



Egyptian Electric

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10169 Old Highway 13
Murphysboro, IL 62966
618-684-2143
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800-606-1505 after hours
www.eeca.coop

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Monday - Friday

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



January 2007

Mission Statement:

Improving the quality of life of our member-owners.

Mark A. Stallons

Executive Vice President/
General Manager

Board of Directors

- Allen Haake, *President*
- Gilbert Kroening, *Vice President*
- Paul Pyatt, *Secretary-Treasurer*
- W. Dean Bame
- Archie Hamilton
- Paul Hicks
- Kevin Liefer
- Raymond Mulholland
- John Steele

What to do if the power goes off

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole or pedestal. If you have breakers, make sure they are "on" by first pushing to the 'off' position and then pushing them to the 'on' position. If you live in a mobile home, codes require a main disconnect near the meter. If you have a dusk-dawn light and it is working, you have a breaker or fuse out.
3. Check with your neighbors. If they are out of power also, the main line is most likely out.
4. During office hours: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143 or 800-606-1505 for either office. After office hours call 800-606-1505.
5. Make sure you have the name on the account and if possible, the account number.

The Cooperative Difference

Many Americans do business with a cooperative everyday. They exist in almost every industry from energy to news reporting to health-care. Co-ops are a huge part of the economy here in the United States and serve some 120 million members, or 4 in 10 Americans.

While cooperatives may resemble most companies in some outward appearances, they are very different in others. One of the most important differences is that co-ops are not profit driven. For-profit companies aim to return a maximum profit to their shareholders. After all, these shareholders have invested their money in the business and demand something in return.

A co-op's mission, on the other hand, is meeting its members' needs for goods or services and thereby improving their members' quality of life. Electric co-ops are part of this tradition, one that has a long history going back to 1752 when Ben Franklin started the first cooperative in Philadelphia.

A cooperative is still going to see its operating costs rise when the price of doing business goes

up. There's no better example of this than right now when the cost of fuel to run power plants is at a record high. We work every day to achieve operating efficiencies as we face these cost increases. We work with you to make sure you have the information and help you need to

use energy wisely. But if we find it necessary to pass along power supply increases, you can trust that the decision is based on keeping the business financially strong on behalf of all members. We are not driven by the profit motive to make money for outside investors.

At a time when Americans' electric bills are going up around the country—in some places by as much as 40 percent—the co-op way of doing business is an important way to keep costs manageable.

We are not profit-driven and we don't have to impress Wall Street every quarter. Rather, we are service-driven (to improve your quality of life) and operate at cost. You can bank on the cooperative difference.

Some Co-ops You May Be Aware Of

- ACE Hardware
- Agri-Mark
- Associated Press
- GROWMARK, Inc.
- Land O'Lakes
- FTD
- Ocean Spray
- Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI)
- Riceland Foods

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Executive
Vice President/
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Integrity : We are credible, trustworthy, honest and believable.

The Hard, Cruel Facts About Mold

You have mold in your home! You may not want to hear this, but it is true, there is mold in every home and in fact, is a part of the natural environment. Outdoors, molds do their part in nature by breaking down dead organic matter such as leaves and dead trees. It's when mold begins to grow indoors though that we get concerned. According to a recent article in Fine Homebuilding (Jan 2007, *The Mold Explosion*), a couple of changes in building practices have led to increased mold issues.

Food

Mold likes the sugar that is stored in dead wood, especially the outer portion of trees known as the sapwood. Most of the lumber we build with today is from species that are predominately sapwood, like southern yellow pine, spruce and fir. Years ago when homes were built using oak, hickory and other hardwoods, the lumber was mostly heartwood, which has extractives that are resistant to mold growth. In addition to sapwood, we refine wood by making it into plywood, OSB and particle board. The heat and pressure needed to make these products caramelizes the sugar in the wood to an even more desirable food for mold.

The Superhighway

The heating and cooling systems we use today also contribute to the growth of mold. Humidifiers are typically installed in new homes before it is known whether they are really needed. And duct systems become the superhighway for the transport of mold from the building envelope to the living space. Construction practices today use hollow building components as ductwork. Nearly all return duct systems are built using metal nailed to the bottom of floor joists and holes cut into floors to make wall cavities into return air ducts. As air is drawn through building cavities, holes for wiring and plumbing connect unintended cavities to intended ones, connecting breathing air to the building envelope and whatever is hidden within.

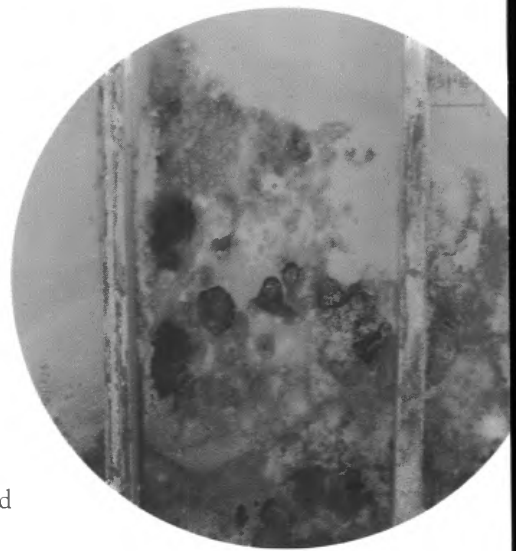
The Cure

Making sure the mold spores that are everywhere don't become a problem takes smart and immediate action. This means choosing proper building materials and using correct installation procedures. Cutting corners usually means creating a problem at some point in the building's life. When there is a water or moisture problem, fix it right away and dry the materials out. Delaying repairs may lead to even larger and more expensive problems.

Contrary to the belief of some, energy conservation is not the cause of mold problems. In fact, adding cellulose insulation can help reduce the potential for mold (see sidebar). Problems typically come from taking short cuts, cutting corners or not thoroughly researching issues and solutions.

Choose Proper Materials And Construction Techniques

- Use foam sheathings to insulate basements.
- Use nonperforated housewraps like Tyvek, Weathermate Plus or asphalt-impregnated felt to repel water but let vapor escape.
- Use cementboard or fiberglass-faced drywall instead of blue wallboard around showers and baths.
- Use plastic mat or other drainage material behind siding that doesn't easily dry out.
- Use spray foams or foam board in crawlspaces or basement sill areas instead of fiberglass.
- Make sure the building site drains rainwater away from the house.
- Cover the ground in crawlspaces with 6-mil polyethylene to stop moisture evaporation into the house.
- Don't install carpet in damp areas like basements.



Moisture Content And Mold Growth

Mold needs a moisture content (MC) of over 16 percent before it can grow and reproduce. As most wood frame homes average 5 percent MC, there is a 10 percent buffer capacity.

A 2,000 square foot home has about 5,000 lbs of framing material and can hold about 500 lbs of water before reaching an MC right for mold growth. Swap the wood studs of the same home for steel and the buffer capacity goes to 0, meaning the home could not absorb any extra moisture.

Drywall can hold less than 1 percent of its weight in moisture and with about 3,000 lbs of drywall in an average home, it contributes a moisture buffer of only 30 lbs. By contrast, a 100-yr-old masonry home with plaster walls has a buffer capacity of 4,000 lbs. Today's homes can hold less moisture before reaching a MC of 16 percent or higher.

Clean Up

Avoid breathing mold or mold spores. Wear an N-95 respirator that is available at many home supply stores. Wear gloves and goggles along with the respirator. Clean with detergent, water. Allow all material to dry before covering or closing off the area. If the mold damage was caused by sewer leakage or back-up, consider calling in a professional.

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



Is it in your wallet?

If you don't have an Egyptian Electric Co-Op Connections Card in your wallet, you're missing out on valuable savings and special deals. To see a list of participating retail outlets both local and national, visit our Web site at www.eeca.coop.

If you've lost or misplaced your card, call our office or e-mail us at connections@eeca.coop for a replacement.

You don't need heat to warm up a room!

electraflame® electric fireplaces add a warm, relaxing feeling to any room at the push of a button!

- realistic flame technology
- sets up in minutes, no special tools
- utilizes standard household outlet
- wide range of styles and finishes

The soothing effect of an electraflame® electric fireplace can be enjoyed any place, anytime.

Visit our office to see a display model



**Members
receive 15%
discount**

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

Winter Weather Woes

Be prepared for ice storms and prolonged outages



Blasts of winter wind, moisture and fluctuating temperatures can result in severe freezing rain, sleet and ice storms. A heavy build-up of ice on power lines can cause wires to snap and utility poles to topple. Falling ice-laden trees or limbs can bring down power lines, cause outages and threaten life and property.

Safe Electricity and Egyptian Electric Cooperative stress the importance of being prepared for these potentially dangerous storms and the power outages they may cause.

“When severe weather hits, it can cause extensive damage to our substations, power lines and other electrical equipment. Even with our crews working around the clock, this damage can take days to repair. If the damage will cause long outages, we can call on other electric cooperatives for help. We’ll do everything it takes to restore your power quickly,” says General Manager Mark Stallons.

Be prepared and know what to do in case of a winter emergency and long-term power outages:

- * Always keep a battery-powered radio or TV, flashlights and a supply of fresh batteries readily available.
- * Know where to find extra blankets.
- * Fill spare containers with water for washing, and keep a supply of bottled drinking water on hand.
- * Keep a supply of foods that don’t require cooking or refrigeration, along with a hand opener for canned food.

- * Switch off lights and appliances to prevent overloading circuits and damaging appliances when power is restored. Leave one lamp or switch on to signal when your power returns.
- * To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly so water drips from the tap.
- * Keep all grills outdoors to stay safe from carbon monoxide.
- * Assemble a disaster supply kit ahead of time. Remember to include a first aid kit, prescription medicines and special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
- * Stay inside and dress warmly in layered clothing.
- * Close off unneeded rooms.
- * When using an alternate heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to properly ventilate.
- * If you use a standby generator, make sure it has a transfer safety switch or that your power is cut off at the breaker box before you operate it. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines or what’s known as “back feed.” Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.
- * When outside, treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized electric lines. Stay away, warn others to stay away and immediately contact your utility.

Visit the Safe Electricity Web site and find more detailed information and safety tips by clicking on the Electric Safety page at www.eeca.coop

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.

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We Are Prepared!

As I'm writing this, four of our linemen just recently returned from helping restore electric service to MJM Electric Cooperative members near Carlinville who lost power due to the ice storm on Dec. 1. This storm struck from St. Louis to Bloomington and was indiscriminant as to whose power it knocked out. The restoration costs of the nine Illinois electric cooperatives affected exceeds \$7 million dollars.

Fortunately for us, only the very northwestern portion of our electric system in Randolph and St. Clair Counties was affected and our crews were able to restore service in a relatively short time period. I'm sure though that some of you wondered what would have happened if the storm had been farther south and east? Would you have been without electricity and what would have been your electric cooperative's response?

There is no doubt that had that same ice storm hit our region, Egyptian Electric would have experienced outages. The severity depends on how much ice. Two inches of ice, as Bloomington received, would cause down guys and poles to break, as well as break limbs from trees and send them falling into our lines. When there is that much ice and strong winds to go with it, there is very little any utility can do to prevent damage.

Let me assure you that we do all that we can responsibly do to make our system as damage proof as possible. Years ago, Egyptian Electric, and most other cooperatives, used mainly 30' class 8 poles (the class has to do with the diameter of the pole, the smaller the number, the larger the di-



ameter) to build the electric system. Nearly 30 years ago we changed to 35' class 6 poles, and today, we now use 35' class 4 poles. Over the years, Egyptian has had a relatively aggressive pole inspection and change-out program and very few of the older, smaller poles remain on the system.

Over the years, we have also increased the size of the wire we use. Not only does this increase the load we can handle on each circuit, but it also improves the strength of the wire and its ability to handle ice. We've also increased the size of guy wire we use. Rural Utility Services (formally the REA) guidelines call for us to build a system to with-stand

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Mark A. Stallons
Executive
Vice President/
General Manager



½" ice with 40 mile-per-hour winds and we make sure we use that as our minimum standard when we build new lines.

Maintaining the right-of-way (ROW) and keeping trees trimmed and removed near power lines is one of the best ways to minimize ice and storm related outages. Some utilities, in the face of tough financial times, cut back or eliminate ROW maintenance. Your board has always thought this approach to be short sided and in the long run, the cost for catch up ROW maintenance is more expensive than an on-going, systematic approach. We understand some members do not like to see trees trimmed or removed, but reality is that storms and trees are the number one causes of outages. However, proper ROW maintenance will reduce the number of outages and speed up service restoration during an ice or wind storm.

That answers what we are doing to prevent storm related outages, but what would our reaction have been if we had gotten that 2 inches of ice? First of all, analyzing which parts of the electric system have been affected is essential to restoration efforts. Our goal is to restore service first to the circuits that can get the most number of members on the quickest. With our outage management software and the new automatic meter reading (AMR) system, our staff can very quickly ascertain what circuits have been affected and how many members are out. We can effectively dispatch our crews to where they can have the greatest impact in the shortest period of time.

Secondly, by having the information as to how much of our system and how many members have been affected, we can very quickly make a decision as to whether we will need assistance from outside



line crews from other cooperatives. If assistance is needed, we can make the call fairly quickly and get crews and equipment headed our way.

Finally, because the linemen that work for your cooperative have been very good about volunteering to assist other cooperatives in times of need (this last ice storm, hurricanes Katrina and Ivan, as well as many other storms), we are assured that when we need help, our fellow cooperatives will be there for us. On this note, I would like to say that when we do provide assistance to other cooperatives, we are reimbursed for the cost of our crews and equipment; the members of Egyptian Electric do not pay this cost.

Just as your cooperative has plans for restoration of service in the event of a large storm, we recommend you make similar plans.

- If power is out for an extended period, do you have a back-up heat source? This could be a generator to run the existing heat system, a kerosene heater or a wood burner or fireplace. Remember that combustion type appliances do put out carbon monoxide (charcoal grills should never be used indoors) and that after Jan. 1 of this year, all homes with combustion heat sources are required to have a carbon monoxide detector in the home.

- Do you have edible food on hand? If power is out, your microwave and electric stove will not function so you need to ensure you have prepared food on hand. In the event of a major ice storm, roads will most likely be inaccessible and restaurants and grocery stores may also be without power.

- If you are elderly or have elderly persons in your care, you may want to find out ahead of time if your community has a warming center and how to access it. You may also want to check if they have emergency transportation plans for transporting those needing assistance in getting to the warming center.

- If using a standby generator, make sure it has a double-pole transfer switch installed to ensure power from your generator is not "back fed" onto our lines. Back feeding through the transformer that feeds your home will energize the lines to 7,200 volts, endangering the life of anyone near a downed line or crews working to restore your power.

- If outside, treat all downed and low lines as if they are energized power lines. There have been cases of ice on power lines and the ground that acted as an insulator and prevented fault sensing devices from opening and de-energizing the lines.

We have been very fortunate that major ice and wind storms in the recent past have missed us and we have been spared the misfortune of a major outage that causes some to be without power for more than a few hours. Rest assured though, we know that may not always be the case and should that misfortune some day come our way, we are prepared to tackle it head on and do our best to minimize its effect and to restore power to everyone as quickly as possible.

Open Doors For Your Teenager

Encourage your child or grandchild to enter the Youth to Washington essay contest

For 18 years, I have had the responsibility of supervising and coordinating Egyptian Electric Cooperative's Youth to Washington essay contest. But from this point forward, that is no longer the case. From now on, I have the *privilege* of supervising and coordinating Egyptian Electric Cooperative's Youth to Washington essay contest. You might think this merely a play on words, but let me assure you, that is not the case.

I had the opportunity to be one of the chaperones on last summer's trip. I got to experience the whole thing.....the bus ride, the long walks to get from point A to point B, the long lines, the crowded places, I mean all of it. What the students did, I did. And it was simply amazing.

What could be amazing about that? The faces of 63 young adults that laughed with joy; shed tears in the Holocaust Museum; looked in awe upon their Congressmen and Senators; realized they were standing in places where history had been made; but most importantly, said thank you for giving them the opportunity to be there.

And I now feel privileged to be a part of it.

You see, it's all about the students. And, because it is all about them, it is something every high school sophomore and junior should



be striving to be a part of. And if they aren't willing to voluntarily put forth the effort to be a part of it, as a parent, grandparent or friend, you need to encourage them to participate in the Youth to Washington program.

Selected students will be visiting the Gettysburg Battlefield, Smithsonian Museums, the Arlington National Cemetery, the National Monuments, our Senators and Congressmen, the White House and the Capitol. They'll even take a cruise on the Potomac River and have a dinner dance with other students from across the nation. Even if they've been to DC before, visiting it with 60 students of their own age is a lifetime memory as well

as an opportunity to make lifetime friends.

It only takes a 1,000 word essay. We furnish the topic and most of the research material. It's just not that hard for them to have an opportunity they will remember for the rest of their life; an opportunity that will open doors for them for the rest of their life.

To find out more about the Youth to Washington essay contest, visit our Web site at www.eeca.coop. You'll find the contest topic, research material, entry form and complete details. Essays are due at either office of the cooperative by March 9.

Bryce Cramer, District Office and Member Services Manager

New Connections Card Merchants

Banterra Bank	Multiple southern Illinois locations
Booby's Submarine Sandwiches.....	Carbondale
Burger King Restaurant	Carbondale, Herrin, Marion, West Frankfort, Anna, Harrisburg
Mark William's Small Engine	Murphysboro
McDonald's Restaurant	Carbondale, Murphysboro, Vienna, Anna, DuQuoin
Sound Core Music	Carbondale
Thalman Chiropractic	Carbondale
Wright Building Center.....	Murphysboro

Check out a complete listing of participating local and national merchants by going to our Web site, www.eeca.coop



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

Local Schools Receive Grants

Coulterville School District #1 and the Perandoe Evansville School Program have been awarded Touchstone Energy® Classroom Empowerment Grants. Evansville received a grant for a robotics program targeted for eighth grade students and Perandoe Evansville's grant was for improvements to their electrical system.

Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives across Illinois distributed a total of \$10,000 in Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants to fund innovative, unfunded school projects or materials. The projects submitted to the grant program by Coulterville and Perandoe Evansville were among 12 grant winners from a pool of 86 total grant applicants.

Mark Stallons, Executive Vice President/General Manager, said, "These grants will provide a real boost for smaller projects that would not otherwise be funded. As your local Touchstone Energy cooperative that is committed to the community, improving conditions for local students is a priority.

For more information about Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants, please contact Bryce Cramer, District Office and Member Services Manager (bcramer@eeca.coop) at Egyptian Electric Cooperative.



EECA President Allen Haake and Executive VP and GM Mark Stallons present the Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant to Coulterville teachers and Superintendent.



EECA Executive VP and GM Mark Stallons (third from left) presents the Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant to officials from the Perandoe Evansville School and the Randolph-Monroe County Regional Office of Education.

Learn How To Save Energy

See Doug Rye at one of five appearances in Southern Illinois

You've read his energy articles in the Illinois Country Living magazine and now you can hear him in person. Doug Rye, the King of Caulk and Talk, will be making five appearances in southern Illinois during March and April.

Doug Rye, who heralds from Arkansas, is nationally recognized as one of the nation's top gurus on residential energy efficiency and has his own radio talk show, The Doug Rye Home Remedies Show. Egyptian Electric Cooperative sponsors his 9:05 a.m. Saturday morning talk show on radio station WXAN, 103.9 FM.

Doug is being brought to you by your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of southern Illinois---Egyptian Electric Cooperative, Monroe County Electric Co-Operative,

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative and Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

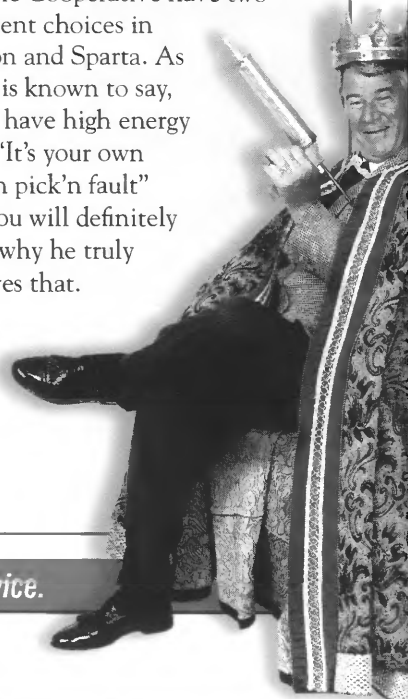
Each seminar will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be held on the following dates and places:

- March 5...Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon
- March 6...Williamson County Pavilion, Marion
- April 9.....Hecker Community Center, Hecker
- April 10...World Shooting Complex, Sparta
- April 11...Shawnee Community College, Ullin

Doug will offer numerous ideas on how you can save energy in existing and new homes. In today's time of escalating energy costs, Doug's ideas and principles are more

important than ever.

Admission is free. Just call ahead at 1-800-606-1505 to let us know which seminar you will be attending. Members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative have two excellent choices in Marion and Sparta. As Doug is known to say, if you have high energy bills, "It's your own cotton pick'n fault" and you will definitely learn why he truly believes that.



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March 2007

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Quality Service at a Fair Price – The Cooperative Difference

At a time when tree trimming practices are under intense legislative scrutiny and energy bills are increasing at an alarming rate, the cooperative way of doing business stands in stark contrast. We pledge that we will do all in our power to keep your lights on and manage our cooperative's resources wisely. Given the movement toward clean energy and the continuing rise in generating fuel and raw materials, we pledge that we will work hard to provide quality service at a fair price.

We are committed to operating as efficiently as possible. And we are committed to investing in line clearance efforts, pole testing and replacement, line inspection, overhead and underground system maintenance and basic system operation efforts. The bottom line is that the bulk of our labor dollars are allocated toward system maintenance and operations. Simply put, maintenance is of utmost importance!

Combining your phone calls with a good after-hours answering service, a computerized mapping system, a robust outage management prediction system and smart meters, we can quickly determine who is out of power. Armed with good information, we are able to respond quickly to outages and make good man-power decisions to minimize outage time. Given the uncertainty of "good ole mother nature," we know that outages are going to happen. However, with sound maintenance practices and talented and well-trained employees armed with good equipment and reliable information, outage times can be kept to a minimum. Keeping your lights on is a top priority.

From January through December 2005, our average cost for power was 5.33

cents per kWh; in 2006 it rose to 5.85 cents per kWh. We expect to see continual increases in the cost of power as our nation continues to build cleaner power sources. With the new makeup of the United States Congress, it is likely that new CO2 environmental regulations will be passed that could dramatically increase the cost of coal-fired generation. Health care and other benefit costs continue to increase near the 10 percent per year range. Our material suppliers are continuing to project price increases in the range of 7.5 percent per year. The typical wood pole that cost around \$100 several years ago today costs more than \$200.

As a result, in April, single-phase farm and residential rates will increase about 5 percent. Three-phase commercial, three-phase farm and large power accounts on a dedicated substation will see a 12 percent increase. Streetlights and yard lights will see an increase of \$1 per month. The measured increases will raise cooperative revenue to about \$27 million with margins in the range of 1 to 2 percent of revenue or \$250,000 to \$500,000.

While cost increases are a difficult necessity, by managing our resources wisely and investing in maintenance and outage response systems, we can ensure that you receive quality service at a fair price --the Cooperative Difference .

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General Manager



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

New Bill Payment Options Coming Soon

Over the last year we have mentioned several times that we have moved to a new billing and accounting software system so that we can provide better and improved services and information to our members. You have seen some of those services already - receiving a monthly bill from us without your having to read the meter, more information on bill statements, etc. And now, coming soon, we will be providing increased services, information and payment options via the Internet.

For those members that prefer the digital world, we will soon be providing them with access to their account information electronically on the Internet, as well as the ability to pay online. They will be able view their bill and pay online by either a credit card or electronic check. Members will even be able to set up their account so it is paid each month by a recurring credit or debit card payment. There will be no charge to the member for using this service.

Our goal is for this service to be available for the members to use starting April 1 with access through our Web site, www.eeca.coop. We will have more detailed information for you in the next issue of the Illinois Country Living.

In the meantime, know that we are continually looking for ways to make information you need easier to access and readily accessible at all times. If you have thoughts or ideas of how we can improve accessibility or availability of information via our Web site, please e-mail bcramer@eeca.coop. Providing easier and improved access to information is just one more way we are working to improve our members' quality of life.



Hheavy farm machinery can be deadly for reckless drivers. Slow down, especially during spring planting and fall harvest times. The few extra minutes you take to reach your destination could make the difference between life and death.

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The King of ENERGY Ideas

Doug Rye. He's more than just caulk and talk.
Coming to Southern Illinois!

You've heard him on the radio...
NOW SEE HIM IN PERSON!

Nationally recognized energy consultant, DOUG RYE, will be visiting southern Illinois to help you lower your utility bills. Come see this home energy conservation expert and learn how residential energy improvements can make you money, not cost you money!

The electric cooperatives of southern Illinois are hosting FIVE can't miss events:

Residential Energy Audit Workshops

6:30 p.m. Please call to reserve seating.

March 5, 2007	Holiday Inn, Mt Vernon - 800-244-5151
March 6, 2007	Williamson County Pavilion, Marion - 800-833-2611
April 9, 2007	Hecker Community Center, Hecker - 800-757-7433
April 10, 2007	World Shooting Complex, Sparta - 800-606-1505
April 11, 2007	Shawnee Community College, Ullin - 800-762-1400

Free Admission



Touchstone Energy[®]
The power of human connections



Southern Illinois
Electric Cooperative



Monroe County
Electric Co-Operative



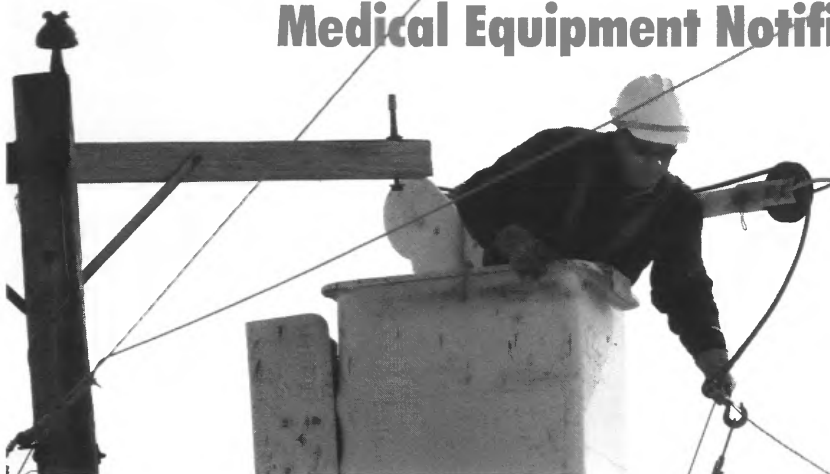
SouthEastern Illinois
Electric Cooperative



Egyptian Electric
Cooperative Association

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

Medical Equipment Notification



“Unplanned outages, such as storms, vehicle accidents or equipment failure, are beyond our control and we recommend you have a backup or contingency plan.”

If you are or someone in your family is on medical life support equipment that requires electricity to function, please make sure we are aware of the condition. Contact either the Steeleville or Murphysboro office with the name on the account, the service address, a primary and a backup phone number, a description of the equipment and whether this is a permanent, recuperation or rehabilitation situation.

In the event of a planned outage, we will do our best to inform

you ahead of time about the outage so you can take appropriate action during the time power will be off. There are normally a number of factors involved as to when or why an outage is needed, so we most likely do not have the opportunity to reschedule the outage to another time. That is why it is important for those with the need of medical support equipment to have contingency plans.

Unplanned outages, such as storms, vehicle accidents or equip-

ment failure, are beyond our control and we recommend you have a backup or contingency plan. This may include a battery backup, a generator or another site the member can be transferred to. We always do our best to restore everyone's power as soon as possible, but if the equipment is essential to someone's well being, it is important to have an emergency plan ahead of time.

Learn How To Save Energy

See Doug Rye at one of five appearances in Southern Illinois

You've read his energy articles in the Illinois Country Living magazine and now you can hear him in person. Doug Rye, the King of Caulk and Talk, will be making five appearances in southern Illinois during March and April.

Doug Rye, who heralds from Arkansas, is nationally recognized as one of the nation's top gurus on residential energy efficiency and has his own radio talk show, The Doug Rye Home Remedies Show. Egyptian Electric Cooperative sponsors his 9:05 a.m. Saturday morning talk show on radio station WXAN, 103.9 FM.

Doug is being brought to you by your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of southern Illinois--Egyptian Electric Cooperative,

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative and Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Each seminar will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be held on the following dates and places:

- March 5...Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon
- March 6...Williamson County Pavilion, Marion
- April 9.....Hecker Community Center, Hecker
- April 10...World Shooting Complex, Sparta
- April 11...Shawnee Community College, Ullin

Doug will offer numerous ideas on how you can save energy in existing and new homes. In today's

time of escalating energy costs, Doug's ideas and principles are more important than ever.

Admission is free. Just call ahead at 1-800-606-1505 to let us know which seminar you will be attending. Members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative have two excellent choices in Marion and Sparta. As Doug is known to say, if you have high energy bills, "It's your own cotton pick'n fault" and you will definitely learn why he truly believes that.

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.




Egyptian Electric

P.O. Box 38
Steeleville, IL 62288
618-965-3434
618-965-3111 fax

10169 Old Highway 13
Murphysboro, IL 62966
618-684-2143
618-684-4060 fax

800-606-1505 after hours
www.eeca.coop

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Monday - Friday

Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

April 2007

Mission Statement:

Improving the quality of life of our member-owners.

Mark A. Stallons

*Executive Vice President/
General Manager*

Board of Directors

- Allen Haake, *President*
- Gilbert Kroening, *Vice President*
- Paul Pyatt, *Secretary-Treasurer*
- W. Dean Bame
- Larry Ebers
- Paul Hicks
- Kevin Liefer
- Raymond Mulholland
- John Steele

Office Closings

Good Friday,
April 6, 2007

What to do if the power goes off

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole or pedestal. If you have breakers, make sure they are "on" by first pushing to the 'off' position and then pushing them to the 'on' position. If you live in a mobile home, codes require a main disconnect near the meter. If you have a dusk-dawn light and it is working, you have a breaker or fuse out.
3. Check with your neighbors. If they are out of power also, the main line is most likely out.
4. During office hours: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143 or 800-606-1505 for either office. After office hours call 800-606-1505.
5. Make sure you have the name on the account and if possible, the account number.

The Importance Of Vegetation Management



Vegetation management, commonly referred to as right-of-way maintenance (ROW), is essential to providing safe and reliable electric service. Egyptian Electric Cooperative works hard to ensure that rights-of-way are regularly cleared of trees and brush to help reduce potential outages and hazards. Trees and branches growing in or near power lines can cause interruptions in service and delay service restoration. Uncontrolled brush can impede access to utility structures.

Keeping safety first

Trees and branches pose significant safety concerns when they are too close to power lines. Children climbing trees in this situation could be severely injured or even killed if they or a limb of the tree contact an energized line. Adults who choose to do their own tree trimming can also put themselves at risk. Pruning trees near power lines should be left to qualified vegetation management professionals.

Additionally, trees can fall into

power lines due to strong wind, saturated ground and inclement weather. Not only can power lines be knocked down, but poles can be broken, lengthening the service restoration time and increasing costs. Although all weather-related outages cannot be prevented, vegetation management definitely minimizes damage, injury and outages.

Reducing the likelihood for power outages

In August 2003, approximately 40 million people lost power for roughly two days in the northeastern United States. The root cause for this massive blackout – overgrown trees that contacted high-voltage

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Mark A. Stallons

*Executive Vice President/
General Manager*



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

transmission lines. The importance of vegetation management cannot be stressed enough. In fact, the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) has established requirements for transmission line vegetation management.

The new standards apply to transmission lines operating at 200 kilovolts and above. Transmission lines are used to carry bulk electricity from a generating plant to a substation. These standards currently are voluntary, but will most likely become mandatory by June 2007 and will establish formal transmission vegetation management programs that define the following:

- regular schedules for clearing

- clearances between vegetation and transmission lines
- quarterly reporting systems for transmission outages caused by vegetation

Vegetation management for distribution lines is addressed through the National Electric Safety Code (NESC). Distribution lines delivering electric energy to cooperative members are what our crews primarily deal with. Although there are no specific requirements, the NESC states, "vegetation that may damage ungrounded supply lines should be pruned or removed."

In addition to safety concerns and outage prevention, vegetation

management is necessary to reduce unexpected costs to Egyptian Electric Cooperative. By keeping rights-of-way clear, our crews are able to restore power more quickly, improve reliability and prevent expensive repairs caused by trees or neglected vegetation.

We think our crews and the contractors that work for us do a good job of right-of-way vegetation management. In general, our vegetation management plan is predicated on a four-year cycle. Should you notice any trees or brush that need attention, please contact our office at 1-800-606-1505. This will help ensure our efforts to deliver safe, reliable power at the lowest possible cost.

Learn How To Save Energy

See Doug Rye at three remaining appearances

You've read his energy articles in the Illinois Country Living magazine and now you can hear him in person. Doug Rye, *the King of Caulk and Talk*, will be making five appearances in southern Illinois during March and April.

Doug Rye, who heralds from Arkansas, is nationally recognized as one of the nation's top gurus on residential energy efficiency and has his own radio talk show, *The Doug Rye Home Remedies Show*. Egyptian Electric Cooperative sponsors his 9:05 a.m., Saturday morning talk show on radio station WXAN, 103.9 FM.

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Each seminar will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be held on the following dates and places:

- **April 9**
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Doug will offer numerous ideas on how you can save energy in existing and new homes. In today's time of escalating energy costs, Doug's ideas and principles are more important than ever.

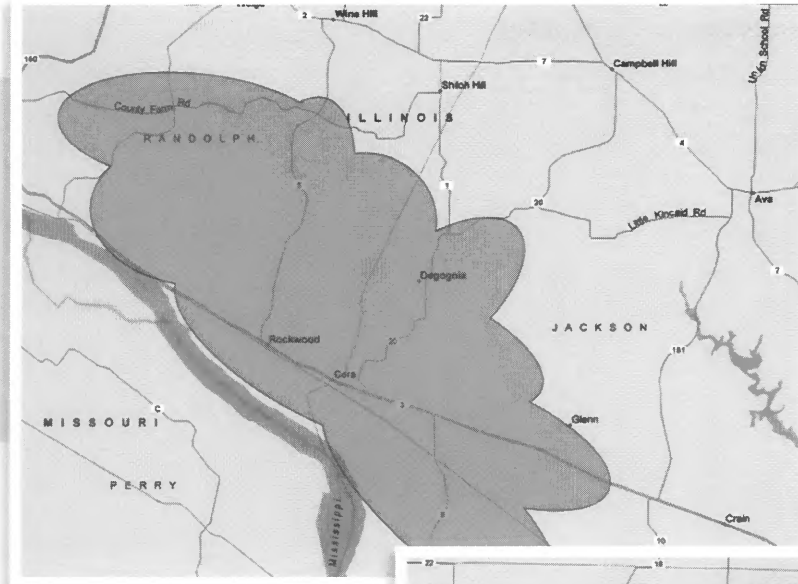
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The King of ENERGY Ideas

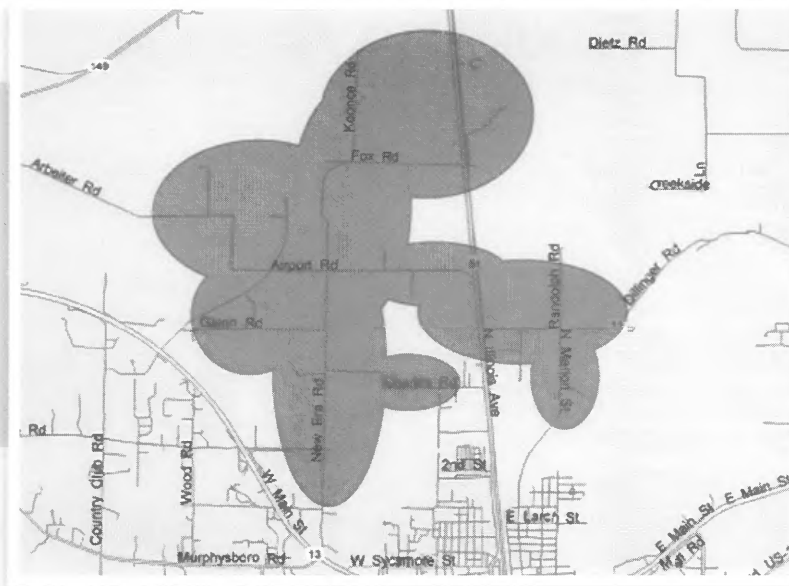
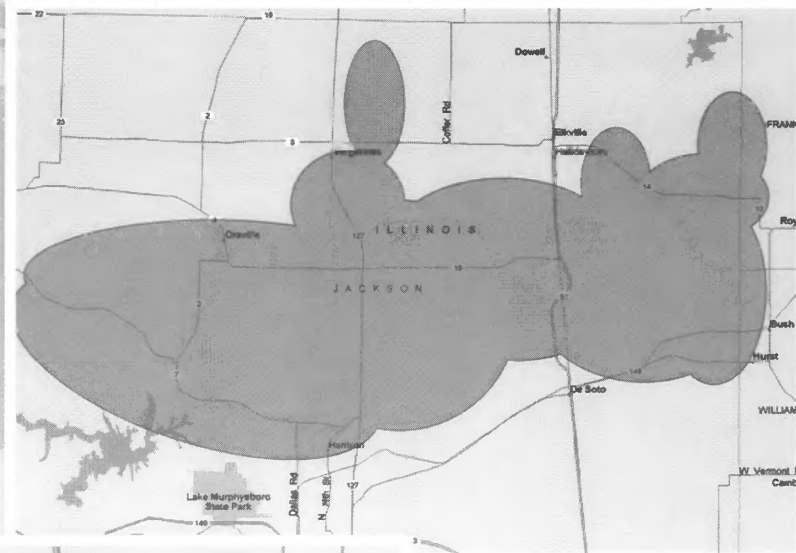
Accountability : We act in accordance with our core purpose and values.

2007 Vegetation Management Schedule



Members served by the Cora substation can anticipate vegetation management work in their area during April, May and June.

Members served by the Finney substation north of Murphysboro, can anticipate vegetation management crews and work in their area from July through November.



Members served by the Carbondale East substation can anticipate vegetation management crews and work in their area beginning in December.

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Tips For Planting Trees ...

And Making A Good Investment

With spring around the corner, planting a beautiful tree that is compatible with its surroundings is a great way to add beauty to our world. The first step is as simple as finding the proper location. Remember to look up and down to determine where existing overhead and underground utilities are.

Overhead lines are the easiest to see and are the ones we most often take for granted. These overhead lines can be electric, telephone or cable. Planting trees that grow tall near these lines will some day require them to be pruned to maintain safe clearance between the tree and lines.

Tall growing trees can cause power outages or blinks when the trees come into contact with overhead lines. A much greater concern though is young children who enjoy climbing trees. Any inadvertent contact with power lines by a limb of the tree or the child can be life threatening. Choosing the proper location for a new tree is the best way to ensure a safe environment for neighborhood children as well as to avoid nuisance outages and blinks.

Underground utilities are often out of sight and out of mind, but are just as critical as overhead lines when determining where to plant a new tree. Underground lines include electric, telephone and cable, as well as water, sewer and natural gas. Any future repairs to these facilities can damage tree roots and have a dramatic effect

on the health and beauty of the tree. It may sometimes be difficult to know if underground facilities are present. Remember to call the Illinois one call system, JULIE, at 1-800-892-0123 before you dig, even if you think there are no underground facilities nearby. JULIE will contact all utilities to locate their facilities. The last thing you



want is to inadvertently hit something while digging! Your safety is the utmost concern.

Once you know where all the obstacles are, determine the proper size tree for the location. The International Society of Arboriculture [ISA] defines three zones for different sizes of trees. The "low zone" is for trees less than 20 feet tall. The "medium zone" is for trees that grow no taller than 40 feet in height, while the "tall zone" is for trees that grow greater than 60 feet in height.

The "low zone" extends 15 feet either side of the wires and is for mature trees that do not exceed 20 feet in height. Good examples of these trees are Red Bud, Dogwood and Crabapple. Taller trees in this zone will require pruning in order to maintain safe and reliable clearance.

The "medium zone" is for trees that grow no taller than 40 feet in height. These trees are used to frame, decorate and shade your house. When planting near power lines, these trees should be planted outside of and adjacent to the low zone area. This will reduce the possibility of limbs overhanging power lines or trees that

can topple into the lines during wind or ice storms.

The "tall zone" is for trees that grow 60 feet or more in height. These trees should be kept 35 feet away from houses to allow for proper root development and to minimize potential damage to the house or building.

These trees should

be planted at least 65 feet from any overhead line. This allows the tree to reach its full growth potential without being disturbed by pruning. It will also minimize the likelihood that wind or ice will cause the tree to contact a power line and cause a power outage.

Finally, follow the planting instructions that come with your tree, or check with your local soil and water conservation district or local nursery for planting tips. Take time to plan so that you can give your tree a good start in life, create a safe neighborhood for children, minimize power disruptions and ensure that you and the next generation will enjoy the benefits of your tree for years to come.

For more information on planting and maintaining trees visit www.treesaregood.com.

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May 2007

Mission Statement:

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of our member-owners.

Mark A. Stallons

*Executive Vice President/
General Manager*

Board of Directors

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- Gilbert Kroening, *Vice President*
- Paul Pyatt, *Secretary-Treasurer*
- W. Dean Bame
- Larry Ebers
- Paul Hicks
- Kevin Liefer
- Raymond Mulholland
- John Steele

Office Closings

Memorial Day
Monday, May 28

**What to do if the
power goes off**

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole or pedestal. If you have breakers, make sure they are "on" by first pushing to the 'off' position and then pushing them to the 'on' position. If you live in a mobile home, codes require a main disconnect near the meter. If you have a dusk-dawn light and it is working, you have a breaker or fuse out.
3. Check with your neighbors. If they are out of power also, the main line is most likely out.
4. During office hours: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143 or 800-606-1505 for either office. After office hours call 800-606-1505.
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Some Straight Talk about Energy

The increasing cost of electricity has been leading the news of late. As members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative, you may be wondering what electric rates will be in the future. This month, I'd like to have some straight talk with you about what is going on in the global energy markets and how it affects us in southern Illinois.

The greatest challenge facing the electric industry today is that the surplus generation of the late eighties and nineties is gone. Given today's growth in energy usage, the Department of Energy estimates that by 2030 the electric industry will need a 40 percent increase in the amount of electric energy generated today. Unfortunately, that energy is going to be the most expensive generation built in the history of this country. The budget price to build coal-fired generation five years ago was around \$1,000 to \$1,250 per kW of capacity. Today's cost is at least double and is continuing to rise.

As the electric industry wrestles with how to best meet the increasing use of electric energy, Congress and the Supreme Court have been wrestling with the debate over climate change. The hard reality is that there is no silver bullet or magic fix.

Many believe renewable energy is the answer. Where renewables are cost effective and make sense, they will be a part of the solution, such as in the Great Plains where wind is abundant. But that also means transmission lines will need to be built to move the power to regions

that are unable to produce renewable wind power.

The greatest drawback to wind power is that a typical wind farm generates electricity only one-third of the time because the wind does not always blow. In comparison, coal and nuclear power plants typically run 80-90 percent of the time.

In California, ground has been broken for a 650 home subdivision that will be the world's largest solar powered neighborhood. Each home will have 250-290 kWh's of electricity generated each month from a roof-integrated solar power system. Even with all this activity nationwide, renewables are estimated at best to be less than 25% of the total generation supply by 2025.

For coal-fired generation plants, the bottom line is that CO₂ capture and storage must be a part of the solution. Even though the Department of Energy has been working on developing effective CO₂ capture and storage, the technology is simply not ready for commercial use.

The Future Gen pilot project, in either Texas or east central Illinois, is scheduled for completion by 2012. It will turn coal into gas and strip the pollutants from it, resulting in an environmentally clean,

Continued on page 16d

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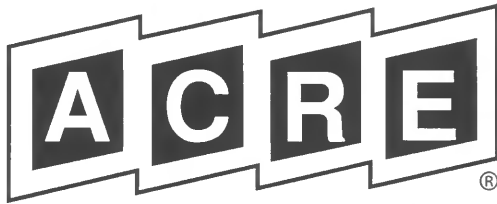


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New Employee

Travis Deterding has joined Egyptian Electric Cooperative as Forestry Supervisor. He will administer the right-of-way maintenance program for Egyptian Electric. Travis is a graduate of Red Bud High School and Southern Illinois University Carbondale where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resource Management. Travis currently lives in Murphysboro, but plans to relocate to the Steeleville area. He spends his free time with friends and participates in washer tournaments.



ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action

The ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action program is an exciting new opportunity for residential consumer-owners to strengthen their voice in the political process.


For more than 30 years, the Action Committee for Rural Electrification® (ACRE®) has been working to support candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representa-

tives who understand and support electric cooperatives and their consumer-owners. Now through the special new program, ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action, you, as a consumer-owner, have the ability to strengthen this support and join the more than 25,000 members of ACRE.

We hope that you will consider this program. Together we will con-

tinue to fight for a viable environment for electric cooperatives and the quality of life of the people and communities cooperatives serve.

It is easy to participate in ACRE through the ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action program. You may contribute through an addition to your monthly electric bill by completing the authorization form below.

 Cut here and return with your electric payment

YES! I want to help keep the voice of rural electric cooperatives heard in the political process by participating in ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action®.

Please add the following amount to my monthly electric bill:

- _____ Regular ACRE Member: \$2.08 per month (\$25 per year)
- _____ Century Club Member: \$8.03 per month (\$100 per year)
- _____ President's Club Member: \$41.60 per month (\$500 per year) *
- _____ Other \$ _____

I affirm that my contribution has been made with Non-corporate funds:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Account #: _____ Signature: _____

*Federal Election Law requires the following information for contributions equal to or exceeding \$200:

Employer: _____ Occupation: _____

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

Relay For Life

At some point in our life, if it hasn't already, it will affect you, me or someone we know, some how or some way. Cancer. It's indiscriminating as to whom or when it chooses to strike. It puts fear in the hearts and minds of those hearing their doctor utter the word. Yet today, due to research and advanced treatment options, patients are being cured or provided treatments that extend and provide a better quality of life. This research, of course, comes with a price tag.

Relay For Life is a fun-filled, overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of the American Cancer Society. The employees of Egyptian Electric Cooperative are taking up the challenge of raising money by participating in

the Relay for Life on May 19 and 20 at the Murphysboro High School.

Commitment to Community is an important value of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and especially Egyptian Electric. Putting our core purpose, *improving the quality of life of our member-owners*, into practice comes in many ways. Sometimes it means helping others improve our members' quality of life---in this case, through the American Cancer Society.

You can help us with this cause. On Friday, May 4, the employees, along with 17th Street Bar and Grill, will host a carry-out lunch plate. For \$7, you will get a 17th Street BBQ sandwich and baked beans, chips, drink and homemade dessert. Call Carla, Tillie or Kay at 800-606-1505 or e-mail ktaylor@

eeca.coop to reserve your lunch by May 2.

You can also memorialize a friend or relative that has fought the battle with cancer by purchasing a luminaria in their name. Just complete the form below and return it to the Murphysboro office with a check for \$5 per memorial. A luminaria will be lit in their name on the evening of May 19 and their name read during the memorial event. When the lights in the stadium are turned off, it is truly a moving ceremony.

With your help and support, we can assist the American Cancer Society improve the quality of life for cancer victims.



The employees of Egyptian Electric Cooperative are hosting a 17th Street BBQ luncheon to benefit the American Cancer Society. Each carry-out plate lunch includes:

- 17th Street BBQ sandwich
- 17th Street baked beans
- bag of potato chips
- drink
- homemade dessert



Call Kay, Carla or Tillie at 618-684-2143 or e-mail ktaylor@eeca.coop to reserve your lunch by May 2.



Pick up your plate luncheon at the Egyptian Electric office located at the intersection of Old Rte. 13 and Hwy 127, Murphysboro, between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on May 4.

Please return form with a separate check by May 15 to: Egyptian Electric Cooperative, 10169 Old Highway 13, Murphysboro, IL 62966.

Name on Luminaria: _____ Living or Deceased? _____

Purchased by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Amount per Luminaria: \$5 Total contribution: _____

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

coal fired generating plant. The next step will be to take the CO₂ that has been removed from the gas stream and store it in a safe and stable location.

Many experts project that the Future Gen model will be ready for duplication sometime between 2015 to 2020. In the meantime, Congress will have to step up funding levels to ensure the timely success of clean coal generation and CO₂ capture technology.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative is committed to ensuring that you have reliable service at the lowest possible cost. Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, our generation and transmission cooperative, is committed to meeting your clean energy needs, including renewable when practical. Our national association, the National Rural Electric

Cooperative Association, is our watchdog in Congress, ensuring we are at the table when Congress discusses energy and the environment. A wise man once said, "If you're not at the table, you're most likely on the menu." We prefer being at the table.

What can our members do? First, we all need to become energy efficient so the U.S. can become energy independent. This means increased insulation; replacement of old, worn out heating and cooling systems; replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs; and making life style changes like getting rid of the old refrigerator we moved to the basement or garage. It also means changing transportation habits—more efficient vehicles, reduced travel, and reduced acceleration and speeds.

Second, we need your help at the congressional table. Write your legislator and urge him/her to support research for clean coal technology. You can also join the Co-op Owners for ACRE, our national Political Action Committee. See more information about joining Co-op Owners for ACRE on page 16b.

Straight talk about energy means the facts—the good, the bad, the ugly. Movement to clean electric generation will mean that electric costs will continue to rise in the foreseeable future. How much or for how long is anybody's guess. Your cooperative is committed to doing all that we can to keep our costs as low as possible while providing you with a reliable clean energy.

Nominating Committee Appointed

Pursuant to the By-Laws of the cooperative and in compliance with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service Revised Bulletin 20-19, notice is hereby given to the members of the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association that the cooperative will hold its 69th annual meeting of its members on Tuesday evening July 31, 2007, at 7:30 p.m., in the Steeleville American Legion meeting room located on the west side of town and a block south of Broadway on Chester Street.

Notice is further given that the terms of office of directors W. Dean Bame of Ava, Allen Haake of Murphysboro, and Kevin Liefer of Red Bud will expire at said annual meeting.

Notice is further given that the board of directors of the cooperative has appointed the following named persons as a nominating committee:

Robert Arthur, Carbondale
John C. Edgar, Ava
Richard Fager, Murphysboro

John Helmers, Steeleville
Tom Horn, Carbondale
Stuart Langrehr, Evansville
Roger Morganstern, Pinckneyville
Loren Prest, Sparta
Dennis Rickenberg, Campbell Hill

Notice is further given that the above nominating committee will meet at the Steeleville office of the cooperative, located at the west edge of Steeleville, Illinois, on Wednesday, May 23, 2007, at 8 p.m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for election to the board of directors, and that all members interested may attend said meeting and participate.

The by-laws also provide that the nominating committee, upon making their nominations, shall prepare and post at the office of the cooperative, at least 30 days before the annual meeting, a list of nominations for directors.

The by-laws further provide that any 15 or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signature not less than

25 days prior to the meeting. Additional nominations may be made from members at the meeting.

The by-laws provide that each active member shall be entitled to one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at the meeting of the members and that proxy voting is prohibited.

A member having questions regarding the above proceedings may contact any officer or member of the board of directors for clarification or further information.

Copies of the by-laws of the cooperative are available and can be obtained at the cooperative offices located at Steeleville and Murphysboro, or mailed to you upon your request.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Pyall

Secretary

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.

Mission Statement:

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Executive Vice President/
General Manager

Board of Directors

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Energy Markets and Developing Nations

Last month I talked about four major challenges driving energy costs upward. The first challenge was that the low cost generation in the 1980s and 1990s has been used up. The second cost driver was that the price of building new generation has roughly doubled in the last five years. The third point was that, depending upon what happens in Congress, coal-fired generation may soon be faced with meeting the challenge of capturing and storing carbon emissions to lessen the impact on climate change. The last issue discussed was that renewable energy, while growing nationwide in areas where it makes practical economic sense, is still expected to provide less than 25 percent of our nation's electricity by 2025. The reality is that accelerated investment in clean coal technology will be one of several tools needed to satisfy our demand for clean energy sources.

This month I would like to discuss how a fifth factor, **the increasing energy use in developing nations**, is driving energy costs upward in the United States.

China is just one country of many that is experiencing high growth rates in energy consumption, but is an easy one to identify and relate to.

- China has 1.4 million people, roughly four times the US population
- The US has eight cities with a population over 1,000,000 while China has over 100

- Every week China is building one new large coal-fired generating plant
- In 2006 alone, China built 100 Gw of coal-fired generation compared to the United States' entire coal-fired generation of 300 Gw
- None of China's coal plants have environmental controls
- In eight years China will contribute to the earth's atmosphere four times the amount of CO₂ that the Kyoto Treaty will save
- China consumes:
 - ▶ 50 percent of the world's cement
 - ▶ 33 percent of the world's steel
 - ▶ 25 percent of the world's copper
 - ▶ 20 percent of the world's aluminum
- China's economy has grown at 10 percent per year since 1980
- China can undercut the world's manufacturing prices by 50 percent
- China is effectively the world's manufacturing floor

Continued on page 16b

Mark A. Stallons

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India, the second fastest developing nation with roughly the same population as China, is on tract to add 200 coal-fired generating plants in the next eight years. As with China, most of India's new coal-fired generation will not have any environmental control technology.

China and India, along with other developing nations worldwide, are moving from agricultural-based economies to manufacturing-based economies. In the past, developing nations, such as China and India, have used one barrel of energy per person per year compared to 15 to 25 barrels in the United States, Japan, South Korea, Europe, Canada and other developed nations.

Over the next several decades these developing nations are going to increase their energy usage dramatically along with their need for cement, steel, cooper, aluminum, wood and other materials required to build manufacturing economies. Their bicycles are being replaced with automobiles and their houses are being filled with appliances they never had before.

The impact on global prices is already being felt and will continue for decades to come. Over the last few years, coal, natural gas, wood poles, substation transformers, gasoline and diesel fuels, copper, steel, aluminum, cement and other construction and energy materials and equipment have either doubled or tripled in price.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), our national association in Washington, DC, has suggested that the plan to deal with rising energy costs must be a multi-faceted plan. This plan should include:

- ▶ Energy efficiency in residential and commercial energy use
- ▶ Renewable energy
- ▶ Safe and newly designed nuclear power plants
- ▶ Ethanol and other bio-fuels
- ▶ Hybrid automobiles and other distributed generation technologies, such as solar, fuel cells and micro-turbines.

At the February board meeting, the directors of Egyptian Electric Cooperative asked the staff to develop a five-year business plan. We have begun to formulate the issues and identify actions where we can work together with our members to deal with these challenges in a proactive and positive way. All utilities are facing the same challenges; the difference will be in how we communicate with our members and the tools we provide to help you deal with the future. Rest assured that our actions will be driven by our core purpose and values.

CORE PURPOSE:

To improve the quality of life of our member-owners at a reasonable cost.

VALUES:

Integrity, Accountability, Commitment to Community and Teamwork

Phone System Improvement

If you've recently called your local Egyptian Electric office and reached someone at the opposite office, you may have thought you misdialed or we had a problem with our phone system. No need to worry---our phone system is working correctly.

Last year, a phone system study found that many of our members calling the Murphysboro office were getting busy signals. Not satisfied with this level of service for our members, the management of your cooperative knew we had to either increase staff or see if technology could solve our problem.

We felt that we had adequate staff levels; we just didn't have the right balance we needed at certain times. Working with our phone

vendor, we found that technology could solve the issue and do it less expensively than by increasing the number of employees. Our vendor showed us that the two phone systems could be connected together via the Internet and we could route calls between the two offices without increasing our costs or yours.

So that is exactly what we've done. At each office, we have a group of Customer Service Representatives (CSRs) trained to take your calls. Even though they are in separate offices, the phone system treats them as if they were in the same building. When a call comes in to either the Steeleville or Murphysboro office, the system looks to see which CSR has been without a phone call the longest. If that CSR

is at the other office, the system routes the call across our data lines (a technology called Voice Over Internet Protocol or VOIP) to the CSR. There are no long distance charges to either the member or the cooperative.

So the next time you call, don't worry when you end up at the other office. All CSRs have access to the same data and information and are prepared to answer your questions and fulfill your needs. If you need to speak to a specific person, they can now transfer you to anyone in either office just as if they were all in the same building. *Improving the quality of life of our member-owners by making it easier to access us.*

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

E-billing and Online Payments are Here!

You asked for it, we told you it was coming and yes, IT REALLY IS HERE! All who have asked for e-billing and online payments can rejoice in the fact that Egyptian Electric Cooperative is now online with many bill payment and information resources.

To access the e-bill and Customer Service System (CSS), just go to our Web site, www.eeca.coop and look for the e-bill link. Clicking this link will take you directly to the CSS site.

To set up your account the first time, you will need the name on your account and the account number. The account number is in the top right hand corner of your billing statement. To begin the sign up process, click on the hot link near the bottom of the CSS screen that says, "Click Here to sign up for online account access."

The next page will ask you to input your last name (or the name of the business or organization), the account number, e-mail address and a password. The last name and account number must match what is on your bill statement. In addition, the password is case sensitive and the *confirm password* must match the

password input. Once these have been input, the next time you visit the site you will only need to input your e-mail address and password.

We appreciate your patience and hope that the CSS meets your expectations and needs. As always, if you have thoughts on how we can improve it, please let us know.

Egyptian Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Welcome to CSS

This online bill presentation and payment processing is provided by NISC National Information Solutions Cooperative

Welcome to the Egyptian Electric Cooperative ebill Web site

E-mail Address: _____

Password: _____

Submit Reset

- If you are registered enter your e-mail address and password
- If you are a new user Click Here to sign up for online account access
- If you have lost your password Click Here to retrieve it.
- If you are not a current customer and you would like to start a new service Click here to...

Here is what you will be able to do online:

- ▶ Pay your bill via credit card
- ▶ Pay your bill via an e-check
- ▶ Request that paper bills stop being sent to you
- ▶ View current and past payments
- ▶ View and print current and past bills
- ▶ View and print charts about your energy usage
- ▶ Service your account
 - Change mailing address and/or phone number
 - Discontinue service

Tess Hellgren of Makanda, left, is one of five winners of this year's Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship. Egyptian Electric Cooperative Board President Allen Haake presented the scholarship at Carbondale Community High School's awards ceremony. Hellgren has been accepted to and plans to attend Harvard University in Boston.

Hellgren competed for the scholarship with 204 other students from across the state. The \$1,250 awards are given each year to four sons or daughters of electric co-op members, and one to the son or daughter of a co-op employee or director.

Candidates were judged on grade-point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities and a short essay demonstrating their knowledge of energy cooperatives.

Mark Stallons, Egyptian Electric Cooperative General Manager, said, "The employees and board members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative have always been involved in our local schools and communities. We live here too. We feel strongly that investing in the future of our children is very important. This scholarship is just one small way we can help make a difference for a student like Tess."



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

Building the Home of Your Dreams

You may not see many with a white picket fence anymore, but new homes are still a part of many dreams and long awaited savings plans. With rising energy costs now and in the foreseeable future, a home that is not energy efficient could easily resemble the home Tom Hanks and Shelley Long dealt with in the movie *The Money Pit*. The electric cooperatives of Illinois and Egyptian Electric Cooperative offer the Certified Comfort Home program to help our members avoid potential money pits and to achieve a dream home they can enjoy for years to come.

The easy-to-follow guidelines of the Certified Comfort Home and the booklet *Building the home of your dreams* will lead to the path of energy efficiency and a more comfortable and enjoyable home. If followed, the techniques and recommendations will help to minimize the anxiety about monthly energy costs.

Here are some of the basic recommendations:

- ▶ Cellulose insulation should be used in walls and ceilings.
- ▶ Caulking and sealing of the exterior wall and its components is very important to the overall efficiency of the home.
- ▶ Basements have more heat loss than most people think and should be insulated.
- ▶ When insulating the basement or crawl space, do not forget to insulate the box sill.
- ▶ Corner and partition post construction should minimize air pockets and allow for full insulation.
- ▶ As windows and glass doors are major areas of heat loss and gain, they should be sized so they are no more than 10 percent of the floor area.
- ▶ Geothermal and air-to-air heat pumps, which move heat energy rather than create it, can be three times more efficient than gas furnaces.



If you would like a copy of the *Building the home of your dreams* booklet, call today, (800-606-1505) or e-mail us at bcramer@eeca.coop, to receive your complimentary copy. If you have any questions regarding the suggestions or techniques recommended in the Certified Comfort Home program, your co-op's energy advisor, Bryce Cramer, is always available to answer your questions and to help you through the construction process toward an energy efficient home.

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.



Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association

P.O. Box 38 • 1005 W. Broadway
Steeleville, Illinois 62288
Telephone: (618) 965-3434
FAX: (618) 965-3111

Notice of the 2007 Annual Meeting

To All Active Members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative:

The 2007 Annual Meeting of Members will be held Tuesday, July 31, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Steeleville, IL. Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. and each registered member will receive a free gift.

Before the meeting, food and refreshments will be served in the park next to the American Legion beginning at 5 p.m. During the meeting, members will hear reports on the condition of the cooperative and elect three directors. This is your opportunity to participate in the operation of the cooperative. During the business session, a children's program will be offered in the small hall next door.

On behalf of the board of directors, I urge you to attend. Our best advertisement is word of mouth. Please remind your friends and neighbors about the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you on July 31.



Allen Haake, President
Board of Directors

Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

69th
ANNUAL
MEETING
JULY 31,
2007
7:30 P.M.

OFFICIAL NOTICE 69th Annual Meeting

Action will be taken on the following matters:

1. Report on the number of members present, in order to determine the existence of a quorum.
2. Reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of the due publication or mailing thereof, or the waiver of waivers of notice of the meeting as the case may be.
3. Reading of the unapproved minutes of previous meeting of the members and the taking of necessary action thereon.
4. Presentation and consideration of reports of officers, trustees, and committees.
5. Election of board members.
6. Unfinished business.
7. New business.
8. Adjournment.



Paul Pyatt,
Secretary
Board of Directors
Egyptian Electric
Cooperative

Minutes of the Nominating Committee

The Egyptian Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee, in compliance with the bylaws of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, met in Steeleville, Ill., in the office of the cooperative, on May 23, 2007, at 8 p.m., to nominate candidates for the office of director of the cooperative to serve for a three-year term and to be voted upon by the membership of the cooperative in its annual meeting to be held on July 31, 2007, in the Steeleville American Legion Hall.

Attorney William Broom opened the meeting by stating that the purpose of the nominating committee is to nominate candidates for the office of director of the cooperative, and that the terms of Mr. W. Dean Bame, Mr. Allen Haake and Mr. Kevin Liefer were expiring this year.

A roll call of the members of the nominating committee was taken; Mr. Robert Arthur was absent.

Attorney Broom stated that the first order of business would be to select a chairman and a secretary of the meeting.

Mr. Stuart Langrehr was duly selected as chairman of the committee, and Attorney William Broom was selected as secretary of the meeting.

The chairman requested the secretary to read the minutes of the last year's nominating committee meeting. The minutes were approved as read by all members present.

The chairman instructed the committee that three or more nominations could be made by the committee and placed on the ballot. Following a discussion on this, it was unanimously agreed to nominate three candidates.

Mr. John Edgar nominated Mr. W. Dean Bame, Mr. Richard Fager nominated Mr. Allen Haake and Mr. Stuart Langrehr nominated Mr.

Kevin Liefer for the office of director of the cooperative. Mr. Loren Prest moved that the nominations be closed and that they be nominated by acclamation, and that their names be placed on the ballot to be voted upon at the annual meeting of the members on July 31, 2007.

The motion was seconded by Mr. John Edgar and unanimously carried.

There being no further business, motion was duly made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

*Stuart Langrehr, Chairman
Thomas R. Horn
Dennis Rickenberg
Loren Prest
John Helmers
Roger Morgenstern
John C. Edgar
Richard M Fager*

Registration Instructions

Registration will be similar to past years. We will have three lines inside the main hall for registering members. They will be located in the offset in the back of the room. You will be given a ballot and a card on which to sign your name for attendance prizes. Be sure we can read your name before dropping your signed card into the attendance box. Members must be registered by 7:30 p.m. to qualify for the anniversary prize, the two \$100 grand

prizes, and the ten \$20 electric credits. The main meeting hall will not be open until member registration begins at 5:30 p.m. To receive your attendance gift and be eligible for attendance prizes, you must register. The person registering must have his/her name on the account. There is no proxy voting.

The preferred entrance to the hall for the meeting will be through the double doors on the south side, from the walkway between the

Legion Hall and the bowling alley building. Access to this walkway is from the front parking lot towards the bowling alley, or from the west parking lot behind the ball diamond. These entrances will be clearly marked, and cooperative employees will be located around the area to help direct you to the meeting. There is also an entrance on the north side from the park area.

Mark A. Stallons

Executive Vice President/General Manager

Board of Directors

Allen Haake, *President*
Gilbert Kroening, *Vice President*
Paul Pyatt, *Secretary-Treasurer*

W. Dean Bame
Larry Ebers
Paul Hicks

Kevin Liefer
Raymond Mulholland
John Steele

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

Candidate Bios

W. Dean Bame, Incumbent



W. Dean Bame was appointed to the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Board of Directors on September 25, 1984. Besides serving your cooperative as President and Vice-President in past years, he is currently serving his 10th year on the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative Board of Directors.

He received his National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate in 1998.

Dean and his wife, Betty, live five miles south of Ava on the family farm. After serving four years in the Navy, he spent 14 years operating a dairy farm and was also employed by the soil conservation program for 24 years. He retired in 1987 and began grain farming.

The Bames have two children; Kevin and his family live in Murphysboro and Laura Hagemier and her family live in Middletown, Mo. Dean and Betty have four grandchildren: Alex, Alyssa, Jarrett and Tyler.

Allen Haake, Incumbent



Allen Haake grew up in Washington County and went to Nashville High School. He received his bachelor's degree in architecture at the Chicago Technical College. He began his working career in Chicago until he moved to his present address, northeast of Murphysboro.

For 21 years he was employed at Southern Illinois University as the University Architect responsible for new construction and major renovation of all campus buildings. His wife, Harriet, was the Administrative Aide to the Dean of the SIUC law school. Allen is the current President of the Egyptian Electric Cooperative Board of Directors and also represents the co-op on the Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) Board of Directors. He received his NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate in 2001.

The Haakes have two children; Susan lives in Springfield and Michael and his family live in Carterville. The Haakes spend retirement traveling and enjoying time with grandsons, Alex, 7, and Ben, 4.

Kevin Liefer, Incumbent



Having a solid background in agriculture, Kevin Liefer spends his time farming near Red Bud with his sons. This Red Bud native graduated from Belleville Area College with an associate of arts degree. After managing Red Bud Equipment for 10 years, he joined his parents farming full-time.

Liefer has lived on Egyptian's lines his entire life. He joined the board in April 1987 and has served as Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-President and President. He received his NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate in 2005.

Kevin has represented EECA for 10 years at the Illinois Cooperatives Workers Comp Group in Springfield and recently filled retired Director Hamilton's seat on the SIPC board at Marion.

Kevin is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Red Bud and currently serves on the board of elders.

Kevin and his wife, Kathy, have four children: Kirk, Kent, Kara and Kristopher, and four grandchildren.

Michael J. Janulis – Nominated by Petition



Michael J. Janulis of Cobden graduated with a bachelor's degree in communications and a master's degree in forestry from SIUC. He is currently a self-employed Forestry Consultant. For six years he was the Forestry Manager at Citizens Electric Corporation in Ste. Genevieve, Mo.

Prior to that, he worked for Environmental Consultants as a contracted utility arborist in Perryville, Mo., and as a Public Contact Forester in Dixon, Ill.

Janulis has been a member of Egyptian Electric for 27 years. He feels his background of working at an electric co-op in Missouri would enable him to understand the challenges that lie ahead to maintain an affordable and reliable supply of electricity for the member/owners of Egyptian Electric Cooperative.

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

Where at? "Watts" up? And Who's on?

It's the co-op annual meeting! Gather up your family, friends and neighbors and join us for a picnic in the park followed by a short business meeting in the air-conditioned hall at the American Legion in Steeleville. The employees and directors are busy preparing for the 69th annual meeting of Egyptian Electric. There will be outside activities before the meeting as long as it doesn't rain. Hot dogs, soda and ice cream bars will be served

from 5 until 7 p.m. at the park pavilion.

Should it rain, the food will be served in the small hall. Seating outdoors is limited so you might want to bring lawn chairs. We have a children's program planned in the small hall starting at 7:30 p.m. with gifts and a prize drawing for the youngsters.

Shortly after registration begins, Mr. Gary Burt of Clay City, Ill. will be performing in the large air-

conditioned hall while you're waiting for the meeting to begin. More details about the Prairie Crooner and his act are below. We're sure you'll be impressed (at least, the ladies will) when he mimics Frank Sinatra's style and mannerisms.

At print time, we have four candidates vying for three director positions, so there will be a vote by paper ballot.

ENTERTAINMENT

"The Prairie Crooner"

Sharing Sinatra songs as second career

Gary Burt of Clay City, Ill., believes life is all about attitude. And it's his positive attitude that led this power plant employee to embark on a new career as a Frank Sinatra impersonator. Burt's role model had many titles, including "Chairman of the Board," "The Voice" and "Ol' Blue Eyes." Burt has dubbed himself "The Prairie Crooner."

Burt's appreciation of Sinatra classics actually began when he was a student at Flora High School. His vocal teacher had been a Sinatra fan since college and encouraged Burt and seven other students to form an octet called the **Kids from Flora** to perform Frank's songs at area civic events.

Burt worked for 15 years at the Newton Plant before successfully bidding to Repairman Apprentice. It was during his apprentice training in St. Louis that he decided to test the waters as an entertainer. "I found out where the karaoke bars were and started singing there in the evenings," Burt said.

His wife, Janet, is a schoolteacher and the two of them perform in a gospel group. They raised three daughters who are all in college now and who think their father's act is a great idea. Burt just finished his 25th year at the power plant and is considering taking early retirement at age 55 and pursuing his musical passion full time. Burt's love of the music motivates and energizes him as he slowly learns the ropes of this new profession.

To make his act more authentic, Burt learned how to mimic the classic crooner's style and mannerisms. He always dresses in a suit and tie and tops off the look with a Sinatra style fedora. "I'm a P.T. Barnum," Burt said, describing his other role as a self-promoter. "It's a fun thing to me. It's also a challenge and everyone needs a challenge. It's all about getting your name and face out there." Burt's efforts won him an invitation from a Nashville, Tenn., recording studio to make an album of his favorite Sinatra tunes titled "GB My Way."

Burt reminds his audiences that they are never too old to follow their dreams. In fact, he likes to end his show with "Young at Heart," because he truly believes...

*"Fairy tales can come true
They can happen to you
If you're young at heart."*



Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.

Mission Statement:

Improving the quality of life
of our member-owners.

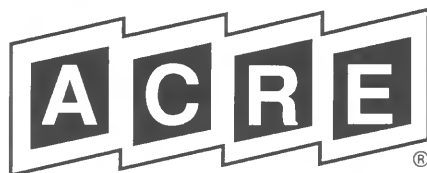
Mark A. Stallons
*Executive Vice President/
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Paul Pyatt, *Secretary-Treasurer*
W. Dean Bame
Larry Ebers
Paul Hicks
Kevin Liefer
Raymond Mulholland
John Steele

What to do if the power goes off

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole or pedestal. If you have breakers, make sure they are "on" by first pushing to the 'off' position and then pushing them to the 'on' position. If you live in a mobile home, codes require a main disconnect near the meter. If you have a dusk-dawn light and it is working, you have a breaker or fuse out.
3. Check with your neighbors. If they are out of power also, the main line is most likely out.
4. During office hours: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143 or 800-606-1505 for either office. After office hours call 800-606-1505.
5. Make sure you have the name on the account and if possible, the account number.



ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action

This year Egyptian Electric Co-operative, in cooperation with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, is launching a new program to combat ill-advised legislative and regulatory proposals that could have harmful implications for your co-op and for you as a member/owner.

This program gives member/owners the opportunity to participate, for the first time ever, in the political action committee for electric cooperatives known as ACRE, the Action Committee for Rural Electrification.

We've not talked a great deal about ACRE in the past, but our directors and employees have pledged their hard earned dollars over the years to help make sure our legislators at both the state and federal levels hear about what is important to co-ops and their members.

ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® has been created specifically for member/owners, allowing you to take a proactive step of your own to promote and protect cooperatives' interests in the political arena.

The regular membership contribution to the program is only \$25. For that, you will receive a quarterly ACRE newsletter, a lapel pin, window static, and most important of all, a voice in the political process. The newsletter will give you inside information about what

is happening in Washington, D.C., that can have a negative impact on your co-op and your lifestyle.

You'll find out how to be an effective advocate, not only for co-ops, but for yourself, as well. You'll also get the scoop on which legislators running for Congress are co-op friendly and are receiving ACRE contributions. And there's much more.

Like electric cooperatives themselves, ACRE enjoys an outstanding reputation amongst elected officials. Members of Congress know that ACRE speaks for real people with real concerns and real votes. The more of us there are... the more effective we can be.

As you've heard me say several times in recent months, now is a very critical time for the electric industry in this country. We need supporters to help bring sanity back to the discussions about a national energy policy. Today, I am asking you to join with the directors and employees of your cooperative who have dedicated their own dollars to make sure the voices of cooperative

Continued on page 16b

Mark A. Stallons
Executive
Vice President/
General Manager



consumers are heard in Washington and the state capitol.

Become a \$25 member of ACRE through the ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® program and stand with us as we fight for your rights and the rights of the nearly 37 million co-op consumer-owners

across this great land. You can join by simply signing the form below that gives us permission to add the cost of membership to your electric bill. It's only \$2.08 each month.

Ladies and gentlemen, that's a pretty cheap insurance policy. I don't know where you can spend

two bucks a month and get the kind of return you'll get from this critical program that can help influence the future of the energy situation right here in southern Illinois.

I urge you to give it the most serious consideration.

Mark Stallons

 **Cut here and return with your electric payment**

YES! I want to help keep the voice of rural electric cooperatives heard in the political process by participating in ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action®.

Please add the following amount to my monthly electric bill:

____ Regular ACRE Member: \$2.08 per month (\$25 per year)

____ Century Club Member: \$8.03 per month (\$100 per year)

____ President's Club Member: \$41.60 per month (\$500 per year) *

____ Other \$ _____

I affirm that my contribution has been made with Non-corporate funds:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Account #: _____ Signature: _____

*Federal Election Law requires the following information for contributions equal to or exceeding \$200:

Employer: _____ Occupation: _____

Startling Statistics on Effectiveness of Smoke Detectors

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that 93 percent of American homes have at least one smoke detector. But consider these startling facts:

- Almost 50 percent of all home fires and 60 percent of fire deaths occur in homes with no detectors.
- The chance of dying in a home fire is cut in half with a working smoke detector.
- There are more homes with smoke detectors that don't work than there are homes without any detectors. Detectors that don't work create a false sense of security.
- When purchasing a smoke detector, State Farm Insurance offers these tips:
 - Standard smoke detectors cost \$10 to \$25. Make sure they're approved by an independent testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM).

- The number of detectors you need depends on the size of the house or apartment. There should be a smoke detector outside each sleeping area and at least one on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Smoke rises -- smoke detectors should be mounted high on a wall or on the ceiling. However, in a closed stairway (such as those leading to a basement), mount a detector at the bottom of the stairway.
- Don't install a detector too close to windows, doors or forced-air registers, where drafts could interfere with the detector's operation.

Make regular inspection of detectors a priority:

- Check batteries regularly and test detectors according to instructions. Normally, batteries must be replaced every 9 to 12 months.

- Whether your smoke detectors are battery powered or hard wired into your home's electrical system, check and clean them once a month according to instructions.

Plan escape routes for your family and hold drills. If you have questions about the best places to install detectors, call your fire department. In addition, many fire departments will conduct home detector inspections for free or for a nominal fee.

Remember too that in Illinois as of January 1, 2007, there must be an approved carbon monoxide alarm within 15 feet of every room used for sleeping purposes. The only exception is if the residential unit does not rely on combustion of fossil fuels for heat, ventilation or hot water and is not connected in any way to a garage.

Portions of this article are from State Farm Insurance.

Future Leaders Tour D.C.

Friday, June 8, was another monumental day for Egyptian Electric and southern Illinois. That was the day four youth from our service area visited Washington, D.C. for a week, participating in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth to Washington program. Over the years, Egyptian Electric has sent more than 100 students to Washington, D.C.

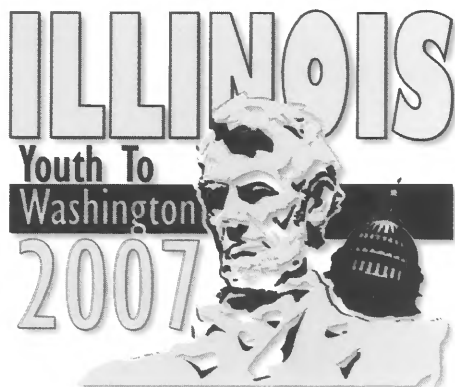
This year's participants representing Egyptian Electric were Sarah Parkinson and Mathew Prest from Coulterville, and Marina Shay and Sarah Doherty from Carbondale.

The program originated by a suggestion from Senator Lyndon Johnson at an NRECA Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1957. That same year, cooperatives from his state of Texas sent students to Washington to work in the Senator's office. Several Illinois electric cooperatives soon joined the effort. Thanks to the electric cooperatives and support from local schools, Illinois sent the first bus load of students to Washington, D.C. in 1959. Today, approximately 1,500 students from 43 states across the country gather at our Nation's capital each summer.

Why does your cooperative do this? The answers are simple. First, it's a great community service. Second, it's our chance to recognize outstanding young people in our cooperative's communities. And third, young people are our future and we know from experience that these programs help to inspire and develop leaders. Commitment to Community is one of our four core values



From L-R, Marina Shay, Mathew Prest, Sarah Parkinson and Sarah Doherty board the bus for Washington, D.C.



and one we take seriously.

Little did then Senator Johnson realize that his impromptu remarks at a conference of co-op leaders would lead to a

program that has lasted more than 50 years. Thousands of Illinois folks, young and old, know a little more about their government because of

our program. We hope that most are better citizens because of their experiences. Perhaps a few chose a particular career path or angled in a new direction. Many have gone on to become local leaders. Some have become statewide leaders some have even gone to work for our federal government. Most have at least made new friends from distant places.

By providing leadership opportunities for the youth of southern Illinois, we hope they will help make southern Illinois a better place to live and while doing so, improve the quality of life of our member-owners.

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

Worry Free Payment Options

Do you worry about paying your electric bill on time?

Has it gotten lost in the pile on your desk? Have you gone on vacation or business travel and forgotten to send it? Has it just plain gotten away from you? Does it seem like you are searching for time to do all of the things you need to do?

Egyptian Electric Cooperative has a solution for all these problems by paying your bill automatically from your bank account, either checking or savings.

Just fill out the form below to authorize the co-op to withdraw funds from your bank account each month. Send it along with a voided check or deposit slip to either of our offices and we'll get you taken care of.

We'll still send you a bill each month to tell you the amount paid. Or if you prefer, we can put you on e-bill and your bill will come to you each month by e-mail. If you travel frequently or for extended periods, or are just tired of getting more paper in the mail, this may be the perfect option for you. You can even sign up for e-bill on our Web site, www.eeca.coop.

Please allow us one month to process your request. After that, don't worry, your account will be paid on time, every time.



Worry Free Auto Debit Payment Plan

Name _____

EECA Account Number on bill _____

Name of Financial Institution _____

Account No. # _____

Savings _____ Checking _____

Bank Routing No. _____

Signature _____

I authorize Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association to instruct my financial institution to make my utility payments on the due date from the account listed above. This authority remains in effect until Egyptian Electric or my financial institution has received written notification from me of termination in time to allow reasonable opportunity to act on it, or until Egyptian Electric has sent me a written notice of termination of this agreement.

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.

Mission Statement:

Improving the quality of life
of our member-owners.

Mark A. Stallons
Executive Vice President/
General Manager

Board of Directors

Allen Haake, *President*
Gilbert Kroening, *Vice President*
Paul Pyatt, *Secretary-Treasurer*
W. Dean Bame
Larry Ebers
Paul Hicks
Kevin Liefer
Raymond Mulholland
John Steele

Office Closings

Labor Day,
Monday, September 3

What to do if the power goes off

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole or pedestal. If you have breakers, make sure they are "on" by first pushing to the 'off' position and then pushing them to the 'on' position. If you live in a mobile home, codes require a main disconnect near the meter. If you have a dusk-dawn light and it is working, you have a breaker or fuse out.
3. Check with your neighbors. If they are out of power also, the main line is most likely out.
4. During office hours: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143 or 800-606-1505 for either office. After office hours call 800-606-1505.
5. Make sure you have the name on the account and if possible, the account number.

Annual Meeting Report

As energy costs increase nationally and globally, the staff at Egyptian Electric Cooperative is gearing up to help you save energy dollars at home. I would like to share with you several ways in which *we are looking out for you ... in a world of change.*

Egyptian Electric does, and will do, every thing we can to keep our rates as low as possible while still providing you with safe and reliable electric service. The fact remains, however, that energy costs are increasing nationally and globally. That being the case, the best alternative left to help you control your monthly energy bill is to help you *use energy wisely.* Some of the key components of our "Using Energy Wisely" program are:

- Energy Audits include blower door tests and infra-red camera scans to find air leaks and insulation deficiencies in your home.
- Certified Comfort Home Program helps members building new homes achieve an energy efficient home that is less costly to heat and cool and is more comfortable to live in.
- Energy Analysis helps members make wise decisions when considering heating and cooling equipment and fuels. It will also assure you install the right size heating and cooling system for your home.
- Energy Monitors show how much energy your different appliances use. We loan these devices to our members free of charge.
- Online Energy Audit Tool for members wanting to learn more about their home's energy use and the best way to save without an energy audit from cooperative staff.

In addition to helping you use energy wisely, we are doing our best to manage the resources of the cooperative efficiently and effectively. We do this with several impediments before us:

- Our customers per mile of line is about 6.5 compared to a typical investor-owned utility (IOU) of 35. This means we have more investment in lines, poles and transformers than the IOUs do.
- Our revenue per mile of line is considerably less as well at about \$11,000 per mile of line compared to \$62,000 per mile of line for IOUs.

With all of this against us, we still do an extremely good job of managing our resources for you. As you can see in the table below, we have been at or below the national average cost for the delivery portion of a kWh to you (this cost does not include the cost of generation or transmission).

	EECA	National Average
2003	\$0.0291	\$0.0310
2004	\$0.0310	\$0.0310
2005	\$0.0297	\$0.0314
2006	\$0.0298	Not Available

Managing our resources wisely for your benefit is a top priority for us.

We are also looking out for you by giving you the best customer service we can. Through our participation with Touchstone Energy, we have participated in the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) scoring

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Mark A. Stallons
Executive
Vice President/
General Manager



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

system. The ACSI was developed by the National Quality Research Center at the Stephen M. Ross Business School at the University of Michigan and is based on member responses to a set of uniform questions. In 2003, our ACSI was 81, in the fall of 2006 it was 86. At the same time, the utility industry as a whole had an ACSI of 72.

The board of directors, management and employees of Egyptian Electric thank you for your vote of confidence in our service to you. We strive daily to maintain and increase that confidence. Should we ever fail to do that, please let us know immediately.

For the last year we have been working with local leaders across 20 southern Illinois counties to bring jobs, economic opportunity, expanded health care, and high-speed Internet access to southern Illinois. Connect SI is all about working together to cross boundaries and create a business environment that will attract new investment and create opportunity in southern Illinois.

Connect SI has a vision that focuses on a triple bottom line...economic prosperity, social prosperity and environmental prosperity. It will truly change the way we live and think in southern Illinois. Connect SI will not only help us link our assets to make us work like one region, but it will also help us link our minds to give us one vision for the future.

Your Cooperative is actively involved in the Connect SI program; one of our employees and I sit on the Leadership Committee and are involved in several other committees. We believe that by creating a growing and connected environment in southern Illinois, our members will benefit greatly.

As a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, we bring discounted services to you through the Co-op Connections Card. I'm pleased to announce that in the near future, the Co-op Connections Card program will be expanding and offering discounted prices on prescription drugs. With the ever rising cost of prescriptions, we feel this program will offer many

of our members tremendous savings. And the best part is, there is no cost to either you or Egyptian Electric to participate in this new program. You will find further information about this exciting new discount below.

The world is changing. Who would have imagined 15 years ago that you could send a photograph or e-mail to someone on the other side of the globe and have them receive it seconds later? Or that gas would be \$3.00 a gallon and higher? Or that electricity would be approaching 10 cents a kilowatt-hour? But yet, we should not be afraid of change. As Charles Kettering is quoted as saying, "**The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress.**" At Egyptian Electric, we are looking out for you in a world of change to make sure those changes lead to progress and an improvement in your quality of life.

Taken from the President and Executive Vice President and General Manager's reports to the membership at the July 31, 2007, Annual Meeting.

Co-op Connections® Card Adds Prescription Drug Discount Benefit

Egyptian Electric is happy to announce that our members will soon be able to receive discounts on their prescription drugs through the Co-op Connections® Card program. The newly added pharmacy discount will allow members to save from 10 percent to 60 percent off prescription drugs at over 48,000 national and regional pharmacy chain stores including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Krogers, Target and many more. There is no cost to our members for this new feature.

The benefit is not insurance but a discount on prescriptions administered through a company named New Benefits. Pharmacies not already enrolled in the program may contact New Benefits to participate in the program.

To accommodate the necessary information needed for you to obtain the pharmacy discount, the Co-op Connections® is being redesigned.



Each member will receive a new Co-op Connections® Card and two key fobs with their monthly bill in either September or October. Until then, your existing card is still valid at local retailers offering discounts to Egyptian Electric members. To take advantage of the new prescription drug discount, you will need the new card. We will include additional information about the program with your new card.

To find a participating pharmacy near you, visit www.locateproviders.com and type 142407524 for

the member number and 22203IL04 for the group number. You can also compare prices at www.rxpricequotes.com. A visit to this site will allow you to look up prices for specific prescriptions at participating pharmacies. You can compare and contrast these prices with any insurance or drug card program you may be a part of (i.e. Caremark, AARP, etc.) without even going to the pharmacy.

While visiting the Internet to check out the benefits of the new prescription drug discount program, don't forget to visit <http://co-opconnections.com/> to discover the many national discounts offered through the Co-op Connections® Program.

Once again, your cooperative has found another way to improve the quality of life of our members by helping them save money on the prescription drugs they need to maintain their quality of life.

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

Egyptian's 2007 Annual Meeting



Mark Stallons, Executive Vice President and General Manager congratulates Dean Bame, Kevin Liefer and Allen Haake on their election.



At EECA's Annual Meeting on July 31, the members of Egyptian Electric re-elected three incumbent directors to represent them. Incumbent directors Dean Bame, Allen Haake and Kevin Liefer were elected to serve three year terms on the board. Michael Janulis of Cobden had been nominated by petition.

The board met after the meeting and elected Allen Haake as President, Gilbert Kroening from Carbondale as Vice President, and Paul Pyatt from Pinckneyville as Secretary-Treasurer.



Need Continuous Power to Your Home?

Egyptian Electric now sells home generators

Egyptian Electric now offers the Briggs & Stratton Home Generator System line of standby and emergency generators. Briggs & Stratton is one of the leading and most well known names in small engines.

Residential generators are available from 7 kW to 20 kW and can be operated on natural gas or propane. Egyptian Electric will have 12, 15 and 20 kW units in stock.

These units are available with transfer switches that automatically start the unit and transfer to standby power in the event of a power outage. When utility service is restored, the transfer switch changes back to utility power and shuts down the generator.

We recommend the use of Briggs & Stratton's transfer switches with an Air-Conditioning Control Module (ACCM). This innovative technology allows the use of a smaller generator even when it is desired to run air-conditioners or heat pumps. The ACCM monitors the load on the generator and will not allow the air-conditioner or heat pump to come on until there is sufficient capacity available.

Many homes and small businesses have pumps, fans, computers and other equipment that require them to have a continuous supply of electric power. With a Briggs & Stratton Home Generator System, you never



have to worry about another power outage. With the automatic transfer features, you know your processes and equipment are always operating, even when you are gone.

The Briggs & Stratton product line was chosen for its long history in the small engine business and its commitment to a quality line of products at reasonable prices. By choosing Briggs & Stratton, we

have a product that has proven reliability and a manufacturer that will be around for a long time to come.

If you are looking for a quality generator from a quality manufacturer, installed by a quality firm, contact us for a price estimate. We offer extended warranties and maintenance packages to suit your needs and can include the annual fees on your monthly billing.

Q&A

Do I Need Surge Protection?

Do you have electronic appliances in your house? Then the answer is yes, you need surge protection. Surges are caused by a variety of sources that can enter your home through electrical, phone and cable wiring. These surges can damage your computer, television or other expensive items in your home. For maximum protection,

you need surge protection at your meter as well as plug-in devices on your equipment. Beware of multiple outlet power strips that resemble surge protectors but actually offer no protection. Others offer only minimal protection. Contact your cooperative for information about surge protection devices appropriate for your home.

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.



Mission Statement:

Improving the quality of life of our member-owners.

Mark A. Stallons

Executive Vice President/
General Manager

Board of Directors

Allen Haake, *President*
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What to do if the power goes off

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Legislative Update

Every year during the first week of May, several thousand electric cooperative leaders descend on Washington, D.C., to discuss critical legislative issues with our Senators and Congressmen. This past May a group of Illinois directors and managers met with Senator Durbin, Congressman Costello, Congressman Shimkus and 16 other Illinois members of the House of Representatives.

Climate change legislation dominated our discussions. A number of bills encompassing a wide variety of approaches have been introduced already in both the House and Senate. As Congress debates the details of a carbon control program, cooperatives are actively investigating what options will be available to allow us to comply with whatever program Congress eventually adopts. No "silver bullet" technology exists that will magically solve the issue of climate change. In fact, a wide variety of technological solutions will be required if the nation is going to constrain CO2 emissions without serious negative economic consequences.

A July 7, 2007, article in the New York Times stated that:

A powerful house Democrat said on Friday that he planned to propose a steep new "carbon tax" that would raise the cost of burning oil, gas and coal, in a move that could shake up the political debate on global warming.

The proposal came from Representative John D. Dingell of Michigan, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. In an interview broadcast the next Sunday on C-Span, Representative Dingell suggested that his goal was

to show that Americans are not willing to face the real cost of reducing carbon dioxide emissions. A second quote from the July 7, 2007, New York Times article stated:

"I sincerely doubt that the American people will be willing to pay what this is really going to cost them ... I will be introducing in the next little bit a carbon tax bill, just to sort of see how people think about this ... when you see the criticism I get, I think you'll see the answer to your question."

The bottom line is that climate change legislation will have a price tag.

The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) has calculated the amount of CO2 reductions that would result from implementing seven reasonable but aggressive strategies over the next 25 years.

The seven strategies are:

1. Energy Efficiency & Conservation – The U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects electricity demand will grow 1.5 percent per year and EPRI believes it will be possible to reduce that growth to 1.1 percent with substantial improvements in housing, appliances and other electricity uses.

Continued on page 16b

Mark A. Stallons

Executive
Vice President/
General Manager



2. **Renewable Energy** – Technological improvements will be necessary for nearly all forms of renewables including solar, wind, geothermal, landfill methane and other renewables to substantially increase electricity production from these sources. Additional investments will be necessary to build large transmission lines necessary to bring renewables from where they exist to where the energy is needed.
3. **Nuclear Power** – The EIA projects modest growth for nuclear power between now and 2030, but that will require increasing public acceptance and industry and Congress addressing the spent fuel issue.
4. **Advanced Coal Combustion** – Technological advances have improved the use of coal over the past three decades. EIA estimates coal plants built between 2020 and 2030 will have efficiencies of about 40 percent, but EPRI believes efficiencies could reach 45 percent by 2020 and nearly 50 percent by 2030.

5. **Carbon Capture and Storage** – There is no current commercially available method to capture carbon dioxide from existing power plants. However, R&D pilot projects are ongoing across the nation to test the feasibility of several different technologies. In addition, significant questions remain over available geological formations to store CO₂, CO₂ transportation methods, liability concerns, and other issues before widespread CO₂ storage becomes a reality.
6. **Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles** – With enough advances in the battery storage technologies, it will soon be economically cost effective for significant numbers of commuters traveling moderate distances to use only electricity and no gasoline.
7. **Distributed Generation** – EPRI's experts believe that opportunities exist for increasing the use of distributed generation technologies including waste heat to energy projects that can provide electricity with reduced or no carbon emissions.

The EPRI plan of action makes it clear that there is no single “silver bullet” that will painlessly reduce CO₂ emissions from the power industry – and that a broad range of options will be required. Additionally, these seven action items will require a substantial amount of research, development and investment from the private and public sector. EPRI's next step is to put a price tag on making the above seven strategies a reality.

During our trip to Washington, D.C., we urged Congress to:

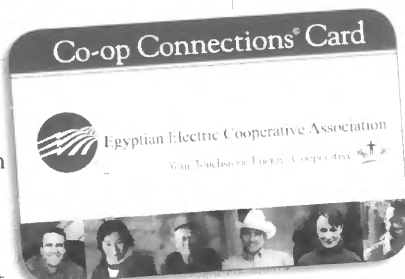
- Provide significant, long term, dedicated funding for research and development.
- Provide equitable incentives to deploy technologies such as renewable energy, advanced clean coal, carbon capture and storage, and advanced nuclear.
- Support climate change legislation that covers emissions from all sectors of the US economy. You can support our efforts by joining ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action.

Mark Stallons

Co-op Connection® Card Keeps on Giving and Growing

Did you know the Egyptian Electric Co-op Connections® Card now has over 130 business sites offering discounts to Egyptian Electric Cooperative members? And that does not include national offers or the new prescription drug discount through New Benefits.

Don't forget to check your list of offers when going shopping or out to eat. The businesses participating in the Co-op Connections® program appreciate your business and you tell them thanks when you patronize them. And, the more you shop with them,



the more other businesses will want to be a part of the program.

To check for local and national discount offerings, visit our Web site, www.eeca.coop and go to the Touchstone Energy menu. You'll find a list of local merchants you can print out and a handy link to www.co-opconnections.com where you will find a list of

national and local merchants offering discounts to co-op members.

New Co-op Connections Card® offerings

Macon Heating & Cooling in Sparta. 10% off any services offered. 618-317-7077.

Glassy Junction Pub, Grill & Tandoor in Carbondale. Complimentary Pakora appetizer with entrée purchase. Complimentary Samosa appetizer with 2 entrée purchases. Only offered for sit-dining and one offer per visit. Not to be combined with any other offer. 618-549-7171.

National Carpet Clean in Vergennes. Free deodorizer with whole house and 10% off any job of 2 rooms or more. Couch/love seat and chair combo \$25 off. 618-568-9925.

Cristaudo's Bake House Restaurant in Carbondale. Buy one cookie and get one free. Limit 2 per customer. 618-529-5859.

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

Three Steps to an Efficient and Comfortable Home

Three steps. Three small steps for yourself, three giant leaps for mankind. I may be stretching Neal Armstrong's famous words just a little bit, but if you think about it, using energy wisely while making your home efficient and comfortable is a global attainment we should all be aspiring for. That leak under the front door or the light left on in the bedroom may seem insignificant, but when we add up all of the front doors across the US, it becomes a big number.

Let me put it into something tangible. If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year! That's over \$600 million in actual energy costs and would eliminate the same amount of greenhouse gases as taking 800,000 cars off the road.

Where do you start? Follow our three steps to an efficient and comfortable home and we'll help get you there. Step one is to seal your home from air leaks. Step two is to insulate properly and step three is selecting energy efficient equipment and Energy Star appliances.

STEP ONE-Seal Your Home

Where you start is not really important. If your heating or cooling system needs replaced, start there. I suggest sealing your home as step one as it is the easiest, least costly and will provide immediate savings and comfort.

How do you know where to seal? The easiest is to have us do an energy audit for you that includes a blower door test. (We do charge \$50 for energy audits that include blower door tests and an infra-red camera scan.) A blower door is basically a large fan that is sealed into one of the exterior doors and blows outward, creating a vacuum inside the home. Gauges measure air-flows and pressure differences and soft-



ware tells us how many cfm of air your home actually leaks. A walk around the home identifies where the leaks are.

You can find those leaks yourself with a little time and ingenuity. If you have an attic ceiling fan, close all the doors and windows and turn it on. Walk around the house using the back of your hand to detect and feel where air is leaking in. You may even want to go up into the attic. (If your attic access is from inside the building envelope, turn the fan off, go into the attic, close the access hole and then have someone turn the fan back on.) While in the attic, look for places where air is being sucked into the living space below. You can use caulk and canned foam to seal these holes. Look around plumbing vent stacks, wiring holes, exhaust fans and chimneys to find some common air leaks.

Inside the home, look for places where the wall and ceiling material have seams or different materials come together, like at the edge of fireplaces where sheetrock and brick meet. Check plumbing penetrations through walls and floors, such as vanities and kitchen sinks. There are countless products at your local home improvement center that are designed to help you seal your home up.

I've done numerous blower tests and you would be amazed at the amount of air our homes leak day in and day out. The average home has leaks that add up to a hole that is about 12 inches by 12 inches. You would think a hole that big, somebody would at least stuff a rag into it! The problem is that hole is actually a bunch of small holes, so we don't get too excited, even if we've felt cold air blowing through it in the middle of winter. It's kind of like the light bulb numbers earlier, one bulb doesn't seem like much, but add them up and you've got some walloping numbers. In that average house with a 12 by 12 hole, that amounts to over three-fourths of the air in the home being replaced every hour in the middle of winter by cold air from outside!

Take that first tiny step this weekend and start sealing your home. Do the easiest first if you want to, but at least take that first step. Winter is soon to be upon us so it is not too early to begin developing your plan to begin using energy wisely.

For more information on sealing your home, visit http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_sealing.hm_improvement_sealing. Next month, we'll visit step two, insulating your home.

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

The Last Water Heater You Will Ever Buy

Grandpa says if he'd been able to buy a Marathon water heater when he was a young man, he'd never had to buy another one. And, at 101, he's gone through a bunch of water heaters. We think Grandpa has some pretty good advice, so we're going to make sure our members have an opportunity Grandpa didn't. We now have Marathon water heaters in stock so you can buy only one water heater.

Marathon water heaters are warranted not to leak for as long as



you own your home. With a seamless, blow-molded polybutylene inner tank, it is impervious to rust and corrosion! Marathon wraps the inner tank with filament-wound fiberglass to give the inner tank unmatched strength and durability.

The inner tank is inserted inside a polyethylene outer jacket that is "car bumper tough" and the space between the tank and jacket is filled with foam. Envirofoam[®],

an ozone free foam that is environmentally friendly, gives the tank superior insulation values. In fact, Marathon has the highest energy efficiency of any tank on the mar-

ket! Even the bottom is insulated, the place most brands forget about.

Every tank comes with a factory installed temperature and pressure relief valve, a recessed brass drain valve, and union fittings on all connections. Marathon uses high-tech heating elements and warranties them and all other parts for six years.

We have 50 and 85 gallon water heaters in stock. 50 gallon units are \$650 and 85 gallon units are \$750, tax included. They may be a little more expensive than standard water heaters, but with a lifetime warranty, they really aren't standard, are they?

At 101, we know Grandpa has seen a lot in his day, so we know his advice is pretty sound. After all, the Marathon name says it all!

Co-op to Serve New Mine

Thursday, August 30 marked another milestone in the relationship between Knight Hawk Coal Company and Egyptian Electric. Contract crews working for the cooperative closed switches that energized 6.5 miles of new 69,000-volt transmission line built to serve the Knight Hawk Coal Company's new Royal Falcon mine near Royalton. Shortly thereafter, Knight Hawk closed switches to energize their substation that will serve the underground mine.

This is the fifth Knight Hawk facility to be served by the cooperative. We currently serve their Creek Paum Mine near Ava, the Red Hawk Mine west of DuQuoin, the Prairie Eagle Mine east of Sparta, the office south of Cutler and now the Royal Falcon Mine near Royalton.

The Royal Falcon Mine has access to more than 60 million tons of coal reserves and will be removing the coal through an underground portal in the high wall pit with the use of a continuous mining machine. Electric from Egyptian Electric will be used to power the miner and belt lines, as well as charging batteries for several battery operated

vehicles that will be used in the process. In the near future, Knight Hawk will be building a tippie to make loading of the coal a more efficient process.

On behalf of Egyptian Electric and all of our members, we would like to congratulate and thank Mr. Steve Carter and all of the employees at Knight Hawk Coal Company for working hard to provide jobs and an improved economy in southern Illinois.



Mike Followell with Knight Hawk Coal closes a switch at their substation

Crews make final adjustments to transmission switches before energizing the new 69 kV transmission line.

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.



Mission Statement:

Improving the quality of life of our member-owners.

Mark A. Stallons

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General Manager

Board of Directors

Allen Haake, *President*
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John Steele

Office Closings

Veterans Day - Nov. 12
Thanksgiving - Nov. 22 & 23

What to do if the power goes off

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2. Check your meter pole or pedestal. If you have breakers, make sure they are "on" by first pushing to the 'off' position and then pushing them to the 'on' position. If you live in a mobile home, codes require a main disconnect near the meter. If you have a dusk-dawn light and it is working, you have a breaker or fuse out.
3. Check with your neighbors. If they are out of power also, the main line is most likely out.
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SIPC Acquires Generating Resources



EECA President Allen Haake (left) and Executive Vice President and General Manager Mark Stallons (far right) participate in ground breaking ceremonies with other SIPC dignitaries.

Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), our power supplier at the Lake of Egypt, is facing projected load growth of nearly 50 percent in the next few years. In order to meet our future power needs, SIPC and the six member distribution cooperatives, including Egyptian Electric, have been evaluating our options. Some of the options examined have been constructing a new plant; signing a long-term contract to purchase power from another supplier; or joint ownership of a power plant. After examination of the pros and cons of each option, including financial impacts, SIPC has recently made the decision to purchase a portion of a power plant soon to be constructed in our area.

On August 30, the SIPC board of directors voted to acquire 125 megawatts of the Prairie State Energy Campus. Prairie State is planned to be a 1,600 megawatt coal-fueled power plant located in Washington

County, Ill., near Marissa. The project has been under development for some time and construction is slated to begin in early October 2007.

Prairie State will provide base load electricity to dozens of communities in southern Illinois and will serve 1.7 million families from Missouri to Virginia. In addition to SIPC, Prairie State is owned by American Municipal Power-Ohio; the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency; Indiana Municipal Power Agency; Kentucky Municipal Power Agency; Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission;

Continued on page 16b

Mark A. Stallons

Executive
Vice President/
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Integrity : We are credible, trustworthy, honest and believable.

Northern Illinois Municipal Power Agency; and Prairie Power Inc.

Prairie State will create more than 450 permanent jobs and will annually inject nearly \$100 million in economic benefits to the region. The bulk of construction trades hiring will begin this fall and Prairie State will employ more than 2,000 workers when construction activity peaks in the second half of 2009. Units one and two are expected to be operational in 2011 and 2012.

Prairie State will feature advanced technology resulting in high efficiencies while achieving emissions that are far superior to America's current coal-fired generating plants. Prairie State will use coal from an adjacent coal mine, thereby minimizing fuel and related transportation costs.

SIPC President and General Manager W. Scott Ramsey praised the decision to participate in Prairie State – "Prairie State offers an economic solution to meeting our member's future power supply needs while also supporting the Illinois coal industry and the local economy."

SIPC's current resource portfolio consists of several coal and natural gas fired generating units, all of which are located at SIPC's Lake of Egypt facility south of Marion. The ownership share of Prairie State will diversify SIPC's resource mix. More importantly, owning 125 megawatt of a larger plant will be less expensive than building a stand-alone unit of the same size at existing SIPC facilities. Prairie State is expected to be almost 1600 megawatts, whereas SIPC's existing units

are each 170 megawatts or less.

The board of directors of Egyptian Electric and SIPC are committed to ensuring our members have access to a reliable and efficient source of power while supporting the regional coal industry and minimizing the impact on our environment. As the economy of our region continues to grow, this partnership will ensure we have the energy needed to support job and economic growth for our members. As we've said many times before and we will continue to say and practice---our mission is to improve the quality of life of our member-owners.

Mark Stallons

Need Money for College?

Apply now for one of seven \$1,250 scholarships!

Executive Vice President and General Manager Mark Stallons has announced that for the thirteenth consecutive year, the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors. Seven scholarships in 2008 will be awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. Each of the scholarships will be worth \$1,250.

High school seniors pursuing a college education are eligible to participate in the program. Four of the seven scholarships will be awarded to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative member. A fifth award will go to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative director or employee.

The sixth and seventh scholarships will be reserved for use at a two-year Illinois community college; sons and daughters of electric cooperative members, employees and directors are all eligible. Deadline for applications to be returned to the cooperative is Jan. 1, 2008.

The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts. Egyptian Electric and the other



Illinois electric cooperatives desire to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways to do that is to lend 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 that 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 Co-operatives. For further information on the IEC Memorial Scholarship Program or to receive a scholarship application, contact Egyptian Electric at 618-965-3434, visit our Web site at www.eeca.coop or ask your high school guidance counselor.

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

Step Two to An Efficient and Comfortable Home!

(Part two in series)

Using Energy Wisely is our three-step process to a comfortable and efficient home. The three steps are: sealing your home, insulating your home and choosing energy efficient appliances and equipment for your home. Last month we talked about how to find the places air infiltrates your home and how to seal those leaks.

Do you need to add insulation to your home? According to the Harvard University School of Public Health, if your home is as little as 5 to 10 years old, it may be one of the 46 million under insulated homes in the US. When your home was built, it was most likely insulated to levels based on energy costs at that time.

As energy costs increase, the economics of adding additional insulation improve. When I built my home 16 years ago, the recommended level of insulation in the attic was R-30. I installed R-38 knowing recommended levels would eventually increase. Today, the Department of Energy recommends an R-49 for our region.

How Does Insulation Work for You?

Heat always moves from the warm to the cooler. In the winter, heat flows from inside the house to the outside. This heat has to be replaced by your heating system. In the summer, heat flows from outside to the inside and your air-conditioner has to remove this heat to cool your home. Adding insulation to the walls, ceilings and floors of your home reduces the flow of heat in both the winter and summer.

Insulation is rated by the R-value or resistance to heat flow. The higher the value, the more effective the insulation is in reducing the flow of heat. The R-value depends on the material, its thickness and density. It should be remembered that rated R-value and effective R-value are two different things. If insulation is improperly installed, the effective R-value in your home may be drastically reduced. It is important to research which type of insulation is best for your particular application.

How Much Insulation?

The Department of Energy recommends the levels in the table below for our region.

Location	R-value	Notes
Ceiling	49	
Cathedral Ceiling	38	
Floor	25	Over unheated, un-insulated places
Wall Sheathing	5	It is important to use both the insulative sheathing and cavity insulation recommended. Insulative sheathing may be placed outside of wood sheathing product, or special braces can be used.
Wall Cavity	13	
OVE wall cavity	19	This recommendation assumes that a 2x6 wall can be built for the same cost as a 2x4 wall, using a careful design procedure called Optimum Value Engineering (OVE). Discuss this option with your builder.
Basement Wall	11	Insulation should be placed on the interior side of a masonry wall below grade.
Band Joist	30	This is the area at the end of the floor joists that goes completely around the house.

What Type of Insulation

Today, we are blessed with many options when making insulation choices. There are fiberglass batts, blown insulation, both cellulose and fiberglass, spray on foams and rigid foams. Each has its own advantages, applications and costs.

Because the quality of installation greatly affects the effectiveness of insulation, we prefer the use of insulations that can minimize this impact. That is why we highly recommend blown cellulose for many applications. Because it has the ability to completely fill wall cavities with no voids, it is one of the more effective wall insulation methods. In attics, its density tends to reduce air infiltration and leaks.

Resources

The Department of Energy maintains a Web site through the Oak Ridge National Laboratory that offers excellent advice and recommended levels of insulation for our region. You will also find valuable information on Web sites maintained by insulation industry trade associations.

Should you increase or add insulation to your home? That can be a tough question. The first step to answering is taking an inventory of your current insulation levels. Next, calculate the square feet of those areas you feel have the greatest defi-

ciency in insulation level. Once you find the cost of the material needed to increase the R-value, you can calculate what your costs are.

Once you have inventoried your home, you can also go to the Home Energy Audit tool on our Web site at www.eeca.coop. This tool will help you decide the areas with the greatest payback and energy savings. If you have questions, the staff at Egyptian Electric is always available to assist you.

The most important thing is to take action now. During 2007, there are tax credits available for increased insulation measures. Beyond that, we all need to Use Energy Wisely. You may not think a small savings is worth doing, but remember the numbers from last month. If every home in the US changed just one light bulb to an Energy Star bulb, we would save enough energy to light 3 million homes, save \$600 million in energy costs and reduce greenhouse gases comparable to removing 800,000 cars from the road. Just think what the effect of increased insulation in every home will do!

<http://www.simplyinsulate.com/>
<http://www.cellulose.org/index.html>
http://www.ornl.gov/sci/roofs+walls/insulation/ins_01.html
http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_sealing.hm_improvement_sealing

Calling all Teachers!!!

Egyptian Electric Cooperative, along with our fellow Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in Illinois, is offering Classroom Empowerment Grants up to \$1,000.

Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants totaling \$20,000 are being funded by the Illinois Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives for the 2007-2008 school year. Eligibility is limited to schools located in Touchstone Energy cooperative service territory, but do not have to be served electrically by a cooperative. Teachers and administrators of K-12 public and private schools may apply. Multiple projects within the same district may be submitted. Projects must not be funded by any other source.

To apply for grants, send a double-spaced typewritten request (not to exceed three pages) that includes the following:

1. A description of the project and what it will accomplish
2. The estimated cost of the project
3. An explanation of why outside funds are necessary to complete the project
4. Whether funding options have been pursued, and if so, how
5. When the project will be completed
6. The number of people affected by the project

7. If the project's goals are measurable, and how
8. How the project ties in Touchstone Energy's four core values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community

Although electric-oriented projects are not required, extra consideration will be given to projects that are electric oriented. Photos and

supporting data are optional. Requests must be received no later than November 9, 2007. Submit to:

Bryce Cramer
Egyptian Electric Cooperative
10169 Old Highway 13
Murphysboro IL 62966

Or send by e-mail to bcramer@eecc.coop or fax to 618-965-3111



Teachers Wolf and Berry prepare a demonstration showing the type of robotics technology their eighth grade students are learning about and constructing. The robotics program is funded in part by a Classroom Empowerment Grant.

Show gratitude this Thanksgiving for the Servicemen and women who will miss yet another holiday at home. Their sacrifice is what keeps this country the land of the free and home of the brave.

Happy Thanksgiving
from



Egyptian Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.



Egyptian Electric

P.O. Box 38
Steeleville, IL 62288
618-965-3434
618-965-3111 fax

10169 Old Highway 13
Murphysboro, IL 62966
618-684-2143

800-606-1505 after hours
www.eeca.coop

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Monday - Friday

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

December 2007

Mission Statement:

Improving the quality of life of our member-owners.

Mark A. Stallons

*Executive Vice President/
General Manager*

Board of Directors

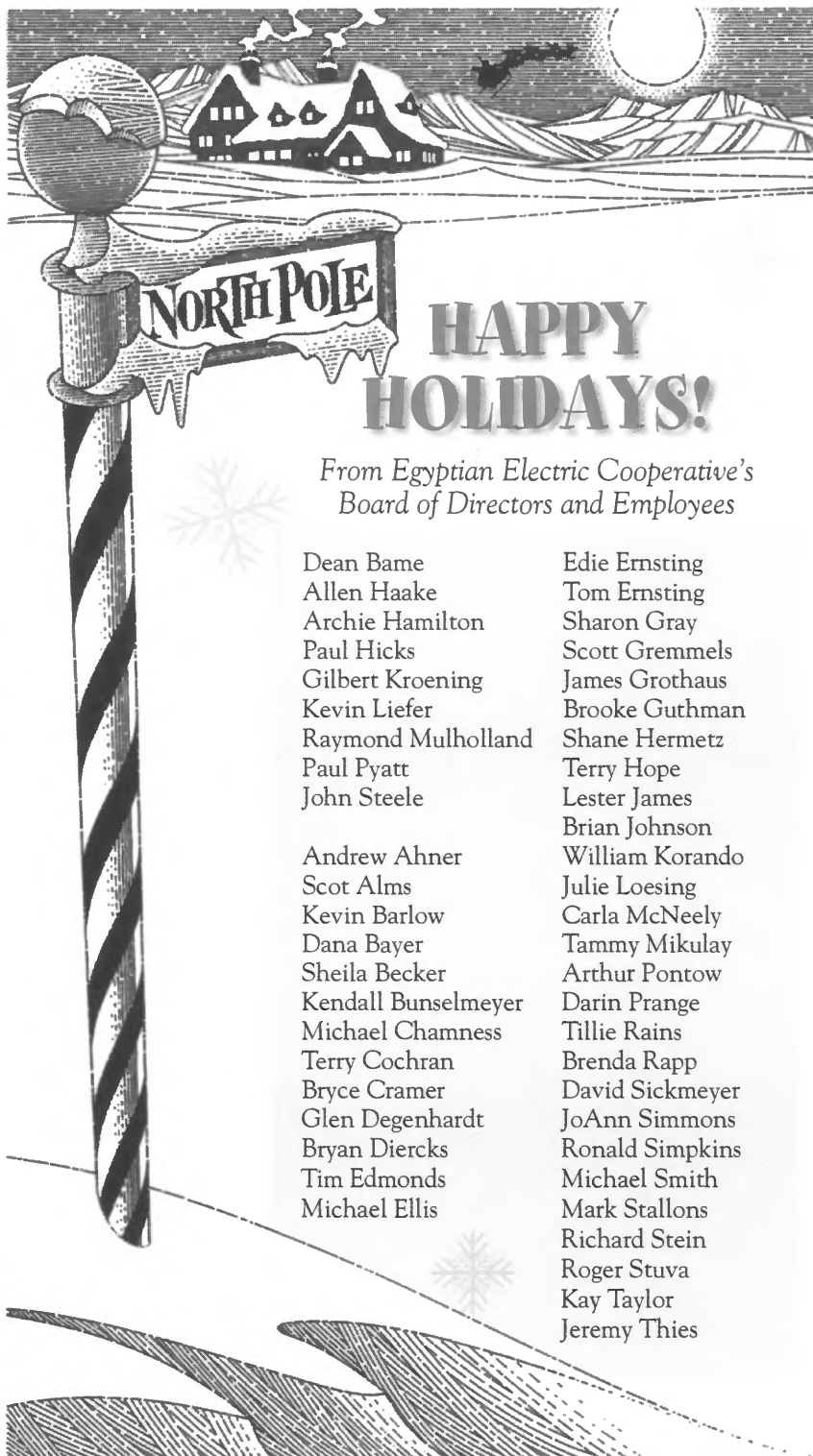
- Allen Haake, *President*
- Gilbert Kroening, *Vice President*
- Paul Pyatt, *Secretary-Treasurer*
- W. Dean Bame
- Larry Ebers
- Paul Hicks
- Kevin Liefer
- Raymond Mulholland
- John Steele

Office Closings

Christmas Day,
Tuesday, Dec. 25 and
New Year's Day, Tuesday, Jan. 1

What to do if the power goes off

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole or pedestal. If you have breakers, make sure they are "on" by first pushing to the 'off' position and then pushing them to the 'on' position. If you live in a mobile home, codes require a main disconnect near the meter. If you have a dusk-dawn light and it is working, you have a breaker or fuse out.
3. Check with your neighbors. If they are out of power also, the main line is most likely out.
4. During office hours: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143 or 800-606-1505 for either office. After office hours call 800-606-1505.
5. Make sure you have the name on the account and if possible, the account number.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

*From Egyptian Electric Cooperative's
Board of Directors and Employees*

Dean Bame
Allen Haake
Archie Hamilton
Paul Hicks
Gilbert Kroening
Kevin Liefer
Raymond Mulholland
Paul Pyatt
John Steele

Andrew Ahner
Scot Alms
Kevin Barlow
Dana Bayer
Sheila Becker
Kendall Bunselmeyer
Michael Chamness
Terry Cochran
Bryce Cramer
Glen Degenhardt
Bryan Diercks
Tim Edmonds
Michael Ellis

Edie Ernsting
Tom Ernsting
Sharon Gray
Scott Gremmels
James Grothaus
Brooke Guthman
Shane Hermetz
Terry Hope
Lester James
Brian Johnson
William Korando
Julie Loesing
Carla McNeely
Tammy Mikulay
Arthur Pontow
Darin Prange
Tillie Rains
Brenda Rapp
David Sickmeyer
JoAnn Simmons
Ronald Simpkins
Michael Smith
Mark Stallons
Richard Stein
Roger Stuva
Kay Taylor
Jeremy Thies

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

Step Three to An Efficient and Comfortable Home!

(Last part of series)

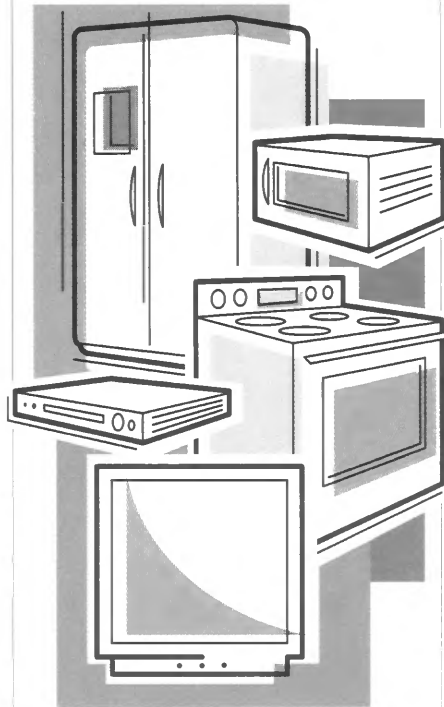
The third and final step in our Using Energy Wisely program, while important for all, might be the most important step for members that have newer homes that were built with good sealing methods and recommended levels of insulation. Steps one and two dealt with the building structure in an attempt to minimize heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer. Minimizing heat loss and gain not only saves us money, it makes our homes more comfortable to live in. Step three, selecting energy efficient equipment and appliances, is mostly about convenience except when it comes to the heating and cooling system.

Electronics

According to a CNET News.com article by Alorie Gilbert, electricity used by consumer electronics has grown from 5 percent of residential electricity use in 1980, to 15 to 20 percent today. We've gone from no computers, cell phones, cordless phones or answering machines, DVDs and game systems in 1980 to many homes having multiple computers and nearly every home having numerous quantities of other consumer electronic devices.

Not only has the number of consumer electronics increased, but so has the size. In recent years, we've seen the cost of big screen TVs come down. Just a few years ago, most homes had nothing larger than a 27" set, today, many consumers are moving to 42", 50" and even larger sets. As we move up in size, so does the energy consumption. Energy consumption has also increased with the move to plasma TVs. A recent check of different models found that a 27" digital tube TV uses 120 watts of power, a 42" LCD TV uses 264 watts, a 42" plasma TV uses a whopping 400 watts and a 50" plasma jumps to 480 watts. Rear projection TVs seem to be the most energy efficient choice when looking for larger screen TVs but suffer on the convenience of size and weight.

Appliances



Although consumer electronic use is growing and subtly adds kWhs to our monthly bill, the kitchen is still the most power hungry room in the house. Refrigeration, cooking, hot water and dishwashing are chores that take a lot of energy. Newer appliances are more efficient, but unfortunately, the largest energy user, the refrigerator, seldom gets totally replaced, it just gets moved to the basement or garage. That second refrigerator in the garage, seldom full and thereby causing it to use even more energy, and being an older, less efficient model, can cost 30 dollars or more each month.

You can reduce energy consumption in the kitchen by regularly cleaning the coils on the refrigerator, keeping them away from other heat sources (stove, dishwasher), keeping the freezer section full, and staying away from side-by-side models.

Other ways to reduce kitchen energy use is by washing only full loads in the dishwasher and using the water pre-heat option (and thereby turning the water heater

down to 120 degrees). Allowing the dishwasher to air dry is another big energy saver.

Although not always in the kitchen, clothes washers and dryers can consume fairly large amounts of energy, depending on the family size and habits. Fortunately, recent improvements in clothes washers and dryers have reduced energy use. One of the best improvements that did not add to consumer cost has been with detergents that improved cold water washes and rinses and eliminates hot water use.

In recent years, many manufacturers have begun offering front load washers. These models typically use 25 to 40 percent less water than standard top-load models by tumbling clothes through the water rather than agitating them. They also have faster spin cycles that remove more water, shortening the drying time and saving even more energy. Even dryers are more efficient with many models having sensors that detect when clothes are dry rather than depending on us to guess at how long the dry cycle should be.

Heating and Cooling

Heating and cooling is still the largest energy user in the home, even with proper sealing against air infiltration and correct levels of insulation. With increased costs of natural gas and propane, heat pumps (both air-to-air and geothermal) offer the highest energy efficiency and lowest costs to operate. Higher efficiency air-to-air heat pumps have Coefficient of Performance (COP) of 3 and higher, meaning for every unit of energy they consume, they produce three units of heat energy. Geothermal heat pumps, while costing more to install, have the highest efficiency of any heating equipment on the market today. With longer equipment duration, geothermal heat pumps are a very good investment for homeowners planning to stay in the same home for several years.

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

Energy Star

Choosing energy-efficient appliances and equipment for your home can help reduce your energy consumption and our nation's growing thirst for energy. Sometimes the choice is as simple as looking at the wattage of the equipment and selecting the lowest wattage. Generally though, the decision is a lot tougher and needs careful consideration. When it comes to consumer electronics and appliances, one of the best resources for information is the Energy Star Web site (www.energystar.gov) maintained by the U.S. EPA



and Department of Energy. In addition to information and advice, the site maintains a list of Energy Star appliances and manufacturers. Before shopping for a new appliance, you might consider visiting this site and printing out a list of Energy Star models. If you do not have Internet access, stop by one of our offices and one of our CSRs will be happy to print out a list for you.

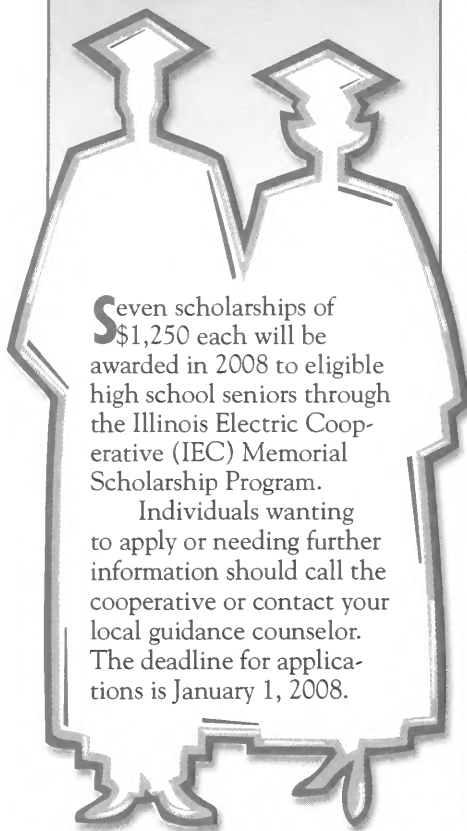
We Can Help!

When selecting heating and air-conditioning systems, Egyptian Electric can be a valuable partner in your selection process. We have software programs that can estimate

the amount of energy your home needs to heat and cool. We can insert various types of equipment into the equation and produce estimated costs of operation that can guide you in your decision process.

As our nation balances energy needs now and into the future with climate change issues, one thing is evident. There is no one single choice to be made. Rather, there are many decisions that have to be made along multiple paths. As we move forward together, our pledge to you, our members, is to help you Use Energy Wisely and to improve the quality of life for each and every member of Egyptian Electric Cooperative.

Reminder: Deadline for 2008 IEC Scholarship Applications Approaching



Seven scholarships of \$1,250 each will be awarded in 2008 to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Individuals wanting to apply or needing further information should call the cooperative or contact your local guidance counselor. The deadline for applications is January 1, 2008.

Marathon Water Heaters

Not all great investments are found on Wall Street.



Many homeowners are finding a Marathon water heater to be a great investment. Why? Because they appreciate its energy efficiency.

Marathon's Envirofoam insulation keeps hot water hot, much longer than any other water heater and because it has a plastic tank, it can't rust or corrode. The Lifetime Tank Warranty will save you the future expense of buying a replacement heater and having it installed.

Bottom line: It costs a little more, but a Marathon can pay you dividends. If your interest is growing, call us.

Marathon

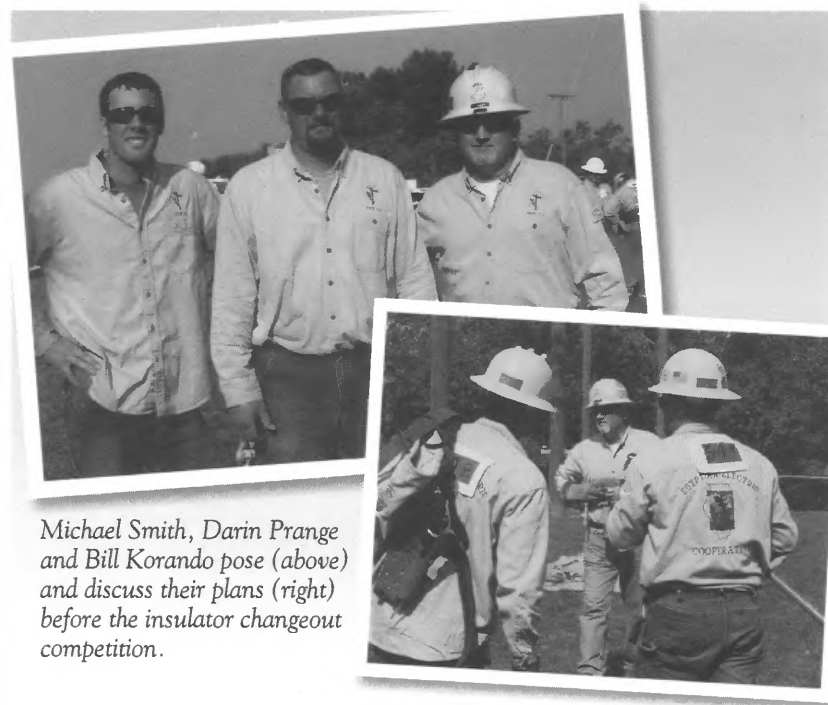
Commitment to Community: We show compassion, care and courtesy to our members and the communities we serve.

Linemen Win at Safety Rodeo

A team of Egyptian Electric Cooperative linemen took first place in the Hurt Man Rescue event of the Illinois Lineman's Safety Rodeo. The team of Bill Korando, Darin Prange and Michael Smith represented Egyptian Electric Cooperative. In addition to winning the team event, Smith took third place in the individual Hurt Man Rescue competition.

The Tenth Annual Lineman's Safety Rodeo was held at Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) in Springfield on Friday, September 21. It involves a series of electric system courses designed to help electric line personnel improve and exhibit their work skills in safe and efficient methods of line work. Several electric suppliers joined the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) and LLCC in co-sponsoring the event.

Line personnel from 10 Illinois electric cooperatives competed in five team events and two individual events. Team events included hurt man rescue, egg climb (linemen climbing a 30-foot pole with a raw egg in their mouths) and three technical events: single phase insulator change-out, line switching and a



Michael Smith, Darin Prange and Bill Korando pose (above) and discuss their plans (right) before the insulator changeout competition.

written exam on general electric distribution system knowledge.

According to Egyptian Electric Cooperative Executive Vice President and General Manager, Mark Stallons, Korando, Prange and Smith exemplify the professional group of employees the cooperative

employs, both in the field and in the office. "Our employees are the best, not just in competition, but day in and day out as they take care of the needs of our members and do all they can to improve our members' quality of life," Stallons said.

Co-op Connections Card and Christmas

At first glance, you might not think the Co-op Connections Card has much in common with Christmas. However, according to an e-mail we recently received from Santa, we just found out that the Co-op Connections Card can make your Christmas shopping easier and less expensive.

According to Santa's message, many of the national accounts on the <http://co-opconnections.com> Web site will be offering special discounts for cooperative members during the Christmas shopping season.

Just think, no more fighting crowds, jumbled isles and frigid weather to get your shopping done. From the comfort of your home, any time day or night, you are just

clicks away from finding the perfect gift for those special people on your list. From teddy bears to TiVo or XM Radio, from books to camping equipment, from cheeses to prime cuts of meat, you can find reduced prices with your Co-op Connections Card.

Visit <http://co-opconnections.com> today to make your Christmas shopping a joyous occasion.

We welcome Bucheit's of Sparta as a new Co-op Connections business. Visit Bucheit's to receive a \$5 discount on regular-priced men's and ladies' Carhartt pants, in-stock and excluding bibs and insulated pants.



Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.