

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.

Area Member Meetings

If you have an interest of sitting down with someone for a casual conversation, what's a popular approach you might use? How about over coffee and donuts? If you agree, then I want to invite you to have a cup of coffee and a donut with me on a Saturday morning in March. On Saturday morning, March 12, at 9 a.m., we'll be at the World Shooting Complex, north of Sparta, with a coffee pot and a tray of donuts. Then on Saturday, March 26, again at 9 a.m., we'll be at the Murdale Baptist Church on the west side of Carbondale. And for those folks that don't like coffee and donuts or can't make it on a Saturday morning, we'll be at the Community Center in Campbell Hill on Tuesday evening, March 15, at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments.

You may recall last year we started hosting area informational meetings for our members. We held them in February and March of an evening. Although the turnout was decent for the first time we've ever done this, we realize that holding an evening meeting in the middle of the work week just adds chaos to already busy schedules. So this year, we're going to try Saturday mornings, a time that for many of us is a little bit slower paced and not so hectic and no one will be out after dark. But for those that have to work on Saturdays, we still want an option for you, so hence the Tuesday evening meeting.

Why do we want to have informational meetings for our members? Because this is your cooperative; not ours, not the Board of Directors. And be-

cause there are no shareholders (a cooperative is owned by those it serves), it doesn't belong to some conglomerate that's bought stock as an investment to make money. It truly is yours.

And because it's yours, we want to hear what you think. If you have concerns about what we're doing, we want to know. If you have something you would like us to be doing for you, a service we should provide, a program you've heard about, technology you want us to deploy, we want to know. You might think that's what surveys are for. And yes, we do survey our members on a regular basis, but these informal meetings give us better insight into what you think and what your concerns are.

We'll have several things we plan to discuss with you that may lead to questions you've had, but just didn't know how to ask. For instance, what will happen to electric rates in the future, especially once the economy recovers? What are some trends going on in the electric industry? What about SIPC, the generation cooperative that generates our electricity? Will they have capacity to meet Egyptian's growing electric load?

In addition to me, the staff of the Cooperative and the Board of Directors will be in attendance. And they're

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Jim Riddle

Executive
Vice President/
General Manager



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

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open to questions from you just as I am. And if we don't have the correct answer to your question right then, we'll get the information you want and be back in touch with you.

Yes, we will still have the Annual Meeting of the Members in July (Thursday, July 21, 2011). But that's

a business meeting established by the by-laws to conduct certain business that has to be done each year. These meetings are informal with no agenda. If it takes all day to discuss questions you may have, we'll be there.

So mark your calendars. Write down your questions or things you'd

like us to discuss so that you don't forget. And if you think it's something I may need to research ahead of time to have an informed answer for you, feel free to e-mail me at jriddle@eeca.coop, send it by mail, or even give me a call.

Paying attention to your heat pump can avoid big bills

Air-air heat pumps are extremely efficient heating systems, when it's the part of the system supplying the heat for your home. If the outside unit fails, you could be faced with big utility bills.

A heat pump is the only heating system that is really two separate heat systems in one. The primary system is the heat pump, which is very similar to your refrigerator. Just as your refrigerator absorbs heat from inside of the refrigerator and moves it to the coil (the one that used to be on the back), a heat pump absorbs heat outside and moves it inside. But when it gets cold and there isn't enough heat outside (the same time your home needs more heat to stay warm), the auxiliary heat system begins helping the heat pump. This auxiliary system is the electric coils that are similar to an electric furnace.

If something on a gas furnace fails, you know right away something is wrong because it begins to get cold in your home. You know you need a repairman. But if the outdoor portion of your heat pump quits working, the electric coils take up the slack and you may not even know there is a problem — until you get your next electric bill, that is. All of a sudden your usage has skyrocketed and you don't know why until your electric co-op representative suggests you check if that unit outside is running at the same time the system inside is.



To make sure this doesn't happen to you, occasionally verify that the outdoor unit is running when the system inside is. If not, you may have a unit that has failed and you may need to call a repairman. Before doing that though, double check the thermostat to make sure no one has inadvertently put the system into emergency heat mode. This setting shuts the outside unit off and lets the electric coils supply all of the heat.

Some thermostats even have warning lights or indicators that the auxiliary heat (the electric coils) is on. This may not indicate that you

have a problem though because it could just be cold out and the heat pump needs the auxiliary electric coils to help keep your house warm. The best way is to look out a window to see that the fan on the unit outside is running or to actually walk outside to hear and visibly see that it is working.

Paying attention to your heat pump, knowing how it sounds and looks when it is operating correctly can help you quickly identify when it malfunctions. Doing so can help you avoid that sudden big electric bill.

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

Is your roof talking to you?

How many times have you been accused of not listening when someone is talking to you? If you're like me, that may be quite often, especially if there's a football game on the TV. So, the question I pose is – are you listening to your roof when it is talking to you?

This past Christmas and the days following, we had what I call a tattle-tail snow. Yes, it was nice to have a white Christmas, especially when I looked out the front window that evening and saw the deer rummaging through the snow for acorns. But what I liked about it was that it told me quite a bit about the homes my neighbors and friends live in.

I call it a tattle-tail snow because the temperatures did not rise above 30 degrees for several days and the skies were overcast the entire time. So when I looked at my neighbors' homes and saw some with snow and some without, it told me the ones without have some issues.

It could be they just don't have enough insulation, period. In those cases, you will find the roof vacant of snow in the area over the heated area of the home, while over garages and overhangs there is still snow on the roof (and I'm not referring to my gray hair!).

Situations like this can lead to roof damage. As snow or ice melts from the high areas of the roof and run down, they refreeze over the eave, creating a dam. Melted snow or ice no longer run off the roof, but continue to build up at the eaves. If there was considerable snow to begin with, the melting snow could eventually be forced up under the shingles, especially on a low pitch roof. The fix for ice dams is more insulation.

You may think you have plenty of insulation in your attic, but if your roof is void of snow and there are other occupied homes that still have snow cover, it's a definite sign something's wrong. It could be the



type of insulation you have. If the snow melt is pretty consistent across the roof, this may be the case. In the last 15-20 years, we've seen many newer homes use blown-in fiberglass insulation. If you've looked in your attic and seen what looks like cotton balls, that's the stuff.

Oak Ridge National Laboratories and the University of Illinois Small Homes Research Council found many years ago that spray in fiberglass loses its R-Value as temperatures decline. What happens is that the warm air above the ceiling is light and wants to rise while the cold air in the attic is dense and wants to fall. At around 30 degrees, there is enough temperature difference that the two begin to displace each other and the effective R-value declines. The fix, add four-six inches of cellulose overtop the existing fiberglass.

Roofs can also tell us other things. One roof I noticed had a square area of melted snow. Having been in this home several times, I knew what the issue was. The owner has a whole house attic fan in their hallway right below the melted area. When I spoke to them, they realized they had not covered the fan with insulation that fall. They could also create a vinyl cover on the inside and use Velcro to cover the louvers. This will

stop air leaks but won't provide any insulation value.

It could also be there is a bathroom or kitchen range vent incorrectly vented to the attic, or even worse, against the roof deck. One attic I was in this summer, I noticed a section of plywood on the roof deck had been replaced when the roof was re-shingled. I'm sure the rotted plywood was caused by the vinyl bathroom vent that was nailed to the truss and blowing right on the plywood. All winter long the vent blows warm moist air against the cold roof deck, eventually rotting it out. Amazingly, the deck had been replaced, but the vent was left in the same condition. Guess that's what they call job security! Want to fix it correctly? All vents, bathroom and kitchen, should be vented to the exterior. And the eave is not considered vented to the exterior.

Okay, I know homes can't actually talk to us. But by paying attention to what is going on around us (such as with heat pumps), we can get some definite clues that there may be some kind of issue or problem. The next time we get a couple inches of snow, pay attention to your roof and those of your neighbors. You might get some clues as to potential issues in your attic.

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

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 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.



Illinois Youth to Washington
See
DC
Live!

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.