

Mark Your Calendars

At the end of March, EQUS will be holding three consecutive Annual General Meetings (AGMs) throughout our Service Area.

Dates and locations of the AGMs are as follows:

- **South Area - Lethbridge - Tuesday, March 29, 2016**
- **Central Area - Red Deer - Wednesday, March 30, 2016**
- **North Area - Stony Plain - Thursday, March 31, 2016**

Additional details regarding each AGM, including the agenda, time and location, will be provided in the February newsletter and on www.equs.ca.

EQUS Gives Back

At EQUS we are committed to giving back to the communities we serve through organizational and staff initiatives. Our staff charity committee, EQUS Community Connection (ECC), organizes numerous fundraising events throughout the year for charities in our Service Area.

Some highlights of the ECC's fundraising throughout our Service Area in 2015 include:

- raising over **\$14,000** for food banks through our annual golf tournament;
- hosting regular staff BBQ fundraisers, a Christmas cookie stroll and the second annual ECC Garage Sale, which together raised over **\$2,500** for local food banks;
- staff donating **926** non-perishable items for local food banks in December 2015; and
- receiving nearly \$4,000 in donations from Board of Director members and staff, which resulted in us sponsoring **14** deserving families at Christmas through Adopt-a-Family programs throughout our Service Area.

Photo: Over 331 non-perishable items were donated by the Central Area Office staff.



Small Change Makes a Big Difference



In 1989, Palmetto Electric Co-op founded a program known as Operation Round Up in partnership with its members. This has been an incredibly successful way to help worthwhile causes and members within their rural service area.

As a result of its success with Palmetto Electric, the Operation Round Up program has expanded to include 252 electric co-operatives who use program funds to target gaps in community services. The help co-ops have provided through Operation Round Up is an enduring embodiment of their concern for community, proving that for more than a quarter of a century those are more than just words.

EQUS is proud to be the first Canadian organization to be granted permission to implement the Operation Round Up program, which is just what the name implies. Electric bills are simply 'rounded up' to the next highest dollar and on average the contribution by a member is about \$6.00 per year.

While it is technically "small change", it can and does build a funding program that can give back to the communities we all call home. The examples of the impact of Operation Round Up on rural communities in the U.S. are too numerous to mention, but if you are interested in viewing a video outlining the Nolin Electric Co-operative Corp., please access this video: nolinrecc.com/media/NolinORU.mp4.

More details on EQUS' Operation Round Up program will be available in the next newsletter.

Budget Billing Settlement for 2015

If your electricity is supplied through EQUUS, either through the Co-operative Energy Rate or the Regulated Rate Option, please be advised that on your current utility bill, all budget billing accounts have been settled for the 2015 year.

The meter reading (actual or computer estimated) from December 2015 has been utilized to finalize accounts for 2015. On your invoice, you will see a YTD Budget Settlement line that indicates if there is an amount owing or a credit due to you.

For those members who are on budget billing, it is very important that you continue to monitor the "YTD Budget Amount" and "YTD Actual Amount" noted on your utility bill throughout the year.

This provides you with the dollar variance between the actual and budget values billed for your power usage. If there is any significant difference in these two amounts (actual versus budget), you should contact your Member Service Administrator immediately to review the discrepancy.

On your next month's utility bill from EQUUS, the new budget billing amounts will be calculated based on your 2015 consumption data at the current rates.

Please remember that if your usage for 2016 increases or decreases, this will affect your budget billing amount and annual settlement. If you require revisions, please contact your Member Service Administrator toll-free at 1.888.211.4011.

EQUUS Continues to Support Olds College

EQUUS continues to demonstrate support to Olds College, with a recent donation to the Student Emergency Bursary Fund.

EQUUS is pleased to contribute to charitable efforts in our Service Area that enhance rural Alberta. EQUUS has a sponsorship and donation program that helps charitable or volunteer organizations primarily within the EQUUS Service Area. Priority is given to organizations that foster growth and development of youth and/or encourage community development.

The Olds College Student Emergency Bursary Fund is an endowment that is sustained through community and staff donations and support through the annual Christmas Basket event. The fund provides assistance to Olds College students who need a little extra assistance when facing unexpected circumstances.

Visit www.equs.ca to learn more about EQUUS' community sponsorship and donation program.



Photo: EQUUS CEO Patricia Bourne (left) presented EQUUS' donation to a representative of the Student's Emergency Bursary Fund and Olds College President, Dr. H.J. (Tom) Thompson (right).

It is very important to note that your electrical distribution system provider will always be EQUUS, regardless of who supplies your energy. Members who choose to obtain electricity (retail electricity services) from a party other than EQUUS will not be disadvantaged or in any way be treated differently by EQUUS. For a list of energy retailers, visit www.ucahelps.alberta.ca.

Mailing address: Box 6199, 5803 42 Street, Innisfail, AB T4G 1S8

To report a power outage in your area, or for other services such as construction or vegetation management, please call your local Area Office.

Main Office
Phone: 403.227.4011
Toll-free: 1.888.211.4011
Fax: 403.227.1007

North Area Office
Phone: 780.967.3340
Toll-free: 1.888.627.4011
Fax: 780.967.3018

Central Area Office
Phone: 403.227.7535
Toll-free: 1.877.527.4011
Fax: 403.227.7540

South Area Office
Phone: 403.625.4154
Toll-free: 1.888.565.5445
Fax: 403.625.3569



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