

November 2013

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

Office Closings

Veterans Day,
Monday, November 11

Thanksgiving,
Thursday, November 28
Friday, November 29

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.



With Thanksgiving just around the corner and Christmas right behind it, many of us will celebrate the holidays steeped in family traditions and customs. That sometimes includes saying all that we are grateful for at the holiday dinner. My annual list is usually about the same—good health, wonderful family and friends, and a job serving the great people of Egyptian Electric Cooperative.

I'm thankful to be a part of this cooperative. Our employees are some of the hardest workers

I know. Our mission is to provide affordable, reliable, safe electric power, but we also aim to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. It's a mission we all take seriously.

I'm thankful for Egyptian because it allows employees to live alongside the members we serve. The beauty of a cooperative is that it's locally owned and operated; there are no distant shareholders pulling the strings behind the scenes. Members elect members to serve on the board of directors and to govern the cooperative. We're your neighbors, your friends, and your family.

I'm thankful for our cooperative because it serves as a vibrant force in the local economy. That means your cooperative is invested in the future of its communities. Our employees serve on local committees and organizations that help bring jobs to the area, like the Jackson Growth

Alliance who was instrumental in fighting for funding for SIUC's Transportation Education Center at the Southern Illinois Airport, or Connect SI, who has led the effort to bring improved and affordable broadband services to southern Illinois.

I'm thankful for my co-op because we care. From giving scholarships to young people and coordinating an annual food drive (Lite for a Bite) to reaching out to members with information that will help them save

energy and money, we care about the people and the towns we serve.

I urge each and every one of our members to help make our Lite for a Bite food drive even more successful. Bring commercially prepared non-perishable food to our office and we'll swap you up to four CFL light bulbs for every item. I'd love nothing more than to see our office lobbies overflowing with food.

Finally, I'm thankful for you, our members and faithful readers. Because without you, there'd be no Egyptian Electric Cooperative.

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us here at Egyptian Electric Cooperative.



Jim Riddle

Executive
Vice President/
General Manager



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

2014 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

We are pleased to announce that the Illinois electric cooperatives will again award seven academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” Additionally, an eighth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The eight scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded in 2014 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Four scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. The sixth and seventh

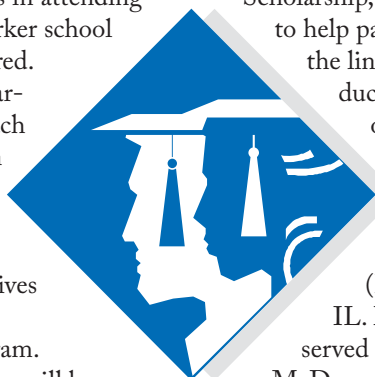
scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The eighth annual \$1,500 scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” was created in 2011 to help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC), Springfield, IL. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the new scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard; and individuals

participating in the LLCC lineworker’s program are all eligible for the lineworker’s scholarship.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says Jim Riddle, EECA Executive Vice President and General Manager. “Egyptian Electric and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker’s scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker.”

For more information regarding the scholarships and to apply online, visit www.eeca.coop. All necessary paperwork has been sent to area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative’s website.



LOAF OF BREAD	
1936.....	8¢
2013.....	\$1.41
INCREASE.....	18X

ELECTRICITY	
1936.....	5¢
2013.....	11¢
INCREASE.....	2X

BASED ON AVERAGE COST PER KILOWATT HOUR

ELECTRICITY PUTS BREAD ON YOUR TABLE. AND KEEPS IT IN YOUR WALLET.

Keeping energy affordable. Just another way it pays to be a co-op member. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com.

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

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

Classroom Empowerment Grants energize local schools

Egyptian Electric Cooperative is offering a total of six \$500 Classroom Empowerment Grants to fund innovative and unfunded projects in schools located within the Cooperative's service area. Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school.

According to Jim Riddle, Executive Vice President/General Manager of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, "We feel these grants will provide a real boost for smaller projects that would not otherwise be funded. As your local Touchstone Energy cooperative, we are committed to our communities and improving conditions for local students is a priority."

School administrators or teachers must submit a grant application that can be obtained from the Cooperative's Web site, www.eeca.coop or by contacting the



**Empower
Your School**

Cooperative. The application requests information about the project, the school and the applicant. A panel of judges will determine which projects will be awarded grants of up to \$500 each.

School administrators or teachers must return the completed application to the Cooperative by

December 4, 2013. The grant awards will be announced on December 18. For more information about the Classroom Empowerment Grants, please contact Bryce Cramer at Egyptian Electric Cooperative (bcramer@eeca.coop or 800-606-1505).

Lineman's Safety Rodeo



Pictured are (l-r) Roger Larkin, manager of lineworker and apprentice development for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, and Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association linemen Andy Ahner, Mike Smith and Matt McElroy.

Linemen from Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, Steepleville and Murphysboro, participated in the annual statewide Lineman's Safety Rodeo on Friday, September 27. Andy Ahner, Mike Smith and Matt McElroy finished second runner up in the Best Overall Team category for total points. They also finished first in the Hurt Man Rescue event, first in the Speed Climb event, third in the Knot and Hitch event (identification of different types of rope knots), and second in the Field Event.

In addition to the team accolades, Matt McElroy

held the honor of being first in the individual speed climb event.

The 16th Lineman's Safety Rodeo, held at Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) in Springfield, coincided with a series of courses designed to help electric line personnel improve their work skills in safe and efficient ways. Several electric suppliers joined the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative in sponsoring the event.

Line personnel competed in five team events and three individual events. Team events included the hurt man rescue, speed climb (linemen climbing a 40-foot pole with a raw egg in a bag that is held in their mouth), two field events requiring them to display their knowledge and line skills, and a knot and hitch event.

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

Winter preparedness

Before you know it, cold weather will be upon us and will cause our homes to use more energy as we try to stay warm. Higher energy usage is a nature of the proverbial winter beast, the colder it gets, the more btu's (energy/electricity) it takes to keep our houses warm. But homes deficient in insulation, air-sealing or heating system maintenance will use more energy than they need. Now is the time to rectify those deficiencies before the first arctic blasts and bills arrive.

Check for Leaks

- Check around doors and windows to verify the condition of weather-stripping. Weather-stripping wears out and may need replacement from time to time.
- Make sure doors, windows and storms are closed and window locks are engaged. You won't believe how many storm windows I've found half-way open. Years ago I even missed one of my own and didn't discover it until ice formed on the window. Make sure the sash locks on windows are locked. These locks provide more than security, they seal the windows.
- If you have a crawl space or unheated basement, seal all openings in the floor from beneath with caulk or expanding foam. Warm air attempts to rise and when it does, it will pull air in through these leaks.
- If your crawl space has vents, seal them off if the ground is covered by a good vapor barrier. These vents let lots of cold air in, freezing water lines in the process. If you don't have a good vapor barrier, INSTALL one and then close the vents.
- Look in the attic for ceiling bypasses. If your home has fiberglass insulation, look for dirty spots. The insulation is

filtering the dirt out of the air that is moving through it from a leak underneath. Caulk or foam plumbing, electrical and other ceiling penetrations. If you see recessed lights, build insulating 'hats' from foil faced foam (maintain a 6" clearance around the light to avoid heat build-up). If the perforation is due to a fireplace or other fossil-fired appliances, make sure the caulk or foam is fire rated.

Insulation

- Get up in your attic and check your insulation. See what kind it is and how many inches. Cellulose insulation is the best. If its fiberglass batts, make sure the insulation fits tightly to the ceiling below with no gaps between batts. If it is loose fill fiberglass (typically white and looks like cotton balls), blow cellulose over it immediately. This insulation has a low density and loses its R-value the colder it gets.
- If access to your attic is from within the home, make sure the hatch is insulated and weather-stripped. That relatively small 2' x 2' hatch loses a tremendous amount of heat all winter long.
- If some rooms in your home have knee walls (vertical walls open to the attic on the other side) I'll bet they are improperly insulated. While these surfaces are vertical, they really are not wall structures, but rather a vertical ceiling as they separate attic areas from living areas. They need the same R-value as ceilings. And fiberglass insulation only works in these areas if covered with rigid insulation. Install foam insulation over the fiberglass and make sure it is air-sealed, including the rafter area that goes under the floor.

Heating System

- Now is the time to take care of routing maintenance. Make sure the filter is clean. If you have a heat pump, wash the coils off outside to remove dirt and debris that can block air-flow and reduce heat transfer (make sure the power is off and do not use a pressure sprayer).
- If your heating system is old, consider replacement now before cold weather comes and you have to go without heat until a technician can get there. And because you are not under pressure, you can properly evaluate your alternatives.
- If you have a set-back thermostat, check its programming. Make sure it is set to operate as you want. If you have a heat pump, only program set-back temperatures if the thermostat is designed for a heat pump, locking out the auxiliary heat strips as it recovers.

Now is the time to get ready for winter. If you are not sure what needs to be done at your home, consider scheduling an energy audit. A qualified energy auditor can assist you in developing a plan to bring your home to current energy efficiency practices.

Mr. Meant-To

Mr. Meant-To has a comrade,
And his name is Didn't-Do.
Have you ever chanced
to meet them?
Have they ever called on you?
These two fellows live together
In the house of Never Win,
And I'm told that it is haunted
By the ghost of
Might-Have-Been

Anonymous

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.