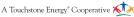
POWERNotes





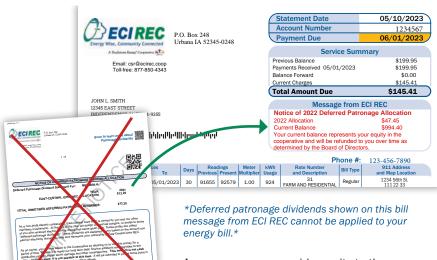
NEW Method for Allocation Notices — **NEW Method for Members Take Note!**

AS PART OF THEIR DUE DILIGENCE, your

Board of Directors has voted to forego the production of a separate mailing for notifying members of their deferred patronage dividends. This will begin with 2022's allocation notices. Members will still receive notices about their deferred dividends in the month of May. However, the notices will now be listed under the "Message from ECI REC" section of your May bill rather than sent as a separately mailed statement. In making this change, your Cooperative will save nearly \$4,500 in mailing fees and materials.

What are deferred patronage dividends?

As a nonprofit electric cooperative, East-Central Iowa REC is owned by you and our other member-consumers. At the end of the year, we allocate our annual margins, or profits, from a past year to those of you who received electric service during that year. These profits are called "deferred patronage dividends." These dividends are allocated to you based on the amount you paid for electricity during that time and represent your ownership in East-Central Iowa REC.



As an owner, you provide equity to the Cooperative by allowing us to use this money for a period of time. We use it to repay our longterm debt, finance additions and upgrades to the distribution system, repair storm damage,

and cover other contingencies. This amount is not cash sitting in an account; it is not payable at this time. It will be refunded to you at some point in the future as the Cooperative's financial condition allows.

Please notify us of any changes in your address. This will allow us to forward any patronage dividends to you, even if you are no longer a member. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call 877-850-4343 or email ecirec@ecirec.coop.



VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

Resilient Roots, Sustained Commitment

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

Be on the lookout for an envelope marked BALLOT, and exercise your membership by voting!

How Do I Attend?

Visit ecirec.coop and look for the yellow button at the top of the home page, which will take you to the Annual Meeting of the Members page. Look for the green JOIN NOW button. The virtual meeting room will open at 10:30 a.m.

Are There Prizes?

Of course! Twelve \$50 bill credits and two \$100 bill credits will be given away as grand prizes this year.

How Do I Vote?

On May 26, ballots will be mailed and online voting will open. All votes—online and mail-in—MUST be received by June 26.

- MAIL A ballot will be mailed to every member with a selfaddressed and stamped return envelope.*
- 2 SMART HUB Log in to SmartHub at ecirec.smarthub.coop and click VOTE NOW. Please note: SmartHub voting must be done in a web browser, not the SmartHub mobile app.
- ONLINE Click the blue VOTE NOW button located on the home page at ecirec.coop. Enter your voter number and election passcode, which will be listed at the bottom of your mailed ballot. Follow online voting instructions.

*ECI REC partnered with Diamond/OSG to administer the Annual Meeting mailing and ballot validation processes. They will tabulate all the ballots, both paper and online.



Contest entries accepted during June at **lowaShineTheLight.com**



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



Your Co-op Connections® Card offers you Healthy Savings and local and national deals. Use your card to start saving today! Questions? Email coopconnections@ecirec.coop.



Use SmartHub to pay for FREE online! Visa, Discover, American Express, and MasterCard accepted. While you're there, view your monthly usage data in helpful chart formats.