$3 million capital credit retirement set for June

Capital credit retirements make me happy to work at a cooperative. It’s a time when all of us can celebrate the cooperative difference.

In June, Kenergy will return nearly $3 million to its membership.

That amount represents net margins allocated in 1986 (50 percent), 1987 (100 percent) and 1988 (75 percent). Active members will see a credit on their June bill statements. Checks amounting to $5 or more will be mailed to former members in June also.

You may ask: What is a capital credit retirement? Let me explain.

Electric cooperatives aren’t like other utilities. First, they operate on a not-for-profit basis, which means Kenergy operates at cost. It collects only enough revenue to run and expand the business but without the need to generate profits for distant shareholders.

You, as a member, own a portion of Kenergy. When Kenergy has money left over, it’s returned to you and other members in a capital credit retirement.

This year, we are returning margins earned between 1986 and 1988. Your share is figured by how much electricity you used during those years. If you were not a member during those years, you will not receive a credit on your bill.

I’m proud to say this is Kenergy’s fifth consecutive capital credit retirement. Since 2012, the cooperative has returned more than $13 million to its members and former members.

Right now, Kenergy’s staff is still calculating amounts to be paid to each eligible member. But, after you receive your June bill statement, feel free to call the co-op at 1.800.844.4832 if you have questions.

Regarding the estates of deceased members, capital credits are retired on a prorated basis upon the notification of death, so some deceased members’ estates already received their share of this year’s capital credit retirement.

In essence, cooperatives are businesses that pay you back. That’s rare. And it’s a great reason to celebrate being a cooperative employee and member.
‘There’s nothing better than helping somebody’

This is the last installment in a series about volunteer fire departments in Kenergy’s service area. This series is a tribute to all first responders and firefighters who protect us and make our communities stronger.

When April 10 rolls around, David Denton will celebrate without a lot of fanfare.

It’s not his birthday or wedding anniversary, but the date is important enough he can rattle it off in a heartbeat.

That day marks his 31st year as a volunteer with the Robards Community Fire Department. He was named chief in 2002.

His wife, daughter, son and son-in-law serve on the squad as well.

Denton, a toolmaker at GE Aviation in Madisonville, makes runs, enters stats in a national database, writes grants, and participates in required training sessions and department meetings. “… (Firefighting) has pretty much been another full-time job,” he said.

Denton, whose parents, grandparents and great-grandparents also lived in the Robards area, explained the fire department’s importance to this community. After a tornado ripped through Robards once, this all-volunteer squad manned the fire hall for five days straight during restoration efforts. During the Ice Storm of 2009, firefighters visited every household in their district to see if anyone needed assistance.

None of this counts more than 200 fire and medical calls annually.

‘… (Firefighting) has pretty much been another full-time job.’

— David Denton, Chief of Robards Community Fire Department

Donations from area residents peaked after terrorists destroyed the twin towers in New York City on 9/11. But time quickly erased the image of firefighters running to their deaths to save others. Now, only about 25 percent of area residents donate annually to the Robards Community Fire Department.

Funding the department remains a struggle, but recruiting is the bigger battle. “It’s hard to find young people who are willing to put in the required time to become certified and make calls,” Denton said. “Nothing against older volunteers like me, but this is a young person’s sport.”

Being able to run, lift and crawl while wearing heavy fire-retardant jackets, pants and boots is just the tip of the iceberg. Fire hoses, nozzles and the Jaws of Life are heavy, requiring a combination of muscle and know-how.

Two Kenergy employees — Brad Sugg, 21, and Jonathan Carrier, left, and Brad Sugg are Kenergy employees who volunteer for the Robards Community Fire Department. Service to community is an important cooperative principle.

The Robards Community Fire Department annually sends a letter requesting donations to residents who live in the area. Only about 25 percent respond with a gift, said Robards Fire Chief David Denton.
No donation is too small, explained Robards Fire Chief David Denton. To donate, send a check to: Robards Community Fire Department, 7984 State Route 416, Robards, KY 42452.

Volunteers for the Robards Community Fire Department are Matt Beck, left, Brad Sugg, Charlie Farmer, Lance Wayne (Assistant Chief), Terry Hailman, Wade Denton, Markeitha Denton, Kaye Adams, Junior Firefighter Laken Magyar, Kevin Adams, Marcus Beck, David Denton (Chief), Jonathan Carrier and Sarah Wayne. Not photographed are Dustin Goldsberry, Jeff Mayfield, William Powell and Dakota Lee.

Cocoa Float
By Doris Wathen, Kenergy Member Service Representative

Combine:
• 2 c flour
• 1 ½ c sugar
• 4 tsp baking powder
• 2 Tbsp cocoa

Add:
• 1 c milk
• 2 tsp vanilla
• 4 Tbsp melted butter

Mix all ingredients and pour them into a 9-by-13 pan.

Sauce:
• 2 c sugar
• 4 Tbsp cocoa
• 2 c hot water

Stir the sauce ingredients and pour them over the cake mixture. Bake the cake at 350 for 30 minutes or until it’s done.


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**New Co-op Connection Deals!**

- Lucky Dogs, Madisonville
- AAA Insulation, Whitesville

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Kenergy’s average monthly residential bill in 2015 was $132. That means members spent less than $5 a day for lighting, heating, cooling, cooking and a whole lot more. That’s the value of electricity.

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**CLEAN POWER PLAN RULING WELCOME NEWS**

**SUPREME COURT HALTS REGULATIONS WHILE LEGAL CHALLENGES CONTINUE**

Big Rivers Electric Corp., the generation & transmission cooperative owned by Kenergy and two other distribution cooperatives (Jackson Purchase Energy Corp. and Meade County RECC), is applauding a Supreme Court ruling on the Clean Power Plan. In a 5-4 vote announced earlier this month, the court agreed to temporarily halt the enforcement of federal climate change regulations until legal challenges are resolved.

The move is a major victory for Kentucky and 28 other states, plus a number of utilities and energy groups, who have filed appeals to stop the regulations. They believe the EPA’s Clean Power Plan oversteps the law and would be harmful to the affordability and reliability of electricity in the U.S.

The ruling is also welcome news to your power provider. Big Rivers is able to keep electricity rates low by using coal for nearly all of its power generation. Coal is a reliable fuel source readily available in our region, allowing us to significantly save on transportation costs.

The Clean Power Plan will have a substantial impact on coal generation due to its aggressive limits on carbon emissions. If the regulations were allowed to proceed, electric cooperatives, like Big Rivers, would be forced to make costly decisions on whether to retire power plants prematurely, undergo extensive renovations or switch to alternative fuel sources. Any of those changes would cause electricity rates to rise for Members and lead to a serious loss of good paying jobs in our community.

“The Supreme Court ruling to temporarily stop the regulations comes at a crucial moment,” said Big Rivers President and CEO, Bob Berry. “Without the stay, Big Rivers may have taken expensive and irreversible steps to meet the Clean Power Plan, only to have the rule overturned later in the legal process.”

Big Rivers will continue to work with lawmakers and our stakeholders to reduce or mitigate the negative impact this unnecessary regulation may have on your electricity cost.

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**METER READING and Reporting**

Your meter displays two screens. There’s a six-second time lapse between them.

Wait for the KWH screen. The numbers to the right represent your meter reading and should be recorded in the blocks on the payment stub just as they appear. The reading and date should be returned to the cooperative when paying your monthly bill.

Should you fail to submit a meter reading when paying your bill, you may report the reading online at kenergycorp.com by logging in under My Account or by calling the cooperative’s automated system 1.844.255.3679 and follow the phone prompts. Please have your account number ready.

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**$AVE!**

Every Degree = Dollars

Don’t let summer heat burn your budget. When home, set your thermostat to 78°.

Going out for the day?

By turning your thermostat up 10°–15° when you’re out of the house, you can cut your electric bill by up to 15 percent. That’s a savings of up to 1 percent for every degree you raise your thermostat (based on eight hours).

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**PLEASE NOTE**

Use this screen when reading your meter.