

JAMUP

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



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 Director of HR &
 Administrative Services

The Seven Cooperative Principles

As a member of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC), you are probably aware that electric cooperatives were formed during the 1930s to bring electricity to rural areas of the United States that investor-owned utilities did not view as profitable. But, do you know where the cooperative concept came from?

The cooperative concept can be traced back to the first successful co-op, founded in England in 1844 by a group of weavers known as the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society. Feeling the effects of the Industrial Revolution, this group of skilled yet impoverished tradesmen joined together to open a successful cooperative store. To ensure the stability of their cooperative while maintaining its core values, the group established a set of operating guidelines called the Rochdale Principles.

Remarkably, these principles formed the basis for the Seven Cooperative Principles that still survive today in more than 900 electric cooperatives across the United States. No matter if you belong to a cooperative in Illinois or Alaska, your cooperative is guided by the following set of core values and principles:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership

Membership in a cooperative is open to all persons who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion gender or economic circumstances.

2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and

making decisions. Elected representatives (directors/trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3. Member's Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, setting up reserves, benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative, and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.

5. Education, Training and Information

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs, and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, helps boost cooperative understanding.

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Make plans to attend our **Annual Meeting** Thursday, August 3rd at Shawnee Community College in Ullin, Illinois at 6 p.m.



Member prize

In this issue of the JAMUP, we printed the names of three SIEC members who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit toward their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section and it's not part of the story, call Bree with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

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6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

By working together through local, national, regional, and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs. *Angeline Collins*

7. Concern for Community

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.

Each day, SIEC strives to adhere to the Seven Cooperative Principles to guide our cooperative and put you, the member-owner, first. We always welcome your questions and comments to help us improve.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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618-827-3555
Office hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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For Outages Call:
800-762-1400 * 618-827-3555

Please make room for roadside crews

When the power goes out, so do Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative’s line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities we serve.

If you’re traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we kindly ask that you move over if possible and give them a little extra space to work. We deeply care about the safety of all, and this extra precaution ensures just that.

If you approach a crew while traveling on a two-lane road, moving over to the next lane might not be an option. In this case, we simply ask that you slow down when

approaching roadside crews. If you approach a crew while traveling on a four-lane road, and safety and traffic conditions allow, we ask that you move over into the far lane.

Utility crews aren’t the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding to emergency situations near busy roadways. We ask that you follow the same procedures mentioned above to help keep these crews safe.

There’s plenty of room for all. Let’s work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways.





We are prepared for summer storms

Summer is here, school is out and families are gearing up for a few months of fun and relaxation. While summer brings much fun in the sun, it can also bring the occasional severe storm. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) is ready to respond.

The major cause of most power outages comes from damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches. We work year-round – through right-of-way clearing – to ensure power lines in our service territory stand minimal risk of being damaged by trees, branches or other types of vegetation.

Despite our best efforts, during major storms, damage can occur to transmission stations, substations and power lines. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. Every phone line available is utilized to take your outage report calls. The big problems are handled first – like damage to transmission lines. These problems must be corrected before we can focus on other areas where more localized damage may have occurred.

SIEC's line crews inspect substations to determine if the problem

starts there or if there could be an issue down the line. If the root of the problem is at the substation, power can be restored to thousands of members. **Alyssa Penrod**

Next, line crews check the service lines that deliver power into neighborhoods and communities. Line crews repair the damaged lines, restoring power to hundreds of members. If you continue to experience an outage, there may be damage to a tap line outside of your home or business. Make sure you notify SIEC so crews can inspect these lines.

We will do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans.

Nominating Committee report

The Nominating Committee met at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative on May 11, 2017, to nominate three (3) candidates for election to the office of director, each for a term of three years.

Scott Miller was nominated as director for Alexander County.

Carole J. Kelley was nominated as director for Johnson County.

David Martin was nominated as director for Massac County.



SWIMMING POOL ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Water and electricity never mix! Remember to practice electrical safety when you're cooling off in the pool. Fill in the blanks in the electrical safety tips below. Use the word bank for help. *Hint: Check your answers in the key below.*



SWIMMING POOL SAFETY TIPS:

1. If you hear _____, immediately exit the swimming pool. Storms may be near.
2. Never bring _____ devices near a swimming pool. If they come in contact with water, electric shock could occur. Devices should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources.
3. Outdoor electrical outlets should be covered to keep them _____.
4. When possible, use _____ operated electrical devices when outside near a swimming pool.

Word Bank:
 electrical
 battery
 thunder
 dry

Answers Key:
 1. thunder 2. electrical 3. dry 4. battery