

Mission Statement:

Improving the quality of life
of our member-owners.

James B. Riddle

Executive Vice President/
General Manager

Board of Directors

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

What to do if the power goes off

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers to ensure none of them have tripped.
2. Look at your meter. If you can read the numbers on the LCD display, there is power to the meter; you will need to check further for a breaker that has tripped or a fuse that has blown. If there are no numbers present on the display, there is no power to the meter.
3. To report an outage, call 800-606-1505
4. Make sure you have the name as listed on the account and if possible, the account number.



Celebrating 75 Years

Just as in 1938, our nation is trying to fight its way back from a deep financial decline. Beyond that similarity though, life in 1938 was vastly different from today, especially if you lived in rural parts of southern Illinois. And if you're reading this magazine, then where you live today would have been described as rural in 1938 and you would not have had electricity in your home.

While most of us cannot remember life without electricity, some of our members do. They can describe in detail life without electricity and how electricity simplified and improved their lives. While many of us hear the stories of amazement when the 'lights' first came on, electricity went much farther than that.

For many homes, one of the first purchases after lights was a water pump. Rather than pumping water by

hand, inside plumbing with running water now made laundry and cooking much easier, as well as watering the livestock. And when the family could afford an electric water heater, bathing became a 'creature comfort', rather than a fight with the kids.

As income allowed, rural homes began to use electric ranges to cook with instead of wood stoves. Refrigerators replaced storing milk and cheese in the well bucket for those in rural areas or an ice box for those closer to town. Life in the home became even easier as washing machines replaced scrub boards and hand wringers.

Yes, electricity has definitely made living in rural parts of America much more attractive today than it was 75 years ago and electric cooperatives are chiefly responsible for that. But it was not originally planned that way.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt knew that to bring the nation out of its deep recession, rural America as well as the cities needed to prosper and grow. And he knew electricity would help create jobs and opportunities. The problem was electric companies that were willing to provide electricity to rural areas would charge \$2,000-3,000 per mile of line to get it there and then charge four

► Continued on page 16b



Jim Riddle

Executive
Vice President/
General Manager



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

■ Continued from page 16a

times as much for the electricity (\$.12-\$.15 per kWh) as what those in town did.

To help lower costs, President Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration by Executive Order 7037 on May 11, 1935. This agency was to make low interest loans to the power companies so they could build power lines into rural areas. In 1936, Congress passed the Rural Electrification Act and gave the agency permanency.

Morris Cooke, the first administrator of the REA, as the agency came to be known, suffered bitter disappointment. Power companies claimed there were few farms that required electricity that were not already served. Two years after the REA had been created, few farms had received lights. In 1937, John Carmody became the second administrator of the REA and changed the Agency's approach. Rather than relying on power companies, Mr. Carmody used farm extension advisors to educate farmers and rural folks on how to create a cooperative. In 1938, REA approved \$88 million in loans to cooperatives; in 1939 that number grew to \$227 million. In southern Illinois, the effort to bring power to rural areas started in 1934 with folks like Harry

Sickmeyer, who organized meetings with the local power company only to have them not show up. The REA Act brought hope though.

In 1937 and '38, efforts to get electricity began in earnest in Jackson and Randolph counties. When those efforts failed, the leaders decided to combine their efforts and on Aug. 25, 1938, at the Farm Bureau building in Murphysboro, Egyptian Electric Cooperative was organized. The leaders agreed to sign up 500 members in the two county region who wanted electricity. On Feb. 20, 1939, they were rewarded for their efforts with a \$500,000 loan from the REA. Lights would be coming soon!

With a contract of \$424,000, the Donovan Construction C. of St. Paul, Minnesota built the first 95 miles of line by setting the first pole at Winkelman's Grove (southwest of Steeleville) on Sept. 13, 1939. The following March, a switch was tripped and members on those first 95 miles had power and a different way of life.

Seventy-five years ago, a handful of local leaders, united by the common values of honesty, equality and solidarity, and armed with only a common cause, banded together and improved the quality of life in southwest Illinois through the formation

What did it cost in 1938?

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| New Car | \$445-565.00 |
| Gasoline | \$.10/gallon |
| Men's Slacks | \$1.95 |
| Women's Cotton Blouse | \$.39 each |
| Chicken, Whole Frozen | \$.22/lb. |
| Side Bacon | \$.21/lb. |
| Hamburger | \$.13/lb. |
| Bread | \$.06/loaf |
| Eggs | \$.14/dozen |
| Lettuce | \$.10/head |
| Peanut Butter | \$.25/2 lb. jar |
| Light bulb | \$.18 each |
| Refrigerator | \$96.00 each |
| 6 Room House | from \$4,750.00 |
| Lunch | \$.50/plate |
| Movie | \$.10/matinee, \$.20/evening |

of your electric cooperative, Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association.

Today, a new generation of cooperative members exists. As different as 2013 is from 1938, the cause is the same; to 'improve the quality of life of our member-owners.' Our members are the fabric of the communities in which they live and work. While individually each thread is weak, entwined together there is unfettered strength. It is time once again to provide power and growth for our communities, not with 'lights', but with the power of purpose, passion, ideas and will to improve the quality of life in our communities and to re-light the American dream.

I encourage each and every one of you to become an active member of your community, your school, your church, or whatever organization lights your fire. Just as Harry Sickmeyer most likely never imagined the impact his actions would have on future generations, we do not know the impact we might have on the future of those that follow us.

What Happened in 1938

- March of Dimes established to fight polio
- General Motors began mass production of diesel engines
- US Federal Crop Insurance program authorized
- DuPont begins production of nylon toothbrush bristles
- First passenger ship equipped with radar
- World News Roundup first broadcast on CBS Radio
- Baseball Hall of Fame opens in Cooperstown, NY.
- Teflon invented
- Brooklyn Dodgers play the first night game under lights at Ebbets Field
- Minimum Wage Law passed, \$.25/hour with increase to \$.40 by 1945
- Superman appears in DC Comics Action Series Issue #1
- Howard Hughes flies around the world in 91 hours.
- Orson Welles creates panic with broadcast of 'War of the Worlds'.

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

Be safe this spring

As spring means warm weather, it also means we'll start tackling some outdoor projects and that storms will come. We urge you to be prepared for both so you can deal with them safely.

DIY projects

Home improvement or maintenance projects always bring a sense of pride when completed unless someone is injured during the process. To make sure you can be proud of your work, keep these things in mind:

- Take a few moments to prepare for the job. Think ahead and make sure you have the right tools for the job. Taking a short cut that leads to injury is more expensive than purchasing or renting the right tools.
- Look for potential hazards in the work area. Watch for overhead power lines and have underground utilities located ahead of time by calling 8-1-1. Look up for items that might potentially fall.
- If making a building extension or installing a swimming pool, do not locate them below overhead or over underground power lines. Have the power lines relocated before starting the project.
- Use extension cords rated for outdoor use. Don't overload outlets or allow extension cords to become tangled. Use heavy-duty cords that are three prong.
- Make sure outdoor outlets are ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) or are fed by a GFCI breaker. If your outdoor outlets do not have them, use a portable GFCI equipped extension cord.

Ladders

Many projects around the home involve the use of ladders. According to a Consumer Product Safety Commission report, ladders were involved in more electrocutions than any other product. When using ladders, keep these tips in mind:

- Look up and out for power lines.
- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet from all power lines.
- Work only when weather permits: rain is a good conductor of electricity and wind can blow ladders out of control.
- Never trim trees near power lines, hire a professional.
- Follow safety guidelines when using ladders, especially the lean angle and weight limit recommendations of the manufacturer.

Planting trees

Choosing the right tree for the spot is crucial. Trees and tree limbs coming into contact with power lines are a major cause of power outages. An even greater concern is when children climb trees near power lines. If your existing trees are growing near power lines, contact us before trimming yourself.



To avoid future hazards, here are some safe planting tips to remember:

- Never plant a tree that could grow to 25 feet or more near a power line. Tall growing trees should be planted a minimum of 20 feet away from power lines, even

better is 50 feet to avoid future pruning.

- Do not plant trees or landscaping near underground utility services. Tree roots can grow to interfere with pipes, cables and wires. And the need for future repairs to the utility infrastructure could damage the health and beauty of the plants and trees.
- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers and pedestals free of vegetation that might limit access. And never pile dirt or landscaping material on them as this could cause them to rust and eventually fail and leak oil.
- Before digging, always call 8-1-1 before hand to have underground utilities located.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Storm safety

While thunderstorms are normally 15 miles in diameter and last around 30 minutes, they can wreak havoc quickly. Lightning, flash floods, high winds and tornadoes can be deadly and cause power outages.

If you are outdoors and can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. If shelter cannot be found, find the lowest spot that is away from trees, fences, poles and other tall objects.

Once the storm has passed, do not touch any downed wire, even if you believe it is NOT a power line as it could be in contact with a power line on the pole. If trees or limbs are

► Continued on page 16d

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

Illinois Country Living • April 2013 • 16c

▪ Continued from page 16c

downed, do not clean them up or move them until you have made sure there are no wires in them.

- Have a storm preparedness supply kit ready (you can find a checklist at www.safeelectricity.org in the INFORMATION CENTER section), including a weather radio, flashlights and first aid kit.
- Turn off and unplug major appliances well before the storm strikes to avoid lightning damage. Turn off your air-conditioner as well.
- If the power goes off, keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. A freezer half full or full can keep foods frozen 24 to 48 hours.
- Never cook foods indoors on a barbecue grill.
- If you have a generator, make sure you can connect it safely by having a double-throw switch installed by a professional. Improperly connected generators can back-feed into the electric system and harm electric workers or the general public. Never run a portable generator indoors.

For more safe practices and tips, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Check Your Name and Phone Number

When reporting an outage, make sure you provide the name that is on your bill. This will eliminate confusion.

Also check the phone numbers that show on your bill. The H: is for a home phone and the C: is for a cell phone. If you have eliminated your phone at home and only use a cell phone, that number should be shown as a cell phone.

If your phone numbers are incorrect, either write the correct ones on the stub when making a payment or contact our office.

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN BOTTOM

Make checks payable to EECA
Write your account number on your check. Cycle: 02

PLEASE INDICATE CHANGE OF ADDRESS BELOW

EECA Member
1234 Road America
Anytown, IL 12345

H: (618) 987-6543
C: (618) 123-4567

1503400465

Outage Texting is here!

Register today at www.eeca.coop
Go to the 'Outage by Text' page
under the MyService tab

Report a power
outage with a text
from your
cell phone.

twitter

Follow EgyptianCoop on Twitter to keep informed of outage status & important things you should know about your electric cooperative!

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.