

# Let's Make Everyone Happy

## Use Economic Stimulus Check for Energy Efficiency



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**This is perhaps** the most important column that I have ever written. It is written for every one of you and I hope that it isn't too late.

On the day that I was writing the column, some of you received your economic stimulus check from the United States government. Some of you may have received it

even earlier, while still others are waiting for it to arrive. Our president and Congress hope that each family will spend the money to help strengthen the economy. Some "experts" on television want you to take the money and pay off existing debts. Others say invest the money. I AM SAYING, DO ALL OF THIS!

I want you to totally open your mind for a few minutes. I am going to show you how to make the check worth more than what is printed on it. I am going to show you how it can actually make you money every month for the rest of your life.

If I understand correctly, those receiving a check will get between \$150 and \$1,200. For the sake of this column, let's say your check is \$600. Actually, the amount is not as important as what you do with it. First of all, we are going to spend the \$600 so that the president and Congress will be happy because we will be helping to stimulate the economy.

Now, how will we spend it? I bet you've guessed that already. Yes, we will use the money to make energy improvements on your house. Let's suppose that we spend \$30 for 10 tubes of caulk, \$30 for 10 compact fluorescent lights and \$25 for gaskets for electrical outlets. That adds up to about \$85. Well, let's spend about \$15 for an insulating blanket for the water heater. Now we have spent about \$100. Next, let's spend about \$450 for additional attic insulation. With \$450, we can buy about 45 bags of cellulose insulation at the local home improvement



store. Get a helper and install these items that you have purchased. And while you are up in the attic, go ahead and check your ductwork for leakage. You will be amazed at what these improvements can do to lower your monthly utility bill.

Consider this. If you save \$30 a month on your utility bill, your payback will be in 15 months. If you save \$50 a month, your payback will be in nine months. Now, use some discipline and take the \$30 to \$50 a month in savings and make additional energy efficiency improvements to your home, pay off existing debt, save it or spend it. Regardless of what you choose to do, you will have about \$30 to \$50 or more per month forever because you chose to spend the economic stimulus check wisely. Remember, if you don't do this, your money will be gone and you won't have the savings on your energy bills.

**Let's suppose that we spend \$30 for 10 tubes of caulk, \$30 for 10 compact fluorescent lights and \$25 for gaskets for electrical outlets.**

I hope I haven't waited too late to tell you this. See you next month.

P.S. Oh, I forgot to mention that you still have \$50 left. Pat yourself on your back, go to dinner and take your helper.

*Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Saline County, Ark., is the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show and a promoter of energy efficiency building. To order Doug's video, call Doug at 1-888-Doug-Rye.*

# Olsen, Fieber to Join Cooperative Elite

**South Dakotans Charles** Olsen and Donald Fieber will join an elite group of South Dakota cooperative leaders when the two are inducted into the South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame Sept. 9 in Pierre, S.D.

In recognition for the decades of leadership experience on electric and telephone cooperatives in eastern South Dakota, the two will become the 47th and 48th inductees into the Hall of Fame which was created to provide recognition for a person contributing in especially significant ways to cooperatives. For information on attending the induction banquet, call 605-352-9492.

Olsen began his tenure on the Turne-Hutchinson Electric Cooperative board of directors in May 1985. In 1992, he was elected to represent the cooperative on the board of East River Electric Cooperative in Madison, S.D., and, in 1997, he was selected East River's representative on the South Dakota Rural Electric Association board of directors.

Among Olsen's most memorable co-op moments: introducing the Consumer Bill of Rights at the 1999 NRECA annual meeting in Anaheim, Calif., and then presenting the document to Sens. Tom Daschle and Edward Kennedy.

Olsen said the best part of being a member of a cooperative is the ownership

role members have.

"You have a say on what goes on. You elect the directors to conduct the co-op business," Olsen said.

In nominating Olsen for induction to the Hall of Fame, Southeastern Electric manager Brad Schardin noted Olsen's leadership throughout the cooperative's consolidation and merger endeavors.

"By carefully listening during board discussions and clearly articulating his opinions, Charles quickly gained the respect and confidence of his fellow board members. With the wisdom of an elder statesman, Charles was the voice of reason that helped lead the cooperative down the right paths," wrote Schardin.

In addition to his work with cooperatives, Olsen has served on church boards in Viborg and Irene, is involved in the Masonic Lodge, was an original incorporator of the S.D. Yorkshire Association and was a member of the Irene School District board of education. Additionally, he is a member of several grain, farmers, telephone and elevator cooperatives.

He and wife, Mary Lou, live in Viborg.

Fieber joined the Deuel Telephone Cooperative board in 1960 and continued to serve on the board and its successor, the Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative board in Clear Lake, for 45 years.

"His vision, involvement and leader-



Charles D. Olsen



Donald Fieber

ship as an officer and board member provided for the enhancement and advancements of the telephone system that serve the members of the cooperative yet today," wrote ITC general manager Jerry Heiberger in Fieber's nomination. "Specifically, the system evolved from an aerial eight-party service in the 1960s to a buried single-party type of service that continues to provide reliable services."

Fieber was instrumental in the consolidation of Deuel Telephone Cooperative and Brookings-Lake Telephone Cooperative in 1988. The result of the consolidation was the formation of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative.

Fieber also served 30 years on the South Dakota Association of Telecommunication Cooperatives.

Don and wife, Orma, live on a dairy farm near Goodwin.

## South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame Inductees

### 1985

Arthur Jones (1905-85)  
Emil Loriks (1895-1985)

### 1986

Albert Schramm (1916-2000)  
Herman D. Holt (1909-86)

### 1987

John Riedy (1911-2001)  
August Dahme (1901-80)

### 1988

J. Evan Rasmussen (1905-90)  
John Skage (1904-89)

### 1989

Darrell Moseson  
Warren G. Grebner

### 1990

J.E. Krull Sr. (1909-99)  
Lawrence Stoley (1901-87)

### 1991

Clifford G. Bell (1904-2000)  
Warren Moe

### 1992

Ken Holum (1915-98)  
John A. Cink (1911-2002)

### 1993

Clement J. Kloucek (1925-2005)  
S. Douglas Murphy (1904-96)

### 1994

Philip Testerman  
Max Farrar (1897-1980)

### 1995

Quentin E. Loudon  
Oscar C. Johnson (1880-1965)

### 1996

Vernon L. Berg (1920-98)  
Leo P. Flynn (1908-2001)

### 1997

Ben Radcliffe  
G.L. Moseson (1894-1973)

### 1998

J.D. Lynd  
George A. Hargens, Jr. (1921-99)

### 1999

Raymond M. Judy (1919-97)  
Virgil Fodness

### 2000

Keith Taylor (1923-2002)  
Joseph Hieb

### 2001

Robert A. Johnson  
Donald N. Olson (1928-2006)

### 2002

Vincent Erz  
Donald Wynia

### 2003

Brian Meyer (1943-2003)  
Don Paulsen

### 2004

Ed Fritzsche (1923-2005)  
Dean Rasmussen

### 2005

Robert Ching  
Darrel Henderson  
Alex Stoesser (1925-2000)

### 2006

Dennis Hagny  
Robert Rademacher

### 2007

Leroy Schecher  
Ralph Schreurs  
Merlin VanWalleghen