

COLUMBUS[®] CURRENTS

Board OK's Capital Credit Retirement

Operation at cost is part of the cooperative difference. Electric cooperatives aren't like other utilities—you, as a consumer and a member own a portion of the business. And one benefit of that membership involves the allocation of excess revenue, called margins, in the form of capital credits.

Electric co-ops operate at cost—collecting enough revenue to run the business but without the need to raise rates to generate profits for distant shareholders. When Columbus Electric has money left over, it's allocated back to you and other members as capital credits. When the co-op's financial position permits, the co-op retires, or pays, the capital credits to members. This year the Cooperative will retire the remainder of the 1978 capital credits totaling \$332,889. Allocating and retiring excess revenue to members helps distinguish cooperatives from other types of electric utilities.

Capital credits are so-called because members provide necessary capital to the cooperative for it to maintain and operate the electric distribution system. These monies decrease the need to raise rates or borrow all the money necessary to pay for infrastructure. After a number of years, as financial conditions permit, we retire a set amount of capital credits.

These margins are the only real source of equity for electric cooperatives, so it is essential for a co-op to maintain the right balance between retiring capital credits to its members and retaining sufficient equity on our balance sheet. We do our best to strike that balance in an effort to provide you rate stability.

This is just one more way that we looking out for you!

IT PAYS



TO BE A COOP MEMBER

Linemen Power Our Lives.



Above: Animas Crew; Below: Deming Crew

Lineman Appreciation Day is April 18, 2018
#ThankALineman



Sunday, March 11, 2018



**CEC will be closed on Friday,
March 30, 2018.**



The Annual Meeting of the Members of Columbus Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held on April 14, 2018, at the Animas School Auditorium. *The official notice will be mailed at a later date.*

Emergency Response Number
1-800-228-0579

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www.columbusco-op.org