


JANUARY

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Safety Checklist

Make a check every year for electrical fire and shock hazards

- **Electrical outlets** - Check for loose-fitting plugs, which are a shock or fire hazard. Replace missing or broken wall plates so wiring and components are not exposed. If you have young children in the home, check that unused outlets are covered.
- **Plugs** - Never force them into outlets. Don't remove the grounding pin (third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-conductor outlet. Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.
- **Cords** - Make sure they are not frayed or cracked, placed under carpets or rugs, or located in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple them to walls, floors or other objects. **William Craig Jackson**
- **Extension cords** - Use them on a temporary basis only. They are not intended as permanent household wiring. Make sure they have safety closures to protect young children from injuries.
- **Light bulbs** - Check the wattage to make sure light bulbs match the fixture requirements. Replace bulbs that have higher wattage ratings than recommended. Make sure they are screwed in securely so they don't overheat.
- **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)** - Make sure GFCIs are installed in your kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, workshop, basement and garage as well as on outdoor outlets. Test them monthly to ensure they're working properly.
- **Circuit breakers/Fuses** - Fuses should be properly rated for the circuit they are protecting. If you don't know the correct rating, have an electrician identify and label the correct size to be used. Always replace a fuse with the same size you are removing. Check that circuit breakers are working properly.
- **Appliances/Electronics** - Immediately unplug and repair or replace appliances that repeatedly blow fuses, trip

circuit breakers or give you an electrical shock. Look for cracks or damage in wiring and connectors. Use surge protectors and uninterruptible power supplies to protect expensive electronics.

- **Electrical wiring** - Check for loose wall receptacles, wires or lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. Immediately shut off, then professionally replace, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that spark and flicker.
- **Service capacity** - If fuses blow or trip frequently, you may need to upgrade your electrical service. A qualified, licensed electrician can determine the appropriate service requirements for your home.

For more information on electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.



Office Closing

Our office will be closed for New Year's Day on January 1st and for Martin Luther King Day on January 15th.

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 Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) 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 Larry Lingle, SIEC Director of Operations and Maintenance.

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. **Donald Wayne Rich**
- 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 double-pole, double-throw transfer safety switch. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, or what is also known as "back feed." Back feed creates danger for anyone near power lines, particularly crews working to restore power. If you do not have a double-pole, double-throw transfer safety switch, you must plug your appliances directly into the outlets on the generator. You must not connect the generator into your home's wiring system.
- 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.

For more detailed information and electrical safety tips, visit the Safe Electricity Web site www.SafeElectricity.org.

In the spirit of cooperation, SIEC dispatched three crews to three different Illinois Electric Cooperatives (Monroe County Electric Co-Operative in Waterloo, Shelby Electric Cooperative in Shelbyville and MJM Electric Cooperative in Carlinville) to provide assistance in restoring power in areas badly hit by a severe ice storm in December. From Left: Stanley Treat, Kelly Bowen, Dennis Abercrombie, Jeff Palmer, Nathan Menees, Blayne Holshouser and Steve Hoffman. Not pictured: Robin Ramage.



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Linemen Awarded at Safety Rodeo

A team of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative linemen from Dongola received an award at the recent state-wide Lineman's Safety Rodeo. The team of Stanley Treat, Nathan Menees and Allen Plott received second in the URD elbow termination event. Menees also placed first in the individual egg climb event.

The Ninth Annual Lineman's Safety Rodeo, held at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield in October, coincided with a series of courses designed to help electric line personnel improve their work skills in safe and efficient ways. **Glady's Travis**

Line personnel from 12 Illinois electric cooperatives and a municipal utility competed in five team events and two individual events. Team events included hurt man rescue, egg climb and three technical events: recloser changeout, underground line elbow termination and three-phase insulator change. From left are Treat, Menees and Plott.

Membership prize

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

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

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Reminder:

We Need
Your Primary
Telephone
Number!!!



If you have changed your phone number we need to know! Our outage reporting system utilizes your primary phone number. If you have changed this number recently please call the cooperative so we can get your new number in our records. This will make it easier for you to report an outage and allows our dispatchers and crews to provide you with better service. If you have recently reported an outage and our system did not recognize your number, please contact the cooperative to update your records. *Thanks!*

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Scott L. Ury,
and Ronald Osman (*Attorney*)

Manager Larry Lovell
Editor Jerri Schaefer

For Outages Call:
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618-827-3555

HOME ENERGY SAVER

The first web-based do-it-yourself energy audit tool



Energy Efficiency Tip

Do you ever wonder why your electric bill payment is what it is? SIEC now offers a new resource through Touchstone Energy that quickly calculates your home energy use based on a detailed description of your home, its appliances and your geographic location...for **FREE!** It's the Home Energy Saver, an online home energy audit that helps you identify the best ways to manage your home energy consumption. What do you do next? Go to www.siec.coop and click on our Energy Efficiency tab. Then, click on the Home Energy Saver banner.


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Your Touchstone Energy Partner 

What Causes My Lights To BLINK?

By: Michael Logeman, Director of Engineering

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

Overhead and underground electric lines are susceptible to "blinks." Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative has a network of over 2,100 miles of line. This network is divided into sections called distribution feeders. The feeders are protected by devices that interrupt the power when a problem or "fault" occurs on the line. The device will turn the power back on after a short period of time. If the fault is still present, the device will operate again, causing another "blink". If the fault clears, the power stays on. If the fault is permanent, the power goes out and stays out. The "blinks" you see are operations of the protective devices. Because most faults are temporary in nature, your lights just "blink" and come back on. The protective devices are designed to prevent permanent outages.

What problems occur on the lines that cause blinks?

Faults may be caused by several problems:

■ Lightning

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

■ Tree Limbs

Tree limbs contact lines and cause "blinks". Southern Illinois is abundant with trees. It is difficult to find a Cooperative distribution line that is not in close proximity to trees. The Cooperative utilizes its own crews and hires contractors to maintain the rights-of-way on its 2,100 miles of line. New pruning and spraying methods are being utilized to gain better control of the rights-of-way. Because of the abundance of trees, work is often slow. The Cooperative appreciates members' patience when it comes to tree pruning/cutting requests. You can do your part to help the Cooperative most efficiently improve service reliability:

- (1) Do not plant trees near power lines.
- (2) When possible, allow Cooperative crews to remove trees rather than just trim them. Trimming is only a temporary measure. **Mark Herren**
- (3) Please be patient. The Cooperative has a program to maintain the right-of-way on your line.

■ Animals

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

■ Ice and wind

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

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Co-op Employees And Directors Donate To Charity



From left, Sensational Kids representative Julie Hand, SIEC employees Lana Livesay, Lisa Mead, Pamela Bierstedt and Chris Boyd.

SIEC employees and directors donated \$575 to Sensational Kids in Anna. Each year at Christmas, the employees choose an organization that can benefit from their personal contributions.

Sensational Kids is a new pediatric facility in Union County designed to provide occupational therapy for children three and up, for general development delays and for kids with a specific diagnosis or disease, such as ADD/ADHD, Autism, Hearing Impaired, Low Vision or Blind, Cerebral Palsy, Aspergers, etc.



Union County Business Of The Year

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative was named Business of the Year by the Union County Chamber of Commerce for 2006. Chamber President Charay Brewer (left) presented the award to General Manager Larry Lovell at the Union County Chamber of Commerce annual banquet at Blue Sky Vineyard.

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Home energy expert Doug Rye coming to Shawnee Community College. See details on page 9.

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Electrical safety

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) hosted a training session on electrical safety to local emergency service personnel in Union County on Wednesday, November 29. SIEC Member Services Director Chris Boyd and Utility Servicemen Larry Joe Keller and Lamar Houston discussed meter safety, downed power lines, transformer explosions, substation and structural fires. A new topic this year was the dangers of missing pole grounds due to recent thefts.

Approximately 50 Union County emergency service employees and volunteers attended the training at the Anna Fire Station.

Keller warned the attendees of heroic actions. He said, "When it comes to downed power lines or any unsafe electrical situation, call the co-op immediately for assistance and don't try to be a hero. There's always someone waiting for you to come home."

Boyd concluded, "Electrical safety remains a top priority for all of the communities we serve. I encourage each of our county emergency service departments to contact the cooperative to receive this important training." **Roger Dale Tertrak**

SIEC serves the following counties: Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pulaski, Pope and Union. Please call SIEC's Member Services Department for details on electrical safety training at 800-762-1400.



Continued from page 16a

What if my power continues to blink?

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

Will power blinks cause damage to appliances and other equipment?

As stated earlier, the operation of a protective device on electric lines causes "blinks". Some people refer to "blinks" as power "surges", but, unless lightning is involved, probably no "surge" occurs on the line. When the power goes off and back on during a "blink", it is often just like turning your appliance or other piece of equipment off and on with its own switch. No damage to your equipment should occur. If lightning is involved, a surge may occur and could cause damage. The Cooperative installs lightning arrestors on its lines to minimize the effects of lightning; yet, lightning can still cause damage.

What can I do in my home to lessen the effects of blinks?

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

- (1) Use digital clocks and VCR's that have a battery backup. The battery will ride through power "blinks", and you will not have to reset the time.
- (2) Utilize an Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) for your computer. Nothing is more annoying than losing data on a computer because of a power "blink". A relatively inexpensive UPS will ride through the "blink", preventing data loss. More sophisticated UPS's can be bought that keep your computer up and running for several minutes after a permanent power outage, allowing you to save your data.
- (2) Safeguard solid state equipment, computers and household appliances by installing surge protectors. A direct lightning strike can cause damage despite the use of surge protectors, but they still provide valuable protection and should be used on all sensitive equipment. Whole-house secondary surge protectors that help prevent surges from coming into the home can be purchased from the Cooperative. Sensitive equipment should also be protected independently.

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

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Youth to Washington Deadline Approaching

Attention High School Juniors!

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative will again sponsor area juniors to Youth Day in Springfield on March 28, sponsored by the co-op and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Of the 11 students representing the co-op in March, two will be selected to go on an all-expense paid tour of Washington DC in June 2007.

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

Youth To Springfield: The day's activities in Springfield will include touring the state capitol complex

and visiting with legislators with other students from throughout the state.

Youth To Washington: The two local winners will join some 50 other Illinois students, sponsored by Illinois cooperatives, at Springfield on June 8. They will travel on charter buses to Washington DC and return to Springfield June 15. While in Washington, students will visit attractions such as the White House, U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial and many other national monuments and places of interest.

**Ask your guidance
counselor for details today!
Time is running out to apply for
this exciting experience.**




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Your Touchstone Energy Partner 

Touchstone Energy® Classroom Empowerment Grant Gives Local School A Boost

Egyptian, Jonesboro and Meridian schools have been awarded funds through the Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant Program. These three schools were among 12 grant winners from a pool of 87 total grant applications. Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives from across the state distributed a total of \$10,000 in Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants to fund innovative, unfunded school projects or materials.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) is one of the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives that participated in this first-time program.

"Uncovering the Good Ole Days" project, submitted by Nancy Kerr and Betty Green with Egyptian Middle School, will educate students on how the energy needs of homes have changed. This \$990 grant has been awarded to fund sixth grade educational field trips and two global positioning systems. **Alice C. Baggett**

The "Bulldog Rural Innovations" project, submitted by Rick Goodman and Belinda Hill with Jonesboro Grade School, will integrate current technology applications into the Jr. High core curriculum. More specifically, the \$935 grant will allow the school to purchase digital cameras/printer docks, memory sticks, jump drives



Standing from left: Egyptian Middle School Secondary Principal Larry Houston, SIEC Director of Member Services Chris Boyd, students Skylar, Hanna, Chelsea, April, Jemberlea and Coco and teacher Mrs. Nancy Kerr. Kneeling from left: students Alex, Austin and Kenny. Not pictured, teacher Betty Green.

and discs to be utilized by the students for various school projects.

The "Energy Awareness" project, submitted by Gayla Dial with Meridian Elementary/Middle School, is a community based plan to increase energy awareness and focus on students in the school's special education department. This grant of \$735 will allow students to visit power plants and spread the concept of energy conser-

vation throughout their community.

SIEC Director of Member Services Chris Boyd says, "These grants will provide a real boost for smaller projects that would not otherwise be funded. Improving conditions for local students is a priority and we are very proud to have three schools within our service territory receive these grants."

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Generator Safety

By Mike Logeman, SIEC Director of Engineering

As our cooperative members know, southern Illinois has seen its share of natural disasters in recent years. Just in the past few years, SIEC members have experienced wind storms, floods, tornados and ice storms, all causing widespread damage and power outages. Many members have had to use emergency generators for the first time in their lives.

The cooperative recommends that members who rely on electricity for farm, business, life-support systems, etc. have a standby source of electricity generation. However, most homes or businesses do not have a permanently installed generator, or even facilities for a standby generator, when an unexpected or extended power outage occurs. Thus, most do not know the proper methods for installing and running the generator.

There are several factors members need to consider when deciding to install a standby generator.

- What size of generator do I need?
- Do I want to run the whole house or just a few appliances?
- What voltage is needed?
- Where do I locate the generator?
- Are there special grounding requirements?

The cooperative can provide assistance to members with these questions. We also have brochures that explain the proper methods for sizing, installing and operating generators. Give us a call and we will be happy to speak with you or send you information.

The most important concern the cooperative has with members operating emergency generators is the connection the generator has with the cooperative's electrical system. Improper connection of a generator can cause serious injury or death to cooperative linemen working on the lines to restore power.

For a normal home service, generators that are installed at the main service disconnect or in any way use the home's existing wiring must utilize a double-pole double-throw transfer switch. This switch prevents generator current from flowing onto the cooperative's lines during an outage. The switch also protects the generator from the

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Improperly installed generators put linemen like Robin Ramage at risk while they work to restore your power.

cooperative's lines when power is restored.

Cooperative linemen and other employees have noticed numerous incorrect generator hookups during recent storm damage. Most have the generator hooked up directly to the home's wiring below the main service breaker with the breaker in the "off" position. They do not have the double-pole double-throw switch installed. This is very dangerous in that if the breaker malfunctions or is accidentally put in the "on" position, the generator will energize the cooperative's lines and may cause serious injury to linemen.

A double-pole double-throw transfer switch is not required when only appliances or equipment are plugged directly into the generator. Thus, there is no possible connection between the home's electrical wiring and the cooperative's lines.

Another concern for the member is the threat of carbon monoxide poisoning due to the exhaust of an emergency generator. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless and deadly gas. Generators should never be operated indoors, in garages or in areas that are not well ventilated. Each year deaths occur due to carbon monoxide poisoning because of improper use of emergency generators. **William J Meyer**

Before installing or operating any type of standby or emergency generator, the member should always read the manufacturer's operating manual and safety requirements.

Despite the cooperative's construction and maintenance programs, unexpected or extended outages are always a possibility, especially in rural areas where miles of line run. But with a little planning, members can protect themselves and the cooperative's linemen when that unexpected event occurs.

Please contact the cooperative for any questions or concerns you may have about emergency generators.

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Marathon Water Heaters! Ultra Energy Efficient!

If you're looking for a water heater that will last for the long run, Marathon is your brand. Marathon water heaters offer the longest design life of any tank available. They're surrounded by three inches of Envirofoam insulation, which keeps your water hot for days, rather than hours. Marathon models are environmentally friendly and ultra-energy efficient. Best of all, Marathon tanks are guaranteed not to leak as long as you own your home. When you buy Marathon, you're buying quality assurance.

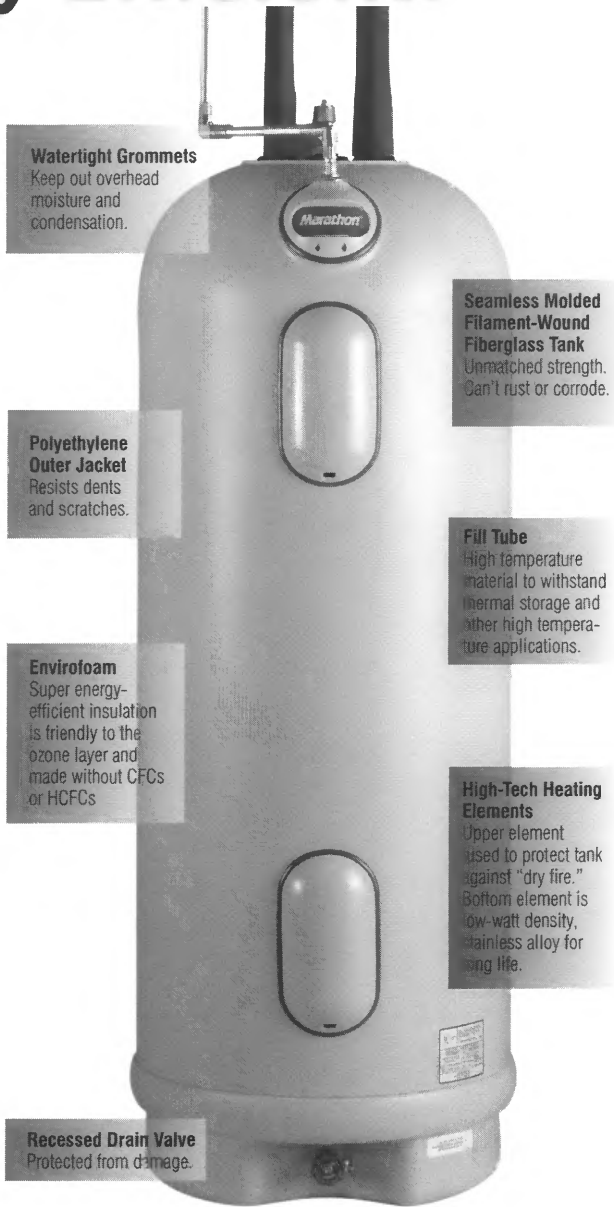
The electric advantage

Since Marathon water heaters are electric, you don't have to worry about strange odors, exhaust flues or safety issues associated with gas-fired models. SIEC carries 50 and 85 gallon models. It may be the last water heater you'll ever need to buy!

Call us for more information!
618-827-3555



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Doug Rye is coming to Shawnee Community College on April 11 at 6:30 p.m. to help you save money on your utility bills. Admission is free. Don't miss this remarkable opportunity! See page 9 for more details.



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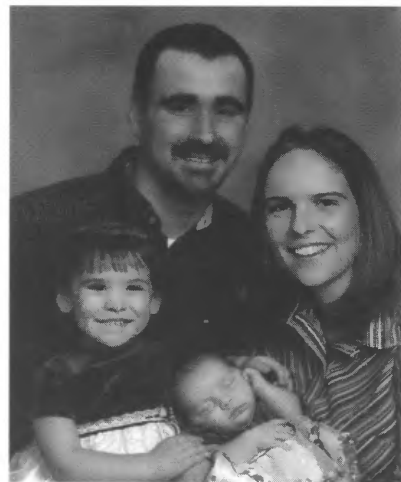
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*Welcome To
The Co-op
World!*

SIEC Building and Grounds
Maintenance Coordinator Aaron
Stover, his wife, Paula, and their
daughter, Kaylee, would like to
introduce their newest addition to
the family, Kenzie Madison Stover,
born on December 12, 2006.



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*Taxes and other regulatory charges not included. Domestic rates apply within the contiguous 48 states. Certain restrictions and early termination fees may apply. Please call for details. Services provided by TransWorld Net

HOME ENERGY SAVER

Would You Like to Save On Your Energy Bills?

SIEC offers a free online energy audit tool through Touchstone Energy. Go to www.siec.coop if you are serious about energy efficiency in your home. **David L Kinslow**

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Babe's Fish Wagon

Are you ready for really good fried fish this spring? Have you stopped by Babe's Fish Wagon in East Cape? Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative members Babe and Charlotte Beasley own the small, red building just east of the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge.

Babe is a commercial fisherman and was catching more fish than he could sell at his fish market in Olive Branch, so his wife started a concession stand in East Cape, and according to Charlotte, "It just took off from there." The small concession stand (wagon) turned into a larger building, now sitting on the side of Highway 146 in East Cape. The Beasley's have been doing business in East Cape for around five years now. **Bobby G. Thomas**

Customers line up at Charlotte's window, patiently waiting to be served. There is no place to sit and eat here. It is strictly carry-out. Her best sellers are buffalo ribs and strips. Charlotte says, "People seem to brag about my slaw and our desserts are all homemade."

The entire family plays a part in this business. Babe, their son, Andy,

and Babe's brother-in-law, Jim, catch the fish. Charlotte is the cook and all of their children help at the Fish Wagon. They are open Thursday through Saturday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., from March until November each year.

Their delicious menu includes two types of fish, catfish and buffalo, served as sandwiches, wraps or dinners. Each dinner is served with potatoes, slaw, hushpuppies, bread and onions. While you are there, go ahead

and order Charlotte's cheesecake bars and brownies for dessert. They also sell fish by the pound for parties and/or family gatherings.

The Beasley's contribute part of their success and great tasting fish to East Cape's well known Jimmy Poirrier. They got their start by using his incredible recipe and they give thanks to him.

For more information about Beasley's fish market or Fish Wagon, call 618-661-1115 or 618-776-5088.

Do you need help paying your utility bills? LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

Shawnee Development Council wants to help you with your utility bills. Have you been helped before and think you are not eligible now? Well please try again. There is money that may be available to you. According to Shawnee Development Council's LIHEAP Program Manager Quintilla Batiste, "Our main purpose is for everyone eligible for this program to be served. The money is there and that's what it's for." If you think you may qualify and you are in need, please give Shawnee Development Council, Inc. a call at one of its county outreach offices: **Dallas Glenn Thornton**

Alexander 734-0535

Johnson 658-6131

Massac 524-2941

Pope 683-2107

Pulaski 745-6388

Union 833-7431

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Arbor Day

April 27, 2007

Did You Know?

A visit to Nebraska today wouldn't disclose that the state was once a treeless plain. Yet it was the lack of trees there that led to the founding of Arbor Day in the 1800s. Among pioneers moving into the Nebraska Territory in 1854 was J. Sterling Morton from Detroit. He and his wife were lovers of nature, and the home they established in Nebraska was quickly planted with trees, shrubs and flowers.

Morton was a journalist and soon became editor of Nebraska's first newspaper. Given that forum, he spread agricultural information and his enthusiasm for trees. Morton not only advocated tree planting by individuals in his articles and editorials, he also encouraged civic organizations and groups to join in. His prominence in the area increased, and he became Secretary of the Nebraska Territory, which provided another opportunity to stress the value of trees.

On January 4, 1872, Morton first proposed a tree-planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day" at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture. It was estimated more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

Arbor Day was officially proclaimed in Nebraska on March 12, 1874, and the day itself was observed April 10, 1874. During the 1870s, other states passed legislation to observe Arbor Day, and the tradition began in schools nationwide in 1882. Arbor Day has now spread beyond the United States and is observed in many countries of the world. For more information, visit www.arborday.org.

As part of Arbor Day observances in April, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative and Safe Electricity remind people of the importance of planting tall-growing trees safely away from power lines, and to seek help in choosing and planting trees and bushes that won't grow to interfere with their electric supply.

- When does Illinois celebrate Arbor Day?

The last Friday in April

- What is the Illinois State Tree?

White Oak

- The idea of Arbor Day originally came from which state?

Nebraska



Save Your Pennies For A Rainy Day.

Switch your **LONG DISTANCE** plan today.

Introducing a long distance savings plan that really works. It's time to switch to a long distance plan that lets you call without worry of any monthly service fees or hidden charges, such as time of day restrictions or minimum usage.

4.5¢* per minute - Calls within Illinois.

4.9¢* per minute - Calls outside the state.

Call **1-800-807-1837** today and start saving those pennies!



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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* Taxes and other regulatory charges not included. Certain restrictions may apply. Please call for details.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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

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The King of ENERGY Ideas

Doug Rye. He's more than just caulk and talk.

*You've heard him on the radio and read his articles in Illinois Country Living...
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!*

*Coming to
Shawnee College
April 11
at 6:30 p.m.!*

Attend this **FREE Residential Energy Audit Workshop**, compliments of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative.

You do not have to be a member of the Cooperative to attend.

For more information or to reserve seating, call
800-762-1400



Southern Illinois
Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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ILLINOIS COUNTRY LIVING • April 2007

16c

Reminder:

We Need Your Primary Telephone Number!!!



If you have changed your phone number we need to know! Our outage reporting system utilizes your primary phone number. If you have changed this number recently please call the cooperative so we can get your new number in our records. This will make it easier for you to report an outage and allows our dispatchers and crews to provide you with better service. If you have recently reported an outage and our system did not recognize your number, please contact the cooperative to update your records. *Thanks!*

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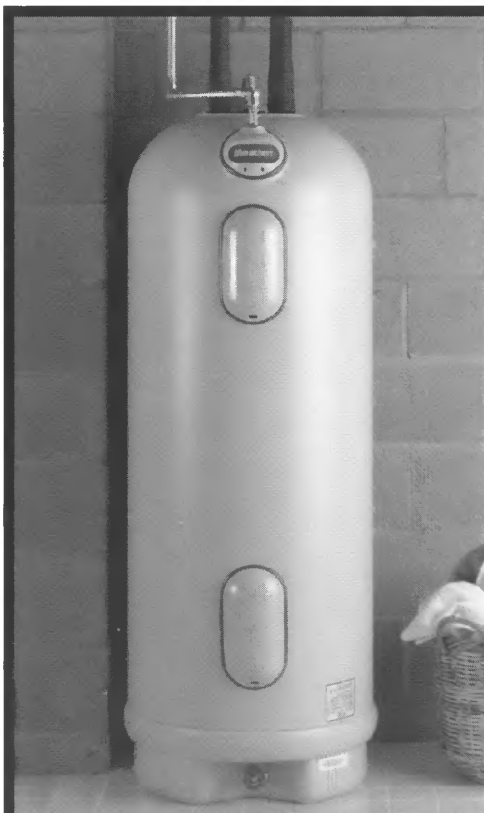
Membership prize

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

Office closing

Our office will be closed Friday, April 6 in observance of Good Friday.



Marathon® WATER HEATERS

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative proudly offers the Marathon water heater in 50 and 85 gallon models.

Why Marathon?

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

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

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

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

40dgc

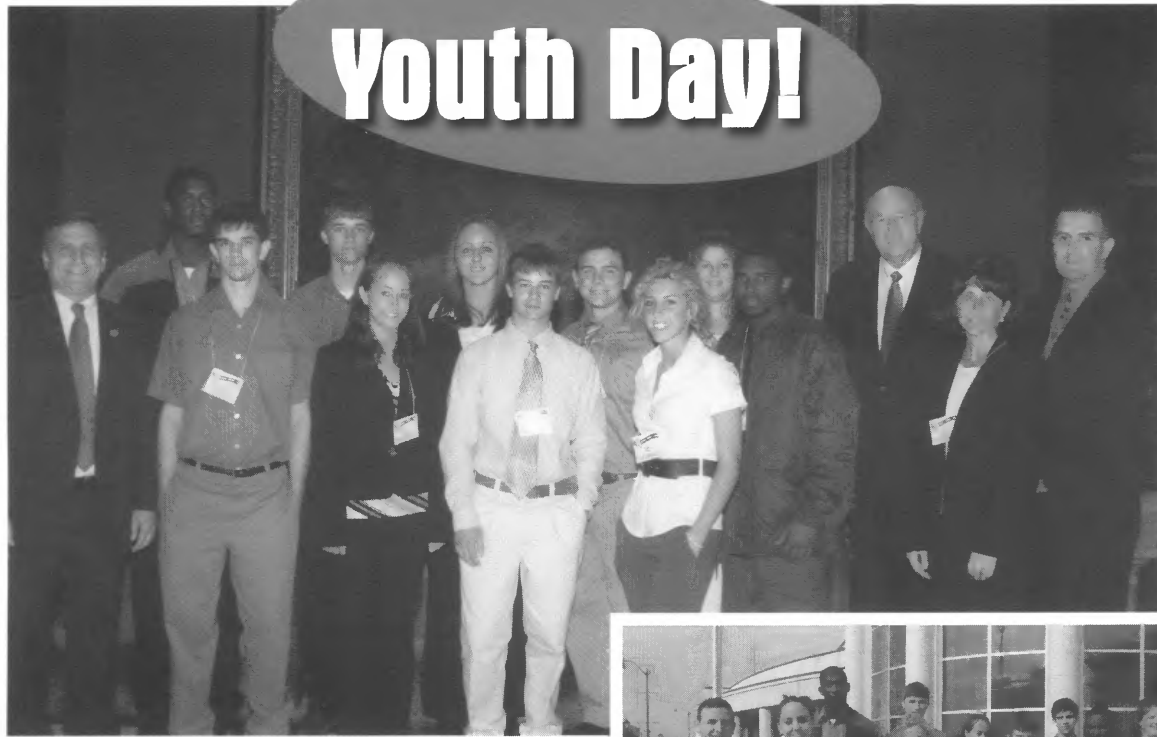
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JAMMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Youth Day!



Representative Mike Bost and Senator David Luechtefeld met with students representing Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, March 28, in Springfield. Students had an opportunity to view state government in action, meet with Secretary of State Jesse White and tour the State Capitol, Illinois Supreme Court, Old State Capital and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. **Brent E Hart**

Front row from left are Rep. Bost, Aaron Sellars of Cobden High School, Stephanie Wilson of AJ High School, Adam Deem of Massac County High School, Mckayla J Wolfe of Joppa High School, Zedrick Woodson of Egyptian High School and

chaperones Jerri Schaefer and Chris Boyd.

Back row from left are Malcom Larry of Meridian High School, Colten Allen Penrod of Dongola High School, Alison Stout of Goreville High School, Brandon Mayberry of Shawnee High School, Nicki Ellis of Century High School and Sen. Luechtefeld.

The day was sponsored by the Illinois electric and telephone co-ops and is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government.

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Preparing for a Fun, Safe Summer!

The countdown is on! It's time to get prepared for summer fun and to make memories that will last a lifetime! As our families get ready for swimming, camping, ballgames, trips to the park and generally more time spent outdoors, keep safety in your plans.

For safe outdoor play, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) and Safe Electricity recommend children and adults follow these rules:

- **Look up and live!** Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long tools like ladders and pool skimmers.
- **Never climb trees near power lines!** Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they may become closer when more weight is added to the branch. **ELVIS W NELSON**
- **Fly kites and model airplanes safely away from trees and overhead power lines!** If a kite gets tangled in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Contact the cooperative for assistance.
- **Never go into an electric substation!** Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can kill you. Don't retrieve a toy or rescue a pet that goes inside. Call the cooperative instead.
- **Water and electricity never mix!** Keep electronics like radios away from pools and hot tubs, and watch for overhead power lines when cleaning pools, sailing or fishing. Never install pools underneath or near power lines.
- **Stay away from electrical equipment on the ground and overhead!** Never climb a utility pole or tower. Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment. Electrical power poles, guy wires and other utility equipment should never be used as a playground.

Be careful when using electrical appliances outdoors. Whether it is a bug zapper, electric charcoal lighter, radio or CD player, caution must be exercised. Use outlets that have weatherproof covers and ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) to prevent



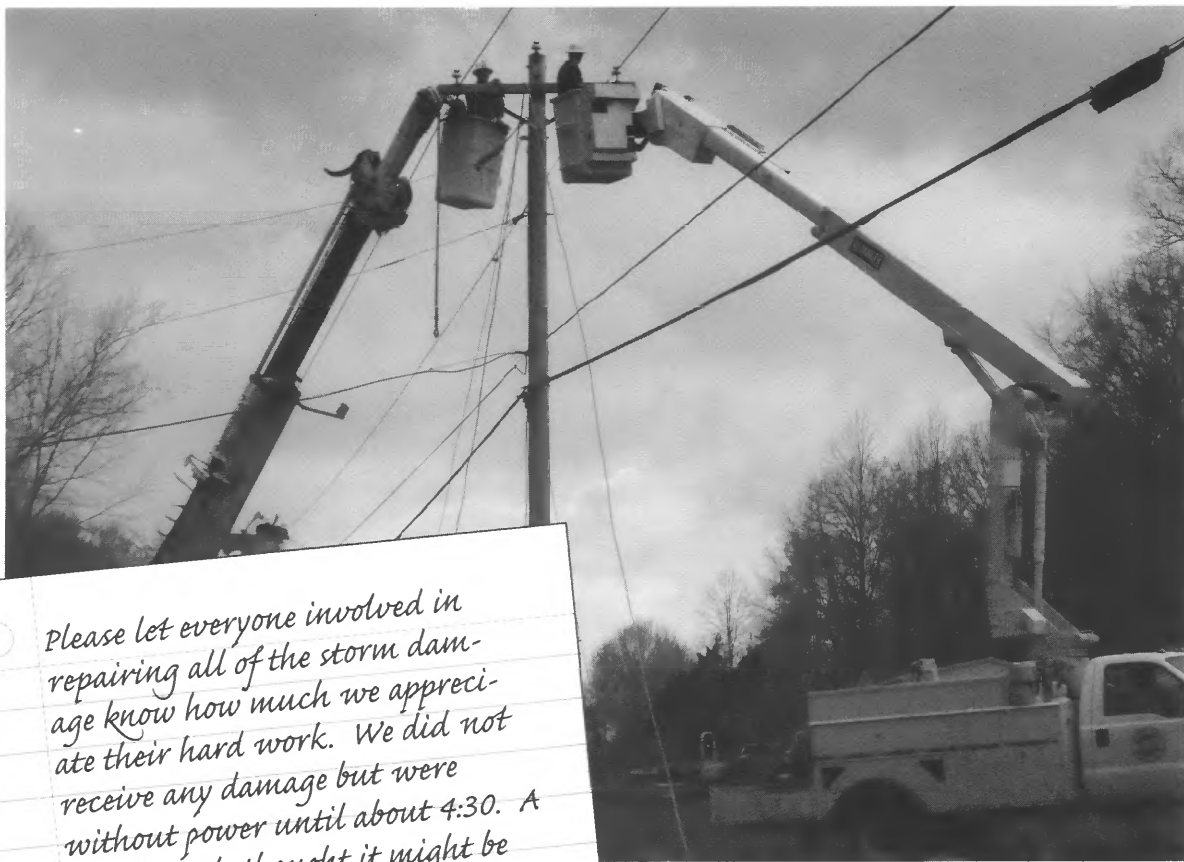
serious shock injuries. Use portable GFCIs for outdoor outlets that don't have them.

Supervise the use of extension cords outside, check them carefully for exposed wires; make sure they are in good shape, and not frayed or cracked. Use only extension cords, rated and marked for outdoor use, that are large enough to handle the current needed for the device you are using. Check that the prongs on the extension cord plugs are clean, not broken or bent. Make sure the ground prong is intact in a three-prong plug, and avoid use of adapters.

Summer can signal an increase in accidents and injuries. Keep emergency and utility numbers close at hand. **Scott L Powers**

Remember, accidents and injuries are unexpected. Be prepared and proactive to make sure your family has great memories of Summer 2007.

For more information on electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org or contact SIEC.



Please let everyone involved in repairing all of the storm damage know how much we appreciate their hard work. We did not receive any damage but were without power until about 4:30. A lot of people thought it might be morning before it was restored but you got it done in what we think was record time. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated people working for us.

Thanks again,
Tom and Martha Greenwood

Berryville Road tornado damage, near Jonesboro

**Just doing our job....
providing our members with
safe, reliable electricity...
day and night.**

Attention all K-12 teachers!!

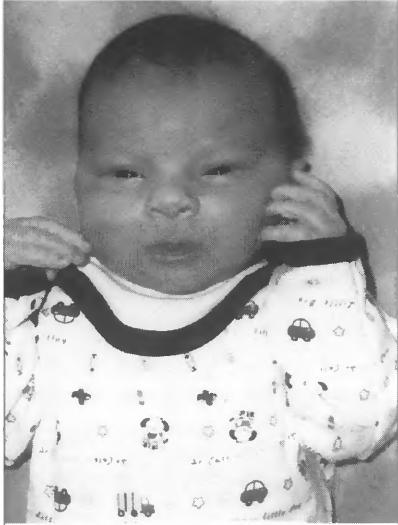
Go to www.siec.coop and click on the Scholarships/Programs link to apply for the 2007-2008 NRECA Mini- Grant Program. Deadline for applications is September 10, 2007.

2007 Southern Illinois Cooperative Youth Conference

If you will be a junior or senior in high school in the 2007/2008 school year and would like a free opportunity to participate in workshops on structure, financing, management and careers in cooperatives led by experienced em-

ployees of cooperatives on the SIU campus June 7-8, please contact Jackie Welch, Division of Continuing Education, Southern Illinois University at 618-536-7751. Deadline for interested students is May 7, 2007.

Welcome
to the Co-op
World!



Alex Michael Palmer
January 22, 2007
9 Lbs. 7 Oz.

Congratulations

to Journeyman Lineman
Jeff Palmer and his wife Jodi
on the newest addition to
their family.

9th Annual Mud Truck & 4 Wheeler Races

Saturday, May 12th at 1 p.m. in Wolf Lake

- **Mud Truck Classes:** CMRA Modified Division, CMRA Pro-Stock Division, CMRA Super Stock and Local Stock Class
- **4 Wheeler Divisions:** 200 and Up 2 Wheel Drive, 300 and Up 2 Wheel Drive Utility and 400 and Up 4 Wheel Drive Utility
- Kiddie Power Wheel Race during afternoon
- Tug of War after all races

Contact Info: Hugh Crockarell 931-431-5530 or local 618-833-5498

OFFICE CLOSING

Our offices will be closed
on Monday, May 28 for
Memorial Day.



SIEC
Annual Meeting
and Beauty
Pageant Tuesday,
August 7.



Mark your calendars.

The total amount of capital credit allocations for 2006 is
\$1,279,443.95 and the factor is .03319573.

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published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

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Live-Line Demonstration at Dixon Springs



Dale Guetersloh uses a rubber snake to demonstrate what can happen when an animal makes contact with an electric line.

On April 26-27, Chris Boyd, Perry Dailey, Dale Guetersloh and Robin Ramage entertained and educated hundreds of elementary school students with a live-line demonstration at Dixon Springs Agricultural Center during Stewardship Week. **James F. Linson**

SIEC's live-line demonstrations explain how electricity works, shows dangers of electricity and gives helpful hints about hazardous electrical situations.



From Left: Utility Serviceman Perry Dailey, Journeyman Lineman Dale Guetersloh and Director of Member Services Chris Boyd discuss electrical safety topics with children.

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2007 Nominating Committee to Meet June 5, 2007

Members to serve on the 2006-2007 nominating committee were appointed by Scott Ury, President of the Board of Directors, at the 2006 annual meeting of the members held August 8, 2006. The committee will meet at the cooperative headquarters, 7420 U.S. Highway 51 South, Dongola, Illinois, at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, to consider nominees for election to the board of directors at the 2007 annual meeting of members.

The following committee members were appointed to the 2006-2007 nominating committee to represent their respective counties:

Alexander County delegate, Richard Walker, 1 East Cape Terrace, McClure, IL 62957; and alternate, Donald E. Masterson, Route 1 Box 72, Olive Branch, IL 62969.

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

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

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

Union County delegate, Glenn Heisner, 3605 Nash Road, Anna, IL 62906; and alternate, Ira Dugan Tripp, Jr., 1485 Gurley Loop, Buncombe, IL 62912.

The by-laws of the cooperative provide the nominations to the board of directors may be made by: (1) nominating committee, (2) petition received not less than 25 days prior to the actual meeting, signed by 15 or more active members, or (3) an active member from the floor at the annual meeting. The three-year terms of the directors are expired alternately so that each year elections are held for a portion of the board. At the 2007 annual meeting, elections will be held for a director from each of these three counties: Alexander, Pulaski and Union. **Harold L. McNeilly**

SIEC Hosts Energy Efficiency Workshop for Local Communities

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) and Touchstone Energy recently hosted a residential energy audit workshop at Shawnee Community College in Ullin. Nationally recognized energy consultant and licensed architect Doug Rye spent the evening educating dozens of eager listeners on energy saving tips to reduce home energy consumption.

Commonly referred to as the "King of Caulk and Talk," Mr. Rye explained how residential energy improvements can make consumers money, not cost money. His humorous, but straight-to-the-point fashion cut to the core and left "no stone unturned" as he discussed energy efficiency in new and existing homes. Mr. Rye discussed important topics such as home insulation practices, energy efficient heating and air, lighting, water heaters, caulking and air infiltration.



According to SIEC member Mary Ann Gearing of Cypress, "I thought the energy program was great and I appreciate SIEC for sponsoring it. Doug Rye was awesome!"

For energy efficiency brochures and booklets, and more detailed information about Doug Rye's energy saving "must-do" and "don't ever" tips, contact SIEC's member services department at 800-762-1400.

SIEC offers a \$400 rebate to members who install a geothermal heat pump in their home and a \$200 rebate to the contractor.


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Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

BEAUTY PAGEANT RULES AND ENTRY FORM

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is seeking entrants for the beauty pageant held in conjunction with the annual meeting of members, Tuesday, August 7, 2007, at Shawnee College, Ullin, IL. **Troy D. Jones**

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

<p>● MISS SIEC 2007 WILL RECEIVE: \$150 cash, crown, trophy, sash and an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., in June 2008.</p> <p>● FIRST RUNNER-UP WILL RECEIVE: \$100 cash, trophy and a gift. (In the event Miss SIEC cannot go to Washington, the First Runner-Up is given the opportunity.)</p> <p>● SECOND RUNNER-UP WILL RECEIVE: \$75 cash, trophy and a gift.</p> <p>● CONSOLATION PRIZE: \$50 cash to each non-winner.</p> <p>● MISS CONGENIALITY: Trophy to winner chosen by contestants.</p>	CONTESTANTS WILL BE JUDGED AS FOLLOWS:		
	INTERVIEW-40%	SWIMSUIT-30%	EVENING GOWN-30%
	General Knowledge -10% Achievement-10% Vocabulary-10% Voice-10%	Beauty-10% Poise-10% Posture-10%	Beauty-10% Charm-10% Grace-10%
			

BEAUTY PAGEANT ENTRY

RESIDENCY AFFIDAVIT

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

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

DEADLINE: JULY 15, 2007

Print Name _____

Birthdate _____ Age _____

Street/Route _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parents _____

Account Number _____

Phone _____ Cellular _____

E-mail _____

Signature _____

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

**SIEC + August 7,
2007 =**



Save on Long Distance



- ▶ Only 4.5¢* per minute for all in-state calls!
- ▶ Standard rate is 4.9¢* per minute for all state-to-state calls.
- ▶ Calling Card rate of 9.5¢ per minute!
- ▶ Great low international rates around the world!
- ▶ No monthly service charge, no minimum and no cost to join!
- ▶ You don't have to be a Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative customer to join!

**Savings so big, they're outta
this ballpark!**



Call today! 1-800-807-1837

*Taxes and other regulatory charges not included. Certain restrictions and early termination fees may apply. Rates stated are for Illinois residents. Please call for details. In partnership with TransWorld Network.

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JAMMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy Partner 

Please join us

August 7, 2007 at
Shawnee Community
College, Ullin, IL

Enjoy:

Early Bird Prizes

•

Miss SIEC 2007
Pageant

•

Door Prizes

•

Registration Gifts

•

Entertainment

•

Election of Three
Directors



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's **Annual Meeting of Members**

August 7, 2007

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

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI • POPE

ILLINOIS COUNTRY LIVING • July 2007

16a

Education and Commitment to Community



Lick Creek Pre-K "Under Construction"

SIEC Crew Foreman Tom Keller and Journeyman Lineman Jeff Palmer attended a Lick Creek Preschool "Under Construction" event held in the spring. Keller and Palmer discussed electrical safety with the children and demonstrated functions of a co-op bucket truck.



SIEC Discusses Electrical Safety with Massac County Fire Department

On April 19, SIEC personnel discussed electrical safety with the Massac County Fire Department. Approximately 25 fire department employees and volunteers were in attendance at the Massac County Fire Station in Metropolis.

Director of Member Services Chris Boyd, Director of Engineering Michael Logeman and Construction Foreman Robin Ramage spent the evening discussing topics such as meter safety, downed power lines, automatic transfer generators, transformer explosions and substation and structural fires.

"Our priority for these firefighters is their safety. They can't effectively perform their duties if they are not aware of electrical hazards in what can be extremely dangerous situations," stressed Ramage.

Citizens are urged to call their local fire department if they have an automatic transfer generator. If firefighters are aware there is an automatic transfer generator at the residence or business, it could help save firefighters' lives in the event of a fire or emergency.

Barbara S. Smith

Please call SIEC's Member Services Department for more information on electrical safety discussions with local fire departments at 800-762-1400.

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DEADLINE: JULY 15, 2007

Print Name _____

Birthdate _____ Age _____

Street/Route _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parents _____

Account Number _____

Phone _____ Cellular _____

E-mail _____

Signature _____

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Bowen Qualifies at Training Course



Apprentice Lineman Kelly Bowen recently completed an Introductory Training Course with the American Line Builders Joint Apprenticeship and Training Program (Albat) in Medway, Ohio. **Helen U. Hightower**

Albat teaches beginning apprentices safety procedures, OSHA regulations, electrical theory, pole climbing, pole-top and bucket-truck rescue, first aid, CPR, ropes and rigging, knot tying, tools and equipment, truck and equipment operation.

Membership prize

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

Larry Lovell receives award of appreciation



L-R: Current ICWCG President Kevin Jacobsen, Larry Lovell and ICWCG & RSI Executive Vice President/General Manager Kristin Banks.

SIEC General Manager Larry Lovell recently resigned from the Board of Trustees of the Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group (ICWCG) and the Board of Directors of Rochdale Services, Inc. (RSI) after 14 years of service. **Michael J. Ingold**

Lovell was recognized for his hard work and dedication. The Board of Trustees of the ICWCG and the Board of Directors of RSI thanked Lovell for his years of service to the workers' compensation program in Illinois with a plaque.

SIEC receives awards at state conference

SIEC received two safety honors recently during the Safety/Supervisory Technical Conference, sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, held in Springfield. They were: Best Lost Time Safety Record for 2006 and Best Accident/Illness Safety Record for 2006.

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON JULY 4.

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ILLINOISTM

COUNTRY LIVING

August 2007



Published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Official Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 2007 annual meeting of the members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative will be held at Shawnee Community College, Ullin, Illinois, at 7 p.m., DST, **Tuesday**, August 7, 2007, to take action upon the following matters.

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

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

president of the cooperative pursuant to the bylaws:

County of Alexander.....	Richard D. Moss (three year term)
County of Pulaski.....	Dale E. Taake (three year term)
County of Union.....	Scott L. Ury (three year term)

Additional nominations for directors of the cooperative may be made from the floor at the meeting.

Given at Dongola, Illinois, this 24th day of July, 2007.

Dale E. Taake, Secretary

Official Registration

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

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

2007 President and General Manager's Report

Stability and Vision . . . In a World of Change



Larry Lovell
General Manager



Carole J. Kelley
President

Electric cooperatives are private, independent electric utilities, owned by the members they serve. As democratically governed businesses, electric cooperatives are organized under the Rochdale Principles, a set of cooperative rules that firmly anchors co-ops in the communities they serve and ensures that co-ops are locally controlled by members. These principles help ensure our stability and that our vision for the future is focused on the needs of our members.

Electric cooperatives began to spread across rural America after President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in 1935. The Executive Order establishing the REA and the passage of the REA Act a year later marked the first steps in a public-private partnership that has lasted more than 70 years.

Today, as the deregulated energy market continues to evolve, we've seen how the co-op foundation laid 70 years ago continues to provide stability for co-op members. The average individual consumer faces great risk in a deregulated electricity marketplace. The nation's demand for reliable electric power continues to grow, even in a time of record high fuel prices, more stringent environmental challenges and with major structural changes occurring in the industry. While much of the nation's power infrastructure is aging, the industry must keep up with the need for more capacity, increased reliability and power quality, and lower environmental impacts. Thus the industry must invest in a new generation

of power plants, environmental controls and transmission lines. This new investment will maintain reliability and increase environmental performance – but it comes with added costs. Cost increases will be an industry wide phenomenon; everyone will be affected. In order for electric utilities to remain financially viable in this current era of increased operating costs and continued need to invest in infrastructure, rates must and will increase.

Co-ops provide a buffer to help manage the market risk. As directors and employees of your cooperative, we have a responsibility to honor the vision of the founding members of this co-op. Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) strives to operate efficiently while sticking to our mission of providing affordable, high-quality and reliable electric services. We are doing everything possible to keep your electricity affordable. We have no control, however, over the market price of fuels needed to generate electricity or the additional costs associated with the new environmental regulations. But we can keep our rates competitive by proactively planning, employing a well defined business plan that considers all risks, controlling costs where possible and choosing newer, more efficient technologies.

You can help us keep costs affordable by looking for ways to conserve energy in your home, farm or business. This is especially important during periods of peak demand, normally during the summer air-conditioning season. A few easy ways to help are: make sure you turn off all unnecessary lights, shut down computers and other office equipment when they're not being used, don't heat your home higher than 68° in the winter or cool it below 78° in the summer and keep hot showers as short as possible. These are just a few ways you can help conserve energy. For more tips visit our Web site or contact our office.

If you're building a new home, ask our member services department how you can get a Certified Comfort Home book. It is free and gives you step-by-step guidelines on how to build an energy-efficient home.

Switching to budget billing and/or automatic payment options are two ways to add some stability and convenience to your monthly expenses. Your highest energy bills are in the winter and summer. Spreading those costs out with our budget-billing program is a guaranteed way to add more continuity to your monthly expenses. And, you can also have your payments automatically withdrawn each month from an account you designate.

Today there are more questions than answers when anticipating the future of the electric utility industry. The future is not for the faint of heart! However, SIEC's directors, management and employees are committed to minimizing the impact of rising power costs by being proactive in our planning, promoting energy efficient appliances and technologies, and focusing on maintaining the reliability, quality and integrity of our electric distribution system, for you, our members.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Board of Directors

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

Manager Larry Lovell • Editor Jerri Schaefer

For Outages Call:

800-762-1400 • 618-827-3555

2007 Annual Meeting Treasurer's Report



Dale E. Taake
Secretary-Treasurer

Located elsewhere in this newsletter are the financial reports of the cooperative for the year 2006. Financially, your cooperative had a very successful year as we delivered to you efficient, reliable and, as economically possible, low cost electricity. Our total operating revenue for the year was approximately \$20.7 million, with the majority (81 percent) of it coming from our farm and residential members. The second largest group of members providing us revenue was our small commercial members, providing just under 12 percent of our total revenue for the year.

Overall, our members averaged just 10.03 cents per kWh purchased, although some of the different rate codes averaged higher or lower. Our revenues grew slightly in 2006 as we had an approximate 4.75 percent rate increase in September, 2006. Our actual kWh sales, however, decreased by about one-half of one percent.

The cost of purchased power still remains our largest expense, comprising almost 60 percent of our total revenue, or almost 60 cents of every dollar we receive. Operations and maintenance of our system required about 13.3 cents of each dollar this past year and our member billing, administration and general expenses representing about 11.5 cents. Depreciation of our system was about 7.6 cents of each dollar received; interest expense on long-term debt accounted for about 4.4 cents of each dollar; and other miscellaneous was just under one cent of every dollar received. Our net operating margins for the year were equal to about 2.4 cents of every dollar received.

Additionally, we received interest income of about \$78,775 from our cash balances and \$706,424 in "allocations" of capital credits from cooperatives that we belong to, such as Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (NRUCFC) and from vendors of equipment and supplies. Our financial statements show

total margins of \$1,279,444, but only \$494,245 represents actual cash resulting from our electrical rates.

Our total plant continues to be upgraded and added to as needed. Our total miles of line at the end of 2006 grew by four miles to 2,118 total miles. Our membership continues to grow a little each year and with it comes expansion of the electrical system. We increased the cost of our plant by \$2 million and our net total assets by over \$2.2 million. We borrowed \$1.5 million last year from NRUCFC and project we will be borrowing \$2 million in 2007 as cost of supplies continue to increase.

Although a rate increase has been tentatively budgeted for the fall of 2007, it is not known at this writing if it will still be required nor is the amount of the increase known, but if necessary, it will be for all classes of electrical service. We're committed to you, our members, and we promise to continue to work on your behalf to make sure we are providing the best possible service at a reasonable cost.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Offers

MARATHON WATER HEATERS

Turn it on. Leave it on. For good.

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

Marathon[®]
WATER HEATERS
Here for Good.SM



ENTERTAINMENT

BLEND is the a cappella group bringing back all of your favorite hits from the 50s and 60s with a twist of fun! Originating from Southern Illinois, BLEND was formed at John A. Logan College for the use of a music program.

What started out as a small project has now evolved into a career for four young men. BLEND entertains crowds of all sizes and ages and is sure to leave everyone tapping their feet or clapping their hands with a smile upon their face. BLEND is a show you do not want to miss!

BLEND has no doubt been blessed with talent - - - that is why they devote their career to the LORD. As well as singing music from the Doo-Wop Era, they are available to sing at churches with their Gospel repertoire.



Grand Prize
\$300 cash
Second Prize
\$100 cash
Third Prize
\$50 cash

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

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

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

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

Proof Of Mailing

State of Illinois)
)
County of Union)

I, Dale E. Taake, being duly sworn, on oath, state that I am duly elected, qualified and am acting secretary of the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, (hereinafter called the cooperative) that on the 24th day of July, 2007, every member of the cooperative was mailed with postage thereon prepaid, a copy of the Illinois Country Living JAMUP that contained a notice of the regular meeting of the members of the cooperative to be held on August 7, 2007, that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the JAMUP containing said notice.

Dale E. Taake, Secretary

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 24TH DAY OF JULY, 2007.

SEAL

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

JAMUR

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Stability
& Vision

In A World of Change

Annual Meeting Program

August 7, 2007

Registration	<p>5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Cut out registration card on the outside cover of magazine to register for door prizes. Each member registering will receive one \$10 credit to apply on their electric bill. In addition, drawings will be held before and after the meeting for attendance prizes. Registration will be inside the River Room.</p>
Entertainment	<p>Blend Quartet will be performing from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Appearance of beauty contestants in swimsuit competition will be at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Early bird prizes will be given out at the conclusion of the swimsuit competition.</p>
Meeting Begins	<p>7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Call to Order Carole J. Kelley, President</p> <p>Invocation</p> <p>National Anthem</p> <p>Welcome Larry Lovell, Manager</p> <p>Business Meeting</p> <p>Reading of the 2006 Minutes</p> <p>Official Meeting Notice Dale E. Taake, Secretary</p> <p>President's and Manager's Report</p> <p>Nominating Committee Report Josh Reagor, Secretary</p> <p>Balloting for Directors Ron Osman, Attorney</p> <p>Unfinished Business</p> <p>New Business</p> <p>Adjournment of Business Meeting</p> <p>Introduction of Visitors</p> <p>Completion of 2007 Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Pageant</p> <p>More Prize Giveaways</p>

Nominating Committee Minutes

The nominating committee appointed by the president with the approval of the membership, met at the headquarters building at 6:30 p.m., June 5, 2007, to nominate three directors for three-year terms.

The following voting delegates were present: Richard R. Walker, Alexander County; Betty Casey, Johnson County; Josh Reagor, Massac County; George Holhubner, Pulaski County; and Glenn Russell Heisner, Union County. The following voting alternates were present: Donald E. Masterson, Alexander County; Orlis Harris, Massac County; Robert Heisner, Pulaski County; and, Ira Dugan Tripp, Jr., Union County. Absent was voting alternate Patty Allbritten, Johnson County.

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

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

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

Richard Walker nominated Betty

Casey to act as chairperson. A motion was made by Richard Walker, and seconded by Glenn Heisner, to close nominations and elect Betty Casey by acclamation. Motion carried.

Chairperson Casey appointed Josh Reagor to act as secretary.

A motion was made by Richard Walker to nominate Richard D. Moss as director for Alexander County. A motion was made by Glenn Heisner and seconded by George Holhubner to close nominations and nominate by acclamation Richard D. Moss as director for Alexander County. Motion carried.

A motion was made by George Holhubner to nominate Dale E. Taake as director for Pulaski County. A motion was made by Richard Walker and seconded by Glenn Heisner, to close nominations and nominate by acclamation Dale E. Taake as director for Pulaski County. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Glenn Heisner to nominate Scott L. Ury as director for Union County. A motion was made by George Holhubner and seconded by Josh Reagor, to close nominations and nominate by acclamation Scott L. Ury as director for Union County. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Richard Walker and seconded by Josh Reagor to adjourn. Motion carried. Chairperson Casey adjourned the meeting.



Seated in the front row left to right are: Glenn Russell Heisner, Union County; George Holhubner, Pulaski County; and, Donald E. Masterson, Alexander County. Standing left to right are: Richard R. Walker, Alexander County; Robert Heisner, Pulaski County; Ira Dugan Tripp, Jr., Union County; Betty Casey, Johnson County; Josh Reagor, Massac County; and Orlis Harris, Massac County.

Profiles of Board Candidates

Richard D. Moss, Alexander County



Richard D. Moss of Tamms was selected by the nominating committee to represent Alexander County on the board of directors.

He was first appointed to the board in December 1982. He was elected by the members in August 1983 and has completed seven terms as a board member. Moss and his wife, Karen, operate a livestock farm in the Tamms area. They have two children and three grandchildren. Moss is active in several agricultural organizations.

Dale E. Taake, Pulaski County



Dale E. Taake of Ullin is the nominating committee's choice to represent Pulaski County. He was elected in August 1993 to the

board. Taake and his wife, Amy, have three children and make their home in rural Ullin. He and his brothers are fourth generation operators of their family row crop farm.

Scott L. Ury, Union County



Scott L. Ury of Anna was the selection of the nominating committee for election to the board of directors to represent Union County.

He was elected in August 1999 to the board. Ury is a lifetime resident of Union County where he owns a livestock farm. He and his wife, Carolyn, have one daughter, Amanda. He is a lifetime member of Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church in Anna. He presently works as an electrician for Choate Mental Health Center in Anna.

Minutes of the 67th Annual Meeting

The 67th annual meeting of the members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative was held at the Shawnee Community College, Ullin, Illinois, on August 8, 2006, pursuant to Section 1, Article II of the bylaws and notice of the Secretary dated the 25th day of July, 2006.

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

SIEC Director C. Larry Fisher offered the invocation. The National Anthem was sung by the musical group Ernie Couch & Revival.

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

Cooperative Manager Larry Lovell extended a welcome to all members who had come to participate in the annual meeting proceedings. Mr. Lovell introduced the Board of Directors: Scott Ury, Board President, Union County; Carole Kelley, Vice-President, Johnson County; Dale Faughn, Secretary-Treasurer, Massac County; Dale Taake, Pulaski County; Raymond Snell, Alexander County; Larry Fisher, Massac County; G. Robert Inman, Pulaski County; and Barbara Pitts, Union County. Absent from the meeting was Richard Moss, Alexander County. Also introduced was the Cooperative's Attorney, Ron Osman of Marion and Dongola.

Dale Faughn, Secretary-Treasurer, read the proof of mailing notice and official meeting notice. Faughn introduced a motion to accept and approve the minutes as mailed in the Official Meeting Notice or distributed at registration this evening and to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion was seconded by James Duckworth. Motion carried.

President Ury gave the President's report. He then introduced Larry Lovell, General Manager and Executive Vice-President of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative to give the General Manager's report.

President Ury introduced Ira Dugan Tripp, Jr., Nominating Committee Secretary, to read the nominating committee report. President Ury asked for a motion to approve the nominating committee report. The motion was made by Gloria Hayes and seconded by Deanne Jordan. Motion carried.

President Ury then announced the Nominating Committee chosen for 2006-2007. They are:

Alexander County

Delegate – Richard Walker, McClure

Alternate – Donald E. Masterson, Olive Branch

Johnson County

Delegate – Betty Casey, Buncombe

Alternate – Patty Allbritten, Belknap

Massac County

Delegate – Josh Reagor, Karnak

Alternate – Orlis Harris, Brookport

Pulaski County

Delegate – George Holhubner, Olmsted

Alternate – Robert Heisner, Grand Chain

Union County

Delegate – Glenn Heisner, Anna

Alternate – Ira Dugan Tripp, Jr., Buncombe

President Ury introduced Attorney Ron Osman and turned the meeting over to him to conduct the election of directors.

Attorney Osman explained the bylaws as they pertain to the election of directors and stated the nominating committee appointed at the last annual meeting is provided for in these bylaws. He further mentioned the qualifications of directors and the procedure for election of the same.

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

Attorney Osman reported that at the meeting on June 13, 2006, the nominating committee nominated the following for three year terms:

Pulaski County – G. Robert Inman

Massac County – Dale Faughn

Union County – Barbara Pitts

Attorney Osman then proceeded with the election of directors.

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

Attorney Osman said that Dale Faughn has been nominated by the Nominating Committee for election to a three year term in Massac County. No nominations by petition have been filed. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion by Orlis Harris and seconded by Robert Horntrap was made to close nominations and have the secretary cast a unanimous ballot by acclamation. Motion carried.

Attorney Osman said that Barbara Pitts has been nominated by the Nominating Committee for election to a three year term in Union County. No nominations by petition have been filed. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made by Larry Theis and seconded by Joe McMahan to close nominations and have the secretary cast a unanimous ballot by acclamation. Motion carried.

President Ury asked if there was any unfinished business. There was none.

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

President Ury then asked for a motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting. The motion was made by Ira Dugan Tripp, Jr. and seconded by Larry Theis. Motion carried.

President Ury then asked Mr. Lovell to return to the podium to recognize visitors for the evening. Mr. Lovell introduced Duane Noland, President/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield, Illinois and invited him to address the members.

Mr. Lovell returned to the podium to tell members

that SIEC recognizes that its greatest asset is its employees. He went on to say that our employees are committed to providing our members with the highest quality of service and they strive to make the communities we live in a better place. Mr. Lovell presented our employees through a Touchstone Energy Power Point presentation.

President Ury and Mr. Lovell presented an award for 25 years of service with the cooperative to SIEC Crew Foreman, LaRue Parr.

President Ury and Mr. Lovell presented a retirement recognition plaque to cooperative employee Charles Holtzclaw. Cooperative employee Bob Fisher, who was unable to attend this meeting, was also recognized for his recent retirement.

President Ury and Mr. Lovell presented special recognition plaques to SIEC's Youth to Washington Winners, Andrea Francies and Michael Schmidt.

Mr. Lovell introduced John Freitag, Vice-President of Operations at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Springfield, Illinois, and emcee for the beauty pageant.

Mr. Freitag explained the rules and prizes of the beauty contest and introduced the judges for the competition: Dorothy Chamness of Marion, Illinois, retired coordinator of Miss Southern Illinois Scholarship Program; Ralph Graham, Marion, Illinois, of Graham & Associates Financial Group, LLC in Marion; Terri Harfst of Carterville, Illinois, Academic Scholarship Coordinator at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; Bryce Cramer District Office and Member Service Manager for Egyptian Electric Cooperative in Murphysboro, Illinois.

Mr. Freitag stated that prior to the beginning of tonight's annual meeting, the swimsuit portion of the competition was conducted. He introduced the contestants for the evening gown competition. The contestants left the stage while the judges tallied the results of the beauty pageant.

At that time a special prize give-a-way drawing was held for children 12 and under and several door prizes were awarded to members who were present.

Mr. Freitag introduced Sarah Rose Panici, Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 2005, and invited her to talk about her year representing the cooperative.

The retiring queen crowned Laura Dillow of Jonesboro, Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 2006. First runner up was Rebecca Anne Douglas of Metropolis. Second runner up was Stacie Hines of Belknap. Miss Congeniality was Shoshannah Kay Richerson, Vienna.

Other contestants were: Kimberly Jo Smith, Chelsea Donn Merryman, Keshia Rose Juarez, Tarah Alyse Myers, Claire Elise Benson, Amber Dawn Lance, Jamie Lynn Jordan, and Kristy Alisha Simpkins.

The directors adjourned to reorganize.

More door prizes were awarded following the beauty pageant.

Balance Sheet Analysis for the YTD as of December 31

ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS	2006	2005
Total Utility Plant	\$50,262,254.00	\$48,396,695.00
Accum. Provision for Depreciation	<u>(12,714,034.00)</u>	<u>(12,535,653.00)</u>
Net Utility Plant	\$37,548,220.00	\$35,861,042.00
Total Other Property & Investments	8,747,498.00	8,096,021.00
Total Current & Accrued Assets	<u>1,868,987.00</u>	<u>1,933,865.00</u>
Total Assets & Other Debits	<u>\$48,164,705.00</u>	<u>\$45,890,928.00</u>
LIABILITIES AND OTHER CREDITS	2006	2005
Memberships	\$129,860.00	\$127,965.00
Patronage Capital	23,383,144.00	22,105,922.00
Other Margins & Equities	<u>29,295.00</u>	<u>28,349.00</u>
Total Margins & Equities	\$23,542,299.00	\$22,262,236.00
Total Long-Term Debt	17,140,631.00	16,471,360.00
Total Other Noncurrent Liabilities	3,319,205.00	3,006,900.00
Total Current & Accrued Liabilities	4,140,556.00	4,125,780.00
Deferred Credits	<u>22,014.00</u>	<u>24,652.00</u>
Total Liabilities & Other Credits	<u>\$48,164,705.00</u>	<u>\$45,890,928.00</u>

Statement of Operations as of December 31

	2006	2005
Operating Revenue	<u>\$20,657,836.00</u>	<u>\$19,489,685.00</u>
Cost of Purchased Power	12,349,910.00	11,515,643.00
Operations & Maintenance Expense	<u>5,124,766.00</u>	<u>4,596,561.00</u>
Total Operations & Maint Expense	17,474,676.00	16,112,204.00
Depreciation & Amort. Expense	1,568,519.00	1,477,617.00
Interest on Long-Term Debt	906,552.00	849,804.00
Other Cost of Electric Service	<u>213,844.00</u>	<u>211,137.00</u>
Total Cost of Electric Service	<u>\$20,163,591.00</u>	<u>\$18,650,762.00</u>
Operating Margins	\$494,245.00	\$838,923.00
Non-Operating Margins	<u>785,199.00</u>	<u>144,272.00</u>
Net Patronage Capital or Margin	<u>\$1,279,444.00</u>	<u>\$983,195.00</u>

OPERATING STATISTICS	2006	2005
Total KWH Purchased	213,397,908	218,132,267
Total KWH Sold	203,063,649	204,253,414
Total KWH Used by Cooperative	388,092	315,779
New Services Added	190	278
Services Retired	140	167
Net Changes in Total Services	50	111
Total Services in Place	13,670	13,620
Connected Meters	11,642	11,645
Idle Services	2,128	2,095
Security Lights in Place	5,187	5,171
Miles of Line	2,118	2,114

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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

JAMUUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

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48
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No Electric Rate Increase for SIEC Members this Fall

Members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) attending this year's annual meeting learned that although a rate increase had tentatively been budgeted for the fall of 2007, the board of directors voted to not implement the increase. Reports on the co-op's financial condition, energy demand and what the co-op and its members can do to control costs were delivered at the meeting held Tuesday, August 7 at the Shawnee Community College in Ullin.

General Manager and Executive Vice President Larry Lovell said, "The board of directors and management have determined we will not need a rate increase this fall." Lovell said that the co-op continues to look for ways to control costs yet still provide reliable power and dependable utility infrastructure.

Lovell added, "There is no doubt electricity prices are going to continue to rise in the future due to the need to build more power plants, escalating environmental costs and lack of adequate transmission lines, but we continue to find ways to use energy more efficiently, and we are investing in technology to improve reliability and operations."



From left to right, General Manager/Executive Vice President Larry Lovell, Scott Ury of Anna, Dale Taake of Ullin and Richard Moss of Tamms.

Board President Carole J. Kelley of Buncombe told SIEC members that the cooperative business model gives consumers control and provides stability as the deregulated utility market evolves. **Steve Health**

Kelley urged members to also look for ways to use energy wisely. In addition to energy conservation advice from the co-op employees, *Illinois Country Living* magazine and co-op Web site, members can take

advantage of budget billing and automatic payment options. "Our budget billing option is a guaranteed way to add more continuity to your monthly expenses," said Kelley.

During the meeting members re-elected Dale E. Taake of Ullin, Richard D. Moss of Tamms and Scott L. Ury of Anna to serve three-year terms.

LABOR DAY

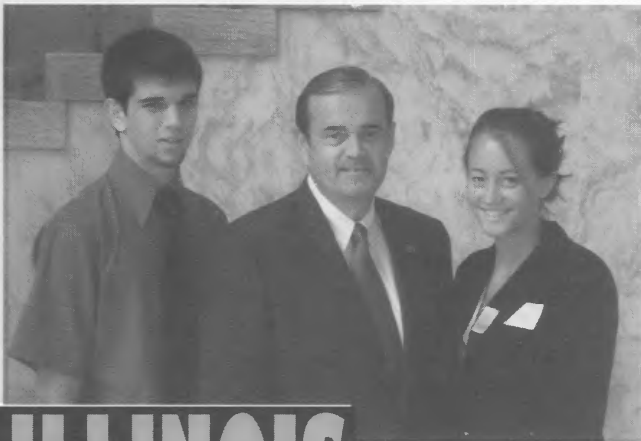
Our office will be closed Monday, Sept. 3, for Labor Day.

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI • POPE

2007 Miss SIEC Beauty Pageant Winners



Three area women were winners in the 54th Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Beauty Pageant, which was held during the annual meeting of members on Tuesday, August 7 at Shawnee Community College in Ullin. From the left stood the retiring queen, Laura Dillow of Jonesboro, and the winners were: First Runner-up and Miss Congeniality, Emily Travis, daughter of Dwight and Lerenda Travis of Belknap; Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Stacie Hines, daughter of Gary and Deborah Hines of Belknap; and Second Runner-up, Lorena Godinez, daughter of Raul and Epigenia Godinez of Anna. To the right is board president Carole J. Kelley. Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is the only cooperative left in the state to still host a beauty pageant at its annual meeting of members.



Sellars, Costello and Wilson

Aaron Sellars of Cobden and Stephanie Wilson of Anna represented Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour, June 8-15. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began in the late 1950s to introduce rural youths to our democratic form of government and cooperatives.

The students met with Senator Dick Durbin and Congressman Jerry Costello and were among 57 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, George Washington's estate at Mt. Vernon and a number of other historical sites.



JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI • POPE

Miss Illinois Has Special Ties to SIEC



◀ Ashley Hatfield, 2007 Miss Illinois



◀ Belinda Hatfield, 1976 Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

▼ Deon Davis, retired employee of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative standing with his granddaughter, Ashley, and daughter, Belinda.

Ashley Hatfield, 24, of Anna was recently crowned Miss Illinois and will compete in the Miss America pageant which will be held in January, 2008 in Las Vegas, Nev. She is the daughter of Bill and Belinda Hatfield of Anna. Bill is superintendent of the Mascac Unit 1 School District. Belinda is a member of the Anna-Jonesboro National Bank staff and is the daughter of retired Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) employee, Deon Davis and his wife Barbara, of Dongola.

Beauty and pageant participation run in the family. In 1976, Ashley's mother, Belinda, was crowned Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative and advanced to the statewide cooperative pageant, receiving 1st Runner-Up in that competition.

Ashley was one of 21 young women participating in the Miss Illinois pageant. Other local participants included Rebecca Douglas, 19, of Metropolis, 1st Runner-Up in the 2006 Miss SIEC pageant, and Staci Hines, 18, of Belknap, 2007 Miss SIEC. **Robert E. Marquiss**

Ashley's grandfather Deon began employment at SIEC in 1975 as a forestry apprentice. He then became an apprentice lineman, journeyman lineman, crew foreman and a lineman on the oil-filled equipment crew. Deon and his wife Barbara are very proud of their granddaughter. They wish her well at Miss America and throughout her year of representing the entire state as Miss Illinois.



Ashley's travels and appearances can be followed by visiting the following Web site:
www.missillinois.org



Employees of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative once again participated in Relay for Life in Union County. Relay for Life is a nationwide effort of teams consisting of families, friends and co-workers joining together to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer and to remember those who have lost their lives to cancer. Employees pictured from left to right are: Blayne Hols-houser, Dare Aden (retired employee), Pam Lentz, Jerri Schaefer, Loraine McGee and Chris Boyd.



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative
Board of Directors

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Dale Faughn (*Vice President*), Dale E. Taake (*Secretary Treasurer*), C. Larry Fisher, G. Robert Inman, Richard D. Moss, Barbara Pitts, Raymond C. Snell, Scott L. Ury, and Ronald Osman (*Attorney*)
Manager Larry Lovell • Editor Jerri Schaefer
For Outages Call:
800-762-1400 • 618-827-3555

Membership prize


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

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7420 U.S. Highway 51 South • P.O. Box 100 • Dongola, Illinois 62926
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JAMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy Partner 

SIEC Takes Pro-Active Approach to Tree Trimming

SIEC has contracted with Plant Growth Management Systems (PGMS) to provide right-of-way planning and management services. Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's (SIEC) goal is to provide more efficient planning and management of trees on rights-of-way and develop a comprehensive right-of-way management program.

A PGMS employee representing SIEC is going ahead of contract crews to obtain permission to cut/trim trees on the right-of-way. Trees will be marked for cutting and/or trimming and will be inventoried before and after the work is completed.

Joseph E. Wendling
"By contracting with PGMS, SIEC can improve reliability and reduce future costs of maintenance, which means less power outages caused by trees and results

in savings which are passed on to members," explained PGMS Area Manager Scott Holevoet.

Scott began working with SIEC earlier this year. He has a degree in Forest Resource Management from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. He is in the SIEC office some mornings but is mainly out in the field planning work and inventorying/marketing trees. For identification to members, he is driving a red pick-up truck with Michigan license plates and SIEC logos.

If Scott does not make contact with members while he is out, he leaves an information card hanging on their door. If there are questions about Scott's visit or information card, members should call SIEC at 1-800-762-1400 and ask for extension #218.



PGMS Area Manager Scott Holevoet is originally from northern Illinois (Geneseo) but currently lives in Carbondale with his wife and three children.

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Annual Meeting Highlights



▲ Crazy Ken's Kettle Corn.

NEW



▲ Entertainment – Blend Quartet from Energy, IL.



▲ Members learn from General Manager Larry Lovell that although electricity prices will inevitably rise in the future, there is no rate increase scheduled for this fall.



NEW

◀ Soy Oil Transformer Game (Prize \$125 Sears Gift Certificate).
Gary Ogborn

Kids Grand Prize Winner, Brenda Olandes. ▼



▲ Miss SIEC Queen Contestants (L-R) Katie Inman, Grand Chain; Keshia Juarez, Cobden; Kaci Clary, Jonesboro; Chelsea Merryman, Ullin; Stephanie Wilson, Anna; Jade Wolfe, Grand Chain; Natalie McCall, Jonesboro; Emily Travis, Belknap; Stacie Hines, Belknap; Lorena Godinez, Anna.



Miss SIEC swimsuit and gown pageant competitions are now available on DVD from years 2002-2007 for \$20. To place an order, please call Jerri at SIEC 1-800-762-1400.

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Annual Meeting Prizes



Prize	Winner Name	Town	Donating Vendor
\$50 Cash	Robert Whitaker	Dongola	SIEC
\$100 Cash	Darrell Higgins, Sr.	Belknap	SIEC
\$300 Cash	Marsha Lentz	Karnak	SIEC

Prize	Winner Name	Town	Donating Vendor
Applebee's Gift Card - \$25	Karnak Methodist Church	Karnak	Cal Johnson's Answering Serv
Captain Lawnchair	Perry Miller	Joppa	Daffron & Associates, Inc.
Crew Sweatshirt	Tom Greenwood	Jonesboro	IBEW Local Union 702
Cyberpower Surge Protector	Louis Bayless	Grand Cham	Oil Field Electric
Gift Certificate - \$25	Adel Pillow	Tamms	Kelly's Kountry Kitchen
Gift Certificate for oil change	Frances Neal	Brookport	Cache River Chev - RV
Home Depot Gift Card - \$50	Double C Farms % Ken Corzine	Dongola	Easy 2 Pay
Hooded Sweatshirt	Richard Brown	Karnak	IBEW Local Union 702
Kidde Fire Extinguisher	Judith Smith	Jonesboro	Wright Brothers
Lowe's Gift Card - \$30	Jeffery McCrite	Tamms	White Hawk Enterprises
Tote/Duffel bag	Bill Stairs	Anna	Crown Sales & Support, Inc.
Samsung Digital Camera, memory card & Case	Jerry Altenberger	Karnak	SIEC
\$20 off purchase of Stihl equipment	John Davis Garner	Anna	McCarver's Repair
12" Fan	Israelite Bible Class Church % Cleo Campbell	Ullin	Fletcher-Reinhardt
Cooler Bag & Umbrella	Carrol Higgins	Belknap	Altell
American Angler Electric Fillet Knife	Robert Livesay	Jonesboro	Morgan Commercial Structures
Applebee's Gift Card - \$25	Roscoe Nance	Cobden	Cal Johnson's Answering Serv
Audiovox 2-way radio	Richard Graham	Anna	Jaco Analytical Laboratory, Inc.
Black & Decker Cordless Drill	Ttavis Bros	Belknap	General Hardware & Supplies
Black & Decker Spotlight	Louis Tapley	Karnak	Oil Field Electric
Captain Lawnchair	Gracie Dutham	Ullin	Daffron & Associates, Inc.
Car Cleaning Kit	Kenneth Powell	Brookport	Oil Field Electric
Case of paper	Elsie Bethards	Cobden	T & I Office Equipment
Certificate for Dinner for 2 (Up to \$50.00)	Louise Mathis	Karnak	TCL of Alabama, LLC
Color TV	Dudley Kesler	Dongola	Henkels & McCoy
Cosco Platform Work Ladder	John Lasley	Buncombe	Oil Field Electric
Crew Sweatshirt	Dennis Lingle	Metropolis	IBEW Local Union 702
Cutlery Set	Mattie Grundy	Tamms	Summit Marketing
Cyberpower Surge Protector	Wayne Miller	Anna	Oil Field Electric
Dirt Devil Quickpower Stick Vac	Ellis Kesler	Dongola	Wright Brothers
Durabrand Clock Radio	Robert Pittman	Olmsted	Oil Field Electric
Durabrand Paper Shredder	Boyd Stewart	Metropolis	Oil Field Electric
Electrical Gift Pack	Linda Powell	Olive Branch	General Hardware & Supplies
Electrician's tool pouch	Alfred Lingle	Jonesboro	Guy Gray Supply, Co.
Fast Food Frenzy Giftcards	Gary Wilson	Karnak	SIEC
First Alert Carbon Monoxide Alarm	Audrey Brown	Pulaski	Kerber, Eck, and Braeckel
First Alert Smoke Alarm	Earnest Newton	Cobden	Wright Brothers

Prize	Winner Name	Town	Donating Vendor
Free Lube, Oil & Filter and Deluxe Carwash	Andrew Lessar	Tamms	Linwood Motors
Gardening pack	Billy Schluter	Dongola	Oil Field Electric
Gift Certificate - \$25	Jerry Palmer	Anna	Kelly's Kountry Kitchen
Gift Certificate for oil change	Thomas Werner, Jr	Vienna	Cache River Chev - RV
Hand Painted Chip and Dip Set	Michael Inman	Cobden	Southern Business Machines, Inc.
Home Depot Gift Card - \$50	Kelly's Kountry Kitchen	Dongola	Easy 2 Pay
Honeywell Fireproof Safe	Fern Waddy	Olmsted	Morgan Commercial Structures
Hooded Sweatshirt	Doris Welch	Tamms	IBEW Local Union 702
Hummingbird Feeder Set with thermometer	Lloyd Bremer	Metropolis	Oil Field Electric
Ideal Collectable Truck and trailer	Stanley Johnson	Joppa	Graybar
Jacket and Hat	Eichhorst Bros.	Ullin	Honey's Service & Tire Center
Kidde Fire Extinguisher	Betty Loven	Karnak	Oil Field Electric
Kitchen Appliance 3-pack	Charley Logan	Villa Ridge	Oil Field Electric
Kitchen Surprise Basket	Sarah Wittig	Karnak	Oil Field Electric
Lowe's Gift Card - \$30	Donald Bridges	Olive Branch	Brown Wood Preserving Co., Inc
Magnavox DVD Recorder	Kenneth Roach	Jonesboro	Toth & Associates, Inc.
Manon Kay Spice Set	Gerald Cruse	Dongola	Brownstown Electric Supply
Microsoft Zune and accessories	Thelma Vick	Tamms	Fine & Hatfield
Movie Night Fun Pack	Rhoda Suits	Makanda	Oil Field Electric
Oil Change and Tire Rotation	Guy Casper	Belknap	Coad Chevrolet
Olympus 35MM camera	Orlis Harris	Brookport	Morgan Commercial Structures
One Year subscription	James Manley	Grantsburg	Gazette Democrat
One Year subscription and Pictorial Book	Norman Theis	Anna	Dongola Tri-County Record
Organizer Kit	Donald Hammon	Buncombe	Oil Field Electric
Oscillating Tower Fan	Kenneth Dexter	Ullin	SIEC
Ozark Trail Airbed Kit	Lorene Lingle	Buncombe	Oil Field Electric
Ozark Trail Rechargeable Lantern	Brenda Goines	Grand Cham	Wright Brothers
Presto Griddle	Kenneth Taake	Ullin	Oil Field Electric
Pvrex Portable Set	Roy Eastwood	Karnak	Kerber, Eck, and Braeckel
Red Lobster Gift Card - \$25	Jerrie Clayton	Anna	Datalogic
Rival Crockpot	Elmer Harris	Metropolis	Oil Field Electric
Sears Gift Card - \$25	John Schnaare	Olmsted	United Utility Supply Coop
Shindawa Back Pack Sprayer	Francis Murphy	Carbondale	UAP Distribution
Smokey Joe Charcoal Grill	Shirley Jones	Cobden	Stiles Office Solutions
Soft sided cooler	Billy Keller	Dongola	Egyptian Internet Services
Stanley Tool box with cordless screwdriver	Lillian Thompson	Dongola	Oil Field Electric
Tote/Duffel bag	Christina Durham	Buncombe	Crown Sales & Support, Inc.
Wal Mart Gift Card - \$25	Howard Davie	Jonesboro	C & S Testing
Weather X Light with weather radio	Joseph Wendling	Dongola	Oil Field Electric
Weedeater Electric Blower	George Myers	Jonesboro	Oil Field Electric
Wild Bird Feeder Set with thermometer	Donald Childers	Goreville	Oil Field Electric
Wireless Weather Station & Atomic Clock	Thomas Bonee	Metropolis	Morgan Commercial Structures
Zebco 404 Fishing Combo	James Reynolds	Vienna	Oil Field Electric
Hamilton Beach Food Processor	Barbara Harbison	Karnak	H.D. Electric Supply
Calculator & Umbrella	Dorothy Terbrak	Dongola	Altell
2 Club Seats to So. IL Miners on 8/15 & Prepaid Cell Phone	Hall Church % Carolyn Hammon	Buncombe	Verizon Wireless

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Welcome to the Co-op World



Lukas Shannon Menees, born June 26, 2007, son of Journeyman Lineman Nathan Menees and wife, Kim.

SIEC Answers Call for Help in Union County

After reading an article in a local newspaper about Union County collecting cell phones to benefit victims of domestic violence, SIEC Director of Administration and Finance Chris Bennett took action. He spread the word through the co-op and employees responded. Dozens of cell phones were donated by employees to the Union County State's Attorney's office in Jonesboro. They will be sent to Verizon to be refurbished and resold with proceeds given to HopeLine.

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High Speed Internet Status



We continue to look for ways to offer broadband to our members. SIEC, along with five other distribution cooperatives in southern Illinois, have studied in depth many options over the past three years. It is our conclusion that the technology for broadband over power lines is still being developed. The technological options that are available now are not yet cost effective plus lightning seems to affect equipment reliability.

However, we continue to monitor the options available. Unfortunately, no comprehensive long term solution has yet surfaced. Currently, we are looking at a possible wireless solution for our members. We will continue to keep you informed through JAMUP.

Molly M. Davidson

How to Dispose of Compact Fluorescent Bulbs

The benefits of CFLs greatly outweigh the risks, but they should be disposed of properly. Read next month's issue of JAMUP for more details regarding CFL disposal.



JAMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

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CFLs and Mercury

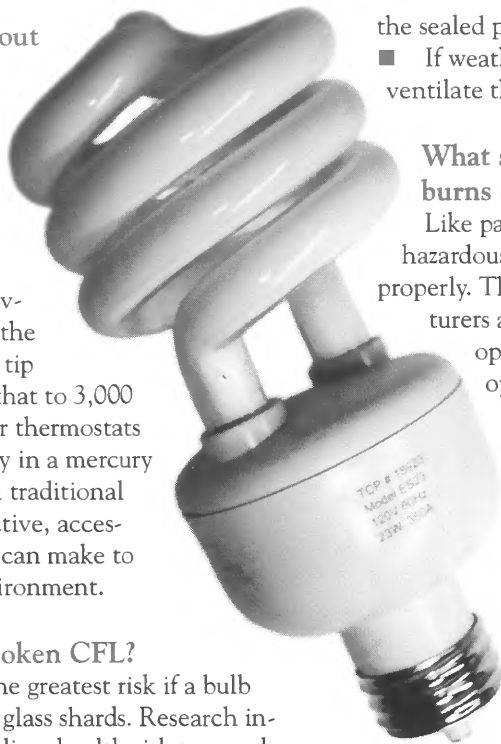
Should you be worried about the mercury content in compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)?

The benefits of CFLs greatly outweigh the risks. CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing – an average of 5 milligrams – about the amount that would cover the tip of a ballpoint pen. Compare that to 3,000 milligrams of mercury in older thermostats and 500 milligrams of mercury in a mercury thermometer. Switching from traditional light bulbs to CFLs is an effective, accessible change every American can make to save energy and help the environment.

How do you clean up a broken CFL?

According to the EPA, the greatest risk if a bulb breaks is getting cut from the glass shards. Research indicates that there is no immediate health risk to people should a bulb break if it is cleaned up properly:

- Do not vacuum or sweep the glass fragments and particles.
- Place the broken pieces in a sealed plastic bag and wipe the area with a damp paper towel to pick up any remaining stray shards or particles. Put the paper towel in



the sealed plastic bag when you are finished.

- If weather permits, open the windows and ventilate the room.

What should you do with a CFL when it burns out?

Like paint, batteries, thermostats and other hazardous items, CFLs should be disposed of properly. The EPA is working with CFL manufacturers and U.S. retailers to expand disposal options. You can search for disposal options online by using your zip code at www.earth911.com, visiting www.lamprecycle.org or by calling (877) EARTH-911.

Also, check with your local waste management agency. If a disposal site is not available in your area, the EPA suggests placing the burned-out or broken bulb in a plastic bag, which should be sealed before being placed in the trash. Never send a CFL or other mercury-containing product to an incinerator.

Source: Environmental Protection Agency, ENERGY STAR® and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

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Attention Local Teachers!

Apply for your 2007/2008 Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants

Does your school or classroom need new materials? Can your students benefit from new programs and educational resources? We thought so. It only takes a few minutes to apply for the Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant to possibly receive the money you need for new resources.

SIEC is once again coordinating this grant program with Touchstone Energy for our local teachers and administrators. Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives from across the state are offering a total of \$20,000 in Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant funding to innovative, unfunded projects or materials. Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning

environment or increase educational resources for the school.

A panel of judges will determine which projects will be awarded grants of up to \$1,000 each. Grant applications are due by **November 9**. Grant awards will be announced on **December 10**. For a grant application and guidelines, please visit our Web site at www.siec.coop or contact Jerri Schaefer at 1-800-762-1400. Time is running out!

Last year, eight Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants were distributed within SIEC's territory. Here is what a few recipients had to say about our grants:



"Your generous gift has created a better education for the youth of Massac County. Thanks to your donation last year, my students were able to experience first hand the Underground Railroad, Native American dancers, an Old West field trip, mock trials, a Holocaust museum field trip and many other hands-on activities that wouldn't have been possible without your help. Thank you again for your generosity," Sam Erwin, 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher, Massac County Junior High, Metropolis

"SIEC provided the students in my classroom with a computer to publish stories they have written. With the use of the computer, the kids can add graphics and use technology that otherwise would not be available to them. Having the computer adds excitement for the students to write and publish new books!" Jennifer Osman, 2nd Grade Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School, Anna



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Seven 2008 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

SIEC General Manager Larry Lovell has announced that for the thirteenth consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors.

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. **David E Huggins**

Four scholarships will be awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

"We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with this scholarship," says Lovell. "SIEC and other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one."

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.

For more information contact Jerri Schaefer at SIEC at 1-800-762-1400 or ask your high school guidance counselor.

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Chris Boyd, Director of Member Services at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative in Dongola, left, presents a scholarship check to Shawnee Community College President Dr. Larry Choate for two \$500 scholarship grants. The grants will be awarded to entering freshmen in the fall of 2008 and spring of 2009. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is March 15. Students applying must live in a home served by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. For complete scholarship information visit the SCC Web site at www.shawneecc.edu or call the SCC financial aid office at 618-634-5600.

Ways to Pay Your Electric Bill



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SIPC News Update

■ Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) has selected W. Scott Ramsey as its new President/CEO. He is replacing Tim Reeves of Dongola, who is retiring after 17 years at Lake of Egypt. Ramsey served as resident manager at Oglethorpe Power Corporation Plant Scherer in Juliette, Ga. He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering technology from Western Kentucky University. Ramsey has more than 10 years of experience in the power industry. He provided management for two different coal plants and managed the staff at a 200 MW combustion-turbine peaking plant for the company.

■ SIPC, power supplier to Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) as well as five other local cooperatives, is facing load growth of approximately 50 percent in the next few years. In order to meet future power needs, the SIPC Board of Directors voted to purchase a share (125 megawatts) of a large power plant called Prairie State Energy Campus, soon to be constructed in Washington County, Illinois near Marissa. Prairie State is a planned 1,600 megawatt coal-fueled power plant.

Office Closing



Our office will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22 and 23, for Thanksgiving.

Uncashed and Returned Checks From the Year 2002

To be sent to the state in 2008 as Abandoned Property.

Call 618-827-3555, Ext 217 if you know the current address of the following:

NAME	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS
Chasity M Essex	P O Box 306, Olive Branch IL 62969
Georgia Glover	10434 S Prairie Ave, Chicago IL 60628
Margaret M Harrison	1421 W 10th ST #14, Metropolis IL 62960
David E Heisner	P O Box 737, Jonesboro IL 62952
Dorothy Johnson	1445 Sullivan Rd, Goreville IL 62939
Karen J Kennedy	Rt 1 Box 58C, Thebes IL 62990
Amber R Kleinkopf	714 Bitman, Kansas City MO 64125
Maurice Lanier	P O Box 266, Pulaski IL 62976
Mary A Murphy	1325 Prater LN, Dongola IL 62926
Anna Saxton	2358 W 112th ST, Chicago IL 60643
Ashley J Wiley	7618 Unionville Rd, Brookport IL 62910

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

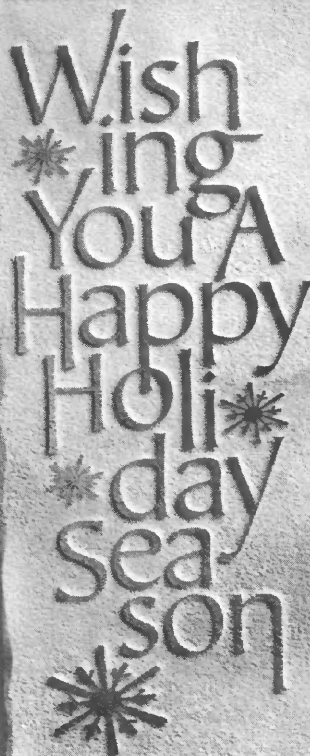
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Wishing
You A
Happy
Holiday
Season

...from the Directors and Employees
of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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Dale E. Taake, <i>Sec.-Treasurer</i>	Raymond C. Snell
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	Sara Fike, <i>Attorney</i>

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Cindy L. Aden	Thomas H. Keller
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B. Blayne Holshouser	Stanley J. Treat
	Cortney Woodson

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IEC Memorial Scholarship Reminder

Attention High School Seniors...
The deadline for returning your applications for the Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarships is January 1, 2008. Ask your guidance counselor for an application and brochure or download them from our Web site at www.siec.coop.



Office Closing



Our office will be closed Tuesday, December 25 for Christmas and Tuesday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

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SIEC Position Updates

Nelson Qualifies at Training Course



Apprentice Lineman Robert Nelson recently completed an Introductory Training Course with the American Line Builders Joint Apprenticeship and Training Program (ALBAT) in Medway, Ohio. ALBAT teaches beginning apprentices safety procedures, OSHA regulations, electrical theory, pole climbing, pole-top and bucket-truck rescue, first aid, CPR, ropes and rigging, knot tying, tools and equipment, truck and equipment operation.

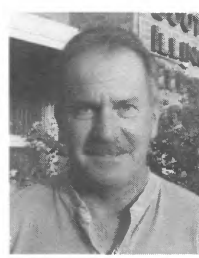
Nelson began employment with SIEC in 2004 as Building and Grounds Maintenance Coordinator, was promoted to Forestry Apprentice, Forestry Journeyman and is now an Apprentice Lineman. He is married to Lydia and they have three children, Darmez, Deandre and Kemond. Nelson and his family live in Ullin. He is a Shawnee Community College (SCC) graduate and former Saints Basketball player.

Stover Promoted to Forestry



Aaron Stover, former Building and Grounds Maintenance Coordinator, has recently been promoted to Forestry Apprentice. Stover began employment with SIEC in 2005. He is married to Paula and they have two children, Kaylee and Kenzie. Stover and his family live in Buncombe. After high school, he attended SCC then graduated from Southern Illinois University.

Welcome Steve Fear



SIEC welcomes its newest employee, Steve Fear of Don-gola. Fear worked for Morgan Construction for 29 years. He began employment with SIEC in October as Building and Grounds Maintenance Coordinator. Fear is married to Jana and they have two daughters, Amy and Jamie.

He and Jana have five grandchildren. Fear grew up in Jonesboro and attended Anna-Jonesboro High School.

"I wanted to start something different in my life so I accepted this position and retired from the local carpenter's union after 32 years," explained Fear.

Keep Holiday Celebrations Bright and Safe!

Don't let electrical accidents darken your holiday celebrations. As you prepare for special holiday and family celebrations, look for and eliminate potential threats posed by holiday lighting, decorating and entertaining.



Cooking

According to the National Fire Protection Association, cooking has been the leading cause of home fires since 1990. Safe Electricity and Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative offer these tips to avoid shocks and fires in the kitchen:

- Inspect all small appliances and electrical cords to make sure they are in good condition, and read operating instructions before use.
- Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance into a single outlet.
- Stay focused and attentive to baking, brewing and simmering foods.
- Keep cooking areas clean and free of grease.
- Make sure a working fire extinguisher is on hand, and know how to operate it.

- Make sure the outlets near sinks are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters to prevent shocks.

Lighting and Decorating

Before decorating for the holidays, take some simple steps to avoid potential safety hazards. We've all read about tragedies resulting from holiday lighting mishaps. Safeguard yourself and your home so you are not among those.

- Larry Nelson Check*
- Only use lights that have been safely tested and have the UL label.
 - Check each light string for broken sockets, frayed cords or faulty plugs.
 - Always unplug lights when replacing a bulb.
 - Don't string together more than three standard-size sets of lights.
 - Place fresh-cut trees away from heat sources and water frequently.
 - Do not overload outlets. If necessary, use surge protector strips that have circuit breakers to prevent overloads when multiple outlets are needed.
 - Keep electrical cords away from high-traffic areas. Do not run them through doorways or staple, nail or tack cords to the wall. Do not hide them under rugs or carpets.
 - For the outdoors, use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use. Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with GFCIs. Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them.
 - Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.

For more information visit the Web sites www.SafeElectricity.org and www.siec.coop.



Member prize

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

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Interesting Past



SIEC member, Bruce Nagel of Anna.

SIEC member Bruce Nagel has an interesting story to tell. A retired Chicago fireman and bricklayer, Nagel moved to southern Illinois about 20 years ago. His wife's family was from southern Illinois, so they bought a farm north of Anna. Around 1956, he was processing out of the Army as Elvis was processing into Fort Chaffee, Ark. Nagel had the rare opportunity to sit on a bunk in the barracks alone with Elvis for about 15-20 minutes one day.

"He was an ordinary guy and already had a couple of hits under his belt such as "Hound Dog" and



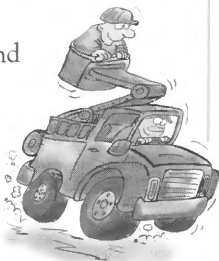
"Don't Be Cruel" when he came to Fort Chaffee," said Nagel.

During this time, Nagel asked Elvis to sign a picture for his girlfriend. The writing read "To Linda, Elvis Presley." Nagel was lucky enough to get that picture back from his old girlfriend after they parted.

The close-up picture of Elvis was taken by his manager, Colonel Tom Parker. Nagel was trying to get a close-up of Elvis but there were too many high ranking officers walking next to him. Colonel Parker noticed Nagel's attempts, grabbed the camera and took the picture for him, right in front of Elvis' face, then gave the camera back to Nagel. The other picture is of Elvis getting his personalized tag on his duffle bag. And finally, Nagel is especially proud of the picture that shows both him and Elvis standing together. *Jodi M. Trece*

Union County Big Truck Night

SIEC Forestry Foreman Blayne Holshouser (left) and Director of Member Services Chris Boyd pass out treats to Julia and Luke Lasley, young members of SIEC at Big Truck Night in Anna. Big Truck Night is hosted by the Union County Early Learning Program Cooperative and features transportation vehicles of all kinds. Children ages 0-5 meet the drivers and explore interesting vehicles. SIEC displays a bucket truck each fall for this special children's event.



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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

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