

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
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Office Closings

Closed Nov 11, Veterans Day,
Nov 25 & 26 Thanksgiving.

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.

HomE energy efficiency program a success

Seven hundred thousand dollars. If you work for a Fortune 500 company, that probably doesn't sound like a lot of money. If you are like me though, you may be reminded of the television commercial and are gasping, "WOW, that's a lot of money!" But that's how much money we expect the HomE Energy Efficiency Rebate program to pump into the local economy.

In early May, we announced that our statewide association was working with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to provide rebates for energy efficiency improvements by electric cooperative members. The funds had been allocated to Illinois as a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). To receive a rebate, members needed to increase the efficiency of heating and/or cooling systems and/or install insulation. Members were required to have an energy assessment conducted by cooperative staff.

Before they could begin their project, members were required to submit a proposal to us for approval. Once approved, funding allocated to Egyptian was set aside for the member. At this time, the \$75,000 allocated to us has been distributed for completed projects or reserved for approved projects in process.

To date, 49 members have completed their project and received \$52,546.02 in rebates. In turn, this created energy efficiency improve-

ment projects valued at \$470,397.79. As the remaining projects work towards completion, the reserved rebates of nearly \$23,000 will create another \$207,000 in work. This means the HomE program will have pumped nearly \$700,000 into the local economy for energy efficiency improvements to our member's homes.

Of the 49 completed projects, 10 members installed new geo-thermal heat pumps, the most efficient heating and cooling systems available. These members are pairing their HomE rebate with a 30 percent uncapped tax incentive from the Federal Government for geo-thermal heat pumps, ending with installed prices rivaling traditional equipment installation costs.

Another 30 members installed high efficient heat pumps with efficiency ratings over 16 SEER. As the replaced equipment had to be lower than 13 SEER to receive a rebate, these members will see large energy savings. These members are also eligible for a 30 percent tax incentive (capped at \$1,500) from the Federal Government.

Although the Federal Government only requires a 15 SEER system, our

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Jim Riddle

*Executive
Vice President/
General Manager*



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

2011 Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Program

The AIEC Board of Directors in 1994 voted to establish an Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Fund is designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family,” while also providing a means for co-ops and individuals to honor deceased members of the co-op family through memorial gifts. The “driving force” behind the fund’s creation was Thomas H. Moore, Executive Vice President and General Manager of the AIEC from 1961 to 1994. The AIEC Board voted to rename the scholarship program to honor Mr. Moore following his passing in 2008.

The scholarship program prospered under the leadership of Earl W. Struck, who succeeded Mr. Moore and served as President/CEO of the AIEC from 1994 to 2006. Mr. Struck passed away in August 2007. The AIEC Board of Directors that month voted to honor Mr. Struck’s memory by naming the annual scholarship awarded to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative employee or director the “Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship.” Mr. Struck was born and raised in Murphysboro and was active in the 4H program during his youth. His parents were long time members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative.

The Illinois Community College System Foundation (ICCSF) administers the Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Fund. Eight scholarships a year are awarded.

Four scholarships a year are awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member. An additional scholarship (the Earl W.



Struck Memorial Scholarship) is awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. These five scholarships can be used at any two-year or four-year accredited college or university in the United States, including vocational/technical schools. The sixth and seventh scholarships are awarded for use at an Illinois community college, and sons and daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees and directors are all eligible.

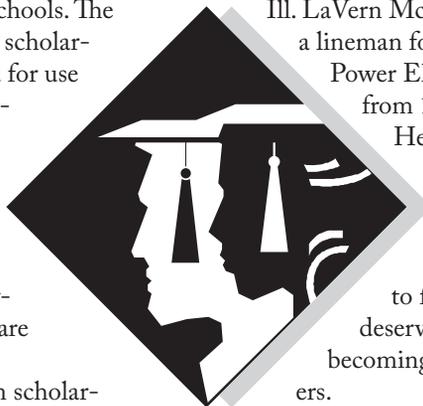
The above seven scholarships are for \$1,250 each and are not renewable. Applicants must be high school seniors and apply through their local electric cooperative. The deadline for submitting completed applications to the local electric cooperative is January 1 of each year.

A new eighth annual scholarship,

the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” will be awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$1250 scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the AIEC in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Ill. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, helped to endow and establish the new scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers.

Relatives of co-op employees or directors are eligible for the lineworker’s scholarship, as are individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard.

For more information and scholarship forms, please visit our Web site, www.eeca.coop.



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

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program went further, requiring at least 16 SEER. To reach 16 SEER efficiency, nearly all manufacturers use two speed compressors. Cooling and heating systems are over sized except during the most extreme conditions so with slower speeds and lower capacity, two speed systems are more “right” sized for longer periods. During summer cooling times especially, slower speeds mean better dehumidification and increased comfort.

Nineteen members also increased the efficiency of the home’s envelope by installing additional insulation. Most of this was for cellulose insulation in attics or for crawlspace insulation. Many of these members paired insulation improvements with their heating and cooling system improvements and will see excellent reductions in their energy usage.

While pumping \$700,000 into

the local economy is nothing to sneeze about, it was not the greatest achievement of the HomeE program. The greatest achievement from our standpoint is that it forced our energy efficiency staff into our member’s homes. While conducting the energy assessment for our members, our staff was able to educate our members on what causes energy consumption, how heat pumps function and on building science in general. They were able to point out to members, deficiencies in insulation or why vapor barriers and insulated crawlspaces and basements are so very important to the longevity and good health of the home.

All in all, the HomeE Energy Efficiency Rebate program was a very successful program for Egyptian Electric and for our members. DCEO staff has been amazed at the success and quality of the program

and how efficiently and professionally it was conducted, hopefully leading to increased partnerships with them. Reduced energy consumption due to more efficient systems and increased insulation will lead to less impact on the environment.

Most importantly though, I think the 88 members who received energy assessments realize we are here for them. We are not some conglomerate with offices outside the region that hires a third party to manage their energy efficiency programs via the mail or the Internet. Our staff climbed ladders to inspect attics, crawled into crawlspaces and spent time educating members and listening to their questions. That’s what cooperatives do. And ... will continue to do.

SCHOOLS A+ ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

Schools A+ Energy Efficiency Program

Each year, schools throughout the U.S. spend more than \$6 billion on energy for their facilities. Unfortunately nearly one-fourth of that is wasted and not needed. On October 19 and 20, Egyptian Electric Cooperative, in cooperation with other local Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in southern Illinois, gave local schools the information they need to stop the waste.

On October 19, at the Williamson County Pavilion in Marion and October 20, at the World Shooting Complex in Sparta, area school

superintendents and their key facilities/maintenance person were treated to the Schools A+ Energy Efficiency Program developed by Touchstone Energy.

James Herritage, President of Energy Auditors, Inc. from South Carolina, led the discussion centered on low/no cost measures schools can use to reduce their energy consumption.

Much of Herritage’s message centered on the fact that energy costs are manageable, not fixed. By managing how and when energy is used, many times can reduce the

overall rate for the same energy can be reduced. He also taught the attendants many useful low cost maintenance tips that can dramatically reduce energy costs.

Helping our schools reduce their energy costs helps them improve the quality of education they can provide our youth while reducing the tax burden on local residents. The Schools A+ Energy Efficiency Program is just one more way your electric cooperative, Egyptian Electric, supports our local community.

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

Beware: It may be Snake Oil

As we approach the winter heating season, my responsibility to you, our members, compels me to address an area of modern day snake oil peddling to insure the health and wellbeing of your pocketbooks. According to Wikipedia: *“The snake oil peddler became a stock character in Western movies: a travelling “doctor” with dubious credentials, selling some medicine (such as snake oil) with boisterous marketing hype, often supported by pseudo-scientific evidence, typically bogus. To enhance sales, an accomplice in the crowd (a “shill”) would often “attest” the value of the product in an effort to provoke buying enthusiasm. The “doctor” would prudently leave town before his customers realized that they had been cheated. This practice is also called “grifting” and its practitioners “grifters”.*

The snake oil I want to discuss has to do with outlandish energy saving claims. We have been regaled with ads in Parade magazine and newspapers: Amish-made portable fireplaces without any of the “flames, fumes, smells, ashes, or mess” of a real fireplace. And they’re absolutely free if you call within 48 hours! These things do heat but they are actually nothing more than a 1500-watt quartz heater you can purchase for \$45 at any big box store. Unless you turn the thermostat down low for the rest the house and heat only the room you are in with the “miracle” heater, you will actually use more energy.

More recently, a pretty version of what I affectionately call the “swamp cooler” has made an appearance. Using a fan and two gel ice blocks, you are supposed to be able to cool yourself and shut off your AC. Yes, it will cool but, again, rather than spend hundreds of dollars, buy some ice and blow a floor fan over it.

Probably harder to decipher are the black/green boxes that claim to work all sorts of magic on your electric power. These will correct phase angle imbalances, clip peaks, make motor-driven appliances (refrigerators / freezers) more efficient, store energy, clean up incoming energy (eliminate harmonics, for example), and generally reduce your overall energy cost 10 – 25 percent. With these snake oil folks, you have no chance to see what is inside the black box or, for most people, to assess and verify claims. Well, let me fill this gap with a succinct analysis, “Hogwash!” First of all, residential and small business electric loads simply cannot benefit from most of the proffered features due to the laws of physics.

Most of these devices derive their “effectiveness” from correction of what is called power factor. Inductive (electric motors) or capacitive (lamp ballasts used in fluorescent lighting) loads tend to have power factors less than 100 percent as they shift the timing of the current waveform of electricity in relation to the voltage waveform. Don’t worry if you don’t understand the engineering jargon for power factor, all you need to know is that residential electric meters are not affected by power factor. All they measure is energy used (in the form of kWh). Power factor is measured by demand metering which we do use on large commercial accounts. Some of these devices claim the “combination of



electric loads in American homes results in an average power factor of 77 percent or less”. Isn’t it amazing that your Cooperative is 85 percent residential yet our substations normally have a 97 percent and above power factor?

An emerging area of snake oil sales pitches promises free / low cost renewable energy. There are ads out there claiming to have plans that allow you to build a solar panel that will power your home with parts available at your local hardware store for less than \$100.00. For a limited time, these plans were marked down from \$90 to \$45. Such a deal I have for you. If you order within the next 15 minutes, they’ll throw in the Brooklyn Bridge!

To avoid legal challenges, we will refrain from naming names but as of this writing, none of these devices will provide the promised savings. Tough economic times spawn all manner of snake oil offers. Before you send your hard-earned money to any of these dubious sales offers, please call us with any questions and we’ll do our best to get you information about the product or service. To paraphrase an old saying, “Buy in haste, repent in leisure.” Buyer’s remorse is an ugly thing.

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.