



## President/CEO's comments

by Wm. David Champlon, Jr.

Sophomores and juniors who attend a high school in Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's service area are invited to enter the "Youth to Washington" essay contest.

Write an essay entitled "What Impact Will Deregulation Have on the Electric Utilities?" and you may win a trip to the

nation's capital as well as other prizes. Contact the cooperative at (800) 824-5102 or (217) 379-2131 during the regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. An entry form, contest rules and reference material will be sent to each student who enters the contest. The prizes are:

- 1st Place:** Trip to Washington and a \$200 savings bond
- 2nd Place:** Trip to Washington and a \$100 savings bond
- 3rd Place:** Trip to Washington and a \$75 savings bond
- 4th-8th:Place:** \$50 savings bond

Essays are due at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton on March 6. On March 20, a panel of judges will select eight finalists and the contest will be held April 13 at Remembrance Hall in Paxton.

Winners of the trip will join some 80 students from Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives in Springfield on June 12 where they will board tour buses, travel to Washington and return home June 19.

During a week in the nation's capital these students will get an up-close, first-hand look at

democracy in action, and meet their elected representatives. Moreover, students will learn how government works and why it's important for every citizen to get involved in government.

Your cooperative has a stake in the future of our area, and our young people represent that future. Your cooperative's board members feel it is important for young leaders to be exposed to government and to learn more about it. Along the way they will also learn about the cooperative form of business. That's why the cooperative participates in these programs.

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative and the other electric and telephone cooperatives in the state have been sending students to Springfield and Washington, D.C. since 1957. During that time, the co-op has helped introduce hundreds of future young leaders to government and cooperatives and our "alumni" have gone on to leadership positions in our area communities.

The electric and telephone cooperatives' trip is recognized as one of the best tours of the nation's capital. The students will tour the monuments, memorials and shrines of the capital, as well as Arlington Cemetery, George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, historic Alexandria, the Supreme Court and the U.S. Capitol. Furthermore, they will visit the National Cathedral, Smithsonian and Holocaust museums and attend a play at Ford's Theater and will meet with Illinois senators and dine with the downstate Illinois congressional delegation at a Capitol Hill luncheon. There's also a twilight cruise on the Potomac River and a reception at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia. And that's just the beginning.

Please encourage sophomores and juniors to enter EIEC's "Youth to Washington" essay contest and take advantage of this great opportunity.

## Mission Statement

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's mission is to exceed customer expectations in providing energy and other valued products and services.

# Showing canines is sideline business for teachers

For a lot of people, if you say their life has gone to the dogs, you'd say it with a bit of sympathy. But that's not the way it is with Merle and Carolyn Taylor. The Taylors, who live in a refurbished schoolhouse near Hammond, set out to have their lives go to the dogs: they started a pet-grooming business some 20 years ago.

Both grew up in southern Illinois and had pets as children. "We were like most kids," Merle says, "and we didn't know anything about pet shows. We didn't even give any thought to getting involved with them."

Later on, they took a pet to obedience training. They met people, went to a few dog shows, and got hooked. "After we'd gotten involved in the process, we became interested enough to buy a show dog," Merle says.

Merle teaches business courses at Bement High School and occasionally at Parkland College, and Carolyn teaches middle school language arts at Bement. Their love of animals prompted them to get into the showing, boarding and training of show dogs.

When it comes to grooming Scottish Terriers,



**Jeannie Kingston, EIEC manager of information services, helps Carolyn pet a pair of pups.**

or "Scotties," Merle wrote the book — literally. "The Scottish Terrier Club of America held a series of workshops all over the country," he says, "and they flew me from place to place for five years to conduct them."

As time went by, the idea of a book evolved, and Merle worked one up.

But things didn't start out all that auspiciously, the couple notes. "We had toyed with the idea of going out on our own for years," Carolyn says. "We worked with a professional dog handler in Decatur. We traveled with her to dog shows, met a great number of people and learned an incredible amount of information."

Trimming a dog the first time, their own, was less than a complete success. "The dog we'd groomed ran into the bathroom and hid behind the toilet," he says.

Even so, they kept at it. When they had the opportunity to buy the old Leavitt School, which had been partially refurbished, they jumped at it. It was roomy, had a big shady yard, and offered space for a real kennel. They bought the place and built facilities for grooming, boarding and training — and exercising.

The Taylors have just finished up a show season and are getting ready to start a new one. "We usually start off in the early spring and early fall," Merle says, "and it takes at least three months to get the dogs' coats ready, and to get them trained for show. It takes a lot of work just to make them understand what you want them to do."



**Merle and Carolyn Taylor take advantage of the shade to groom and train Bob, a champion Bouvier Des Flandres.**

They note that animals are bred for a certain conformation, and that trimming and grooming are designed to enhance and emphasize the favorable characteristics. Training involves teaching the animals to stand, stay, walk on lead, and behave like a show dog. Some are just naturals.

While they work with many different breeds, having shown dogs for other people, as well as their own, since 1976, they have bred over 25 Scottish Terrier champions. Their involvement with cats just happened; they bought a pet Scottish Fold kitten, and one thing led to another. They now raise Scottish Folds and Manx having just recently put grand championships on three young males. There are some Scottish Fold hopefuls coming up through the ranks.

"We campaigned our first Manx nationally flying with her to shows all over the country," Carolyn says, "and she was seventh best in the nation. We were really pleased with her show career — she was a great show animal. Now she sleeps on the bed."



The Taylors live in the old Leavitt School, near Hammond.

All in all, the Taylors will load up their special van and head out to some 50-75 shows a year. "We have a couple of dogs who rank in the top five nationwide," Merle says, "and we have to take them to as many shows as possible to score enough points to keep them there. But we enjoy what we do, and that helps keep us focused. Cat shows are a mini-vacation for us; we have a chance to relax a bit because the cats are ours — we want to win but we aren't getting paid so the pressure is off."



Wm. David Champion, Jr., left, EIEC president/CEO, looks on as the Taylors work with a show dog.

# Board meeting report



The Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors held its regular meeting November 25, 1997, at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the October 28, 1997, board meeting were approved.

The October 31, 1997, statement of revenues and expenses including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,606,266, Total Operating Expenses \$350,210, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,950,002, Operating Margins (\$343,736), Total Margins (\$312,492) and Year-To-Date Margins \$1,016,661.

During October, 90 members joined the cooperative and 95 terminated their memberships.

The Board went into Executive Session

After reconvening in regular session, Director Byers, Chairman of the Policy and Regulation Committee, indicated the committee had met November 10 and had drafted language for the proposed Bylaw amendment which will be presented for consideration to cooperative members at the March 14, 1998, annual meeting. Byers presented the proposed amendment to the board and it was approved.

Director Aden, Chairman of the Land Use and Facilities Committee, reviewed the November 17 committee meeting and presented the 1998 Capital Budget of \$222,100 to the board for consideration. After a thorough discussion, the 1998 Capital Budget was approved.

Chairman of the Board Chesnut announced the Annual Meeting Planning Committee will meet December 15 and the Audit and Finance Committee will meet December 16.

A synopsis of the November 20 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Board meeting was given by Director Chesnut. Reports were presented on engineering, legal and regulatory activities. The new deregulation bill was reviewed.

Highlights of the November 19 Soyland Power Cooperative Board meeting were given by Director Warmbir. CEO Champion, Chairman of the SPC Board, presided over the meeting. Finance, Power Supply, Governance, Property and Marketing Committee reports were given. The new de-

regulation bill was discussed and Policy Books were distributed.

In other action, the EIEC board approved a revised organizational chart and RUS Form 268 — Report of Compliance and Participation.

Directors Chesnut and Knox reviewed NRECA Course 593.2 "Role of the Board in Organization Renewal" that they had attended in Springfield, November 4-5.

Additionally, CEO Champion furnished the board with the following information: the Nominating Committee met November 3 and selected Nominating Candidates for Directorate Districts 2, 6, 8, 9 and 13 and they also nominated incumbent Directors Warmbir, Loy, Knox and Day for the director elections that will be conducted in districts 3, 4, 7 and 11 at the March 14 annual meeting; a comprehensive October job training and safety activities report; the CFC Key Ratio Trend Analysis; the RUS Borrower Statistical Profile; details of the new deregulation bill; EIEC crews were sent on October 29-31 to assist Illinois Valley Electric Co-op recover from a heavy snow and ice storm; and EIEC has received awards from the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) for 100% participation by the board and key employees. CEO Champion further advised that he had attended an "Education to Careers" meeting at Heritage High School at Broadlands.

The board appointed tellers to count nominating committee ballots December 19 at cooperative headquarters.

Dale Kuhn, Manager of Marketing and Economic Development, gave a Rural TV business activities report, and a written report on marketing efforts was provided by Utili-soft Manager Jeff Tankersley. SkyQuest Manager Dave Lithgow indicated SkyQuest had 7,401 DIRECTV subscribers on November 7. He also summarized marketing efforts.

The next meeting of the board will be held December 15.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

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# Eastern Illini

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## Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

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**Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School**  
**Paxton, Illinois**



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- Elect four directors
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## **Mission Statement**

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's mission is to exceed customer expectations in providing energy and other valued products and services.



The department oversees construction of new bridges like this one, which will replace the short, narrow span in the background.

## Iroquois County Highway Department --a lot of bang for the buck

John Devine, engineer for the Iroquois County Highway Department, is in much the same fix as anyone who depends on government money to do his job: While the workload is getting bigger, the funding isn't.

Devine and his crew operate out of their headquarters in Watseka, and build and maintain bridges and highways in the state's third largest county. He's quick to point out that his department doesn't actually do much of the building any more. It plans, designs and oversees construction by contractors, and periodically inspects structures to ensure their safety.

"Iroquois County has some 1,120 square miles," he says, "and there are some 300 miles in the county highway system and 1,600 miles of township highways. We have 435 structures over 20' feet in span, and we're required to inspect them at given intervals. Some of the older truss bridges have to be checked often, because they have what's called 'critical members,' which is a member that will take the whole structure with it if it fails.

"Many of the bridges we're dealing with are many years old," he adds, "and have been in use far longer than their designers and builders ever expected them to be in service. And vehicles are much heavier than they were when many of these structures were built."

Devine, who started at Iroquois County Highways in 1960, notes that the work force there

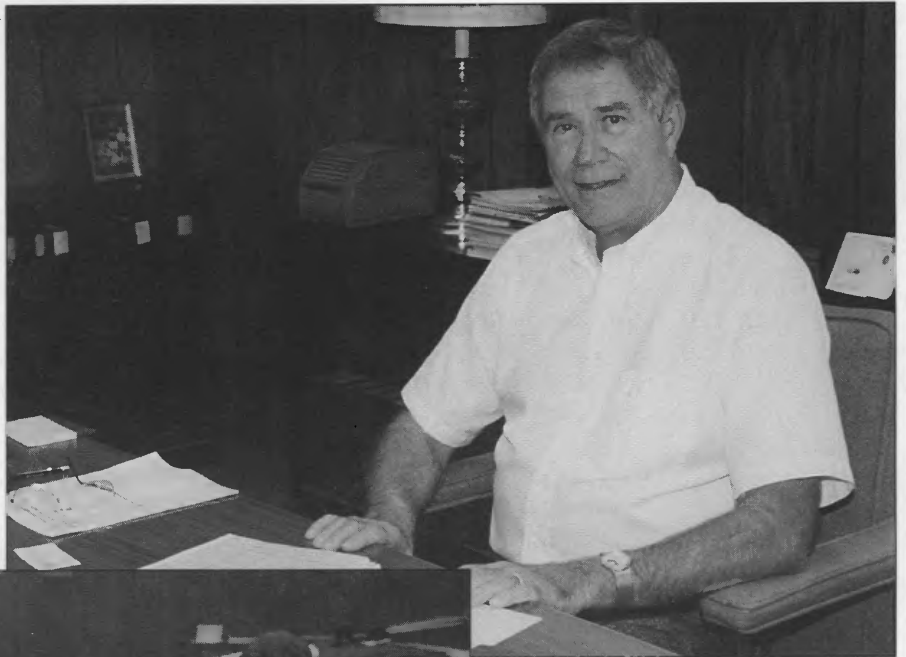
has gradually contracted as time has gone by. "Back then," he says, "we had 20 maintenance people, half a dozen engineers, and two people doing book work and record keeping. Now, we have four maintenance people, five engineers, and two office workers."

And he notes that there have also been some changes since the 1960s. For one, back then, there were many bridges in the county that had wooden decking, something you just don't see anymore. Another difference is in the kind of people using the roads, and their expectations. "Back then," he says, "most of the rural people were farmers, who made their living out in the country. They went into the winter season expecting to get snowed in occasionally, and they planned accordingly. They'd have some canned goods and the like, and just weather out the storm.

"Now, most people who live in the country have a job in town. That means we have to plow more roads, so people can get to work. It's added up to something of an increased work load," he says.

With that bigger work load and fewer people, something had to give. Much of the work that was once done by employees is now done by contractors. "We contract out more than we used to," Devine says, "and we use computers a lot to help out on the engineering side. They save an awful lot of time, and that reduces our

John Devine has been with the Iroquois County Highway Department since 1960.



While engineering and outside jobs are important, clerical and bookkeeping functions are important, too. Lisa Miller, foreground, and Susan Watts help in that department. ▼



While computers have helped some, and while contractors can do some of the work, the planning falls to the engineers, and they often have a thankless task. "We try to plan our maintenance so it gets done when it's needed, and not too early, because the money could be better spent elsewhere," Devine says, "but the computers help a lot."

Of course, budgets are built on certain assumptions. While computers and good engineers can help spell out odds, they can't really predict

personnel needs. We have to automate all we can, to keep costs down."

The downsizing, which began about 10 years ago, has resulted in the need to enter more and more data into computers, to help with road design. "We have to plan our maintenance so we'll have the money when we need it," Devine says.

Adding to the problem is the fact that traffic patterns are both changing and unpredictable, there are more and bigger vehicles on the roads, and they're traveling faster than ever.

"We have a policy of upgrading old roads," he says, "and some of them were in pretty bad shape. When we get them all fixed up, traffic may go from a hundred cars a day to five or six times that. It's hard to predict. And the people driving on them are driving much faster because the roads are so much better. It's getting to where I'm very concerned about the safety of my crews."

Every rain storm, every snowfall and every ice storm takes a toll on the budget. Rains require the rebuilding of drainage ditches and the like, and snowfall requires a certain amount of plowing. Ice, which presents its own unique problems, often requires the application of salt. And salt brings with it problems of its own, including an adverse impact on the road surface.

"It's always difficult to figure out how much salt to stockpile," Devine says, "because if you have too much it's wasteful, and if you don't have enough you really have problems."

All those variables make working on highways unpredictable, and yet add a certain amount of zest to life for those who have to keep the roads and bridges ready for traffic. It's a difficult job, and it's being done well in Iroquois County.

## Board meeting report



The regular meeting of the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors was held December 15, 1997, at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the November 25, 1997, board meeting and executive session were approved.

The November 30, 1997, statement of revenues and expenses including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$2,187,711, Total Operating Expenses \$336,742, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,660,811, Operating Margins \$526,900, Total Margins \$563,105 and Year-To-Date Margins \$1,579,766.

In November, 98 members joined the cooperative and 109 terminated their memberships.

Director Loy, Chairman of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, reported the committee had met prior to the board meeting to finalize arrangements for the March 14, 1998, annual meeting. It will be held at the Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School in Paxton and "The Girls Next Door" from the University of Illinois will entertain. The attendance gift will be a stainless steel knife. Two DSS systems, two Sepco water heaters and 50 door prizes including \$25 bill credits will be awarded. Lunch consisting of chicken, beef, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, corn, cole slaw, noodles and cobbler will again be provided by Gene Niemerg of Effingham.

Chairman of the Board Chesnut indicated the Executive Committee had met December 12. The Board went into executive session.

After reconvening in open session, Chairman of the Board Chesnut announced the Audit and Finance Committee will meet December 16.

The board selected President/CEO Champion as the delegate and Director Byers as the alter-

nate for the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative annual meeting which will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, on March 8, 1998.

Director Loy reviewed the NRECA Course 520.2 "The Effective Board Meeting" he had attended in Indianapolis, Indiana, on December 8-9.

In other action, the EIEC board approved guaranteeing its proportionate share of Soyland Power Cooperative's opt out fee from Illinois Power Company.

President/CEO Champion furnished the board with the following information: highlights of the November 20-21 Central Area Data Processing Board meeting, a detailed job training and safety activities report for November, a strategic plan update, NRECA's "Touchstone Energy" marketing program, the Low Income Energy Assistance Fund, and a summary of 1997 Capital Budget expenditures. In addition, President/CEO Champion advised that Dale Kuhn, Manager of Marketing and Economic Development, has accepted the position of General Manager at Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative in Mattoon.

A Rural TV business activities update was given by President/CEO Champion. Utili-soft Manager Jeff Tankersley reported on marketing efforts. SkyQuest Manager Dave Lithgow indicated SkyQuest had 7,751 DIRECTV subscribers on December 7 and reviewed marketing initiatives. The SkyQuest team of Lithgow, Marketing and Sales Manager Bob Dickey and Manager of Financial Services Kevin Osterbur presented the 1998 SkyQuest Operating Budget for consideration. After discussion, the budget was approved by the board.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

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# Eastern Illini

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## Annual Report

### Attend Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting

**Saturday, March 14, 1998  
Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School  
Paxton, Illinois**

Notice is hereby given that the 11th Annual Meeting of Members of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative will be held on Saturday, March 14, 1998, at 1 p.m., C.S.T., at the Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School Gymnasium, 700 West Orleans, Paxton, Illinois. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. and will close at 1 p.m. The meeting will be called to order at 1 p.m. and action will be taken on the following:

1. The reports of officers, directors and President/CEO.
2. The election of four directors (one each from Directorate Districts 3, 4, 7 and 11). In connection with the election of directors, the following candidates have been nominated: Gene P. Warmbir, Clifton, for Directorate District 3; Harold M. Loy, Beaverville, for Directorate District 4; Larry Knox, Dewey, for Directorate District 7; and Charles D. Day, Jr., Bement, for Directorate District 11.
3. To consider and act upon proposed bylaw amendments as recommended by the Board of Directors, a summary of which is furnished with this notice.
4. To consider and transact all other business which may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

Dated at Paxton, Illinois,  
this 23rd day of February  
1998.

Glenn R. Anderson  
Secretary

#### Attendance gift



An EIEC stainless steel knife is this year's attendance gift.

# Executive Report

By Marion Chesnut, Chairman of the Board  
and Wm. David Champion, Jr., President/CEO



**Marion Chesnut**  
Chairman of the  
Board



**Wm. David  
Champion, Jr.**  
President/CEO

We have seen and heard a lot of speculation associated with the changing environment in the Illinois electric utility industry over the last year or two. However, many of the uncertainties were put to rest when Governor Edgar signed the "Electric Service Customer Choice and Rate Relief Law of 1997" on Dec. 16, 1997. This law became effective immediately, but it phases in rate decreases and the ability for consumers to choose their energy supplier over time. For example, residential energy choice will be available in mid 2002.

Since electric cooperatives are not-for-profit organizations and they are owned and controlled by the members they serve, the law treats us differently. The big difference is that we are given a choice as an organization as to whether or not we believe that participating in the competitive environment is in the over all long term best interest of the members of this cooperative. Over the next few months, the board and management team will be evaluating the details of the new law. The issues are complex and far reaching and we know that you have many questions.

The service territories of the utilities will remain in tact. You, the members of the cooperative, will remain connected to the cooperative's lines and it will be our goal to continue providing the best service possible. We have taken pride in the level of service that we have been offering and that should not change. The energy that you purchase is the subject of the new law. If we choose to participate in competition, you would be able to buy energy from other sources and pay to have it distributed over the cooperative's lines. The down side to that could be, who provides you energy if you have underestimated your projected usage for a particular month. In competition, no one has that obligation any longer. In the past, you have been able to count on the cooperative for that service. If we stay isolated from the competitive environ-

ment, you will still be able to rely on the co-op for the service, but if we opt in then that service may need to carry a premium price. Also if we opt in, you will probably receive evening phone calls from power marketers trying to get your business. Further, we are not convinced at this time that the residential price of electricity will ultimately be lower in a long term competitive environment. Yes, it will probably go down in the short term, but then back up and where the price will stabilize is anyone's guess.

We believe it would be wonderful if our members have a choice of energy suppliers in the future, but at this time we are not convinced that our members would be best served with some of the situations that can arise in the new environment. We will keep you fully informed as we work through the issues.

Strategically, Soyland Power Cooperative will be positioned to provide competitive energy prices to EIEC by the end of 2001. That is when the remaining debt (after it was written down from \$1.2 billion to \$235 million) from Soyland's prior ownership of the Clinton Nuclear Power Station is fully retired. The wholesale contract that we now have with Soyland will allow for competitive energy prices to be passed along to our members even if we don't opt into the competitive choice.

EIEC has worked very hard this past year to begin the gradual reduction of our distribution costs to a competitive level by the year 2000.

Our strategic plan called for a reduction in personnel in 1997 so we offered an early retirement and early severance plan to the cooperative's employees, excluding the subsidiary employees. Nearly one third of our employees took advantage of this offering and left at year end. We have reevaluated everything that we do at the co-op to ensure that all of our efforts will provide the quality service that you expect and to ensure that we are being as cost effective as we can be with each dollar that we collect from you.

Soon, some of you will receive a survey. We will be sending this out to a sampling of the membership to determine the future needs that you may have. We want to know what additional goods and services we might provide for you. This is part of the diversification plan that is being evaluated. As we fine tune our electric rates, you will expect them to be competitively priced. As

we reduce these rates to accomplish this, there will be less margins available to cover the basic costs of operating the co-op so it will be necessary to generate revenues and margins from other sources. Fortunately, we have a head start on these activities with our subsidiaries that are in place.

In last year's report, we indicated that it would take nearly a 30 percent reduction in our distribution costs to accomplish the savings that will be necessary in the future. Since that time we have worked toward that goal and have made great headway to that end result.

This year in addition to electing directors at the annual meeting, you will have an opportunity to vote on some changes in the cooperative's Bylaws. The board of directors is recommending these changes because they reduce the board size by two members which helps in the cost containment process while continuing to provide equitable member representation on the board of directors. Please review the proposed changes and come to your meeting and exercise your right to vote.

We look forward to visiting with you at the annual meeting on March 14.

## Summary of proposed bylaw amendments

The Bylaw Amendments approved by the Board of Directors and recommended by it to the membership for adoption would effect the following changes in existing Bylaw provisions:

- (1) Reduces the size of the Board of Directors from 13 to no more than 12 in 1999 and to 11 members thereafter.
- (2) Changes the number of directorate districts from 13 to 9 numbered districts plus 2 at large directorate districts (North and South).
- (3) Provides that after the 1998 election of directors, all directors then in office shall serve at large until their terms of office expire after which candidates for their positions shall be elected from their respective directorate districts.
- (4) Provides for election schedules for election of directors commencing in 1999.
- (5) Requires that nominations by petition shall be filed not less than 45 days prior to the annual meeting.
- (6) Deletes the following numbered sections of existing bylaws and substitutes new, amended sections in their stead:

(a) Article III, Section 3.1: Number and General Powers.

(b) Article III, Section 3.2: Elections and Terms of Office.

(c) Article III, Section 3.5: Tenure.

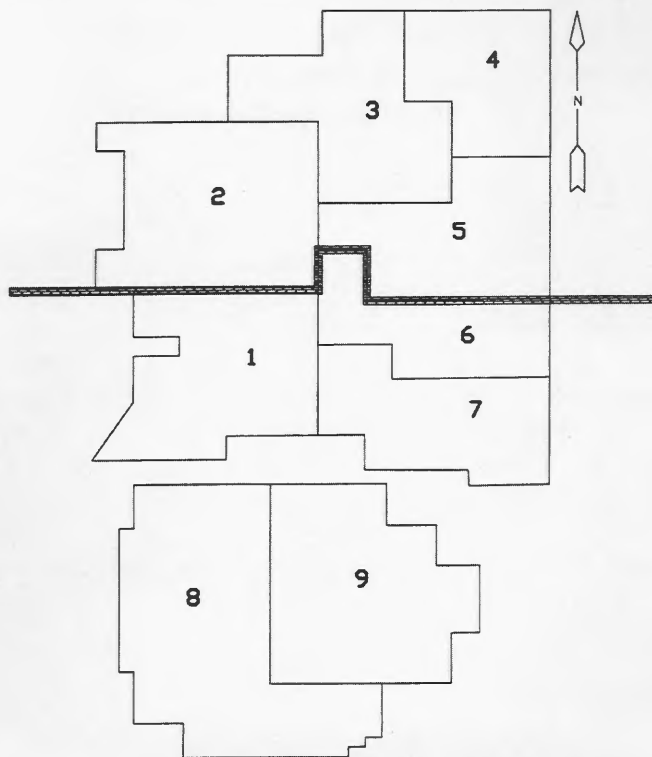
(d) Article III, Section 3.6: Directorate Districts.

(e) Article III, Section 3.7: Nominations.

(7) Adds new Section 3.5: Nominating Committee, which provides for terms of office and election schedules for Nominating Committee members. Adds new Section 3.6: Nominations.

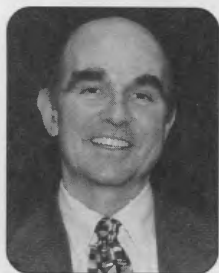
(8) Renumbers Sections 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11 and 3.12 to conform to changes made by the foregoing amendments.

(9) Provides that the Board of Directors may, except so provided in the Bylaws, determine all other rules and regulations governing the election of directors.



# Candidates for board of directors

## **Gene P. Warmbir, Clifton** **Directorate District 3**



Gene P. Warmbir was elected to the Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative board in 1972. He served as board president for four years and is currently representing Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative on the Soyland Power Cooperative board of directors. Warmbir received the Professional Directors Certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in 1989.

A native of Clifton, Warmbir graduated from Central High. In 1964, he married the former Dolores Leonard and they have four children: Glenda, Kurt, Janell and Stacy. The Warmbirs also have two grandsons and a granddaughter.

Warmbir is a member of the Ford-Iroquois County Farm Bureau and Trinity Lutheran Church of Herscher. He and his son, Kurt, operate a grain farm, have beef cows and feed out hogs. He also has a trucking business. In addition, Warmbir serves as a commissioner of his local drainage district.

## **Harold M. Loy, Beaverville** **Directorate District 4**



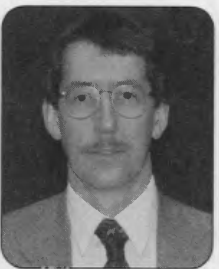
Harold M. Loy is a grain farmer and raises beef cows. Loy graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.S. in Agriculture. Recently, he completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Professional Directors Certification courses.

Loy has farmed for 26 years. His wife, Nancy, is employed as a receptionist at the Donovan Farmers Coop.

The Loys have three children: Mitch, 20; Brock, 18; and Haley, 14.

Loy is secretary of the Donovan Farmers Coop., where he has been a director for 21 years. Formerly, he served eight years on the Donovan Community District 3 school board.

## **Larry Knox, Dewey** **Directorate District 7**



Larry Knox has farmed in the Dewey-Rantoul area for the past 21 years. Knox, who was raised on a farm near Dewey, and his wife, Priscilla, who was raised on a farm near Rantoul, have three children: Andrew, 15; Karl, 12; and Noel, 6. The three boys attend school at Fisher. Knox graduated from Fisher High School and the University of Illinois with a B.S. in Agriculture. A graduate of Rantoul Township High School, Goshen College, and the University of Illinois, Priscilla was a

homebound tutor for the Rantoul school system for 10 years.

Knox has served on the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors since 1995. He also serves on the Fisher Schools Citizens Advisory Council.

A tenor in the Gibson City Music Club and an occasional member of the Parkland Choral Union, Knox performs in the Messiah and other musical works.

The Knox family attends the Twin City Bible Church in Urbana.



**Charles D. Day, Jr., Bement  
Directorate District 11**

Charles D. Day, Jr. has been on the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative board since its inception in 1987. He previously served on the Illini Electric Cooperative's board for two years. In 1990 he received the Professional Directors Certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Raised in the Bement area, Day started farming in 1971. He is a corn and soybean grain farmer. His wife, Pam, is employed at St. Mary's Hospital in Decatur.

The Days have two sons, Mike and Bob. Mike, a graduate of the University of Illinois, is a crop specialist with United Prairie L.L.C. at Sadorus. His wife, Cheryl, a graduate of Illinois State University, is employed in the accounting department at A.D.M. They have a daughter, Sierra Rene, and reside in Cerro Gordo. Bob is a senior at Illinois State University in Agricultural Business.

Day is in his fifth term on the Piatt County Farm Bureau board. Formerly, he served four years on the Bement Grain Company board.

**Annual meeting SPECIAL**

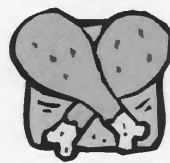
**EIEC Members  
attending the Annual Meeting  
can Purchase  
a Digital Satellite System (DSS®)  
from SkyQuest at the Annual Meeting**

**\$149 + tax**

**Cash & Carry**



**Lunch**



**Chicken, beef, ham, mashed  
potatoes and gravy, green beans,  
corn, cole slaw, noodles and  
cobbler will be served  
from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.**

**The Girls  
Next Door**

Entertainment will be provided by The Girls Next Door, an a cappella ensemble from the University of Illinois. The individuals are chosen from the U of I Women's Glee Club. A member of the National Collegiate A Cappella Association, they perform for the Alumni Association, sororities, fraternities, conventions and general audiences across the United States. They select their own repertoire which includes numbers performed by current artists, Cheryl Crow and James Taylor, as well as popular oldies. Last year, the group produced a CD entitled "Three-Sixty."





## Children's ID Program

The Paxton Police Department will be available to take inkless finger prints and photos of your children and establish their ID records.

## Child Care

Bring your children. Child care will be provided from 12:45 p.m. until the end of the business meeting for all children ages two and older.

Anne Newman, Paxton Carnegie Librarian, will entertain the children.



Standing (L to R): James Weston of Rossville, Richard Rademacher of Penfield, Loren W. Schable of Atwood, Wayne F. Apperson of Fooseland, Carl Bialeschki of Tolono, Michael Kane of Cullom, Terry Bose of Anchor and John Wilkening of Cissna Park.

Seated: (L to R): Shirley Schoolman of Gilman, Lavon Blasey of Clifton, Malcolm McIntyre of Newman, Darrell Abrahamson of Loda and Richard D. LaFond of Donovan.

## Nominating Committee selects candidates

The Nominating Committee held a meeting at the headquarters of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative in Paxton on Nov. 3, 1997.

The committee nominated candidates for four EIEC directorships: Gene P. Warmbir, Clifton, Directorate District 3; Harold M. Loy, Beaverville, Directorate District 4; Larry Knox, Dewey, Directorate District 7; and Charles D. Day, Jr., Bement, Directorate District 11.

Additionally, the committee nominated two candidates in Directorate Districts 2, 6, 8, 9 and 13 for the Nominating Committee election.

### Sample Ballot — Election of Directors Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative March 14, 1998 — Paxton, Illinois

For Director from  
DIRECTORATE DISTRICT 3  
(3-Year Term)

(Vote for one)

Gene P. Warmbir, Clifton  
 \_\_\_\_\_

For Director from  
DIRECTORATE DISTRICT 4  
(3-Year Term)

(Vote for one)

Harold M. Loy, Beaverville  
 \_\_\_\_\_

For Director from  
DIRECTORATE DISTRICT 7  
(3-Year Term)

(Vote for one)

Larry Knox, Dewey  
 \_\_\_\_\_

For Director from  
DIRECTORATE DISTRICT 11  
(3-Year Term)

(Vote for one)

Charles D. Day, Jr., Bement  
 \_\_\_\_\_



## Nominating Committee election results

On Dec. 19, 1997, tellers from Directorate Districts 2, 6, 8, 9 and 13 counted Nominating Committee ballots at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton. The ballots were mailed to members in those districts on Dec. 4, 1997. French L. Fraker, attorney for the cooperative, supervised the ballot counting and tallying.

Darrell Haag of Kempton, Merle Jehle of Cullom, Ronald Thompson and Greg Anderson of Paxton, Ted Vinson and Doug Seimer of Fithian, Wesley Knapp and Dean Eisenmann of Cissna Park, and Robert Siuts and Jerry McGee of Longview served as tellers.

A total of 4,113 ballots were mailed to members and 1,212 were returned, or 29 percent.

Elected to serve three-year terms on the Nominating Committee were:

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
District 2	J. Orin Taylor, Cullom	Michael Kane, Cullom
District 6	Darrell Abrahamson, Loda	James D. Ehmen, Paxton
District 8	Duane Schluter, Penfield	Richard Rademacher, Penfield
District 9	John Wilkening, Cissna Park	Robert Koester, Onarga
District 13	Richard Davis, Longview	Malcolm McIntyre, Newman

### Prizes!!!

**Two 18-inch Digital Satellite Systems (DSS®)** will be given away. We require that the DSS systems be installed in SkyQuest's authorized territory. Winners will be responsible for taxes.

**Two 80-gallon SEPCO water heaters** manufactured by Vaughn Manufacturing Company will be awarded. We do require that the water heaters be installed on the cooperative's lines.

**Fifty prizes, including \$25 bill credits,** will be given at the close of the business meeting.

- *Eligibility for prizes: To be eligible for all prize drawings, you must be registered for this year's annual meeting by 1 p.m. You must be present to win.*



**FREE  
Blood  
pressure  
checks**

**\$5 diabetes  
screening**

**\$5 cholesterol  
checks**

The Ford-Iroquois Health Department will be available to check your blood pressure free of charge.

They will also do diabetes screening and cholesterol checks for \$5 each. If you plan to take advantage of the diabetes screening, please do it before you eat lunch.

# Minutes of tenth annual meeting of members

The Tenth Annual Meeting of Members of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative was held in the gymnasium of the Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School, 700 West Orleans Street, Paxton, Illinois, on Saturday, March 8, 1997 at 1 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Marion Chesnut who presided and acted as Chairman. Glenn R. Anderson, Secretary of the Cooperative, acted as Secretary of the meeting and kept the minutes thereof.

The Chairman announced that the Credentials Committee, consisting of the registration staff, had informed him that there were 411 members present in person and 2 members present by proxy. Therefore, the attendance in person and by proxy being in excess of 200 members, as required by the Bylaws, the Chairman announced that a quorum was in attendance and he declared the meeting duly constituted to transact business. The proxies were ordered to be filed in the records of the Cooperative. A list of members present in person and by proxy, as reported by the Credentials Committee, is attached to the minutes of this meeting.

## Presentation of colors

The presentation of colors was conducted by Pack 32 of the Boy Scouts of America, followed by the recitation by the membership of the Pledge of Allegiance. Following this, the members were led in the singing of the National Anthem led by the vocal group entitled "A Natural High."

## Invocation

The invocation was delivered by the Director Robert W. Bauer.

## Notice of meeting

Secretary Glenn R. Anderson read the official notice of the meeting and the proof of mailing thereof. The Chairman directed the Secretary to annex to the minutes of this meeting a copy of said notice together with the affidavit of mailing thereof.

## Approval of minutes

The minutes of the Ninth Annual Meeting of Members held March 16, 1996, as printed in the official notice of this annual meeting, were presented for consideration. Member John Wilkening made a motion that the rules be suspended, that the reading of the minutes of the 1996 annual meeting of members be waived and that said minutes be approved as printed in the official annual meeting notice and brochure. His motion was seconded and was unanimously carried.

## Report of treasurer

Herbert L. Aden, Treasurer of the Cooperative, presented the annual financial reports for the calendar year 1996. Director Aden reviewed the financial reports as printed in the annual meeting notice and brochure and furnished the members with the following information:

As of Dec. 31, 1996, the total assets of the Cooperative were valued at \$47,460,496. Our liabilities, on that date, totaled \$32,824,829 and our net worth totaled \$14,460,496.

Gross receipts for the year totaled \$20,499,514 whereas the total cost of electric service was \$20,515,048. Operating margins for the year showed a net loss of \$15,534 and total margins for the year amounted to a loss of \$769,673. Director Aden explained that the losses reflected by the financial reports were the result of losses incurred by Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s subsidiary operations. Margins realized from the operation of the electric service provided by Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, Inc. totaled approximately \$375,000. Director Aden expressed the hope that the subsidiaries will commence profitable operations, hopefully in 1998. Members were advised that the Cooperative is adopting a new strategic plan of operations and, further, that it is anticipated that rates will become lower in the next few years.

Following the presentation of the Treasurer's report, Member John Wilkening moved that the Treasurer's report for the year 1996 be approved as presented. His motion was seconded by Member Laverl Byers and was unanimously carried.

## Introduction of directors, spouses and guests

President Chesnut introduced members of the Board of Directors and their wives and Manager Wm. David Champion, Jr. and French L. Fraker, the Cooperative's attorney. Special guests attending the meeting were then introduced by Vice President Bradley J. Ludwig.

## Report of essay contest winner

Joel Light was announced as the winner of the 1996 Essay Contest conducted by the Cooperative. He received, as his award, a trip to Washington, D.C. and a \$200 U.S. Savings Bond. Using a video report, he reported his experiences on his trips to Springfield and Washington, D.C. while on the "Youth to Washington Tour"

sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. He reported that it was a remarkable trip, one filled with interesting information and pleasurable experiences. He thanked the Cooperative for making this trip possible for him.

## Entertainment

Assistant Secretary Donald Reitz introduced a musical group from Iroquois County known as "A Natural High." He furnished a history of the group which then provided a remarkably entertaining musical program with a variety of songs from the ballads of the 1940's to Rock and Roll. The group received a resounding ovation from an appreciative audience.

## Report of president and manager

In a video tape report, President Marion Chesnut and Manager Wm. David Champion, Jr. reviewed the operations of the Cooperative during the past year. They advised the membership that the Cooperative is financially sound and that the subsidiary operations are approaching profitability. The electric industry is facing a period of deregulation and will become intensely competitive. Manager Champion was of the opinion that the Cooperative must reduce operating costs approximately 25 percent to compete and good service will be a requisite to successful operations.

Manager Champion also reported that Soyland Power Cooperative, Inc. had negotiated a settlement to buy out of its billion dollar debt with the Federal Government and had also arranged to avoid all future responsibility for the Clinton Power Station. Soyland must repay a debt of \$235,000,000 which it had borrowed to buy out of the Government obligation but its schedule calls for this to be accomplished in the next five years at which time wholesale power rates will be substantially lower than they presently are. Manager Champion also paid tribute to employee Dick Haines who is retiring this year. The President and the Manager closed their report by assuring the membership that the Board of Directors will do everything possible to make the Cooperative successful and to meet member expectations.

## Report of nominating committee

John Wilkening presented the report of the Nominating Committee advising that the following candidates had been nominated from the following Districts, for the position of Director of the Cooperative.

Glenn R. Anderson	District 2
Robert D. Thompson	District 6
Bradley J. Ludwig	District 8
Robert W. Bauer	District 9
Herbert L. Aden	District 13

Also, the Nominating Committee reported that it had nominated two candidates each from Districts 1, 5, 10 and 12 for the election of Nominating Committee Members.

## Results of nominating committee election

Mr. Fraker reported that the Tellers from Districts 1, 5, 10 and 12 had met on Dec. 19, 1996 to count and tally the ballots cast for the election of members and alternate members of the Nominating Committee. The results of that election were as follows:

District	Member	Alternate
1	Terry Bose	Paul Ummel
5	Robert R. Ebert	Shirley Schoolman
10	James Weston	John W. Clark
12	Carl Bialeschki	Eugene Kamradt

## Election of directors

At the request of the Chairman, the election of Directors was conducted by French L. Fraker, attorney for the Cooperative. Mr. Fraker presented the names of the candidates as nominated by the Nominating Committee. He advised that only one candidate had been nominated for Director from each Directorate-District so that there was no contest for any Directorship up for election. He further advised that the Bylaws of the Cooperative provide that, in such event, the election of Directors may be by voice vote if a majority of those present in person or by proxy at the meeting shall so determine. Thereafter, on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

**WHEREAS** no more than one candidate has been nominated for each Director to be elected at this meeting so that there is no contest for any Directorship up for election, and

**WHEREAS** the Bylaws of this Cooperative provide that, in such event, the election of Directors may be by voice vote if a majority of the members present in person or proxy at this meeting shall so determine;



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the election of Directors by written ballot be waived and that said election shall be by voice vote;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all of those Directors nominated by the Nominating Committee, to wit:

District 2	Glenn R. Anderson
District 6	Robert D. Thompson
District 8	Bradley J. Ludwig
District 9	Robert W. Bauer
District 13	Herbert L. Aden

shall be and the same are hereby declared to be duly elected to the Board of Directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative to hold office for a term of three years until the Annual Meeting of Members in the year 2000 or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

Following the adoption of this resolution, the President declared that the following named members had been duly elected as Directors from their respective District, to hold office for a term of three years until the Annual Meeting of Members in the year 2000 or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified:

District 2	Glenn R. Anderson
District 6	Robert D. Thompson
District 8	Bradley J. Ludwig
District 9	Robert W. Bauer
District 13	Herbert L. Aden

#### **Consideration of proposed bylaw amendments**

The members next considered a series of amendments to the Cooperative's Bylaws which had been approved by the Board of Directors and which were recommended to the membership for adoption by the Board. At the request of the President, Mr. Fraker assumed the Chair to present to the membership a number of amendments to the Bylaws. He discussed the proposed amendments and provided an explanation of the changes which would be effected by the adoption of these amendments. He also noted that a summary of the proposed Bylaw Amendments had been printed in the Notice of the Annual Meeting and Brochure so that all members had received an opportunity to be advised as to the purpose and effect of these amendments. Following his presentation, and after due consideration by the membership, Member John Day moved the adoption of the following resolution

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Bylaws of this Cooperative be amended as follows:

- (1) Amend Article II, Section 2.2: Special Meetings, by deleting from the first sentence thereof the word "President" and substituting in its stead the words "Chairman of the Board".
- (2) Amend Article III, Section 3.7: Nominations, by deleting from the first sentence of paragraph 6 of said Section the word "President" and substituting in its stead the words "Chairman of the Board".
- (3) Amend Article III, Section 3.12: Accounting System and Reports, by deleting from the first sentence thereof the words, "Rural Electrification Administration" and substituting in their stead the words, "Rural Utilities Service".
- (4) Amend Article IV, Section 4.2: Special Meetings, by deleting from the first sentence of said Section the word "President" and substituting in its stead the words "Chairman of the Board".
- (5) Amend Article V, Section 5.1: Number and Title, by deleting said Section 5.1 in its entirety and substituting in its stead the following:

Section 5.1: Number and Title. The officers of the Cooperative shall be: President and Chief Executive Officer; Chairman of the Board; Vice Chairman of the Board; Secretary; Assistant Secretary; Treasurer and such other officers as may be determined, from time to time, by resolution of the Board of Directors. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person.

- (6) Amend Article V, Section 5.2: Election and Term of Office, by deleting the words "General Manager" from the first sentence of said Section 5.2 and substituting in its stead the words "President and Chief Executive Officer".

- (7) Amend Article V, Section 5.5: President, by deleting the word "President" wherever it shall appear in said Section 5.5 and substituting in its stead the words "Chairman of the Board" and further, by deleting from sub-section (a) of said Section 5.5 the word "executive".

- (8) Amend Article V, Section 5.6: Vice President, by deleting said Article in its entirety and substituting in its stead the following:

Section 5.6: Vice Chairman of the Board. In the absence of the Chairman of the Board or in the event of his or her inability or refusal to act, the Vice Chairman of the Board shall perform the duties of the Chairman, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of, and be subject to, all the restrictions upon the Chairman, and shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him or her by the Board of Directors.

(9) Amend Article V, Section 5.7: Secretary, by renumbering said section from "5.7" to "5.7(A)" and by changing the title "Secretary" to "Secretary and Assistant Secretary" and, further, by deleting from subparagraph (e) thereof the word "President" and substituting in its stead the words "Chairman of the Board;"

Also amend said Article V, Section 5.7 by adding thereto a sub-section numbered 5.7(B) titled "Assistant Secretary", as follows:

5.7(B) Assistant Secretary: In the absence of the Secretary, or in the event of his or her inability or refusal to act, the Assistant Secretary shall perform the duties of the Secretary, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of, and be subject to, all the restrictions upon, the Secretary, and shall perform such other duties as from time to time assigned to him or her by the Board of Directors.

- (10) Amend Article V, Section 5.10: General Manager, Executive Vice President, by deleting said Article in its entirety and substituting in its stead the following:

Section 5.10. President. The President of the Cooperative shall be its Chief Executive Officer and shall be responsible for the management and operation of the Cooperative and direct and control its business affairs, manage its personnel, be responsible for its financial operations, provide guidance and direction to the Board and, in general, operate, manage, control and direct the business of the Cooperative, performing such other duties and exercising such authority as is consistent with those duties and responsibilities; subject, however, to the approval and control of the Board of Directors to which he or she, at all times, shall be responsible. He or she may sign, with the Secretary, any deeds, mortgages, notes or other written obligations of the Cooperative, security agreements, financing statements, bonds, contracts and other instruments authorized by the Board of Directors except in cases in which the signing thereof shall be expressly delegated by said Board or these Bylaws to some other officer or agent of the Cooperative or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed.

- (11) Amend Article V, Section 5.12: Compensation and Indemnification, by deleting from the third sentence of said Section 5.12 the words "General Manager and Executive Vice President" and substitute in their stead the word "President".

- (12) Amend Article V, Section 5.13: Reports, by deleting from the second sentence thereof the word "Secretary" and substituting in its stead the words "Chairman of the Board".

- (13) Amend Article VII, Section 7.1: Certificates of Membership, by deleting from the second sentence thereof the word "President" and substituting in its stead the words "Chairman of the Board".

Member Day's motion was seconded and was unanimously carried.

#### **Questions and answer period**

Members were given an opportunity to submit written questions or to raise questions from the floor. Mr. Champion responded to these questions and furnished information requested by the members submitting the questions. He also discussed, in detail, the Soyland buyout from Rural Utilities Service and furnished information concerning the dispute which had arisen over the payment of bonuses to Soyland staff members.

In response to one question, Mr. Champion explained the Cooperative's position on retail wheeling and deregulation of the utility industry. He stated that we are in favor of deregulation if the statute adopted treats all consumers with fairness. In the upcoming legislative battle over deregulation legislation, our Cooperative and the State Association will be lobbying to protect the interests of our members. Other questions were raised concerning Soyland operations and the possibility that several members of Soyland may withdraw from membership. Mr. Champion discussed these issues and explained the withdrawal options open to members of Soyland. Other questions were raised about SkyQuest's programs and the price of SkyQuest's services.

#### **Old and new business**

The President then called for any old business to come before the meeting. None was presented and he then asked if there was any new business to be discussed. There being none presented and there being no further business to come before the meeting, on motion duly made by Member Robert Thompson, seconded by Member Perry Pratt and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

#### **Drawing for prizes**

A drawing for prizes was conducted immediately following the adjournment of the meeting.

Secretary

APPROVED:

Chairman

# Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Directors and Employees



Standing from left: Robert W. Bauer, Laverl Byers, Harold M. Loy, William P. Raber, Charles D. Day, Jr., Larry Knox, Gene P. Warmbir, Robert D. Thompson, Wm. David Champion, Jr., President/CEO; and French L. Fraker, attorney. Seated from left: Marion Chesnut, chairman; Bradley J. Ludwig, vice chairman; Glenn R. Anderson, secretary; Herbert L. Aden, treasurer; and Donald Reitz, assistant secretary.



President/CEO Wm. David Champion, Jr.



Standing: Manager of Administrative Services Jeannie Kingston. Seated: Administrative Assistant Glenda Frette.



Standing: (from left): Accountant Cheryl Henson, Benefits Administrator Stacy Connor, Accountant Angela Mower. Seated: Accounting Supervisor Brian Stagen.



Standing (from left): Marketing Specialist Tim Frick, Marketing Advisor Pat Gallahue, Marketing Specialist Chris Johnson. Seated: Manager of Marketing & Economic Development Bob Dickey.



(From left): Engineering Technician/ Serviceman Jerry Haile, Electric System Engineering Technician/ Serviceman Rusty Snider, Engineering Technician/Serviceman Bill Hoffschneider.



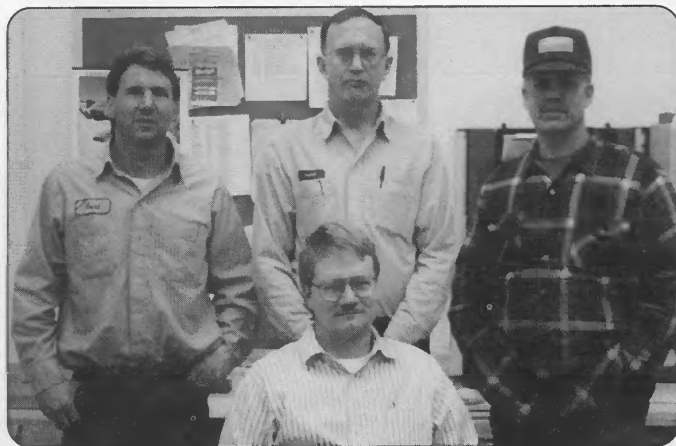
(From left): Customer Services Representative Debbie Behrends, Manpower Employee Mary Ann Buhrmaster, Customer Services Representative Gayle Ford, Customer Services Supervisor Mary Foley, Manager of Customer & Financial Services Brandon Jackson.



Standing (from left): Electric System Representative Jan Rubarts, Electric System Coordinator Mike Anderson, Operations and Safety Coordinator Alan Schweighart. Seated: Manager of Operations & Engineering Dustin Tripp.



**Gilman Line Crew**  
(From left): Foreman Mark Redenius, Subforeman Doug Vaughn, Apprentice Lineman Dan Fleming.



Standing (from left): Service Technicians Brad Weisenbarn and Luke Olmstead, Warehouseman Dennis Kingren. Seated: Manager of Physical Resources Mike Zalaker.

**Paxton Line Crew**  
 (From left): Subforeman Keith Bergman, Foreman Steve Moore, Journeyman Lineman Jeff Blackford.



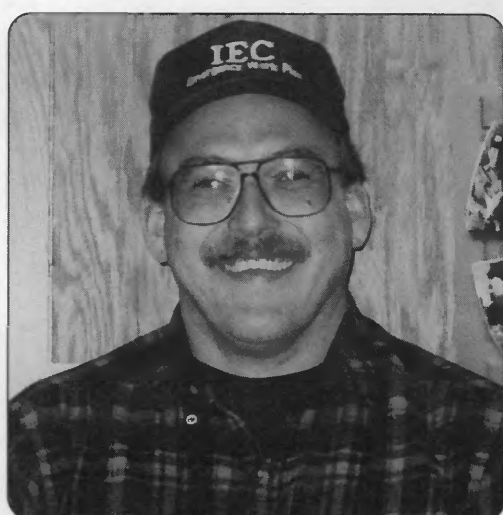
(From left): Paxton Line Foreman Scott Bayles, Hoopston Serviceman Kevin Dettmering, Cropsey Serviceman John Mount.



**Pesotum Line Crew**  
 (From left): Journeyman Lineman Matt Eisenmenger, Subforeman Rod Blackburn, Foreman Joe Heyen.



(From left): Forestry Foreman Dean Price and Journeyman Forester Don Gerdes.



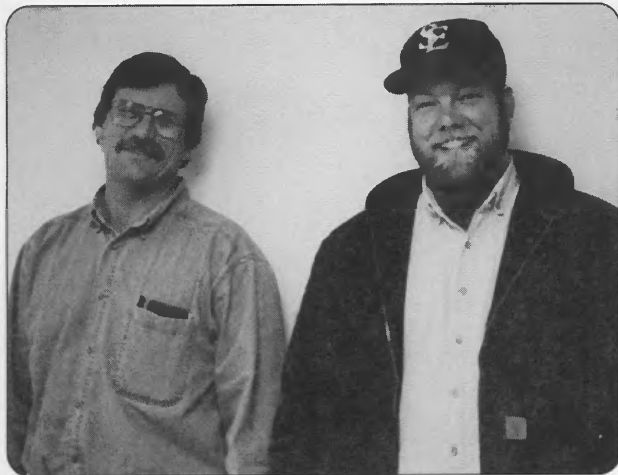
Gilman Serviceman Cliff Miller.



Watsseka Serviceman Lyle Kofoot.



(From left): Pesotum Servicemen Doug Elrod and John Higgins.



(From left): Paxton Serviceman Mark Scheiwe and Tim Kulow.



Utili~soft employees  
 Standing (from left): Programmer Chris Reynolds, Receptionist Dondra Wilson, Administrative Assistant Beth Hornstein, Field Technician Norman "Mac" McDonald. Seated: Manager Jeff Tankersley.

SkyQuest employees  
 Standing (from left): Technician Mike Bristle, Chief Technician Mike Batte, Sales Representative Mike Wilson, Technician Bob Piechaczek, ICE student Destini Martinez, Customer Services Representative Brian Ronna, Manager of Financial Services Kevin Osterbur, Sales Coordinator Wayne Tobeck, Manager David Lithgow. Seated (from left): Supervisor of Office Operations Jeannine Langley, Technician Ken Mutchmore, Marketing Coordinator Julie White, Secretary Kathy Lantz, and Customer Services Representatives Patty Foster, Jennifer Pitman and Kelly Glazik





## Treasurer's report



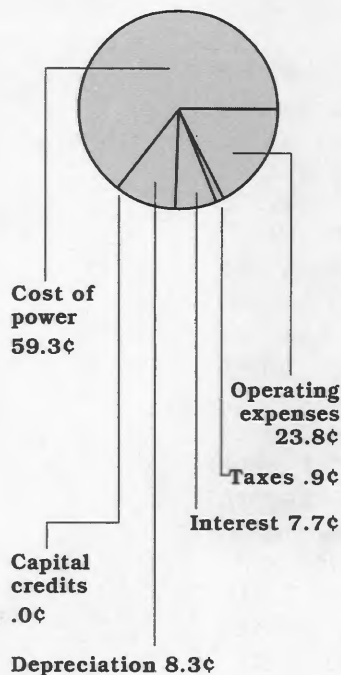
Herbert L. Aden

The enclosed financial information represents the cooperative's operation for the full calendar year 1997. These reports were taken directly from the cooperative's books and records which are currently being audited by the auditing firm of Kerber, Eck & Braeckel, LLP, Springfield, Illinois. The Rural Utilities Service (formerly the Rural Electrification Administration) and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' set the standards and scope of the audit.

### Interesting information about your cooperative's progress and what it means to local business

	1997	1996
Total value of electric plant .....	\$55,669,567	\$54,438,639
Total miles of distribution lines .....	4,502	4,492
Average plant investment per mile .....	\$12,366	\$12,119
Average number of consumers served ..	13,028	12,971
Average number of consumers per mile of line .....	2.90	2.89
Average plant investment per consumer served .....	\$4,273	\$4,197
Total cost of purchased power .....	\$11,384,517	\$13,058,382
Maximum monthly KW demand .....	48,427	49,783
Total KWH purchased by cooperative ...	204,873,864	206,830,009
Total KWH purchased by members .....	188,001,801	188,245,755
Average KWH used per month per member .....	1,203	1,209
Total operating revenue .....	\$20,425,672	\$20,499,514
Average monthly electric bill per member .....	\$131	\$132
Average monthly revenue per mile of line .....	\$378	\$380
Average ownership equity per member ..	\$1,105	\$1,128
Total taxes paid .....	\$1,060,459	\$1,046,854
Number of Co-op owned vehicles .....	47	55
Miles traveled by Co-op vehicles .....	742,576	801,292
Total transportation costs .....	\$415,889	\$441,816
Average cost per mile traveled by Co-op vehicles .....	56.01¢	55.14¢

### Where your electric dollar went in 1997



# Members financial report

## As of December 31, 1997. What We Own (Assets):

Total cost of our system is .....	\$55,669,567	
We estimate it has depreciated .....	<u>15,146,728</u>	
The net value of our system is .....		\$40,522,839
We have cash on hand and in banks amounting to .....		146,832
We have funds invested in short-term securities .....		862,013
We have invested in CFC and associated organizations .....		2,141,950
We have owing us for electric service furnished to members .....		1,745,320
We have owing us for materials sold or other services rendered .....		33,101
We have owing us for interest on invested funds .....		17,281
The value of our stock of materials and supplies amounts to .....		623,661
Our prepaid expenses; deferred charges and miscellaneous assets amount to .....		<u>1,202,764</u>
<b>Total Owned .....</b>		<b><u>\$47,295,761</u></b>

## What we owe (Liabilities):

We borrowed from RUS and CFC .....	\$45,396,102	
We have paid back .....	<u>17,059,142</u>	
We still owe RUS and CFC .....		\$28,336,960
We owe for power, materials, taxes and interest .....		1,470,152
Customer's deposits paid .....		147,910
Deferred credits and miscellaneous liabilities amount to .....		1,429,877
Other Non-current liabilities .....		<u>1,511,437</u>
Total Liabilities .....	-	<b><u>\$32,896,336</u></b>
Our equity (Net Worth):		
Membership fees and other capital .....	(\$2,935,177)	
Patronage capital and operating margins .....	18,117,033	
Non-operating margins .....	<u>(782,431)</u>	
<b>Total Equity .....</b>		<b><u>14,399,425</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Worth .....</b>	-	<b><u>\$47,295,761</u></b>

## Statement of receipts and expenses

### Our Receipts:

We sold electric service amounting to .....	\$20,222,018
Other receipts amounted to .....	<u>203,654</u>
<b>Total receipts for the year .....</b>	<b><u>\$20,425,672</u></b>

### Other Expenses:

Electric power cost us .....	\$11,384,517
Operations and maintenance expenses .....	1,836,930
Consumer accounting and collecting expenses .....	460,221
Customer assistance expenses .....	420,912
General office salaries and expenses .....	691,580
Legal engineering and auditing services .....	73,207
Insurance expenses .....	179,090
Administrative and general expense .....	922,854
We estimate our system depreciated (this year) .....	1,599,563
Our taxes were .....	167,990
Our interest to RUS and CFC was .....	1,473,189
Our total cost of electric service was .....	<u>\$19,210,053</u>
Operating margins for the year were .....	\$1,215,619
Interest and other non-operating items were .....	<u>(\$1,437,604)</u>
Total margins for the year were .....	<b><u>(\$221,985)</u></b>

## Operating statistics

	1997	1996	1995
Cost of purchased power .....	\$11,384,517	\$13,058,382	\$12,813,072
Total KWH purchased .....	204,873,864	206,830,009	199,347,037
Total KWH sold .....	188,001,801	188,245,755	180,465,012
Average number consumers served .....	13,028	12,971	12,875
Average KWH usage per month per consumer .....	1,203	1,209	1,168
Average cost per KWH to consumers .....	10.8646¢	10.8898¢	11.1485¢

## Long-term obligation to RUS and CFC

	<u>RUS</u>	<u>CFC</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Loans Approved .....	\$37,837,000	\$7,559,102	\$45,396,102
Total Funds Advanced .....	\$37,837,000	\$7,559,102	\$45,396,102
Accrued-Deferred Interest .....	--	--	--
Total Obligation .....	<u>\$37,837,000</u>	<u>\$7,559,102</u>	<u>\$45,396,102</u>
Payments made on Principal when Due .....	\$15,872,707	\$1,186,435	\$17,059,142
Payments made on Principal in Advance .....	--	--	--
Total Payments .....	<u>\$15,872,707</u>	<u>\$1,186,435</u>	<u>\$17,059,142</u>
Net Obligation .....	<u>\$21,964,293</u>	<u>\$6,372,667</u>	<u>\$28,336,960</u>
Total Interest Paid to Date .....	<u>\$16,789,575</u>	<u>\$6,733,656</u>	<u>\$23,523,231</u>

## Board meeting report



On January 27, 1998, the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors held its regular meeting at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the December 15, 1997, board meeting and executive session were approved.

The December 31, 1997, statement of revenues and expenses including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,695,969, Total Operating Expenses \$404,141, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,734,155, Operating Margins (\$38,186), Total Margins (\$1,101,953) and Year-To-Date \$477,813.

During December, 70 members joined the cooperative and 62 terminated their memberships.

A report of the December 16 Audit and Finance Committee was given by Director Knox, chairman of the committee. In accordance with the cooperative's bylaws, the committee examined the accounts of the cooperative and reviewed expense statements, disbursements and supporting data. All records were found to be in order. The report was approved.

Chairman of the Board Chesnut indicated he had attended the December 18 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative Board meeting. Financial, engineering, legal and regulatory reports were presented. Alternate Director Byers reported on the January 15 AIEC Board meeting. AIEC will serve as the regional partner for the NRECA Touchstone Energy program and will conduct three regional deregulation review seminars.

A synopsis of the December 19 Soyland Power Cooperative Board meeting was given by Director Warmbir. Alternate Director Ludwig reported on the January 21 SPC Board meeting. President/CEO Champion, the SPC Chairman of the Board, presided over the meetings. Financial, Energy and marketing/Economic Development reports were presented. The SPC annual meeting will be held March 18 in Decatur.

The EIEC Board selected CEO Champion and Director Ludwig to represent the cooperative on the SPC board and Director Knox as the alternate representative.

Director Thompson was chosen as the delegate and Director Anderson as the alternate for the NRECA annual meetings. President Chesnut was selected as the delegate and Director Ludwig as the alternate for the CFC annual meeting. The meetings will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, March 8-11.

Directors Anderson, Chesnut, Day, Loy, Ludwig, Raber, Reitz and Thompson summarized the NRECA Directors' Conference they attended in Buena Vista, Florida, on January 10-14. They indicated the conference focused on deregulation and was very beneficial.

In other action, the board approved a De Minimis settlement on a PCB site, the 1998 Operating Budget, and a bylaw amendment which will be presented for consideration at the March 14 annual meeting.

President/CEO Champion furnished the board with the following information: personnel changes, activities of the Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group, a comprehensive December job training and safety activities report.

President/CEO Champion advised that Warren Communication, Inc. has transferred its C-band accounts to the Rural TV business. Jeff Tankersley, Utili-soft Manager, reported on marketing activities. President/CEO Champion, Manager of Marketing & Economic Development Bob Dickey, and Tankersley presented the Utili-soft budget for consideration. After discussion, the budget was approved. SkyQuest Manager Dave Lithgow indicated SkyQuest had 8,178 DIRECTV subscribers at the end of 1997 in a written report. Additionally, his report reviewed marketing initiatives.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

## Proxy

### 1998 Annual Meeting Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

As a member of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, an Illinois Corporation, I, the undersigned, hereby appoint:

\_\_\_\_\_ my proxy to vote in my stead at the 1998 Annual Meeting of Members to be held at the Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School, Paxton, Illinois, on March 14, 1998. This proxy is unlimited as to matters on which it may be voted.

(Please print name and address)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

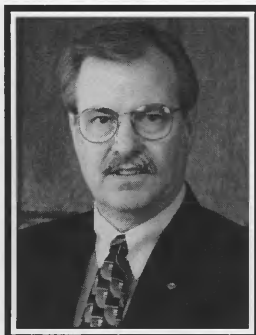
(Signature of Member Giving Proxy)

Under the Bylaws, no member may vote as a proxy for more than three members and the presence of a member at the meeting revokes a proxy heretofore given.



# Eastern Illini

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President/CEO's comments by Wm. David Champion, Jr.

## Subsidiary Operations

### SkyQuest Relocating

Sometime in April, SkyQuest will be relocating its office in Paxton from 119 South Market to Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's headquarters at 330 West Ottawa.

In four short years, SkyQuest has grown into a very successful operation with around 8,500 DIRECTV subscribers. We anticipate that it will not be long before SkyQuest has more subscribers than EIEC's 13,500 electric customers.

SkyQuest's present office was no longer adequate to meet its requirements and another facility was needed to accommodate the operation.

With the early retirement and severance plan that the cooperative offered its parent company employees in 1997, nearly one-third of EIEC's employees left the organization at the end of 1997. Since this created available space at the headquarters, we decided to move the SkyQuest operation to the cooperative and have begun a minor remodeling project to accommodate the SkyQuest employees and operation.

By having SkyQuest and EIEC located at the same facility, we will gain many efficiencies. Employees will be cross trained for multi-tasking and we will be able to share equipment and

resources. Additionally, it will be more cost effective to operate and maintain one less building.

### Rural TV

Late last year we learned that an Indiana electric cooperative wanted to get out of the C-band business so we acquired their accounts and doubled our Rural TV C-band subscribers. The business is profitable and doing very well.

### Utili~soft

A sales representative has been hired at Utili~soft to sell its latest version of distribution automation software to other utilities. With Utili~soft positioned well, we anticipate that it will soon be profitable.

### Diversification

We are continuing to explore other opportunities to diversify so we can provide you with other valued products and services and meet your current and future needs while maintaining the high quality electric service that you expect from us.

## Mission Statement

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's mission is to exceed customer expectations in providing energy and other valued products and services.

# Onarga artist sees beauty in simple farm scenes

At a time when most aspiring artists are just beginning to get recognizable images on canvas, Tammy Seggebruch of rural Onarga is winning award after award and making sale after sale.

She has been seriously into water color painting for just two or three years, and has been selling her work for almost exactly that length of time.

But Tammy, who enjoyed doing pencil sketches of classmates in high school study hall when she was growing up in Armstrong, has a lot in her favor. She grew up in a family where artistic talent runs rampant. "My dad was a printer and photographer," she says, "and I have a brother who does really good oil painting purely for pleasure. An older sister likes to draw, too."

But she wasn't always an artist. She went to college for a year after finishing high school, studying architectural drawing. "I didn't enjoy it as much as I thought I would," she says, "and I dropped out to get married and go to work.."

"I had a series of factory jobs," she says, "and they were hard and unsatisfying, but I kept at it for a while." As time went by, she had two children, Jessie Lappin, her daughter, is 16 now, and son Jacob Stockwill is 12.

It was after she married Troy and had her third child, Tyson, that she got into a position



▲ Tammy displays one of her award winning watercolor paintings. Note the ribbons in the background.

**A knowledge of what pigments will do is important to success as an artist, and Tammy experiments often with her colors. Here, she adds to an experimental background.**



where she was able to try art. "Tyson was born with a condition called 'sleep apnea,'" she explains. "Kids with that disorder tend to stop breathing in their sleep, and have to be watched constantly. I quit my job to take care of him, while Troy kept at his work. He farms with his dad and works in construction."

As time went by, she felt the need for a calming influence, and decided to try painting, wielding her brush and keeping an eye on Tyson at the same time. Before long, things started improving. "He got better at sleeping, and I got better at painting," she says.

During those years, she decided to take one water color painting course, which was offered by Parkland College and taught by Don Lake.

And she got interested in experimenting, too. "I think you can do a much better job of painting if you know what the pigments in different paints are going to do, and you have to learn that by experimenting. I'm constantly working to see what'll happen with the paints under different circumstances."

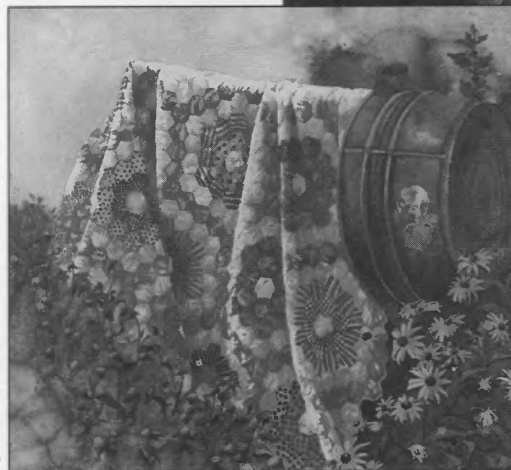
While many paint beautiful images of majestic landscapes and sweeping vistas, Tammy stays closer to home. A lot closer, in fact. She delights in the simple beauty of things that many would walk past on their way to paint a panorama.

In one painting, a herd of chickens ekes out a living scratching and pecking in the yard, while another deals with a cupboard full of odds and ends. Still another depicts the rusting remains of an old truck that used to belong to Troy's grandfather, with a barn and shed in the background.

"Grandma's flower garden" shows a beautiful old quilt hanging on a line, with a washtub and flowers providing accents.

As she got better in her works, Tammy branched out again, getting into pencil drawings and pen-and-ink again. And she entered contests. One, sponsored by The Artist's Magazine, drew some 8,000 entries. She got a plaque and an honorable mention out of that effort, and has taken part in many more local contests and exhibitions, including the American Artist Professional League Grand National Exhibition in New York City, and the Northeast Watercolor Society Exhibition in Goshen, New York. She has a wall full of ribbons from local exhibitions, as well as a collection of plaques and trophies.

As if that weren't enough in the way of tal-



▲ Tammy, right, shows an art book to Wm. David Champion, Jr., EIEC President/CEO, and Jeannie Kingston, Manager of Administrative Services.

◀ Tammy has titled this painting "Grandma's Flower Garden."

ent, Tammy has expressed an interest in working with pottery, too. She has ordered a pottery wheel, and is eagerly awaiting its arrival. She already has a lot of clay, and has sketched out several of the various pieces she hopes to make.

"I'm looking forward to working the wheel," she says, "but it's really surprising to me that my kids are interested, too. Jacob is more antsy than I am, and he already used some of the clay to make a little vase.

"And Tyson's into drawing. I don't think there's a wall in the house he hasn't drawn on."

Tammy emphasizes that while she's deeply involved in farm scenes and the like, she's also capable of doing other kinds of art, too. She sells prints of her paintings, and offers a line of notes. "I'll undertake a project on behalf of a client, too," she says. "I had a man come and ask me to paint the Navy Pier in Chicago for him, and I've done that. I think the results are really pleasing. I'm pretty much willing to try anything new and interesting."

Anyone interested in contacting Tammy can reach her at RR 2, Onarga, IL 60955. Her phone number is (815) 457-2848.

# Board meeting report



The Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors held its regular meeting on February 24, 1998, at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the January 27, 1998, board meeting were approved.

The January 31, 1998, statement of revenues and expenses including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,831,326, Total Operating Expenses \$352,424, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,723,473, Operating Margins \$107,853, and Total Margins \$134,351.

In January, 80 members joined the cooperative and 87 terminated their memberships.

A report of the Feb. 19 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives board meeting was given by Chairman of the Board Chesnut. Financial, engineering, legal and regulatory reports were presented and a progress report was given on AIEC serving as a Regional Partner for the NRECA Touchstone Energy brand program.

Director Warmbir summarized the Feb. 18 Soyland Power Cooperative Board meeting he attended. President/CEO Champion, the SPC Chairman of the Board, presided over the meeting. Financial, Power Supply, Energy and Marketing/Economic Development reports were given.

Highlights of NRECA Course 2600.2 "Directors' Duties and Liabilities" were given by Directors Chesnut, Knox, Ludwig and Raber. The enlightening course was held in Springfield Feb. 2-3.

In other action, the board approved a minor remodeling of the headquarters building to accommodate the SkyQuest employees and entering into an interruptible contract with WGFA Radio in Watseka. Manager of Customer & Financial Services Brandon Jackson was selected as the delegate for the April 8 Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group annual meeting and President/CEO Champion was selected as the alternate.

President/CEO Champion furnished the board with the following information: recent personnel changes and activities of the Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group.

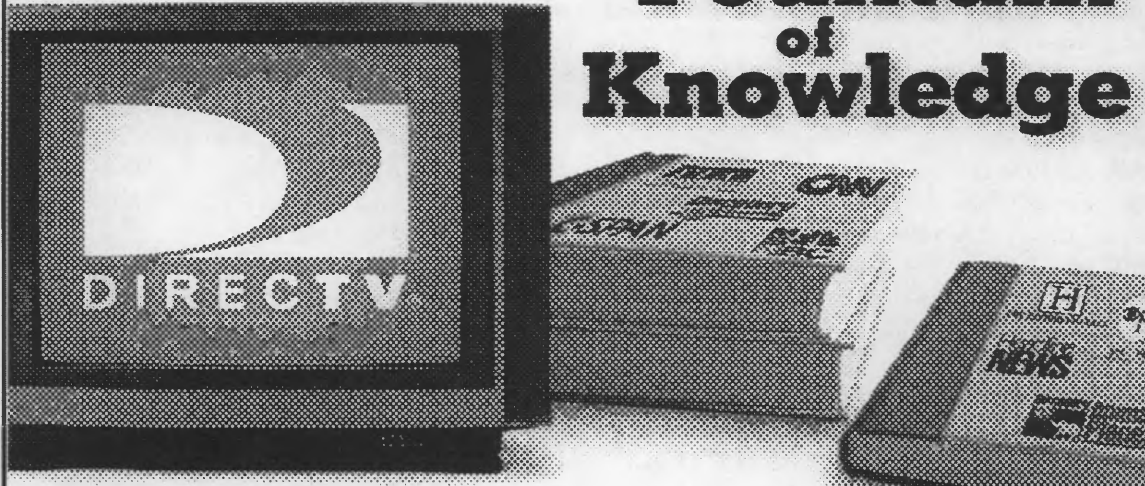
Director Bauer recapped the February 11 safety meeting he attended. In addition, President/CEO Champion furnished an in-depth written job training and safety activities report for February.

An update on the Rural TV business was given by President/CEO Champion. Jeff Tankersley, Utili-soft Manager, furnished a written report on marketing initiatives. SkyQuest Manager Dave Lithgow advised that SkyQuest had 8,445 DIRECTV subscribers as of Feb. 4. Lithgow also reported on marketing activities. Kevin Osterbur, SkyQuest Manager of Financial Services, provided additional information on subsidiary operations.

The next meeting of the board will be held March 31, 1998.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

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# Eastern Illini

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The area men who were reelected to EIEC's board of directors are congratulated by Wm. David Champion, Jr., President/CEO. From left are Champion, Charles D. Day, Jr., of Bement, Gene Warmbir of Clifton, Larry Knox of Dewey and Harold M. Loy of Beaverville. The election was held at the co-op's 11th annual meeting Saturday, March 14, at the Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School in Paxton.

## Eastern Illini enters new venture —Internet service

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative members learned at their 11th annual meeting held Saturday, March 14, at the Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School in Paxton, that the co-op was embarking on another venture designed to keep rates down and to keep the organization competitive into the next century.

Wm. David Champion, Jr., EIEC President/CEO, noted that the new venture, called IlliCom Net Service, would offer Internet service to area residents, and that it was being undertaken in conjunction with several area schools. "We're getting into the business because we want rural people to have the same opportunities that people in cities and towns have, and we expect it to be a profitable venture. Like our other subsidiaries, we plan for it to provide another source of income."

Since a powerful storm had knocked out power to some 3,500 of EIEC's 13,500 members on

March 9, less than a week before the meeting, Champion was pleased to report that all members were back in service a day or two before the meeting. But while there was that good news, there was bad news, too. With many members out of service and numerous poles down, EIEC needed a lot of outside help to get service back on as quickly as it did, so it called in help from neighboring co-ops. In all, 32 men, with some 17 trucks and trailers, came from seven co-ops, some from as far away as Newton.

"The costs are going to be about three times what we normally budget for extreme storms annually," Champion said, "although we won't know the full total for some time. Some of the repairs were temporary, and will now need to be made permanent. We've begun that phase of the recovery."

Even as cleanup continued, co-op business went on, and some 950 members and guests



**Wm. David Champion, Jr., right, President/CEO of EIEC, pins a 55-year pin on French L. Fraker, attorney for the cooperative.**

turned out at the meeting to hear officers' reports, elect directors and vote on bylaw amendments, which will help reduce costs in the future by cutting the size of the board of directors from the present 13 members to 11, and to redraw the co-op's director districts to accommodate such a change.

The re-elected directors are Gene Warmbir of Clifton, Harold M. Loy of Beaverville, Larry Knox of Dewey and Charles D. Day, Jr., of Bement.

Champion and Marion Chesnut, Chairman of the Board, presented their reports in the form of a joint video tape. "We have heard a lot of speculation about the deregulation of the electric utility industry in Illinois," Champion said, "and many of the uncertainties were put to rest when Governor Jim Edgar signed the "Electric Service Customer Choice and Rate Relief Law of 1997. The law became effective immediately, but it phases in rate decreases and the ability of consumers to choose their energy supplier over time. For example, residential energy choice will be available in mid-2002."

Chesnut added that since co-ops are not-for-profit, they will be able to opt into competition if they want to. "Over the next few months, the board and management team will be evaluating the details of the new law. The issues are complex and far reaching and we know that you have many questions."

Champion stressed that the co-op's service territory will remain intact, and that the members will remain connected to the co-op's lines. "It will be our goal, as it has always been, to provide you with the best possible service. We have taken pride in the level of service that we have provided over the years.

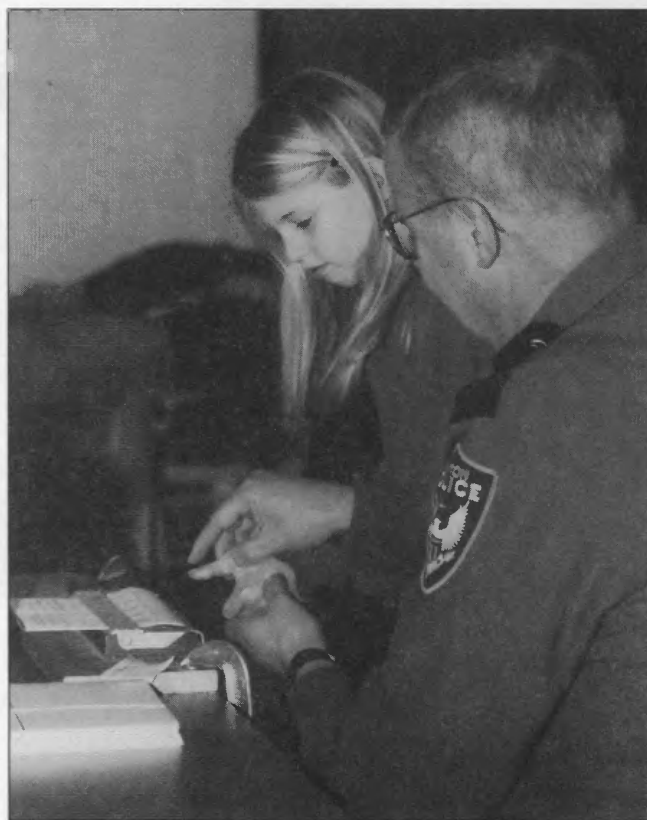
"The energy that you purchase is the subject of the new law. If we choose to participate in competition, you would be able to buy energy from other sources and pay to have it distributed over co-op lines. The downside is that in the past, your co-op has been obligated to be sure to have enough power to serve you. Now, no one has that responsibility.

"We believe it would be wonderful if our members have a choice of energy suppliers in the future, but at this time, we are not convinced that our members would be best served with some of the situations that can arise in the new environment," he said.

Chesnut continued, "EIEC has worked hard this past year to begin the gradual reduction of our distribution costs to a competitive level by the year 2000, and our strategic plan called for a reduction in the work force by the end of 1997. We offered an early retirement and early severance plan to the co-op's employees, excluding employees of the subsidiaries, which are growing. Nearly one-third of our employees



**Board Chairman Marion Chesnut speaks.**



**A young lady has her fingerprints taken.**

took advantage of the opportunity and left at year's end.

Champion urged the membership to look for a survey in the mail. "We will be sending a survey out to a sampling of members to determine the future needs that you might have. We want to know what additional goods and services we might provide for you. This is part of the diversification plan that is being evaluated. As we fine tune our electric rates, you can expect them to be competitively priced. As we reduce our rates to accomplish this, there will be less margins available to cover the basic costs of operating the co-op so it will be necessary to generate revenues and margins from other sources. Fortunately, we have a head start on these activities. The subsidiaries we've had in place for a while, SkyQuest and Utili~soft, are both doing well."

Chesnut noted that, as part of the drive to cut costs, the size of the board of directors is being reduced, and that the reduction would require a bylaw amendment, which was passed at the meeting.

At the conclusion of the video presentation, Champion asked the co-op's long-time attorney, French L. Fraker, to step forward. He presented Fraker with a 55-year pin, in recognition of his loyal and dedicated service to EIEC.

Herb Aden of Newman, treasurer, reported that EIEC had \$20.4 million in revenues in 1997, down slightly from the previous year, partly because of reduced sales. He added that expenses were also down, because of EIEC's lower costs brought on by Soyland Power Cooperative's buyout of its Rural Utilities Service debt. He noted that EIEC should see substantial savings as a result of the staff reductions Champion had alluded to earlier. "We should save \$400,000 in 1998," he said, "and reducing the size of the board will also help keep costs down in the future."

He reported that the subsidiaries are becoming profitable and that their growth would be more beneficial to the co-op's bottom line if the board hadn't made a conscious decision to grow the business rather than use the money to cut costs now.

During drawings for attendance prizes, Mathilda Ash of Ashkum and Elmer and Ruth Fox of Mahomet each won a DSS satellite system, and A. J. and Geraldine Brady of Gilman and



**"The Girls Next Door,"** a singing group from the U of I, worked President/CEO Champion into a couple of their songs.



**A member gets a cholesterol check.**



**The dinner line was a popular place, and the meal, catered by Niemerg's of Effingham, was well received.**

Harold and Betty Hassler of Bismarck each won an 80-gallon Sepco water heater. Fifty other members received \$25 bill credits and door prizes. Each member registering received a stainless steel knife. After the meeting the board met in reorganizational session and reelected Chesnut chairman, Bradley J. Ludwig of Fithian vice chairman, Glenn R. Anderson of Kempton secretary, Donald Reitz of Gilman assistant secretary and Aden treasurer.

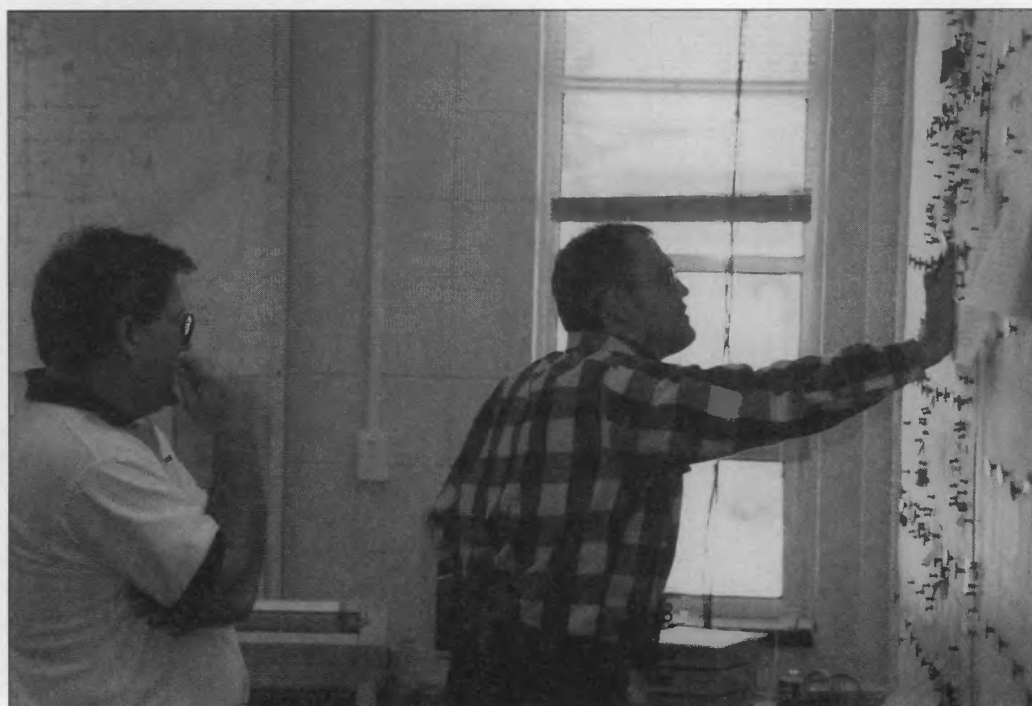
# March 9 storm knocks out power to 3,500

A severe winter storm blew into northern Iroquois County on March 9, knocking down power lines and blowing over trees, many of which tangled in lines. Before the storm had blown itself out, EIEC crews were on their way to begin repairs, but the roads were so impassable that efforts were not as productive as they might have been.

Naturally, telephones began ringing, and EIEC personnel spent the night answering phones and trying to dispatch help. And they called for additional help from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), which coordinates the Illinois Electric Cooperatives Emergency Work Plan. Under the program, the AIEC calls nearby co-ops to see if they can send help, and specifies the kind of help needed. While our workers could do



In a sight repeated all too often, a series of broken poles lies across a road. In all, some 120 poles were broken in the storm.



◀ Dustin Tripp, manager of operations and engineering, studies the system map, while Alan Schweighart, operations and safety coordinator, looks on.



this, they are so busy trying to coordinate repairs that it's more efficient to have the AIEC make the necessary contacts.

By the time the dust settled, some 32 men from seven different co-ops sent help. They brought with them some 17 trucks and trailers, along with a lot of hardware. Our photos show some of the repair work underway near L'Erable.

Following is a list of cooperatives that sent crews to help: Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, Mattoon; Corn Belt Electric Cooperative, Bloomington; EnerStar, Paris; Illinois Rural Electric Co., Winchester; Norris Electric Cooperative, Newton; Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co., Auburn; and Shelby Electric Cooperative, Shelbyville.



EIEC crewmen work to get a broken pole out of the way. ▶

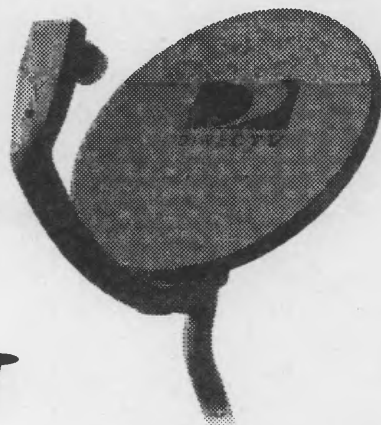


An EIEC employee ▶ puts hardware on a new pole.



◀ A crew from Shelby Electric Cooperative, Shelbyville, changes out a broken pole.

# Eight NEW channels



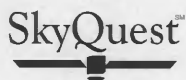
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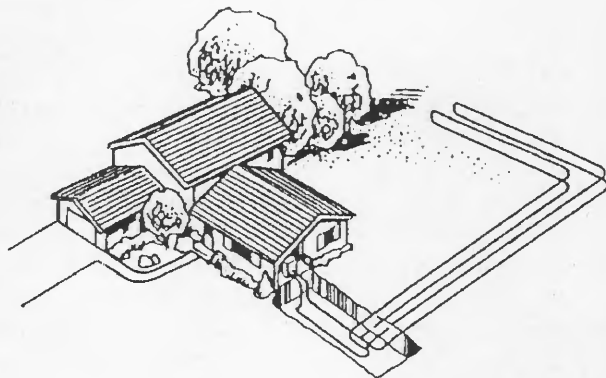
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To finance a geothermal system in a new home or your present one, you can apply for an EIEC loan. If you qualify, you can borrow up to **\$10,000** at **5%** interest and have the payments added to your monthly electric bills.

Contact the Marketing Department for more information at (800) 824-5102 or 379-2131.



Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative employees were honored February 26 for their first and second runner-up finishes at a lineman's safety rodeo held last fall. The plaques were presented to team leaders at the Safety, Supervisory and Technical Conference sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). From left are: Alan Schweighart, EIEC operations and safety coordinator; Lyle Kofoot, EIEC serviceman and Roger Stegeman AIEC manager of safety. Kofoot teamed with Jeff Blackford, journeyman lineman and Kevin Dettmering, journeyman lineman



to take the first runner-up title. Schweighart teamed with Kyle Finley, a former EIEC employee and Bill Hoffschneider, engineering technician/serviceman to take the second runner-up title.

# Board meeting report



On March 31, 1998, the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors held its regular meeting at the Paxton Fire House.

Minutes of the February 24, 1998, board meeting and March 14, 1998, organization meeting were approved.

The February 28, 1998, statement of revenues and expenses including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,713,338, Total Operating Expenses \$326,846, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,533,724, Operating Margins \$197,614, Total Margins \$197,958 and Year-To-Date margins \$332,309.

During February, 61 members joined the cooperative and 63 terminated their memberships.

Director Knox, chairman of the Audit and Finance Committee, indicated the committee had met March 13. In accordance with the cooperative's bylaw, the committee examined the accounts of the cooperative and reviewed expense statements, disbursements and supporting data. All records were found to be in order. The board approved the report.

Chairman of the Board Chesnut announced new committee assignments.

A synopsis of the March 19 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Board meeting were given by Chairman of the Board Chesnut. Financial, legislative, engineering and legal reports were presented. The newly revised and updated AIEC Internet Home Page was demonstrated.

Director Warmbir summarized the March 18 Soyland Power Cooperative Annual Meeting he attended. President/CEO Champion, the SPC Chairman of the Board, presided. Anthony Braun, an attorney from California, was the keynote speaker. A Chairman/President's report and audit report were given and the original Articles of Incorporation were amended. During the March 18 SPC organization meeting, President/CEO Champion was reelected as the Chairman of the Board. Director Ludwig will serve as EIEC's SPC director and Director Knox as the alternate.

Scott Shoemaker of Gibson City addressed the board concerning his three phase account.

Directors Anderson, Byers, Ludwig, Raber, Thompson, Attorney Fraker and President/CEO Champion summarized the NRECA/CFC/NRTC Annual Meetings they attended in Nashville, Tennessee, March 8-11.

A report of NRECA Course 2630.2 "Business Planning" held in Springfield March 24-25 was given by Directors Chesnut, Knox and Ludwig.

In other action, the board approved participating in the 1998 Illinois Electric Cooperative Study, creating a receptionist position which will be shared by EIEC and SkyQuest, hiring summer help for the operations department, and changing the water heater program.

President/CEO Champion furnished the board with the following: a progress report on the headquarters remodeling project and information on the March 9 winter storm.

Director Day reviewed the March 17 safety meeting he attended. A comprehensive March job training and safety activities report was provided by President/CEO Champion.

President/CEO Champion furnished information on the Rural TV business. Jeff Tankersley, Utili~soft Manager, provided a written report on marketing activities. SkyQuest Manager Dave Lithgow advised that SkyQuest had 8,816 DIRECTV subscribers as of March 23. Additionally, Lithgow reviewed marketing initiatives. Kevin Osterbur, IlliCom Net Service Manager, updated the board on Internet operations.

Director Warmbir announced that he was retiring from the board. The Board commended Warmbir for his 26 years of dedicated and loyal service to the cooperative.

The next meeting of the board will be held April 21, 1998, at the Paxton Fire House.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

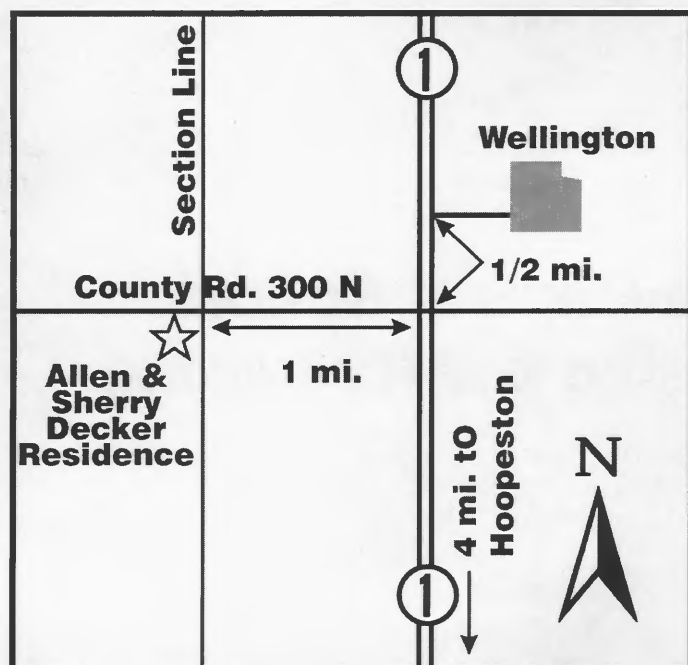
## Mission Statement

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's mission is to exceed customer expectations in providing energy and other valued products and services.

# Eastern Illini

Electric News • Electric News • Electric News 217-379-2131 or 800-824-5102

## Attend EIEC's Geothermal Field Day Saturday, June 6 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Allen and Sherry Decker's home



### Free pork burgers and soft drinks

See a Climatemaster Ultra Classic geothermal system at the home of Allen and Sherry Decker near Wellington. Bauer Comfort Center in Cissna Park installed the extraordinary system that heats, cools and provides domestic water heating. The header portion of the loop will be exposed and open for viewing. A demonstration of spray-on cellulose will also be conducted by Bauer Insulation.

You can take advantage of EIEC's 4-cent electric heat rate with a geothermal system and save up to 60 percent or more on your monthly heating bills. The safe,

clean, convenient and environmentally friendly system provides total comfort with constant temperature and humidity control. In addition, there is no noisy, unsightly outdoor equipment. You can borrow up to \$10,000 to install a geothermal system if you qualify for EIEC's 5 percent loan program.

Talk to EIEC employees about the value of a geothermal system. Climatemaster representatives and Bauer Comfort Center/Bauer Insulation employees will also be on hand to assist with the field day and will be available to answer your questions.

Attend the field day June 6 and see the amazing geothermal system.



**Face-To-Face  
Service**



This exterior view shows the Prairie Central Junior High School to good advantage. The new facility provides modern classrooms and relieves overcrowding.

## New Prairie Central School relieves massive overcrowding

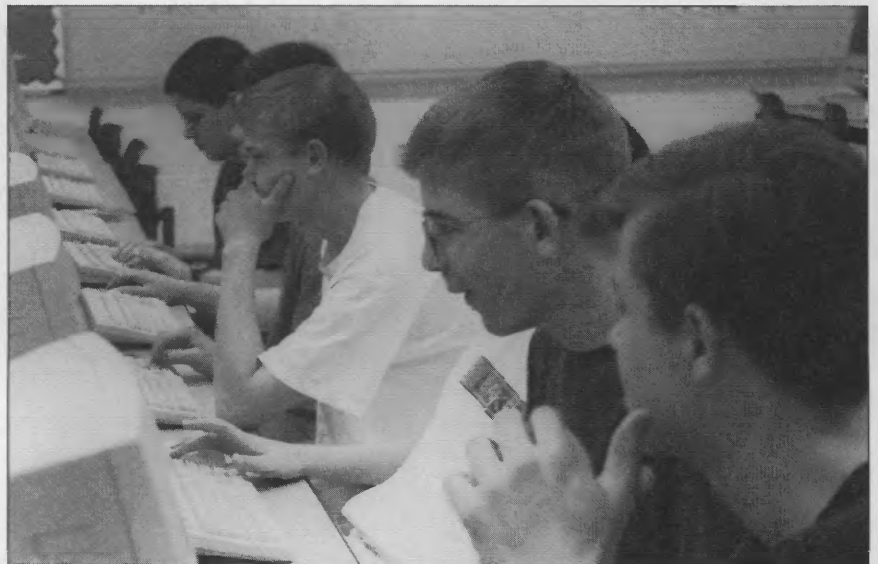
By now, the students, teachers, administrative personnel and support staff at Prairie Central Junior High School are in their new facility at the edge of Forrest, and everybody seems to be pleased with the new building.

Prairie Central, which is made up of the consolidated districts that served Chatsworth, Forrest-Strawn-Wing and Fairbury-Cropsey, was built largely to provide improved educational opportunities for area students and to relieve a severe and chronic overcrowding problem, notes Leon Carrico, principal.

"Our older buildings weren't particularly uncomfortable or too old," Carrico says, "but they were terribly overcrowded. Some of the schools had classes in closets and janitors' closets, and one had been holding classes in its bus barn. The district brought trailers in and held classes in

them a few years ago."

"Even with all the makeshift arrangements, he remarks that there still wasn't enough room to hold some of the classes that were needed. "A few



Students are pictured using computers in the new computer room.

**Doug Zick, science teacher, gives a demonstration to students in the new lab.**



years ago the school board had to choose between English classes, and Agricultural and Industrial Technology classes, because we didn't have room for both, and we kept the English classes.

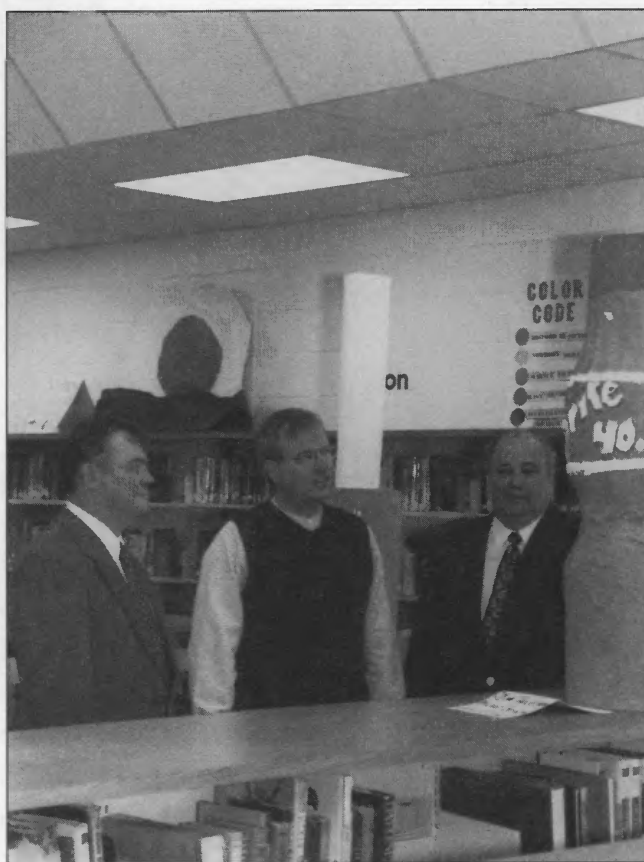
We weren't comfortable with that, and we were delighted when we were able to put Industrial Technology and Agriculture back in the curriculum, and modernize them at the same time."

The new school also includes a classroom that was unheard of at the time most of the other buildings were occupied — a computer room. There's also a modern learning resource center. The chemistry labs are much more modern than the old ones were, which will provide students with improved educational opportunities.

The new cafeteria is state-of-the-art. Actually, there are two new cafeterias, because the new building is just part of a bigger plan that involved shuffling and rearranging to make the most efficient use of the space offered by all the school buildings in the former three districts. Students who attended junior high classes in different schools are now in the new building, and the old schools — still pretty good buildings, Carrico says — have been put to use to relieve crowding in the elementary grades. One also needed a new cafeteria.

One reason the facility works as well as it does, Carrico says, is that the teachers had a lot of input into the design of the building and choice of equipment, and the way things were put together.

"I believe we've increased the efficiency of the buildings in regard to heating, lighting and cooling," Carrico says, "but I'm not sure. Last winter was the first winter we were in the new building, and it was, so mild, that we didn't have an opportunity to try things out. But the building's heating and cooling system is controlled from the head custodian's computer, and there aren't any ther-



**Dr. Philip Pogue, superintendent of schools, left, and Leon Carrico, principal, right, give EIEC President/CEO Wm. David Champion, Jr., a tour of their new facility.**

mostats around for people to change. We think that'll help a lot, right there.

But I believe the building is really conducive to learning, and is beneficial to our students. It's a real asset to the community."



## **Three students to tour Washington, D.C. as representatives of EIEC**

EIEC will send three area high school students on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 12-19. Winners of EIEC's "Youth to Washington" tour essay contest are Nate Mathews of Champaign, Pamela Borgers of Milford, and Ami Choi of Urbana. The three students were chosen as grand prize winners from a group of eight finalists at EIEC's essay dinner on Monday, April 13, in Paxton. In addition to winning the Washington trip, Mathews won a \$200 savings bond for having the highest score. The other two winners of the tour, Borgers and Choi, received \$100 and \$75 saving bonds, respectively. The remaining five finalists each won \$50 savings bonds. They are Seth Carter, Jenna Miller and Aaron Smiley of Hoopeston, Kavi Goel of Danville, and Luke Walczewski of St. Joseph. Mike Anderson of Donovan will also travel to Washington, D.C., as a "Willie Wirehand" student. Area students submitted essays entitled "What Impact will Deregulation have on the Electric Utilities?" Front row from left are: Choi, Borgers and Mathews. In the back row from left are: Wm. David Champion, Jr., EIEC President/CEO, Anderson, Goel, Walczewski, Carter, Miller, Smiley and Marion Chesnut, EIEC board chairman.





(Above) High school students from across Illinois met their state legislators in Springfield during "Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day" on Wednesday, April 22. The students representing EIEC are pictured with Senators Stanley Weaver, Judy Myers, Larry Walsh and Representative J. Philip Novak on the Senate floor. The 250 students and chaperones also toured the Illinois Supreme Court, the State Capitol, Old State Capitol, and the Executive Mansion. Representing Eastern Illini were, from left to front, Jeannie Kingston, EIEC chaperone, Ami Choi of Urbana, Pamela Borgers of Milford, Sen. Myers, Jenna Miller of Hoopeston, and Glenda Frette, EIEC chaperone. Behind from left, Nate Mathews of Champaign, Mike Anderson of Donovan, Sen. Walsh, Rep. Novak, Sen. Weaver, Kavi Goel of Danville, Seth Carter of Hoopeston, and Luke Walczewski of St. Joseph. The day's activities were sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois.



Rep. J. Philip Novak



Sen. Judy Myers



Sen. Stanley Weaver and Sen. John Maitland



Two apprentice linemen from Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative recently participated in a two-week climbing school held on the campus of Lincoln Land Community College, in Springfield. Mike Bristle and Mike Batte (pictured l-r) received certificates for completing a course that included sessions in pole climbing technique, line construction, and safety. The course was hosted April 13-24 by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

## Apply for a 5% EIEC loan

The EIEC loan program will provide financing for electric heat, a standby generator or a service entrance upgrade.

You can reduce your energy bills through the purchase of more energy efficient equipment and take advantage of EIEC's competitive 4-cent electric heat rate or the 5-cent interruptible rate.

Moreover, you can improve the safety and reliability of your home.

If you qualify, EIEC will lend you the money at the low rate of 5 percent and add the payments to your monthly electric bills.

Borrow up to the following amounts:

- \$10,000 for a geothermal system
- \$5,000 for an all-electric heat installation
- \$3,000 for an add-on heat pump
- \$10,000 for a stand-by generator\*
- \$600/\$1,200 for a service entrance upgrade\*\*

\* Account must be on interruptible single-phase or interruptible large power rate

\*\* Must accompany electric heat or water heater installation

**For details, contact the Marketing Department.**

# SkyQuest meets NASCAR

Hundreds of race fans and curious passersby stopped at EIEC headquarters Friday, May 1, to look at a real NASCAR race car. SkyQuest sponsored the event which brought the #24 car of Jeff Gordon to the cooperative that afternoon. Free pop, pizza and popcorn were distributed to visitors. An estimated 800-900 persons stopped by for photo opportunities and to register for a free DSS system. "We were excited with the turnout at the co-op on Friday," said SkyQuest Manager Dave Lithgow.

"NASCAR is about the hottest thing going and to be able to have the #24 car here was a great thrill." WHPO Radio of Hoopston added to the day with a live broadcast.

The car was also on display at the ninth Duck Race in Urbana, which benefits the Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club serving over 1,400 youth in the Champaign County area. Twenty-three thousand rubber ducks are dumped into the lake and "race" to the finish line. SkyQuest became a corporate sponsor of the Duck Race with the help of WDWS Radio of Champaign. "SkyQuest is always looking at charitable and community events in which to participate. The Duck Race is a huge event and is so important to so many in the area that we are honored to be a small part of its success," Lithgow added.



Interested passersby at the co-op headquarters were thrilled to have a chance to take a good look at a real NASCAR race car, and about 800-900 took advantage of the opportunity.

## Free for co-op members

**SkyQuest**, EIEC's DIRECTV subsidiary, has arranged for co-op members to go to **Rockome Gardens FREE** this summer. SkyQuest is a corporate sponsor of three events in the Amish Community. Included is the family FunFest July 25-August 2 and the Illinois Fiddle Championships and Ricky Skaggs Concert Labor Day Weekend.

Other events this summer include:

Christian Music Weekend June 13-14

Quilt Celebration June 27-July 12

Antique and Toy Tractor Expo August 7-9

Bluegrass Festival August 22-23

The tickets, which may be used for admission to any event, are free with a phone call to EIEC (limit two per member). For additional information on the events at Rockome Gardens, call (800) 549-7825 or check them out on the Internet at [www.rockhome.com](http://www.rockhome.com). For DIRECTV, call SkyQuest at (800) 236-9263 or visit their new location at EIEC headquarters.



**SkyQuest**<sup>®</sup>

## Board meeting report



The Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors held its regular meeting on April 21, 1998, at the Paxton Fire House.

Minutes of the March 31, 1998, board meeting and executive session were approved.

The March 31, 1998 statement of revenues and expenses including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,526,406, Total Operating Expenses \$346,216, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,580,286, Operating Margins (\$53,880), Total Margins (\$33,902) and Year-To-Date Margins \$298,407.

During March, 86 members joined the cooperative and 80 terminated their memberships.

Director Raber, Chairman of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, indicated the committee had met April 3 to plan the next annual meeting. It will be held March 13, 1999, at the Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School in Paxton. Prizes will include two 18-inch Digital Satellite Systems, two water heaters, door prizes, \$25 bill credits and a stainless steel carving fork will be given as the attendance gift. A lunch of chicken, beef, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, corn, cole slaw, noodles and cobbler will be provided by Gene Niemerg of Effingham. The Board approved the committee's report.

A report of the April 16 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Board meeting was given by Chairman of the Board Chesnut. Financial, legislative, legal, regulatory, engineering and youth activities reports were given.

Director Ludwig highlighted the April 15 Soyland Power Cooperative Board meeting. Alternate Director Knox also attended. President/CEO Champion, the SPC Chairman of the Board, presided. Chairman Champion announced his standing committee appointments. Regional Workshops will be held May 13, 14 and 15 and a Strategic

Planning Workshop will be held July 13-15. Financial, marketing and energy reports were presented.

In other action, the board approved giving members an up front rebate of \$75 for installing an electric water heater and contributing \$500 to the CFC System Integrity Fund. In addition, the board adopted Policy No. 213, Director Training — Personal Computers.

President/CEO Champion furnished the board with the following: a copy of the 1997 Audit Report prepared by Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP; rate tariffs of neighboring investor-owned utilities, EIEC's essay contest was well attended and the eight finalists gave outstanding presentations; and the headquarters remodeling is going well and SkyQuest will be moving into EIEC's headquarters April 24-25.

An in-depth April job training and safety activities meeting and safety meeting will be held at the cooperative's headquarters on April 30. Director Anderson will attend and represent the board.

President/CEO Champion provided information on the Rural TV business. Jeff Tankersley, Utili-soft Manager, provided a written report on marketing initiatives. SkyQuest Manager Dave Lithgow also furnished the board with a written report. As of April 1, SkyQuest had 8,854 DIRECTV subscribers. SkyQuest has hired Arnold Price, Jr. as a technician and Judy Plackett as a Secretary. Marketing activities were summarized. President/CEO Champion indicated that IlliCom Net Service will begin advertising the new Internet business in mid May.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

## Mission Statement

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's mission is to exceed customer expectations in providing energy and other valued products and services.

## Your road to savings

### *Install a geothermal system*



**STOP** paying high energy bills and start saving money with a geothermal heating, cooling and water heating system.

The geothermal system will heat and cool your home inexpensively, cleanly and efficiently. It provides domestic hot water and it's good for the environment as well.

Warmth naturally stored within the soil is drawn into your home in the winter and the action is reversed to cool it in the summer. The system produces four times more energy than it uses and you will save 60 percent or more on your monthly heating bills.

With a geothermal system, you can also take advantage of **EIEC'S 4¢** electric heat rate and control your future energy costs.

To finance a geothermal system in a new home or your present one, you can apply for an EIEC loan. If you qualify, you can borrow up to **\$10,000** at **5%** interest and have the payments added to your monthly electric bills.

**Contact the Marketing Department  
for more information at  
(800) 824-5102 or 379-2131**



It's the summer months, when the temperatures are rising, and you need to work extra hard to stay cool.

Remember, close the shades on the sunny side of your house and try to use heat-generating appliances such as ovens and dryers in the evening when it is cooler.

When plugging in window air conditioners and fans, remember to not plug too many appliances into one outlet. It could blow a fuse or start a fire.

## Stop writing checks! Use EIEC's Direct Pay Plan to pay your bill

There is a simple, convenient way to pay your bill and the payment will always be on time. The Direct Pay Plan works by electronically debiting your bank account each month for the exact amount of the bill. Direct Pay is especially convenient if you are away from home for an extended time. Payment is automatically withdrawn and transferred to EIEC on the due date noted on your bill which you will continue to receive each month. Plus, your payment will also appear on your monthly bank statement.

You can specify your checking or savings account at any bank, savings and loan, or credit union which offers electronic payment. Most financial institutions offer this service, but you

might call yours to check.

Your bill will show your monthly electric use, the due date and amount of your payment so you can track your electrical use and have ample time to update your bank account.

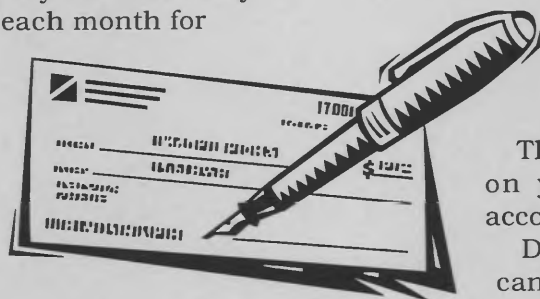
The payment will also appear on your checking or savings account statement.

Direct Pay is free and you may cancel the service at any time.

Direct Pay is another "member advantage" for EIEC members.

EIEC also accepts Visa and MasterCard payments (includes bank debit cards).

Sign up for this service today. Call (800) 824-5102 or (217) 379-2131.

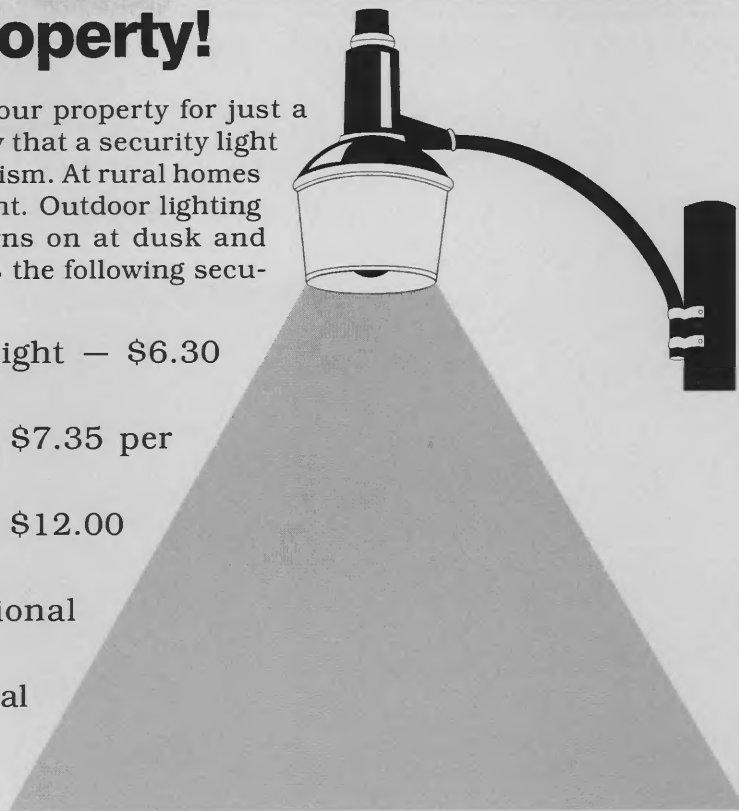


# Protect your property!

Outdoor security lighting will protect your property for just a few cents a day. Home safety studies show that a security light reduces the chance of burglary and vandalism. At rural homes and farmsteads, that's especially important. Outdoor lighting is low-cost security because the light turns on at dusk and shuts off at dawn. Your cooperative offers the following security lighting at a reasonable cost:

- 100-watt high pressure sodium light — \$6.30 per month
- 175-watt mercury vapor light — \$7.35 per month
- 400-watt mercury vapor light — \$12.00 per month
- 250-watt high pressure directional lighting — \$11.00 per month
- 400-watt high pressure directional lighting — \$14.00 per month

You will receive the first two months free for any new security light rental!



Check out the SkyQuest® Fair Special! Come visit the SkyQuest booth to receive the best deal ever on a DSS® System.

**Fisher Fair**  
July 7-11

**Ford County Fair**  
July 7-11

**Iroquois County Fair**  
July 15-19

**Livingston County Fair**  
July 20-24

**Champaign County Fair**  
July 24-August 1

**McLean County Fair**  
July 24-August 2

DIRECTV® offers over 200 fully digital channels of your favorite cable networks, exclusive sports packages, blockbuster movies, and great family entertainment. So, come see for yourself. It's an udderly outrageous deal!

**SkyQuest**  
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SkyQuest®



**Things are going to**  
**look**  
*a lot different*  
**at the Fair**  
**this year.**



# Board meeting report



On May 26, 1998, the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors held its regular meeting at the Paxton Fire House.

Minutes of the April 21, 1998 board meeting were approved.

The April 30, 1998 statement of revenues and expenses including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,584,545, Total Operating Expenses \$335,374, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,449,696, Operating Margins \$134,849, Total Margins \$170,714 and Year-To-Date Margins \$469,035.

In April, 88 members joined the cooperative and 81 terminated their memberships.

Chairman of the Board Chesnut announced there will be a meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee on June 16.

Highlights of the May 21 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Board meeting were given by Chairman of the Board Chesnut. The Federated Rural Electric Insurance Company presented the AIEC with a check for \$17,437 for their loss control activities. Financial, legislative, legal, regulatory, engineering and youth activities reports were presented.

Director Ludwig reported on the May 20 Soyland Power Cooperative Board meeting. Alternate Director Knox also attended. Financial, energy and marketing reports were given.

Directors Anderson, Byers, Attorney Fraker and President/CEO Champion summarized the NRECA Legislative Conference they attended on May 3-6 in Washington, D.C. They indicated the sessions were good and the Illinois Congressmen were very responsive and supportive.

In other action, the board approved entering into a three phase contract with Hoke Construction.

President/CEO Champion furnished the board with the following: the remodeling of the headquarters is complete except for the board room;

two used vehicles were sold for \$29,000 and other surplus equipment was sold for \$1,000; a \$65.52 capital credits check was received from NRTC and the balance of \$152.88 has been allocated as equity interest in NRTC; the staff is holding weekly meetings and a weekly activities report is being provided to all employees to keep them well informed.

Director Anderson reported on the April 30 all employee and safety meetings he had attended. A comprehensive May job training and safety activities report was provided by President/CEO Champion.

President/CEO Champion indicated that the Rural TV business has received a \$287.30 capital credits check from NRTC and the balance of \$670.37 has been allocated as equity interest in NRTC. Jeff Tankersley, Utili-soft Manager, provided a written report on marketing activities. SkyQuest Manager Dave Lithgow furnished the board with a written report which indicated SkyQuest had 8,998 DIRECTV subscribers as of May 17. On May 1, SkyQuest hosted the Jeff Gordon #24 NASCAR race car and around 900 visitors participated in the event. SkyQuest received a \$10,722.45 capital credits check and the balance of \$25,019.06 balance has been allocated as equity interest in NRTC. Additionally, IlliCom Net Service Manager Kevin Osterbur provided the board with a written report on the status of the Internet project. Testing of the new site will begin in the next few days and the Internet service will be offered to the public in several weeks. The domain for IlliCom Net Service has been set up at [www.illicom.net](http://www.illicom.net).

An Unlimited Visions Annual Meeting will be held at the Paxton Fire House on June 26 and a special meeting of the subsidiaries will follow.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

## Mission Statement

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's mission is to exceed customer expectations in providing energy and other valued products and services.



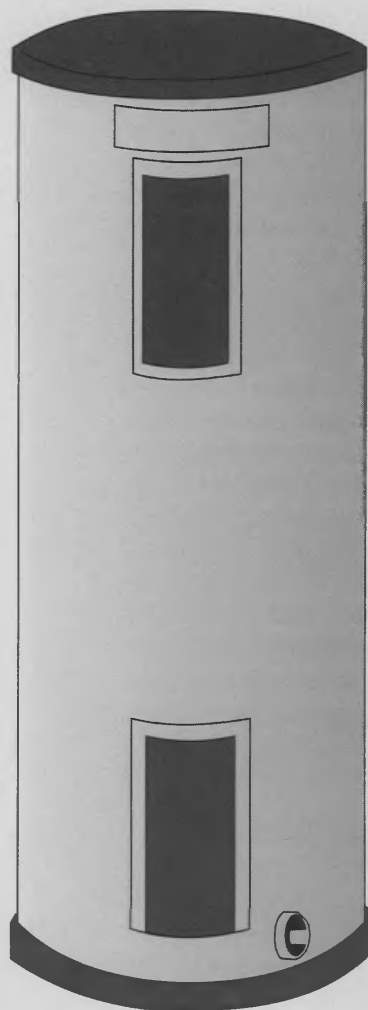
## Earn a \$75 rebate

**Purchase a new  
electric water heater  
and receive a  
\$75 rebate**

You can purchase an electric water heater from any retail outlet of your choice and receive a \$75 rebate if you meet the following criteria:

- Install a 240-volt electric water heater with a 30-gallon minimum capacity.
- Install the water heater as the primary unit in a residential account served by EIEC.
- Only one rebate per account.
- You must submit a copy of the water heater invoice with your name, your EIEC account number, the water heater's capacity and serial and model number.

**For more information on  
the \$75 water heater rebate,  
contact EIEC's Marketing  
Department**



## Mission Statement

*Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's mission is to exceed customer expectations in providing energy and other valued products and services.*

# Deckers host June 6 field day near Wellington



The Allen and Sherry Decker home near Wellington is a 2,100-square-foot beauty they expect to be able to heat and cool for just \$61 a month, a price that also includes hot water.

The Deckers are pictured in front of their new home.

The geothermal field day held at the Allen and Sherry Decker house was different from others co-sponsored by EIEC in that it was held on a Saturday. "We decided to try a Saturday event to see if it would have any impact on our attendance," says Pat Gallahue, marketing advisor, "and while we didn't have more people turn out, we thought we had a different kind of attendance."

He notes that in all, about 100 persons turned out to look over the Deckers' 2,100-square-foot house and to view the displays there, and to enjoy pork burgers, chips and soft drinks.

Bauer Comfort Center in Cissna Park installed the geothermal heating, cooling and water heating system, and Bauer Insulation demonstrated spray-on cellulose insulation. The insulation, along with careful caulking and weatherstripping, should enable the Deckers to heat and cool their home, and heat water as well, for about \$61 a month, the year around, according to the contractor's estimate.

Allen, who lived at the present location in an old farm house, notes that it had been damaged by a tornado several years ago, but that he had continued living in it, putting up with the inconveniences involved.

"I took advantage of Eastern Illini Electric's loan program to replace the old furnace," he says, "but I finally decided to build a new house, and had the shell built for me by Luxury Homes,



A member registers for the attendance prize, a popcorn popper.

a pre-cut home builder in Charleston."

Allen and Sherry, who were married December 31, 1997, plan to finish the house themselves. They farm there and have a quarter horse operation.

"Even though I took advantage of the co-op's loan plan to update the furnace in my old house," he says, "I decided not to do that this time. But I did talk to Pat and several others from the co-op when it came time to decide on energy-efficient construction and the geothermal heating, cooling and water heating system. I expect it will work out well for us."

EIEC members can take advantage of the co-

op's 4-cent electric heat rate with a geothermal system, which enables them to save about 60 percent on monthly heating bills.

The clean, safe system is environmentally friendly, and provides complete comfort with humidity control and constant temperature.

Remember, you can borrow up to \$10,000 to install a geothermal system if you qualify for EIEC's 5 percent loan program. Be sure to check with us before you build. You'll be glad you did.



Another Bauer representative explains the workings of a display that compares the insulating power and resistance to air infiltration of batt and cellulose insulations.



Insulation is an important part of the home's energy efficiency. Here, a representative of Bauer Insulation discusses the benefits of blown-in cellulose.



The closed-loop geothermal piping is buried in this field. Once it's covered over and reseeded, it will be completely invisible.

Since the home is in a rural area, EIEC took advantage of the opportunity to demonstrate the small-dish satellite TV programming offered by SkyQuest, and the dish is pictured here.



A member looks over the quiet-running furnace/air conditioner unit. Since the system is quiet, it can be installed indoors, which helps prolong its service life.

Chris Johnson, left, EIEC marketing specialist, discusses the benefits of geothermal with a member.



# Board meeting report



The Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors held its regular meeting at the Paxton fire station on June 23, 1998.

Minutes of the May 26, 1998, board meeting were approved.

The May 31, 1998 statement of revenues and expenses including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,461,967, Total Operating Expenses \$336,576, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,442,403, Operating Margins \$39,564, Total Margins \$59,954 and Year-to-Date Margins \$528,989.

During May, 87 members joined the cooperative and 68 terminated their memberships.

A report of the June 16 Audit and Finance Committee meeting was given by Director Day, Chairman of the Committee. The Committee met with Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP auditors to review the 1997 Audit Report. The auditors indicated the cooperative's records were in good order and in compliance with applicable standards and requirements. In accordance with the cooperative's bylaws, the committee examined the accounts of the cooperative and reviewed expense statements, disbursements and supporting data. All records were found to be in order. In addition, the committee reviewed a change in Policy 312, Travel Expenses - Employees and recommended amending the policy. After discussion, the board approved the report of the committee, amending Policy 312 and accepted the 1997 Audit Report.

Chairman of the Board Chesnut summarized the June 18 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Board meeting. The board approved becoming a regional partner for the Touchstone Energy brand pro-

gram on behalf of participating cooperatives. Financial, legislative, legal, regulatory, engineering and youth activities reports were presented. The AIEC Nominating Committee selected the following slate of candidates for next year's officers: Chairman of the Board, Marion Chesnut; Vice Chairman, Dexter Edmison; Secretary, Archie Hamilton; Treasurer, Jimmy Ayers; President, Earl Struck; and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Larry Elledge.

Voting representatives and alternates were selected for the AIEC annual meeting which will be held July 30-31 in Springfield. Chairman of the Board Chesnut was selected as the voting representative for the NRECA meeting and the AIEC annual meeting and Director Byers was selected as the alternate. Moreover, Chairman of the Board Chesnut was chosen to serve a two-year term as the AIEC Director and Director Byers as the alternate.

Highlights of the June 17 Soyland Power cooperative Board meeting were given by Director Ludwig. Alternate Director Knox and President/CEO Champion also attended. Financial, energy and marketing reports were given. Strategic Planning Workshops will be held July 13, 14 and 15 and Regional Information meetings will be held August 11, 12, and 13. A system emergency plan for distribution cooperatives has been developed to implement rolling blackouts if there is a shortage of power this summer.

In other action, the board approved paying the 1998-1999 AIEC dues assessment, a revised geothermal program, Policy 606 - Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Compliance; and allocating patronage capital in the amount of \$477,812.83.

**IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!  
IT'S INCREDIBLE!  
IT'S AMAZING!**



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# Eastern Illini

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## Chesnut is new AIEC Board Chairman



Marion Chesnut of Rossville, chairman of the EIEC Board of Directors, is now Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), Springfield. He was elected at the organization's 57th annual meeting, held July 30-31 in Springfield. Other officers are Dexter Edmison of Belle Rive, vice chairman, Archie Hamilton of Ava, secretary, and Jimmy L. Ayers of Rochester, treasurer. The AIEC is the service organization representing 26 electric distribution and two generation and transmission co-ops in Illinois.



## Rep. Novak receives IEC Public Service Award

Representatives of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative were on hand when 85th District Representative Philip J. "Phil" Novak (D-Bradley) received the Illinois Electric Cooperative Public Service Award, which was presented during the 57th annual meeting of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield. From left are Novak, and directors Donald Reitz of Gilman, Harold M. Loy of Beaverville, Marion Chesnut of Rossville, Glenn R. Anderson of Kempton, Robert D. Thompson of Paxton, Larry Knox of Dewey, Laverl Byers of Tuscola, French Fraker, co-op attorney, and director Bradley J. Ludwig of Fithian.

### Mission Statement

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's mission is to exceed customer expectations in providing energy and other valued products and services.

# Tolono business takes “the rocky road”



The principals of Blue Ridge are pictured with Wm. David Champion, Jr., manager of EIEC, at their place. From left are Champion, Richard Schneider, and Janice and Nand Dalal.

Blue Ridge Marble and Granite, a business near Tolono, is no place for those who take all rocks for granite. Blue Ridge, in fact, deals in many kinds of stone products, while granite is becoming an increasingly important part of the firm's offering.

The business is owned and operated by Richard Schneider and Nand and Janice Dalal, and used to be located on Windsor Road, near Urbana.

“We have a vastly expanded product line,” says Richard, who has been in business for 22

years, “with all kinds of stone for both interior and exterior use. We're proud of our sculptures, too. These are stone, not concrete, and they've done well at shows in Chicago.”

But one of the more unusual aspects of the business comes largely in slabs. The place is full of giant slabs of granite and marble, and they are incredibly beautiful.

“We like to think that what we offer is for those who want something a little different,” Jan says, “and we can build especially pretty kitchen countertops, fireplaces, vanities, window sills and the like.”

Nand adds, “There are a lot of nice houses going up in the area now, and many of them would be ideally suited for granite or marble treatment. “The cost of a genuine granite countertop or marble vanity is not much higher than that of some of the premium synthetics,” he says, “and we like to think that ours

are prettier. We know for a fact that they're much more durable.”

At any rate, while real stone is fairly expensive, the difference between a stone countertop and a synthetic one would be such a small portion of the overall cost of a nice house that it should not be an insurmountable problem.

“For those who don't feel that they can afford a whole kitchen,” Jan says, “we often suggest that they have an island done in granite. It will add a fine touch to a home. It's certainly an option for people who want

something a little different.”

The Dalals, who've traveled all over Europe, note that stone is much more common there than it is here, and that they'd like to change that.

“Stone is becoming more popular in this country,” she says. “You see a lot of it on the coasts, and now it's growing in popularity with Midwesterners,



This sculpted bench is one of many pieces available.



Stones with messages are becoming popular, and they're surprisingly reasonably priced. They sell for seven cents a pound, plus \$10 for each letter.

too. We are pleased to be able to offer these beautiful natural products for Midwesterners to enjoy. People are always intrigued to learn where the stones come from — Norway, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka — all over the world.”

The fact that many people are almost completely unaware that such products exist is a problem that Blue Ridge is working to overcome. Stone countertops and building facings, once a common part of everyday life, are almost nonexistent today, thanks in part to the fact that most people think they're impossibly expensive — if they think of them at all.

They note that they like to work with contractors, and that they recommend that the contractors bring in the buyer and keep them abreast of what is being done. “The end user needs to have some serious input into what goes in,” Nand emphasizes, “and we recommend that the contractor bring them into the picture early, so they'll know what they're getting for their money.”

While granite and marble are an important part of the business, the partners note that there is more. “We have some really nice sculptures,” Richard says, “and we can make foun-



Jan puts the finishing touches on a beautiful granite island.

tains, benches, birdbaths and many other items, out of stone. It's amazing what you can make from a boulder if you apply a little creativity to it. And we also offer all kinds of landscaping stone”

And that's pretty much what Blue Ridge Marble and Granite is all about.

Those interested in contacting the company can find the place at 1104 County Road 900N, just north of Tolono. The phone number there is (217) 485-5548, or toll-free at (888) 664-8111.



This rough-hewn fountain would be a nice addition to almost any yard.



Not all rocks come in slabs. This is a selection of a few flower pots, birdbaths, sundials and other items sold at Blue Ridge.



This piece would make a nice outdoor coffee table. In addition to being an attractive piece, it's fairly theft-resistant, too.

# Board meeting report



The Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors held its regular meeting at the Paxton Fire Station on July 28, 1998.

Minutes of the June 23, 1998, board meeting were approved.

The June 30, 1998, statement of revenues and expenses including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,511,797, Total Operating Expenses \$350,480, Total Cost of Electric Service, \$1,555,781, Operating Margins (\$43,984), Total Margins (\$24,649) and Year-To-Date Margins \$504,339.

In June, 99 members joined the cooperative and 105 terminated their memberships.

A report of the July 16 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Board meeting was given by Chairman of the Board Chesnut. Financial, legislative, engineering, continuing education and IEC Federal Credit Union reports were given. Plans for the July 30-31 AIEC Annual Meeting were reviewed.

Director Ludwig reported on the July 13-14 Soyland Power Cooperative Strategic Planning Session and July 15 Board meeting held in Findlay. Alternate Director Knox and President/CEO Champion also attended. During the strategic planning session, long and short term goals were established. Financial, energy, power supply and marketing reports were presented.

In other action, the board approved donating to the Community and Economic Development Foundation of Ford County, writing off uncollectible accounts in the amount of \$30,909.82, and entering in a three phase contract with Thomas Bayston.

President/CEO Champion indicated he had given a Power Point presentation on EIEC's diversified operations at the June 30-July 3 CFC's Borrowers' Forum in Colorado Springs. Additionally, President Champion furnished the board with the following: an all employee meeting was held July 16 to roll out the Strategic Plan; and in conjunction with the IEC Emergency Work Plan, EIEC sent crews to help two other cooperatives during the week of June 30 and on July 2. He also provided a comprehensive July job training and safety activities report.

Jeff Tankersley, Utili-soft Manager, provided a written report on marketing initiatives. SkyQuest Manager Dave Lithgow indicated SkyQuest had 9,120 DIRECTV subscribers as of July 1. Furthermore, Lithgow reviewed marketing activities. IlliniCom Net Service Manager Kevin Osterbur highlighted the activities of the new Internet business.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.



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## Nominating Committee meets November 2

Members of the 1999 Nominating Committee were invited to attend the August 25 Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative board of directors meeting to observe the board in action. The 11-member board is charged with the tremendous responsibility of establishing policies, implementing rates and guiding the operation of a \$47 million corporation.

The Nominating Committee will meet November 2, 1998 to select candidates for the nominating committee election in Districts 1, 4, 8 and one at large candidate in the Northern District which will be conducted by mail balloting during December. The committee will also nominate candidates for director elections in Districts 2, 3, 6 and one at large director in the Southern District, which will be held at the March 13, 1999 annual meeting in Paxton. Directors presently serving in those districts are William P. Raber of Saybrook, District 2; Donald Reitz of Gilman, District 3; Marion Chesnut of Rossville, District 6; and Laverl Byers of Tuscola, At Large Director in the Southern District. If nominated, the incumbent directors

will seek reelection.

The Nominating Committee process is conducted in accordance with the following provision of the Cooperative's bylaws, Article III, Section 3.7: Nominations:

*"The Nominating Committee shall each year nominate candidates for the Board of Directors to be voted upon by the members at the next succeeding Annual Meeting of Members. Other candidates for the Board of Directors may be nominated by petition signed by not less than 25 members and filed with the Secretary of the Cooperative not less than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominations from the floor shall not be permitted.*

*"The nominating committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least 30 days before the annual meeting, a list of its nominations for directors; further, the Secretary shall post, at the same place, any nominating petitions with him or her.*

*"A specimen ballot marked "Ballot for Directors" containing the names and addresses of all nominees listed in the order determined by lot conducted by*

*the President and Secretary of the Cooperative shall be printed in or mailed with the notice of the meeting. The Secretary shall also have printed in or mailed with said notice of the meeting or separately, not less than 10 days prior to said annual meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the districts from which they are to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the nominating committee and the nominations made by petition. The members may, at any meeting at which a director shall be removed, as herein provided, elect his or her successor without compliance with the foregoing provisions with respect to nominations. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever, the validity of any election of directors or any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election of directors."*

If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee or being a director, please contact one of the following Nominating Committee members:

### Nominating Committee

- Dist. 1 — Wayne F. Apperson, 699 County Road 3600N, Foosland, IL 61845
- Dist. 2 — Terry Bose, R. R. 1, Box 24, Anchor, IL 61720
- Dist. 3 — Roger R. Ebert, 1464 N 1100E Rd., Onarga, IL 60955
- Dist. 4 — Richard D. LaFond, 2625 N 2500E Rd., Donovan, IL 60931
- Dist. 5 — John Wilkening, R. R. 1, Box 78, Cissna Park, IL 60924
- Dist. 6 — James Weston, 17970 Attica Rd., Rossville, IL 60963
- Dist. 7 — Duane Schluter, 2536 County Road 3100N, Penfield, IL 61862
- Dist. 8 — Loren W. Schable, 1288 E 45ON Rd., Atwood, IL 61913
- Dist. 9 — Richard L. Davis, 158 County Road 2000E, Longview, IL 61852
- Northern Dist. At Large — J. Orin Taylor, 33534 E 1700N Rd., Cullom, IL 60929
- Northern Dist. At Large — Lavon C. Blasey, R. R. 2, Box 109, Clifton, IL 60927
- Northern Dist. At Large — Darrell Abrahamson, 1740 E 700N Rd., Loda, IL 60948
- Southern Dist. At Large — Carl Bialeschki, 939 County Road 400N, Tolono, IL 61980

# October is cooperative month

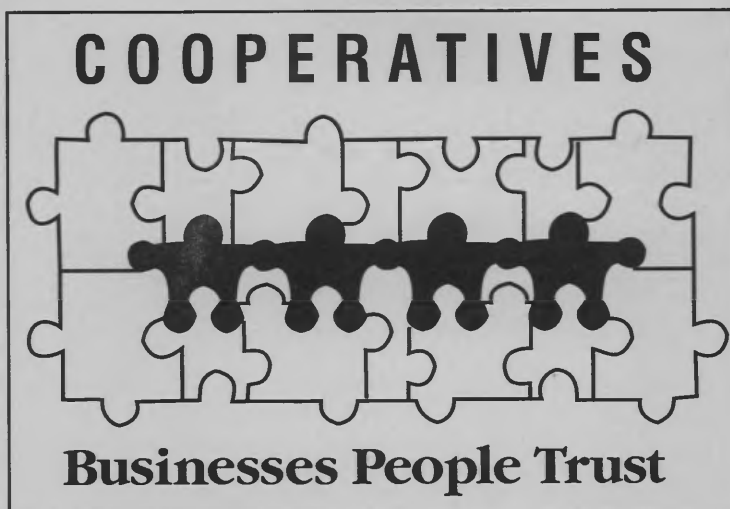
Today many electric cooperative consumers don't remember the first day electricity came to their homes. In fact, your electricity was probably already there when you moved in — one of those automatic things like the telephone line and running water.

The day you joined your electric cooperative, you became a member of a unique organization. An electric cooperative is different.

Your electric cooperative is not-for-profit and consumer owned, like the local credit union or food cooperative. That means any revenue above expenses is eventually returned to the member (you) in

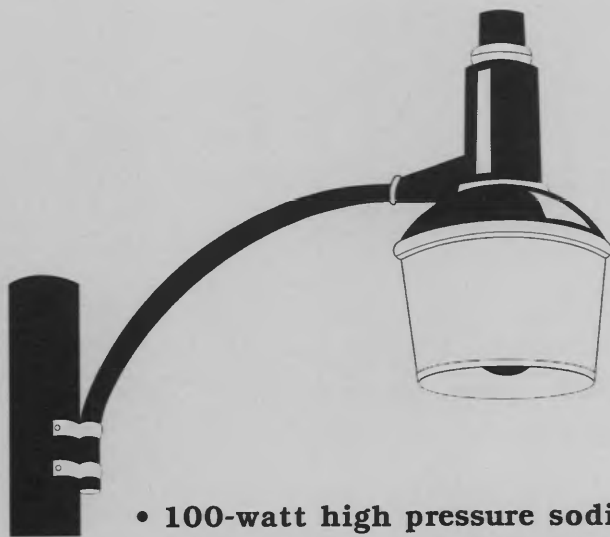
the form of capital credit payments.

Your electric cooperative is committed to providing the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. We take pride in our cooperative — a grassroots system of service started by pioneers like those who settled this area. Keeping the cost of electricity affordable helps keep local businesses competitive, while preserving our rural heritage and standard of living.



There is something different about receiving your electricity from an electric cooperative. We think it's a difference you can be proud of.

## Protect your property!



Outdoor security lighting will protect your property for just a few cents a day. Home safety studies show that a security light reduces the chance of burglary and vandalism. At rural homes and farmsteads, that's especially important. Outdoor lighting is low-cost security because the light turns on at dusk and shuts off at dawn. Your cooperative offers the following security lighting at a reasonable cost:

- 100-watt high pressure sodium light — \$6.30 per month
- 175-watt mercury vapor light — \$7.35 per month
- 400-watt mercury vapor light — \$12.00 per month
- 250-watt high pressure directional lighting — \$11.00 per month
- 400-watt high pressure directional lighting — \$14.00 per month

**You will receive the first two months free  
for any new security light rental!**

# Free Hockey Tickets



SkyQuest® and the Danville Wings have teamed up for an Incredible Free Offer exclusively for members of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative.

On Sunday, Oct. 25, at 3 p.m., the Danville Wings will entertain the Soo Indians at the Palmer Civic Center in Danville and you can take part in all the excitement by calling SkyQuest today at (800) 236-9263.

SkyQuest has acquired a limited number of tickets for this game. (2 per member please). For additional information about the Danville Wings, members of the North American Junior Hockey League, see their website at [www.wings@soltec.net](http://www.wings@soltec.net). For more information on SkyQuest and DIRECTV, check them out at [www.skyquest.com](http://www.skyquest.com).

## School days

It's back-to-school time across America. For parents, it's a bittersweet reminder of the passage of time as we watch our children grow and become increasingly independent. It's also a time when we think about their safety.

Your electric cooperative shares that concern. That's why so many are looking out for the safety of our children. With the beginning of every school year, thousands of co-op line workers are keeping an eye out for children on their way to or from school. Sometimes it means helping a disabled school bus. Frequently, it means using their mobile communications to report a problem or a suspicious occurrence in a neighborhood. And always it means being there to lend a hand, whatever the problem.

Being committed to the community you serve means making the decision that service to the community involves more than just making sure your electric service is reliable. Even in these days when electric utilities are faced with competition that's getting tougher every day, going the extra mile in consumer and community service is standard operating procedure for an electric cooperative. It has to be that way because electric cooperatives are fundamentally different from for-profit electric utilities.

Every day now, we hear reports of other utility companies closing their local offices and moving

out of town in order to save money. When that happens, their customers have to do business long distance, frequently talking to people hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles away. Your local electric cooperative is different. Our first obligation is to our consumers. You can still stop by the local office and talk to someone you know about any part of your service. And when you call your electric cooperative,

you'll speak to someone close by who knows your community and what's happening in it.

Being a local electric cooperative means doing business close to home. Because our consumers are also owners, the cooperative gives first consideration to what's in the consumers' best interest.

So, there will always be someone nearby you can talk to about any aspect of your electric service.

At first glance, it may seem that there is little connection between school kids waiting for their bus and the line crew in the local co-op's truck. But look again. Those line crews working on utility poles probably have kids waiting for their school bus alongside yours. Making sure all our children stay safe is part of what holds local communities together and it's part of the work your local electric cooperative takes pride in every day.



# Board meeting report



The Board of Directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative held its regular meeting at the cooperative's headquarters on August 25, 1998.

Chairman of the Board Chesnut welcomed Nominating Committee members Terry Bose of Anchor, J. Orin Taylor of Cullom, Carl Bialeschki of Tolono and Richard L. Davis of Longview. The Nominating Committee was invited to attend the meeting to observe the board in action.

Minutes of the July 28, 1998, board meeting were approved.

The July 31, 1998 statement of revenues and expenses including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,842,869, Total Operating Expenses \$536,261, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,824,636, Operating Margins \$18,233, Total Margins \$38,231 and Year-To-Date Margins \$542,571.

During July, 94 members joined the cooperative and 75 terminated their memberships.

A report of the July 31 and August 20 meetings of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Board of Directors was given by Chairman of the Board Chesnut. The following officers were elected during the July 31 Organization meeting of the AIEC Board: Chairman, Marion Chesnut; Vice Chairman, Dexter Edmison; Secretary, Archie Hamilton; Treasurer, Jimmy Ayers; President/CEO, Earl Struck; and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Larry Elledge. During the August 20 meeting, D. Bourk Dreyer of Quint-Dreyer & Co. presented the AIEC Fiscal Year 1998 audit. Financial, legislative, regulatory and engineering reports were given.

Highlights of the August 19 Soyland Power Cooperative Board meeting and August 11-13 Regional Information meetings were given by Director Ludwig. Alternate Director Knox and President/CEO Champion also attended. Financial, energy, power supply and marketing reports were given. During the regional information meetings, the past, present, and vision for SPC were discussed and fiduciary duties of directors were reviewed.

Chairman of the Board Chesnut announced

that the NRECA Region V meeting will be held September 16-18 in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The Board selected Director Ludwig as the NRECA voting delegate and Director Anderson as the alternate. Director Anderson was chosen as the voting delegate and Director Ludwig as the alternate for the September 17 CFC meeting which will be held in conjunction with the Region V meeting.

In other action, the board approved payment of the NRECA dues assessment, entering into a three phase and interruptible contract with Fehr Cab interiors, and participating in the CFC Activity Based Accounting Solutions Project.

President Champion furnished the board with the following information: the staff is diligently working on the details and single point accountability and completion dates of the Strategic plan, weekly activities reports, an agreement has been reached with a company to recover fuel taxes for off-road use, and the cooperative will begin utilizing "Herbert's Journeyman Electric Lineman Apprenticeship Training Certification Program." Furthermore, President Champion provided an in-depth August job training and safety activities report.

Brian Conover, a junior accounting major at Illinois State University, gave a Power Point presentation on the activities he had accomplished while working as an intern for EIEC during the summer in the accounting department.

Jeff Tankersley, Utili-soft Manager, provided a written report on Utili-soft activities.

SkyQuest Manager Dave Lithgow indicated SkyQuest had 9,233 DIRECTV subscribers as of August 1. Lithgow also discussed marketing initiatives. IlliniCom Net Service Manager Kevin Osterbur summarized the new Internet business activities.

The next meeting of the EIEC Board of Directors will be held September 14 at the cooperative's headquarters.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

## Mission Statement

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's mission is to exceed customer expectations in providing energy and other valued products and services.

## Loy receives NRECA certification

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative director Harold M. Loy of Beaverville received the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Professional Directors Certification Award September 14 at the regular meeting of the board of directors at EIEC's headquarters in Paxton. To earn the certification, Loy completed a series of required training and educational courses plus additional credit. The certification program provides member-owned electric cooperatives the opportunity to educate directors and employees in fundamental principles and new developments in management and energy related technology.



Harold M. Loy

## \$1,000 IEC Memorial Scholarship to be awarded to two high school seniors

The IEC Memorial Scholarship program will award two \$1,000 scholarships. The scholarship must be used for educational costs, and the student must enter college within a year from the time the scholarship is issued.

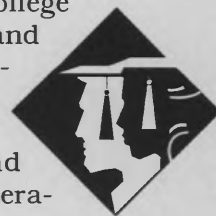
Each year, one scholarship is awarded to a high school senior in each of the following categories:

1. Son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative member.
2. Son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director.

The applicant must be a high school senior who is planning to enroll in a full-time (at least 12 hours) undergraduate

course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school in Illinois.

Scholarships are awarded based on grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, biographical statement and knowledge of electric cooperatives as demonstrated by a short essay.



**Contact Jeannie Kingston at (800) 824-5102 or (217) 379-2131 for more information.**

## Mission Statement

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's mission is to provide member-owners with extraordinary value through competitively priced services and products and to enhance the quality of life in the under-served rural community.



Harriett and Tom are pictured with a couple of puppies they're seeking homes for. Behind them is a "rogue's gallery" of animals they've found homes for, such as Cleo, Millie, Tut, Hudson, Wilber, Gizmo and Major, among others. They note that they're always looking for good homes for their charges.

## Mutts ado about puppies

Sometimes a dog which has been abandoned or relinquished to the Champaign County Humane Society is found to be pregnant. Because the mothers-to-be and their litters require long-term specialized care, they cannot be cared for at the Shelter. Harriett Weatherford and Tom Schaeffges step in to be sure that every dog has its stay.

The couple, who operate a state-licensed animal foster care facility for the Champaign County Humane Society at their home in rural Sidney, have been into "pet foster parenting" since 1990. "One day I received a call from the shelter asking us to care for a beautiful dog who had been found wandering in Allerton Park," says Harriett, who is president of the Champaign County Humane Society. "Millie was just skin and bones and needed a lot of care. She was also pregnant and her litter was expected any day."

Millie found all the TLC she needed then and there, and Tom and Harriett found a volunteer job of providing love and care for a veritable pack of canines since then. "That foster experience was the start of the Humane Society's formal foster program which has helped care for more than 1,200 animals," says Harriett. "We've had more than 400 ani-

mals at our home in the last eight years." Not only have dogs been helped, but cats and a few pigs and a goat as well, all of them relinquished by their owners or brought in as strays to the Humane Society in Urbana.

Tom, who works in Champaign, notes that although they take in different types of animals, they specialize in pregnant dogs and newborn puppies. "We're the main site for litters of puppies. The Shelter counts on us to provide foster care for pregnant dogs, help with the birth, and care for the pups until they are old enough to go back to the shelter for adoption," he says. "We specialize in puppies. Other foster parents specialize in animals that have special medical needs, and some foster sites care for cats and kittens."

The puppies are housed in a specially designed room in their basement. The insulated and raised floor is generously covered with newspapers. The puppies are brought out every night to be socialized and conditioned to life in an average home. "We run the vacuum cleaner and the TV," Tom says, "and we bring kids in to visit. Each puppy gets picked up and handled to get them used to people and all the things that go on in a typical household. Rolling around the floor with a litter of



**A puppy tries to take advantage of a Dutch door to go exploring.**

puppies is hard work," he says with a smile, "but someone's got to do it."

The mother dog and all the puppies go back to the Shelter for adoption, but the couple still takes a long-term interest in the animals. "Everyone I work with knows the shelter has well socialized puppies because of the foster program," Harriett says, "and if they know someone who's looking for a pet they talk to me. I try not to be pushy, but if someone hints they are interested in a pet I try to persuade them to go to the shelter to look at the animals there. I like to have our foster animals adopted by friends and neighbors so we can have visitation rights."

The couple keeps track of every animal they have cared for and have several albums of photos to prove it. Each photo is of a puppy that they have fostered in their home.

"More than 350 of our puppies have been placed in new homes through the Humane Society," says Tom. "We know that many animals who would not have had a chance are in good homes because of our efforts."

But while puppies are fairly easy to place, the same cannot be said of full-grown dogs. "Many people are biased against taking an older animal because they don't think it will ever be a real part of

the family or will be hard to train," says Harriett, "But it's really easier to know what you're getting when you adopt an adult, and you don't have to go through all the typical puppy problems." Tom adds, "The old saying 'You can't teach an old dog new tricks' isn't true at all. The older animals, especially the mothers we have fostered, make great pets. We should know. After all, we have adopted five adult dogs into our own family over the years."

"LeRoy Neitzel, vice president of the Champaign County Humane Society and partner in the Heritage Animal Hospital in Champaign is our veterinarian," Harriett says. "Before the shelter was able to hire its own veterinarian, we relied on him to help us with the foster animals. I can't begin to tell you how much help he's been when we've had problems. He really helped us keep our animals in good health and to create a top notch medical program for the animals we care for."

Tom and Harriett remark that their work is rewarding, but that animal foster care is not something to be entered into lightly. "As a state licensed foster home, we have to keep track of every animal we deal with," Tom says, "and we keep detailed records of what we've done for them."

Harriett adds, "Fostering is an emotional roller coaster, too. We're happy that our efforts have enabled the shelter to find homes for more than 350 puppies that may have died if we couldn't have helped them, but we've lost about 50 to diseases and the like. We're dealing with a high-risk population and it can be very heart-breaking. It's a wonderful feeling, though, to see them years later in their adoptive homes."



**From left, Jeannie Kingston, EIEC manager of administrative services, Wm. David Champion, Jr., president/CEO, and Harriett Weatherford help puppies adjust to life with people.**

## Board meeting report



The Board of Directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative held its regular meeting at the cooperative's headquarters on September 14, 1998.

Minutes of the August 25, 1998, board meeting were approved.

The August 31, 1998 statement of revenues and expenses including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,887,339, Total Operating Expenses \$304,463, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,670,002, Operating Margins \$317,337, Total Margins \$378,670 and Year-To-Date Margins \$921,240.

In August, 107 members joined the cooperative and 98 terminated their memberships.

A report of the September 10 Audit and Finance Committee meeting was given by Director Byers in the absence of Director Day, chairman of the committee. The committee examined the accounts of the cooperative and reviewed expense statements, disbursements and supporting data in accordance with the cooperative's bylaws and found them to be in order. The board approved the report.

Chairman of the Board Chesnut announced that the Executive Committee will meet November 3 and the Land Use and Facilities Committee will meet November 9.

In other action, the board approved the final strategic plan document with single point accountability and completion dates; buying out of RUS; and entering into a three-phase contract with Steve Schaefer, an interruptible contract with Kendrick Farm and a marketing and lease agreement with Alert Security & Energy Services, Inc., a subsidiary of Soyland Power Cooperative.

President Champion furnished the board with the following information: weekly activities report; a 1998 Patronage Capital Allocation of \$39,209.23 and a retirement in the amount of \$47,814.08 have been received from CFC; a summary of real estate taxes paid in 1998; the cooperative received good marks during the safety inspection of its facilities; and a comprehensive September job training and safety activities report.

Utili-soft Manager Jeff Tankersley summarized Utili-soft activities. SkyQuest Manager Dave Lithgow reported SkyQuest had 9,475 DIRECTV subscribers as of September 1. Additionally, Lithgow discussed marketing activities. IlliCom Net Service Manager Kevin Osterbur highlighted the new Internet business initiatives.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

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# Eastern Illini

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## Chesnut & Ludwig earn Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificates



Marion Chesnut

Marion Chesnut of Rossville and Bradley J. Ludwig of Fithian have received the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificates from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association by successfully completing several NRECA-sponsored courses dealing with electric co-op issues. Chesnut is Chairman of the Board of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Ludwig is Vice Chairman of the Board of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative and represents EIEC on the Soyland Power Cooperative Board of Directors.



Bradley J. Ludwig



Five linemen from Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative developed their distribution and rubber gloving skills during a hot line school held October 5-9 on the campus of Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. The school, which was hosted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, included sessions in hot sticking procedures, high-voltage cover-up gear, and safety techniques. Pictured are EIEC employees Keith Bergman (Instructor), Mike Bristle, Jeff Blackford, Joe Heyen, Matt Eisenmenger and Mike Batte (lineman).

### Mission Statement

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's mission is to provide member-owners with extraordinary value through competitively priced services and products and to enhance the quality of life in the under-served rural community.



From all of us at Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative to all our members and friends:

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



# Animal doctor is lifelong 'critter junkie'

**LeRoy Neitzel** would be the first to tell you that he has a job that most would envy. He enjoys both his work and the people — and animals—that it brings him in contact with. He's co-owner of the Heritage Hospital for Animals in Champaign.

"I grew up in the Chicago suburb of Hickory Hills," he says, "and it was rural enough then that wild animals would wander in occasionally, and I'd try to adopt them. I had just about any kind of pet imaginable except snakes. I had guinea pigs, hooded rats, and squirrels, and the family always had a dog.

"I even managed to sneak a salamander in past my mother, but I didn't ever try with snakes. The salamander was about her limit, I think."

In addition to a fondness for animals, LeRoy was good at science. He was the first student in his school to make it to the state science fair all four years. At the same time, he worked as a kennel helper for a veterinarian.

In school, he mulled over his career prospects, trying to decide whether to work in conservation, teach science, or become a vet. Obviously, he chose the last, turning that knack for science and his love of animals into a career as a veterinarian. He studied at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and has been practicing in the area since he graduated in 1969.

He and his wife, Diane, live near Fisher on a five-acre minifarm where they have a llama, several cats, and a couple of birds and a Labrador retriever dog. They have various feeders and attractants for both wild animals and birds.

While dogs and cats make up the bulk of the hospital's clientele, there are other animals, too. Birds, rabbits, reptiles and other pets make their way into and out of the hospital with astonish-



LeRoy and Diane Neitzel are pictured with their llama, Sparkles.

ing regularity. Perhaps as a reflection of LeRoy's early affection for wild animals, there is also an occasional litter of raccoons or opossums.

"I'm a licensed wildlife rehabilitator," LeRoy says, "you have to have a license from the Department of Nature Resources to work with wild animals. Once in a while an injured deer or owl or raccoon or possum will be brought in; I try to help them."

A self-proclaimed "workaholic," LeRoy notes that the term isn't exactly true, since he loves his vocation so much that it doesn't seem like work. "I work six days a week," he says, "and I come in on Sundays to check on the animals, and I love the job. I've never got up in the morning and not wanted to go in. I've been very fortunate that way."

And his willingness to dive into a job is beneficial to others, too. In the 20 or so years he's worked with the Champaign County Humane Society, he's served as president for about 17 years, and is vice president now. He does a lot of volunteer work for the society.

Harriett Weatherford and Tom Schaeffges, who

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do a lot of "foster parenting" for puppies, note that LeRoy is a life saver, and that he's always been there for them when they needed help.

"Harriett and I have worked together at the Humane Society for several years," LeRoy says, "she's president now, while I'm vice president. I'm always glad to pitch in and lend a hand when an animal needs it: she knows that and appreciates it."

The Neitzels have two sons, and the oldest, Craig, looked for a while as if he would follow in his father's footsteps, considering both pre-med and pre-vet. "He went bad," LeRoy jokes, "and became a doctor instead of a vet. Our other son, Ryan, is a school psychologist."

He notes that there is a lot of similarity between treating animals and human patients, but that being a vet is more difficult in some ways. "Pets can't tell you where it hurts," he remarks, "but they'll sure let you know if you poke them where it's sore."

"One difficulty is that there are so many different species, and they have just enough physiological and neurological differences to make things interesting. Some respond differently to drugs than others. But it's just those differences that give the occupation its challenges and satisfactions."

LeRoy has been compared to James Herriott, the British vet who wrote the book, "All Creatures Great and Small," and he sees that as a compliment.

"But Herriott doesn't seem to be different from a lot of vets," LeRoy says, "in that most of us have had similar experiences. Where he differed was that he was able to sit down at the end of a day and keep notes on what he did. And he was able to put his experiences in a good, readable book. It was nice, because it made all vets look good, in a way, because most of us are very much like him."

After some 30 years of helping literally thousands of sick animals, and after working many more hours more than most of us — and still enjoying it — perhaps the time will come when LeRoy decides to sit down and write a book. It ought to be an interesting one!



**Dr. Neitzel does a lot of work helping wild animals that have gotten mixed up with people. Here, he checks over a young raccoon.**



**When an animal needs a little TLC, Dr. Neitzel is there to help. Here, he is schmoozing with a spaniel after giving it a checkup.**

# Board meeting report



On October 27, 1998, the Board of Directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative held its regular meeting at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Minutes of the September 14, 1998, board meeting were approved.

The September 30, 1998, statement of revenues and expenses including the following information was approved: Total Operating Revenues \$1,831,131, Total Operating Expenses \$327,170, Total Cost of Electric Service \$1,545,552, Operating Margins \$285,579, Total Margins \$311,820 and Year-To-Date Margins \$1,233,057.

During September, 109 members joined the cooperative and 75 terminated their memberships.

Chairman of the Board Chesnut reviewed the October 15 meeting of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Committee appointments for 1998-99 were announced. The board approved the Fiscal Year 1997-98 Audit Report. AIEC has been approved for a \$99,019 grant from the State of Illinois Industrial Training Program to support future safety and continuing education training. Legal, Regulatory and Engineering reports were provided.

Director Ludwig reported on the September 23 and October 21 Soyland Power Cooperative board meetings he attended. Alternate Director Knox and President/CEO Champion also attended. Financial, energy, power supply and marketing reports were given.

Chairman Chesnut, Secretary Anderson, Attorney Fraker and President/CEO Champion indicated that the NRECA Region V Meeting they attended in La Crosse, Wisconsin, September 16-18 was very worthwhile, and they reported the information they had received.

In other action, the board approved financing the EIEC buyout of RUS debt through CFC; converting certain CFC loans from variable to a lower fixed interest rate; entering into a three phase contract with Eldean Bergman, a three phase and interruptible contract with Urban Sand and Gravel, and interruptible contracts with Donovan Farmers Co-op Elevator; and participating in the IEC Continuing Education Program. Furthermore, the board reviewed the CFC Key Ratio Trend Analysis.

President Champion furnished the board with the following information: weekly activities reports; a \$33,179.46 check has been received from CFC for semi-annual interest earned on investments in Capital Certificates; a \$1,376 patronage dividend has been received from United Utility Supply; EIEC has received an ACRE award for individuals enrolling 100 percent board and key employees, 100 percent Key employee Century Club and 100 percent board and spouses;

and Lyle Kofoot, Kevin Dettmering, Jeff Blackford, Doug Elrod, John Higgins and Rusty Snider participated in the Second Annual Lineman's Safety Rodeo at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield on October 2. Alan Schweighart served as one of the judges for the rodeo competition. Additionally, President/CEO Champion furnished the board with an in-depth October job training and safety activities report.

Bob Dickey, Manager of Marketing and Economic Development, reported that Rural TV has 389 C-band subscribers. Dickey also outlined Utili~soft's marketing initiatives. Utili~soft Manager Jeff Tankersley provided a written report on Utili~soft activities. SkyQuest Manager Dave Lithgow indicated SkyQuest had 9,922 DIRECTV subscribers as of October 27. SkyQuest should hit the "10,000 subscriber" mark within a week. He also summarized marketing activities. IlliniCom Net Service Manager Kevin Osterbur reviewed operations of the new Internet business.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.



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