

# JAMUP

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois



A stop at Gettysburg is an important part of the Youth to Washington tour, and while there, the students take advantage of the opportunity to have a photo made with a Civil War cannon. From left are Melissa Carney, Wyatt Churillo, Amanda Medlin and Mary Inman. Churillo and Carney went as essay contest winners, Inman went as "Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative," and Medlin went as a "Willie Wiredhand" student, at her own expense.

## Youth to Washington Essay Contest

Each June more than 1,200 high school junior and seniors travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Rural Electric Youth Tour. During the week they learn about Washington, D.C. government, cooperatives, and rural electrification. The students are selected and sponsored by their local rural electric cooperatives. The Youth Tour is coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

The board of directors of Southern Illinois Cooperative (SIEC) has sponsored a Youth to Washington essay contest since 1965. Twelve finalists will visit Springfield April 12, 2000 and two grand prizewinners win a weeklong, expense-paid visit to

Washington D.C. June 16-23, 2000.

The program grew out of a suggestion in 1957 by then Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, who urged "sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

The finalists will visit Springfield in April for "Illinois Rural Electric and Telephone Youth Day." Plans are to meet legislators and tour the State Capitol complex in the morning. During the afternoon the students will tour the sites of Springfield.

Then in June, the grand prize-winning students will meet and visit with the members of the Illinois Congressional delegation,

tour the city's historical monuments, attend educational seminars and get to know students from other parts of the country.

If you attend a high school in the area served by SIEC (Anna-Jonesboro, Century, Cobden, Dongola, Egyptian, Goreville, Joppa, Meridian, Metropolis, Shawnee or Vienna), you can win a trip to Washington, D.C., June 16-23 on the Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Students are encouraged to enter the essay contest. The contest rules and entry form can be mailed to any interested student in our service area. Please call us at (800) 762-1400. Start making plans now to enter the contest. You will be glad that you did.

## Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

618-827-3555 P.O. Box 100  
Dongola, IL 62926

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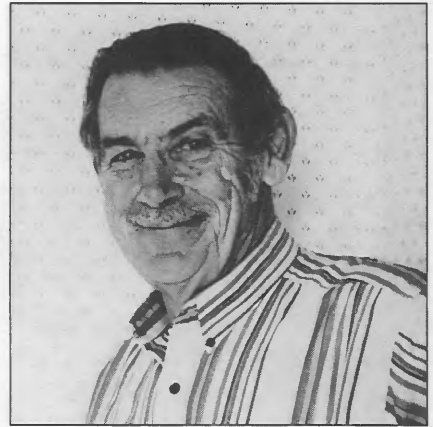
**618-827-3555 Dongola office**

# Ken Corzine to retire this month

Ken Corzine of Dongola is retiring as SIEC's line superintendent this month after 25 years of service. He joined the cooperative in January 1975 when he was hired as a forestry apprentice. Corzine has worked in various positions, such as, forestry journeyman, apprentice lineman and journeyman lineman. He became line superintendent in January 1979.

Ken was born and raised in the Dongola area. He is a graduate of Dongola High School and attended engineering classes at SIU. Ken and his wife, Patty, live on a farm just outside Dongola. They have two children, Mark, who lives in Dongola and Vicki Mead, who lives in South Carolina. They also have four grandchildren, Matthew Mead, Kade

*Janie L. Myers*



**Ken Corzine**

Corzine, Hannah Jo Corzine and Tonya Corzine. Ken says that he and Patty plan to golf their way through retirement.

All of us here at the cooperative wish Kenny and Patty the very best of health and a long happy life for many years to come.

# Larry Lingle named line superintendent

Larry Lingle was recently named line superintendent at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. He will replace Ken Corzine who retires this month. The line superintendent is responsible for supervising and coordinating utility servicemen, construction and forestry crews and maintenance of the cooperative truck fleet. He also supervises the dispatching of crews to power outages throughout our service area.

Larry's cooperative career began in April 1979 when he was hired as janitor. He rose through the ranks as forestry apprentice, forestry journeyman, apprentice lineman, journeyman lineman and crew foreman.

Larry and his wife, Rae, live in Dongola along with their children, Lana and Landon. Another



**Larry Lingle**

son, Terry, and his wife, Angela, also live in Dongola and are expecting their first child any day.

In his spare time Larry likes to go to auctions. Anytime you have a question or concern regarding your electric service, please give Larry a call.

# Gauge your home's "HOUSEPOWER."

Are you blowing fuses frequently? Are your circuit breakers tripping a lot? Do any of your appliances operate more slowly than they should? Do your lights dim when other appliances and equipment are in use?

You probably have low "housepower" if you experience any of these problems in your home. You may think it's related to the service you receive from your electric cooperative, but the problem can usually be traced to the wiring in your home.



The wiring in your house determines how much electricity you can safely use in your home. Low "housepower" is a signal that your home doesn't have adequate wiring to meet your family's electric needs.

The remedy might not be that expensive. However, you really need to consult an experienced electrical contractor to help determine how to gain the "housepower" needed in your home.

**Jack Stevens**

**Call your local electric cooperative today for more information.  
Safety precautions mean peace of mind.**

## Flickering lights and hot bulbs may be signs of danger

Just as an ambulance's flashing light alerts you to an emergency, so should a flickering light bulb get your attention, too. Maybe the bulb is simply about to burn out. But sometimes, a flickering bulb is a sign that the light fixture is damaged or the electrical connection is faulty. Don't ignore these signs! Turn off the power immediately and check the connection to the fixture and its internal wiring. If you're not confident in your abilities, call an electrician.



Leaving a flickering light to burn could present a risk of electrical fire.

The same is true for a lamp that burns too hot. You may have put in the wrong wattage light bulb. If the wattage is too high, the heat builds up and cannot escape. Check the rating on your lamps and light fixtures to make sure you're using the right kind of bulb. It really does matter to your safety!

**Bruce Dean Lamm**  
*Source: National Electrical Safety Foundation*

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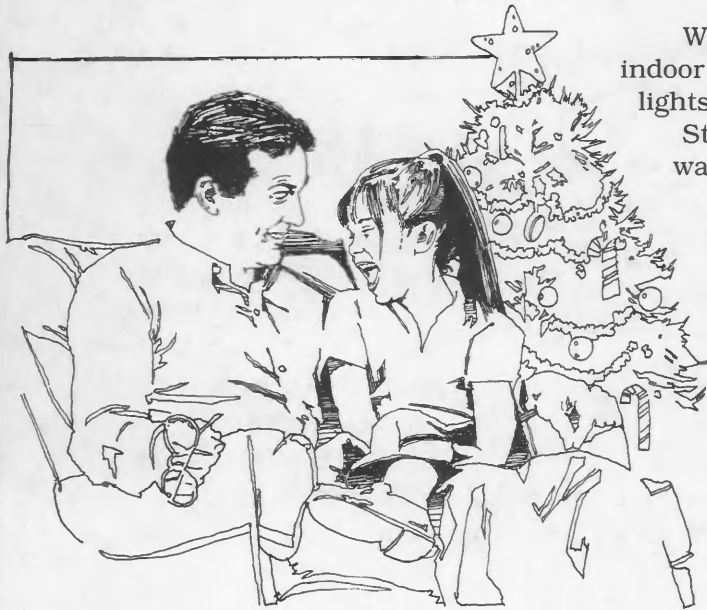
*The power of human connections*



# Post-holiday safety tips for your home

You made it safely through the holiday without any problems — no tipped over Christmas tree, no blown fuses from too many holiday lights, and the dog didn't eat too much gift wrapping this year. However, the post-holiday period is no time to relax, safety-wise, especially if you have children.

The National Electrical Safety Foundation suggests these tips for the New Year:



When storing holiday lights, separate outdoor from indoor and label accordingly. Discard broken or faulty lights.

Store decorations away from children, pets, and water.

Make sure all electrical lights, toys and appliances bear the seal of a nationally recognized certification agency, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

Don't allow your children to use electrical toys near water, and make sure they know that water and electricity never mix. Electrical toys can become a shock hazard if they are misused.

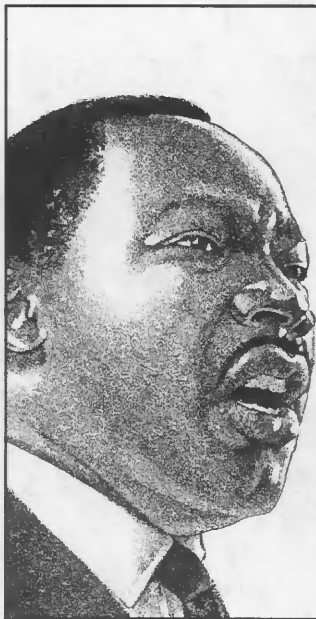
Send warranty and product registration forms to manufacturers so that they can notify you promptly in case of a recall.

Post-holiday sales are great for purchasing fire extinguishers and smoke detectors.



**Interested in  
Budget Billing -  
Give us a call at  
(800) 762-1400.**

**Visit our website —  
siec.org**



## Office closing

Our office will be closed Monday, Jan. 17, 2000, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday.

## Membership prize

In this month's issue of the JAMUP, we have printed the names of three members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit towards their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section, and it's not part of the story, call us at the cooperative and tell us your account number and we will apply \$10 toward your next SIEC utility bill.

To claim your prize, call us at **(800) 762-1400**, ask for Cathy.

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*Dale Guetersloh*

## *Dale Guetersloh — new journeyman lineman*

**D**ale Guetersloh was recently hired as a journeyman lineman for the Massac County office. He currently works with Robin Ramage and Perry Dailey and together they service the Massac County area. Dale previously worked for AmerenCIPS and Oil Field Electric Company. He and his wife, Lorrinda, currently make their home in Murphysboro — but have plans to move to Massac County. Dale has two sons, Jacob, 9, and Garrett, 16. He enjoys reading and motorcycle riding. The Guetersloh family are members of the Murdale Baptist Church of Carbondale.



*Todd Thurston*

## *Todd Thurston — new janitor*

**T**odd Thurston has been hired as a janitor for the cooperative. Todd's duties as janitor include the maintenance of the building, inside and outside, and the cooperative's grounds. He was previously employed by the U.S. Postal Service as a part-time rural carrier. After graduating from Meridian High School, he then went on to graduate from Murray State University with a degree in Ag Engineering. Todd lives in rural Pulaski County where he helps farm with his dad and brothers. He also is a volunteer on the Pulaski Volunteer Fire Department and is a member of the First Christian Church of Pulaski.



## *Office closing*

We will be closed in observance of President's Day, Monday, Feb. 21.



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*Remember to look for the  
Energy Star label*

If you are considering purchasing a new home appliance, a piece of office equipment or heating and cooling systems, remember to look for the Energy Star label, the symbol for energy efficiency.

Whose symbol? The Energy Star label was created by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy. Together they set energy-efficiency criteria that products must meet in order to qualify for the label. In voluntary partnership with the government, manufacturers and retailers agree to put the Energy Star label on qualifying equipment.

By using Energy Star products, you will not only save money, you help the environment by using less energy. For example, Energy Star appliances typically exceed federal efficiency standards by 13 to 20 percent — as much as 110 percent for some appliances. **Dennis Anderson**



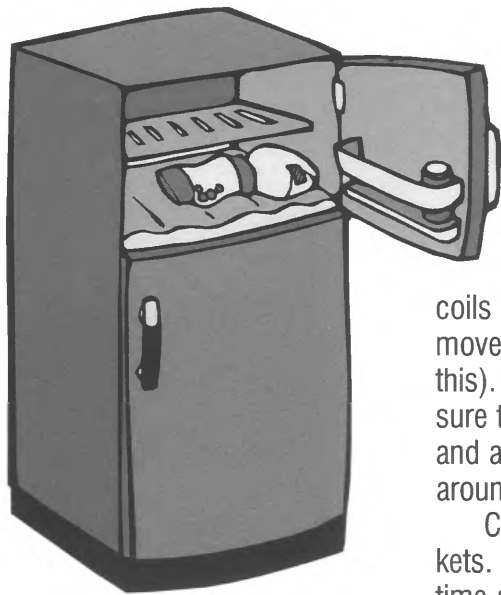
*Financial planning for farmers*

Help for farmers struggling with financial planning is available through a University of Illinois website. Templates can be downloaded for free or purchased on CD for \$100. Before meeting with their lender, farmers can use programs that include a cash flow projector, crop storage decision maker, farmland rent estimator, a combine financing model and a land bid model. An insurance payment calculator can help with crop insurance alternatives. And an easy-to-use loan amortization program can help analyze loan payments. Check out - [web.aces.uiuc.edu/finance/](http://web.aces.uiuc.edu/finance/).

*Long live the light bulb*

You think your light bulbs burn out too soon? Well, Thomas Edison's had to be changed every two days! Today there are fluorescent light bulbs that will last 23 years.

Unfortunately, the ordinary incandescent light bulb hasn't progressed as much as halogen and fluorescent light bulbs. The lowly incandescent has only increased its life span 150 percent since 1910. Today's fluorescent bulb can last 416 percent longer than the one you installed in 1989. Install fluorescent bulbs. They'll cost less to operate, too. **Dennis H. Martin**



## *Fridge is fourth-largest energy user in most homes*

It seems hard to believe, but your refrigerator is very likely the fourth-largest energy user in your home, after air conditioning, heating and water heating. Depending on how big your fridge is, how many features it has, and its age, it may use between \$200 and \$400 worth of electricity a year.

The experts tell us that it's smarter to buy a new energy-efficient model, rather than use a fridge that's only a few years old. But as attractive as that sounds, most of us have better places to put our money than into replacing a fridge that we may not yet have paid for!

If your refrigerator is working okay and isn't too old, you can do some things to help reduce its operating costs. Here are a few suggestions.

**Clean the condenser coils.** Dirt and dust collect on the coils, which are usually located on the back of the fridge, but are sometimes on the bottom. That makes the machine work harder, and that costs you. Cleaning the coils at least once a year should improve your refrigerator's efficiency by up to 30 percent. To clean them,

unplug the refrigerator, then brush or vacuum the coils (You'll probably need to move it out from the wall to do this). When you move it back, be sure to leave some space behind and around it so air can circulate around the coils.

Check the door seals, or gaskets. They can deteriorate over time and decrease the unit's performance. You can check this by closing the door on a dollar bill and trying to pull it out. If it comes out easily, your fridge will benefit from a new gasket. While they aren't cheap, they'll help. Call your repairman or the dealer you bought your fridge from, if you decide to have the seal replaced.

Check the temperature setting. Ideally, your fridge should maintain a temperature of about 38 degrees F. to 40 degrees F: the freezer should be between 0 degrees F. and 10 degrees F. Thermometers to check the temperature are available from hardware and kitchen supply stores. Put the thermometer in the center of the unit so it doesn't touch any food, and leave it for about 15 minutes. If necessary, adjust the temperature by turning the thermostat dial.

Defrost regularly if your machine is a manual-defrost model. If you don't, ice builds up and makes your compressor work more. Don't let ice build up thicker than one-quarter inch. Be sure to unplug before defrosting.

Check your power-saver switch. Many refrigerators built

during the last few years have the capability to prevent moisture from building up on the outside of the refrigerator during humid weather. They do this by supplying heat to areas around the freezer door where moisture is most likely to collect. A switch inside the fridge usually activates this option. With the switch off, your refrigerator will not have to draw the extra current needed to supply this heat. In times of especially high heat and humidity, you may need to turn the switch back on.

Check the condensation drain. These are usually found on self-defrosting refrigerators, and if it's clogged, ice will build up on the coils, and your fridge will have to work harder. Check the drain occasionally and make sure it's clear.

If you have an old refrigerator or freezer in the garage, keep in mind that it's probably costing you a bundle to run it. Unless your garage is cooled, the unit will have to work harder than it would if it were in the house, and that costs you. And, while we often tend to brush off the "experts'" advice as ivory tower stuff, they're probably right when they recommend that you have one large refrigerator-freezer—inside—rather than two modest-sized units in different places. That's a judgment call you may want to take a good look at.

At any rate, follow these suggestions, and you'll save a little on your electricity bill. Every little bit helps.

## Home sweet home office - keep it safe

**W**ith the growth of telecommuting, more Americans are setting up shop at home and equipping their home offices with computers, fax machines, modems and other office equipment. However, many homes — especially older ones — are not really equipped for all these heavy-duty electronics. Look carefully around your home office for these hazards:

- Insufficient outlets. Don't resort to a tangle of extension cords to hook up all your equipment. Use a safety-rated power strip or surge suppressor to connect and protect your computer, fax machine, copier and printer.
- Ungrounded outlets. Many older homes may not have three-prong outlets to ensure that your equipment is safely grounded. Make sure

to have an electrician come in and install grounded outlets where they're needed. Do not cut off the third prong to make the plug fit!

- Don't overload the circuits. Check your breaker or fuse box to determine which outlets are on the same circuit, and be sure that all the equipment you have on a single circuit draws no more than 1,500 watts.
- In a lightning storm, unplug your computer directly from the wall outlet. Also, unplug and unhook your modem.
- If you lose power while working on your computer, turn the computer off. When the power comes back on, a voltage spike could damage your equipment.

Source: National Electrical Safety Foundation

## Lighting controls for compact fluorescents

**B**ecause compact fluorescent (CF) are so energy-efficient, they are ideal for use in light fixtures that stay on for longer periods of time, such as kitchens, work areas, desks, and outdoor lighting. But these uses also call for good lighting controls — whether it is through dimmers, timers, automatic photo controls or motion sensors — to make the most efficient use of that light. And choosing a control device that works well with CFs can be a challenge.

Compact fluorescents are not good choices for lights that depend on motion sensors because the frequent on/off switching will shorten the life of the lamp. Also, CFs are very temperature sensitive: in

cold weather, outdoor lamps will not provide their full amount of light output until they warm up.

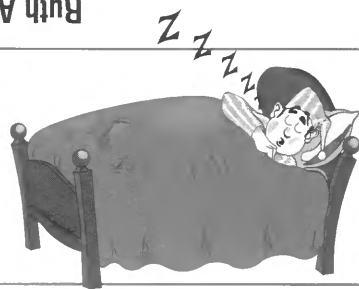
Dimmer switches and CFs don't mix, either. The combination can actually create a fire hazard! The same goes for ordinary photo control devices that turn lights on and off as the sun rises and sets. However, a photo control device rated for use with fluorescents will work very well, and very safely, with a CF lamp.

Mechanical timers are fine with any compact fluorescent. Electronic timers, however, may not be compatible with them, and using them together could result in damage to the timer, the CF bulb itself, or both.

Ruth Ada Sitter

## Another good reason to make your bed!

**D**id you know that if you leave your waterbed unmade, not only does it look messy, it also uses more energy? The heater in an unmade waterbed consumes 30 percent more electricity than one in a made-up bed. So make that bed up in the morning. You'll sleep better at night, knowing you're saving energy.



## Membership prize

**I**n this month's issue of the JAMUP, we have printed the names of three members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit towards their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section, and it's not part of the story, call us at the cooperative and tell us your account number and we will apply \$10 toward your next SIEC utility bill.


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A Touchstone Energy Partner 

## Why's there a band up the side of the page

**A**s you may have noticed in the last issue or so of this publication, there's a printed band up the side of some of the pages. They're there because we want you to be aware of the difference between co-ops and other businesses.

There are seven basic cooperative principles, that band is to call them to your attention occasionally. Here's a brief summary, so you'll know what we're referring to.

### 1<sup>st</sup> principle:

Voluntary and open membership. Co-ops are voluntary organizations, open to anyone able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibility of membership.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> principle:

Democratic member control. Co-ops are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who participate in setting policies and making decisions.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> principle:

Members' economic participation. Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-op.

### 4<sup>th</sup> principle:

Autonomy and independence. Co-ops are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. They may enter into agreements with other organizations, but they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

### 5<sup>th</sup> principle:

Education, training and information. Co-ops provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute

effectively to the development of their co-ops.

### 6<sup>th</sup> principle:

Cooperation among co-ops. Co-ops serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-op movement by working with other co-op groups.

### 7<sup>th</sup> principle:

Concern for community. While focusing on member needs, co-ops work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

**Harold Schneider, Jr.**



ing the project. *Above, art student, Bonnie Rooney, puts the finishing touches on one of several windows painted by the art students.*

This past December, five Dongola High School art students along with their instructor, Mrs. Donna Goins, painted the front windows of the cooperative for the holiday season. The students, Bonnie Rooney, Shae Williams, Dustin Hoffman, James Smith, Becky Hinkle and Mrs. Goins spent several chilly mornings complet-

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## Who's responsible for electric facilities?

During the stages of new construction or upgrading of electric facilities, questions about ownership of poles, meter loops, wires and breaker panels are usually asked. When existing electrical equipment has been

in place for many years, or if new facilities are required, ownership may not be obvious to the member-consumer.

It's good to know who is responsible for maintenance or repairs and we hope that this article will answer most questions.

### OVERHEAD ELECTRIC SERVICE

#### *The cooperative is responsible for:*

- Wires from the transformer to the meter pole and electrical connections on those wires.
- The meter.

#### *The member is responsible for:*

- The meter socket.\*
- The meter loop.
- Fuse and/or breaker panels, including disconnect switches.
- Wires leaving the meter pole to services at other locations such as homes, barns, garages, shops, and connections for those wires.

### UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC SERVICE

#### *The cooperative is responsible for:*

- Wires from the transformer to the meter location or pedestal.
- The meter.

#### *The member is responsible for:*

- The meter socket.\*
- Wires running from the meter location or pedestal to other locations such as homes, barns, garages, shops, and those connections.
- Any disconnect switches, fuse panels or breaker panels at the meter.

**Matthew Barnhill**

\* At this time, the cooperative provides the meter sockets on all new services and service upgrades at no charge. After that, the meter socket becomes the responsibility of the member.

## Credit card payments

**O**ut of town and forgot to mail your electric payment? Or just got hit with unexpected bills and cash is tight? We now accept MasterCard and Visa credit cards for payment of bills and deposits. And most transactions can be completed by phone. A small processing fee will be added.





## Spring signals the beginning of the tornado season

**E**ven though most thunderstorm and tornado activity takes place in April, May and June, it's not too early to begin preparing for the tornado season.

Normally, tornadoes and severe thunderstorms tend to develop in the late afternoon and early evening, but not always.

Now is the time of year when you may want to stash a few items in the safest place in your house, and leave everything there until you're sure the storm season's over. A good flashlight should be in your kit, as well as a battery-powered radio and blankets and pillows. If you have a basement, you store your kit there.

There are two different kinds of warnings involving tornadoes. A tornado watch simply means that the weather is getting bad and that a tornado may develop if things get worse. You can go about your normal activities if you "watch" the weather.

A tornado warning means that the weather is already rotten, and it's time to seek shelter in that little nest you prepared earlier. Tornado warnings aren't issued unless a tornado shows up on radar, or one has actually been sighted.

If you hear a warning, go to your basement, if you have one. In most homes, that's the safest place. In many homes, a stairwell, inside hallway or bathroom on the lowest floor will be the safest place. Get into a closet or bathtub, if you need to.

If you're in your car, get out and find shelter. If there is none, lie flat in a depression. Don't try to outrun a tornado in your car. That only works in the movies.

A mobile home is one of the worst places to be in a tornado situation. Leave a mobile home immediately if you hear a tornado warning and take your chances in the best shelter you can find. Experts agree that you're better off in a ditch or small depression than in a mobile home.

After a storm can be a dangerous time. Watch for downed power lines. They may look harmless lying on the ground, but they are not insulated, and they could still be energized and deadly.

Be careful clearing trees after a storm. Contact your local electric co-op if the trees are near power lines. They have the tools and training to handle the job safely. **Douglas A. Miller**

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# *Energy tips for* **HOMEOWNERS**

## **Look for lost energy dollars in attic, basement**

**C**rawling around your attic or basement may not be your idea of a world-class way to spend your free time, but a simple check of these areas may help you save real money on your energy bills. And while you're at it, remember to check any crawl spaces and the foundation of your home. Here are some places to scout out some savings:

**Attic:** Remember that vents must be left open to allow moisture to escape from the attic. Therefore, adequate ceiling insulation is a must. Examine the insulation carefully. How much and what type of insulation do you have? Make written notes. If you need to talk to energy experts at your co-op about improvements, you can tell them what is currently installed.

**Basement:** When the basement is used for purposes other than storage, the walls and windows should be insulated. If the basement is used only for storage, the ductwork and the floor above should be insulated and the basement left unheated.

**Crawl space vents:** Vents should be closed during the winter unless the furnace is in the crawl space or there is a moisture problem. If you cannot close the vents, you may be able to install insulating panels. Leave the vents closed during the summer if there is no moisture problem.

**Basement foundations:** A warm basement space provides warmer floors above. Most basements are primarily

heated by the heat lost from the furnace and ductwork. Heat lost from the basement is just as expensive as heat lost from an upstairs room. To reduce heat loss, install storm windows, caulk the sill joint and insulate the basement walls.

**Mobile home and manufactured housing foundations:** Insulated skirting should be installed to reduce airflow and raise the temperature below the structure.

Don't wait for winter winds to blow the dollars out of your wallet. Call your electric cooperative today to find out how you can take advantage of these and other energy-saving ideas for your home.

## *More efficient lighting* **LOWERS** *electric bills*

**I**ncreasing your lighting efficiency is one of the easiest ways to decrease your energy bills. For example, if you replace 25 percent of your lights in high-use areas with fluorescents, you can cut your lighting costs bill by about 50 percent. Remember to review your indoor lighting, and if applicable, your outdoor lighting as well, and always look for the Energy Star® label when shopping for lighting projects. The U.S. Department of Energy offers these money-saving tips for your home or office:

• **Indoor lighting:** Use linear fluorescent and energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) in fixtures to provide high-quality and high-efficiency lighting. Fluorescent lamps are much more efficient than incandescent bulbs and last six to 10 times longer. Although fluorescent and compact fluorescent lamps are more expensive than incandescent bulbs, they pay for themselves by saving energy over their lifetime.

• **Outdoor lighting:** Many home and business owners use outdoor lighting for decoration and security. When shopping for outdoor lights, you will find

a variety of products, from low-voltage pathway lighting to high-pressure sodium, motion-detector floodlights. Some stores also carry lights powered by small photovoltaic (PV) modules that convert sunlight directly into electricity. Consider PV-powered lights for areas that are not close to an existing power supply line. Would you like more information on how to cut your electric bill? Contact your local electric cooperative for more information. They'll be glad to help you find new ways to light your home or business and save energy.

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# JAMMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy Partner 

## Electric deregulation — What will the future hold?

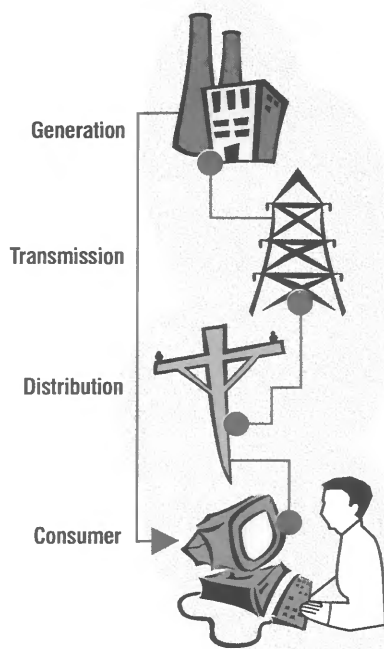
by Michael Logeman, P.E.

**Y**ou are sifting down to eat dinner after a long day. Suddenly, the phone rings, and the caller wants to know if you would like to switch your long distance phone service to XYZ phone company. Sound familiar? Could this also be the future of buying electricity in Illinois?

In December 1997, then Governor Jim Edgar signed into law the first electric “deregulation” bill in Illinois. This law allowed for certain customers of investor-owned utilities to choose their energy provider in October 1999. It also allows residential customers of these utilities to choose their energy provider in May 2002. Through the lobbying efforts of the our state association, *electric cooperatives in Illinois are exempt from this new deregulation law*. The law allows electric cooperatives to make choices just as they always have — through their locally elected boards of directors.

Electric cooperatives may make two types of elections under the current law. These decisions are made solely by the cooperative’s board of directors. (1) A cooperative may allow one or more of its existing or

future members to take service from an alternative retail electric supplier (ARES) for a specified period of time. (2) A cooperative may elect to become an ARES. In either case, the



cooperative will continue to provide the electric distribution facilities (wires, poles, meters, etc.) to serve the member. The member would only choose who would provide him or her with the electric energy. Instead

of having a “bundled” electric bill, as is the case now, the member would pay an “unbundled” bill(s), which would show individual charges for electric generation, transmission, distribution, etc.

What will be the future for electric cooperatives under this new law? Will the new law help or hurt rural consumers? Only time may tell the answer to these and many other questions concerning electric deregulation.

At present, SIEC’s board of directors is still studying the electric deregulation law. The law is extremely complex, and many of the detailed rules and regulations are still being written. SIEC will continue to study and evaluate how the new law may affect its members. *Your cooperative will continue to be locally owned and controlled by you — the members.*

Please contact SIEC if you have any questions or comments concerning electric deregulation in Illinois. **Alexander Webb**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Southern Illinois

### Electric Cooperative

618-827-3555  
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Dongola, IL 62926

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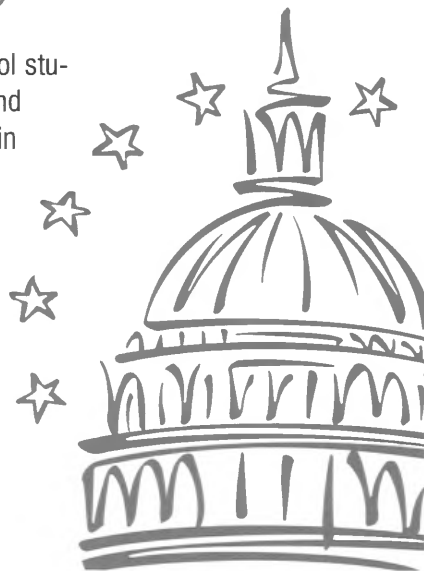
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## Youth to Washington tour

Every year the cooperative sponsors two high school students, who are our essay contest winners, to attend the Youth to Washington tour. This year's tour will begin on June 16 and end June 23, 2000.

Even if a student is not chosen through the essay contest to attend the tour, he or she may participate at their own expense as a "Willie Wiredhand" student. The estimated cost of a "Willie" student is \$850. Reservations are taken on a "first come" basis. A \$200 deposit is also required for all "Willie" students. Contact Cathy Belcher at SIEC if you would like more information. **Lawson Hall**



**Q:** My mother recently went on oxygen to help her breathe. Do I need to let SIEC, her electric cooperative, know?

**A:** Yes, yes, yes!

SIEC needs to know any time a member, or one of their family, is using medical equipment that depends on electricity to operate. This applies to oxygen tanks, apnea monitors or any other piece of medical equipment your physician may prescribe.

Just call our office and ask how you can be put on our "Life Support" list. Once you are added to our list, then we will call you and let you know ahead of time when the electricity will be out for planned maintenance. That way, you'll know ahead of time when the electricity will be out and for how long.

For unplanned outages due to weather or accidents, we make every effort to get your power restored as quickly as possible. We understand that electricity is not just a convenience, it is a necessity.

We also ask that when the medical equipment is no longer needed, please call our office and have your name removed from the "Life Support" list. When you call our office, ask for Stephanie and she will help you get added to or removed from the list.

# Electricity with no wires???

by Michael Logeman, P.E.

**D**o you have a cellular phone? If not, you probably know many people who have one — or even more than one. You may even know people who have removed their conventional home-wired phone and gone completely cellular. Who could have predicted even ten years ago that so many would be using a wireless phone and that it would play such a part in our everyday lives?

The same trend is starting to happen in the electric industry. New technologies are rapidly developing which could make “wireless electricity” a reality. Most of us are familiar with the standby generator that is a great help in the event of an extended power outage. But conventional generators are too costly to fuel and maintain to be a first source of power. However, some new products are emerging which may have a future in providing a first source of power at a competitive price. Could this mean the end of those familiar poles and wires your electric cooperative has running down the rural southern Illinois landscape? Well, maybe not in the immediate future — but then again, remember the cellular phone?

Listed below are a few of the newly emerging products that can provide “distributed generation,” which is a new term used for electricity that is generated on-site.

**Photovoltaics:** You may be familiar with the solar concept of generating electricity. This technology has rapidly changed in the past few years. Solar panels convert energy from the sun into electric energy.

**Microturbines:** Microturbines, are compact, small scale engine-generators designed for on-site production of electricity. Some fuels the turbines can burn are propane, natural gas, gasoline, diesel oil, kerosene, and methanol. A few microturbines are available now on the market. They are mostly used in small commercial or industrial applications. SIEC's creditor, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, has installed a microturbine at its headquarters in Hemdon, Virginia.

**Fuel Cells:** Fuel cells use an electrochemical reaction (such as the reaction in a battery) to convert fuel into electrical energy. Fuel cell technology is very old, mostly being used in the automotive and aeronautical industries. Recent developments have allowed fuel cells to be manufactured for residential and commercial use. Fuel cells can be powered by fuels that have a source of hydrogen, such as propane, methane, ethanol, and natural gas. The only byproducts of fuel cells are heat and water. Thus, fuel cells may also be used for space heating and water heating. One of SIEC's sister cooperatives in Illinois will be installing and testing a residential-model fuel cell in 2000.

In the near future, these new means of providing electricity may be used where costs prohibit the extension of long electric lines. But as the technologies advance and costs go down, “wireless electricity” may end up becoming as popular as the cellular phone. Your cooperative is constantly keeping up-to-date as new technologies emerge. As always, when new products and services come about which will benefit you, the member, SIEC will take the lead in bringing them to you. Please contact the Cooperative if you have questions or would like to know more about distributed generation. **Patricia Snyder**

## Office closing



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's office will be closed on Friday, April 21, in observance of Good Friday. The cooperative will resume normal business hours on Monday, April 24.

Visit our website — [www.siec.org](http://www.siec.org)

## Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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P.O. Box 100

Dongola, Illinois 62926  
(618) 827-3555

Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.  
Web address: <http://www.siec.org>

## Membership prize

In this month's issue of the JAMUP, we have printed the names of three members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit towards their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section, and it's not part of the story, call us at the cooperative and tell us your account number and we will apply \$10 toward your next SIEC utility bill.

To claim your prize, call us at **(800) 762-1400**, ask for Cathy.

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# Don't let Spring zap your children!

Spring is a time of mixed emotions. For many, it's a time of hope that the cold will finally go away for good. For others, it's a time of hope and renewal. For parents, it offers an opportunity to get out and throw a few baseballs to the children, or to watch them play outside. For children, it means summer vacation's coming soon.

But there's another side to spring, too. For emergency room doctors and nurses, spring is a busy season, with many of the patients being children.

Surprisingly, there are almost twice as many childhood injuries in the warm spring months as winter.

During the spring and summer months, children are at increased risk because most, especially the younger ones, tend to forget the safety rules they learned the previous year. They're more likely to get hurt in collisions involving cars, bikes or pedestrians. There are also more drownings, poisonings, falls and chokings. Sadly, most could be prevented.

If you have youngsters, be sure to take precautions to help protect them during the warm months.

Check with your local Red Cross, American Heart Association or hospital to see if you can get training in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). It could save a life.

Children often put themselves at risk on the streets. Be sure to remind yours about the dangers of crossing streets. Remind them to stop at the side of the road before crossing, and to look both ways.

When driving, always be careful to buckle up your children, and remember that the front passenger's seat is no place for a small child. Remember that children are required by law to be either in a child safety seat or buckled in with a seat belt. Proper use of such devices, while often frustrating to children, can save lives. When using child seats, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully!

Bicycle helmets are hot and uncomfortable, and some children think they're "uncool." But they prevent serious injury and save lives. Since head injuries are the most common kind of bike-related trauma, be sure to insist that

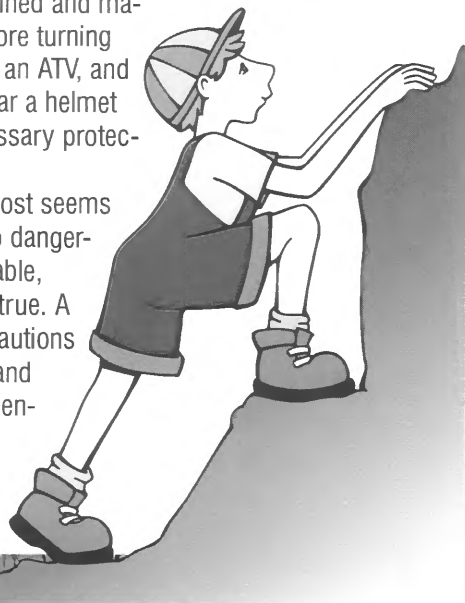
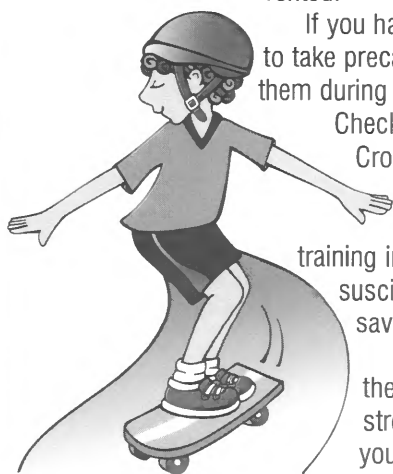
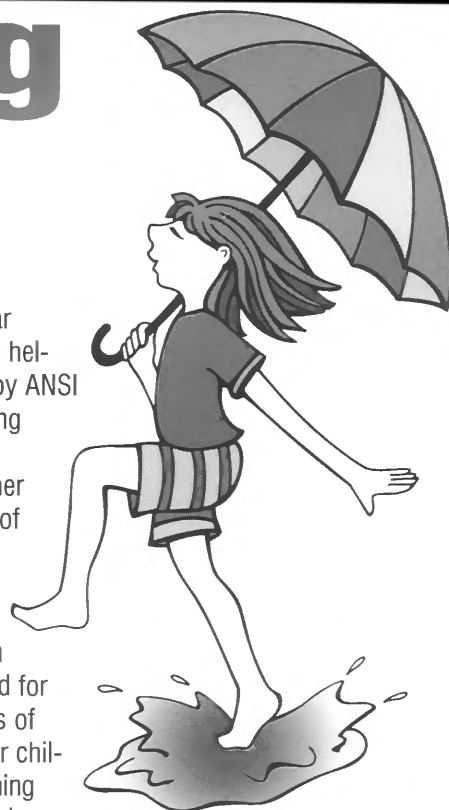
your children wear them. Be sure the helmet is approved by ANSI and/or other testing agencies.

Warmer weather brings about lots of activity around water, and many drownings occur when children are left unattended for very short lengths of time. Be sure your children have swimming lessons, and then keep in mind that they're still not completely safe around water. Many water-related accidents happen because children who know how to swim overestimate their abilities. Keep an eye on your children at all times when they're near water.

Keep poisonous substances away from children. Nearly two-thirds of all calls to poison control centers concern children who are under five years old, and 90 percent of such poisonings take place at home. Cleaners, medicines, paints and insect sprays are the products most often ingested by children. Be sure to store such items in out-of-reach cabinets with childproof locks.

With warm weather, children are more likely to be involved with all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and children and ATVs can be a dangerous combination. Be sure your children are well trained and mature enough before turning them loose with an ATV, and be sure they wear a helmet and all the necessary protective clothing.


While it almost seems like spring is too dangerous to be enjoyable, that's not really true. A few simple precautions will enable you and your children to enjoy the warming weather and still be safe.





# JAMMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



An electric distribution system is a very complex mix of poles, wires, transformers and other equipment, including regulators, which keep the voltage within normal limits. All this equipment has to be maintained. Recently, several cooperative linemen attended the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) regulator schools held at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. Those who attended the classes are from left to right: Bob Fisher, journeyman lineman; Larry Lingle, line superintendent; LaRue Parr, construction crew foreman; Michael Williams, foreman oil filled equipment and Dennis Abercrombie, journeyman lineman.

## *Cortney Woodson hired as janitor*

**C**ortney Woodson of Hodges Park was recently hired as janitor at the cooperative. He graduated from Egyptian High School in 1998. Cortney currently attends Shawnee Community College, on an art scholarship, where he hopes to get an Associate's degree in Science. From there he hopes to go on to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale to get his Bachelor's degree in Graphic Arts with possibly a minor in Business Management.

Cortney grew up in Hodges Park where he lives with his

mother, Verlene Woodson, his sister, LaTasha, 18, and brothers Howard, 16 and Zedrick, 10.

Among his many past times and hobbies are his passion for drawing; spending time with his grandparents, Lorene and Thomas Woodson; participating in the Focus Program of the Big Brothers Mentoring Program; and along with Dean Floyd of Shawnee College and Charlene Vaughn, spend his Saturdays in Carbondale working with the Career Prep program for young adults.

Another one of Cortney's past



**Cortney Woodson**

times includes cutting hair on "willing participants." Someday he also hopes to get his barber's license and open his own business.

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## It's Electrical Safety Month!

**M**ay is Electrical Safety Month, and we invite you to mark your calendar for this special observance.

Start with a tour of your home to check out some of the basics for using electricity as safely as possible.

- Plug in portable appliances only when you intend to use them. Disconnect them when not in use.
- Keep all electrical appliances a safe distance from water; don't use power tools when standing in wet areas.
- To avoid overloads, limit the number of appliances plugged into one outlet.

Overloading could damage the appliances or cause a fire.

- Never touch plumbing or other metal objects and an electric appliance at the same time.
- Use extension cords and appliances that have a seal of approval from a major testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

There's much more you can do, of course, and we'll be happy to advise you. Simply contact us, and we'll help you with a checklist you can use every day of every month.

## Why the band up the side of the page?

**A**s you may have noticed in the last few issues of this publication, there's a band up the side of some pages. They're there because we want you to be aware of the difference between co-ops and other businesses.

There are seven basic cooperative principles, and the band is to remind you of them. Here's a brief summary.

**1st principle:** Voluntary and open membership. Co-ops are voluntary organizations, open to anyone able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibility of membership.

**2nd principle:** Democratic member control. Co-ops are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who participate in setting policies.

**3rd principle:** Members' economic participation.

Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-op.

**4th principle:** Autonomy and independence. Co-ops are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.

**5th principle:** Education, training and information. Co-ops provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively.

**6th principle:** Cooperation among co-ops. Co-ops serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-op movement by working with other co-op groups.

**7th principle:** Concern for community. While focusing on member needs, co-ops work for the sustainable development of their communities.



## Office closing

Your cooperative office will be closed Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. The office will be open for normal business hours on Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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## Why do you receive this magazine?

**T**he Illinois Country Living magazine is almost entirely funded by the advertisers. It is chock-full of articles dealing with horticulture, home projects, recipes, safety, energy efficiency, technology, and personal finance - all good, wholesome family-magazine topics. And, from time to time, Illinois leaders provide commentary on matters important to rural Illinois.

While the magazine articles are interesting, useful and informative, that isn't the primary reason you receive it. Presenting news about your own utility is. Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's Jamup begins on page 16 of the magazine every

month. Our pages are produced with the intention of informing the membership about the operation of their cooperative.

Of course, some issues are "more newsy" than others. But each is written to inform. Most articles used in our section of the magazine promote strategies and programs that can save you money. Safety, efficient use of energy, peak shaving, system efficiency, etc., all can contribute to lowering our operating costs and to help maintain rate stability. Promoting electrical safety can help save the lives of cooperative members and save money for ratepayers by moderating

insurance premiums and court claims. We keep you informed of new, efficient electric technologies such as geothermal heating and cooling systems; of peak-shaving programs aimed at saving you and the co-op money; of the progress of research into the effects of electric and magnetic fields (EMF), of the introduction of new electric processes that are more efficient than their "other fuel" counterparts and friendlier to the environment as well.

With more than 11,000 accounts, printed communications are the most cost-effective method to use to inform.

## BLINK... BLINK...

*Those Blank-ety Blinks!*



**Y**ou just sit down to watch TV and the lights blink. The lights come right back on; however, you spend the next 30 minutes resetting all the clocks, VCR, TV, microwave, stove and check the computer. What causes these annoying blinks and what can be done about them?

Blinks are interruptions that last for a very short period of time. They occur with no warning, usually last less than a second, and power is usually restored quickly.

Blinks can come from many different sources. It could be a lightning strike, an automobile striking a pole or when a squirrel or tree branch comes into contact with an energized power line.

Blinking lights reflect the operation of equipment that protects the lines and keeps the power from go-

ing off for more than just a moment. The OCR, or Oil Circuit Recloser, senses that there is a problem on the line and operates. When the problem clears itself, the recloser permits power to continue flowing through the line with only a brief interruption of service or a blink. When the lights blink, it means the OCR is operating properly.

Without this device, every short circuit, temporary or otherwise, would cause the power to be off until SIEC could send a service crew out to restore service. Usually, these reclosers will operate or trip three times before stopping the flow of electricity and causing a power outage.

We notice blinks more today than we did ten or twenty years ago because of the popularity of digital

clocks, VCRs and other electronic wonders. In the past blinks happened, but the mechanical clock (with hands) just stopped and then continued on. It didn't have to be reset like its digital cousins.

To save yourself time and energy, buy digital clocks that have battery backup. For computers, an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) will provide a power supply for short periods of time. It will also give you enough time to save what you're working on and/or shut down the equipment if needed.

If you experience blinks frequently throughout the day, call our office. We will try to find the problem and take care of it. But remember, blinks are just SIEC equipment doing its job.

## Granny really did know best

Summer is just around the corner and along with it comes hot, humid weather. The homes our grandparents grew up in didn't have air conditioning. So in those days, people had to learn many different methods in order to keep cool. Those old-fashioned methods are still useful today, especially when you want to save on energy costs by reducing the amount of time you run your air conditioner.

- Use awnings, blinds, curtains or shutters to keep the hot summer sun from streaming into your house. Simply pulling curtains closed can reduce the amount of heat pouring into your house by

50 percent.

- After the sun goes down, open blinds, curtains, and windows to take advantage of natural cooling. If possible, open windows so that you get cross-ventilation in your home.
- Hang your clothes outside to dry instead of using your dryer. Not only will you save the energy you would have used to power the dryer itself, but you'll also avoid adding that heat and humidity to the air in your home, which can overwork your air conditioner.
- Don't forget fans. A fan placed in a window and set to blow air from the house to the outside can

make a bedroom quite comfortable on a hot night.

- If you have a dishwasher, use the "air dry" setting instead of the "heated air" setting, and run it late at night to reduce the heat it creates during the warmer part of day.
- When taking a shower or bath, use the exhaust fan in your bathroom to remove the moisture and humidity.
- When cooking, be sure to use lids to keep from adding steam.
- Limit use of your oven and any heat-generating appliance. Instead, use your microwave or grill outside.

## Does your meter really run too fast?

**When customers call in and voice concerns about their electrical usage, they often blame the meter. Although meters are not infallible, their track record of accuracy is very good. This story has been reprinted many times in co-op newsletters, and we thought it would be appropriate to share with Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative members.**



I have been accused of everything imaginable — running when nothing is operating, creeping, making noise, running at outrageous speeds and recording incorrectly.

My job is to record the amount of electrical kilowatt-hours that are used at the account where I am installed. I am one of the most accurate measuring devices in use today. In fact, I am more accurate than most wristwatches.

I work day and night without complaining. I do not have any ill feelings toward anyone and I only do the job I was designed to do, which is to let you know how much electricity you are using. Sometimes, when I am old and dirty, I slow down because of the added burden and sometimes I even stop completely.

Some people say, "Why do you run so fast at my place? My neigh-

bor has many more appliances than I have, and his meter doesn't run half as fast or record nearly as much."

I suppose that these people fail to realize that they have different living habits. Some families are larger, some families do more cooking, and even party more. Some people take showers, others take tub baths. Some people take two baths per day, while some only take a bath once or twice a week. Some people only have one hot meal each day and others have three hot meals each day.

You can see that comparing my electricity recordings to your neighbor's is as difficult as comparing grocery bills.

Try comparing grocery bills with your neighbors. Each family's eating habits will certainly make a difference in their grocery bill, just like

each family's living habits will make a difference in their electricity bill.


Sometimes I am really frightened. The homeowner threatens me and says he is going to take something and knock me off the house or yard pole.

Mr. Member, think for just a minute. As time goes by, you add one appliance after another and yet you expect me to run at the same pace and record the same amount of electricity. This is impossible.

Please sit down sometime and make a list of all the ways you use electricity in your home and on your farm. You'll really be amazed at how much electricity is being used automatically without turning on a switch or an appliance. You'll see that I'm not really such a bad "fellow" — I'm just doing my job!

# JAMUR

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy Partner 

PLAN TO ATTEND SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S

## 61st Annual Meeting

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Registration begins at 5 p.m.  
at Shawnee Community College — Ullin

■ Registration prize

■ Grand prize

■ Miss SIEC  
Beauty Pageant

■ Officer's Report



■ Attendance prizes

■ Meeting begins  
at 7 p.m.  
Entertainment by  
Chris Egelston,  
Magician

■ Early bird prizes

■ Election of  
Directors

*Mariah Annabel Dale  
Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 1999*

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or Call Dongola Office  
618-827-3555

*Calls After Hours Should  
Only Concern Outages or  
Emergencies*

After 4:00 p.m.  
through 8:00 a.m.  
and Sundays and Holidays

1-800-762-1400  
Dongola office

618-827-3555  
Dongola office



# Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Beauty pageant rules and entry form

**S**outhern Illinois Electric Cooperative is seeking entrants for the beauty pageant held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the members, July 27, 2000 at Shawnee College, Ullin, IL. **Dr. Mahendra Vyas**

- Entrant **MUST LIVE IN A HOME SERVED BY SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**. Contestants must complete and submit the attached affidavit in order to compete in contest.
- Entrant **MUST BE 16-22 YEARS OF AGE AND NEVER MARRIED**.
- Previous first place winners are not eligible.
- Candidates will appear in gowns and one-piece swimsuits (no extreme cuts).

**FIRST PRIZE:** \$150 cash, trophy, sash, and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

**SECOND PRIZE:** \$100 cash and a gift. (In the event the First Place winner cannot go to Washington, the Second Prize winner is given the opportunity).

**THIRD PRIZE:** \$75 cash and a gift.

**CONSOLATION PRIZE:** \$50 cash to each contestant.

**MISS CONGENIALITY:** Trophy to winner chosen by contestants. **Mart Clarke, Jr.**

## — BEAUTY PAGEANT ENTRY —

### Residency Affidavit

I agree to abide by the contest rules as set forth and herewith give my permission for the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative to use my picture and name for any contest publicity.

I further certify that I am a resident in a home served by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. (Failure to comply with these rules will void the decision of the judges.)

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Street/Route \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parents \_\_\_\_\_ Line Location \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI

# FAQ

*Do you have questions?*

**Chris L. Bennett, Office Manager**  
part 1 of a 2-part series

**W**e often get questions asked of employees about our service charges, rates, deregulation and many others. In writing this column, I thought I would try to address many of these commonly asked questions.

## **Is there anywhere I can pay my electric bill besides Dongola?**

At this time, our Dongola office is the only staffed office we have. If you want to personally pay your bill or plan to pay in cash, you will need to come to the Dongola office to pay it personally or leave your payment in our "drop box" located next to the main entrance to the office. If you are paying by check or money order, you can mail your payments, of course. Additionally, you can pay your bill by credit card, either personally or by telephone. Our members have asked the cooperative and we have been working for sometime to be able to make withdrawals from members' bank accounts at their request instead of them having to mail us a payment, a service many of our members are using now for many of their monthly payments. We are working with our bank to get this service but it requires our bank being "on-line with the Fed" and they have not yet gotten to that point. Also, we are working to be able to accept payments in the future by credit card over the Internet ([www.siec.org](http://www.siec.org)), allowing the member the ability to compute and/or view their current bill and billing history. **Vernon L. Hurt**

## **Why do I have to pay my bill by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month - that's not convenient for me**

The cooperative years ago established the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month as the date they need your monthly payment so they in turn can pay those bills they owe to their vendors. As you know, most bills from many suppliers seem to use the 10<sup>th</sup> as the due date. In order to allow the cooperative to meet its own cash flow, the 10<sup>th</sup> was established as the date payments must be made. If a payment

is received after that date, a late-payment fee of 5 percent is added to offset any additional costs the cooperative may have in meeting its own obligations. Many of our members may not realize that electricity, unlike many other commodities such as gasoline for your vehicle or implement or even a loaf of bread, has already been consumed before you are required to pay for it. Because it has been used, the cooperative is then responsible for its payment to our power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative of Marion, Illinois. The cooperative does offer several options to help in making monthly payments: a monthly budget plan where your monthly amount is always the same for 11 of the 12 months; a 3, 6 or 12 month plan where you only read your meter and only pay your account once for the period; and credit cards as noted previously. **Michael Hardin**

## **Why do I have to pay an additional meter deposit and why do I have to pay a \$25 "trip fee?"**

The Board of Directors has set a meter deposit policy for the cooperative to follow. It is based, in part, upon the review of annual "charge-offs" of un-collectible accounts. Due to electricity actually being used before it is paid for, it is very possible for someone to leave their location with out paying their last electric bill. The meter deposit, in theory, helps to offset this possibility as well as serve as a detriment to any damages occurring to our metering equipment, similar to a leasing deposit often used by apartment or housing owners. An additional meter deposit is required only if your account is disconnected for non-payment of your electric account. If you want to be reconnected, you will be required to pay an additional meter deposit of at least \$100, as your account is now a concern for future payments. The additional meter deposit helps to ensure the cooperative, and ultimately the members, will not be left with a bill a member has failed to pay. The meter deposit(s) are all kept in the member's name and will be refunded to them following 24 consecutive months of payments with no more than two (2) late payments during the period. If 24 consecutive months cannot be met, the deposit will continue to be held until the period is met or until the member should decide to leave the cooperative's service, at which time the deposit will be refunded after any final amounts are paid. The \$25 trip fee is required only if the cooperative's notices for payment and/or meter readings are not met and a serviceman must be dispatched to call upon the member. In such cases, the serviceman is taken from his normal duties to make a call upon the member and the \$25 helps to offset the cost of the labor and vehicle expense. Once more, it is to protect the majority of our members who routinely pay their bill each month and should not be required to pay the expenses caused by those who do not. **Joe Kikasola**

## 2000 nominating committee to meet June 8, 2000

**M**embers to serve on the 1999-2000 nominating committee were appointed by G. Robert Inman, president of the board of directors, at the 1999 annual meeting of the members held Aug. 5, 1999. The committee will meet at the cooperative headquarters, 7420 U.S. Highway 51 South, Dongola, Illinois, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 8, to consider nominees for election to the board of directors at the 2000 meeting of members.

The following committee members were appointed to the 1999-2000 nominating committee to represent their respective counties:

Alexander County delegate, Richard Walker, 1 East Cape Terrace, McClure, IL 62957; and alternate, Jack Thomas, P.O. Box 68, Miller City, IL 62962.

Johnson County delegate, Betty Casey, 6855 State Route 146W, Buncombe, IL 62912; and alternate, Patty Allbritten, 6130 Indian Point Road, Belknap, IL 62908.

Massac County delegate, Oris Harris, 7785 Waldo Church Road, Brookport, IL 62910; and alternate, Josh Reagor, 398 Halstenberg Road, Karnak, IL 62956.

Pulaski County delegate, Robert Heisner, RR 1 Box 10, Grand Chain, IL 62941; and alternate, George Holhubner, P.O. Box 321, Olmsted, IL 62970.

Union County delegate, Ira Dugan Tripp, Jr., 1485 Gurley Loop, Buncombe, IL 62912;

and alternate, Stanley Palmer, 85 Bauer Road, Jonesboro, IL 62952.

The by-laws of the cooperative provide the nominations to the board of directors may be made by: (1) nominating committee, (2) petition received not less than 25 days prior to the actual meeting, signed by 15 or more active members, or (3) an active member from the floor at the annual meeting. The three-year terms of directors are expired alternately so that each year elections are held for a portion of the board. At the 2000 annual meeting elections will be held for a director from each of these three counties: Massac, Pulaski and Union. **Michael Huskey**

# www.siec.org

## Membership prize

Since we failed to print three member names last month, in this month's issue of the JAMUP, we have printed the names of **six** members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit towards their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section, and it's not part of the story, call us at the cooperative and tell us your account number and we will apply \$10 toward your next SIEC utility bill.

To claim your prize, call us at **(800) 762-1400**, ask for Cathy.

### Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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(618) 827-3555 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m. • Web address: [www.siec.org](http://www.siec.org)

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# JAMULP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy Partner 

## *Why should cooperatives adapt to new technology?*

**C**ooperation, hmmm...A simple word, right? Yes. But is the meaning very simple? No. If today's society did not cooperate where would we be? Down the drain! Just about everywhere you look or go, there is cooperation. Sports would be impossible without cooperation and teamwork. That rock concert you went to last week wouldn't have been possible, either. The very government of this great United States would not be able to function, and our armed forces could not protect us from violence, foreign or domestic were it not for the spirit of cooperation.

The basic idea of cooperation is actually quite simple. Two people work together to accomplish a task easier and much faster than one. Back in the Old West, many neighbors banded together to create fire brigades and to protect against Indian raids. Now and into the future, there will be groups of friends or even total strangers who will form a pact to do something as simple as car-pooling and forming neighborhood watch programs. These are all examples of cooperation.

Why should today's cooperatives adapt to new technology? They are doing a good job, aren't they? Yes, but their job could be made even better. With the new methods and techniques of improving efficiency available today, the possibilities seem endless! For example, electric cooperatives have been providing power to rural areas for at least 65 years, and most people agree that they're doing a good job, too. However, if new technology were added to the scene, electricity could be provided easier and cheaper. New electric lines could be manufactured to carry electricity that would not be damaged during bad weather. Transformers could be made safer from

curious animals like raccoons. This would also eliminate those annoying calls at three in the morning informing a service technician that there is a power outage. If electricity lines were more efficient through new technology, less manpower would be needed to monitor and repair them.

Another advantage of adapting to all of the new technology that is becoming available is that cooperatives could provide their services to an even larger area of the country or the world. Medical cooperatives could provide vaccinations and healthcare to third world countries and in areas where diseases still run rampant, such as villages in South Africa. Walmart is a prime example of one of the largest cooperatives in the United States, and it uses some of the newest technology to transport products where they need to be. Telephone cooperatives are constantly upgrading their phone services by using new micro-fiber technology in making cross-country telephone conversations clearer and easier to make.

Small business cooperatives could expand their horizons and use the Internet to sell more of their products to the on-line public, an ever-expanding area in which there is money to be made if cooperatives would just take advantage of that market. Farming cooperatives could use the business superhighway to market



*This is one of two winning essays in the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Youth to Washington essay contest. This essay was written by Century High School Junior, Andy Hannan, shown with Director Robert Inman.*

grain for much better prices than they could obtain if they merely sold locally. Utility cooperatives could be two mouse clicks away from bargaining with suppliers for better prices. Corporations which supply cooperatives, such as Duke & Long, would have to lower petroleum prices to compete with other companies for business. The end result would be that cooperatives could contract products cheaper and the consumer could receive them for less, and that is what is most important in today's world-consumer satisfaction.

The advancements that cooperatives could make and the benefits that could be provided to consumers far outweigh any negative thoughts a person might have about a cooperative making technological advancements. Furthermore, we need cooperatives to maintain the lifestyle to which we have become accustomed in this new age of technology. By adapting to new technology in order to serve their members more efficiently and affordably, cooperatives will be holding the winning hand in the technology game of the new millennium. **Verna Heal**

## Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

www.siec.org  
618-827-3555  
P.O. Box 100  
Dongola, IL 62926

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*Pulaski County*

*Vice Pres.*  
**Larry Fisher**  
*Massac County*

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**Barbara Pitts**  
*Union County*

**Dale Taake**  
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*Alexander County*

**Richard D. Moss**  
*Alexander County*

**Carole Jean Kelley**  
*Johnson County*

**Scott J. Ury**  
*Union County*

**Dale Faughn**  
*Massac County*

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**Larry Lovell**

*Attorney*  
**Ronald E. Osman**

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## Essay judges determine winners



Essay judges met at SIEC Dongola headquarters on March 24, 2000 to finalize the results of the "Youth to Washington" essay contest. One winning essay will be featured in this month's section with the other in next month's. Judges serving on this year's panel were, from left to right: Stephanie L. Oxford, Manager of the Administrative and Finance Department at Southern Illinois Power Cooperative in Marion, Illinois; Carolyn Holm, English Instructor, Shawnee Community College, Ullin, Illinois; and Dr. Art Aikman, retired professor from the Curriculum and Instruction Department, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois.

## Carl George retires from cooperative

Carl George, System Engineer, retired on July 27, 2000 with almost 47 years of service to the cooperative. His previous positions at the cooperative have included warehouseman, work order clerk, assistant engineer and system engineer.

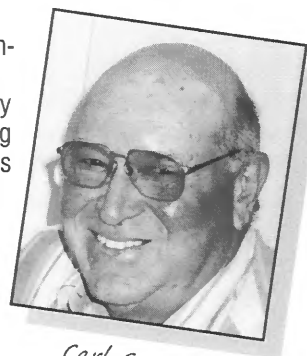
Carl and his wife Aneta, live just outside Dongola. They have two sons, Larry and Rick, as well as three grandchildren, Cristy, Eric, and Casy.

He plans on spending most of his free time doing gardening and yard work. He also plans on reading the many books he has acquired over the years. For his winter-time plans, he wants to do some decorative wood working for the yard.

Carl always had the co-op's best interest at heart in whatever he did. For years, the George's had one of the cooperative's two way radios in their home. Many can remember that if you had an outage you would call Carl and he would dispatch a serviceman or a line crew to restore your service. He was available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Very seldom over a span of almost 25 years did he ever turn

the radio over to another co-op employee. It wasn't out of the ordinary if their phone rang two to three times a night, and many more times than that if a major storm pushed its way through the area. It wasn't until the last few years, when we went to an outage answering service that the George family was able to sleep through the night without a phone call or two to interrupt their sleep. Aneta answered many phone calls herself over the years and was quite adept at using the two way radio.

During Carl's time at SIEC, his knowledge and professionalism was evident in everything he did. All of us here at the cooperative will miss Carl and would like to wish him good health and the very best of luck in the years ahead.



Carl George

## Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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(618) 827-3555 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m. • Web address: www.siec.org

# FAQ

*Do you have questions?*

**Chris L. Bennett, Office Manager**

Part 2 of a 2-part series

## **How do your rates compare to those around us?**

That's a tough question! Our average residential member uses around 1,000 kWh per month. For us, the amount due would be \$89.95 or 8.995 cents per kWh used. Many utilities have different rates for summer and winter, but we use the same rate all year. Of the 25 electric distribution cooperatives in Illinois, only three are lower than ours – meaning 21 cooperatives have higher rates than we do for these same kWh. The competing investor-owned utility (I.O.U.) in this area charges a summer and a winter rate. Their summer rate totals \$90.26, which is very close but still higher. Their winter rate is \$78.38, which is a very good rate and obviously lower. Why can they offer a lower rate than we can? I am certainly not privileged to their financial information, but I can reason that an I.O.U. serving consumers located closer together (density) allows more consumers and revenue within a one mile span of line and allows sharing of transformers and other resources due to the close proximity of meters. We serve approximately 11,000 members in six counties over 2,041 miles of line. For every mile of line, five members are paying for that line

plus helping to pay for all the costs associated with providing electricity – cost of power, substations and their equipment, vehicles, tools, salaries, insurance, interest on debt, etc. If you drive through some of the towns served by the I.O.U. in your area, you can hardly drive a block without reaching five consumers. A mile in some of the larger towns can include many, many times that amount – all helping to spread the cost over more meters and causing the cost per meter to come down.

## **What about “deregulation” and “unbundling”?**

We could spend months discussing or writing articles about these subjects. Deregulation centers around “choice” and we all want choice, of course. Unfortunately, none of us know whether the ability to have this choice will really benefit us or not – will service be better, will it be cheaper, what has deregulation's history shown in other industries? Unbundling is a part of deregulation and represents the detail of your billing being itemized by its source or cost. Our bill of \$89.95 for 1,000 kWh is presently itemized to you as including \$3.20 energy tax and the balance of \$86.75 as energy charge. In deregulation, you would be told how much of it is a generation charge, how much is delivery service charge, how much is transition charge, how much is customer charge, how much is... The amount due is still \$89.95 but, of course, we are now having to keep detailed cost figures for those bills, having to print and mail a monthly bill, and having to change bill forms and format to provide the detailed info. I hope the bill would still be \$89.95! A good source for additional information about deregulation and unbundling is the Illinois Commerce Commission's website, which is [www.icc.state.il.us/pluginillinois](http://www.icc.state.il.us/pluginillinois).

If at anytime you have any questions concerning your electric account or your cooperative, please do not hesitate to call our office located right here in our service territory – we still answer the phone in person!

Harvey Bert Parker, III

# www.siec.org

## *Membership prize*

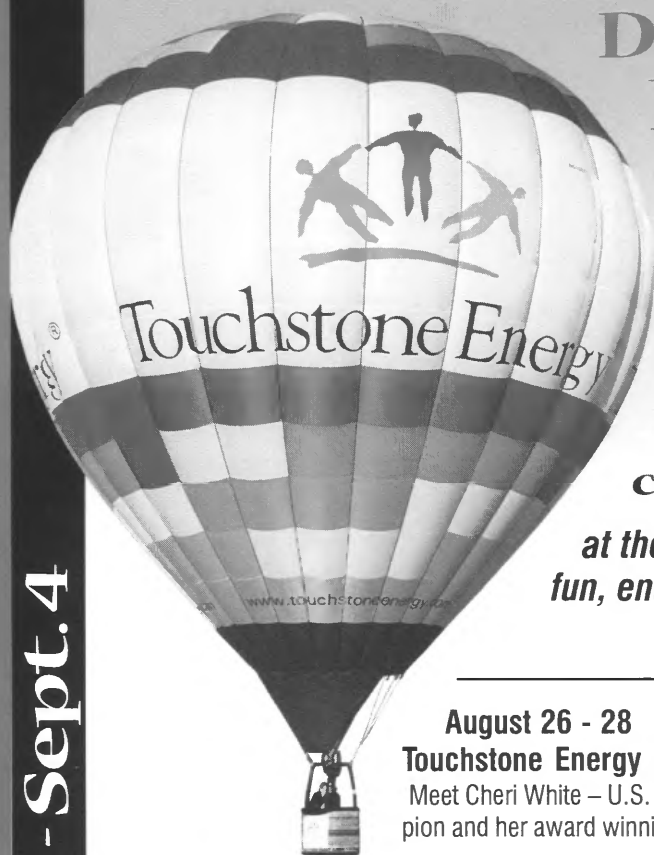
In this month's issue of the JAMUP, we have printed the names of three members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit towards their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section, and it's not part of the story, call us at the cooperative and tell us your account number and we will apply \$10 toward your next SIEC utility bill.

To claim your prize, call us at (800) 762-1400, ask for Cathy.

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# DuQuoin State Fair

Aug. 26 - Sept. 4



Do we  
have fun  
planned  
for you!

Join Illinois'  
Touchstone  
Energy® electric  
cooperatives

at the DuQuoin State Fair for  
fun, entertainment and prizes

August 26 - 28

#### Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon

Meet Cheri White – U.S. Hot Air Balloon Ladies' Division Champion and her award winning crew.

#### Kyle Finley's Live Line Safety Demo

During several 30-minute daily shows, using live electric wires, Kyle will educate spectators on how to protect themselves and others from injuries or even death caused by electricity.

#### Touchstone Energy booth

See the latest products and services offered by Illinois' electric cooperatives, and pick up your free gifts.

Complete the attached registration form, bring it to the Touchstone Energy booth and you could win a Touchstone Energy T-shirt or a Char-Broil® Patio Bistro electric grill.

### Registration for Char-Broil Patio Bistro electric grill

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Electric Provider \_\_\_\_\_

Must be 18 to enter.

Bring registration form to the Touchstone Energy booth at the DuQuoin State Fair.  
Names will be drawn daily for Touchstone Energy T-shirts. Final drawing for the grill is on Sept. 4.  
Grill valued at \$325 • T-shirt valued at \$11



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# JAMMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy Partner 

## *Sarah Inman is essay contest winner*

### **Why should cooperatives adapt to new technology?**

by Sarah Inman

**T**his is the second of two winning essays in the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Youth to Washington essay contest held each year. This essay was written by Century High School Junior, Sarah Inman.

Our electric cooperatives are the future of our country's everyday living. They provide us with the essential necessities of our fast growing economy. Their goal is to keep prices down so the rural communities can lead a more efficient life. They are not only helping our small communities have electricity, but they do it for the people and not out of the greediness of their own hand. These electric plants have enabled the people using the cooperatives to own and finance the cooperatives. As a result, cooperatives are growing into more successful and powerful services, and they are the guaranteed future for everyone's tomorrow.

Electric cooperatives maintain and safeguard our rural communities while providing more affordable services. They also are the largest employers in the communities they serve, and they make it possible for small communities to construct their own businesses and industries. Other utilities of the urban areas average about 13 times more revenue per mile of line than cooperatives. Electrical power in Illinois is successful for the agricultural and industrial economies. It is not

only electricity they provide, but a numerous amount of other benefits as well, such as a rural water system, health care cards for the elderly, in addition to other important benefits for the communities.

Electric cooperatives are also important because they provide jobs for our communities' people. They also are very efficient and have been one of the main resources for our rural areas. Since they formed this beneficial cooperation, it has helped people in communities strive for more up-to-date technology to be available in their area. Therefore, because of the development of cooperatives, the same options once given to only urban areas are given to the same hard working people who live in rural America or in small communities. Therefore, if were not for cooperatives, the people in rural

areas would not have up to date technology and would probably still be in the dark today. They have worked hard to meet our essential needs, not only for them, but for their customers as well, and they are committed to adapting to the new technology in our world today.

Our electric cooperatives ensure that everyone has access to adequate, reliable services at an affordable cost. This is necessary to safeguard a prosperous economy. Members of our electric cooperatives believe that through a free-enterprise system, we can maintain a free economy and strive to develop to its full potential. One of the main purposes of an electric cooperative is to provide members with its needs at the cost of providing a well maintained service. These coop-

*(Continued on page 16d)*



*Sarah Inman, left, winner of SIEC's 2000 essay contest, receives a certificate for G. Robert Inman, Board president.*

**Southern Illinois  
Electric  
Cooperative**

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# A few words from the Engineering Department

By John Harris, System Engineer

The Engineering department at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is responsible for designing and planning new electrical service for its members. When new service is needed an Engineer will meet at the member's site to determine the best possible route for the poles and wires.

The estimated load will be determined, and from that we will select the proper size transformer, secondary wire, and meter loop, or if desired a meter socket.

The meter loop consists of rigid conduit connected to the meter socket, a disconnect breaker, and the appropriate size of copper wire connected to the pole. This provides a housing for our meter and a location for the member to connect their load. When staking in new primary voltage service we require 40 feet of "right of way" clearance for our lines.

We require 20 feet on each side of the wire to the nearest limb in order to keep the number of tree-related outages to a minimum. This requirement is somewhat less for secondary wire. Secondary wire is the wire on the member's side of the transformer that has the protective insulation cover.

We also require that an easement be signed giving SIEC the right to construct, maintain, and repair our equipment. A membership application will be filled out, and a five-dollar fee collected as well other pertinent information for the member's new account. We are also required to collect some type of meter deposit, either in the form of money or a "letter of credit" from

the new member's previous utility company.

After this process is completed a work order will be drawn-up, existing underground lines located, and the job will be given to a Line Crew for construction.

For those members who prefer not to look at overhead wires and poles, or not wanting to remove trees, we offer the option of underground service. The components for underground service are more costly than overhead so we must offset our cost by charging a construction fee. In most instances this fee is the difference in cost between construction of an overhead line as compared to the underground line.

SIEC also provides security lighting. We will install and maintain a security light on an existing pole for a monthly fee. If a pole is required specifically for the light a nominal monthly fee will be charged.

The Engineering department is constantly looking for the opportunity to make improvements and repairs to our system. We are always looking to improve our system integrity by adding new lines, rebuilding old lines, and inspecting our existing system pole by pole in order to find problems before an outage occurs. These services are also provided to our members wishing to improve or upgrade their existing service.

If you have any questions about obtaining new electrical service upgrading or changing your existing service, the addition of security lighting or to report a problem with your electrical service feel free to contact the Engineering department at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. **Shawn Price**

## Membership prize

In this month's issue of the JAMUP, we have printed the names of three members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit towards their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section, and it's not part of the story, call us at the cooperative and tell us your account number and we will apply \$10 toward your next SIEC utility bill.

To claim your prize, call us at (800) 762-1400, ask for Cathy.

## Nominating committee meets



**B**oth delegates and alternates of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's Nominating Committee met June 8, 2000 to nominate three directors for three-year terms in conjunction with the election of directors at SIEC's Annual Meeting which was held July 27, 2000.

Shown above are: (left to right) Stanley Palmer, alternate; Orlis Harris, delegate; Jack Thomas, alternate; Richard Walker, Delegate Chairman; Patty Allbritten, alternate; Josh Reagor, alternate; Ira Dugan Tripp, Jr., delegate; George Holhubner, alternate; Robert Heisner, delegate; and Betty Casey, delegate. **Sallie Mae Smith**

## 1999 - 2000 uncashed and returned checks

**C**hecks issued to the following were returned because of no forwarding address or the check remains uncashed by the payee. If your name is listed below, please call the cooperative office with your current address and we will issue a new check to you. When you call, please ask for Loraine, extension 217. Our Illinois-only toll free number is (800) 762-1400.

Allen, Ron  
214 Mickiffin  
Harrisburg, IL 62946

Hall, Robert L.  
P.O. Box 37  
Unity, IL 62993

Love, Mary  
P.O. Box 6  
Tamms, IL 62988

Rochel, Richard W.  
3250 Burns Road  
Dongola, IL 62926

Callis George  
1401 Normandy Lane  
Jackson, MO 63755

Hill, Maggie  
P.O. Box 121  
Tamms, IL 62988

Mattingly, Donald S.  
P.O. Box 137  
Belknap, IL 62908

Smith, Roger G.  
3460 Friendship School Road  
Anna, IL 62906

Cohen, Marc Leigh  
P.O. Box 216  
Cobden, IL 62920

Hollis, Nathaniel  
RR 1 Box 153  
Pulaski, IL 62976

Moore, Jack L.  
RR 3 Box 289  
Cobden, IL 62920

Stokesberry, Ernest  
7860 State Route 146W  
Jonesboro, IL 62952

Eades, Lee  
c/o Mary Eades  
511 Indian Drive  
East Alton, IL 62024

Hunter, Michael A.  
P.O. Box 438  
Anna, IL 62906

Moreland, Dale  
185 Sadler Road  
Anna, IL 62906

Westbrook, Carla L.  
P.O. Box 555  
Tamms, IL 62988

Fowler, John  
4137 West Oakdale  
Chicago, IL 60647

Jones Jr., Bruce  
1472 Lufkin Road  
Mounds, IL 62964

Morgan, Michael L.  
3475 Highway 3  
Grand Tower, IL 62942

### Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

7420 U.S. Highway 51 South • P.O. Box 100 • Dongola, Illinois 62926  
(618) 827-3555 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m. • Web address: [www.siec.org](http://www.siec.org)

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(Continued from page 16a)

eratives provide reliable services to every farm, home, and business located in the area they serve.

Should electric cooperatives adapt to new technologies? Absolutely, since the future of success, the cooperative that does not adapt to new technologies will be lost, become inefficient, and thus unsuccessful in our high-tech society. Technology will make it possible for cooperatives to advance to the front in many areas. In this age of deregulation, the coopera-

tive cannot overlook any tool to advance its efficiency and services. In the future, cooperatives are likely to offer more than electricity and water. It is possible that they may offer natural gas, sewage service, trash service, and cable television. My vision of the future includes homes and businesses that are totally serviced by one cooperative, with all of the amenities imaginable. This includes wireless electricity provided by a unit called a power cell. This is the cooperative of the future. Through technology, all of

these advances can be achieved. Therefore, it is vital for our cooperatives to adapt new technologies in order to create new jobs for the new generation of young people entering the technological marketplace. Technology is the key for the cooperative of the future. Cooperatives make advancements that will allow them to adapt to new technology, and they are unlocking the door of progress and prosperity for not only their customers, but themselves as well. Oak Grove Church

## Don't let a finished basement finish you

### Tips for keeping your basement dry:

**W**hen it rains, it pours, and sewers and drains can back up, filling your basement with foul smelling water and sewage. And, insurance policies may not protect homeowners or renters from damage due to sewer or drain backups (check with your insurance agent).

Since no one wants to experience the mess, inconvenience and out-of-pocket expenses that come with a sewer or drain backup, preventing losses from occurring is the best solution. Make sure your drainage system is working properly: Gutter downspouts should extend far enough away from the foundation of the house so that water is carried away from basement walls.

Your yard should be graded to slope away from the house so surface water is drained away.

If your gutters connect to storm sewers, keep drain lines clear. Anti-backflow devices reduce the chances of basement flooding. Several types of devices are available. Check-valve devices allow water and sewage to flow away from the drain, preventing water and sewage from backing up into the drain. Gate-valve devices operate like a gate, closing and shutting off the flow of water and sewage. Valves are manually or automatically operated.

Sump pump systems assist in keeping unwanted water out of your home. There are several types, includ-

ing single sump pump and dual-level systems. A battery or generator can be used to power the pump in case of a power failure. Remember to test your system monthly.

Sometimes water still gets in. Items stored in basement areas should be shelved or kept off the floor. Furniture should be on casters or shims and arranged away from floor drains. If you have a finished basement, be aware of the dollars you have at stake if a sewer or drain loss occurs.

Check with your local building code department, water utility or a qualified plumber for more information on steps you can take to reduce the chance of water damage to your home.

Source: State Farm Insurance

# OFFICE CLOSING

Your cooperative office will be closed Monday, September 4, in observance of Labor Day. The office will be open for normal business hours on Tuesday, September 5. Enjoy your holiday!




# www.siec.org

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# JAMMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy Partner 

## Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 2000

Jessi Kayla Clark, 18 year old daughter of Terry and Ramona Clark of Jonesboro, is the new Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative for 2000. Jessi received her crown at the annual meeting of cooperative members held at Shawnee Community College, in Ullin, July 27. Her other prizes included a sash, trophy, check for \$150, and an all expenses paid weeklong trip to Washington, D.C. in June 2001.

Jessi is currently a freshman at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale where she is majoring in Biological Sciences. She then intends to go on to medical school and to hopefully become a doctor one day. Presently, she has a student work job in the vice-chancellor's office at SIU -C in Academic Affairs.

While in high school, Jessi enjoyed being involved with the Student Council all four years and spent two of those years as Secretary. She has also been on the Forensics team, in

Beta Club, the Outdoor Club, a member of Mu Alpha Theta, FBLA, FCA, Alpha Club, Key Club, school musicals, on the Math and WYSE Teams, as well as numerous other events and organizations.

Athletically, she received a varsity letter for Cross-Country. She also finds time to volunteer at the Anna Heights Baptist Church as a drama leader and Youth Counselor, take church mission trips to Mexico and Wisconsin, has worked in hospitals and offices, a volunteer nursery worker, a DARE leader and role model, a Peer Mediator, helps to take care of the elderly, and finds time to sing at weddings and other functions.

Her hobbies include swimming, water and snow skiing, reading, singing and spending time with family and friends.

The retiring Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 1999, Mariah Annabel Dale, crowned the new Miss Southern at the end of the annual



*The retiring Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 1999, Mariah Annabel Dale, crowns the new Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 2000, Jessi Kayla Clark.*

meeting. Mariah is currently attending the University of Illinois at Champaign where she is a sophomore majoring in Agricultural Education.

## Three board members re-elected

At this year's 61<sup>st</sup> annual meeting, members of the cooperative re-elected three directors. They are pictured with Larry Lovell (left), general manager. Re-elected were G. Robert Inman, Pulaski County; Barbara Pitts, Union County; and Dale Faughn, Massac County.



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# JAMUP

## Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

www.siec.org

618-827-3555  
P.O. Box 100  
Dongola, IL 62926

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**Larry Fisher**  
*Massac County*

*Vice Pres.*  
**Barbara Pitts**  
*Union County*

*Sec.-treas.*  
**Scott J. Ury**  
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Evlo Clemons, SIEC utility serviceman, delivers a prize to a member.

Winners of the Miss SIEC 2000 pageant were from left: Jeanna Licka, Buncombe, 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up; Jessi Clark, Jonesboro, Miss SIEC 2000; Leanna Dailey, Metropolis, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up and Miss Congeniality.



Miss SIEC 2000 contestants in eveningwear were from left: Athena Jordan, Ullin; Samech Bogan, Tammus; Christy Klasner, Anna; Jessi Clark, Jonesboro; Jeanna Licka, Buncombe; Leanna Dailey, Metropolis; Emily Hannan, Olmsted; and Ruth Waddy, Villa Ridge.

Entertainer and magician Chris Egelston (left) with the assistance of Debbie Bennett from the audience, managed to amaze and astound the crowd at the Annual Meeting.



Winner of the Grand Prize, a Char-Broil Patio Bistro Electric Grill was Kenneth Anderson of Karnak.

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The SIEC Board for 2000. Seated from left are: Larry Lovell, General Manager, C. Larry Fisher, Board President, Barbara Pitts, Vice-President, Scott Wry, Secretary-Treasurer. Standing from left are: Ron Osman, attorney, and Directors Raymond Snell, Dale Taake, G. Robert Inman, Dale Faughn, Carole Kelley, and Richard Moss.

SIEC billing clerk, Stephanie Theis, registers a member prior to the start of the Annual Meeting.



SIEC employee, Chris Boyd, hands a gift to a registered member at the July 27<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting.



Ken Corzine and his wife, Patty, accept a plaque from Board President Robert Inman. The plaque was in recognition of Ken's 25 years of service to the co-op. Ken retired in January 2000.



Young and old alike seemed to enjoy SIEC's Annual Meeting.

Retiring SIEC System Engineer, Carl D. George, accepts a plaque from Robert Inman, Board President, in recognition of Carl's more than 46 years of service to the cooperative. Carl's last day of work was July 27, 2000.

Chris Bennett, SIEC Director of Administration and Finance, had the distinction of announcing prizes, while co-op employees delivered them to the lucky members.



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# Annual meeting prizes & winners

Ray-D-Vac Flashlight & IBEW cap  
Guy Gray Supply Co. & IBEW  
St. John's Church, Dongola

Jacto 4 gal. Backpack Sprayer  
ProSource One  
Larry Nelson Cheek, Ullin

12" Oscillating Fan  
Fletcher Reinhart & Co.  
Beverly Y. Sims, Pulaski

Red Cedar Birdhouse  
Oil Field Electric  
Donald Lee Canada, Karnak

Sylvania 13" TV-VCR Combo  
Ledbetter, Toth & Assoc.  
Elнора Horton, Tamms

America On-Line 7 Outlet Surge Protector  
Earl Edmonds  
Donald W. Rich, Anna

Diamond Weave Lawn Chair  
Dil Field Electric  
Susan Elaine Crawford, Buncombe

Igloo 48 qt Insulated Cooler  
Kerber, Eck & Braeckel, CPA's  
Jerry D. Carter, Buncombe

1 Free Rental of 3X1 0 Safety Box  
Anna National Bank  
Michael D. Severns, Karnak

Presto 21" Electric Griddle  
SIEC  
Billy G. Stout, Buncombe

Handi Works 86 pc. Garage Tool Set  
Oil Field Electric  
Thula M. Kerr, Villa Ridge

1 oz. Year 2000 Silver Eagle Coin  
Anna National Bank  
James Eaves, Buncombe

Ray-O-Vac Swivel Lite & IBEW Cap  
Guy Gray Supply Co & IBEW  
C. Clifford Jones, Grand Chain

Stinger Advanced Insect Control  
Oil Field Electric  
Stanley C. Palmer, Jonesboro

RCA AM/FM Stereo Radio Cassette Recorder  
WKRO Radio  
St. John's Cemetery, Dongola

1 Yr. Sub. Dongola Tri-County Record  
Dongola Tri-County Record  
Brenda Kay Goines, Grand Chain

Leather Briefcase  
Reppert's Warehouse Office Furniture  
Alma Davis, Tamms

Kalimar 35MM Zoom Camera Kit  
Oil Field Electric  
Doris Welch, Tamms

Rival 2 QT Ice Cream Maker  
Kerber, Eck & Braeckel, CPA's  
Wendel Dean Davis, Anna

1 Yr. Sub. Gazette Democrat  
The Gazette Democrat  
Howard R. Theis, Dongola

Ray-O-Vac Floating Lantern & IBEW Cap  
Guy Gray Supply Co. & IBEW

Carolyn Sue Pfaff, Villa Ridge

Black & Decker Handy Chopper Plus  
Oil Field Electric  
Saratoga Church, Anna

Weedeater Electric Trimmer  
Roy Walker Communications, Inc.  
Joe W. Mason, Thebes

Blend Master 14 speed Blender  
Electric Laboratories & Sales  
Triple T Farms, Cobden

Stihl Chain for your saw & IBEW Cap  
John McCarver's Repair Service & IBEW  
Harley McCrite, Jr., Olive Branch

Spalding Backyard Game Center  
Dil Field Electric  
Jasson D. Reichert, Ullin

1 oz. Year 2000 Silver Eagle Coin  
Anna National Bank  
K. Darryl Anderson, Karnak

Marion Kay Spices  
Brownstown Electric  
Donald E. Masterson, Olive Branch

Woods Power Caddy w/25' ext. cord  
Oil Field Electric  
Ricky George, Dongola

Golf Umbrella & Drink containers  
First Cellular  
Kenneth W. Capps, Karnak

Realtree Camo Winter Jacket  
Graybar Supply co.  
Kenny Corzine, Dongola

1 Free Rental on 3x10 safety deposit box  
Anna National Bank  
Kenneth R. Anderson, Karnak

Antique Finish Desk Lamp  
Oil Field Electric  
Troy Wymer, Brookport

Collapsible Cooler & IBEW Cap  
Graybar Supply Co. & IBEW  
Charles T. Davis, Vienna

Decoral 14X1 4 Wall Album  
SIEC  
John L. McCarver, Buncombe

1 oz Year 2000 Silver Eagle Coin  
Anna National Bank  
Hall Church, Buncombe

Rival Dval Crock Pot & Slow Cooker  
United Utility Supply  
Vanessa Irene Stewart, Dongola

Natural Fountain Rippling Light  
Oil Field Electric  
David Lee Nave, Anna

Home Trends Decorative Clock  
Middleton Heating & Cooling  
W. R. Stokes, Pulaski

\$20 Gift Cert. Outback Steakhouse-Paducah  
Telephone Answering Service  
David C. Hironimus, Tamms

Benz-O-Matic Solid Brass Torch Kit  
Oil Field Electric

First Baptist Church, Olmsted

1 oz Year 2000 Silver Eagle Coin  
Anna National Bank  
Donald L. Shipley, Anna

Golf Umbrella & Drink Containers  
First Cellular  
Wilma Altenberger, Metropolis

Gift Cert. For one Cholesterol Screening  
Union County Hospital  
Curtis Bogan, Tamms

1 Yr. Sub. Gazette Democrat & IBEW Cap  
Gazette Democrat & IBEW  
John Hoehner, Dongola

Body Basics Sound Spa  
Dil Field Electric  
John L. McCarver, Buncombe

Free Oil Change for Auto or Pickup  
Ullin Auto Body  
Jordan Farm, Inc., Tamms

\$25 Gift Cert. at Southern Rentals  
Southern Rentals  
Collin G. Boyd, Anna

Black & Decker Cordless, Screwdriver  
Oil Field Electric  
Bruce W. Neill, Sr., Karnak

1 oz Year 2000 Silver Eagle Coin  
Anna National Bank  
Ira Dugan Tdpp, Cobden

Portable Wet/Dry Shop Vac  
Oil Field Electric  
Josh K. Reagor, Karnak

St. Pierre Horseshoes Set  
Edmonds Electric  
Paul Reed, Karnak

Proctor Silex Clothes & Fabric Steamer  
Oil Field Electric  
Gustava Lawrence, Tamms

Ozark Trail Folding Table  
Milsoft Integrated Systems  
Cheekwood, Inc., Ullin

Handi-Works Arts & Crafts Tool Kit  
Oil Field Electric  
Annie H. Mellein, Olmsted

Black & Decker 4 Slice Toaster  
SIEC  
Dorothy P. Roberts, Tamms

Arrow Staple & Nail Gun  
Oil Field Electric  
Danny K. Reagor, Karnak

RCA Cable TV & Satellite Surge Protector  
Oil Field Electric  
Orville J. Kovach, Karnak

Canon Mini Desktop Printing Calculator  
Kerber, Eck & Braeckel  
Geraldine Logan, Olmsted

Zenith Dual Alarm Clock Radio  
Oil Field Electric  
Katherine Pillow, Tamms

Hamilton Beach Carve'n Set Electric Knife  
Oil Field Electric

Rocky Joe Sickling, Ullin

Black & Decker Scumbuster Kit  
Milsoft Integrated Systems  
Dale & Amy Kerr, Villa Ridge

Igloo Collapse & Cool Cooler  
Daffron & Associates  
Ralph David Blaney, Tamms

Black Pierced Shade CD Table Lamp  
Oil Field Electric  
Reagor Rentals, Metropolis

Weber Smokey Joe Charcoal Grill  
Stiles Office Products  
Ken Baker, Makanda

Manchester Dil Lamp  
Oil Field Electric  
Michael Harvell, Sr., Tamms

Piano 20" Tool Box  
SIEC  
Donald E. Masterson, Olive Branch

Health-D-Meter Digital Scale  
Oil Field Electric  
R. Edwin Eddleman, Anna

Hobbs Halogen Portable Work Lamp  
Drake-Scruggs  
Mike D. Jordan, Ullin

Presto 6 qt Electric Kitchen Kettle  
Oil Field Electric  
Henry Tripp, Jr., Dongola

Brita Water Filtration Pitcher  
Daffron & Associates  
Donald W. Hammon, Buncombe

Woods 100" 14 Ga. Extension Cord  
Dil Field Electric  
Donald Jordan, Tamms

Magic Chef Toaster Oven & Broiler  
Diversified Electric  
Glenna Winstead, Cobden

Black & Decker Cordless Drill  
Oil Field Electric  
Dessie B. Witzman, Olmsted

\$20 Gift Cert. Outback Steakhouse-Paducah  
Telephone Answering Service  
Methodist Church, Karnak

Asst. of Shotgun & Rifle Shells  
Southern Way Gun Shop  
Alice M. Larrison, Belknap

Black & Decker Versa Brew 12 C  
Coffemaker  
Oil Field Electric  
Thelma's Beauty Box, Tamms

## Grand Prize Winner

Char-Broil Patio Bistro  
Electric Grill  
Southern Illinois Electric  
Cooperative

Kenneth Anderson, Karnak

## Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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# JAMMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy Partner 

## *Fisher receives director certification*

**S**IEC director C. Larry Fisher of Karnak received the Board Leadership certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) on September 20.

Fisher was recognized at NRECA's Region V meeting in Springfield for his commitment to education and attainment of the certificate before an audience of more than 1,000 electric cooperative officials from three states, including Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois.

Today's electric utility environment imposes new demands on electric cooperative directors, particularly increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a working knowledge of the cooperative principles. SIEC has a commitment to work through NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative consumer-owners.

The NRECA Board Leadership certificate recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a Credentialed Cooperative Director. Directors who have attained the Board Leadership certificate have completed 10 credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses.

The NRECA Region V meeting is the second in a series of seven 2000 regional meetings convened by the organization. The regional meetings continue the association's grassroots policymaking process, which begins at the local co-op level and culminates at NRECA's Annual Meeting, to be held in St. Louis, Mo., in March 2001.

NRECA represents the nation's more than 900 consumer-owned elec-



*SIEC director C. Larry Fisher of Karnak, right, received the Board Leadership certificate at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Region V Meeting on September 20. He received the award for his commitment to education. Presenting the award is NRECA Chief Executive Officer, Glenn English.*

tric cooperatives, which provide electric service to more than 34 million people in 46 states. **Howard Davis**

## *Students encouraged to apply for 2001 IEC Memorial Scholarships*



**L**arry Lovell, manager of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, has announced that for the sixth consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award \$1,000 academic scholarships to high school seniors. The three scholarships are being awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

High school seniors pursuing a college education in the state of Illinois are eligible to participate in the program.

Two of the three scholarships will be awarded to the child of an electric cooperative member. The other \$1,000 award will go to the child of an electric cooperative director or employee. Deadline for applications to be returned to the cooperative is January 1, 2001.

"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts," said Lovell. "SIEC and the other Illinois electric cooperatives want to make a difference in their communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by lending a

hand to our youth."

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay which demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

The IEC Memorial Scholarship program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. For further information on the IEC Memorial Scholarship Program, contact SIEC at (618) 827-3555 or (800) 762-1400. **Jerry W. Gillette**

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Cooperative**

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Dongola office



## One Vote Makes A Difference!

Your one, single vote can and does make a difference! Just consider how one vote in the following years could have changed the course of American history:

**1800** - One vote elected Thomas Jefferson as President.

**1824** - John Quincy Adams was elected as President by the U.S. House of Representatives over Andrew Jackson when one representative from New York changed his vote. The election had been thrown into Congress because no candidate received a majority of votes in the Electoral College.

**1845** - Texas became the 28th state in the Union by one vote.

**1868** - One vote saved President Andrew

Johnson from conviction and removal from office.

**1911** - An average of only one vote per precinct passed women's suffrage in California.

**1912** - Less than one vote per precinct, in one state, elected Woodrow Wilson as President.

**1948** - Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th President of the United States, became a U.S. Senator by a margin of one vote.

**1968** - A change of one vote per precinct in three states would have made Hubert Humphrey President instead of Richard Nixon.

*Source: Texas Secretary of State, Elections Division, TexasVoterGuide.com*

## Think Before You Caulk

There's no doubt about it. An inexpensive tube of silicone caulk can help you save a lot of energy by sealing small spaces where air can leak into and out of your home.

But before you apply caulk around openings where electrical, cable TV, gas or telephone lines enter your house, consider whether you may need access to that line again. For instance, are you likely to install another telephone line in the future? If so, expanding caulk can make the job a lot harder.

One easy, and removable, option is simply to stuff some fiberglass insulation into the gap around the lines. It's easily removed when you need access to the

lines, and it will do a good job of blocking drafts.

This doesn't mean you should put up the caulk! It does a great job of sealing those sneaky little spots that let cold or hot air penetrate into your conditioned space, such as around window and door frames and exterior electrical outlets and faucets. Just take a moment to think first before you decide whether to caulk or insulate.

**Source:** Excerpted with permission from Rocky Mountain Institute's book "The Energy Efficient Home: Saving Energy, Money, and the Environment." For more information about RMI and its publications, visit their website or contact them at orders@rmi.org; HouseNet, Inc.

# OFFICE CLOSING



Your cooperative office will be closed on Friday, Nov. 10, 2000 in honor of **Veteran's Day**.

The Cooperative office will also be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24 to observe the **Thanksgiving Holiday** with family and friends.





# Don't let carbon monoxide sneak up on you this winter!

It has been said that the chief cause of problems is solutions — those things we do to solve one problem lead to another. That is true of the

steps we've taken over the years to combat the energy crunch.

Years ago, when coal, oil or propane heated most homes, and when those fuels were inexpensive, it was easy to keep a house warm. If we felt chilly, we just built a bigger fire.

Houses were built with little thought to air infiltration, because it didn't matter much. Then energy costs rose dramatically. There were families whose energy bills matched or exceeded their mortgage payments, and it became necessary to find a remedy to that problem.

One solution was to snug up houses. We did that by adding insulation, weather-stripping, by caulking in places where different kinds of material joined.

People who built new homes were encouraged to "build tight," and that helped with heating and cooling. But it brought problems, too. Those old drafty houses had one advantage: any carbon monoxide generated by the cook stove and/or furnace went out through all those cracks, along with some of the heated air.

When we set out to tighten up our homes, we made it harder for the heat to escape and the carbon monoxide as well.

Carbon monoxide (CO), which is generated any time something burns, is particularly deadly because it is invisible and odorless. Many people save themselves from fire because they can smell smoke, or see it, or they can see flames. CO is a sneaky killer, and its effects can be cumulative. More than 250 people die each year in the U.S. because of CO, and some 10,000 seek medical help after being exposed to it.

Carbon monoxide is more of a problem in winter than in summer, because furnaces use a lot of fuel, and the more fuel that's burned, the more CO that's generated. And we're much less likely to have a window or door slightly ajar, as we are in the summer. Then there's

always the temptation to warm up the car while it's in the garage. Never do that!

In addition to furnaces and cook stoves, other sources of CO can be wood-burning stoves, fossil-fueled water heaters and clothes dryers. Barbecue grills, kerosene stoves and camping heaters, which are sometimes used by people desperate for warmth, are especially hazardous.

People subjected to low levels of CO experience nausea, dizziness, vomiting, headaches, confusion and fatigue, while high-level exposure results in diarrhea, impaired vision, abdominal pain, convulsions and coma. If they don't get away from the CO, death will result.

Low-level CO poisoning is often confused for flu, partly because both tend to be most prevalent during winter.

The elderly, the very young and the sick are the first to suffer the effects of CO poisoning, and in pregnant women, the fetus is the first to be affected.

There are several things you can do to protect yourself. Probably the first line of defense should be to make a point of having any fossil-fueled appliance checked by a professional serviceman every year, preferably at the beginning of the heating season. Obviously, you should seek help immediately any time you smell gas.

Another wise step is to buy and use a CO detector. For years, safety experts urged people to put smoke detectors in their homes and to keep their batteries up to date. That campaign has saved many lives and prevented a lot of property damage.

CO detectors can do the same. While they're not as cheap as smoke detectors, the prices of CO protection are coming down. Now's the time to go to your home supply store and buy a CO detector.

There are different kinds, and part of the difference is in how the unit is powered. Some plug into a wall outlet, while others use batteries. Some have a digital display that shows the CO level in the air, while others sound an alarm when the CO level reaches a certain point.

Your friends at SIEC hope you'll help make the winter season safer by investing in a CO detector.

**Brian K. Johnson**

# WEATHERIZE TODAY & SAVE TOMORROW



**O**ld Man Winter's wrath is nearly upon us, but it's not too late to protect your home against his icy winds and driving snow. A few simple tips can help lower your energy consumption and heating bills.

No matter if you're buying a new home or wanting to reduce energy use in an existing one, proper home weatherization can pay big dividends for the few dollars spent.

Weatherization means installing proper insulation, caulking around doors and windows, adding weather-stripping, installing storm doors and windows and setting back the thermostat.

For more information about weatherizing your home, contact Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative.



## *Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative*

7420 U.S. Highway 51 South • P.O. Box 100 • Dongola, Illinois 62926  
(618) 827-3555 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.  
Web address: [www.siec.org](http://www.siec.org)

## *Membership prize*


In this month's issue of the JAMUP, we have printed the names of three members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit towards their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section, and it's not part of the story, call us at the cooperative and tell us your account number and we will apply \$10 toward your next SIEC utility bill.

To claim your prize, call us at (800) 762-1400, ask for Cathy.



# JAMMU

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy Partner 



*Wishing you a joyous holiday season and  
a New Year filled with peace and happiness*

*from the directors and employees of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative*

Larry Lovell,  
*General Manager*  
Dale Faughn  
Larry Fisher  
Robert Inman  
Carole J. Kelley  
Richard D. Moss  
Barbara Pitts  
Raymond Snell  
Dale E. Taake  
Scott L. Ury

Dennis Abercrombie  
Roger Acuff  
Cindy Aden  
Dare Aden  
Cathleen Belcher  
Chris L. Bennett  
Pamela Bierstedt  
Chris Boyd  
Sam Brown  
Barry Clark  
Enloe Clemons

Perry Dailey  
Ted Earnhart  
Bob Fisher  
Terry Grissom  
Dale Guetersloh  
John Harris  
Leslie Harvel  
Steve Hoffman  
Blayne Holshouser  
Charles Holtzclaw  
Lamar Houston, Jr.

Larry J. Keller  
Linda Keller  
Thomas Keller  
Pam Lentz  
Larry Lingle  
Michael Logeman  
Donald Martin  
Loraine McGee  
Ron Medlin  
LaRue Parr  
Robin Ramage

John Rendleman  
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Gary Roach  
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Stanley Treat  
Michael Williams  
Cortney Woodson

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**Southern Illinois  
Electric  
Cooperative**

www.siec.org

618-827-3555  
P.O. Box 100  
Dongola, IL 62926

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**Larry Fisher**  
*Massac County*

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**Barbara Pitts**  
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**G. Robert Inman**

*Pulaski County*

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*Alexander County*

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*Massac County*

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*Attorney*

**Ronald E. Osman**

*Editor*

**Cathleen Belcher**

*Office Manager*

**Chris L. Bennett**

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.,

Monday through

Saturday

Call Toll Free

(from Southern Illinois)

1-800-762-1400

or Call Dongola Office

618-827-3555

*Calls After Hours Should  
Only Concern Outages or  
Emergencies*

After 4:00 p.m.

through 8:00 a.m.

and Sundays and Holidays

1-800-762-1400

Dongola office

618-827-3555

Dongola office



**S**outhern Illinois Electric Cooperative, along with the other five member cooperatives of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, have been looking into providing services other than an electric energy supply that would be of value to our members. We believe that we can furnish these additional services more efficiently on a joint basis and in order to accomplish that objective, we have formed Southern Services, LLC, a limited liability corporation. We may be contacting you from time to time, under the Southern Services name, to offer you a service and we hope that over time you will automatically associate that company with this cooperative.

The first service we are offering you under the Southern Services name is long distance telephone service. We have had discussions with several long distance phone service suppliers and have entered into an agreement with PowerNet Global Communications to provide long distance phone service in our area. We believe the rates we are offering are some of the lowest available and we invite you to make a comparison between what you are paying now and what we have to offer.

We are offering in-state long distance at 4.9 cents a minute and out-of-state long distance at 6.9 cents a minute. There are no other charges, such as a flat monthly service charge, no minimums, and no contracts. You pay only for the time you were on the telephone and the calls are billed on six-second increments, with an eighteen-second minimum. These rates apply twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. There are no codes to dial.

We are also offering personal 800 numbers at the same low rates. Thus, if you have a son or daughter at school in another state, they can call the 800 number and the charges will be put on your phone bill. Incoming calls from out-of-state are billed at the 6.9 cent rate and in-state calls are billed at the 4.9 cent rate. Again, there are no monthly fixed charges, no minimums, and no contracts. You pay only for the time used.

Another service we are offering is calling cards at a flat rate of 13.9 cents per minute. There are no other service charges, so if you are away from home and need to make a credit card call, you just pay the

13.9 cent rate for the time you were on the phone. Surcharges on a credit card call can amount to more than the actual call, so this is a good deal at a good rate.

The plan uses QWEST as its carrier and billing is provided by PowerNet Global, with a separate bill provided for all long distance service.

If you sign up for the service, please do not contact your current long distance carrier and request a switch. PowerNet Global will make that contact for you. If you call for a switch and a switch is made before PowerNet Global is ready on its end, you can be put in an undesignated class and the rates could be much higher than what we have quoted. So, other than sending in the application, don't do anything unless told to do so by PowerNet Global. If you have a current 800 number and want to transfer that number to PowerNet Global, that can be done also.

We will not be calling your home to solicit long distance phone service business. Our contact will be through this magazine, possibly newspaper ads, and direct mailings. The only call you might receive is if PowerNet Global is unable to read your handwriting or if something is missing on the application. Please be aware that PowerNet Global will do a credit check and an application may be turned down because of a poor credit rating or no credit rating. If you are someone who has never used a credit card and have never established credit, your application may be turned down. Hopefully, we can work around that situation and you may need to call PowerNet Global if that happens to you.

You do not have to be a member of this cooperative to subscribe to this service and it is also available to businesses. We are going to market this service throughout southern Illinois, so if you have a family member or friend living in another utility's service area, please feel free to make a copy of the application and give it to them. The rates we have quoted are only good for the state of Illinois. We do have members who receive this magazine and live in other states and we are sorry, but we cannot offer these rates to them. Rates vary by states and fortunately for most of our members, Illinois has one of the lower rates.

An application form for the service is included in this issue of the JAMUP. For additional information or to enroll by phone, you may call Toll Free at 1-866-266-7531.

*Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative*

*Through*

# **Southern Services, LLC**

*is now offering*

## **Business and Residential Long Distance Phone Service**

Billed by PowerNet Global Communications

Utilizing the Quest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4<sup>th</sup> largest carrier)

**FREE**

**Personal  
800 NUMBER  
No Fees  
Same low rate**

**4.9 cents      6.9 cents**

All calls in Illinois

All calls out of state

**24 hours a day – 7 days a week – no codes to dial**

- Free to join – No monthly fees – No monthly minimum
- No term agreements – Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9 cents – 6.9 cents per minute – no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9 cents per minute (No surcharge)
- 6 second increment billing (18 second minimum)

Low overseas rates. Call the United Kingdom for just 12 cents per minute.  
(Rates may vary from country to country) No fees or service charge.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with Southern Services, LLC, is offering long distance telephone service through PowerNet Global Communications. This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available. You can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low 4.9 cents per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for 6.9 cents per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day-7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements.

**For additional information or to enroll by phone call toll free: 1-866-266-7531  
Mail application to: Southern Services, LLC, P.O. Box 1478, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864  
Applications may be faxed toll free to 1-866-326-6753**

**DETACH HERE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_

Other Services Desired:  Toll Free 800 Number  Calling Cards...Number of cards requested \_\_\_\_\_

\*If 800 service is desired, enter the telephone number it should ring to (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_  
(existing 800 numbers may be transferred to this service...applicable forms are available upon request)

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator/agent, Southern Services, LLC, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative.

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## SouthWater Update

by Chris Boyd, Staff Assistant

**S**outhern Illinois Electric Cooperative first started the SouthWater regional water system in December of 1994. The purpose of this organization is to serve safe, potable water to all economically feasible unserved rural areas and existing water districts or communities.

**Donald Lynn**

In the beginning, the total project cost was estimated to be over \$20 million. The funding agencies informed us that it would be impossible to secure funds for such a large project at one time. They suggested that we build the project in phases, over a period of several years.

Phase I of SouthWater was completed in October of 1998. Part of Phase I included construction of an efficient, state-of-the-art water treatment plant near Tamms, Illinois. This treatment facility uses raw water pumped from a natural aquifer. Two wells that have a capacity to generate 1600 gallons a minute extract the water from the aquifer. It is then treated by a facility which could produce over 2

million gallons of potable water per day. In addition to the water treatment facility, SouthWater installed almost 60 miles of water main. Funding for Phase I was provided by the USDA Rural Development in the form of over \$4 million in grants and \$3.7 million in long-term loans. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs also committed \$2 million dollars to Phase I of the project.

Phase II was completed in August, 1999. This phase consisted of another 40 miles of water main. Funding for Phase II was provided by the USDA Rural Development in the form of over \$450,000 in grants and a \$608,000 long-term loan. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs also committed \$1.1 million dollars to Phase II of the project.

**David Beasley**

Phase III funding has been secured and will consist of another 25 miles of water main. This phase will serve the town of Perks, along Lufkin road west of Mounds, and rural areas

from Tamms to Ullin. Construction of Phase III should begin in early 2001.

As of today, SouthWater currently has constructed approximately 100 miles of water mains. These water mains serve 476 retail users in Alexander, Pulaski, and Union counties as well as six wholesale users. The City of Mounds, Village of Dongola, Village of Pulaski, Village of Ullin, the Central Alexander County Public Water District, and the McClure-East Cape Girardeau Public Water District are the six wholesale users.

The need for safe, potable water is much greater than expected. We will continue to pursue the funding necessary to serve all economically feasible areas. It will take time to acquire funding and construct the many miles of water main necessary to complete the project. If you have any questions concerning SouthWater, please feel free to contact us at the office of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative.

**Danny Schneider**

# Office closing

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, December 25 in observance of Christmas.

The office will also be closed Monday, January 1 for the New Year's Day holiday.



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