

JAMMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

♥ *Every Member Has A Story* ♥

Raymond and Ann Snell



On a cold and rainy winter day, Raymond and Ann Snell are eating lunch at Kozy Korner in Olive Branch, reminiscing on the years that have passed.

Ann remembers going to high school with Raymond in Thebes. Shortly after she graduated, she and her mother ran the Kozy Korner, and that is where her romance with Raymond began.

Raymond, “a handsome young man with beautiful eyes” worked for Don Stewart in Olive Branch pumping gas and repairing tires back in the 1960s. He and Ann started dating in 1964 when he would stop in for lunch at the Kozy Korner. Ann remembers Raymond being so proud of the 1964 Chevrolet Impala he purchased. This was where he asked Ann to marry him.

Raymond remembers driving on Fayeville Road, handing Ann a ring and saying, “You are going to marry me, aren’t you?”

Ann quickly said, “Yes I am!” They were married in 1965 and Raymond worked the next day, all day, on their driveway. Ann said she should have known then she was in trouble—married to such a hard worker! Raymond was an avid raccoon hunter as well. He would go into the woods around 7 p.m. and not get home until sometimes 3 a.m., then go into work at 5 a.m.

William Douglas Franklin

Raymond began running Stewart’s station in 1970. He then purchased the station in 1975. Business was booming for the newly named, Snell’s Tire Service. Raymond employed several people over the years, but had only one full-time employee, Ed Miller. Ann would help, running errands and cleaning the office, although Raymond didn’t like this because he couldn’t find anything after she cleaned!

Business really grew for Raymond through the years. He would go out in the farmers’ fields, repairing tractor tires and had customers in neighboring counties, including Pulaski and Union. He even traveled to Missouri and Kentucky repairing farm equipment.

Wanting to further help the people of Alexander County, Raymond began as a board member for Southern Illinois Elec-

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Electric Cooperative in the spring of 1978, elected by the membership at that year's annual meeting. He filled the vacancy left by Claude Stuart. Raymond recalls representing the co-op on the state board of directors, working with former President/CEO Tom Moore and current President/CEO Earl Struck. Although Raymond retired from Snell's Tire Service in 1995, he still proudly represents Alexander County on

the co-op's Board of Directors.

Personally, he enjoys watching wildlife on his farm in the country. He still likes the fact he can help the people of the community, and enjoys his memories of working with the co-op members, directors, and employees over the years. If you see Raymond Snell, you will still find a handsome man with beautiful eyes, married to a remarkably sweet and strong lady who'll forever hold his heart.... Ann. **Juan Luis Lackey**



WELCOME TO
THE CO-OP
WORLD!



Drake Hileman, son of Bryan and Bree Hileman of Olive Branch was born October 12, 2004. He weighed 5 pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 inches long. Bree is SIEC's Records Specialist.

SIEC Employees Give for Josh

Josh Guetersloh, son of Dale and Lorrinda, and brother to Jacob Guetersloh of Metropolis, is four years old and diagnosed with a condition called microcephaly and cerebral palsy. Dale Guetersloh is SIEC's Journeyman Lineman for Massac County. Recently, Josh raised more than \$5,000 for the Telethon of Stars, which airs annually on WPSD TV 6. \$625 came from caring cooperative employees who have fallen in love with Josh.



Employees Robin Ramage from Metropolis and John Rendleman of Jonesboro meet with Josh.

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Manager Larry Lovell • Editor Jerri Schaefer

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Membership prize

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

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Use Caution With Space Heaters and Supplemental Heating Equipment

Heating appliances leading culprit of home fires during cold weather

Falling temperatures and rising heating costs have many members looking at ways to lower home-heating bills. Safe Electricity urges extreme caution for those planning to use electric space heaters to help warm homes this winter.

Approximately one-third of all house fires nationwide occur during the cold, home-heating season of December, January, and February. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the major cause of these winter fires can be attributed to faulty and improper use and maintenance of supplemental heating equipment, such as space heaters.

"Portable heaters can help take the chill from areas of your home, but are very dangerous if used improperly," says Molly Hall, Safe Electricity Director. "Stay warm and safe, and give space heaters space – at least three feet from anything that can burn, including little fingers!"

Some cities have banned the use of many types of portable space heaters. Before purchasing or using any type of space heater, check with your local fire department to find out if it is legal in your community.

Safe Electricity offers the following precautions when using electric space heaters:

- Purchase only space heaters that have been safety tested and rated. Make sure the unit is equipped with automatic shut-off features and heating element guards. Read and follow all of the manufacturer's instructions for operation and care.
- Before use, check to make sure the heater is in good condition, and have all problems professionally repaired.
- Place heater out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, non-flammable floor surface-- NOT on carpets, furniture, or countertops.
- Remember to keep space heaters at least three feet from all flammable items such as draperies, blankets, and sofas.
- Do not overload circuits. Don't use extension cords or multiple plugs with a space heater, and make sure the unit is not plugged into the same circuit as other electric appliances.
- Never leave space heaters unattended. Turn off your space heater and unplug it before leaving the room or going to bed.

"Remember, never allow children or pets near an electric heater," warns Hall. "Accidental contact could result in serious shock or burns."

Many people also use electric blankets to keep warm during cold winter nights. Before plugging in electric blankets, check for any damage and inspect cord for frays,



"Remember, never allow children or pets near an electric heater," warns Hall. "Accidental contact could result in serious shock or burns."

cracks, or cuts. Electric blankets should not be tucked under the mattress and nothing should be placed on top of the blanket while it's in use, including comforters and bedspreads. Also, pets should never be allowed to sleep on the electric blanket. **Paul Pender**

Safe Electricity also reminds everyone to make sure smoke alarms in your home are installed and working properly.

For more electrical safety information, visit the SafeElectricity.org Web site. Safe Electricity is an electrical safety public awareness program created and supported by a coalition of several dozen organizations, including the University of Illinois, rural electric cooperatives and investor-owned electric utilities, and other entities dedicated to promoting electric safety.

LIQUID GOLD

You have the gift that keeps on giving — giving life.

Eight million Americans donate 14 million units of it every year. Four million patients need it. To give it, you must be at least 17 years of age, weigh 110 pounds, and be in good health. You can donate it every eight weeks, or 56 days. You can even donate it to yourself. What is it? Blood, of course.

Most donors give “whole blood,” which is separated into blood components such as red blood cells (RBCs), platelets, and plasma. Oxygen-carrying RBCs, used to treat anemia, can be refrigerated up to 42 days. Platelets, essential in blood-loss control and for the treatment of leukemia and other types of cancer, can be stored up to five days at room temperature. Plasma is stored frozen for up to one year and is used to control bleeding in patients, such as hemophiliacs, with low blood clotting factors. Quite simply, your 450-milliliter unit of blood can save numerous lives.

The American Association of Blood Banks (AABB), America’s Blood Centers (ABC), and the American Red Cross (ARC) have designated January as National Volunteer Blood Donor Month. “January was chosen because



LaRue Parr is one of many SIEC employees who give blood regularly. LaRue has given more than eight gallons of his blood.

it is always a difficult time for blood centers,” says Paul Hendricks, donor recruiter for the Central Illinois Community Blood Bank (CICBB). “It is right after the holidays and right in the middle of cold and flu season.” Though donation levels tend to fall during the holidays, demand for blood remains the same or even increases, according to the AABB.

“A lot of people think the Red Cross supplies blood to the hospitals, but they don’t. We [CICBB] are the only blood supplier for 19 central Illinois hospitals. We need almost 45,000 units of blood each year to keep up with the demand,” says Hendricks. Unfortunately, fewer than five percent of Americans who are eligible to give blood actually do.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is proud to employ several blood donors. One such donor is Oil Filled Equipment Lineman LaRue Parr. He says, “I give blood because it saves lives, does not cost, does not take a lot of time, and it is not painful. I give about every 60 days and over time, I’ve given eight gallons of blood.”

Remember that January is National Volunteer Blood Donor Month. Roll up your sleeves and go donate a pint. It only takes a few minutes of your time, and there is good chance that someday you’ll count on a blood donor to save your life too.

For more information about blood donation, call the Central Illinois Community Blood Bank at (217) 753-1530, or visit www.cicbb.justbusiness.net or www.aabb.org.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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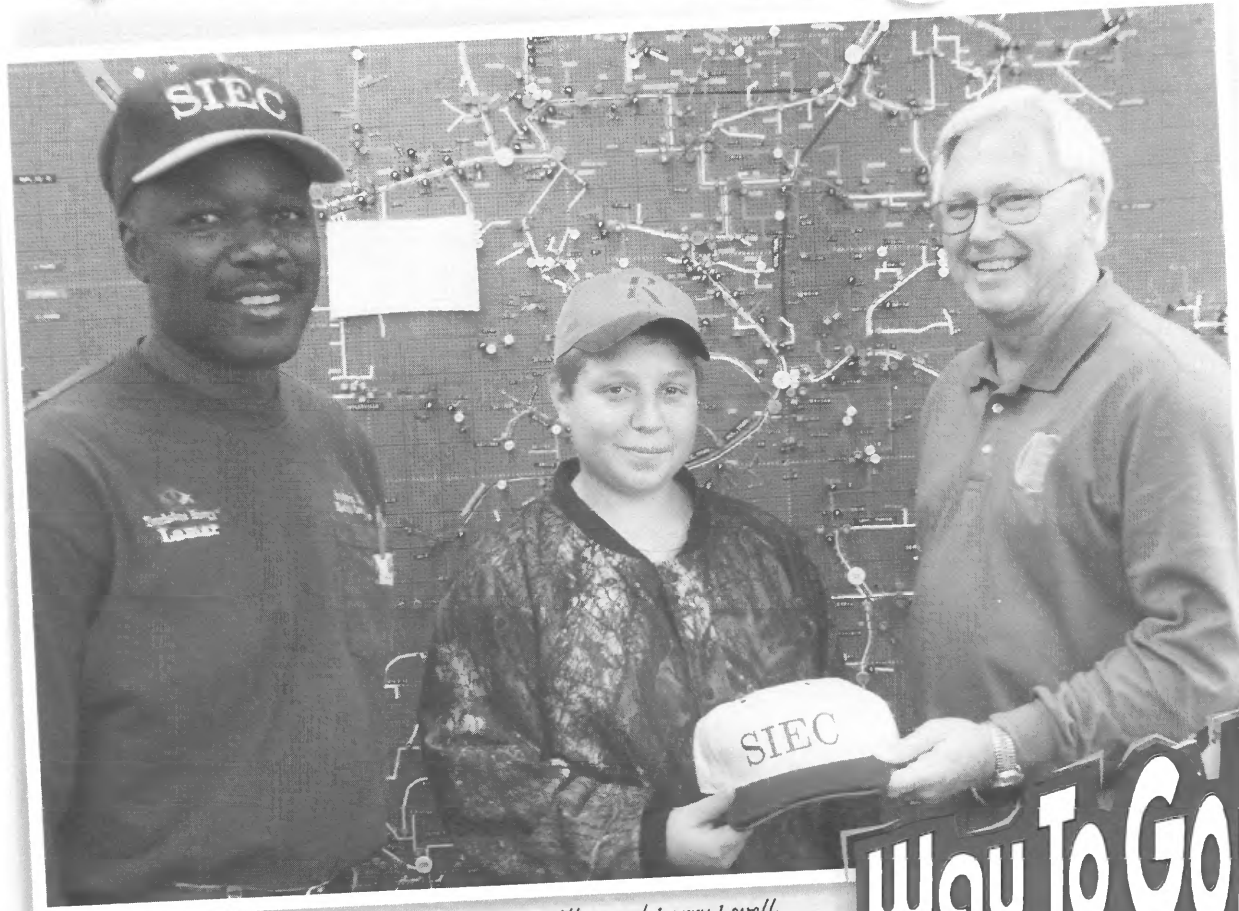
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Quick Action Recognized



From left are Lamar Houston, Ethan Miller, and Larry Lovell

Way To Go!

Ethan Miller was quail hunting recently in the woods behind his home and heard a loud popping noise. He looked up and saw a tree had fallen on a SIEC line. Smoke was rising from the contact and sparks were flying, so Ethan ran back to his house to call the cooperative.

Coincidentally, SIEC Serviceman Lamar Houston was driving by, so Ethan flagged him down and let him know of the situation he had encountered. **Mistee D. King**

Ethan led Lamar back into the woods to show him the damaged line. Ethan stayed with Lamar in case he

needed help because of the dangerous terrain. Lamar corrected the situation and brought Ethan back to the co-op, where he met SIEC's General Manager Larry Lovell.

Larry and Lamar gave Ethan a new cooperative hat and thanked him for his quick response and good judgement.



Good Samaritan ENERGY FUND

The Good Samaritan Energy Fund was established by the State of Illinois to assist low-income households in restoring electric or gas service. Donations received for the fund are used to alleviate utility bill arrearages for households qualifying for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Ninety percent of the contributions to the fund will be directed to low-income consumers who reside in the county from which the money is received. If you would like to assist less fortunate citizens in your community with their energy needs, make your check payable to **Good Samaritan Energy Fund** and mail to: Office of Energy Assistance, Attn: Good Samaritan Energy Fund, P.O. Box 19154, Springfield, IL 62794-9154

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Linemen Help Other Co-op Members During Thanksgiving



Some of our linemen weren't able to spend Thanksgiving with their families this year. Tom Keller of Tamm, Dale Guetersloh of Metropolis, and Dennis Abercrombie of Jonesboro traveled to MJM Electric Cooperative in Carlinville, IL to help those co-op members and their families enjoy a bright Thanksgiving. The co-op had a large amount of outages due to heavy snow and wind. Thanks guys!

Co-op Christmas Donation



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Director of Member Services Chris Boyd hands Teresa Goddard, Director of the Shawnee Crisis Pregnancy Center in Anna, a check for \$546 from the employees and directors of SIEC. The center was chosen by the co-op as its 2004 Christmas charity organization. **Phillip E. Phillippe**

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Employee/Director Anniversary

January

Lamar Houston	32 Years
Robin Ramage	16 Years
Mike Logeman	12 Years
Larry Fisher	10 Years

February

Roger D. Acuff	23 Years
Stanley J. Treat	16 Years
Cortney Woodson	5 Years

Happy Anniversary SIEC Employees and Directors!
Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

WELCOME TO THE CO-OP WORLD!

Timothy Levi Plott,
son of Allen and Becky
of Anna, was born
December 20, 2004, at
12:25 a.m. He weighed
6 pounds, 2.9 ounces,
and was 18-inches long.
Allen Plott is an Apprentice
Lineman at SIEC.



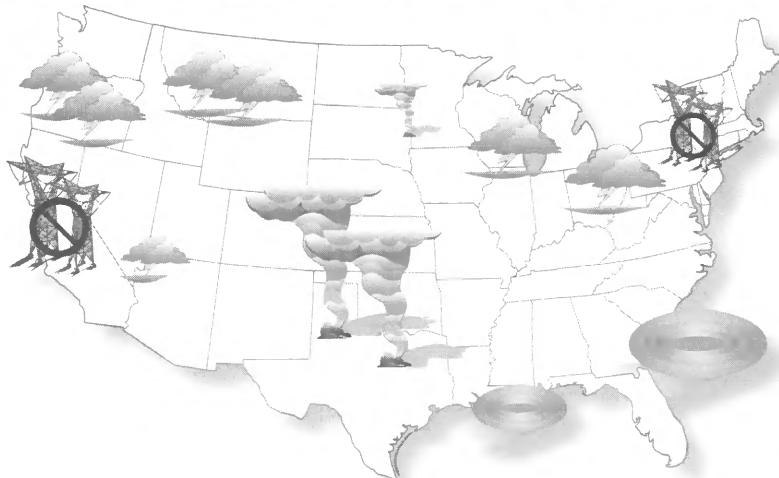
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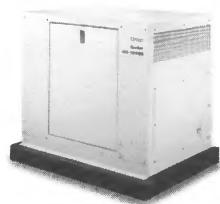
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Youth to Washington Deadline Approaching

Attention High School Juniors!

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative will again sponsor area juniors to Youth Day in Springfield on April 13, sponsored by the co-op and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Of the 11 students representing the co-op in April, two will be selected to go on an all-expense paid tour of Washington DC in June 2005.

Students do not have to be sons or daughters of SIEC members. We have opened this up to all juniors and will select one winner from each high school. Area guidance counselors will have the necessary information regarding this educational experience of a lifetime. **Billy Gene Isoline**

Youth To Springfield: The day's activities in Springfield will include touring the state capitol complex and visiting with legislators with other students from throughout the state.

Youth To Washington: The two local winners will join some 50 other Illinois students, sponsored by Illinois cooperatives, at Springfield on June 17. They will travel on charter buses to Washington DC and return to Springfield June 24. While in Washington, students will visit such attractions such as the White House, U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial, and many other national monuments and places of interest.

Ask your guidance counselor for details today!

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JANUARY

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Your Touchstone Energy Partner 



Larry Lovell
 Manager

What is Touchstone Energy all about?

Know you see the Touchstone Energy logo everywhere; on our signage, our shirts, our trucks, our substation signs and our stationery, but what is Touchstone Energy really and why should you care?

Touchstone Energy was created as a brand awareness program for electric cooperatives. It did not take over your co-op; it was simply added as an enhancement. Touchstone Energy's roots lie in the universal cooperative principle of cooperation among cooperatives. The Touchstone Energy alliance represents more than 600 cooperatives in 44 states that collectively deliver power and other services to more than 16 million members everyday. With deregulation of the utility industry taking place across the country co-op leaders saw a need to do a better job of explaining the co-op difference and benefits to new members and businesses.

Mike L. Jones

Co-ops were never good about telling their story...about how they provide superior service to their members, about how they are committed to the communities they serve and are there to provide solutions to members' problems. After all the mergers and changes in the investor-owned sector of the utility

industry, it is really nice to know that Touchstone Energy co-ops like ours are still committed to personal service. That human touch has been lost in too many companies. That's why the slogan you'll hear from Touchstone Energy co-ops is "The Power of Human Connections." Here the member is number one.

By combining the resources and clout of 600 other electric cooperatives Touchstone Energy cooperatives comprise one of the largest electric utilities in the country. That cooperative clout allows us to compete against large investor-owned utilities for ever-important electric loads that help to keep their rates competitive and bring new jobs to our communities.

Economic development is especially important in rural areas, where money to draw businesses is always tight. One of Touchstone Energy's primary initiatives is to increase economic development efforts. Together we have created a new Web site called SitesAcrossAmerica (www.sitesacrossamerica.com). It is a unique resource that provides a one-stop resource where site developers can view potential locations across the entire country where new businesses can take root.

During the past few years, Wal-Mart has hosted Touchstone

Energy cooperatives for two energy summits held at its corporate headquarters in Bentonville, Arkansas. Wal-Mart had never invited any utility to its headquarters before to discuss energy issues. And Wal-Mart would never have invited one small cooperative to its headquarters. But together, through Touchstone Energy, Wal-Mart has taken notice. And they like what they see in the co-op business model and the Touchstone Energy alliance. And, if Wal-Mart, the number one Fortune 500 Company, understands the importance of cooperatives, you can bet other corporations are taking notice too.

Each year, Touchstone Energy sponsors the New and Emerging Technology conference. There, corporate energy leaders and co-op leaders from around the country gather to discuss how Touchstone Energy co-ops can best meet their energy needs. Each year the number of companies represented grows. Energy leaders from these companies appreciate the personal relationships they've built with their co-op counterparts. These relationships will bring more manufacturing plants, retail outlets and restaurants to co-op territories. And that equates to more jobs and tax revenue to sup-

■ **Continued on 16b**



Touchstone Energy®

The power of human connections

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■ *Continued from 16a*

port our communities.

Touchstone Energy has also allowed us to bring programs like the Discovery Channel "Get Charged" energy education program to local schools. Our Child ID program was made possible through our Touchstone Energy alliance. And we are working on a new program called the "Cooperative Connections Card" that will bring discounts on products and services to our members. We hope to launch that program this year, so look for news on that in your co-op's newsletter. There are other benefits too numerous to mention here. For more information about it, log on to www.touchstoneenergy.coop.

Delivering the Touchstone Energy message to people across the country is a big task. We need to change the long and undeserved reputation that co-ops are just "rinky dink," small, rural energy providers. We need to spread the message that we're here to serve

anyone from our smallest rural farmers to the very largest corporations out there. We have the expertise and the resources to do it. And your co-op personnel stand behind the promise that makes them the most valuable link between the co-op and its members.

Repetition is the key to success with the program, so that's why you're seeing Touchstone Energy ads in your local newsletters, *Illinois Country Living* magazine and on radio and television. Co-ops have been around for more than 60 years, and the Touchstone Energy program has only been around for seven years. So, the next time you see the Touchstone Energy logo, please know that it's backed by co-op employees across the country and here at your local co-op. We're here to serve you and we're the power of human connections.

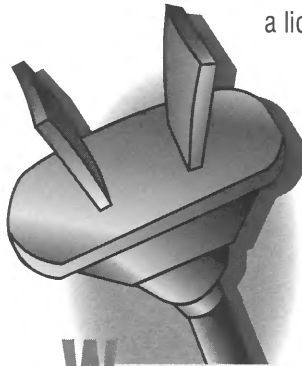
Please contact me at the co-op with any questions you might have.

Using Multiple Plug Adaptors Wisely

Approximately 150,000 fires are caused annually by electricity-related accidents, and the misuse of multiple plug adaptors is just one contributing factor to this grim statistic.

When homeowners need to plug more than two appliances into a standard duplex receptacle, using multiple plug adaptors is not a permanent solution because they are easy to overload. If a circuit breaker should fail to trip or the circuit breaker/fuse has a higher amp rating than the electric cable, a fire could start in the wall of the home. When functioning properly, fuses and circuit breakers operate as a safety valve or switch, disconnecting the wire before the insulation overheats to a dangerous point. However, when fuses blow or circuit breakers trip repeatedly due to the presence of a multiple plug adaptor, this could lead to other problems.

A safe alternative to using multiple plug adaptors as a permanent solution is to have



When homeowners need to plug more than two appliances into a standard duplex receptacle, using multiple plug adaptors is not a permanent solution because they are easy to overload.

a licensed electrician install more permanent duplex receptacles in the home. Receptacle outlets should be installed so that no point along the floor line in any wall space is more than six feet from an electrical outlet. An electrician should also check circuits to see if they have the capacity to carry the intended load. Large appliances, such as microwave ovens, could easily overload a circuit; so, the homeowner should consider installing an individual circuit designed specifically for that appliance.

Greg D. Dillow
Your home can be wired to handle any kind of load that you desire. However, the proper size wire, fuses, or breakers and number of circuits must be used to ensure adequate and safe use of electricity.

Remember: multiple plug adaptors are for temporary use only.

Source: Illinois Electric Council

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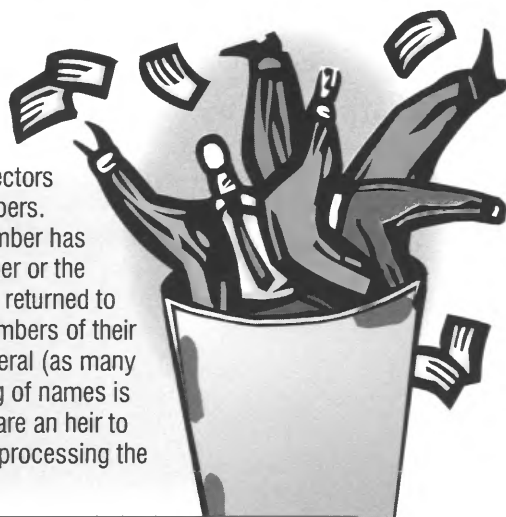
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Unclaimed Capital Credit Checks May Be Waiting For You

Over the past years, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors have declared, and the cooperative has paid, capital credits to its members. Unfortunately, many of checks for payment have returned because the member has moved or is deceased. If these capital credits are not claimed by the member or the personal representative of a deceased member, the capital is required to be returned to the cooperative in accordance with 765 ILCS 1025/4. In order to notify members of their right to the capital credits, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative will list several (as many as space will allow) names each month in this magazine. A complete listing of names is on the cooperative's Web site at www.siec.coop. If you see your name or are an heir to the person listed, please contact the cooperative and ask for Kelly to begin processing the capital credit payment.

Robert Matthew Chammess



Dorothy Roberts
 Roland Astin
 Beech Grove Church
 James Brimm
 Lillian Kaylor
 R. E Casper
 Rosena Clutts
 Ola Cruse
 Vera Dickey
 Henry Durham
 Donald Gene Fairfield
 Lowell Foster
 Francis Gillespie
 Cleta H. Gear
 Mrs. L H Hardy
 Louis Heflin
 Roy E Hileman
 A M Huddlestrum
 Lorn Johnson
 Earl Kaylor
 Milton E King
 Milburn Laird
 Ellena M Lingle
 Howard Lovell
 Perry E McDuffee
 Jack Matthews
 Ada A Miller
 Mt Hebron Miss Baptist
 Lowell Newton

Ruby C. Acklin
 Ed BakerCharles Barfield
 Fay Blackwell
 Leondas Brown
 Goldie Cain
 Mrs. Voss Christian
 Paul Comer
 Elijah Davis
 Floyd Dillow
 R. S. Eastwood
 J J Fassler
 Friendship Church
 Virgie Glaab
 J C Graham
 Madge Harris
 Dennis Helton
 Bon Hoffner
 Joe Jacobs
 Rex Jones
 Mattie Kelley
 Sandra S Koerner
 Vernon Lauderdale
 Rowena Lipe
 Truman Lynn
 Macedonia Baptist Church
 Fred Mayberry
 Missouri Pacific RR
 Levi Cecil Myers
 Tellus Nutty

Jesse Aldridge
 Albert Basler
 Ernest Bowles
 Sam E. Brown
 George Callis
 Church of God in Christ
 Loren Crader
 Wilburt Davis, Sr
 John A. Dodd
 Wilbur Emery
 Amy Fisher
 Irwin E Fuchs
 Hazel Goins
 Ella Mae Hampton
 Ernest Hartline
 Vera Hickam
 C A Hook
 Ameritech
 Eleanor Jordan
 Realis Kiestler
 Christy Krueger
 Arthur Lessar
 Charles D Livesay
 Carl E McClellan
 R E Mahan
 Willie Meinders
 Jerry Moore
 Paul Nance
 Oak Grove Church

Lester Altenberger
 Ruth Campbell
 Elizabeth Bremer
 Earnest Bunch
 Myrtle Carter
 Bertha Cline
 Jake Crim, Jr.
 Delta Church Plsant Valun
 Edwin C. Droge
 James Evers
 First Baptist Church, Olmsted
 Fred Garland
 Earl Goodman
 Ethel Hancock
 William R Hayden
 Sylvia Hicks
 Clarence Hoppe
 Buster Jennings
 John E Kaufman
 Thomas Kinder
 Charles Laffoon
 Cozette Lilly
 Ervin H Logeman
 Farrell McCrite
 Massac Coon Hunter Club
 Blanche Miles
 Paul Moreland
 New Bethel Miss Baptist
 Ohio Chapel Methodist

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Our members are the most important part of our electric cooperative.



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Call Today!
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Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's long distance program is like finding a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. With our long distance program you'll pay only **4.5¢*** per minute for all in-state calls, anytime, day or night. With all of these savings, you may be the luckiest person in the world! You will also receive:

-  Out-of-state long distance calls are only **4.9¢*** per minute
-  Personal toll-free number at no additional charge!
-  NO cost to join. NO monthly minimum. NO hidden charges.
-  E-Bill rates at just **4.5¢*** per minute (residential only)
-  You don't have to be a Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Member to join!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY SIEC employees

Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Sam Brown	34 Years
Loraine McGee	32 Years
Larry Joe Keller	21 Years
Stephanie Theis	8 Years



WELCOME TO THE CO-OP WORLD!

Nathan J. Kaufman, born January 5, 2005, at 6:30 a.m., weighed 9 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 21.5 inches long. He is the newest grandson of General Manager Larry Lovell and his wife Diane.



OFFICE CLOSING



We will be closed on **Friday, March 25** for Good Friday.

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Have You Been to the New Grand Chain Lodge?

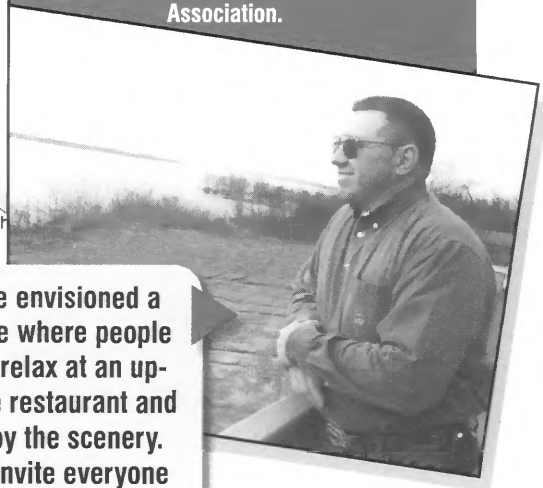
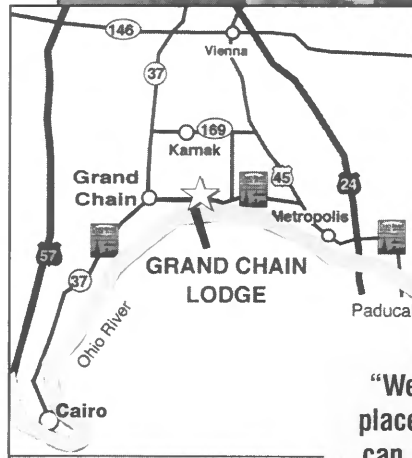
Sitting atop a high bluff on the widest bend of the Ohio River, there is a new lodge and campground in Pulaski County. It is the Grand Chain Lodge and Campground located four miles east of New Grand Chain on Tick Ridge Road. The lodge restaurant is open seven days a week and is already widely known for its weekend restaurant menu: Friday Seafood Buffet, Saturday Prime Rib Special and Sunday Chicken Buffet.

"Where hospitality meets fine dining at the river" definitely summarizes this facility accurately. The lodge offers a spacious 120-seat restaurant, 25 campground sites all with easy access to the boat ramp, free boat launching, and a country store that displays local crafters' wares and southern Illinois wines. It also features four unique lodge rooms, each with their own entrance and a river view with a deck, some with Jacuzzi tubs, and one with handicapped accommodations.

The Grand Chain Lodge and Campground opened December 6, 2004, and is owned by the Pulaski County Development Association, a not-for-profit organization. The association is made up of 17 board members whose goals are to provide new jobs in Pulaski County and promote tourism in southern Illinois. This group of board members is what makes the Grand Chain Lodge and Campground so unique. They placed great thought into the facility with high



Shown above are 11 of the 17 board members of the Pulaski County Development Association.



"We envisioned a place where people can relax at an upscale restaurant and enjoy the scenery. We invite everyone to come on down and enjoy it with us," says Robert Inman.

hopes of additional economic development for their county.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative provides electricity to the Grand Chain Lodge and Campground. One of SIEC's board members, Robert Inman, is

also a board member for the Pulaski

County Development Association.
Philip J. Harris

Blinking Lights

Are Actually Protection Against Outages



■ What Causes My Lights To Blink?

You have just come home from work and notice that all of the digital clocks in the house are blinking. Must have been a power outage sometime during the day, right? Possibly. But more than likely it was just a power "blink" and not an outage. A "blink" occurs when the power momentarily goes off for a couple of seconds, and then comes back on.

Overhead and underground electric lines are both susceptible to "blinks." Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative has a network of more than 2,100 miles of line. This network is divided into sections called distribution feeders. The feeders are protected by devices that interrupt the power when a problem, or "fault," occurs on the line.

The device will turn the power back on after a short period of time. If the fault is still present, the device will operate again, causing another "blink." If the fault clears the power stays on. If the fault is permanent the power goes out and stays out. The "blinks" that you see are operations of the protective devices.

Because most faults are temporary in nature, your lights just "blink" and come back on. The protective devices are designed to prevent outages when possible.

■ What Problems Occur On The Lines That Cause Blinks?

● Faults may be caused by several problems: Lightning

During storm seasons, electric lines are hit by lightning numerous times. Insulators, lightning arrestors, transformers, and other line equipment are exposed to high voltage surges caused by lightning strikes. Lightning puts an enormous amount of stress on this equipment. An example of a problem would be an insulator slightly damaged during a storm. The damage at the time of the strike would be small and the line would operate normally. A month or two later, regular operating stress may break down the insulator. The line then starts to "blink" occasionally.

● Tree Limbs

Tree limbs contact lines and cause "blinks." Southern Illinois is abundant with trees. It is difficult to find a cooperative distribution line that is not in close proximity to trees. The cooperative utilizes its own crews and hires contractors to maintain the right-of-way on its 2,100 miles of line. New pruning and spraying methods are being utilized to gain better control of the right-of-way. Because of the abundance of trees, work is often slow.

The cooperative appreciates members' patience when it comes to tree pruning/cutting requests. You can also do your part to help the cooperative most efficiently improve



service reliability:

(1) Do not plant trees within 30 feet of electric lines.

(2) When possible, allow cooperative crews to remove trees rather than just trim them, which is only a temporary measure. **Annabelle Parson**

(3) Please be patient. The cooperative has a program to maintain the right-of-way on your line.

● Animals

Animals cause problems, too. Squirrels, raccoons, snakes, and birds cause "blinks" on the system. Animals may come into contact with electric conductors and other equipment at the same time, causing a fault. Livestock that rub against guy wires can also cause problems. The cooperative uses some animal guard products to help prevent animals from causing "blinks."

● Ice and Wind

Electric conductors that have ice on them tend to "gallop" in the wind. Lines may flop together and cause "blinks." Fortunately, the cooperative does not experience this problem very often. Minimal ice build-up and hilly terrain discourage the "galloping" effect.

■ What If My Power Continues To Blink?

The cooperative realizes that "blinks" are a nuisance. If you are experiencing an extraordinary number of "blinks," please write down the dates and times and call us. Let us know if you see any flashes or arcing on the lines. We will do our best to try to find the problem as soon as possible. Because many problems are not obvious, it may take us a while to track down the cause. We have devices that can be put on the lines to help isolate the cause. With your patience and cooperation, we will eventually find and correct the problem.

■ Will Power Blinks Cause Damage To Appliances And Other Equipment?

As stated earlier, the operation of a protective device on electric lines causes "blinks." Some people refer to "blinks" as power surges, but unless lightning is involved, probably no surge occurs on the line.

When the power goes off and back on during a "blink," it is often just like turning your appliance or other piece of equipment off and on with its own switch. No damage to your equipment should occur.

If lightning is involved, a surge may occur and could cause damage. The cooperative installs lightning arrestors on its lines to minimize the effects of lightning; yet, lightning can still cause damage.

■ Continued on 16c

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■ *Continued from 16b*

■ What Can I Do In My Home To Lessen The Effects Of Blinks?

Members can do several things to help prevent annoyances due to power "blinks."

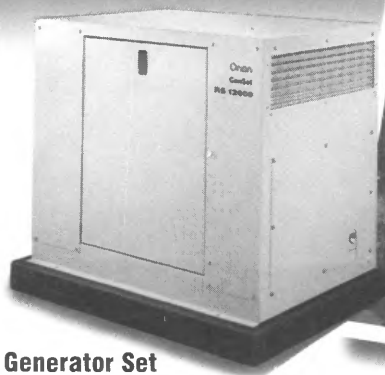
(1) Buy digital clocks and VCRs that have a battery backup. The battery will function through power "blinks" and you will not have to reset the time.

(2) Purchase an Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) for your computer. Nothing is more annoying than losing data on a computer because of a power "blink." A relatively inexpensive UPS will ride through the "blink," preventing data loss. A more sophisticated UPS can be bought that keeps

your computer up and running for several minutes after a permanent power outage, allowing you to save your data. (3) Safeguard solid-state equipment, computers, and household appliances by installing surge protectors. Nothing is available that will protect your home from a direct lightning strike, but small surges often can be prevented. Whole-house secondary surge protectors that prevent surges from coming into the home can be purchased from the cooperative. Sensitive equipment should also be protected independently. **Andrew M. Trader**

Cooperative personnel can answer your questions regarding any problems or concerns you may have involving power "blinks." Please give us a call!

LIFE GOES ON EVEN WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT.



11kW Generator Set



Emergency Standby Power For The Home

No matter why the power goes out, emergency standby power from Onan keeps the essentials up and running – automatically. Protect yourself and your property from power interruptions. To learn more about emergency standby power, contact us, your local certified Onan dealer.



Emergency Home Standby Power

www.onan.com



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Save your pennies for a rainy day.

Switch your long distance plan today.

Introducing a long distance savings plan that really works from Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. It's time to switch to a long distance plan that lets you call without worry of any monthly service fees or hidden charges. For a low 4.5¢* per minute you can call anywhere in the state of Illinois. There are no time of day restrictions or minimum usage charges. We also offer a low 4.9¢* per minute rate for all calls outside the state.

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Want to receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill?

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 Jerri.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY SIEC employees

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Bob Fisher	26 Years
Larry Lingle	26 Years
Terry Grissom	15 Years
Barry Clark	15 Years
Charlie Holtzclaw	14 Years
Blayne Holshouser	8 Years
Bree Hileman	2 Years
Jeff Cates	2 Years



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Manager Larry Lovell • Editor Jerri Schaefer

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An Easy Way To Pay

Visit www.siec.coop to learn how easy it can be to pay your bills online.




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JAMMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

SIEC Continues Annual Scholarship Donations

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) Board President Scott Ury of Anna says, "SIEC is committed to our area youth. One specific example of this is our scholarship program with Shawnee Community College (SCC), which promotes higher education." For several years, SIEC has been offering two \$500 scholarships through Shawnee Community College. This past school year, the recipients were Samantha Casey of Metropolis and Cathy Watson of Villa Ridge.

Thomas D. Horn

Samantha Casey of Metropolis graduated from Massac County High School in 2004 and is attending Shawnee College, taking classes to become a Legal Administrative Assistant. She is employed at the Sister's Shop in Metropolis. Samantha says the scholarship from SIEC definitely took some of the pressure off having to pay for books and tuition, and she is thankful the cooperative and its directors donate scholarships like this, which help students like her.



The requirements for the scholarships are:

- SIEC provides electrical service to home
- Entering freshmen
- Live in SCC district
- Rank in top 40 percent of graduating class
- Enrolled in an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Applied Science, or one-year Certificate Program.



Cathy Watson of Villa Ridge, graduated from Meridian High School in 2004. "SIEC's \$500 scholarship has helped me to take the classes to prepare me for SCC's nursing program and I would like to thank the Board of Directors at SIEC for their generous contribution," said Cathy.



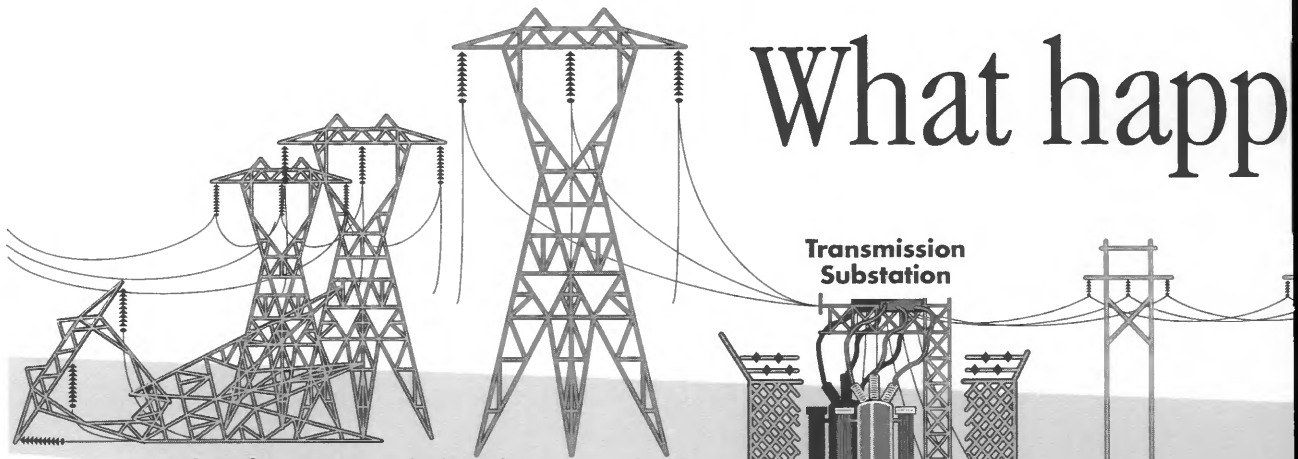
Welcome Newest Employee

SIEC is proud to introduce their newest employee, Apprentice Lineman Jeff Palmer. Jeff previously worked for Oil Field Electric. He graduated from Anna-Jonesboro High School and married Jodi and they have one son, Ethan. Jeff and his family attend St. John's Lutheran Church and he enjoys hunting in his spare time.

John R. McConnell

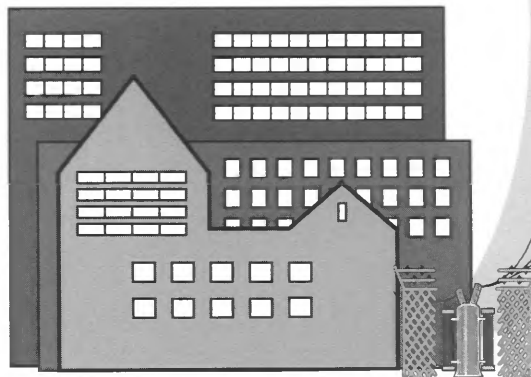
"I'm happy to be employed with Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative because it is close to home and a good place to work," said Jeff.

What happ



High-Voltage Transmission Lines

1. Transmission towers and lines that supply power to one or more transmission substations rarely fail. However, when damage does occur-usually due to high winds or ice buildup-these towers and lines must be repaired before other parts of the distribution system are inspected, because they serve thousands (or tens of thousands) of people.

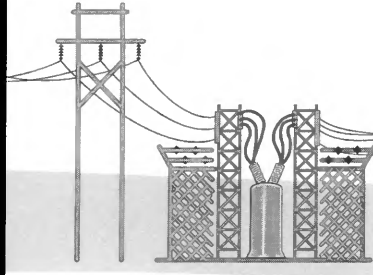


Large Industrial User

Restoring the power after a thunderstorm, tornado, ice storm or flood involves much more than just flipping a switch at a substation or pulling a tree off a downed power line. Highly trained workers from Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative and possibly crews from neighboring co-ops will work together around the clock to restore service in areas affected by severe weather.

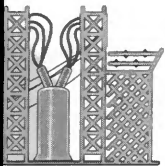
Shown here are the steps co-ops follow in restoring power. At each stage, the primary goal is getting the greatest number of co-op members back on line in the shortest time possible.

s during a power outage?



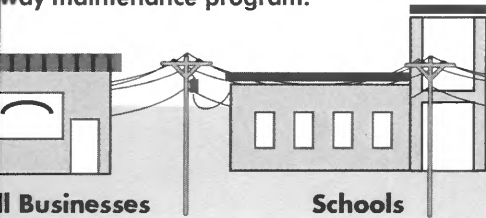
Local Distribution Substation

2. A co-op usually has several local distribution substations, each serving hundreds or thousands of co-op members. When a major outage takes place, these substations usually are checked first to see if the problem is in the transmission system to the substations or the substations themselves.



Distribution Substation

3. If the problem cannot be isolated at a local distribution substation, the next step is to check the distribution lines that carry power to groups of customers such as towns or housing developments. In Illinois, the largest cause of outages is fallen trees, which is why your co-op has an ongoing right-of-way maintenance program.



All Businesses

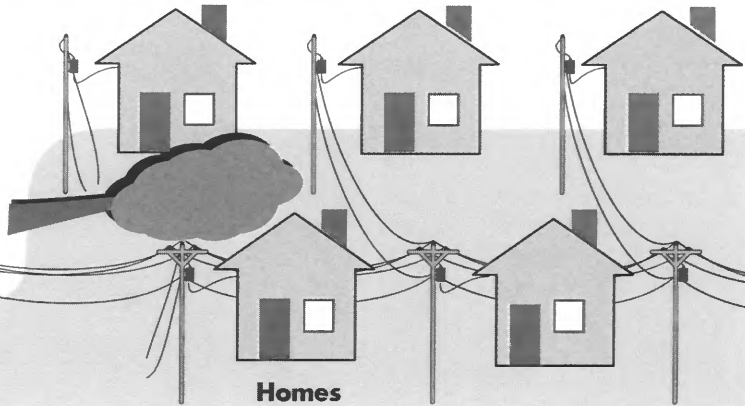
Schools

Homes

5. Finally, individual problems (for example, a service wire down to your home) are repaired. If you, or a family member, depend on life support call Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative and you can be placed on a special list to be notified in case of a planned outage.

Make sure you report any outage to your electric co-op. This will help line crews isolate the problem and repair it as soon as possible.

4. Then, line crews work on outages that are more localized by inspecting the final supply lines-called tap lines-that carry power to utility poles or underground transformers outside small businesses, schools and homes.



Farms

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Office Closing

**Our office will be closed Monday,
May 30, for Memorial Day.**



Karnak News

Sunday, May 1, 2005

Dover's Cafe 1 Year Anniversary Celebration

Starts at 9:00 a.m. - Free coffee, donuts and cake.

**If your town has a special event which you would like to promote, please send in your information to Jerri Schaefer, SIEC, P O Box 100, Dongola, IL 62926, or e-mail jschaefer@siec.coop and place "Calendar of Events" in the subject line. SIEC must have notification at least three months prior to event.*
Paul Don Rich

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
SIEC employees**

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

LaRue Parr 24 Years

Dennis Abercrombie 16 Years

John Rendleman 14 Years



Want to receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill?

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 Jerri.

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JANUARY

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy Partner 



Introducing Students to Local Government

Senators David Luechtefeld and Gary Forby and Representative Mike Bost met with 10 students representing Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives' Youth Day on Wednesday, April 13, in Springfield. While in the state capital, students had an opportunity to view state government in action, speak with Secretary of State Jesse

White, and tour the State Capitol, Lincoln's Tomb and the Illinois Supreme Court. First row from left are Kandi Pennington of McClure, Ellie Flamm of Cobden, Stephanie Winzenburger of Cobden, and Jenna Myers of Metropolis. Back row from left are chaperone Jerri Schaefer, Tim Hinkle of Dongola, Senator Luechtefeld, Erin Ragsdale of Karnak, Senator Forby, Segun Humble of Mound City, Sarah Panici of Dongola, Alex Dover of Grand Chain, chaperone Chris Boyd, Josh Billingsly of Goreville and Representative Bost. The day was sponsored by the Illinois electric and telephone co-ops and is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government.

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ANNOUNCING....

A Service You May Not Be Aware Of!

by Chris Bennett

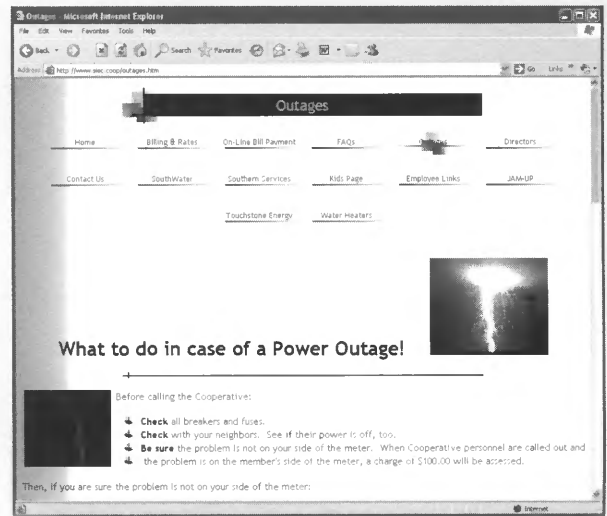
In early 2004, many of our members were randomly selected to participate in a survey about their electric cooperative, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. The survey consisted of 45 questions and covered many areas, including types of services offered by the cooperative, types of services our members would like to see offered, have members ever tried to contact the cooperative and did they have any difficulties in doing so. Our board of directors has reviewed the survey results and discussed them at a recent strategic planning session.

I would like to cover just one area of the survey and some of the questions and answers that resulted. One question asked was, "Where do you get information about your electric cooperative?" Of the 10 multiple-choice responses to choose from, the selected responses that were the largest were "electric cooperative publications," "friends and neighbors," and "personal contact with the cooperative office," respectively. The next question asked how satisfied you were with the information you did receive, and fortunately, 95 percent of all responses were "very satisfied" and "satisfied." My concern, however, is that information received from the Internet, which would include our Web site, was indicated as very low. If you have not done so already, please let me encourage you to access our Web site at www.siec.coop and see what you may be missing!



On our site, you will find the latest information available from the cooperative, including a complete copy of the JAMUP, a complete listing of our electric rates, an online bill payment page that includes the ability to check your 12-month billing history, an FAQ section, outage information,

a kids page, a link to information about SouthWater (a rural water supply system), a selection of favorite employee links, a complete listing of employees, and much more. Also included is a "sure-fire" way to contact us by e-mail at your convenience – you can even e-mail the general manager directly and be assured of a direct response.



Another question the survey asked was, "How often do you visit your electric cooperative's Internet Web site?" and unfortunately, only about 20 percent of respondents said they had accessed it at all. I wish I could say it was because we just don't have many people in our area using the Internet, but another question asked, "Do you presently use the Internet at home?" Almost 60 percent of those responding said they do use the Internet at home. We have not extensively advertised our Web site, but allowed "word of mouth" to spread the word as we, too, erroneously thought people in our area just didn't choose to use the Internet to conduct any kind of business, yet we just learned 60 percent of our sampled members do use it at home – and probably more use it in their working places.

A later question asked, "If your electric cooperative offered the following services via the Internet at no additional charge, would you use them?" Available multiple choice answers included reporting poor service, reporting needed tree trimming, request for connection/disconnection, request for account history/usage, general communication (e-mail), bill payment, membership application, and sign-up for programs. The largest response was for reporting the need for tree trimming, but a very close second was

requests for account history/usage, then reporting poor service, general communication, connect/disconnect information, and bill payment ability. **June Guthrie**

Believe it or not, our Web site offers you the ability to do every one of those items mentioned! Our online bill payment system has been available for three years and is growing monthly. Best of all, it costs no more than mailing your payment in, yet is much faster and you can verify your transaction the next business day.

Under the "Contact Us" tab is a listing of e-mail address by duties and also by staff positions and names. If you have a question about any of the cooperative's services, there's an e-mail address for outages, an address for billing questions or problems, new services via engineering, etc.

If you want to report something or just inquire about something, e-mail affords you the opportunity to do it at your convenience, yet almost assures you of an immediate response as its convenience works so well for us, also. Whenever I contact an organization by e-mail to ask

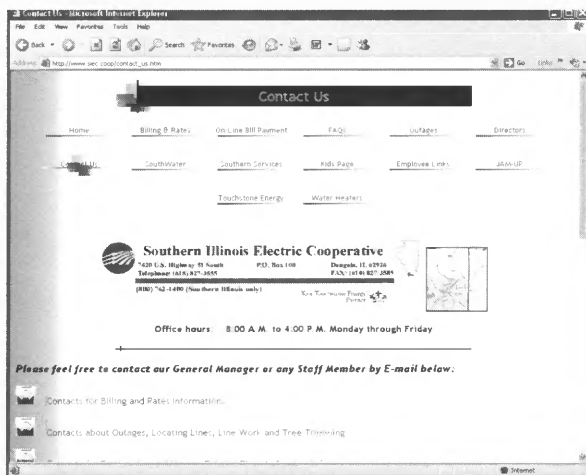
a question, it seems I always get a faster response!

One question asked that did have some responses that surprised me, however, was, "If your electric cooperative were to offer the following products or services, how interested would you be in obtaining them for your home, farm, or business?" Nearly 15 percent of the responses

said they would be interested in paying their bills electronically – one person even wrote in as an "other comment" that they would benefit from online payment of utility bills. So, as you can see, we haven't done a very good job of advertising our Internet services.

Please, check us out on the Internet at www.siec.coop and take the time to e-mail us your thoughts – tell us what

you like, don't like, what you would like to see added – tell us what you want in a Web site. A Web site is only useful if it helps you do what you accessed it for. We are your cooperative and we're here to serve you, our member-owners!



SIEC Now Offers



Marathon[®]

WATER HEATERS

You asked and we listened. After several requests, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative proudly offers the Marathon water heater.

Why Marathon?

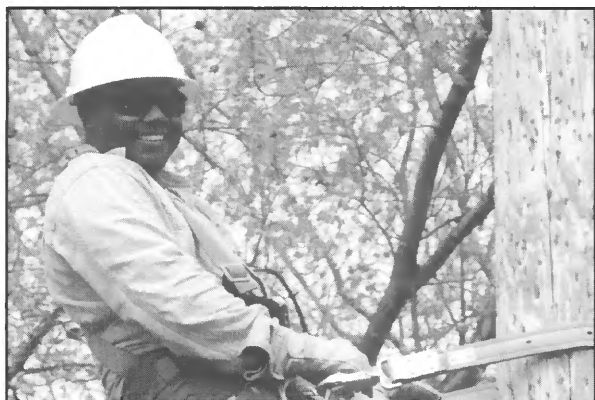
Because we believe, if you want your water heater to give you years of service, you must get one that will stand the test of time.

Marathon offers a life-time no-leak warranty, guaranteed to last you as long as you own your home. This will save you the future expense of buying a replacement heater and having it installed.

Because it has a plastic tank, the Marathon will not rust or corrode.

If you have any questions, please call our office at **1(800)762-1400** or visit our Web site for detailed information, www.siec.coop.

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School Days for Lineman

Courtney Woodson of Tamms, a temporary apprentice lineman with Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, was instructed on his climbing skills during an electrical lineman climbing school held April 11-22, 2005, at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. The school, which was hosted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, was part of a two-week-long training program that demonstrated electric pole climbing, electrical theory and safety techniques. **Mike Covell**



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Metropolis Superman Celebration June 9-11

www.metropolischamber.com

**If your town has a special event which you would like to promote, please send in your information to Jerri Schaefer, SIEC, P O Box 100, Dongola, IL 62926, or e-mail jschaefer@siec.coop and place "Calendar of Events" in the subject line. SIEC must have notification at least three months prior to event.*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY SIEC employees

JUNE

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom Keller	29 Years
Linda Keller	29 Years
Pam Lentz	28 Years
Teddy Earnhart	22 Years
John Harris	6 Years



\$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10



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Please join us
August 4, 2005
at Shawnee
Community College,
Ullin, IL

Enjoy:

Early Bird Prizes

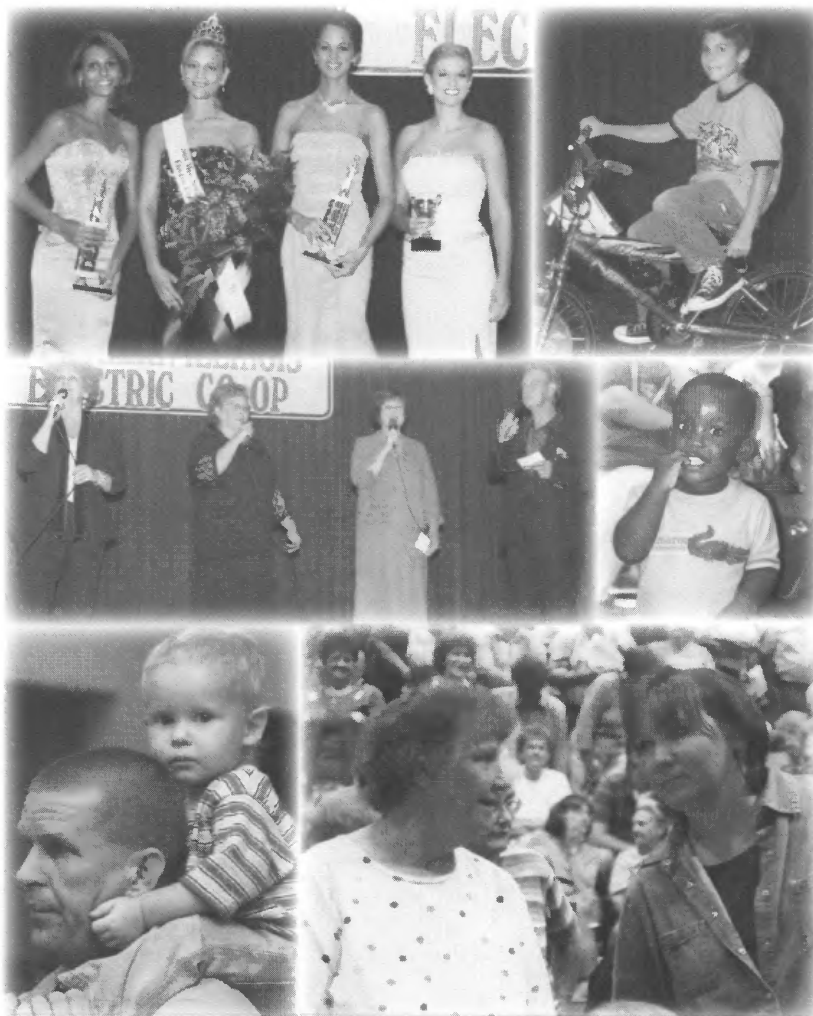
*Miss SIEC 2005
Pageant*

Door Prizes

Registration Gifts

Entertainment

*Election of Three
Directors*

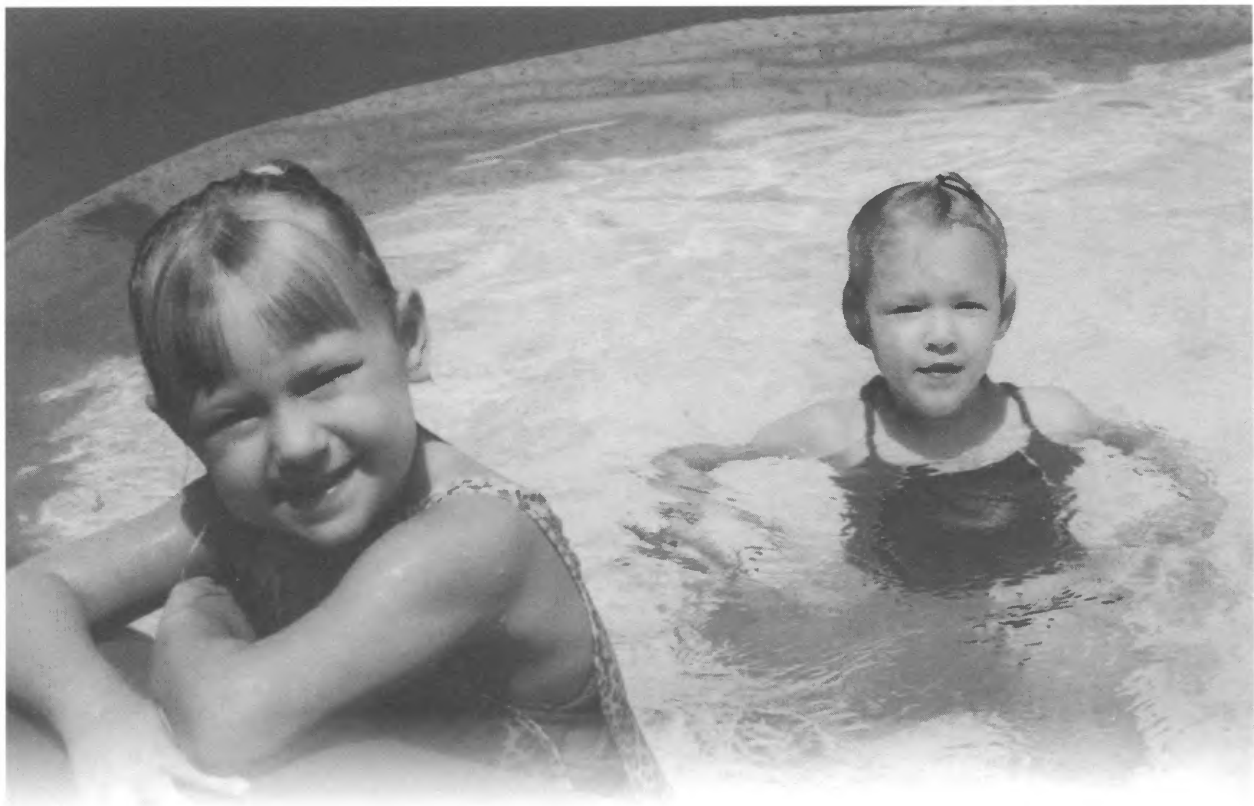


Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's
Annual Meeting of Members

August 4, 2005

Registration: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Business Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Want convenience? Pay your electric bill online at www.siec.coop.



Safe Summer Play

Play up outdoor electrical safety to children

Sunny summer days beckon the child in us all to head outdoors to play. Before you start summertime activities, Safe Electricity and Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) recommends families review and stress to children to follow simple electrical safety rules for safe outdoor play.

"Go over these rules with your children. And set a good example by following safety rules yourself and installing safety equipment such as GFCI outlets," says Chris Boyd, SIEC Director of Member Services.

- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- Fly kites and model airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Contact your electric utility for assistance.
- Never climb a utility pole or tower.
- Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment.

- Never go into an electric substation for any reason - even on a dare. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can kill you. Never rescue a pet or retrieve a ball or toy that goes inside. Call your electric utility instead. **Keith T Beggs**

When designing an outdoor play area for your children, do not install playground equipment or swimming pools underneath or near power lines. Protect all family members from serious shock and injuries by installing and using outdoor outlets with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI). Use portable GFCIs for outdoor outlets that don't have them. Keep electrical appliances at least 10 feet away from pools, ponds, and wet surfaces.

For more information on electrical safety, and on-line games and activities that teach kids to safely use and play around electricity, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

*The 2004 capital credit allocation factor was
0.01488360.*


Reading your own meter keeps costs down for everyone!

Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

BEAUTY PAGEANT RULES AND ENTRY FORM

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is seeking entrants for the beauty pageant held in conjunction with the annual meeting of members, August 4, 2005, at Shawnee College, Ullin, IL. **Charles R Lambdin**

1. Entrant MUST LIVE (Full Time) IN A HOME SERVED BY SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.
2. Entrant MUST BE 16-22 YEARS OF AGE, NEVER MARRIED AND HAVE NOT GIVEN BIRTH.
3. Previous first place winners are not eligible.
4. Candidates will appear in gowns and one-piece swimsuits (no extreme cuts).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MISS SIEC 2005 WILL RECEIVE: \$150 cash, crown, trophy, sash and an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., in June 2006. ● FIRST RUNNER-UP WILL RECEIVE: \$100 cash, trophy and a gift. (In the event Miss SIEC cannot go to Washington, the First Runner-Up is given the opportunity.) ● SECOND RUNNER-UP WILL RECEIVE: \$75 cash, trophy and a gift. ● CONSOLATION PRIZE: \$50 cash to each non-winner. ● MISS CONGENIALITY: Trophy to winner chosen by contestants. 	CONTESTANTS WILL BE JUDGED AS FOLLOWS:		
	INTERVIEW-40%	SWIMSUIT-30%	EVENING GOWN-30%
	General Knowledge -10% Achievement-10% Vocabulary-10% Voice-10%	Beauty-10% Poise-10% Posture-10%	Beauty-10% Charm-10% Grace-10%
			

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.)*

DEADLINE: JULY 20, 2005

Print Name _____

Birthdate _____ Age _____

Street/Route _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parents _____

Account Number _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

Before you build, call us about Geothermal, Long Distance & Water Heaters.

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Turn it on.
Leave it on.
For Good.

- Lifetime warranty
- Guaranteed not to leak
- Highest energy efficiency rating
- Easy to install

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WATER HEATERS
Here for Good.SM



Office Closing

*Our office will
be closed
Monday, July 4.*



Happy Anniversary

Larry Lovell (General Manager) 32 Years
Barbara Pitts (Board Director) 8 Years

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. **Terry M Dowdy**

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

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Board of Directors

Scott L. Ury (*President*), Carole Jean Kelley (*Vice President*),
Dale Faughn (*Secretary-Treasurer*), G. Robert Inman,
Richard D. Moss, Barbara Pitts, Raymond C. Snell,
Dale E. Taake, C. Larry Fisher, and Ronald Osman (*Attorney*)

Manager Larry Lovell • Editor Jerri Schaefer

For Outages Call:

(800) 762-1400 • (618) 827-3555

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.coop

You are not just a customer... you are a MEMBER/OWNER!

ILLINOISTM

COUNTRY LIVING



August 2005

Published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Official Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 2005 annual meeting of the members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative will be held at Shawnee Community College, Ullin, Illinois, at 7 p.m., Thursday, August 4, 2005, to take action upon the following matters.

1. The report of the officers, directors, manager, and committees.
2. The election of three directors of the cooperative.
3. The matters and business set out in the remainder of this notice and any other matter of business that may be properly brought before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

by the committee of nominations, appointed by the president of the cooperative pursuant to the bylaws:

County of Alexander.....	Raymond Snell (three-year term)
County of Johnson.....	Carole Kelley (three-year term)
County of Massac.....	C. Larry Fisher (three-year term)

Additional nominations for directors of the cooperative may be made from the floor at the meeting.
Given at Dongola, Illinois, this 25th day of July 2005.

In connection with the election of directors scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been nominated

Dale Faughn, Secretary

Official Registration

Cut out and bring to the meeting for registration and drawing of prizes.

This is the Official Meeting Notice. No booklet will be mailed. Refer to pages 16a through 16d of magazine for additional information.

Our **ROOTS** RUN DEEP in our **COMMUNITIES**

2005 President and General Manager's Report



Larry Lovell
General Manager



Scott Ury
President

The 66th annual meeting of members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, August 4, 2005, at Shawnee Community College in Ullin, Illinois.

Pre-meeting activities and registration will begin at 5:00 p.m. The Little Egypt Barbershop Chorus will provide entertainment from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. The beauty pageant swimsuit competition will begin at 6:30 p.m. Early bird prizes will be given away at the conclusion of the swimsuit competition. The business meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. The night will conclude with more prize giveaways and the crowning of the 2005 Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative.

We invite you to attend this 66th annual meeting and exercise your right and responsibility as a member, and participate in conducting the business of your cooperative.

Our Roots Run Deep In Our Communities

Nearly 70 years ago Congress passed the Rural Electrification Act in an attempt to revive the agricultural industry and electrify rural America. Rural residents joined together to form cooperatives and build their own electrical systems so they could energize their farms and homes. It was a grassroots project based on the seven cooperative principles: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training, and information; cooperation among co-ops; and concern for community.

That last principle is very important to us. This is our home and our roots run deep in our communities. We are committed to building a better quality of life for our members.

As an enhancement to the Rural Electrification Act, the Touchstone Energy® program was unveiled in 1998. The program was developed with the goal of enhancing awareness of electric cooperatives and strongly communicating the cooperative advantage to the public and members alike.

Complementing the seven cooperative principles, Touchstone Energy is comprised of four core values — integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment to community. These values, delivered by co-op employees, directors, and staff, are what set co-ops apart from investor-owned utilities. You are our member/owners and our sole purpose is to serve you.

Our commitment to community is a two-way street. You know that we are there when you need us. Together we are strengthening our communities, creating a friendlier place for our children to grow, and planting our roots a bit deeper with each act of community service.

The directors and employees of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative promise to not forget our roots as we strive to build a better future.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Now Sells



MARATHON WATER HEATERS

Turn it on. Leave it on. For Good.

- Lifetime warranty
- Guaranteed not to leak
- Highest energy efficiency rating
- Easy to install

Marathon[®]
WATER HEATERS
Here for Good. SM

2005 Annual Meeting Treasurer's Report



Dale Faughn
Secretary-Treasurer

2004 was another successful year for your electric cooperative. Only through continued growth and success can we continue to upgrade our plant and provide needed maintenance that will allow us to better serve our many members. We had a net growth of more than 375 new memberships in 2004, but our kwh sales in 2004 decreased by more than 1.3 million to a total of 193.3 million for the year, down slightly from the 194.6 million sold in 2003. We presently serve more than 11,500 meters by way of 2,108 miles of line throughout our six county service area.

The largest single expense item we have is our purchased power. As you have probably heard, many of the northern cooperatives have much higher rates due to such high costs of power. We are fortunate at SIEC to be part-owner in Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) near Marion where three of our own directors and our manager serve as directors of SIPC. As such, our cost of power of more than \$10.1 million translates to about 58 percent of every revenue dollar we receive. To this cost, we must add the balance of the cost of operations, which equals another 41 percent of every revenue dollar we receive. This additional cost includes all labor, insurance, taxes, materials and supplies, fuel costs, vehicles and their maintenance, all taxes paid by the cooperative, interest on long-term debt, and what we estimate the system and all equipment has depreciated this year. Our margins from our rates of just \$98,426 show how low we try to keep our rates and still have positive margins. We had additional margins from cooperatives, i.e. those we are a member of, in the form of allocated capital credits as well as some interest income of approximately \$157,000 for a total

margin of \$256,167 for the year 2004. I encourage you to review the financial reports and statistics as they appear in this booklet. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give the office a call and we will be happy to discuss any of them with you.

Overall, the average monthly residential bill for 2004 was \$103.57 for 1,094 kwh or less than 9.5 cents per kwh sold. We feel this is a very fair price and a great value. Many of us do not realize the convenience of electricity that we have grown accustomed to until our power is interrupted by mother nature or some other uncontrollable incident, but to be able to use electricity to light our homes, barns and other buildings, heat and/or cool our homes, pump water, run electric motor driven equipment, etc. for an average of under 9.5 cents per kwh is something we are proud of. If you are not aware of these same costs for other electric companies in Illinois, I encourage you to contact our office. I think you will be both surprised and pleased.

As you will see on our balance sheet, our total assets are more than \$44.3 million. Of this total, just \$16.2 million is still debt financed. Our present equity position of 48 percent trans-

lates to less interest expense to be paid to our bankers and helps to keep our electric rates all the lower. Our members, however, are still due their capital credits as that is what makes us a "cooperative." In 2004, we returned more than \$611,000 in capital credits, primarily reflecting those amounts due for patronage in 1983 - 1984. The return of capital credits sets us apart from neighboring investor-owned (IOU) and municipal utilities. With SIEC, you have ownership and by attending your annual meeting of members you have a voice. Unless you own "stock" in an IOU, you will not receive any "return of margins" and certainly will not have any voice in its organization.

We think the future looks very bright for SIEC. Like yourselves, we are not certain what lies ahead, but we do know that SIEC is financially strong, has some of the best, well trained, and ready-to-serve employees available, and we know our members still require local ownership and management that lives among and receives the same service they do. We're proud of our "grass roots" and "locally owned" organization and trust you are, too!

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Board of Directors

Scott L. Ury (*President*), Carole Jean Kelley (*Vice President*),
Dale Faughn (*Secretary-Treasurer*), G. Robert Inman,
Richard D. Moss, Dale Faughn, Raymond C. Snell,
Dale E. Taake, C. Larry Fisher, and Ronald Osman (*Attorney*)

For Outages Call:
(800) 762-1400 • (618) 827-3555

ENTERTAINMENT

Little Egypt Barbershop Chorus

Singing across southern Illinois, this Carbon-dale chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society organized in the fall of 2002. The Barbershop musical style is an American art form. The chorus has 30 members and provides entertainment that can be enjoyed by the entire family.

www.harmonize.com/littleegyptchorus



Grand Prize
\$300 cash

Second Prize
\$100 cash

Third Prize
\$50 cash

As in the past, all three prizes will be given away as the last three prizes of the evening.

All registration cards will be returned to the "cage" for this drawing.

These cash prizes are courtesy of **SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Don't forget the **EARLY BIRD** prizes. Come early and register for this drawing. **Members must be present for ALL prizes.**

Proof Of Mailing

State of Illinois)
)
County of Union)

I, Dale Faughn, being duly sworn, on oath, state that I am duly elected, qualified and am acting secretary of the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, (hereinafter called the cooperative) and that on the 25th day of July, 2005, every member of the cooperative was mailed with postage thereon prepaid, a copy of the Illinois Country Living JAMUP that contained a notice of the regular meeting of the members of the cooperative to be held on August 4, 2005, that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the JAMUP containing said notice.

Dale Faughn, Secretary
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 25th DAY OF JULY 2005.

SEAL

Cathleen Belcher, Notary Public
256 Twin Springs Loop
Anna, IL 62906

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.coop

JAMULP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy Partner 



Our **ROOTS**
 RUN DEEP in our COMMUNITIES

Annual Meeting Program

August 4, 2005

Registration

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Cut out registration card on the outside cover of magazine to register for door prizes. Each member registering will receive one \$10 credit to apply on electric bill. In addition, drawings will be held before and after the meeting for attendance prizes. **Registration will be inside the gymnasium this year - not in the River Room as at past meetings.**

Entertainment

The Little Egypt Barbershop Chorus will be performing from 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
 Appearance of beauty contestants in swimsuit competition will be at 6:30 p.m.
 Early bird prizes will be given out at the conclusion of the swimsuit competition.

Meeting Begins

7:00 p.m.

Call to Order Scott Ury, President
 Invocation
 National Anthem
 Welcome Larry Lovell, Manager

Business Meeting
 Reading of the 2004 Minutes
 Official Meeting Notice Dale Faughn, Secretary
 President's and Manager's Report
 Nominating Committee Report Ira Dugan Tripp, Jr., Secretary
 Balloting for Directors Ron Osman, Attorney
 Unfinished Business
 New Business
 Adjournment
 Introduction of Visitors
 Completion of 2005 Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Pageant
 More Prize Giveaways

Nominating Committee Minutes

The nominating committee appointed by the president with the approval of the membership, met at the headquarters building at 6:30 p.m., June 7, 2005, to nominate three directors for three-year terms.

The following delegates were present: Donald E. Masterson, Betty Casey, Josh Reagor, Robert Heisner, and Ira Dugan Tripp, Jr. The following voting alternates were present: Patty Allbritton, Orlis Harris, and George Holhubner. Absent was alternate Richard R. Walker.

Attorney Ronald E. Osman and Administrative Assistant Cathleen Belcher were also present at the meeting. Attorney Osman explained the duties of the nominating committee and the portion of the by-laws pertinent to the nomination of directors. He also explained the following methods by which directors may be nominated:

1. by a nominating committee,
2. by a petition of 15 members in writing, or
3. by nominations from the floor at the members' annual meeting.

Attorney Osman acted as temporary chairperson until the election of a permanent chairperson.



Standing L-R: Orlis Harris (Brookport), George Holhubner (Olmsted), Robert Heisner (Grand Chain), Josh Reagor (Karnak), and Donald E. Masterson (Olive Branch). Seated L-R: Patty Allbritton (Belknap), Betty Casey (Buncombe), and Ira Dugan Tripp, Jr (Buncombe).

Ira Dugan Tripp, Jr. nominated Betty Casey to act as chairperson. Motion by Donald E. Masterson, seconded by Robert Heisner, to close nominations and elect Betty Casey by acclamation. Motion carried.

Chairperson Casey appointed Ira Dugan Tripp, Jr. to act as secretary.

Motion by Donald E. Masterson to nominate Raymond Snell as director for Alexander County. A motion was made by Donald E. Masterson and seconded by Robert Heisner to close nominations and nominate by acclamation Raymond Snell. Motion carried.

Motion by Ira Dugan Tripp, Jr. to nominate Carole Kelley as director for Johnson County. A motion was made by Josh Reagor and seconded by Donald E. Masterson, to close nominations and nominate by acclamation Carole Kelley. Motion carried.

Motion by Josh Reagor to nominate C. Larry Fisher as director for Massac County. A motion was made by Ira Dugan Tripp, Jr. and seconded by Josh Reagor, to close nominations and nominate by acclamation C. Larry Fisher. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ira Dugan Tripp, Jr. and seconded by Robert Heisner to adjourn. Motion carried.

Profiles of Board Candidates

Raymond C. Snell Alexander County



Raymond C. Snell of Thebes was selected by the nominating committee for election to the board of directors to represent Alexander County. He was first elected in August 1978 and has served 27 years as a cooperative director. Snell and his wife Anna are retired from farming. They are active members of the Alexander Freewill Baptist Church in Olive Branch.

Carole J. Kelley Johnson County



The nominating committee has nominated Carole J. Kelley of Buncombe for election to the cooperative board. Mrs. Kelley graduated from SIU in Edwardsville with a major in mathematics and a minor in accounting. She is a lifelong resident of Johnson County. She and her husband Allen are the parents of four children, and live on a farm west of Buncombe. Mrs. Kelley was very active in the cooperative extension service, having served as a board member for Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulaski, and Union counties. She has been serving on our board since 1999. Mrs. Kelley is a volunteer and secretary/treasurer of Goreville Ministerial Alliance. Mrs. Kelley and her husband are both youth leaders at Grange Hall Church in rural Marion.

C. Larry Fisher Massac County



C. Larry Fisher of Karnak has been nominated by the nominating committee to represent Massac County. He was appointed to the board in January 1995 to serve the unexpired term of Lawrence Wilke and was elected in August 1995. He and his wife Jeanie live on the family farm. They have three children and nine grandchildren. Mr. Fisher currently represents the cooperative on the Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) Board. He serves on the Transmission and Power Marketing Committee at SIPC.

Minutes of the 65th Annual Meeting

The 65th annual meeting of the members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative was held at the Shawnee Community College, Ullin, Illinois, on August 5, 2004, pursuant to Section 1, Article II of the bylaws and notice of the Secretary dated the 23rd day of July, 2004.

Board President Barbara Pitts called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with a quorum present.

SIEC Director Larry Fisher offered the invocation. The National Anthem was sung by the Shawnee Trio & Kerry with Mary.

Chris Bennett, Director of Administration and Finance, conducted the drawing for the early bird prizes.

Cooperative Manager Larry Lovell extended a welcome to all members who had come to participate in the annual meeting proceedings. Mr. Lovell introduced John Freitag, Vice-President of Operations at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Springfield, Illinois, and emcee for the beauty pageant.

Mr. Freitag explained the rules and prizes of the beauty contest and introduced the judges for the competition: Dorothy Chamness of Marion, Illinois, coordinator of Miss Southern Illinois Scholarship Program; Ralph Graham, Marion, Illinois, of Graham & Associates Financial Group, LLC in Marion; Dr. Arthur Aikman, retired professor at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois; and Terri Harfst of Carterville, Illinois, Academic Scholarship Coordinator at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

Mr. Freitag introduced the 2004 pageant contestants for the swimsuit competition. A short biography was used for each introduction.

Carole Kelley, Secretary-Treasurer, read the proof of mailing notice and official meeting notice. Kelley introduced a motion to accept and approve the minutes as mailed in the Official Meeting Notice and to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion was seconded by H. G. Lawrence. Motion carried.

President Pitts gave the President's report. She then introduced Mr. Larry Lovell, General Manager of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative to give the General Manager's report.

Mr. Lovell gave the General Manager's report.

President Pitts introduced Ron Osman, Attorney for the Cooperative, to read the nominating committee report. President Pitts asked for a motion to approve the nominating committee report. The motion was made by Kerry Hill and seconded by Henry Schnaare. Motion carried.

President Pitts then announced the Nominating Committee chosen for 2004-2005. They are:

Alexander County

Delegate – Donald E. Masterson, Olive Branch
Alternate – Richard Walker, McClure

Johnson County

Delegate – Betty Casey, Buncombe
Alternate – Patty Allbritten, Belknap

Massac County

Delegate – Josh Reagor, Karnak
Alternate – Orlis Harris, Brookport

Pulaski County

Delegate – Robert Heisner, Grand Chain
Alternate – George Holhubner, Olmsted

Union County

Delegate – Ira Dugan Tripp, Jr., Buncombe
Alternate – Brad Penninger, Jonesboro

President Pitts introduced Attorney Ron Osman and turned the meeting over to him to conduct the election of directors. Attorney Osman explained the bylaws as they pertain to the election of directors and stated the nominating committee appointed at the last annual meeting is

provided for in these bylaws. He further mentioned the qualifications of directors and the procedure for election of the same.

Attorney Osman explained the three ways of nominating directors, namely, (1) nominations by nominating committee; (2) nominations by petition; and (3) nominations from the floor.

Attorney Osman reported that at the meeting on June 8, 2004, the nominating committee nominated the following for three year terms:

Alexander County – Richard D. Moss

Pulaski County – Dale E. Taake

Union County – Scott L. Ury

Attorney Osman then proceeded with the election of directors.

Attorney Osman said that Richard D. Moss has been nominated by the Nominating Committee for election to a three year term in Alexander County. No nominations by petition have been filed. There were no nominations from the floor. The motion was made by H. G. Lawrence and seconded by Terry Panici to close nominations and have the secretary cast a unanimous ballot by acclamation. Motion carried.

Attorney Osman said that Dale E. Taake has been nominated by the Nominating Committee for election to a three year term in Pulaski County. No nominations by petition have been filed. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion by Henry Schnaare and seconded by Barry Palmer was made to close nominations and have the secretary cast a unanimous ballot by acclamation. Motion carried.

Attorney Osman said that Scott L. Ury has been nominated by the Nominating Committee for election to a three year term in Union County. No nominations by petition have been filed. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made by Raymond Heinrichs and seconded by H. G. Lawrence to close nominations and have the secretary cast a unanimous ballot by acclamation. Motion carried.

President Pitts then asked if there was any unfinished business. There was none.

President Pitts then asked if there was any new business. There was none.

President Pitts then asked for a motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting. The motion was made by Sara Fike and seconded by Merle Dailey. Motion carried.

Mr. Lovell recognized visitors for the evening.

President Pitts and Mr. Lovell presented service awards for 25 years of employment with the cooperative to employees Larry Lingle and Bobbie Fisher.

President Pitts and Mr. Lovell presented a retirement recognition plaque to SIEC employees Ron Medlin, Betty Reynolds and Sam Rider.

President Pitts and Mr. Lovell presented special recognition plaques to SIEC's Youth to Washington Winners, Julie Hill and Brantley Stricker.

Mr. John Freitag returned to present the Beauty Pageant contestants in evening gown competition. The contestants left the stage while the judges tallied the results of the beauty pageant. At that time a special prize give-a-way drawing was held for children 12 and under and several door prizes were awarded to members who were present.

Mr. Freitag introduced Amy Marguerite Heinrichs, Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 2003, and invited her to talk about her year representing the cooperative.

The retiring queen crowned Kasey Nicole Evans of Jonesboro, Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 2004. First runner up was Sarah Panici of Dongola. Second runner up was Stephanie Nance of Cobden. Miss Congeniality was Leanna Dailey from Metropolis.

Other contestants were: Tiffany Coleman, Cobden; Margaret Anne Davidson, Alto Pass; Kasie Dillow, Anna; Laura Ann Dillow, Jonesboro; Christen Giltner, Brookport; Ashley Michelle Harvel, Anna; and Jennifer Lang, Grand Chain.

The directors adjourned to reorganize.

More door prizes were awarded following the beauty pageant.

Balance Sheet Analysis for the YTD as of December 31

ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS	2004	2003
Total Utility Plant	\$46,439,895.78	\$44,279,963.78
Accum. Provision for Depreciation	<u>(11,905,762.94)</u>	<u>(11,199,090.01)</u>
Net Utility Plant	\$34,534,132.84	\$33,080,873.77
Total Other Property & Investments	7,944,898.53	7,910,613.39
Total Current & Accrued Assets	<u>1,844,248.13</u>	<u>1,970,282.01</u>
Total Assets & Other Debits	<u>\$44,323,279.50</u>	<u>\$42,961,769.17</u>

LIABILITIES AND OTHER CREDITS	2004	2003
Memberships	\$126,155.00	\$124,265.00
Patronage Capital	21,127,162.00	21,481,596.73
Other Margins & Equities	<u>26,118.18</u>	<u>21,809.71</u>
Total Margins & Equities	\$21,279,435.18	\$21,627,671.44
Total Long-Term Debt	16,267,636.27	15,012,562.32
Total Other Noncurrent Liabilities	2,743,886.49	2,437,363.81
Total Current & Accrued Liabilities	4,004,772.47	3,853,563.00
Deferred Credits	<u>27,549.09</u>	<u>30,608.60</u>
Total Liabilities & Other Credits	<u>\$44,323,279.50</u>	<u>\$42,961,769.17</u>

Statement of Operations as of December 31

	2004	2003
Operating Revenue	<u>\$17,401,955.29</u>	<u>\$17,091,798.58</u>
Cost of Purchased Power	10,105,599.63	9,683,220.33
Operations & Maintenance Expense	<u>4,805,846.02</u>	<u>4,583,128.60</u>
Total Operations & Maint Expense	14,911,445.65	14,266,348.93
Depreciation & Amort. Expense	1,410,698.85	1,333,466.59
Interest on Long-Term Debt	777,955.01	773,076.10
Other Cost of Electric Service	<u>203,429.72</u>	<u>175,754.39</u>
Total Cost of Electric Service	<u>\$17,303,529.23</u>	<u>\$16,548,646.01</u>
Operating Margins	\$98,426.06	\$543,152.57
Non-Operating Margins	<u>157,741.13</u>	<u>223,945.31</u>
Net Patronage Capital or Margin	<u>\$256,167.19</u>	<u>\$767,097.88</u>


OPERATING STATISTICS	2004	2003
Total KWH Purchased	208,786,414	206,852,773
Total KWH Sold	193,303,544	194,658,595
Total KWH Used by Cooperative	285,152	290,584
New Services Added	263	278
Services Retired	147	158
Net Changes in Total Services	116	120
Total Services in Place	13,509	13,393
Connected Meters	11,484	11,449
Idle Services	2,025	1,944
Security Lights in Place	5,173	5,143
Miles of Line	2,108	2,104

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.coop

JANUARY

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy Partner 

2005 SIEC Annual Meeting

H • I • G • H • L • I • G • H • T • S

Members heard an update about the history of electric cooperatives, the cooperative difference and the rising costs of electricity at this year's annual meeting of members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) held August 4 at the Shawnee Community College in Ullin. **David A. Johnson**

Board Chairman Scott Ury gave a brief history of the electric cooperatives and praised the dedication of cooperative employees. He concluded his remarks by stating, "It's our promise to not forget our roots as we strive to build a better future for our communities. This promise keeps us grounded in our purpose, stable and unwavering in our principles. Our intention is to serve you with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. This is the cooperative difference. That's what it is all about – the electric cooperative tradition that began nearly 70 years ago."

General Manager and Executive Vice President Larry Lovell told members that the cooperative, along with everyone else, is feeling the crunch of higher costs. He cited three reasons for the rising costs of electricity nationwide. More stringent environmental regulations, unpredictable fuel costs and power congestion on the transmission system are the prime factors in the escalating costs. "Just like other

■ **Continued on 16b**



Four area women were winners in the 52nd Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Beauty Pageant, which was held during the annual meeting of members on Thursday, August 4 at Shawnee Community College in Ullin. From left to right, the winners were: First Runner-up, Leslie Hanle, daughter of Paul and Lynne Hanle of Karnak; Miss Southern Illinois Electric, Sarah Rose Panici, daughter of Terry and Patricia Panici of Dongola; and Second Runner-up, Samantha Nance, daughter of Danny and Della Nance of Cobden.

Miss Congeniality, Stacie Hines, daughter of Gary and Debbie Hines of Belknap.



Eight girls competed this year for the title of Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. From left are Jennifer Lang of Grand Chain, Leslie Hanle of Karnak, Samantha Nance of Cobden, Clare Benson of Brookport, Shoshannah Richerson of Vienna, Sarah Panici of Dongola, Malorie Edwards of Anna, and Stacie Hines of Belknap.

■ *Continued from 16a*

power suppliers, the cooperative's power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) is experiencing unanticipated increases in its cost of fuel, which must then be passed on to the six distribution cooperatives it serves," said Lovell. Natural gas has increased 17 percent, coal has increased 34 percent, and carbon prices have increased 47 percent since last year. "As a result, SIPC will raise its rates to us 3 percent in September and an additional 5.5 percent on January 1, 2006," said Lovell.

High fuel prices have also been burdensome for SIEC. Many of the material items that the co-op uses are petroleum based; such as insulators, lightning arrestors, transformers, pole preservatives, etc. "We have seen significant increases in many of these items," said Lovell. Higher power costs, unpredictable fuel costs and other inflationary increases have contributed to the co-op's escalating expenses.

"So, beginning September 1, in order to keep up, we will raise our rates," said Lovell. Most residential and electric users will pay 7.4 percent to 8.3 percent more. This equates to 29 cents to 38 cents more per day," Lovell explained.

He further explained, "To put this in perspective, if gasoline has increased 50 cents per gallon in the last year, and I believe it has; and if you use 60 gallons per month (about three tanks full); then the gasoline you purchase is costing you \$1 more per day.

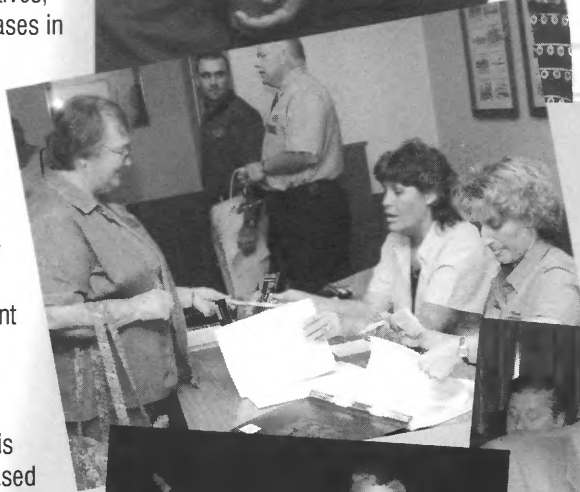
If you consider the work it does, electricity is still a bargain. And even with the increase, SIEC's rates will continue to be competitive when compared with the rest of the state." **Karen Purvis**

"In these uncertain times, your Board of Directors, management and employees resolve to spend your rate dollars wisely, to do all we can to keep the lights on, to treat you and every member as an owner of the co-op, to provide a safe work environment for employees, to be good corporate citizens and, to keep you, our members informed," Lovell concluded.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative serves more than 11,540 members across 2,100 miles of energized line in Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski and Union counties and employs 46 area men and women.



Three community leaders were re-elected to three-year terms as members of the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. From left are Raymond C. Snell of Thebes and C. Larry Fisher of Karnak with General Manager Larry Lovell. Carole J. Kelley of Buncombe is not shown.



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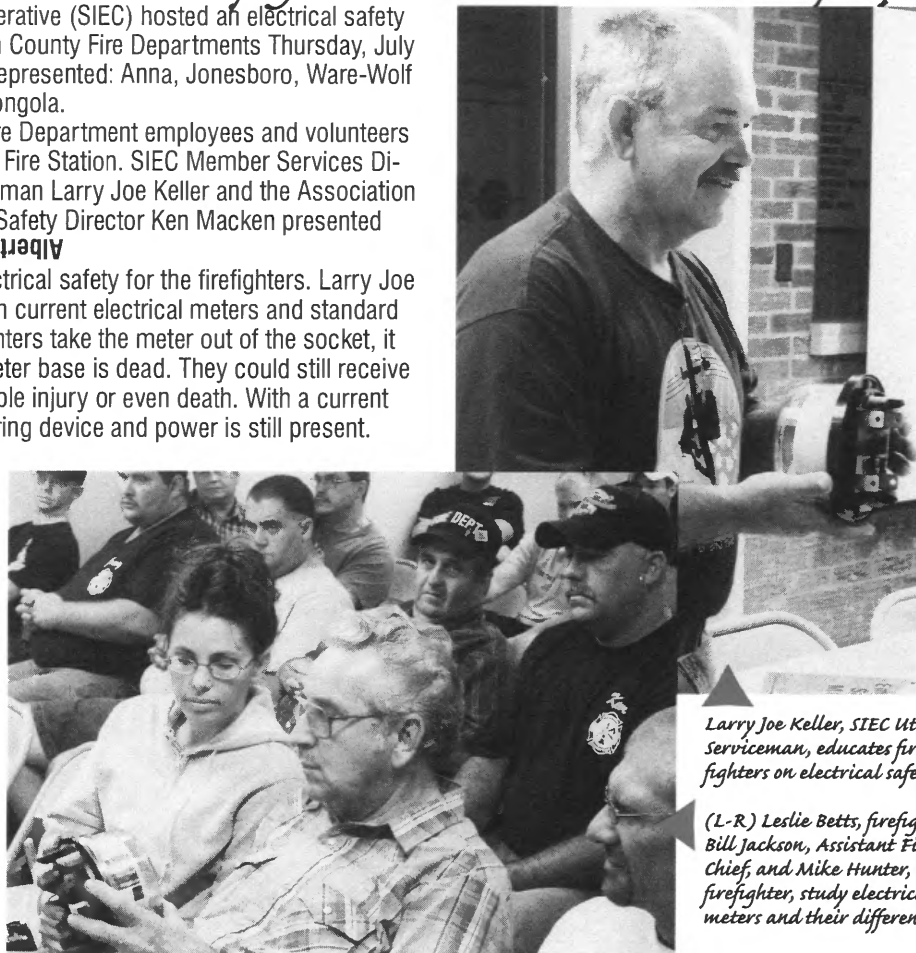
Co-op Trains Local Firefighters on Electrical Safety

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) hosted an electrical safety training session for the Union County Fire Departments Thursday, July 14. Six area departments were represented: Anna, Jonesboro, Ware-Wolf Lake, Alto Pass, Cobden, and Dongola.

Around 40 Union County Fire Department employees and volunteers attended the training at the Anna Fire Station. SIEC Member Services Director Chris Boyd, Utility Serviceman Larry Joe Keller and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's Safety Director Ken Macken presented safety tips and videos. **Alberta Struve**

The subject matter was electrical safety for the firefighters. Larry Joe Keller explained the differences in current electrical meters and standard meters. He stressed if the firefighters take the meter out of the socket, it doesn't necessarily mean the meter base is dead. They could still receive an electric shock, causing possible injury or even death. With a current meter, the meter is just a measuring device and power is still present.

The firefighters watched videos of meter and transformer explosions, sub-station fires, an arc cutting an electric line, car pole crashes, downed lines, and structural fires. "Electrical safety is a top priority for our communities. We would like to extend our training sessions to each of the six counties we serve in southern Illinois to ensure the safety of our firefighters. I encourage each of these counties to contact Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative to set up similar training sessions," said Chris Boyd.



Larry Joe Keller, SIEC Utility Serviceman, educates firefighters on electrical safety.

(L-R) Leslie Betts, firefighter, Bill Jackson, Assistant Fire Chief, and Mike Hunter, firefighter, study electrical meters and their differences.

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SIEC Linemen Restore Power After Hurricane Dennis

Four linemen from Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) volunteered to travel to Alabama Sunday, July 10 to aid Alabama electric cooperative crews in restoration efforts after Hurricane Dennis. They are Roger Acuff of Dongola, Dennis Abercrombie of Jonesboro, Tom Keller of Tamms, and Dale Guetersloh of Metropolis. Although Hurricane Dennis slammed the Florida panhandle and Alabama coast with less severity than expected, more than 550,000 residents were left without power. SIEC's linemen returned home in less than one week.



Roger Acuff



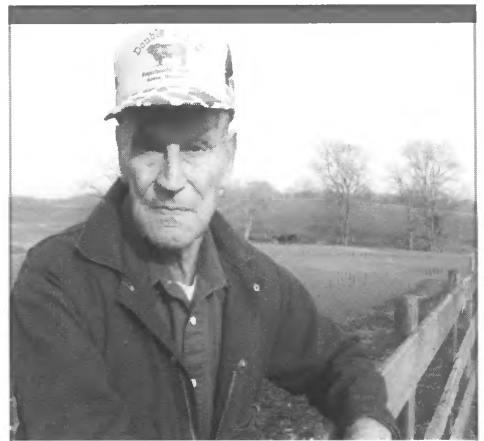
Dennis Abercrombie



Tom Keller



Dale Guetersloh



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Stay safe this harvest season by always watching for overhead electric lines.



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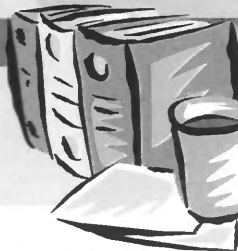
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY SIEC employees

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Raymond Snell	27 years	Carole Kelley	6 years
Cathy Belcher	19 years	Dale Faughn	6 years
Cindy Aden	15 years	Scott Ury	6 years
Steve Hoffman	15 years	Nathan Menees	2 years
Dale Taake	12 years	Robert Nelson	1 year

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jerri Schaefer	2 years
Leslie Harvel	12 years



OFFICE CLOSED OFFICE CLOSED OFFICE CLOS



SIEC will be closed on Monday, September 5 for the Labor Day Holiday.

LABOR DAY

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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Dongola, Illinois 62926
(618) 827-3555 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Web address: www.siec.coop

Board of Directors

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Manager Larry Lovell • Editor Jerri Schaefer

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\$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10 \$10



Want to receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill?




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 Jerri.

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JANUARY

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Journeyman Lineman Jeff Palmer (left) inspects one of the co-op's new soybean oil based transformers as Apprentice Lineman Allen Plott operates the lift and Journeyman Lineman Jeff Cates assists.

This soy oil coolant is made in Illinois and provides a new use for soybeans grown by soybean farmers in Illinois.

SIEC Supports Farmer Members

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's Operations Director Larry Lingle recently made a safer and more environmentally friendly decision for the cooperative. He chose to purchase electrical transformers made with a soy-based insulating fluid. This soy oil coolant is made in Illinois and provides a new use for soybeans grown by soybean farmers in Illinois.

"We were one of the first two cooperatives in Illinois to purchase soy oil transformers," said Lingle. "Soy oil coolant has a higher flashpoint than the standard mineral oil-based coolant, so it's safer, and the oil is biodegradable," he added.

Safety, environmentally friendly equipment, and looking out for Illinois farmers were three major factors that

influenced Lingle's decision. As long as they remain cost competitive, SIEC will continue purchasing these soy oil transformers. **Darrell E George**

2005 Illinois High School Rodeo All Around Cowgirl

One of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's members, Lauren Glasco, has had a busy year. Lauren is the daughter of Tim and Glenda Glasco of Anna. She is a 17-year-old senior at Anna-Jonesboro high school and loves the rodeo. She recently received three special titles in the rodeo circuit: 2005 Illinois High School Rodeo All Around Cowgirl, 2nd Place in Overall Breakaway, and 3rd Place in Goat Tying. Because of her top scores, she was able to travel to Gillette, Wyoming, to compete in the National High School Finals Rodeo. Although she did not place, Lauren enjoyed the experience and honor of riding in such a competitive event.

Lauren has been interested in the rodeo all of her life. She began to junior rodeo in kindergarten. Her older sister, Tracy, held the title of the Illinois High School Rodeo All Around Cowgirl in 2004, so horse riding is common in Lauren's family. Her mom and dad own horses so Lauren practices breakaway and team roping with her dad every night.

Her favorite part of the rodeo is breakaway roping. Lauren explained it is kind of like calf roping, except it doesn't require a rider to get off to tie the calf. She has competed in about 12-14 Illinois high school rodeos within the past year. She also enters open rodeos across Missouri and Illinois.

2005 IL High School Rodeo All Around Cowgirl Lauren Glasco with Baldy, her breakaway horse.

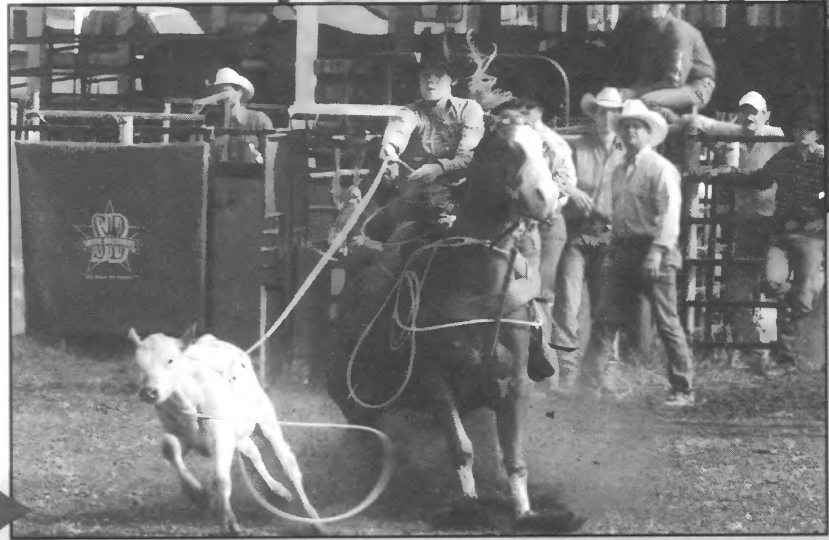
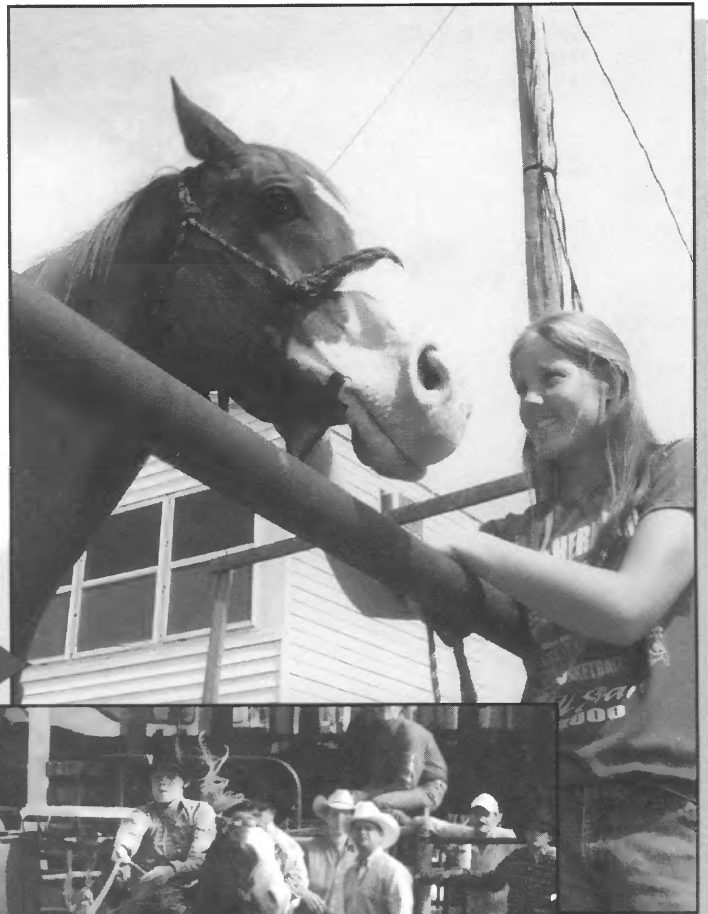


Photo courtesy of Prairierodeo.com

Harvest Safety

Harvest season is a busy time on farms, but don't overlook safety in the rush.

Dozens of farm workers are killed by electrocution each year as their large farm machines contact overhead power lines. Take note of electrical lines when moving equipment like portable grain augers, oversized wagons, and large combines. Make sure everyone who works on the farm knows the location of power lines, and keeps farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them. For more information, visit SafeElectricity.org, or contact Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative.



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Annual Meeting Prizes

Prize	Vendor	Winner Name	Town
GRAND PRIZE - \$50	SIEC	Sophie Lee	Grand Chain
GRAND PRIZE - \$100	SIEC	Loretta McElmurry	Pulaski
GRAND PRIZE - \$300	SIEC	Clinton Felker	Karnak

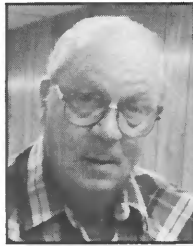
Early Bird Gifts

#	Prize	Vendor	Winner Name	Town	#	Prize	Vendor	Winner Name	Town
1	\$10.00 Cracker Barrel Card	Cal Johnson's Answering Service	Alfred Lingle	Jonesboro	45	Golf Towel w/ Golf t's	Silkworm Inc	Fred Schlenker	Buncombe
2	Mini MagLite	Crown Sales & Support, Inc	Mark Duckworth	Anna	46	Mini MagLite	Crown Sales & Support, Inc	Talmadge Smith	Karnak
3	Cooler	First Cellular of Southern Illinois	Dennis Boyd	Anna	47	Pack of 7 Mechanical Pencils & 24 Notepads	T & I Office Equipment, Inc	Viola Penrod	Vienna
4	Gift Certificate for 1 Side Baby Back Ribs	Great Boars of Fire	Truman Bremer	Metropolis	48	Black & Decker Single Speed Jigsaw	Oil Field Electric	Patti Warner	Grand Chain
5	Car Emergency Kit	IEC Federal Credit Union	St Johns Cemetery	Dongola	49	7 Piece Cookware Set	SIEC	Olene Logan	Villa Ridge
6	First Alert Fire Extinguisher	Kerber, Eck & Braeckel	W. R. Stokes	Pulaski	50	Silkworm Ladies Polo Shirt (size M)	Silkworm Inc	Betty Loven	Karnak
7	Rechargeable Spotlight	Milssoft Utility Solutions	Hall Church	Buncombe	51	Cannon Desktop Printing Calculator	Oil Field Electric	Gerald Hamilton	Karnak
8	Hamilton Beach Slow Cooker	Oil Field Electric	Craig Worthington	Thebes	52	Bissell 3 Way Lightweight Vacuum	SIEC	William Larrison	Belknap
9	Black & Decker 12 Cup Coffeemaker	SIEC	Wilford Kinder	Tamms	53	Silkworm Tee Shirt (size M)	Silkworm Inc	Rocky Sickling	Ullin
10	Silkworm Tee Shirt (size XL)	Silkworm Inc	Homer Ramage	Olmsted	54	Durabrand Anti-Skip Cd Player with Radio	Oil Field Electric	Matthew Barnhill	Grand Chain
11	One Year Subscription	The Gazette Democrat	Frank Graham	Jonesboro	55	Black & Decker 6.0 Volt Cordless Drill	SIEC	Raymond McCrite	Tamms
12	19" Color TV/DVD/VCR Combo	Henkels & McCoy	Jane Treece	Wolf Lake	56	Travel Mug	Silkworm Inc	Violet Halterman	Anna
#	Prize	Vendor	Winner Name	Town	57	Durabrand CD Clock Radio	Oil Field Electric	Clinton Felker	Karnak
1	\$10.00 Cracker Barrel Card	Cal Johnson's Answering Service	Charlie Sharp	Olmsted	58	Black & Decker Rechargeable Screwdriver	SIEC	Billy Smock, Sr	Grand Chain
2	1 Dozen Titleist Golf Balls	Premax, LLC	Eddie Cockrel	Metropolis	59	First Alert Fire Extinguisher	Oil Field Electric	Jimmy Courtright	Jonesboro
3	1 Gallon Wet/Dry Shopvac	Oil Field Electric	Charlie Logan	Villa Ridge	60	Brita Pitcher Water Filtration System	SIEC	Vanessa Stewart	Dongola
4	110 Volt Electric Fillet Knife	SIEC	Jannifer Powell	Tamms	61	GE Cordless Phone	Oil Field Electric	Melvin Lessar	Tamms
5	12" Oscillating Fan	Fletcher-Reinhardt	Serena Miller	Jonesboro	62	Carbon Monoxide Alarm	SIEC	Agnes Thurston	Pulaski
6	2 Solid Wood Barstools	Hydraulic Tool Service	Ray Stewart	Metropolis	63	George Forman Indoor Grill	Oil Field Electric	Carl Krempasky	Metropolis
7	22" Professional Steel Tool Box	Oil Field Electric	Glenda Ballentine	Tamms	64	Carbon Monoxide Alarm	SIEC	Jack Morse	Metropolis
8	4.8 Volt Dremel Cordless Tool	SIEC	Bruce Jones, Jr	Mounds	65	Hydraulics Tire Jack/Changer	Oil Field Electric	Paul Reed	Karnak
9	Back Pack Sprayer	UAP/Timberland	Michael Richerson	Vienna	66	Dirt Devil Hand Vac	SIEC	Philip Rider	Dongola
10	CD Case	Coad Chevrolet of Anna	Pamela Eaton	Metropolis	67	Peerless Hand Shower	Oil Field Electric	Ray Schluter	Dongola
11	Cooler w/ 2 Koozie Cups	Daffron & Associates	Harold Altenberger	Metropolis	68	Faberware 21 Piece Knife & Kitchen Tool Set	SIEC	Gloria Wells	Tamms
12	Durabrand AM/FM Cd Player	Oil Field Electric	James Clark	Vienna	69	Polaroid 35 mm Camera	Oil Field Electric	Walter Bierbaum	Olmsted
13	First Alert Fire Extinguisher	Kerber, Eck & Braeckel	Anna Thompson	Grand Chain	70	First Alert Smoke & Fire Alarm	SIEC	Sarah Taake	Ullin
14	First Alert Smoke & Fire Alarm	SIEC	Richard Porterfield	Dongola	71	Polaroid 35mm Camera	Oil Field Electric	First Baptist Church	Olmsted
15	Free Lube, Oil and Filter Change	Linwood Motors	Jerry Duckworth	Dongola	72	First Alert Smoke & Fire Alarm with Light	SIEC	Joy Higgins	Belknap
16	Gift Basket	Leepy's Gourmet Foods	Thomas Jackson	Dongola	73	Presto Griddle	Oil Field Electric	Shirley Heine	Metropolis
17	Golf Towel w/ Golf t's	Silkworm Inc	Marsha Lentz	Karnak	74	Fisherman's Tackle Chair	SIEC	Larry Douglas	Belknap
18	Ice Cream Maker	Hughes Supply Inc	Lester Korte	Belknap	75	Rival Deep Fryer	Oil Field Electric	Bob Thompson	Dongola
19	Hamilton Beach 10 speed Blender	SIEC	Daniel Nance	Cobden	76	GE Classic Toaster	SIEC	Clara Chapman	Tunnel Hill
20	iPod Mini 4GB 1000 songs PC + Mac	Fine & Hatfield	Donald Childers	Goreville	77	Uniden 2 way Radios	Oil Field Electric	Josh Reager	Karnak
21	Laminator and Cartridge Refill	T & I Office Equipment, Inc	F.D. Sams	Karnak	78	GE Electric Carving Set with Case	SIEC	Donald Eddleman	Anna
22	Marion Kay Spice Set	Brownstown Electric Supply Co, Inc	James Reynolds	Vienna	79	GE Handmixer	SIEC	Seven Mile Church	Metropolis
23	Mini MagLite	Crown Sales & Support, Inc	Wayne Miller	Anna	80	GE Retractable Cord Iron	SIEC	Louis Tapley	Karnak
24	Mirro 4.2qt Pressure Cooker	SIEC	Billy Stout	Buncombe	81	Hamilton Beach Can Opener	SIEC	James Schierbaum	Vienna
25	One Year Subscription	The Gazette Democrat	David Gearing	Cypress	82	Holmes Air Purifier	SIEC	Freddy Waddy	Villa Ridge
26	Pedestal Gift Bowl w/ Godiva Chocolates	Southern Business Machines, Inc	Lynn Anderson	McClure	83	Homedics Tabletop Relaxation Fountain	SIEC	Collin Boyd	Anna
27	Plan Prolatch Tacklebox	Milssoft Utility Solutions	Richard Rottman	Metropolis	84	Hometrends Bath Towel Set	SIEC	Ron Ellis	Anna
28	Pocket Power Inverter	Oil Field Electric	Carolyn Modglin	Ullin	85	International Stainless Steel Service for 8	SIEC	Terry Wiseman	Dongola
29	Portable Chair w/ Carrying Case	First Cellular of Southern Illinois	James Edwards	Anna	86	Mr. Clean Auto Dry Carwash	SIEC	Clay Stewart	Goreville
30	Pur Water Filtration System	Earl Edmonds	Sandra Bridges	Cobden	87	Mr. Coffee 3 quart Iced Tea Maker	SIEC	Norman Powles	Cobden
31	Pyrex 5 Piece Portable Set	SIEC	Raymond Theis	Anna	88	Stanley 20 piece Mechanics Tool Set	SIEC	Freddie Myrick	Karnak
32	Silkworm Men's Polo Shirt (size L)	Silkworm Inc	Theima's Beauty Box	Tamms	89	Stone Art Coasters with Oak Holder & Trivet	SIEC	Charles Davis	Vienna
33	Therapist Select Massaging Cushion	Ledbetter, Corner & Associates	Leonard Payne	Dongola	90	Sunbeam Toaster Oven	SIEC	Grand Chain Masonic Lodge	Karnak
34	Travel Mug	Silkworm Inc	Harold Tapley	Karnak	91	Thermos Vacuum Insulated Pump Pot	SIEC	Roselee Holshouser	Tamms
35	Westbend Electric Skillet	Oil Field Electric	Dennis Kinser	Metropolis	92	Tropical Breeze 30" Tower Fan	SIEC	Gary Wilson	Karnak
36	Zebco 33 Combo Rod and Reel	SIEC	Donald Masterson	Olive Branch	93	Zebco 33 Combo Rod and Reel	SIEC	Michael Taake	Ullin
37	\$20.00 Gift Card	Walmart	Delbert Goines	Grand Chain	94	First Alert Smoke & Fire Alarm with Light	SIEC	Elgie Rottman	Metropolis
38	3/8" Reversible Black & Decker Drill	Oil Field Electric	Ines Rider	Dongola	95	Manicure/Pedicure Gift Cert	Scratchers Salon	Marvin Powles	Dongola
39	50 Pound Digital Fish Scale	SIEC	Bob Hudson	Karnak	96	Christmas Lights	Schaefer Excavating, LLC	Lawrence James	Karnak
40	Black & Decker Automatic Jar Opener	Oil Field Electric	Lillian Thompson	Dongola	97	Black & Decker Toast-it-All	Brown Wood Preserving	David Burton	Grand Chain
41	Car Emergency Kit	IEC Federal Credit Union	Kenneth Cowan	Cobden	98	Rival Crock Pot	White Hawk Enterprises	Charles Harvel	Tamms
42	Car Wash Kit	SIEC	Randall McClellan	Karnak	99	Dog food & caps	Southern FS	Kelly Flamm	Cobden
43	Digital Lithium Scale	Oil Field Electric	Larry Jordan	Dongola	100	Decorative Cannister	Delta Mobile Testing	John Schnare	Olmsted
44	Gift Certificate for 1 Boston Butt	Great Boars of Fire	William Ryan	Ullin	101	Polo Shirt & Personal Accessories	TWN Long Distance	Jerrie Clayton	Anna

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Retirement

At Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's 2005 Annual Meeting, Donald E. Martin was recognized for 25 years of service as a cooperative employee and for his recent retirement from the cooperative. Don came to work at the co-op in 1980 as Janitor. He retired in July 2005 as Forestry Foreman. Don grew up in Mounds and graduated from Meridian High School. He and his wife Marilyn reside in Tamms.



Larry G Schnare

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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*Taxes and other regulatory charges not included. Domestic rates apply within the contiguous 48 states. Certain restrictions and early termination fees may apply. Business rate is based upon usage minimums. Please call for details. Services provided by TransWorld Network.

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published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy Partner 

Katrina Volunteers

Thank you to our local heroes who sacrificed time at home with their families to endure little sleep, vigorous work, hot weather and long hours, by traveling south to assist other cooperatives due to Hurricane Katrina.

On Tuesday, August 30, four SIEC linemen volunteered to travel to Tombigbee Electric Cooperative in Alabama. After two days there, our crew traveled to Singing River Electric Power Association (EPA) in Mississippi to assist a more desperate cooperative.

LaRue Parr, Tom Keller, Jeff Palmer, and Dale Guetersloh spent 12 days assisting in power restoration

between the two cooperatives and returned to southern Illinois Saturday, September 10.

On Sunday, September 11, four more SIEC linemen volunteered their time to aid powerless Katrina victims. Steve Hoffman, Robin Ramage, Stanley Treat, and Nathan Menees traveled to Southern Pine EPA in Mississippi. This crew returned Sunday, September 18.

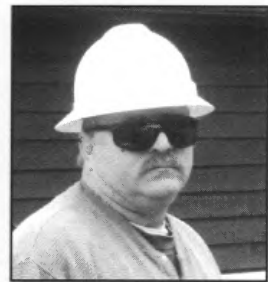
“Cooperation among cooperatives is one of the seven cooperative principles we operate under. We are happy we could assist our fellow cooperatives in their time of need,” said General Manager, Larry Lovell.



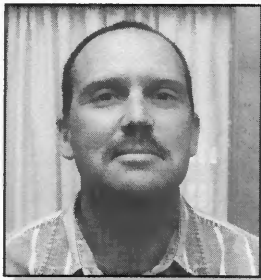
Steve Hoffman



Damage in Mississippi caused by Hurricane Katrina



Robin Ramage



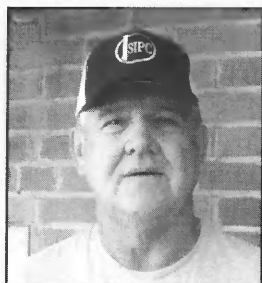
Dale Guetersloh



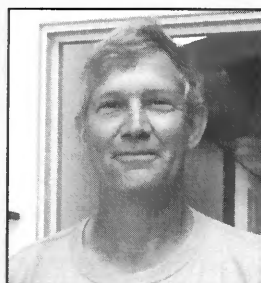
Stanley Treat



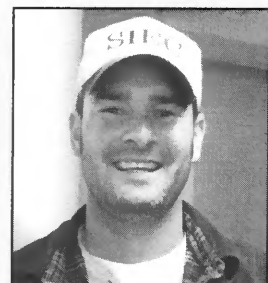
Jeff Palmer



Tom Keller



LaRue Parr



Nathan Menees

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New Employee

SIEC welcomes Lana Livesay of Jonesboro as its newest employee. Lana was recently hired as Records Specialist. Prior to working at the co-op, she was a teacher's assistant with the Union County Pre-K Program.

Lana is married to Rick Livesay and they have three children, Ryan, Shana, and Cody. They are members of Galilee Baptist Church in Wolf Lake. She enjoys reading, photography, and supporting her children in sports activities. (Lana's children have been very active on the ballfields.) Her husband Rick is currently a baseball coach at Jonesboro Public School. **Arly Oard Adams**

"I have found this job to be challenging and rewarding," says Lana. She added that she never imagined how busy the cooperative could be.



Colder Temperatures Are Here! Ways to cut utility costs in your home

Energy dollars can pour out of homes through drafty doors and windows, and un-insulated attics, walls, floors, and basements while safety risks go unnoticed. Take this opportunity to improve your home's efficiency and safety at the same time.

"Most winterizing steps can pay for themselves relatively quickly with heating bill savings," said Chris Boyd, Member Services Director at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC).

"Weather stripping and caulking are inexpensive ways to boost efficiency and cut energy costs."

"You can also eliminate electrical fire and shock risks as you winterize your home," said Boyd. "For example, as you check around outlets and other places where air can leak, also check for overloaded outlets and cover plates that are warm to the touch."

SIEC encourages its members to use these tips to help cut costs and improve home safety:

- Find air leaks both inside and around the exterior of the home. Just wet your fingertips and run them around the door or window frame to feel a draft, or hold up a tissue and see if it waves. Check around fixtures that penetrate walls, such as exhaust fans and electrical outlets. Look for unfilled gaps and cracks near dryer vents, chimneys, and faucet pipes.
- Seal leaks between moving parts (ex: between door and its frame) with weather stripping. Fill leaks between non-moving parts (ex: between window frame and wall) with caulking.
- Replace screens with storm windows and doors. Double-paned glass plays an important role in reducing heat loss. Double-pane windows with low-e coating can reduce heating bills by 34 percent in cold climates compared to uncoated, single-pane windows. If you have older or leaky windows that you cannot replace, consider temporary fixes such as plastic film kits that create the effect of an interior storm window.
- If you are shopping for new windows, glass doors, or skylights, look for the ENERGY STAR. Today's high-efficiency windows are 40 percent more energy efficient than standard windows and can cut heating and cooling costs by 15 percent.
- Make sure attics and flooring above unheated spaces, such

as crawl space and garage, are appropriately insulated.

- Have your furnace checked by a professional to make sure it's operating safely and at its highest efficiency. Consider replacing your furnace if it is more than 30 years old. Furnaces that old are usually less than 50 percent energy efficient.

- Install an automatic thermostat. An easy-to-install clock thermostat can automatically raise and lower home temperatures for energy savings day and night.

"Don't overlook simple steps, like making sure furnace filters are changed monthly, more often if you have pets indoors," said Boyd. "Furnaces run longer and work harder to move air through dirty filters. A clean furnace filter can mean double digit savings on the heat bill." **David R. Toler**

While you winterize, use this electrical safety checklist:

- Check outlets and extension cords to make sure they are not overloaded.
- Examine electrical cords to make sure they aren't frayed, damaged, or placed under rugs or carpets.
- Make sure that the proper wattage light bulbs are being used in light fixtures. Screw bulbs in securely. Loose bulbs may overheat and burn shades, drapes, or nearby furniture.
- Look for these signs of electrical problems: switch plates, outlet covers, cords, and plugs that are warm to the touch; and cut, broken, or cracked insulation on electric wiring; frequently blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers. If these signs are present, you need a safety inspection by a licensed professional.
- Replace worn and outdated circuitry and add enough outlets for appliances and electronics. Hire a licensed professional to do the work.
- Make sure outlets in wet locations such as bathrooms, kitchen laundry, and outdoors have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Test them and reset them monthly. If these outlets do not have GFCIs, have them professionally installed.
- Test your smoke detector batteries. Replace them if they are more than six months old.

"These steps help reduce the risk of fire, shock, injury or death," Boyd said.

Brought to you by SIEC and Safe Electricity.



SIEC Helps With School Project

Four SIEC linemen recently helped Century Elementary School near Ullin by digging holes with co-op trucks to prepare the school's playground for new playground equipment. The co-op donated equipment and labor as part of its Commitment to Community. Co-op personnel who helped on the project were linemen Roger Acuff of Dongola, Dennis Abercrombie of Jonesboro, Robin Ramage of Metropolis, and apprentice lineman Courtney Woodson of Tamms. "We enjoy helping our local schools and it's always good when we can see how the children benefit from our efforts," Acuff said.



Safety Tips

Local caterer and chef, Kelly Hoffner, with Kelly's Kountry Kitchen in Dongola offers the following safety tips for your Thanksgiving Holiday:

- Start holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven.
- Keep the kitchen off-limits to young children and adults that are not helping with food preparations to lessen the possibility of kitchen mishaps.
- Keep your family and overnight guests safe with a working smoke detector on every level of the house, in every bedroom, and in the halls adjacent to the bedrooms. Test smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries at least twice a year.
- Overnight guests should be instructed on the fire escape plan and designated meeting place for your home.
- Have a fire extinguisher available not more than 10 feet from the stove, on the exit side of the room. A 2-1/2 lb. class ABC multi-purpose dry chemical extinguisher is recommended. Know how to use your fire extinguisher. **David C. Willis**



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Students Encouraged To Apply for 2006 IEC Memorial Scholarships

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) manager Larry Lovell has announced that for the eleventh consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors. The five scholarships are being awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative's (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

High school seniors pursuing a college education anywhere in the United States are eligible to participate in the program. Three \$1,250 scholarships will be awarded to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative member. A fourth \$1,250 award will go to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative director or employee. A fifth scholarship of \$1,250 will be reserved for use at a two-year Illinois community college, and sons and daughters of electric cooperative members, employees and directors are eligible. Deadline for applications to be returned to the cooperative is January 1, 2006.



"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts," said Larry 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 (800) 762-1400, or ask your high school guidance counselor.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

7420 U.S. Highway 51 South • P.O. Box 100
Dongola, Illinois 62926
(618) 827-3555

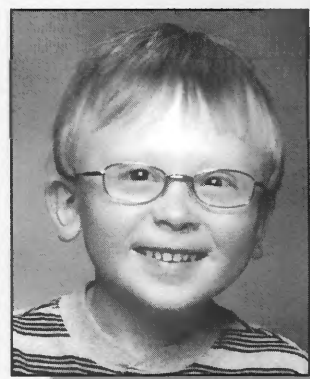
Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Web address: www.siec.coop

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Dale E. Taake, C. Larry Fisher, and
Ronald Osman (*Attorney*)

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Illinois Ambassador to the Telethon of Stars

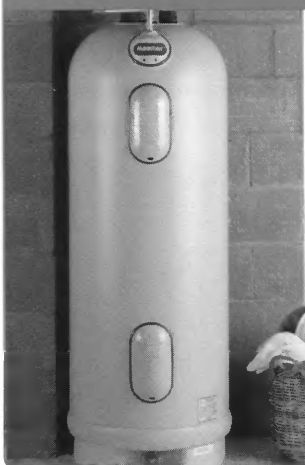
SIEC's Journeyman Lineman Dale Guetersloh of Metropolis has a son who has been diagnosed with Microcephaly and Cerebral Palsy. His name is Josh Guetersloh and he has been selected as the Illinois Ambassador to the 2005 Telethon of Stars.

This year, Josh is appearing on all posters and participating in several local parades promoting the upcoming telethon that airs on WPSD Channel 6, November 12-13. Although Josh is only five years old, he raised more than \$5,000 last year for the telethon and hopes to raise even more this year.

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Our office will be closed Friday, November 11 in observance of **Veteran's Day** and Thursday and Friday, November 24-25, for **Thanksgiving**.

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JANUARY

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

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Season's Greetings

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of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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A Good Time to Consider Geothermal Technology

Now is the time to consider a residential geothermal heating/cooling system. In an effort to encourage more energy efficient homes, part of the new energy bill signed recently by President Bush details how consumers who install new geothermal heat pumps in 2007 or 2008 will be rewarded with a tax credit. The tax credit will total 10 percent of the installed price, up to a maximum of \$300. There are minimum efficiency requirements the system must meet for tax credit eligibility. In addition to the new tax credit, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) offers a \$400 rebate when members install a geothermal heat pump. Contact the Member Services Department at SIEC for details prior to installing a new system.

Benefits of geothermal systems are numerous, with lower heating and cooling costs topping the list. Geothermal systems average 40 percent greater efficiency than air source heat pumps, 48 percent greater efficiency than the best gas furnaces, and 75 percent greater efficiency than oil furnaces. Geothermal systems have the added advantage of providing a home or business with free hot water – supplying on average approximately 30 percent of hot water needs. And many electric cooperatives offer special incentives for geothermal users.

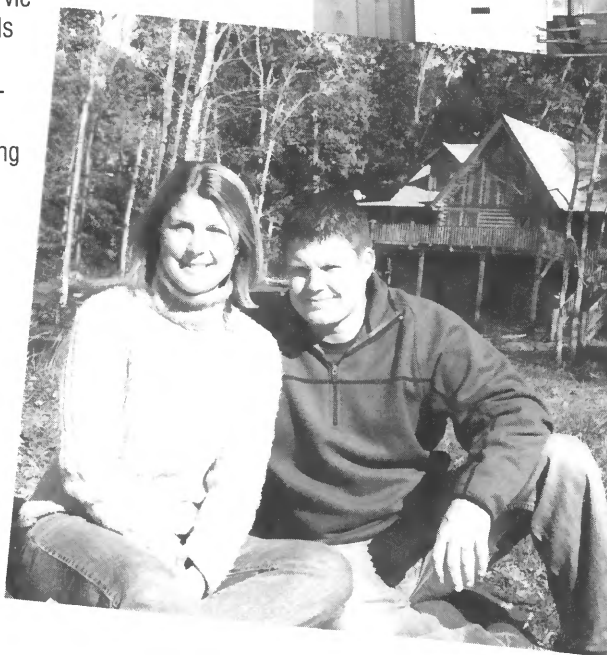
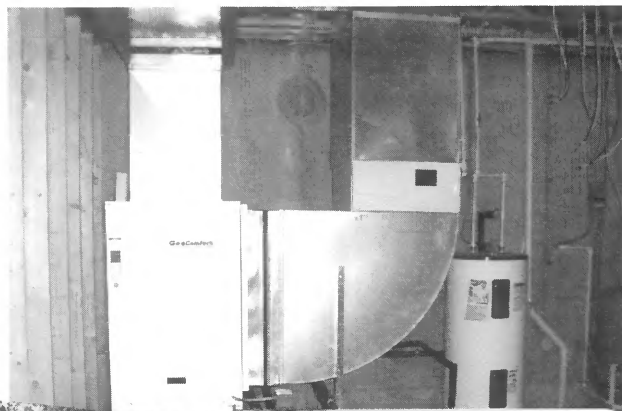
Geothermal heat pumps have fewer mechanical components, and have no exposure to outdoor elements, making them more reliable, easier to service, and less prone to failure. The expected life span of a geothermal unit is 30-35 years, compared to 15 years for a conventional furnace. Ground loops have a life expectancy of hundreds of years.

With no dangerous fumes, no flame, and no flue, geothermal systems are also safer.

Geothermal systems are more comfortable and quieter. Constant fan velocities and longer fan running times allow the temperature to stay as consistent by the wall or ceiling as it is by the floor. And having no outdoor fan unit makes the unit's operation whisper quiet. You may not even know it's running.

Here are some interesting facts from the Geothermal Heat Pump Consortium:

- Using geothermal technology, a typical 1,500-square-foot home in a moderate climate can be heated and cooled all year for an average of \$1 per day. **Steven May**
- Today, more than 500,000 geothermal heat pumps are installed in the U.S., resulting in annual savings of 4 billion kilowatt hours (kwh) of electricity, eliminating the need for



We expected a lot out of our geothermal system, and to our surprise it was more efficient than expected. We are heating/cooling 4,000 square feet including our basement, for less than 50 percent of what we were paying to heat/cool 750 square feet with a conventional unit. And, with the system in the basement and out of the weather, it will last much longer than an outside unit. There is no flame so it is very safe, and it uses some of the heat it produces to heat our water. It is a small investment for a big return!

*Brad and Samantha
Dawson of Anna*

20 trillion BTUs of fossil fuels, cutting peak electrical demand by 1.3 million kilowatts (kw), and slashing greenhouse gas emissions by 3 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂).

■ Geothermal installations to date equate to converting 650,000 cars to zero-emission vehicles, planting 190 million trees, reducing U.S. reliance on imported fuels by 11 million barrels of crude oil per year, or eliminating the need for one 1,300-megawatt (MW) power plant.

Heating and cooling costs will likely continue to rise in years to come. Reliance on foreign oil will continue to increase, and the price of propane and natural gas will continue to skyrocket. Using geothermal technology for heating and cooling just makes good sense.

For more information about geothermal systems, contact SIEC and log on to the Geothermal Heat Pump Consortium Web site at www.geoexchange.org, or call them at (202) 558-7175.

Local caterer and chef **Adalee Davie,**

with A Catering Affair in Ware,
offers the following safety tips
for your Thanksgiving Holiday:



- When cooking, don't wear clothing with loose sleeves or dangling jewelry. The clothing can catch on fire and the jewelry can catch on pot handles, causing spills and burns.
- Cook on the back burners when possible and turn pot handles in so they don't extend over the edge of the stove.
- Never leave cooking unattended. If you must leave the kitchen while cooking, turn off the stove or have someone else watch what is being cooked. Unattended cooking is one the main causes of home fires.
- Keep Thanksgiving decorations and kitchen clutter away from

sources of direct heat.

- Candles are often part of holiday decorations. Candles should never be left burning when you're away from home, or after going to bed. Candles should be located where children will not be tempted to play with them, and where guests will not accidentally brush against them. The candle holder should be completely noncombustible and difficult to knock over. The candle should not have combustible decorations around it.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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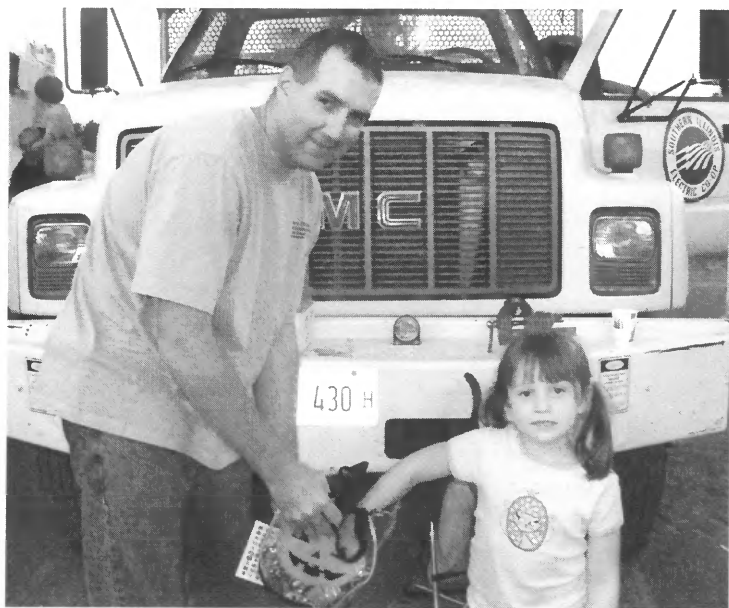
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Union County Big Truck Night



Chris Boyd, Director of Member Services at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) hands treats to Savannah Edwards, a young member of SIEC, at Big Truck Night in Anna. Big Truck Night is hosted by the Union County Early Learning Program Cooperative and features transportation vehicles of all kinds. Children ages 0-5 are able to meet the drivers and explore interesting vehicles. SIEC offers one of its bucket trucks each year to be on display. This year, more than 160 children stopped at SIEC's bucket truck.

Randy Eugene Langford



Chris Boyd, Director of Member Services at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative in Dongola, left, presents a scholarship check to Shawnee Community College President Dr. Larry Choate for two \$500 scholarship grants. The grants will be awarded to entering freshmen in the fall of 2006 and spring of 2007. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is March 15. Students applying must live in a home served by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. For complete scholarship information visit the SCC Web site at www.shawneecc.edu or call the SCC financial aid office at (618) 634-5600.

James B. Watson

ATTENTION

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!!!

IEC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION



- Are you interested in receiving a scholarship for an Illinois college?
- Are you a child of a Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative member?
- Are you a child of a Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative employee or director?
- Want to apply? It's easy! Just talk with your guidance counselor or obtain an application from www.siec.coop.

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Our office will be closed Monday, December 26 for Christmas.



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