

[MCREA News]

Morgan County REA Returns \$2.5 Million to Members

It's time for you to get the credit — capital credits, that is — for helping build, sustain and grow your local electric cooperative. This year, Morgan County Rural Electric Association's board of directors has approved a patronage capital retirement of \$2.5 million to those who were members of the cooperative in the years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2005.

When you signed up to receive electric service from Morgan County REA, you became a member of an electric cooperative. 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, known as margins, to folks who might not live in the same region or even the same state as you do, MCREA allocates and periodically retires capital credits (also called patronage capital) based on how much electricity you purchased during a year.

At their regular meeting on October 22, 2018, the Morgan County REA Board of Directors authorized patronage capital retirements totaling \$2.5 million for a complete retirement of 2003 and 2004 and partial retirement of 2005 MCREA allocations, along with a complete retirement of 1998, 1999 and 2000 and partial retirement of 2001 generation and transmission margin allocations. This year's retirement is one-half million dollars more than the 2017 and 2016 patronage capital retirements, which came in at \$2 million each year.

This means members from those years will be sent a capital credits check in the mail this month, reflecting their contribution of capital to, and ownership of, the cooperative during those years. That may seem like a long time ago. However, those funds helped us manage rates, reduced the amount of money we needed to borrow from outside lenders to build, maintain and expand a reliable electric distribution system and covered emergency expenses.



Frequently Asked Questions About Capital Credits

What is patronage capital (capital credits)?

MCREA annually “allocates” to each member, based upon the member's purchase of electricity, operating revenue remaining at the end of the year; later, as financial condition permits, these allocated amounts—capital credits—are retired. Since a cooperative's members are also the people the co-op serves, capital credits reflect each member's ownership in, and contribution of capital to, the cooperative.

Where does the money come from?

Member-owned, not-for-profit electric co-ops 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, we subtract operating expenses from the operating revenue collected during the year. The balance is called an operating “margin.”

How are margins allocated?

Margins are allocated to members as capital credits based on their purchases from the cooperative—how much power the member used. Member purchases may also be called patronage.

I didn't receive electric service from Morgan County REA in those years. Will I get any retirement?

No. Capital credit retirements will only be made to members who purchased electricity in the designated retirement years.

What if I've moved or didn't receive a capital credits check?

If you move or no longer have electric service with Morgan County REA, it is important that you keep the cooperative informed of your current address, so that retirements can be properly mailed to you. If you purchased electricity during the years being retired, then you are entitled to a capital credit retirement, even if you move out of MCREA's service area. Members can update their contact information on www.mcrea.org or by calling the MCREA billing department at 970-867-5688 to make sure your capital credits check makes its way to you.

Remember Your Co-op Connections Card While Christmas Shopping

The holidays are upon us, and Morgan County REA wants to remind our members to show their MCREA Co-op Connections Card while shopping this season. (Jeanette Corbin, acct #xxx3000) The program offers local, regional and national discounts that our members can take advantage of this holiday season.

There are several local businesses that have partnered with MCREA to participate in the local discount program, and those businesses will be displaying a Co-op Connections participant sticker at their location. Below is a list of local participating Co-op Connections businesses in our area.

Also, as part of the Co-op Connections program, MCREA



members also have the opportunity to take advantage of discounts on certain prescription medications at local participating pharmacies (discount does not take the place of nor may be added to prescriptions covered by insurance).

According to the latest figures provided by the national Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections program, Morgan County REA members have saved more than \$45,000 on prescription medications that qualify for the discount since MCREA launched the

program in August 2010.

More information about the Co-op Connections program can be found online at www.mcrea.org.

Ackley Building Center

Discount Offer: \$5 off any purchase of \$50 or more, or \$10 off any purchase of \$100 or more.
Where to Redeem This Offer: 1402 Mill Street, Brush, CO 80723, 970-842-4832.

All About U

Discount Offer: 10% off any in-store items.
Where to Redeem This Offer: 117 Clayton Street, Brush, CO 80723, 970-842-2042.

Arby's

Discount Offer: Buy any full priced combo meal & receive a free regular sandwich (Fort Morgan & Cheyenne, WY, locations only).
Where to Redeem This Offer: 1218 North Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-867-6888.

Bank of Colorado

Discount Offer: Come to Bank of Colorado and open a free checking account.
Where to Redeem This Offer: 301 Clayton Street, Brush, CO 80723, 970-842-2844.

BrookeLinn Grafix

Discount Offer: 5% off all retail sales.
Where to Redeem This Offer: 302 Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-867-0285.

Brown's Shoe Fit

Discount Offer: 5% off any purchase.
Where to Redeem This Offer: 315 Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-867-6462.

Brush Hair Co

Discount Offer: 15% off retail purchase of \$50 or more.
Where to Redeem This Offer: 303 Edison Street, Brush, CO 80723, 970-842-4663.

Cables Pub & Grill

Discount Offer: \$3.50 off regularly priced stromboli or calzone
Where to Redeem This Offer: 431 Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-867-6144.

Country Steak Out

Discount Offer: 10% off total ticket.
Where to Redeem This Offer: 19592 East 8th Avenue, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-867-7887.

Ehrlich Toyota East

Discount Offer: 10% off parts & labor.
Where to Redeem This Offer: 1209 Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-867-1400.

Flower Petaler

Discount Offer: 10% off purchase (excludes antiques, weddings, funerals & wire service).
Where to Redeem This Offer: 322 Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-867-0955.

Fort Morgan Auto Body

Discount Offer: Take \$25 off your deductible.
Where to Redeem This Offer: 210 Ensign, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-867-9000.

Fort Morgan Times

Discount Offer: \$21 off of regular annual subscription rate.
Where to Redeem This Offer: 230A Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-867-5651.

Furniture Mart

Discount Offer: 5% off all regularly priced items (in-store items only). Offer valid at Fort Morgan and Sterling locations.
Where to Redeem This Offer: 505 Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-867-4609.

Great Copier Service

Discount Offer: \$1 off shipping fees (UPS or FedEx); 20% off non-discounted copies.
Where to Redeem This Offer: 430 Ensign, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-867-5740.

H&R Block Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: 10% off tax preparation services (not valid with other discounts).
Where to Redeem This Offer: 708 Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-867-5656.

Holistic Health Center

Discount Offer: 5% off any purchase.
Where to Redeem This Offer: 305 Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-867-6633.

Impressions by Bird

Discount Offer: 10% off printing, scrapbooking supplies, wedding & graduation invitations (excludes sale items).
Where to Redeem This Offer: 117 West Kiowa Avenue, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-867-8786.

J&J's Hairstyling

Discount Offer: \$5 off haircut.
Where to Redeem This Offer: 219 Clayton, Brush, CO 80723, 970-842-4333.

JD's Auto Body & Paint

Discount Offer: Take 25% off of your deductible on all collision and hail damage repairs up to \$100.
Where to Redeem This Offer: 115 Colorado Avenue, Brush, CO 80723, 970-842-5361.

Miller's Landscaping Materials & Feed

Discount Offer: 5% off all rock and mulch.
Where to Redeem This Offer: 19645 Road Q, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-542-1616.

Platte Valley Hearing Center

Discount Offer: 10% off all hearing aids (up to \$600 discount).
Where to Redeem This Offer: 409 E. Platte Ave, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-867-9993.

Rudy's G.T.O.

Discount Offer: 5% off full service. Offer valid at Brush, Prospect Valley and Wiggins locations.
Where to Redeem This Offer: 113 Central Avenue, Wiggins, CO 80654, 970-483-7878.

The Body Firm Fitness Center

Discount Offer: One month free membership (per person per year).
Where to Redeem This Offer: 721 East Platte Avenue, Fort Morgan, CO 80701, 970-542-0180.

Wickstrom Earns Board Leadership Certification

Morgan County Rural Electric Association Board of Directors Vice President Cary L. Wickstrom was among the 22 directors from Colorado's electric cooperatives receiving their Credentialed Cooperative Director certification or Board Leadership certificates from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Wickstrom received the Board Leadership certificate in September for adding to his knowledge of the electric industry and completing a specific schedule of classes. Today's electric utility environment imposes many demands on electric cooperative directors, particularly the need for increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a working knowledge of the cooperative principles.

The NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director, or CCD, program requires

attendance and demonstrated understanding of the core competencies contained in five courses: director duties and liabilities; understanding the electric business; board roles and relationships; business planning; and understanding financial planning. The NRECA Board Leadership program is for directors who earn their CCD certification and complete 10 additional credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses.

The next step for directors who have earned their CCD and BL certificates is the NRECA Director Gold credential. The Gold credential recognizes directors committed to continuing their education beyond the CCD and BL and who desire a credential that demonstrates their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty.



MCREA Board President Randy Graff (left) congratulates Board Vice President Cary Wickstrom for attaining the Board Leadership certification.



MCREA Welcomes New Employee

Morgan County REA is pleased to welcome Cheryl Lewis as the cooperative's engineering and operations work order clerk.

Cheryl graduated from Rocky Ford High School and attained her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo. She moved to Akron in 2005, where she worked for the Bank of Colorado, Washington County Nursing Home and Farmer's State Bank.

Cheryl's first day at Morgan County REA was October 8. She and her husband, Shane (who works for Tri-State Generation and Transmission), have two kids: Wesley, 11, and Anelise, 4.

Please join us in welcoming Cheryl to Morgan County REA.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like televisions, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet, even when they're not in use.

Source: energy.gov



National Cooperative Month Drawing Winners

To commemorate National Cooperative Month, Morgan County REA held a drawing each week in October for a member to receive a \$25 credit on their electric bill. To enter, members had to register in person at MCREA headquarters. Congratulations to these winners:

- Week 1 – Rocky Bower, Hillrose
- Week 2 – Edwin and Hazel Jess, Fort Morgan
- Week 3 – Josh Kral, Fort Morgan
- Week 4 – Stella Mitchell, Orchard
- Week 5 – Jacqueline Dreiling, Weldona

Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate National Cooperative Month.



MCREA to Hold Christmas Lights and Decoration Contest

To celebrate the holiday season, Morgan County REA will once again hold a Christmas lights and decoration contest.

How does it work? Simply let us know that you want to participate by giving us your name and address, then decorate the outside of your home and/or business — the more creative the better. However, we strongly remind everyone (whether participating in the contest or not), please do not hang lights and decorations on MCREA's electric poles. Hanging anything on poles could create potentially unsafe conditions for our line-men. Entries that have decorations on MCREA electric poles will be disqualified from the contest.

Who's eligible? Homes and businesses that are member-consumers of Morgan County REA are welcome and encouraged to enter.

What can I win? First place recipient will receive a \$100 credit on their electric bill; second place wins a \$75 credit on their electric bill; third place gets a \$50 credit on their electric bill.

How long do I have to enter? Deadline for entries is Friday, December 7, 2018.

How do I enter? Simply let us know that you want to enter the Christmas decoration contest and give us your name and physical address so we can judge your decorations. Email your entries to geoff@mcrea.org, or call member services at 970-867-5688. An email link is also provided on our website at www.mcrea.org.

DIRECTOR NOMINATING PETITIONS

Nominating petitions for the Morgan County REA Board of Directors will be available in the MCREA office beginning Thursday, January 10, 2019, and must be returned by Wednesday, January 30, 2019. These two dates comply with electric cooperative election regulations set forth by state law. The complete MCREA board policy dealing with the nomination, balloting and election of directors can be found on our website at <https://mcrea.org/content/elections>, or picked up at MCREA headquarters, 734 Barlow Road, Fort Morgan.

Director elections will take place at the MCREA Annual Meeting March 16, 2019, starting at 11 a.m. at Fort Morgan High School, 709 E. Riverview Ave., Fort Morgan.

The directors who are up for election in 2019 are:

- District 1 – Brian Schlagel
- District 2 – Randy Graff
- District 3 – Larry Hoozee

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER & EMPLOYER.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM EVERYONE AT MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION!

MCREA headquarters will be closed on Tuesday, December 25 and Tuesday, January 1 in observation of the holiday season. (John W. Mauck, acct #xxx7600)

MCREA's board, staff and employees wish one and all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Fireplace Fundamentals

It's nice to nestle by a fire during the cold holiday season. After your fire is completely out, be sure to close the damper. This prevents heat from escaping and cold from entering through your chimney.

WIN \$25 OFF YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Each month Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a \$25 credit on their electric bill, just by reading *Colorado Country Life*.

Congratulations, **Forrest Tappy** (account #xxx400), you saw your name and account number in the October edition of *Colorado Country Life*. You received a \$25 credit on your electric bill.

There are two more MCREA member names and their account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call member services at 970-867-5688 by December 31 to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill.