently helped, on page 24.

This has been a challenging year for everyone. Your cooperative has kept the promise to keep your lights on, but our business is evolving rapidly as we can continue to meet your needs.

Going forward into the future, we face interesting responsibilities including government regulation and growth in our service territory. No matter what happens, know that we will continue to work diligently to keep you informed.

On behalf of every Medina EC employee, I would like to wish you a happy, safe and joyous holiday season!

Until next year,
Mark Rollans
CEO

CONTACT US

Call

1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532)

Online

www.MedinaEC.org

www.facebook.com/MedinaEC

twitter.com/#!/MedinaECTalks

E-mail

Info@MedinaEC.org

Mail

General Office

PO Box 370, Hondo 78861

District Offices

Hondo - District 1

PO Box 69, Hondo 78861

Dilley - District 2

PO Box 49, Dilley 78017

Rio Grande City - District 3

PO Box 496, Rio Grande City 78582

Uvalde - District 4

PO Box 1810, Uvalde 78802

Brumi - District 5

PO Box 88, Brumi 78344

Board of Directors

District 1

Larry Huesser 830-363-7651

Richard Southoff 830-426-3230

Glenn Schweers 830-741-3250

District 2

Jimmie Raines 830-591-8437

Chris Surles 830-965-5538

Kenneth White 830-232-6541

District 3

Cesar Gonzalez 956-487-3060

Albert Lowry 956-717-0115

Annette Sorrells 361-527-5172

CEO

Mark Rollans 1-866-MEC-ELEC
(632-3532), ext. 1045

Co-ops Give Back to Members

Capital credits are just one of the many benefits you receive as a member of a cooperative.

A crucial point to remember is that all electric cooperatives, including Medina EC, are not-for-profit organizations, formed under the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). The REA, now called the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), made sure all electric cooperatives were responsible for giving back to their member/owners, which is part of the Cooperative Business Model.

While investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their shareholders, electric co-ops operate on an at-cost basis.

So instead of returning leftover funds to individuals who might not live in the same region or even the same state as you do, Medina EC allocates and periodically retires capital credits based on how much electricity you purchased during a year.

WHAT ARE CAPITAL CREDITS?

Capital credits are funds collected above the cost of operation, known as margins, and are annually assigned to the member or members.

Electric cooperatives set rates to generate enough money to pay operating costs, make payments on any loans and provide an emergency reserve. At the end of each year, your co-op subtracts operating expenses from the operating revenue collected during the year. The balance is the operating margin.

Electric co-ops operate on an at-cost basis by annually allocating the excess revenue (capital credits) to each member at the end of the year, based upon the member's purchase of electricity.

Capital credits reflect each member's ownership in, and contribution of capital to, the cooperative.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO RETIRE CAPITAL CREDITS?

Retiring capital credits means giving the earned capital credit funds back to individual members.

Those Medina EC members that are still active will see a credit of the capital credits on their Medina EC bill, typically in January or February.

Capital credit holders that are no longer active members will receive a check if the returned amount is at least \$5. All members, current and former, need to keep their address up-to-date with Medina EC to continue receiving allocation statements and future refunds.

Last year, the board elected to retire \$750,000 in capital credits. To date, Medina EC has returned approximately \$18,750,000 in capital credits.

HOW OFTEN ARE CAPITAL CREDITS RETIRED?

Each year in December, the member-elected Medina EC Board of Directors decides whether or not to retire capital credits and, if so, in what amount based on the financial health of the cooperative. When the cooperative is strong enough financially with sufficient equity, the board directs staff to retire some portion of past years' capital credits.

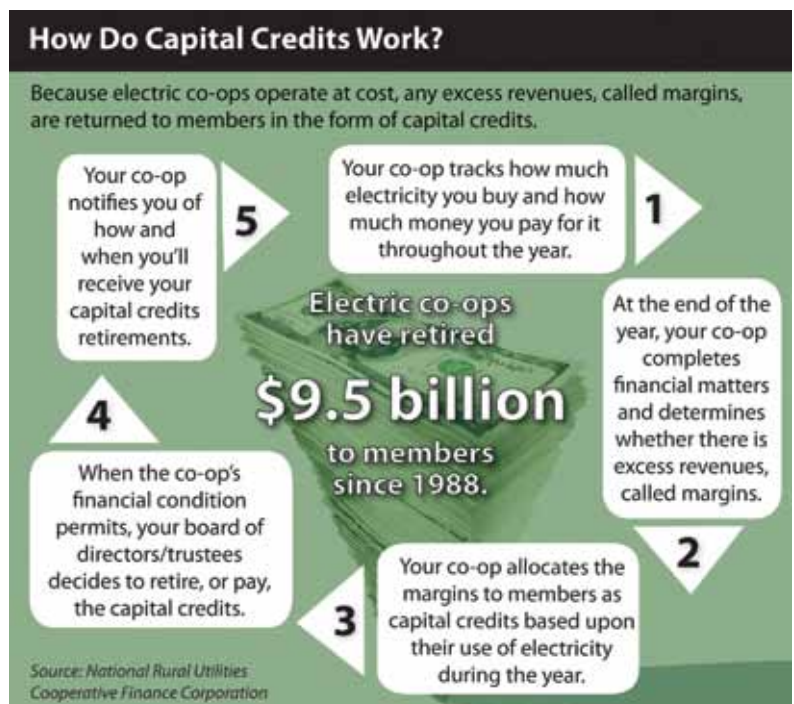
A certain level of equity is needed to maintain the co-op's financial security. The amount of equity acts similar to a credit score, for example enabling Medina EC to obtain favorable loan rates (therefore keeping operating costs down).

During some years, the co-op may experience severe storms resulting in the need to spend additional funds to repair lines. These and other events might increase costs and decrease member equity.

WHEN DO I GET MY CAPITAL CREDITS?

Each year an allocation statement is mailed to members, informing them of their capital credit equity in the co-op. These credits stay on file at Medina EC until the amount is available to be returned to members.

Capital credits are currently returned to Medina EC members with a first in, first out method. Your co-op has retired all capital credits from 1938 through 1987. For more information regarding capital credits, please visit www.MedinaEC.org or call 1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532).





SAVING WITH CO-OP CONNECTIONS®

Saving Money on the Holidays

Let the Co-op Connections card save you money this holiday season!

Whether traveling, shopping, eating out or getting ready for company, your Co-op Connections card can help trim your holiday spending while you're trimming the tree.

The best thing about this program is it's free for every Medina EC member, all you have to do is show your card to get the discount!

For full details on special co-op deals throughout Medina EC's service territory visit www.MedinaEC.org.

You can also look for locations where the Co-op Connections card decal is displayed in local retailers' windows.

This discount card can score you deals in more areas than just south Texas.

Currently, there are 380 co-ops in 45 states participating in the program. Your Medina EC Co-op Connections card is accepted anywhere in the nation where a discount is offered through this program.

There are more than 21,000 local and national business offerings available to card holders. Visit www.Connections.coop to see the full listing of the national businesses offering discounts.

Check out a few of the great places that offer you a discount, just by being a member of Medina EC!

SHOPPING



Co-op Connections offers discounts at various local and nationwide retailers to help with holiday shopping, like Milton's Jewelry & Gifts in Uvalde.

MT&N Flowers and Gifts by Rita
Pearsall (830)334-8303
10% discount off purchase of over \$40.00 or more

Milton's Jewelry & Gifts
Uvalde (830) 278-7777
10% off regular priced gift items & 20% off regular priced jewelry

Ranch Equip & Hardware, Inc.
Cotulla (830) 879-2223
5% discount on all cash purchases (except sale, feed & fencing items; 10% discount on paint)

The Owl's Nest
Hondo, (830) 426-8854
10% off all merchandise

Lone Star Kawasaki
Hondo (830) 426-3701
10% discount on parts or service work

Creations by Flowers
Hebbronville (361) 527-4884
\$5.00 off on orders of \$35.00 or more

Rio Grande Farm & Ranch
Rio Grande City
(956) 716-8236
10% off merchandise items

**Uvalde Furniture;
Uvalde TV & Appliance**
Uvalde (830) 278-8009
10% off regular priced items



Don't forget the farmer or rancher on your list! Several feed and hardware stores offer Co-op Connections discounts, like Ranch Equip & Hardware, Inc. in Cotulla (above) and Rio Grande Farm & Ranch in Rio Grande City (below).





TRAVEL

Happy Tails Kennel
Hondo (210) 385-4752
10% off stays of three days or more

Seco Secrets
D'Hanis (830) 363-7611
10% off lodging rates

Hondo Executive Inn
Hondo (830) 426-2535
10% discount on posted rates (Must ask for discount before check-in)

Lytle Veterinary Clinic, Inc.
Lytle (830) 772-3674
10% discount on boarding services; 10% discount on canine or feline spay/neuter service



If you're traveling, the Co-op Connections card can save you money on lodging or boarding fees, like Happy Tails Kennel in Hondo.

DINING OUT



Country Kitchen
Hebbronville (361) 527-3141
15% off

R & R Bar-B-Que
Castroville (830) 931-2690
1st plate reg price, 2nd 1/2 price

Brush Country Steakhouse
Pearsall (830) 334-4676
Buy one chicken fried steak regular price - second chicken fried steak is half price

Country Kitchen in Hebbronville is just one of the many restaurants where you get a Co-op Connections discount!

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

COMET CLEANERS
Rio Grande City, (956) 487-1488
Dry clean three & get the 4th one free of the same value or less

Hebbronville Machine Shop
Hebbronville (361) 527-4461
5% discount after \$500.00 or more on labor on each invoice

S.T.P. Enterprises
Pearsall (830) 334-5772; (210) 724-8920
5% off on all portable buildings

www.MedinaEC.org

Happy Holidays from your cooperative!



Our offices will be closed Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2 in observance of the holidays.

Staff will be on-call to handle outages and emergencies!

Make a Difference Every Month

With an annual donation that averages less than a fast food meal, you can make a difference in the community by enrolling in the Operation Round Up® program!

In this program, Cooperative members voluntarily sign-up to have their monthly utility bills rounded up to the next whole dollar, with the rounded up amount going to the Operation Round Up fund.

For example, if a member's monthly bill is \$45.49, it would be "rounded up" to \$46.00, with the additional 51 cents going to the Operation Round Up fund. On average, Operation Round Up participants donate \$6 per year to the program. Members can opt into the program at any time by simply filling out the form on the next page or in your bill and submitting it to the co-op.

Just think, if even half of our membership decided to get involved, an average of \$48,000 a year could go to worthwhile causes and those in need of assistance in our community!

Monetary awards are decided by a nine-member trust committee, representing Medina EC's three voting districts. Individuals, families and organizations throughout our service area are all eligible to apply for Operation Round Up funds.

These funds are never used to pay a member's electric bill. Since its inception in 2006, the Medina EC Operation Round Up Trust has given close to \$28,000 back to our community.

Those in need are encouraged to apply for a donation by the next application deadline on Friday, February 3, 2012. For more information, including the application, please visit www.MedinaEC.org or call 1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532).



William Teer (center) received \$500 from the Operation Round Up Committee so that he could purchase a much needed, but expensive, seat raise for his wheelchair. Committee members Christine McCoy (left) and Steve Hackebiel (right) presented the funds to Teer.

Operation Round Up Committee Members Dick Peterson (back row) presented a \$500 check to Gary and Carolyn Curry. Gary Curry was severely injured in a motorcycle accident on his way to Hondo to volunteer with Kairos Prison Ministry.



Mary Helen Hurtado (center) received \$500 from Operation Round Up to help pay for a wheelchair and necessary health care supplies. Also shown with a smiling Hurtado is her primary caregiver Patricia Solis (left). Operation Round Up Committee members Christine McCoy and Steve Hackebiel presented the check.



Ramon Valles (left) was awarded \$500 from the Operation Round Up Committee in order to help with high medical bills. Ramon received the check from Medina EC Member Service Representative Theresa Rivera.



Sign Up Today!



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Operation Round Up®

Your Pennies Make A Difference!

When you join Operation Round Up®, your monthly electric bill will be “rounded up” to the nearest dollar. The difference combined with other members’ contributions results in donations to many worthy local causes. Sign up by bringing this form to any Medina EC district office or mail it to: **PO Box 370, Hondo, Texas 78861.**

Name: _____ Phone#: _____

Account#: _____ Signature: _____

Please specify the meters #s you want to include: _____ All

At a glance...

Don't miss out on everything your cooperative has to offer throughout the next year! Here are a few things you can look forward to over the next few months:

January

1st- Scholarship applications available online at www.MedinaEC.org

Irrigator's Meeting from 9-11 a.m. on the:

10th at the Lion's Club Civic Center in Dilley, Texas

11th- First State Bank of Uvalde in Uvalde, Texas

12th- Hermann Son's Hall in Hondo, Texas

20th- Youth Tour applications must be postmarked

February

3rd- Operation Round Up applications for assistance are due

21st, 22nd & 23rd- Nominating Meetings for the 2012 Board of Directors election (exact locations and times to be announced in January's Texas Co-op Power)

March

2nd- Scholarship applications must be postmarked



Need help keeping all the dates straight? Stop by your local Medina EC district office to receive your FREE 2012 Medina EC Calendar.