

Mission Statement:

Improving the quality of life of our member-owners.

James B. Riddle

Executive Vice President/
General Manager

Board of Directors

Paul Pyatt, President
Raymond Mulholland, Vice President
Kevin Liefer, Secretary-Treasurer
Randall Campbell
Larry Ebers
Allen Haake
Paul Hicks
Ken Jarrett
Gilbert Kroening

What to do if the power goes off

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole or pedestal. If you have breakers, make sure they are "on" by first pushing to the 'off' position and then pushing them to the 'on' position. If you live in a mobile home, codes require a main disconnect near the meter. If you have a dusk-dawn light and it is working, you have a breaker or fuse out.
3. Check with your neighbors. If they are out of power also, the main line is most likely out.
4. During office hours: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143 or (800) 606-1505 for either office. After office hours call (800) 606-1505.
5. Make sure you have the name on the account and if possible, the account number.

2011 Goals

The end of another year means many things to each and every one of us. For me, it marks the end of my first full calendar year as Executive Vice President/General Manager of your cooperative. For those that don't remember, I took the position on April 1, 2009. After the major storm that hit us last year on May 8, just five weeks after I came here, there are some that say that date may have been an omen as to the wisdom of my decision. Nevertheless, we made it through 2009 and have now completed 2010.

Thankfully, 2010 was without a major storm. We had the typical snow and thunder and lightning storms, but nothing near the ice storms of 2008 and 2009, nor the wind of 2009. In fact, we had no requests for assistance for our line crews by other cooperatives either. So 2010, although with its own challenges, was a somewhat more quiet year compared to 2009. The major weather incident of 2010 might be considered the heat and drought of the summer. This was the second hottest summer since 1984, according to the weather records we've kept. Only 2007 surpassed the heat of this summer. And if we get less than about 2.25 inches of rain in December, it will most likely be the driest.

Without any major disasters, we've been able to accomplish quite a few of our goals for this year. We've made considerable headway with our right-of-way (ROW) maintenance program. Unfortunately, ROW maintenance is not something any utility can undertake to completion. Once a circuit or line is completed, in four

to five years it will need trimmed and mowed again. It's an everlasting task that will always be with us. Our goal is to stay on top of it and to not get behind. When that happens, outages increase and no one is happy.

We've continued to make progress with our mapping and engineering software. When we converted to software from paper maps, the software firm originally digitized the old paper maps to the new software. This got our system 'close' to looking electronically like it did in the field, but not accurately. For the last couple of years, we've been working to use the global positioning system (GPS) to accurately model our distribution system. This required someone to go to each pole, get the GPS location and note the size and framing type of the pole, and any other equipment we might have on it, such as transformers. This data will allow us to more easily and economically perform engineering studies on the system to make sure it can meet our members' growing needs. We've now completed the GPS project.

Several years ago we moved to the next generation of smart meters in the southern end of our distribution system. When we did that, we moved the old equipment to the northern portion so that we could

► Continued on page 16b

Jim Riddle

Executive
Vice President/
General Manager



Integrity : We are credible, trustworthy, honest and believable.

► Continued from page 16a

get all of the life out of the system that we could. As the manufacturer has discontinued support for that system, we've been gradually replacing that system with the same equipment we have in the south. We've now completed the change out of all of the older meters. These meters allow for better communication and the retrieval of more data. To access that data, we've moved away from 'copper' telephone lines to faster means of communication. In most instances, we've moved to wireless radio communication between our substations and our offices that we own, eliminating monthly rental fees for data lines.

We've also tried a new means of meeting with our members. In February and March, we held informal member meetings in Sparta and Carbondale. These area meetings give you an opportunity to meet with your cooperative's Board of Directors and staff to ask questions or to suggest things you would like us to do on your behalf. We intend to continue these meetings and will, in fact, add a third meeting location. We intend to have

two meetings on Saturday mornings and one evening meeting. The first will be in Sparta on Saturday, March 12, with the other Saturday meeting in Carbondale on March 26. We'll have an evening meeting in Campbell Hill on Tuesday, March 15. Mark your calendars and watch for more information as to locations and times.

We've established other goals and objectives for 2011. One that will require much of my time and the Board's time is a complete review of our bylaws and operational policies. Our bylaws are pretty much unchanged from the early days of the Cooperative. As you can imagine, much has changed since those days. Our review is to make sure your Cooperative is functioning as it should by the rules established by the members. Where things have changed by necessity or by law, we want to make sure our bylaws and policies reflect those changes. We intend to bring any by-law changes to the Annual Meeting this summer for discussion and adoption by the members.

The new year will also bring some upgrades to the electric system. With

the construction of the National Guard Armory and the Transportation Education Center at the Southern Illinois Airport, a new substation is planned for construction near the airport. This will make sure the electric system can handle the new load there, as well as other new load that has developed on New Era Road leading to the airport.

These are only a few of the goals your Board has established for staff and management. Some goals will be visible to our members as we work toward completion. Some will be inconspicuous, like rebalancing supervisor workloads. No matter what the goal is, there is one overarching goal your Board has established that trumps all others. Put simply – *keep rates as low as possible while maintaining quality electric service.* And even though the bylaws and the electric system may need some upgrading to today's standards, **that goal** will never change. Have a safe, happy, and prosperous New Year!

We're getting a facelift!

In the world of Web sites, our Web site is showing its age. It has the knowledge and wisdom that comes with time, but the edges are looking frayed. So, we decided it was time to perform some cosmetic surgery. We're calling it cosmetic as we're not changing the content or information within it; we're just changing how it looks. Kind of like a facelift, everything is still there, it just looks a little different.

With the help of Touchstone Energy, we've been able to modernize and improve the look of our Web site without any cost to the cooperative or you, our members. Touchstone Energy recognizes that Web sites and access to information is extremely important to our members. To assist, the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives provided

us with the tools to create attractive and informational Web sites at no cost. And, they'll be hosting our Web site at no cost to us, so we save even more of your dollars.

The new Web site allows us to quickly present news and events to you. On the right side, you will find links to some of the tools you use on a regular basis, like paying your bill online. And Touchstone Energy intends to keep it looking fresh and to incorporate new tools that we can use to better serve you.

Plans are for the new site to become active on Jan. 15. So mark your calendars to make sure you take a look at the new us. Kick the tires a little, look around inside, feel it out.



When you're done, let us know what you think. Just click on the Contact Us link at the top of the home page. If there is something we've missed or something you would like to see on the new site, let us know. We want our Web site to be your source of information for the things you need to know about your electric cooperative.

Accountability : We act in accordance with our core purpose and values.

HomE receives additional funding

HomE (pronounced home E) is our program to help members become energy efficient. By making our energy efficiency knowledge available to our members and by providing rebates for improvements, our members can save energy while improving their home's performance.

Through our statewide organization, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), the Illinois Electric Cooperatives began distributing \$1.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for energy efficiency improvements this past May. Our portion of those funds was exhausted in early September.

The AIEC has just recently informed us they have been able to secure an additional \$1 million in ARRA funds through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Slightly over \$52,000 has been allocated to the members of Egyptian.

All residential members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative are eligible to participate in the HomE rebate program. The home must be served by us and be the member's primary residence.

To start the HomE process, contact us to arrange an energy assessment by one of our energy experts. We'll take your name and contact number in the order we are contacted.

As we near your turn, we'll contact you to schedule an assessment. Assessments will be scheduled M-F, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. An adult member of the home must be present. There is a \$25 fee for the assessment that will be billed to your account with the Cooperative.

We will provide you with a report of recommendations on how you might best improve your home's energy efficiency, performance and comfort. Based on the recommendations we make, you could be eligible for a rebate up to \$1,500 per residence per member.

Once you have your recommendations, you decide what is best for you. You then submit a proposal form and estimate to us. If your proposal is approved, we will return a signed copy to you, indicating that funds have been set aside for your project. You then have 60 days to complete what has been proposed.

Once you have made your purchase or completed your project, you will send us a completion form with copies of the paid receipts. We will then issue

a check to you. Rebates could take 4 – 8 weeks to process.



Rebate amounts are as follows:

Geothermal Heat Pumps.....	\$1,500
Air-source Heat Pumps	\$1,000
Central Air Conditioning	\$350
Natural or LP Gas Furnace	\$350
Heat Pump Water Heater	\$250
Insulation/Air Sealing	30% of Project Costs (up to \$500)

The maximum total rebate is \$1,500 per cooperative/residence. Rebates will be approved for central air conditioning or gas furnaces, but not both. Rebates are eligible for insulation and a heating/air conditioning upgrade to the maximum of \$1,500. All heating/air conditioning upgrades must meet the applicable Energy Star standards to be eligible. For more information, visit our web site at www.eeca.coop.

Home Weatherization Basics class offered

Not only will weatherizing your home lower your energy costs, it will also increase your level of comfort. And now, thanks to John A. Logan College (JALC), you can earn college credits.

The Home Weatherization Basics for Homeowners continuing education course will help those wishing to lower their energy costs do it the right way. The course is based on the most current residential building science. Students will learn how weatherization impacts indoor comfort and safety, how to protect a home from

mold and moisture damage and numerous energy saving tips.

The course meets from 6 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. for three Wednesday evenings beginning Feb. 9, 2011. It meets at John A. Logan College, room H126. The course instructor is Tim Gibson, JALC Sustainability Coordinator and Certified Weatherization Instructor. There is a \$25 fee.

To register for the course, contact the Continuing Education Department at 800-851-4720, ext 8248, or visit the Web site at www.jalc.edu/cont_ed.



Commitment to Community: We show compassion, care and courtesy to our members and the communities we serve.

LEAD SI accepting applications for Class of 2011

Where will tomorrow's leaders come from? That's a question leaders of Connect SI, a 20-county economic development initiative, have asked for some time. Concern for tomorrow has led Connect SI to develop a leadership development program for southern Illinois high school students.

Heading into selection of the fourth group of high school sophomores and juniors, LEAD SI has been designed to ensure a continuous supply of homegrown leaders for the future of southern Illinois. Future young leaders attend a three-day institute on the campus of Southern Illinois University Carbondale in June, where they focus on developing communication, problem solving, team building and decision making skills. They also learn

LEAD SI

connectSI  in action

their individual strengths and how to use those strengths to their benefit.

Following completion of the institute, these future young leaders continue a year-long program of events that help them learn how to apply for college scholarships, build a resume and work with others. They will also learn the beauty and the challenges facing leaders of southern Illinois, as well as opportunities to continue their career in the area.

As one parent from Herrin commented when their daughter was selected as a Presidential Scholarship

recipient at SIUC, "Without LEAD SI, our daughter would never have had the confidence she needed in the interview process of being selected as a Presidential Scholar."

Each LEAD SI class is limited to 35 students who have exhibited leadership tendencies in their school and extra-curricular activities. If your high school sophomore or junior student is interested in being a LEAD SI student, visit www.connectsi.us/lead-si.php or speak with your high school guidance counselor. Applications must be returned by March 1, 2011.

Students have chance to see Washington

Arlington National Cemetery; the Gettysburg Battlefield; the Smithsonian Museums; the Sunset Parade at the Iwo Jima Marine Corp War Memorial; a cruise on the Potomac River; the White House and the Capitol. These historic sites are viewed by many each year. For six sophomores or juniors from the high schools in our service area, it could happen this summer!

It only takes a short essay. We furnish the topic and research material; you write the essay and submit it to us. It's all a part of the national Youth to Washington program sponsored by Egyptian Electric Cooperative, our statewide association in Springfield and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in Washington DC. Over 60 students from Illinois will make the trek in mid-June and meet up with over 1,500 fellow high school students from across the nation.

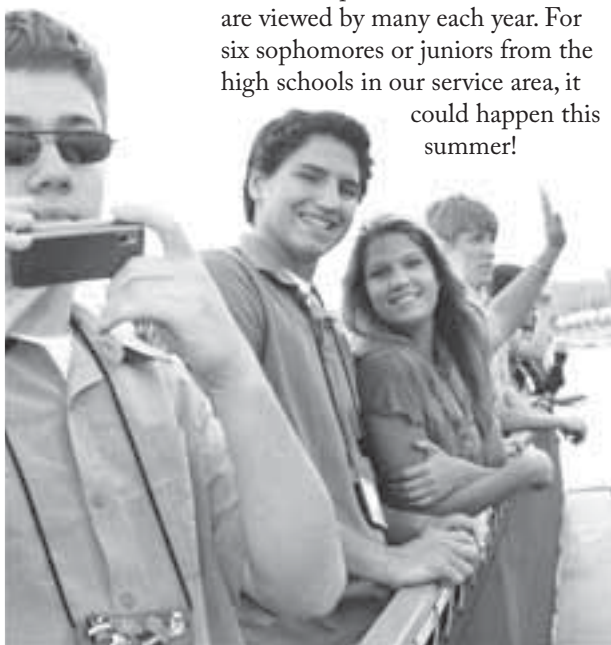
While in Washington D.C., they'll visit all of the sites mentioned above, plus more. They'll meet with Illinois Congressmen and Senators. They'll make friends they will keep forever. Most importantly, they'll have an experience that will influence and open doors for them for the rest of their life.

To find out more about the Youth to Washington essay contest, visit our Web site at www.eeca.coop and look for the Essay Contest under

Illinois Youth to Washington
See **DC** Live!

the Our Community menu section. You'll find the contest topic, research material, entry form and complete details. Essays are due at either office of the Cooperative by March 4. To learn more about the trip, visit www.youthtour.coop.

For past Youth to Washington alumni from Egyptian, check out two new pages on Facebook, Egyptian Electric Cooperative Youth to Washington Alumni and Illinois Youth to Washington Tour. Join in and let everyone know what you are up to. Parents, if your son or daughter was a past participant, pass the word on to them. We'd like to hear from them.



Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.