

EASTERN ILLINI

ELECTRIC NEWS PAXTON, ILLINOIS

www.eiec.coop A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 217-379-2131 or 800-824-5102

Co-op Connections Pharmacy Update

Members' Co-op Connections cards are now even more powerful, with the addition of a pharmacy discount program. The Co-op Connections card, along with our group codes, will entitle our members to get 10 percent to 60 percent savings on most prescriptions at more than 48,000 independent pharmacies and national chains including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and more.

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative is implementing this program in conjunction with many other Touchstone Energy cooperatives, in an effort to better serve you, our member-owners. With soaring prescription prices, this discount pharmacy program will work for your family and you.

EIEC members received their free Co-op Connections cards with the discount pharmacy information in the December issue of this magazine. Once the member has signed the back

of the card, it may be used at participating pharmacies locally and nationwide. To find out which pharmacies are participating and to lookup the discount prescription price, members can visit www.rxpricequotes.com.

This is just one more way you win from being a cooperative member. Simply present your Co-op Connections card at a participating pharmacy with your prescription and receive a discount at the time of purchase. Whenever a Co-op Connections card holder - whether from EIEC or from any of the other participating Touchstone Energy cooperatives across the country - shows their card, they will receive a 10 percent to 60 percent discount on most prescriptions.



"Members should use these card numbers, found on the back of your NEW Co-op Connections Card."

"The Co-op Connections card creates an even greater sense of membership and reinforces Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's longstanding commitment to the community," said President/CEO Wm. David Champion, Jr. "It offers further proof being a member of an electric cooperative has its advantages," he added.

"Whenever a Co-op Connections cardholder shows their card, they will receive a 10 percent to 60 percent discount on most prescriptions."

- In this issue...**
- 16b..... Message from the President
 - 16c..... Youth to Washington Trip
 - 16d-e St. John's Lutheran Church
 - 16f New Year's Resolution
 - 16g..... The AQUALity Corner

Message From The President



Paying the Price of Power Theft

It's often an "invisible" crime. Someone illegally hooks into a power supply, hooks up a line that has been disconnected, or tampers with a meter to avoid recording electricity usage. Legitimate electricity consumers do not engage in these behaviors, so the impact of electricity theft - including the danger - is often unrecognized.

Power theft carries deadly risks. Many thieves have paid for the power they are stealing with their lives. But the danger does not end with those who are engaging in illegal activity.

Tampering with electrical equipment or attempting to steal electric power carries the potential to harm many people. The innocent consumers on the same line and utility personnel that work on those lines are all at risk when someone tampers with electricity or electrical equipment.

In emergency situations such as fires, power has to be shut off to help firefighters and ambulance crews to enter a building safely. If lines have been interfered with illegally, the lines could remain energized, endangering the lives of the emergency personnel.

From a reliability standpoint, illegal connections to power sources and attempts to divert metering devices can overload the system, cause interruptions and

compromise power quality. In Calgary, Canada, utility officials estimate that up to 60 percent of power outages are attributed to some form of tampering with electrical equipment.

Safe Electricity reminds that everyone can help prevent and reduce power theft:

Notify your electric utility immediately if you know of an illegally connected consumer.

- Do not cut the seal on your meter base or tamper with your own meter for any reason.
- Remain aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious activities to your electric utility.

Most electrical theft crimes occur through meter tampering, bypassing meters and tapping power lines. Other less frequent crimes include tapping into neighboring premises, using illegal lines after being disconnected, self-reconnection without consent and electrifying fences.

Everyone is affected by power theft, and detecting and reporting illegal activity will help reduce the price paid.

For more electrical safety information, visit the SafeElectricity.org Web site.

*Sincerely,
Dave Champion*

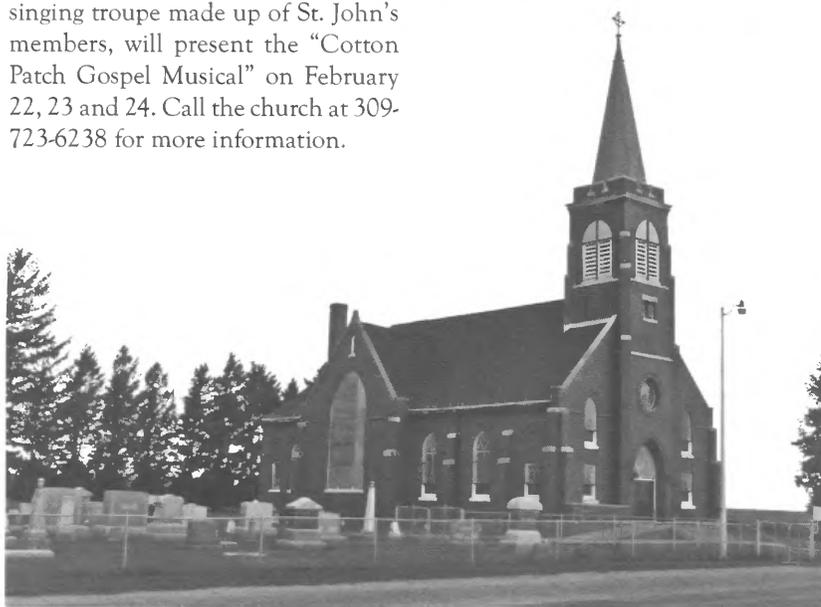


the picture in question, he drove to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Anchor, Ill. The photo and the scene matched. Ironically, Eastern Illini provides St. John's with their electricity.

St. John's is a beautifully quaint church, with quite a history. Originally established in 1877 with a voting membership of 24 people, the original frame church building was erected for \$1,100. The current church building, made out of brick, was constructed in 1909 at a cost of \$11,811.

History and tradition have always played an important role at St. John's. In 1918, coinciding with World War I, a large mob gathered one Saturday night causing the church services to be switched from German to English the next morning. There have only been 11 pastors in 130 years of the church, including the current one, The Reverend Stephen Goodwin. Pastor Goodwin noted, "It is not a pastor, however, who defines the strength and vitality of a congregation. St. John's strength is manifest in the commitment and dedication of its members, many of whom are the descendants of the original members."

St. John's is still making a name for itself in the community. Annual Christmas festivities, including manger scenes and Christmas stories are common. Also, the St. John's Players, an established acting and singing troupe made up of St. John's members, will present the "Cotton Patch Gospel Musical" on February 22, 23 and 24. Call the church at 309-723-6238 for more information.



Clockwise, from upper left: The mural at the AIEC office in Springfield. Pastor Goodwin points out the former church rectory to church member Junior Bielfeldt. A group of church members pose near the altar of the 99-year-old church. The church was built in 1909, and still features original stained-glass windows. The current view, from near where the mural photo was taken about 10 years ago.

A New Year's Resolution That Makes Safety Sense!

Eliminate electrical hazards in your home

Tens of thousands of fires are caused each year by electrical problems inside the home, but most can be easily prevented with a few simple steps. Taking a few minutes to check for and eliminate electrical hazards is a New Year's resolution that makes sense!

"Electrical accidents and fires kill more than a thousand people, and result in tens of thousands of injuries each year," says Molly Hall, Director of Safe Electricity. "Overloaded outlets, misused and faulty cords and electrical devices are leading causes of home electrical shocks and fires."

Safe Electricity suggests teaching your children how to be safe around electricity. Use this electrical safety checklist to help protect your home and loved ones:

Electrical outlets - Check for loose-fitting plugs, which can be 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, make sure 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.

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 shock and mouth burn injuries.

Light bulbs - Check the wattage to make sure light bulbs match the fixture requirements and are screwed securely in place. Replace bulbs that have higher wattage ratings than recommended and consider replacing burned-out bulbs with compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs, which last 10 times as long and use one-fourth the energy of an incandescent bulb.

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.



A qualified, licensed electrician can determine the appropriate service requirements for your home.

Appliances/Electronics - If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced. Look for cracks or damage in wiring and connectors. Use surge protectors to protect expensive electronics.

Electrical wiring - Wiring defects are a major cause of residential blazes. Check periodically 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 warm to the touch and lights that spark and flicker.

Service capacity - As you continue to upgrade your home with more lighting, appliances and electronics, your home's electrical service capacity may become overburdened. If fuses blow or breakers trip frequently, you may need to increase electrical service and add new branch circuits. A qualified, licensed electrician can determine the appropriate service requirements for your home.

Portable generators - Be sure your generator is properly grounded and is not plugged into a home outlet or connected directly to your home's wiring system. A transfer switch should always be installed to protect you, your neighbors, and repair crews from serious injury resulting from backfeed. Follow all manufacturer's installation instructions and if you have questions call a licensed electrician for help. Also notify your local utility that a backup generator has been installed.

The Top Ten Reasons to Apply for Eastern Illini's "Youth to Washington" \$1,000 Scholarship:

10. You are a member of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative
9. You have a high school senior
8. Your high school senior plans to attend college
7. College tuition will cost more than you had planned
6. Your high school senior would like to earn some of his or her tuition
5. Your high school senior would like to visit the Illinois state capital
4. Your high school senior would like to meet people their age from all over the United States.
3. Your high school senior would like to experience a week in Washington, D.C.
2. You would like your high school senior to experience a week in Washington, D.C.
1. \$1,000 and a FREE trip to Washing, D.C.

Apply Now for Scholarships

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative will award two high school seniors a \$1,000 scholarship and a weeklong expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. Applicants must be high school seniors whose parents are members of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative. The deadline for applications to be returned to the cooperative is February 29, 2008.

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

In April, the scholarship winners will attend Illinois Rural Youth day in Springfield, Illinois.

In June, the winners will join more than 90 students in Springfield where they will board tour buses, travel to Washington, D.C., and tour the nation's capital with more than 1,000 students representing cooperatives from across the nation.

For more information see your high school guidance counselor, contact Debbie Laird at 800-824-5102, or visit our Web site at www.eiec.coop.



Look for us at the Midwest Ag Expo January 23 and 24 at Gordyville, USA, just east of Rantoul on Route 136.

Local Church Immortalized in Mural



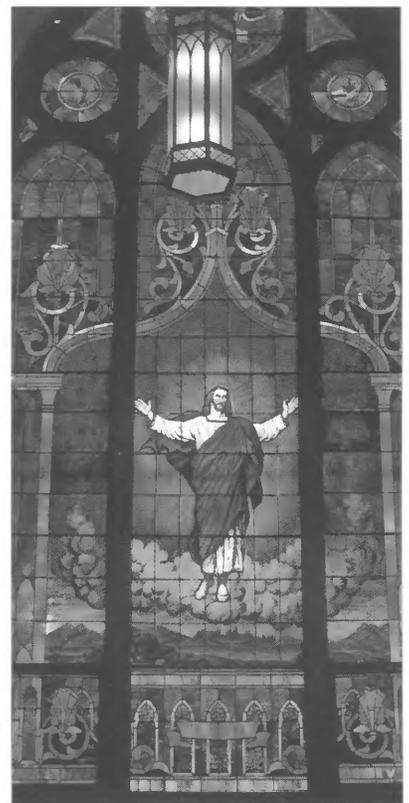
The saying, "It's a small world," may seem cliché to some. For the people involved with the renovation of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) office in Springfield, that saying describes perfectly the chain of events that were set in motion after they chose a picture for the office hallway.

The picture is a simple country scene, one that many of us have taken for granted as we drive in rural Illinois. AIEC wanted a typical rural scene as a mural on a wall inside the building. Their quest for the perfect picture led

them to one taken by Larry Kanfer, a photographic artist with a gallery and photography studio in Champaign, Ill. AIEC CEO N. Duane Noland noted, "We wanted a picture that typified the landscape of rural Illinois - farmsteads with a barn, silo and grain bins, country church and acres of rolling corn fields. Not to mention REA power lines crisscrossing the countryside. This picture had everything we wanted."

After the mural was completed, people began wondering where the location was that was now painted on the wall. Kanfer told them the location

was somewhere northwest of Gibson City. This prompted a call to Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative where Marketing Manager Bob Dickey thought he recognized the church. Armed with



Ask Dave...

AQUALITY SOLUTIONS®

Water Quality Answers



What causes etching of my glassware in the dishwasher?

It is caused by the strong phosphate sequesterants (e.g., trisodium phosphate) in dishwashing detergent. It may also be triggered by the combination of extremely hot water, soft water and too much detergent.

The high water temperature can cause the detergent phosphate compounds to break down into an even more aggressive form. If hardness

is available, it will consume the most aggressive of these sequestering chemicals. Otherwise, however, the detergent agents can actually extract elements directly from the glassware composition. The solution to etching is to use less detergent and water temperatures less than 140°F when you have soft water. Water softening is such an enhancement that the dishes

will get cleaned just as well with less detergent and 120° - 140°F water in softened water.

For more information about water softening, or for your FREE water test, call AQUALITY Solutions 866-4WATER1.

Credentials Committee Selected Nominating Petitions for the June 12, 2008, Director Election will be Available March 14, 2008

Robert Bauer of Cissna Park, Laverl Byers of Tuscola, Darren Duncan of Rossville, Gary Pridemore of Homer and John Wilkening of Cissna Park have been appointed by the Board of Directors to a serve a 1-year term on the Credentials Committee. The Credentials Committee will meet at the cooperative's headquarters on April 29, 2008, to review the qualifications of all candidates who file nominating petitions to determine their eligibility to serve as directors of the cooperative.

Directors in Directorate Districts 2, 3, 6 and the Southern At Large District will be elected at the June 12, 2008, Annual Meeting. Incumbent directors Tom Schlatter of Chatsworth, District 2; Donald Reitz of Gilman, District 3; Marion Chesnut of Rossville, District 6; and Jay Hageman of Fairmount, Southern At Large District have indicated they will seek reelection.

Nominating petitions can be picked up at 8 a.m. on Friday, March 14, 2008, at Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, 330 W. Ottawa, Paxton. Each member who desires to be elected to the board of directors must have a petition signed by not less than 25 members of the cooperative. Petitions must be filed at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, April 28, 2008.

The nominating process is conducted in accordance with the following provision of the Cooperative's bylaws, Article III,

Section 3.5: Nominations:

"Any member of the cooperative in good standing who desires to be elected to its Board of Directors may be nominated by petition signed by not less than 25 members and filed with the Secretary of the Cooperative not

less than 45 days prior to the annual meeting of members. Nominations from the floor shall not be permitted. The Secretary of the Cooperative shall cause to be prepared and posted at the principal office of the Cooperative at least 30 days before the annual meeting, a list of the nominations for Directors thus filed with him or her.

"A specimen ballot marked "Ballot for Directors" containing the names and addresses of all nominees listed in the order determined by lot conducted by the Board of Directors of the Cooperative shall be printed in or mailed with the notice of the meeting. The Secretary shall also have printed in or mailed with the said notice of the meeting or separately not less than ten (10) days prior to said annual meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the district from which they are to be elected."

Eastern Illini Long Distance

Superior quality - competitive rates
worry free long distance - local

**NO
MONTHLY
FEE**

4.9¢
per minute

800 Number - 6.9¢ per minute
No Contracts! No Hidden Fees!
Just Plain & Simple!

For more information,
call (877) 658-3453

Visit Eastern Illini's Web site at

www.eiec.coop



Eastern Illini's Web site is loaded with features to make your life simpler and to save you money. Visit the site today to pay your bill, discover money-saving energy efficiency tips, view EIEC publications and Board Reports, and learn about all of our products and services.

Click, Click, Save!

See Page 9 See Page



for more information
on Eastern Illini
Electric Cooperative

Looking for local Internet service? Look no further

Connxus offers dial-up Internet
service to communities
throughout Central Illinois!

**Packages starting
at \$14.95 a month!**



Call (877) 455-4266 for
more information or to sign-up today!
Now offering: Customizable Spam
Blocker, Pop-up Blocker

CONNXUS



It's what connxus to the world

Formerly **ILLI.COM**
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

330 W Ottawa Rd., Paxton

(877) 455-4266

www.connxus.com

More than just Energy Efficiency **BECOMING ENERGY WISE**

We all know that gasoline prices are at an all-time high. Propane prices are through the roof. The major investor-owned utilities in Illinois have recently raised their electric rates. Even Eastern Illini, which hasn't raised rates in more than 15 years, is preparing for a rate increase in 2009 (the actual increase amounts should be available by June's Annual Meeting.)

What does all this mean to you? The best way to ease the burden of higher energy costs is to become more educated in how you use energy. By becoming ENERGY WISE, you can make the choices that will save you more of your hard-earned income, without reducing your comfort level.



In this issue...

- Message from the President 16b
- How To Find Air Leaks..... 16c
- Becoming ENERGY WISE..... 16e
- Co-op Connections Spotlight 16f
- The AQUALity Corner 16g

We've all heard the term "energy efficiency." But what does it really mean? To some, it might be turning off lights more often, or turning down the thermostat and wearing sweaters around the house. Others might want to put in a new energy efficient refrigerator or close off a room that doesn't get much use.

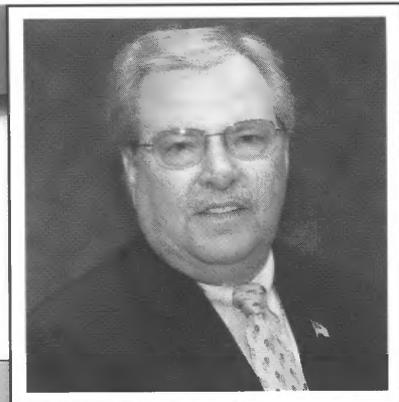
Eastern Illini's Marketing Manager Bob Dickey noted, "Becoming ENERGY WISE means more than being energy efficient. An ENERGY WISE person thinks about the interaction

between their home structure (building envelope), the appliances they use, and their lifestyle. They are also open to alternative sources of energy to supply their growing demand.

"Most of our members can easily find at least 10 things in their home or lifestyle that they can update to save energy dollars and increase their comfort. It doesn't always mean doing without something. In fact, people that are truly ENERGY WISE can actually have more disposable income than others in similar situations."

Check pages 16d and 16e for more ways to become ENERGY WISE.

Message From The President



Be Safe During Ice Storm Recovery Efforts

A heavy buildup of ice from the winter storms moving through the area could take a toll on trees and power lines and cause widespread outages, and the damage could take several days to repair. Safe Electricity wants everyone to know how to stay safe and warm during such a recovery effort.

"In a winter storm emergency, restoring power and heat to consumers is the highest priority, and electric utility crews work around the clock to restore service," said Alan Schweighart, EIEC Operations Manager.

If you must venture outside, be alert to the possibility of electrical hazards:

- Stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard.
- Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.
- A power line does not need to be sparking or arcing to be energized, even if it's sagging close to or on the ground.
- Other utility lines can also become energized by being in contact with an electrical line.
- Lines that appear to be "dead" can become energized as crews work to restore power, or sometimes from improper use of emergency generators.

Maintaining warmth is a priority during a winter emergency. Loss of body heat or hypothermia can be life threatening.

- Stay inside and dress in warm, layered clothing



- Close off unneeded rooms
- When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to properly ventilate
- Stuff towels and rags underneath doors to keep the heat in
- Cover windows at night
- Eat. Food provides the body with energy for creating its own heat.
- Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated.
- Move around to keep warm, but not enough to perspire.

"Never use a charcoal grill to cook or heat with inside the home," says Schweighart. "Charcoal grills give off deadly carbon monoxide gas. Grills should be used only outdoors."

If you use a standby generator, make sure it has a transfer safety switch or that the power is cut off at the breaker box before you operate it. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines or what's known as "back feed." Back feed creates danger for

anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.

Remember, always keep the generator outside in a dry, protected area, away from windows or air intakes where deadly exhaust fumes can enter living spaces.

During an outage, Safe Electricity also recommends turning off electrical appliances and unplugging major equipment, including computers and televisions. This will help protect equipment that could be damaged by electrical surges, and prevent circuit overloads when power is restored. Leave one light on to indicate that power has been restored then turn on other appliances and equipment one at a time.

For more information and electrical safety tips, visit www.SafeElectricity.org. Safe Electricity is a non-profit safety public awareness program sponsored by a coalition of electric utilities, the University of Illinois and other organizations dedicated to promoting electrical safety.

*Sincerely,
Dave Champion*

HOW TO

Find Air Leaks In Your Home

Air leaks can lead to high-energy bills. Use these steps to find leaks in your home. Also, call your electric cooperative to find out if they conduct home blower door tests that will find air leaks for you.

1. Start outside.

Look for gaps between your house and its foundation; gas, electric, phone, satellite, Internet and cable lines; your dryer vent; outdoor water faucets. A way to find large gaps in these places is to have someone shine a flashlight at night on one side while you're on the other. If you can see light, air can certainly get through. Expandable foam may work well to fill in these gaps.

2. Next check the door and window frames.

You can use a piece of paper slipped between the frame and window or door. If you can pull out the paper without it tearing, air can get in. Weather-stripping will seal these areas.

3. Search for small leaks using an incense stick.

Pass the lit stick along the edges of a suspected leak and see if the smoke blows in or out. Do this on a windy day. Check for small leaks around outlets on outside walls, ceiling fans, recessed lights, vent fans, etc. Caulk and weather-stripping can help stop these leaks.



Remember: If you find leaks, seal them!

A variety of products, from caulk to foam sealers can be found at your local home store to help tighten up your home. Or call your co-op for more information.

Estimating appliance and home electronic energy use

If you're trying to decide whether to invest in a more energy-efficient appliance or you'd like to determine your electricity loads, you may want to estimate appliance energy consumption.

You can use this formula to estimate an appliance's energy use:

$$\text{Wattage} \times \text{Hours used per day} \times \text{Days used per year} \div 1000 = \text{Kilowatt-hour (kWh) consumption per year}$$

For example:

Personal computer (120 Watts) and monitor (150 Watts):
 $(120 \text{ Watts} + 150 \text{ Watts}) \times 4 \text{ hours per day} \times 365 \text{ days per year} \div 1000 = 394 \text{ kWh/year}$

Then, calculate the annual cost to run an appliance by multiplying the kWh per year by your local utility's rate per kWh consumed.

$$394 \text{ kWh} \times \$0.114 \text{ (EIEC average)} = \$44.92 \text{ per year}$$

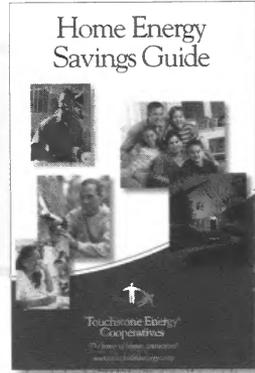
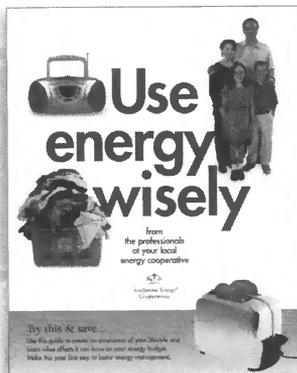
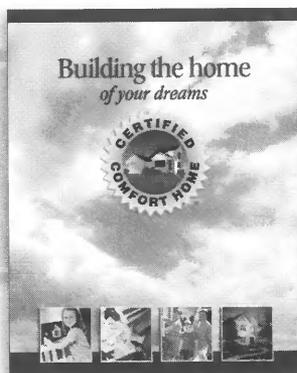
You can usually find the wattage of most appliances stamped on the bottom or back of the appliance, or on its nameplate. The wattage listed is the maximum power drawn by the appliance. Since many appliances have a range of settings (hairdryers), the actual amount of power consumed depends on the setting used at any one time.

Here are some examples of the range of nameplate wattages for various household appliances:

- Clothes washer = 350–500 Watts
- Clothes dryer = 1800–5000 Watts
- Dishwasher = 1200–2400 Watts (heat drying feature increases energy use)
- Hair dryer = 1200–1875 Watts
- Microwave oven = 750–1100 Watts
- Personal computer
 CPU - awake / asleep = 120 / 30 or less
 Monitor - awake / asleep = 150 / 30 or less
 Laptop = 50 Watts
- Refrigerator (frost-free, 16 cubic feet) = 725 Watts
- Televisions
 27" = 113 Watts
 36" = 133 Watts
 53"-61" Projection = 170 Watts
 Flat screen = 120 Watts
- Water heater (40 gallon) = 4500–5500 Watts

Source: U.S. Department of Energy - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Energy Resources

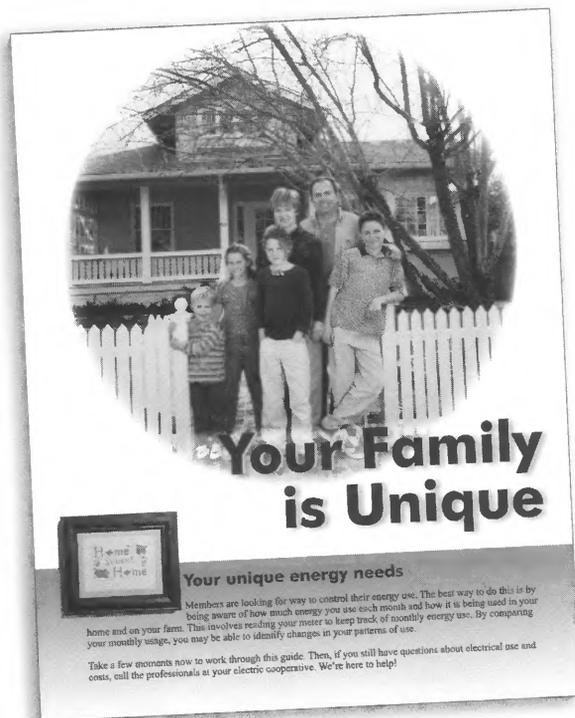


Downloadable PDF versions available on www.eiec.coop.

Your Family Is Unique

Helping You Become *ENERGY WISE*

Has your electric bill ever caught you off guard? Have you ever wondered how to estimate your energy usage and cost? If so, the booklet *Your Family is Unique* could be just what you've been looking for.



Your Family is Unique is an eight-page booklet that includes:

- *Tips on how to save energy.*
- *Plans for vacation and seasonal usage.*
- *An appliance energy usage guide.*
- *A formula to estimate the cost of your family's energy usage.*
- *"Did you know" facts about appliances, such as water pumps.*
- *"Try this and save" tips for cheap household maintenance ideas that can save you money.*
- *Answers to questions such as "Why is my electric bill higher than my neighbor's" and "Is the meter accurate?"*



"The *Your Family is Unique* publication has been around for years, but it recently received a major renovation. It will continue to be a great tool for cooperatives to give to members who are concerned about high electric bills," says Rick Polley, Manager of Field Services from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Polley, along with three other local electric cooperative energy experts, recently updated the booklet to correspond with the current kilowatt/hour rates and newer household gadgets, such as cell phones and plasma televisions.

Some people aren't aware of just how much energy their family uses in a month. Things like phantom loads, appliances that consume small amounts of electricity even when turned off, and hot water usage are some of the surprising causes of high electric bills.

"Often-times the member thinks the meter is inaccurate and that they can't possibly be using that much electricity. This publication helps them realize that they may be using more than they think," Polley says.

Jerry Houser, Manager of Member Services at Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, agrees with the usefulness of the booklet, "I have always used the *Your Family is Unique* pamphlet in helping resolve member concerns over electric usage. I believe the updated pamphlet will certainly improve its effectiveness for our members."

Contact Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative at 800-824-5102 to receive your FREE copy of the *Your Family is Unique* booklet.

An Urbana landmark offers great food in a classic location



Robert Novak, Gene Shalit and George Will can all trace their roots back to one place: The Courier Newspaper in Urbana, Ill. For more than 100 years, until 1979, the paper provided Champaign County residents with their news.

Allen Strong took over the Courier building in 1980 and created the Courier Café. Since then, people have flocked to the restaurant. “The Courier’s customers leave with the feeling that they got a good deal since they got a great meal at a great price,” Strong said. “And that’s why we’re busy all the time.”

Members of Eastern Illini who show their Co-op Connections Card at the Courier will receive a free order of large skinny dippers (potato skins heaped with toppings) with the purchase of two entrees. The Courier Café is located at 111 N. Race Street in Urbana. Their phone number is 217-328-1811.

Strong also owns the Silvercreek Restaurant, located just north of the Courier Café, at 402 N. Race Street. The Silvercreek features more of an upscale atmosphere, with special entrees. Using your Co-op Connections Card at the Silvercreek will get you a free dessert with the purchase of two entrees. Their phone number is 217-328-3402.



Ask Dave...

AQUALITY SOLUTIONS®

Water Quality Answers



Have You Discovered the Difference Quality Water Can Make?

Water is one of the most fundamental keys to life, comprising about 60 percent of the human body. We are sure you have heard the expression that "water is good for you," and it is – if the water is good. Unfortunately, water has a tendency to dissolve a little of everything in which it comes in contact, from beneficial elements to harmful chemicals and other contaminants.

That's why it is important to know that you have high quality working and drinking water, whether your water comes from a public utility or a private well. EI Schippert AQUALITY Solutions, the water quality experts you have trusted since 1965, offers a full line of water testing services, which are performed by company and certified laboratories, to fulfill any and

all your water testing needs.

For more information about water softening, or for your FREE water test, call AQUALITY Solutions 866-4WATER1.

— It saves you —
MONEY
— It costs you —
NOTHING.

Pretty much the opposite of your kids.



To help out with
creasing cost of the

your growing tots, and a whole lot more, we've started the Co-op Connections program. Here's how it works: Your Co-op Connections Card will arrive in your mail. Take it with you wherever you go. Pull it out anywhere you see a Co-op Connections sticker. And say hello to the savings.

The card is yours. The savings are yours. All because you're a member of a Touchstone Energy cooperative. And we're always looking out for you.

To learn more, visit www.eiec.coop.

Looking out for you.



Superior quality • competitive rates
worry free long distance • local service

**NO
MONTHLY
FEE**

4.9¢
per minute

800 Number – 6.9¢ per minute
No Contracts! No Hidden Fees!
Just Plain & Simple!

For more information,
call (877) 658-3453

Visit Eastern Illini's Web site at

www.eiec.coop



Eastern Illini's Web site is loaded with features to make your life simpler and to save you money. Visit the site today to pay your bill, discover money-saving energy efficiency tips, view EIEC publications and Board Reports, and learn about all of our products and services.

Click, Click, Save!

See Page 9 See Page 9



for more information
on Eastern Illini
Electric Cooperative

**Looking for local
Internet service?
Look no further**

Conxxus offers dial-up Internet
service to communities
throughout Central Illinois!

**Packages starting
at \$14.95 a month!**



Call (877) 455-4266 for
more information or to sign-up today!
Now offering: Customizable Spam
Blocker, Pop-up Blocker

CONXXUS 

It's what conxxus to the world
Formerly **ILLICOM**
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

330 W Ottawa Rd., Paxton
(877) 455-4266
www.conxxus.com



EASTERN ILLINI

ELECTRIC NEWS PAXTON, ILLINOIS

www.eiec.coop A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  217-379-2131 or 800-824-5102

A Smart Way to Keep the Lights On

Demand for electricity nationally will increase by 40 percent during the next 22 years, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Yet even with an optimistic projection of a 9 percent reduction in electricity consumption due to increased efficiency and an increase in renewable power sources, our nation will soon run out of excess generating capacity and need to build more power plants and transmission lines to keep the lights on.

This raises a catch-22 situation. Unless significantly more power plants are placed into service soon, there's a good chance consumers could experience brownouts and even rolling blackouts in the not-too-distant future. But this generation will be the most expensive in history, coming at a time when prices for fuels to produce electricity



We take our responsibility of maintaining a safe, reliable and affordable supply of power seriously.

and construction materials like steel, copper and concrete are skyrocketing.

On top of it all, local, state and federal lawmakers are considering additional costs on power plants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, notably carbon dioxide, blamed for contributing to global climate change.

For electric co-ops, experiencing 2.6 percent overall growth (twice the national average), we take our responsibility of maintaining a safe, reliable and affordable supply of power seriously. We also have an obligation to

serve, and a special responsibility to protect you, our consumer-members, against dramatic and potentially crippling increases in electricity costs.

Continued on page 16b

In this issue...

- P2000 Insulation 16c
- Nominating Petitions Due 16d
- Contractor Appreciation 16e
- Co-op Connections Spotlight 16f
- AQUALity Corner 16g

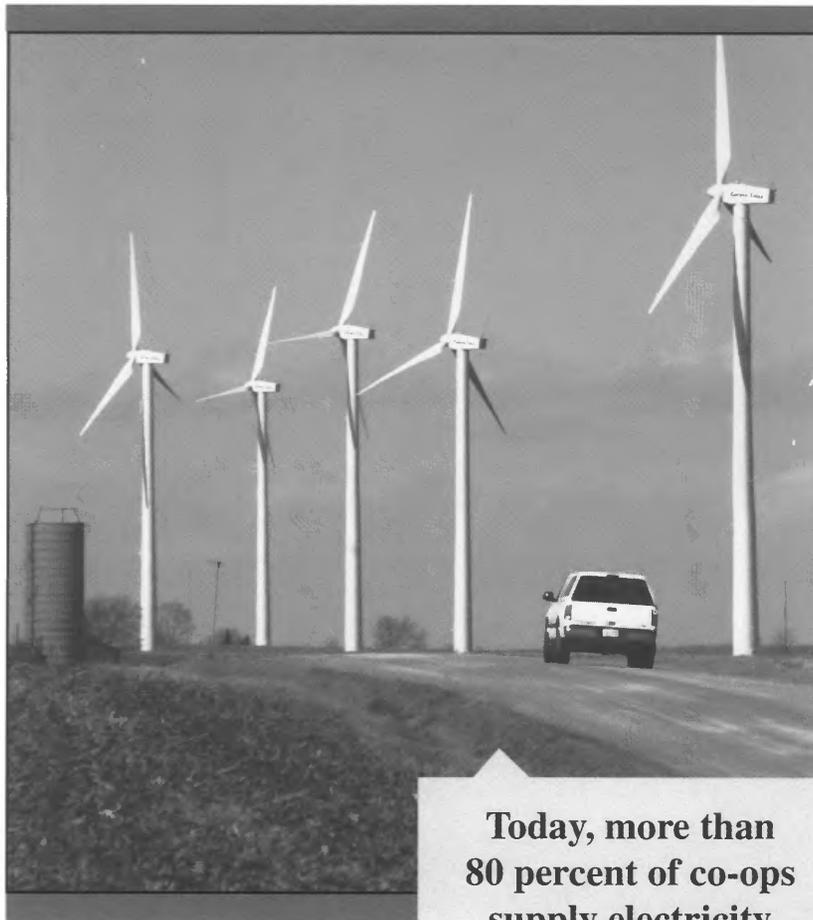
When it comes to meeting our nation's energy challenges, including climate change, electric co-ops believe answers can be found in a diversified mix of advancements in energy efficiency and technology; renewable, nuclear and natural gas generation; and advanced coal generation. No magic "silver bullet" exists.

On the climate change front, electric co-ops believe recommendations developed by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), a non-profit utility-sponsored consortium based in Palo Alto, Calif., whose members include electric co-ops, offer a workable framework for starting debate on solutions. EPRI has spelled out how U.S. electric utilities can slash carbon dioxide emissions below 1990 levels by 2030 (roughly 45 percent)—even as they take on about 40 percent more load through aggressive steps in seven principal areas: boosting energy efficiency, investing in renewable energy, expanding nuclear power capacity, capturing carbon produced by coal-fired power plants and storing it deep underground, improving the operating efficiency of coal-fired power plants, adding distributed generation resources and putting plug-in hybrid electric vehicles on the road.

Consumer-owned electric co-ops have a great story to tell in how we're already tackling each of these ambitious goals, which provide the additional bonus of helping reduce the need to build as much new generation. Today, more than 80 percent of co-ops supply electricity produced by wind, solar, hydro, biomass (including landfill gas, livestock waste, timber byproducts, and crop residue) and other renewable power sources.

Electric co-ops are also recognized industry leaders in promoting energy efficiency and wise energy use. Nearly half provide financial incentives—such as low- or no-interest loans for household improvements, leases on efficiency-related equipment, and ownership or maintenance of standby generators to reduce power use when consumption spikes—or include interactive energy use calculators on their Web sites.

More than 40 percent offer ef-



iciency and weatherization services, including selling and installing high-efficiency lighting systems, electric water heaters, geothermal and air-source heat pumps, insulation and Energy Star appliances. And an electric co-op in North Dakota operates the only large-scale plant in the nation that captures carbon dioxide gas before it goes up a smokestack, compresses it, and then pumps it down into spent oil reservoirs for permanent storage.

Of course, implementing many of EPRI's ideas on a large scale will require a massive investment of government resources—similar to putting a man on the moon—and mobilization of every sector of the economy. But as consumer advocates and industry leaders, electric co-ops know what works. Tapping our varied resources, we can provide elected officials with expertise on what programs are feasible technologically and can be sustained economically—and politically.

When it comes to energy, electric co-ops recognize that consumers ultimately pay the freight for whatever deci-

Today, more than 80 percent of co-ops supply electricity produced by wind, solar, hydro, biomass and other renewable power sources.

sions are made. As our commitment to you, we will work to ensure that folks in positions of power understand this fact as well and seek out practical, long-term remedies based on new technology that will allow us to continue providing safe, reliable, and affordable power in an environmentally responsible fashion. Through it all, the co-op drumbeat will be loud and clear: "we're putting consumers first."

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Energy Information Administration, and Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service arm of the nation's 900-plus not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric co-ops.

Stops wind

Stops cold

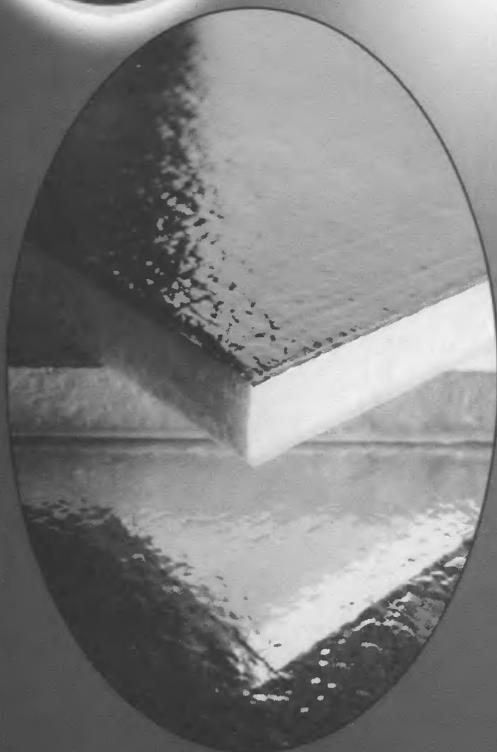
Stops heat

Stops moisture

Easy to install

20-year warranty

P2000 Insulation System



The all-weather
guard in one
product

For more information
contact Eastern Illini
at 800-824-5102



P2000 is an environmentally friendly product. US: www.p2insulation.com CAN: www.p2000insulation.ca

Director Election

**Nominating Petitions will be available March 14, 2008,
for the June 12, 2008, director election**

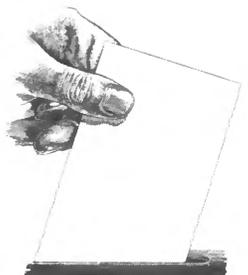
Directors in Directorate Districts 2, 3, 6 and Southern at Large will be elected at the June 12, 2008, Annual Meeting.

Incumbent directors Tom Schlatter of Chatsworth, District 2; Don Reitz of Gilman, District 3, Marion Chesnut of Rossville, District 6; and Jay Hageman of Fairmount, Southern at Large have indicated they will seek re-election.

Nominating petitions can be picked up at 8 a.m. on Friday, March 14, 2008, at Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, 330 W. Ottawa, Paxton. Each member who desires to be elected to the board of directors must have

their petition signed by not less than 25 members of the cooperative. Petitions must be filed at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, April 28, 2008.

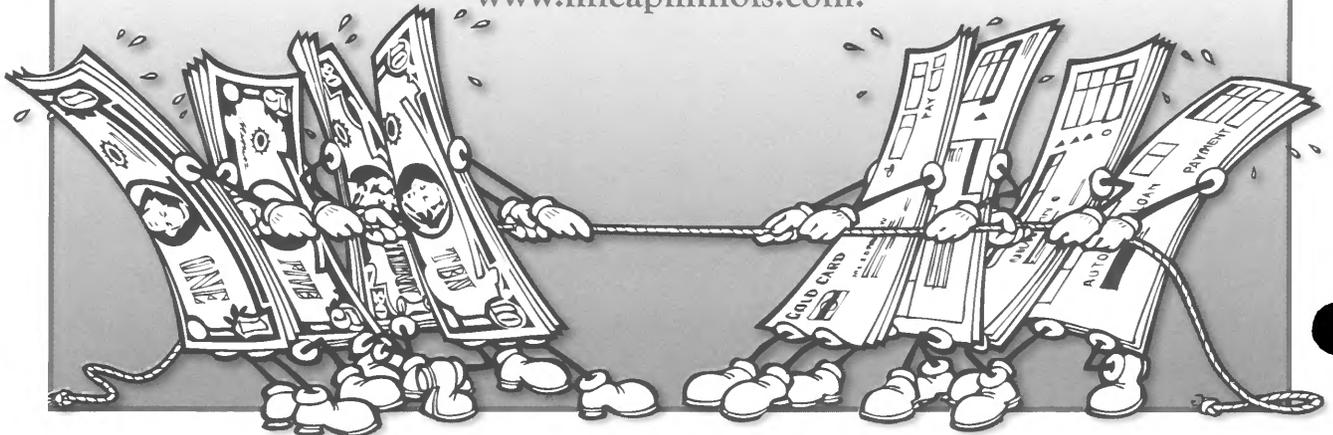
The credentials committee will meet at the cooperative's headquarters on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, to review the qualifications of all candidates who file nominating petitions to determine their eligibility to serve as directors of the cooperative.



	District 2	District 3	District 6	Southern at Large
Incumbent Directors				
	Tom Schlatter Chatsworth	Don Reitz Gilman	Marion Chesnut Rossville	Jay Hageman Fairmount

Need Help Paying Your Bill?

You may be eligible for low income energy assistance and Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's Neighbor to Neighbor program. Contact your local LIHEAP Agency for available programs at www.liheapillinois.com.



More Members Choosing Heat Pumps

**103 members became more EnergyWise
during record-breaking 2007**

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative works closely with area heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) contractors to promote heat pumps as not only a viable source for heating and cooling, but when coupled with Eastern Illini's special electric heat rate, as the MOST energy efficient systems available today.

In 2007, there were 66 geothermal systems (ground-source heat pumps) and 37 air-source heat pumps installed in Eastern Illini's territory. That total of 103 total heat pumps was the most ever installed in one year. Eastern Illini's Marketing Manager Bob Dickey noted, "People now realize that heat pumps - both geothermal and air-source - are here to stay. With energy costs soaring, becoming EnergyWise by investing in such an efficient system makes sense to a lot of people."

Recently, Eastern Illini hosted area contractors at an appreciation dinner. Sales awards were given to the following dealers: Most systems sold in 2007 - Hoveln Heating & Cooling, Thomasboro; 2nd most systems sold in 2007 - Advantage Comfort Systems, Paxton; and 3rd most systems sold in 2007 - R&M Electric, Watseka.

Distinguished service awards were given to Triangle Heating & Cooling, Tuscola, for passing 100 total tons of system capacity, and to Hoveln Heating & Cooling, for surpassing the 1,000 total tons of system capacity installed in Eastern Illini's territory.

Eastern Illini also recognized The Atkin's Group, Champaign, for their dedication to promoting energy efficiency techniques and systems in their housing subdivisions.



Hoveln Heating & Cooling, Thomasboro.



The Atkin's Group, Champaign

Monticello Businesses



- Celebrations (217-762-3252):
10% discount on your total purchase.
- Glass Specialty Company Inc. (217-762-4053):
\$20 Wal-Mart gift card with any auto glass replacement.
\$25 off Rhino-linings installation where applicable.
- The Bistro (217-762-3663): 15% discount on your meal.



Co-op Connections Card



Ask Dave...

AQUALITY SOLUTIONS®

Water Quality Answers



How Does Your Water Measure Up?

As an Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative member, you enjoy benefits of reliable energy 365 days a year. And the same EIEC membership can give you quality water every day of the year, too.

AQUALity Solutions can help you get solutions to your water problems. Dave Schippert and his team of

experts will give you a FREE water consultation to determine the best solution for your water problems.

As an EIEC member, you can use your Co-op Connections Card to take advantage of six months same as cash or low financing for any purchase of water treatment equipment from AQUALity Solutions.

Call AQUALity Solutions at 866-4WATER1 or visit their Web site at www.4water1.com to take advantage of this limited time special offer for Eastern Illini members.

Calling After Hours?

What to expect when you call Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's new after-hours dispatch center

The first thing you will hear is the greeting, "Thank you for calling Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative."

Our automated system allows you to report an outage quickly and easily using a phone number or a meter number. Agents are also available but hold times vary with high call volumes.

You will be prompted to enter a number regarding the reason for your call. You may choose among four options:

- An electrical outage press 1
- For billing questions press 2
- Meter readings press 3
- All other calls (a live dispatcher) press 0

If you press 1 to report an electrical outage:

You will be asked if you would like to report an outage using a phone number or a meter number or if you have critical information regarding the cause of an outage. You will also have the option to speak to an agent.

If you choose to use the automated system and use a phone number to report the outage, you will be asked to enter the 10 digit phone number associated with the account. If you choose to use a meter number, you will be asked to enter the meter number associated with the outage. If you choose the phone number option and you have more than one meter on your account, you will be asked if you would

like to enter the meter number or speak with an agent.

You may be asked if you are completely out of power and if your neighbors have power. Once you have answered the questions, you will receive a message confirming that your outage has been reported and that line crews have been or will be dispatched. If you ask to speak to an agent, the automated system will check to see if one is available. If all agents are assisting other customers, the system will inform you of this fact and that it may be faster to use the automated system. You can then choose between using the automated system or talking with an agent.

If you press 2 for a billing question:

A recorded message will give you Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's office hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and ask that you please call back during normal business hours.

If you press 3 to report a meter reading:

A recorded message will ask you to leave your name, account number, return telephone number, meter reading and date the meter was read.

If you press 0 for all other calls:

A real live dispatcher should answer your call. Again, hold times may vary with this option, especially during large outages.

Eastern Illini Long Distance

Superior quality • competitive rates
worry free long distance • local service

**NO
MONTHLY
FEE**

4.9¢
per minute

800 Number – 6.9¢ per minute
No Contracts! No Hidden Fees!
Just Plain & Simple!

For more information,
call (877) 658-3453

Visit Eastern Illini's Web site at

www.eiec.coop



Eastern Illini's Web site is loaded with features to make your life simpler and to save you money. Visit the site today to pay your bill, discover money-saving energy efficiency tips, view EIEC publications and Board Reports, and learn about all of our products and services.

Click, Click, Save!

See Page 9 See Page 9



for more information
on Eastern Illini
Electric Cooperative

Looking for local Internet service? Look no further

Conxxus offers dial-up Internet
service to communities
throughout Central Illinois!

**Packages starting
at \$14.95 a month!**



Call (877) 455-4266 for
more information or to sign-up today!
Now offering: Customizable Spam
Blocker, Pop-up Blocker

CONXXUS



It's what conxxus to the world
Formerly **ILLICOM**
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

330 W Ottawa Rd., Paxton
(877) 455-4266
www.conxxus.com

Message From The President

Eastern Illini and the Energy Landscape

We've all seen energy prices rising the last few years. I am often asked how the current energy landscape is affecting Eastern Illini in regards to our rates.

Eastern Illini currently purchases electricity from our wholesale power supplier, Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI). PPI is owned by Eastern Illini and 10 other electric cooperatives in Illinois. Our current wholesale electricity contracts run through 2008. We are in the process of negotiating, through PPI, new contracts for 2009 and beyond. The reality of the situation is that it simply costs more to produce electricity now. Our wholesale electricity prices are going to go up.

We hope to announce the impact of our new wholesale electricity arrangements – and any rate increases associated with them - at the 2008 Annual Meeting, to be held June 12 in Paxton. Several member meetings will also take place, throughout Eastern Illini's service territory, in the summer and fall to help educate you about future rates.

Our rates really haven't changed much in the last 15 years. Compared to natural gas and propane prices – which have doubled or even tripled in the last 15 years – we're happy to say that electricity is still a great value for our members.

Even though we don't have actual numbers on a possible rate increase yet, we wanted to let you know about the potential of one as soon as possible. It's never too early to begin planning. Please contact our marketing department at 800-824-5102 to discuss ways to lower your utility bills now. Those savings can help offset any future rate increases.



Providing safe and reliable electric service to our member-owners is our main focus. We will continue to do that at the lowest possible rates – with the best possible customer service.

*Sincerely,
Dave Champion*

In this issue...

- Co-op Connections Card 16b
- Annual Meeting Date 16c
- The AQUALity Corner 16d

Co-op Connections Card Spotlight

Fisher, Illinois



- Greg's Auto Body (217-897-6622):
10% off new (sprayed in) bed liner.
- Greg's Car Wash (217-897-6622):
FREE car wash with any service from Greg's Auto Body.
- Fisher Auto Sales (217-897-6622):
FREE oil change when purchasing used vehicle after driving 3,000 miles.
- Flowers Etc. Ltd. (217-897-1604):
10% off floral arrangements over \$30. (Excluding weddings & funerals.)
- Riley's Stump Removal (217-841-0823):
10% off any stump removal.



Co-op Connections Card



SPRAY ON BEDLINERS

BY

ARMOR LININGS

AUTHORIZED DEALER

**INTERSTATE
BATTERIES**

POWER FAST. BUILT TO LAST.™



Mark Your Calendar!!

Eastern Illini's Annual Meeting will be on Thursday, June 12, at the cooperative headquarters in Paxton.

Bring the family for a fun-filled day of games and activities, attractions, and food. Stick around for the short business meeting to learn about Eastern Illini's 2009 rate revision.



WE CAN'T CONTROL MOTHER NATURE



BUT WE CAN HELP YOU PREPARE

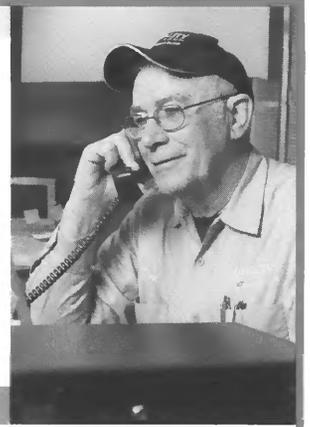
Eastern Illini offers a full line of automatic standby generators.

Contact us today at 800-824-5102 for a complete generator packet, including price and sizing information.



Ask Dave...

AQUALITY SOLUTIONS®



Does soft water affect the operation of a humidifier?

Soft water provides for easier maintenance of a humidifier. When hard water is evaporated, the mineral residue consists of a hard scale that normally requires some drastic treatment (such as chipping or acid) for its removal. When soft water is used, the residue is commonly called soft and can usually be removed by flushing the unit with water or going over the surface with a brush.

A point to remember: Softening water does not reduce the total amount of minerals present; ion exchange softening merely converts the calcium and magnesium minerals to sodium minerals. The humidifier most common in homes has an open pan, a small tube connected to a water source, and a float

valve. When water evaporates, the float valve opens to permit make-up water to flow into the pan. Sooner or later this type of unit fills with minerals deposited by the inflowing water.

Many humidifiers today automatically accomplish periodic flushing with fresh soft water to keep the mineral concentration down, and the unit operating satisfactorily.

For more information, or for your FREE water test, call AQUALITY Solutions at 866-4WATER1.

Visit Eastern Illini's Web site at

www.eiec.coop



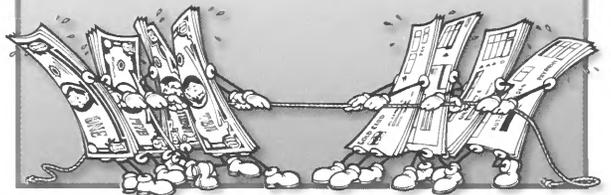
Eastern Illini's Web site is loaded with features to make your life simpler and to save you money. Visit the site today to pay your bill, discover money-saving energy efficiency tips, view EIEC publications and Board Reports, and learn about all of our products and services.

Click, Click, Save!

Need Help Paying Your Bill?

You may be eligible for low income energy assistance and Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's Neighbor to Neighbor program. Contact your local LIHEAP Agency for available programs at

www.liheapillinois.com.



See Page 9 See Page 9 See Page 9



for more information on Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

Mark Your Calendar!

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 12, 2008

EIEC Headquarters

330 W. Ottawa, Paxton, Illinois

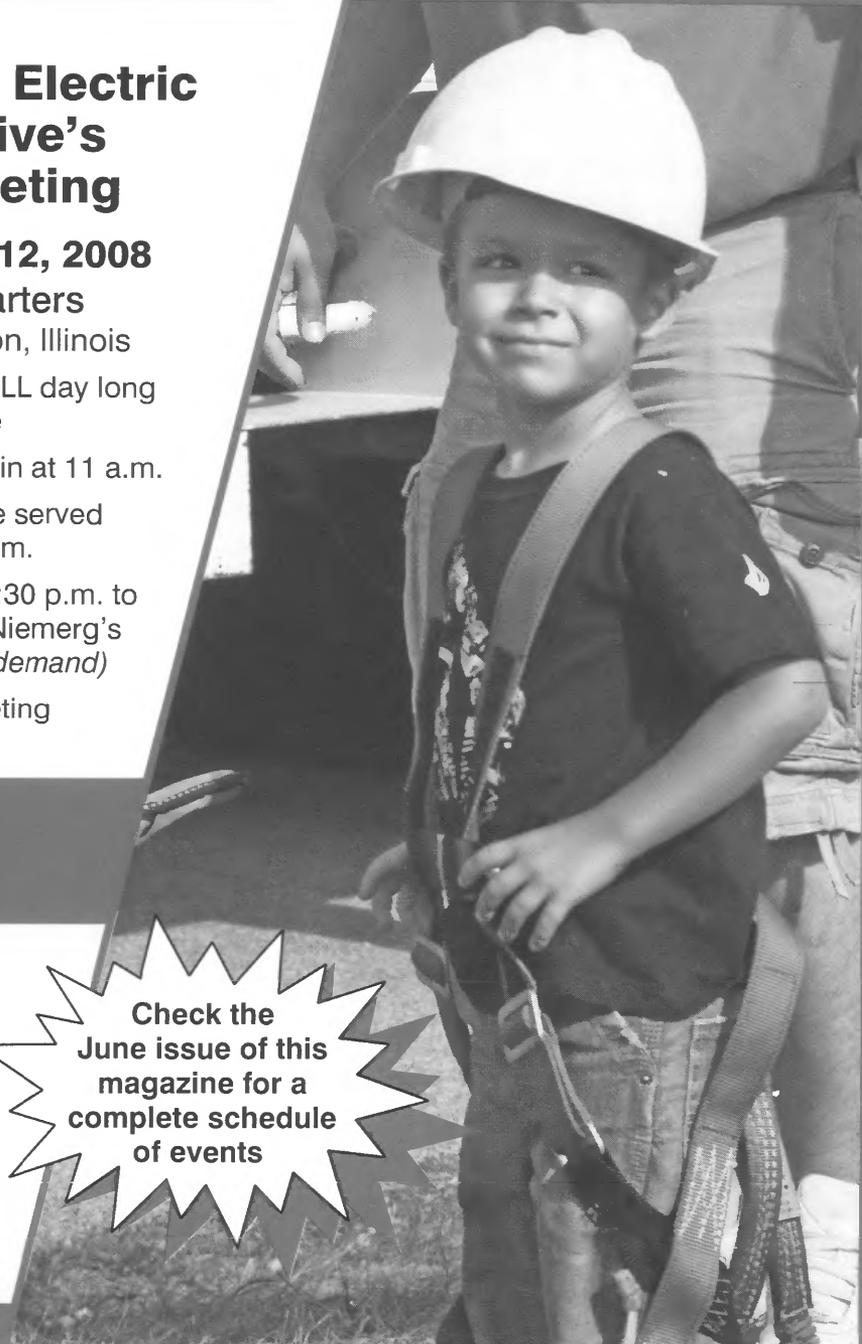
Activities for everyone – ALL day long
Come Anytime

Registration and Voting begin at 11 a.m.

A sandwich lunch will be served
from 11 a/m. to 2 p.m.

Dinner will be served from 4:30 p.m. to
7 p.m. Dinner provided by Niemerg's
Catering (*Back by popular demand*)

The short business meeting
will begin at 7 p.m.



In this issue...

Message from the President 16b

Annual Meeting Preview 16c

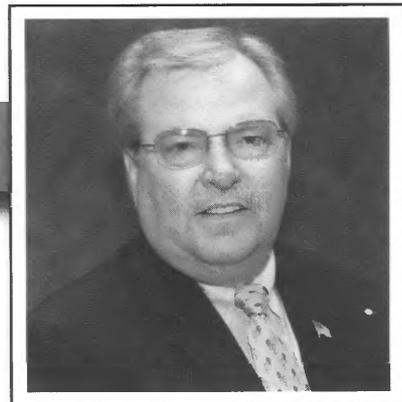
Climate Change Info..... 16de

Co-op Connections Card..... 16f

The AQUAlity Corner 16g

Check the June issue of this magazine for a complete schedule of events

Message From The President



Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue With America

Pressure is mounting for Congress to do something about climate change. And while political debates in Washington, D.C., may seem far away, the outcome of environmental legislation will have a direct impact on Eastern Illini - and on you, our consumers.

Already our nation faces a looming energy crisis, with demand for electricity ready to outstrip supply. Unless significantly more power plants are placed into service soon, consumers could experience brownouts and even rolling blackouts in the not-too-distant future. But building this generation will be the most expensive in history, coming at a time when prices for fossil fuels and construction materials like steel, copper and concrete are shooting upward.

Additional costs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—notably carbon dioxide, blamed for contributing to global climate change—will only strain the pocketbooks of consumers even further. Various climate change bills under consideration in Congress could boost wholesale power costs 50 percent to 80 percent by 2020, and push up retail rates from 25 percent to 40 percent.

Unfortunately, many members of Congress, as well as local and state legislators,

mistakenly believe we can solve all of these problems through efficiency measures and by adding renewable energy sources. While we certainly need more energy efficiency programs and “green power,” they will not be enough to ensure that you continue to receive a safe, reliable and affordable supply of electricity.

To keep the lights on and rates reasonable, the federal government must exercise dedicated leadership—the same leadership that got us to the moon in the 1960s. Without it, and without a sound, responsible, sustainable energy policy, we risk returning to a time when electric service was a privilege enjoyed only by the wealthy.

As electric co-op consumers, though, you can help prevent that from happening. I encourage you to contact your elected officials today, and ask them some tough questions

By doing so, you will open a discussion that just may see policymakers search for ways to meet environmental objectives while limiting the impact on electric bills.

To assist you in your conversations with those in positions of power, log on to www.ourenergy.coop. There you will

find three core questions to ask, as follows:

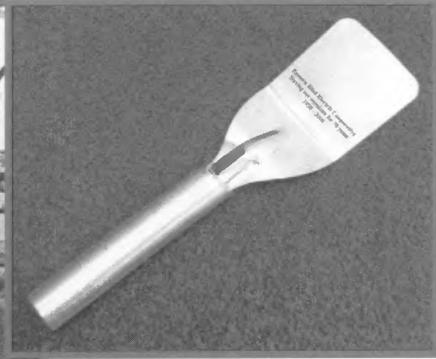
1. Experts say that our nation's growing electricity needs will soon go well beyond what renewables, conservation and efficiency can provide; What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need in the future?
2. What are you doing to fully fund the research required to make emissions-free electric plants an affordable reality?
3. Balancing electricity needs and environmental goals will be difficult. How much is all this going to increase my electric bill and what will you do to make it affordable?

From the Web site, you will also be able to send a sample letter to members of Congress recommending that they seek out a balanced solution to energy and climate change. The letter may be sent electronically or printed for regular mail.

Far too often questions don't get asked by policymakers until plans go wrong. You can help your elected officials “get it right” by having this conversation. The electric bill you save will be your own.

*Sincerely,
Dave Champion*

Our Energy, Our Future A Dialogue With America



Annual Meeting Activities and Features

- ✓ FREE attendance gift – a stainless steel serving utensil
- ✓ Drawings – WIN 1 of 20 \$100 bills (*need not be present to win*)
- ✓ Kid's prizes – 3 children will receive FREE bikes
- ✓ Enjoy an outdoor carnival-like atmosphere
- ✓ Inflatable BOUNCE HOUSE and OBSTACLE COURSE
- ✓ Bucket Truck rides
- ✓ Food and snacks will be provided all day
- ✓ Games and Activities for kids of ALL ages
- ✓ Tours of EIEC facilities
- ✓ Learn about EIEC rates
- ✓ Elect 4 Board Members



Watch for the annual report in the June Illinois Country Living magazine





Climate change is a topic of increasing interest in the energy industry. But what is climate change, how does it affect electric cooperatives like Eastern Illini, and what does it have to do with co-op members? In an effort to clarify this issue, we have tackled some of the basic questions about climate change, and how it affects us.

1. What are climate and climate change?

Climate refers to the average weather – temperature and precipitation, among other variables – over a long period of time. The Earth’s climate is always changing. Natural climatic changes may occur over seasons, decades and centuries. The periodic rapid warming trend in the eastern Pacific Ocean, known as El Niño, is an example of climate change on a shorter time scale.

2. What causes climate change?

Natural factors and processes contribute to climate change and include changes in the Earth’s orbit and changes in the output of the sun. Human activities, such as fossil fuel consumption and deforestation, contribute to climate change.

3. What are greenhouse gases and how are they produced?

Greenhouse gases are chemical compounds that trap heat from the sun in the Earth’s atmosphere. This is known as the greenhouse effect, the natural phenomenon that warms the Earth’s surface. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane and water vapor. These gases occur naturally and through human activity. Carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere when forests and fossil fuels are burned. Fossil fuels include oil, natural gas and coal. Methane is released during the production and transport of coal, natural gas and oil. Methane emissions also result from livestock and other agricultural practices and from the decay of organic waste in municipal solid-waste landfills. Although water vapor is the most abundant greenhouse gas, its atmospheric concentration is not directly affected by human activity.

4. What do scientists think about climate change?

Scientists agree that greenhouse gases warm the Earth and are accumulating in the Earth’s atmosphere as a

result of human activities. However, there is considerable uncertainty in scientists' understanding about the impacts of greenhouse gases on the Earth's climate.

5. What does climate change have to do with electric cooperatives?

The process of generating electricity is the single largest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States, representing 40 percent of total carbon dioxide emissions from all sources in 2005. Nationwide, more than 80 percent of electric cooperatives' generation is from fossil fuels. As a result, Eastern Illini and other electric cooperatives have a well-developed interest in technologies that reduce, avoid and store greenhouse gas emissions.

6. What are electric cooperatives doing to address climate change?

Currently, there is a lack of cost-effective technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel-based generation. All electric cooperatives are working to develop new technologies and energy sources to reduce, avoid and sequester or store emissions. Eastern Illini, through our power supplier Prairie Power, Inc., has recently acquired stake in a new, cleaner burning, coal fired generation plant in southern Illinois.

7. How can new technologies improve electric cooperatives and climate change concerns?

New technologies that lead to greater energy efficiency are a primary focus for electric cooperatives. These include building modern, environmentally sound power plants and implementing carbon efficient electric generation, such as nuclear energy, fuel cells and clean-coal technologies. Electric cooperatives are keeping pace with high-tech advancements to improve operations. For example, Eastern Illini almost finished converting our entire electric system to automated meter technology.

8. What can I do as an electric cooperative member to address concerns about climate change?

Eastern Illini encourages energy conservation and efficiency. This includes using compact fluorescent lighting, upgrading to energy-efficient appliances and following home improvement tips, such as installing a programmable thermostat or improving insulation. Eastern Illini offers many energy saving tips and ideas on our Web site: www.eiec.coop.

9. What is the policy debate about climate change like among policy makers and industry leaders, and what do electric cooperatives support?

Climate change issues continue to gain increasing attention in Congress and the utility industry. Electric cooperatives support the research and development of low- and zero-emission energy technologies, new energy-efficiency technologies, renewable and alternative energy options, financial incentives to accelerate the use of new technologies and offset higher costs, and will continue to support voluntary, greenhouse gas emissions reduction efforts.

10. How do international factors affect climate change?

The global population and worldwide demand for fuel are growing significantly. China is the fastest growing major economy in the world, while India runs a close second. This growth means people are driving more cars, building more homes and businesses, and using more fossil fuels to generate electricity, thus leading to more greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, it is necessary that governments around the world support ways to reduce emissions, while they develop long-term climate change solutions and new technologies.



Call it
Conservative
Economical
Efficient
Prudent
Sparing
Thrifty
Frugal
Stingy

Use it, and people will call you brilliant.



No matter what you call it, the Co-op Connections Card will save you money on goods and services of all kinds. Just take it with you wherever you go. Pull it out anywhere you see a Co-op Connections sticker. And say hello to the savings.

The card is yours. The savings are yours. All because you're a member of a Touchstone energy cooperative. And we're always looking out for you. To learn more, visit www.eiec.coop.



Eastern Illini
Electric
Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Looking out for you.

Youth To Washington Scholarship Winners Announced

Lauren Heap of Gibson City and Ryan Munsterman of Onarga have been selected as the recipients of the 2008 "Youth to Washington" \$1,000 scholarships and all-expenses paid trips to Washington, D.C. Lauren is the daughter of Gene and Lisa Heap of Gibson City and is a senior at Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley High School. Ryan is the son of Larry and Jody Munsterman and is a senior at Crescent-Iroquois High School.

Scholarship applications were received from students residing in rural Alvin, Beaverville, Camargo, Chatsworth,

Cissna Park, Donovan, Hoopeston, Melvin, Onarga, Paxton, Rantoul, Sibley and White Heath.

The scholarships were awarded based on academic achievement; work, volunteer experience, school and community activities; goals; and knowledge of electric cooperatives.

Lauren and Ryan will travel to our nation's capitol June 13-20 as part of the "Youth to Washington" tour. Eastern Illini has been sponsoring trips to Washington, D.C. for high school students since its consolidation in 1987.

Ask Dave... **AQUALITY** SOLUTIONS®



Dave Schippert of AQUALITY Solutions is your water quality expert. Call Dave at 866-492-8371 or contact him online at www.4water1.com to submit a question. Each month, we'll use this area to answer a question and show you how we can improve your water quality.

One of the most effective and cost-efficient home water treatment systems available today uses a process called reverse osmosis (RO). RO systems, usually compact units installed under the sink, produce high-quality water perfect for use in drinking, cooking and making ice cubes.

How effective is Reverse Osmosis in improving water quality?

RO is very effective in reducing a range of home water contaminants. This is possible because the Reverse Osmosis membrane is comprised of microscopic pores that allow the pressurized water molecules, among the smallest molecules known to man, to pass through the membrane. Large molecules, compounds con-

taining contaminants and even dissolved ions, are left behind.

Who should consider purchasing an RO system?

Anyone concerned about the quality of their home drinking water—particularly if they notice taste or odor problems or are aware of high levels of dissolved minerals in their water supplies.

For more information about RO systems, or for your FREE water test, call AQUALITY Solutions at 866-4WATER1.

The staff at AQUALITY Solutions is happy to answer any questions you might have about your water. AQUALITY Solutions is an Eastern Illini company dedicated to improving the quality of life in the rural area of east central Illinois.



For more information, or for your FREE water test, call AQUALITY Solutions at 866-4WATER1.

Eastern Illini Long Distance



Superior quality • competitive rates
worry free long distance • local service

**NO
MONTHLY
FEE**

4.9¢
per minute

800 Number – 6.9¢ per minute
No Contracts! No Hidden Fees!
Just Plain & Simple!

For more information,
call (877) 658-3453

Visit Eastern Illini's Web site at

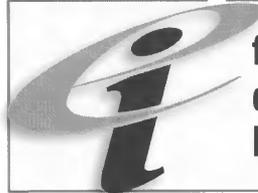
www.eiec.coop



Eastern Illini's Web site is loaded with features to make your life simpler and to save you money. Visit the site today to pay your bill, discover money-saving energy efficiency tips, view EIEC publications and Board Reports, and learn about all of our products and services.

Click, Click, Save!

See Page 9 See Page 9



for more information
on Eastern Illini
Electric Cooperative

Looking for local Internet service? Look no further

Connxus offers dial-up Internet
service to communities
throughout Central Illinois!

**Packages starting
at \$14.95 a month!**



Call (877) 455-4266 for
more information or to sign-up today!
Now offering: Customizable Spam
Blocker, Pop-up Blocker

CONNXUS

It's what connxus to the world
Formerly **ILLICOM**
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

330 W Ottawa Rd., Paxton
(877) 455-4266
www.connxus.com



OFFICIAL NOTICE

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 12, 2008
**Eastern Illini Electric
Cooperative Headquarters**
Paxton, Illinois



Notice is hereby given that the 21st Annual Meeting of Members of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2008, at 7 p.m., C.S.T., at the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative headquarters, 330 West Ottawa, Paxton, Illinois. Registration will begin at 11 a.m. and will close at 7 p.m. The meeting will be called to order at 7 p.m. and action will be taken on the following:

1. The reports of officers, directors and President/CEO.
2. The election of four directors (one each from Directorate Districts 2, 3, 6 and Southern at Large). In connection with the election of directors, the following candidates have been nominated: Thomas Schlatter, Chatsworth, for Directorate District 2; Donald Reitz, Gilman, for Directorate District 3; Marion Chesnut, Rossville, for Directorate District 6; and Jay Hageman, Fairmount, for the Southern at Large District.
3. To consider and act upon a bylaw amendment as recommended by the Board of Directors, a summary of which is furnished with this notice.
4. To consider and transact all other business which may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

Dated at Paxton, Illinois, this 28th day of May 2008.

Kay Horsch
Secretary

**In this
issue..**

**Annual Meeting
Information
and Schedule
of Events**

2008 Annual Meeting Schedule of Events

11 a.m. – 7 p.m.



Registration for voting and prizes
(need not be present to win prizes)
Collect your attendance gift
Inflatable bounce house
and obstacle course
Carnival games for children
Basketball shooting contests
Baseball throwing contests

American flag displays and games
Energy Wise exhibits,
plus other product & exhibit booths
Bucket truck rides
Utility pole climbing (with souvenir photo)
Race car displays
Q & A booth
Cooperative trivia games

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Lunch served – sandwiches, chips and pop

11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Ice cream and kettle corn served

11:30 a.m. Facilities tour
Puppet show
Pole-top rescue demonstrations

12:30 p.m. Our Energy, Our Future presentation *(how to control the rising cost of energy)*

1:30 p.m. Facilities tour
Puppet show
Pole-top rescue demonstrations

2 p.m. Our Energy, Our Future presentation *(how to control the rising cost of energy)*

4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. Dinner served *(meal catered by Niemerg's Catering)*

5 p.m. Facilities tour
Puppet show
Pole-top rescue demonstrations

5:30 p.m. Our Energy, Our Future presentation *(how to control the rising cost of energy)*

6:30 p.m. Facilities tour
Puppet show
Pole-top rescue demonstrations

7 p.m.

Official Business Meeting

Call to Order -	Treasurer's Report <i>(member approval)</i>
IEC Chairman Harold M. Loy	Chairman/President's Report
Pledge of Allegiance -	Director Election
Led by Eagle Scout Jacob Dickey	Proposed Bylaw Amendment
National Anthem - Gene Trimble Band	Questions from Floor - Chairman Loy,
Invocation - Director Brad Ludwig	Vice Chairman Chesnut, and
Introductions	President/CEO Champion
Notice and Proof of Mailing	Unfinished Business
Secretary's Report <i>(member approval)</i>	New Business

7:20 p.m. Adjournment
Prize Drawing

Meeting Highlights

Register to win one of 20 \$100 bills.

Take the Cooperative Trivia Quiz for a chance to win great prizes.
(Answers located throughout the meeting area.)

Solve the American flag scavenger hunt for a chance
to win a new flag and pole.

Children in attendance can register to win one of three
\$100 gift certificates to buy a new bicycle.

Credentials Committee Meets

The Credentials Committee met at the office of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative in Paxton on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, to determine the eligibility of candidates who filed nominating petitions for the June 12, 2008, director election. Directors will be elected in Directorate Districts 2, 3, 6, and Southern at Large. Attending the meeting were Laverl Byers, Tuscola; Bob Bauer, Cissna Park; Darren Duncan, Rossville; Gary Pridemore, Homer; and John Wilkening, Cissna Park. In accordance with the cooperative's bylaws, members of the Credentials Committee are appointed by the board of directors to serve a 1-year term.

John Wilkening was selected as chairman of the Committee.

Chairman Wilkening noted that nominating petitions were available at Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's headquarters in Paxton at 8 a.m. on

Friday, March 14, 2008, and that the deadline for filing was 5 p.m. on Monday, April 28, 2008.

The committee reviewed the qualifications of Tom Schlatter of Chatsworth, District 2; Don Reitz of Gilman, District 3; Marion Chesnut of Rossville, District 6, and Jay Hageman of Fairmount, Southern at Large who had filed nominating petitions. No other candidates picked up or filed petitions. After reviewing the petitions, affidavits and qualifications of Tom Schlatter, Don Reitz, Marion Chesnut, and Jay Hageman the Credentials Committee determined that all of the candidates were eligible to serve as directors of the cooperative.

There being no other business to come before the committee the meeting was adjourned.

John Wilkening
Committee Chairman



Chairman/President's Report



Harold M. Loy
*Chairman
of the Board*



Wm. David Champion, Jr.
President/CEO

Financial Goals

Your cooperative was able to meet its financial goals in 2007. That became easier when the balance of the stranded costs associated with the Clinton Nuclear Power Station were paid off at the end of 2006. The wholesale power costs went down slightly during 2007, but rather than lower the retail rates to the new level, we collected the difference through a deferred revenue program at Prairie Power, Inc., our cooperative power supplier. The reason we used the deferred revenue program was because we knew that rates will go up substantially as of January 1, 2009, because of our power supply contract expiration at the end of 2008 and the fact that market prices have gone very

high during the last six years while we were insulated from those market prices. Our plan is to use the money that we collected in 2007 to help offset some of the expected increase in 2009. Yes, as we have discussed on numerous occasions since our member/owner meetings in January and February of 2007 and since the annual meeting last June, we are going to experience a substantial rate increase as of January 1, 2009. We told you last year that the magnitude of the rate increase will be much less than what the investor owned utilities have recently incurred and that is indeed the case.

Power Supply

We have been working for three years toward establishing a long term solution that would result in lower than market prices, because the market prices have continued to climb at a very steep rate. We needed to diversify our future power supply sources so if any one of the sources was disrupted, we would not experience devastating price hikes because we would be at the mercy of the market for all of our power. Consequently, we were able to involve ourselves, through Prairie Power, Inc., in the Prairie State Generating facility in Lively Grove, Illinois, east of St. Louis. We broke ground at the power plant site on October 1, 2007, and construction is well underway. This power plant will have two separate generating units and we have committed to take one third of our base load power requirements from each of these two units. The two units are scheduled to be on line in June 2011 and May 2012, respectively. The plant will be utilizing Illinois coal from a new coal mine that will be located just hundreds of feet from the power plant and consequently, it will be creating jobs in Illinois during construction and post construction.

The remaining one third of our needed power supply has not been committed as of this date because we are continuing to explore the options. In the meantime, we are going to utilize a short term contract while we are waiting for the new plant to be built.

Rate Increase

The rate increase that we will be experiencing in 2009 is mainly due to the cost of electric energy escalation that has taken place as everything else that is energy related has done in recent years. The increased cost of steel, cement and other construction materials will be reflected in the price of power that we will receive as Prairie State comes on line, but the good news is that most of those material prices were locked in before a lot of that escalation had really taken off for the sky. We will be diligently supervising the construction of the power plant to do all that can be done to get it built on time and on budget.

Rate Equity

We have been consistently telling you that we are not going to abandon our marketing rates and that remains to be a fact. We have spent a great deal of time working on a cost of service study so all of the different rates will be assigned new prices based on what it costs the cooperative to serve each of these rate groups. This is the most equitable way to distribute these cost increases. That way no one rate group is subsidizing any other group of member/owners.

Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency is even more important than it has ever been. As all energy prices rise, we must be smarter than we have been in the past in how we use these resources. We are conducting monthly training on what the most cost effective home improvements are for you to consider, before the electricity prices go up. We hope that you will go to the Web site www.eiec.coop and look at the suggestions that are on the site and please call and make an appointment for us to come to your home and help you determine where it is best to invest in energy efficiency measures for your specific home.

Controlling Costs

One question that member/owners may rightfully ask and that is what has been done by the Board of Directors and the employees to control costs so that the magnitude of this rate increase will not have to be as large as it might otherwise have been? We have a list of items that will be published on the Web site that will help you see that we take the responsibility for watching after your money very seriously as we make decisions on the most effective use of those funds. I hope you will go to the Web site and see for yourself how we try to help control costs on a day to day basis.

Annual Meeting Invitation

As member/owners of your cooperative, we invite you to attend your annual meeting on June 12, 2008. The summer meetings have turned out to be a huge plus for member enjoyment. There are a number of activities that can be enjoyed by children of all ages. You can come and register for prizes, vote, eat, visit, ask questions and enjoy the day right here at your cooperative's headquarters. It is intended to be a fun and informal format that expresses appreciation to the member/owners of the cooperative. We will also be announcing the new rates during the meeting so please come and ask questions. Don't forget to bring the kids and grandkids!

Summary of Proposed Bylaw Amendment

The Board of Directors has approved a proposed amendment to the Cooperative's bylaws and recommends its adoption by the membership. The proposed amendment is summarized as follows:

1. To clarify the extent of interest a director may hold in competing electrical facilities and eliminate a prohibition related to selling plumbing appliances.
2. To allow candidates for or incumbents of elective public offices for which they are paid a salary to be candidates for the Cooperative's Board of Directors.

Article III, Section 3.3 of the bylaws shall state as follows:

Article III Directors

Section 3.3: Qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative who is not a bona fide member of the Cooperative receiving service from the Cooperative at his or her primary residential abode or who is in any way employed by, or has more than a minor financial interest in, any enterprise which operates electrical facilities, competes to a material degree with the Cooperative, or a business selling electric energy or merchandise to the Cooperative, or a business substantially engaged in selling electrical facilities, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative. Further, so long as the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association shall provide a director training and certification program, no director shall be eligible to be re-elected to the Board of Directors after having served three full terms on the Board, commencing with the election of directors in 1989, or thereafter, unless he or she has been certified by said National Rural Electric Cooperative Association as having successfully completed its course of training for rural electric cooperative directors. Upon establishment of the fact that a director is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing qualification requirements, the Board may remove such director from office by the affirmative vote of the majority of the total membership of the Board. Nothing contained in this section shall affect, in any manner, any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

SAMPLE BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF DIRECTORS EASTERN ILLINI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE June 12, 2008 Paxton, Illinois

For Director from
DIRECTORATE DISTRICT 2
(3-Year Term)

Thomas Schlatter,
Chatsworth

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

Donald Reitz,
Gilman

For Director from
DIRECTORATE DISTRICT 6
(3-Year Term)

Marion Chesnut,
Rossville

For Director from
DIRECTORATE DISTRICT
Southern at Large
(3-Year Term)

Jay Hageman,
Fairmount

Mission Statement

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's mission is to provide premium-quality, economically priced electricity and other related services to our members and communities.

Director Profiles



**Thomas Schlatter,
Chatsworth
Directorate
District 2**

Thomas Schlatter has served on the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors since 2006. He has received his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate. Schlatter, a graduate from Chatsworth High School, has a Bachelor of Science degree from Illinois State University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Illinois.

Schlatter has four children. His oldest, Craig, works for Mendocino County in Ukiah, California in

economic development. His daughter, Abby, is completing her MBA at Stanford University. His youngest daughter, Karen, is completing her second year as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Paraguay, South America where she works in sustainable agriculture. Dan, 13, is completing 7th grade at Prairie Central Junior High and lives at home with Tom and his wife, Barb. Barb is an associate professor in the School of Kinesiology and Recreation at Illinois State University.

The Schlatters reside near Chatsworth in Livingston County where Tom operates a grain farm. During the winter months he is involved in investment consulting. Tom also serves as treasurer of the United Methodist Church of Chatsworth Trustees. He has previously served as a board member with the Prairie Central Community School District #8 and with the Livingston County Farm Bureau.



**Donald Reitz,
Gilman
Directorate
District 3**

Donald Reitz was elected to the Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative board in 1985. He has served on the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative board since consolidation. In 1989, he received the Professional Directors Certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Reitz, a retired farmer from Gilman, sells Asgrow and Dekalb seed. He and his wife, Gloria, have a son and two daughters: Roger Reitz of Gilman, Gayle Lemenager of Loda and Lynne Williams of Marietta,

Georgia. The Reitz's also have seven grandchildren.

Reitz, a graduate of Gilman High School, is a member of Zion United Church of Christ, having served as president of the church board and also the building addition committee. He has also served as president of the Illinois Hampshire Association, the Illinois Spring Barrow Show and the Ford-Iroquois Pork Producers. He is an assistant swine superintendent of the Iroquois County 4-H Fair and the Illinois State Fair. Reitz raised purebred Hampshire hogs for many years and enjoys grilling pork chops for many organizations and fundraisers.



**Marion Chesnut,
Rossville
Directorate
District 6**

Marion Chesnut was elected as a director to the board of Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative in 1985. He has served on the board of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative since consolidation. He currently serves as Vice Chairman.

Chesnut completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Professional Directors Training Courses and was certified in 1988. He also received the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and Board Leadership

Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Since 1992, he has served as the cooperative's representative on the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Chesnut operates a grain farm and is a native of the Rossville/Potomac area where he resides with his wife, Rita. He is a graduate of Potomac High School and attended Illinois State University. The Chesnuts have a son, Todd, who is a senior litigation paralegal for a law firm in San Francisco, California; a daughter, Tara (Dave) McGraw, who is a speech pathologist in the Lexington school system; and two grandchildren, Brandon and Rachel.

Chesnut is a former member of the Vermilion County VOTEC Board, past president of the Potomac School Board, former Chairman of the Board at Potomac Church of Christ, and former Secretary of the Vermilion County FS Board. He also served on the Illini FS Board.



**Jay Hageman,
Fairmount
Southern at Large
District**

Jay Hageman was elected to the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors in 2002. Hageman has received the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Hageman, an Ag Economics graduate from the University of Illinois, and his wife, Tracy, an education graduate from Eastern Illinois University, farm in the corner of Douglas, Champaign, Vermilion and Edgar counties. The Hageman's daughter, Jenny (Chris) Kirschner of Sidell, is a pharmacist at St. Joseph Apothecary.

Hageman, a Vermilion County Farm Bureau member, served on its board for six years and is presently its legislative committee chairman. He serves on the Sidell Township Board of Trustees and enjoys serving on two drainage district boards. The Hagemans are members of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Broadlands where he serves on the board of Lay Ministry and has been teaching Sunday School classes for 20 years.

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors

Northern at Large

Steve Meenen Melvin

Harold M. Loy
(Chairman)
Beaverville

Donald Reitz
Gilman

Thomas Schlatter
Chatsworth

Kay Horsch
(Secretary)
Dewey

Charles D. Day, Jr.
(Asst. Secretary)
Bement

Guy C. Hall
(Attorney)
Champaign

Herbert L. Aden
(Treasurer)
Newman

Jay Hageman
Fairmount

Beaverville

Gilman

Chatsworth

Cissna Park

Rossville

Fithian

Bement

Newman

Southern at Large

Bruce Ristow
Cissna Park

Marion Chesnut
(Vice Chairman)
Rossville

Bradley J. Ludwig
Fithian

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

Minutes of Twentieth Annual Meeting of Members, June 14, 2007

The Twentieth Annual Meeting of Members of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative was held at the headquarters of the Cooperative, 330 West Ottawa Road, Paxton, Illinois, on Thursday, June 14, 2007, at 7 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairman of the Board, Harold M. Loy, who presided and acted as Chairman. Bradley J. Ludwig, Assistant Secretary of the Board acted as Secretary of the meeting and kept the minutes thereof.

The Chairman announced that the registration staff had informed him that there were 391 members present in person or by proxy, and that the attendance being in excess of 100 members, as required by the bylaws to constitute a quorum, the Chairman announced that a quorum was in attendance, and he declared the meeting duly constituted to transact business.

Presentation of Colors

The presentation of colors was conducted by Pack 32 of the Boy Scouts of America, Paxton, Illinois, followed by the recitation by the membership of the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Eagle Scout, Nathan Dickey. Following this, Devin Bergman performed the National Anthem on his trumpet.

Invocation

Director Kay Horsch delivered the invocation.

Reading of Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing

Chairman Harold M. Loy read the Official Notice of the Meeting and the Affidavit of Mailing of said Notice. The Chairman directed the Secretary to annex to the minutes of this meeting a copy of the Notice together with the Affidavit of Mailing.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Nineteenth Annual Meeting of Members held June 15, 2006, as printed in the annual report distributed to all members, were presented for consideration. Member Bob Apperson made a motion that the rules be suspended, that the reading of the minutes of the Annual Meeting held June 15, 2006, be waived, and that the minutes be approved as presented in the official Annual Meeting Notice of this meeting. His motion was seconded by member Glenn Anderson and unanimously carried.

Report of Treasurer

Chairman Loy informed the membership that since the Treasurer's Report was contained in the Official Notice of the Meeting, there would be no oral report describing

the amounts set forth therein. However, the membership was provided an opportunity to inquire regarding the financial condition of the Cooperative. There were inquiries regarding a number of aspects of the expenditures of the Cooperative. The Treasurer's Report included operating statistics, the balance sheet for the years ending December 31, 2005, and December 31, 2006, respectively, as well as consolidated statements of revenues for the Cooperative and its subsidiaries for those two (2) years.

The balance sheet reflected the following information:

Net Utility Plant.....	\$47,421,678
Total Assets	61,493,580
Long Term Debt.....	33,705,566
Total Members' Equity and Liabilities	61,493,580

Thereafter, the financial reporting period concluded and Chairman Loy entertained a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by member Bob Apperson. The motion was seconded by member Hardin James and was unanimously carried.

Annual Report of Chairman of the Board and President/CEO

Chairman Loy and President/CEO Champion reported on the condition of the Cooperative and thanked everyone for their efforts throughout the year. It was noted that a written Chairman/President's Report was also sent to the membership as part of the Official Notice of the Meeting. It covered topics such as the Clinton Nuclear Power Plant payment completion, power supply issues, the likelihood of future rate increases and energy efficiency initiatives.

Introduction of Guests

Chairman Loy introduced special guests of the Cooperative who attended the meeting, including Norman Conrad, James Nevel, Peggy Wade and John Lowrey of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), as well as Lyndon Gabbert and Greg Nieman of Prairie Power, Inc., and former Cooperative Directors, Glenn Anderson and Robert Bauer.

Report of Credentials Committee

The written report of the Credentials Committee was noted as it was presented in the Official Notice advising the membership that the Committee had reviewed the qualifications of the nominees and determined their eligibility. The Committee's written report was as follows:

The Credentials Committee met at the office of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative in Paxton

on May 1, 2007, to determine the eligibility of candidates who filed nominating petitions for the June 14, 2007, director election. Directors will be elected in Directorate Districts 1, 4 and 8. Attending the meeting were Wayne Apperson of Foosland, Terry Bose of Anchor, Michael Caise of Beaverville, John Wilkening of Cissna Park and David Schmidt of Ivesdale. In accordance with the Cooperative's bylaws, members of the Credentials Committee are appointed by the board of directors to serve a one-year term.

David Schmidt was selected as the Chairman of the committee.

Chairman Schmidt noted that nominating petitions were available at Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's headquarters in Paxton at 8 a.m. on Friday, March 16, 2007, and that the deadline for filing was 5 p.m. on Monday, April 30, 2007.

The committee reviewed the qualifications of Kay Horsch of Dewey, District 1; Harold M. Loy of Beaverville, District 4; and Charles D. Day, Jr. of Bement, District 8; who had filed nominating petitions. No other candidates picked up or filed petitions. After reviewing the petitions, affidavits and qualifications of Kay Horsch, Harold M. Loy and Charles D. Day, Jr., the Credentials Committee determined that all of the candidates are eligible to serve as directors of the Cooperative.

Election of Directors

Chairman Loy announced that the next item of business would be the election of Directors and called upon Attorney Guy Hall to conduct that election. Mr. Hall again announced that all the candidates were shown on the program and thanked all those who participated and voted. He noted that since there were no other nominees other than those reviewed and approved by the Credentials Committee, the membership could waive the written ballot and elect the nominees who had filed the petitions

pursuant to Section 2.5 of the bylaws of the Cooperative. Mr. Hall then entertained a motion to waive the written ballot and elect the nominees approved by the Credentials Committee. Thereafter, there was motion by member Rowe Blissard, which was duly seconded by member Jerry Wright to waive the written ballot and elect the nominees, Kay Horsch, Harold M. Loy and Charles D. Day, Jr. The motion was carried by a voice vote, and the nominees were duly elected by unanimous vote of the membership.

Questions From the Floor

Chairman Loy, Vice Chairman Chestnut and President/CEO Champion entertained questions from the floor regarding the operations of the Cooperative.

Unfinished Business

Chairman Loy called for any additional and unfinished business to be presented. None was presented.

New Business

Chairman Loy called for any new business to be presented. None was presented.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon a motion duly made by member Hardin James, which was seconded by member Rowe Blissard and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.

Drawing for Prizes

Following the adjournment of the meeting, the prize drawing was conducted.

Secretary

APPROVED:

Chairman

PROXY

2008 Annual Meeting - Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

As a member of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, an Illinois Corporation, I, the undersigned, hereby appoint _____ my proxy to vote in my stead at the 2008 Annual Meeting of Members to be held at the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Headquarters, Paxton, Illinois, on June 12, 2008. This proxy is unlimited as to matters on which it may be voted.

Date

(Signature of Member Giving Proxy)

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Treasurer's Report



Herbert L. Aden
Treasurer

The enclosed financial information represents the cooperative's operation for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007. These reports were taken directly from the cooperative's books and records that are currently being audited by the auditing firm of Olsen Thielen & Co., Ltd. The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants sets the standards and scope of the audit.

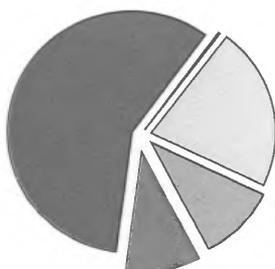
Operating Statistics

	2007	2006
Cost of purchased power.....	\$ 12,693,082	\$ 13,556,252
Total kWh purchased.....	244,851,560	232,279,793
Total kWh sold	226,007,260	215,746,481
Average number consumers served.....	13,708	13,606
Average kWh usage per month per consumer.....	1,374	1,321
Average revenue per kWh sold to consumers	\$ 0.110	\$ 0.112

Balance Sheet

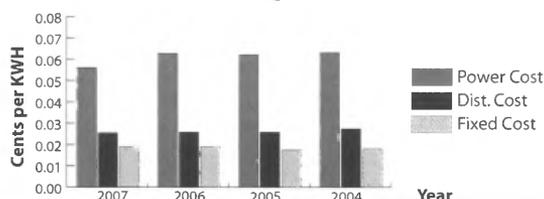
Assets	2007	2006
Utility Plant		
Cost of electric plant	\$76,146,892	\$73,145,760
Less: accumulated depreciation	27,065,376	25,724,082
Net utility plant	\$49,081,516	\$47,421,678
Current & Other Assets		
Cash-general	\$165,508	\$89,837
Investments	13,524,100	9,195,284
Temporary cash investments.....	50,480	-
Accounts receivable, net	2,291,588	2,360,043
Materials and supplies.....	675,567	691,110
Prepaid and other current assets	1,390,444	1,735,627
Total assets	\$67,179,203	\$61,493,580
Members' Equity & Liabilities		
Membership fees & other capital	\$347,919	\$329,790
Patronage capital	23,989,238	23,138,843
Operating margins	2,116,679	899,418
Non-operating margins.....	(5,230,011)	(5,245,340)
Long-term debt to CFC	\$36,617,110	\$33,705,566
Current & Other Liabilities		
Accounts payable.....	\$1,476,601	\$1,703,038
Accrued expenses.....	865,732	872,678
Notes payable - line of credit.....	3,844,394	3,118,566
Consumers' deposits & prepayments	431,115	349,945
Other non-current liabilities	2,720,426	2,621,075
Total members' equity and liabilities.....	\$67,179,203	\$61,493,580

Where your electric dollar went in 2007



Power Cost	58.07%
Interest	9.56%
Depreciation	10.31%
Operations	21.78%
Taxes	0.28%

Cost Components



Statement of Revenue & Expense

	2007	2006
Operating Revenue		
Sale of electricity	\$ 24,583,953	\$ 23,888,239
Other electric revenue	328,809	287,912
Total operating revenue	<u>\$ 24,912,762</u>	<u>\$ 24,176,151</u>
Operating Expenses		
Cost of power	\$ 12,693,082	\$ 13,556,252
Operations & maintenance expenses	2,599,477	2,585,988
Consumer accounts expense	628,866	629,338
Customer service & information expense	715,779	686,880
General office salaries & expenses	884,145	805,086
Legal engineering & auditing services	105,391	87,251
Insurance expenses	123,445	121,527
Administrative & general expense	689,024	661,848
Depreciation & amortization expense	2,247,333	2,136,308
Taxes	61,531	54,627
Interest expense	2,082,342	1,989,380
Other deductions	(34,332)	(37,752)
Total operating expense	<u>\$ 22,796,083</u>	<u>\$ 23,276,733</u>
Operating margins (loss)	<u>2,116,679</u>	<u>899,418</u>
Non-operating margins (loss)	152,267	150,781
Capital credits	272,507	327,940
Income (loss) from equity investments	(409,445)	(408,790)
Net margins (loss) for the year	<u>\$ 2,132,008</u>	<u>\$ 969,349</u>

Interesting Information About Your Cooperative

	2007	2006
Total value of electric plant	\$76,146,892	\$73,145,760
Total miles of distribution line	4,522	4,517
Average plant investment per mile	\$ 16,772	\$ 16,100
Members per mile of line	3.03	3.02
Plant investment per member served	\$ 5,533	\$ 5,345
Maximum monthly kW demand	48,617	46,686
Average monthly electric bill per member	\$149	\$147
Average monthly revenue per mile of line	\$ 459	\$ 446
Average equity per member	\$ 1,548	\$ 1,405
General capital credit retirement	\$-	\$-
Total taxes paid	\$ 1,084,324	\$ 1,075,211
Number of co-op trucks	28	28
Hours of operation - trucks	35,551	37,281
Total transportation costs - trucks	\$ 613,271	\$ 573,954
Average cost per hour by co-op trucks	\$ 17.25	\$ 15.40

Eastern Illini Services Corporation Consolidated Statement of Operations

	2007	2006
Sales	\$2,486,176	\$3,246,639
Cost of sales	898,571	1,124,930
Operating expenses	1,340,870	2,255,370
Depreciation and amortization	146,057	362,006
Net operating income (loss) ...	<u>\$ 100,678</u>	<u>\$(495,667)</u>
Other Income (expense)		
Interest income	27,534	19,933
Equity in losses of subsidiaries and investments	\$(345,013)	\$(200,310)
Gain (loss) on sale of equipment and other assets	(182,057)	279,133
Interest expense	-	-
Net income (loss) before minority interest	\$(398,858)	\$(396,911)
Minority interest	<u>\$ (10,587)</u>	<u>\$ (11,879)</u>
Net income (loss)	<u>\$(409,445)</u>	<u>\$(408,790)</u>

Family Activities

- ★ Inflatable bounce house
- ★ Inflatable obstacle course
- ★ Basketball shooting contest
- ★ Baseball throwing contest
- ★ Carnival games
- ★ Ice cream and kettle corn
- ★ Bicycle giveaways
- ★ Bucket truck rides
- ★ Race car displays
- ★ Utility pole “climbing”
- ★ Co-op trivia challenge
- ★ American flag displays and contests
- ★ Puppet shows
- ★ Pole-top rescue demonstrations



EASTERN ILLINI

ELECTRIC NEWS **PAXTON, ILLINOIS**

www.eiec.coop A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  217-379-2131 or 800-824-5102

21st Annual Meeting Held

Members of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative (EIEC) were given introductory information about a 2009 rate change at the co-op's 21st annual meeting held Thursday, June 12, at the cooperative's headquarters in Paxton.

Other meeting highlights included a carnival like atmosphere with food, fun, contests and games for kids of all ages, and Energy Wise seminars designed to show members how they can help control their energy costs through simple energy efficiency measures.

The co-op provided both lunch and dinner to members, and offered many prizes to attendees, including 20 \$100 checks and five \$100 gift certificates to be used towards the purchase of a child's bike.



▲ Registered members received an attendance gift, a stainless steel serving utensil, and were eligible to win cash prizes.

During the meeting, members re-elected Marion Chesnut of Rossville, Jay Hageman of Fairmount, Donald Reitz of Gilman, and Thomas Schlatter of Chatsworth to the co-op's Board of Directors. A cooperative bylaw amendment also passed. The bylaw change was intended to clarify the eligibility requirements for Director candidates.

Based on several factors, but most noticeably rising energy costs in general and the completion of EIEC's current energy contract, the

◇ Continued on page 16d



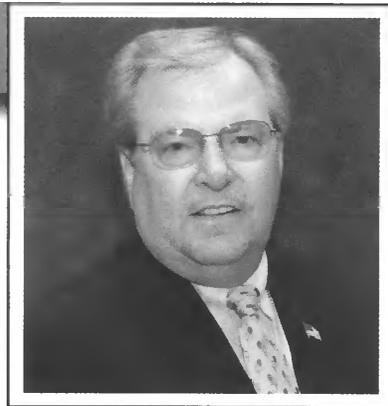
▲ Here, a child deftly climbs over the obstacle course wall, part of the fun activities available to children at this year's Annual Meeting.

In this issue...

- Message from the President..... 16b
- Member Meetings Scheduled . 16c
- Annual Meeting Recap..... 16d-e
- Our Energy, Our Future16f
- Water Quality Update..... 16g

Message From The President

Member Meetings Scheduled to Discuss 2009 Rate Increase



At our recent Annual Meeting, we announced that Eastern Illini will experience a rate increase beginning Jan. 1, 2009. To make sure we give you plenty of time to prepare for the new rates, we will hold member meetings throughout our service territory to share the new rates with you, offer reasons why we had to raise rates, and to offer practical tips on how you can immediately start saving money on your utility bills – to help offset the future rate increase.

The member meetings will start in July, and will continue into the fall. The four July meetings will feature a full breakfast, and will begin at 7 a.m.

Here is the July schedule (please check the following page for directions to each meeting):

- July 8, in Forrest, at the Forrest Library
- July 10, in Watseka, at the Trinity Church
- July 22, in Sidney, at the Sidney United Church
- July 24, in Tuscola, at the Tuscola First Christian Church

We are mindful that our rate increase will be tough for some members next year. We are always working hard to trim our expenses and keep our costs as low as safely

possible. Our rates really haven't changed much in the last 15 years. Compared to natural gas and propane prices – which have doubled or even tripled in the last 15 years – we're happy to say that electricity is still a great value for our members.

Providing safe and reliable electric service to our member-owners is our main focus. We have – and will continue – to do that at the lowest possible rates, with the best possible customer service.

*Sincerely,
Dave Champion*



Attend Eastern Illini's Member Meetings and Breakfast

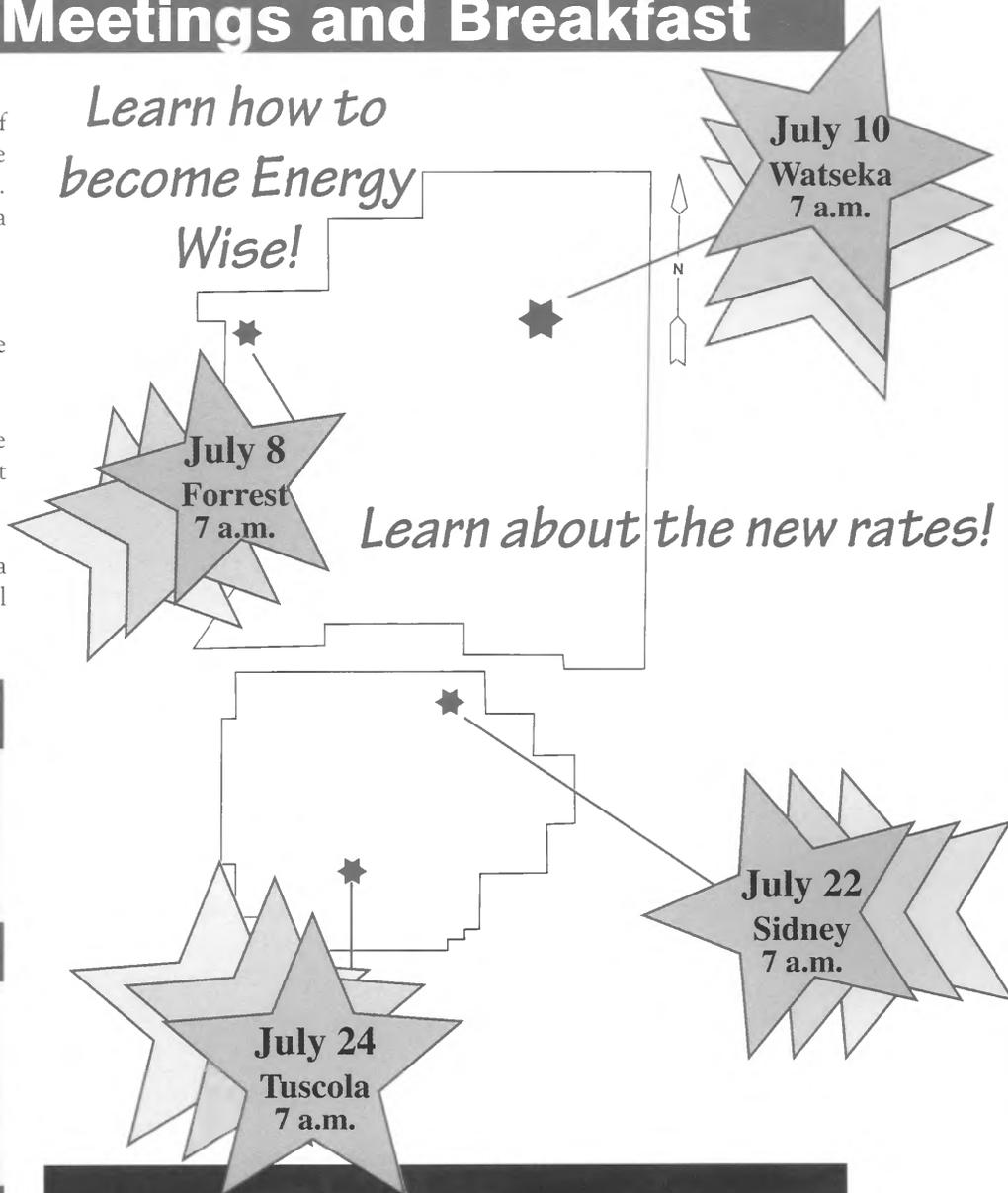
Eastern Illini is hosting a series of member meetings to help educate you about our new rates for 2009. Some of the items on the agenda are:

- The current energy landscape
- The reasons why we had to raise our rates
- Explaining the new rates
- Offering tips to become more Energy Wise, so you can start saving money now.

All of the meetings will feature a full, complimentary breakfast and will begin at 7 a.m.

Learn how to become Energy Wise!

Learn about the new rates!



JULY 8 IN FORREST

Forrest Library
301 W James Street
The library is two blocks west of Route 47 on James Street.

JULY 10 IN WATSEKA

Trinity Church
1658 E Walnut
The church is located near the corner of Route 24 and Route 1, on the east side of Watseka.

JULY 22 IN SIDNEY

Sidney United Church
501 E. Main Street
The church is located at the corner of Longview-Sidney road and Homer-Sidney road.

JULY 24 IN TUSCOLA

Tuscola First Christian Church
100 Church Street
The church is located 1/2 mile south of Route 36 on Egyptian Trail Road.





◀ **The 2008 Annual Meeting featured a carnival atmosphere with games for kids of all ages. Two girls compete in a basketball toss in the kid's area of the main tent.**



▲ **The 2008 Annual Meeting ran from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., giving members a chance to come whenever it was convenient. They could vote for the director election and for bylaw amendment whenever they wanted, too.**



◀ **Eastern Illini is a Touchstone Energy Cooperative. Touchstone Energy is a national alliance of more than 660 electric cooperatives, unifying the unique characteristics of electric cooperatives into simple messages.**

◇ *Continued from page 16a*

Cooperative announced a rate increase, to begin January 1, 2009. Rate 1, the single phase general service rate that a majority of EIEC's members utilize, will go up an average of 17 percent. The average increase for some specialty rates and large power rates could be 40 percent. President/CEO Dave Champion noted, "Based on our extensive cost of service study, one of our goals was to assign rates based on what it costs the cooperative to serve each of our rate groups. The most equitable way to distribute our needed rate increase is to make sure no one rate group is subsidizing another group of member/owners."

Another key issue at the meeting was how the cooperative could establish a long-term solution for reliable and affordable power supply. EIEC's involvement, through our wholesale power supplier Prairie Power, Inc., in the new Prairie State Generating Facility (located near St. Louis and utilizing Illinois coal,) will cover about two-thirds of EIEC's base load generation needs, beginning in 2011. The remaining one-third of the required base load power supply has not yet been committed, but the cooperative will utilize a short-term contract in the mean time.



◀ Future NASCAR drivers take a peek into a race car during the 2008 Annual Meeting. Matt Bachman, an Eastern Illini employee, races the car throughout Illinois.

The financial report was submitted by Treasurer Herbert L. Aden of Newman. In 2007, EIEC's total operating revenue was increased by \$736,611 compared to 2006. Net margins for 2007 were up \$1,162,659 to \$2,132,008; net utility plant now equals \$49,081,516 and total assets equal \$67,179,203.

Bucket truck rides were very popular during the 2008 Annual Meeting, with kids and adults alike. Eastern Illini lineman Jeff Blackford gives this little girl a birds-eye view of the meeting grounds. ▶



◀ Members of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative re-elected four area men to its board of directors during the cooperative's Annual Meeting of Members held Thursday, June 12, at its headquarters. The re-elected directors, from left, are Thomas Schlatter of Chatsworth, Donald Reitz of Gilman, Jay Hageman of Fairmount and Marion Chesnut of Rossville.



IT'S TIME TO COME TOGETHER AND CHANGE OUR FUTURE.

We have an energy challenge, America.

When it comes to finding solutions, we must meet climate change goals while keeping costs down and electricity available. America needs a plan. Immediately. Because we all know that our energy needs keep on growing—every day.

Now is the time to have a candid conversation with your elected officials. Together, we can find answers and take action.

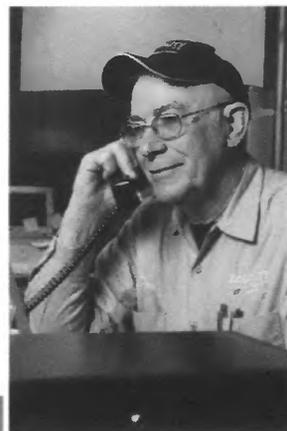
Start the conversation today at www.ourenergy.coop.



Our Energy, Our Future
A Dialogue With America

Ask Dave...

AQUALITY SOLUTIONS®



Is Your Water Hard?

How water is classified and why it matters

Softening hard water can add up to savings for you. The Benjamin Franklin Hotel in Philadelphia found that reducing their water's hardness by 4-8 gpg (see below for numbers) enabled them to double the life of their linens, drop their soap consumption, decrease washing times, and decrease boiler downtimes. You too could save money on your laundry costs while having whiter whites. You could also have less clogging off showerheads, dishwashers and other water fixtures, and more.

Most accepted water classifications are based on that of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The classifications are judged by grains per gallon of water (gpg).

Where does your water fall? Soft: 0-3.5 gpg; Moderate: 3.5-7.0 gpg; Hard: 7.0-10.5 gpg; Very Hard: over 10.5 gpg.

AQUALity Water can test your water's hardness to tell you the hardness of it. The recognized standards of acceptable performance for household water softeners has been established

at less than 1.0 gpg. AQUALity Water meets those specifications.

For more information
about water softening, or
for your FREE water test,
call AQUALity Solutions
866-4WATER1.





Superior quality • competitive rates
worry free long distance • local service

NO MONTHLY FEE **4.9¢** per minute

800 Number – 6.9¢ per minute
No Contracts! No Hidden Fees!
Just Plain & Simple!

For more information,
call (877) 658-3453

Visit Eastern Illini's Web site at

www.eiec.coop



Eastern Illini's Web site is loaded with features to make your life simpler and to save you money. Visit the site today to pay your bill, discover money-saving energy efficiency tips, view EIEC publications and Board Reports, and learn about all of our products and services.

Click, Click, Save!

See Page 9 See Page 9



for more information
on Eastern Illini
Electric Cooperative

**Looking for local
Internet service?
Look no further**

Conxxus offers dial-up Internet
service to communities
throughout Central Illinois!

**Packages starting
at \$14.95 a month!**



Call (877) 455-4266 for
more information or to sign-up today!
Now offering: Customizable Spam
Blocker, Pop-up Blocker

CONXXUS 
It's what conxxus to the world
Formerly **ILLI COM**
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

330 W Ottawa Rd., Paxton
(877) 455-4266
www.conxxus.com

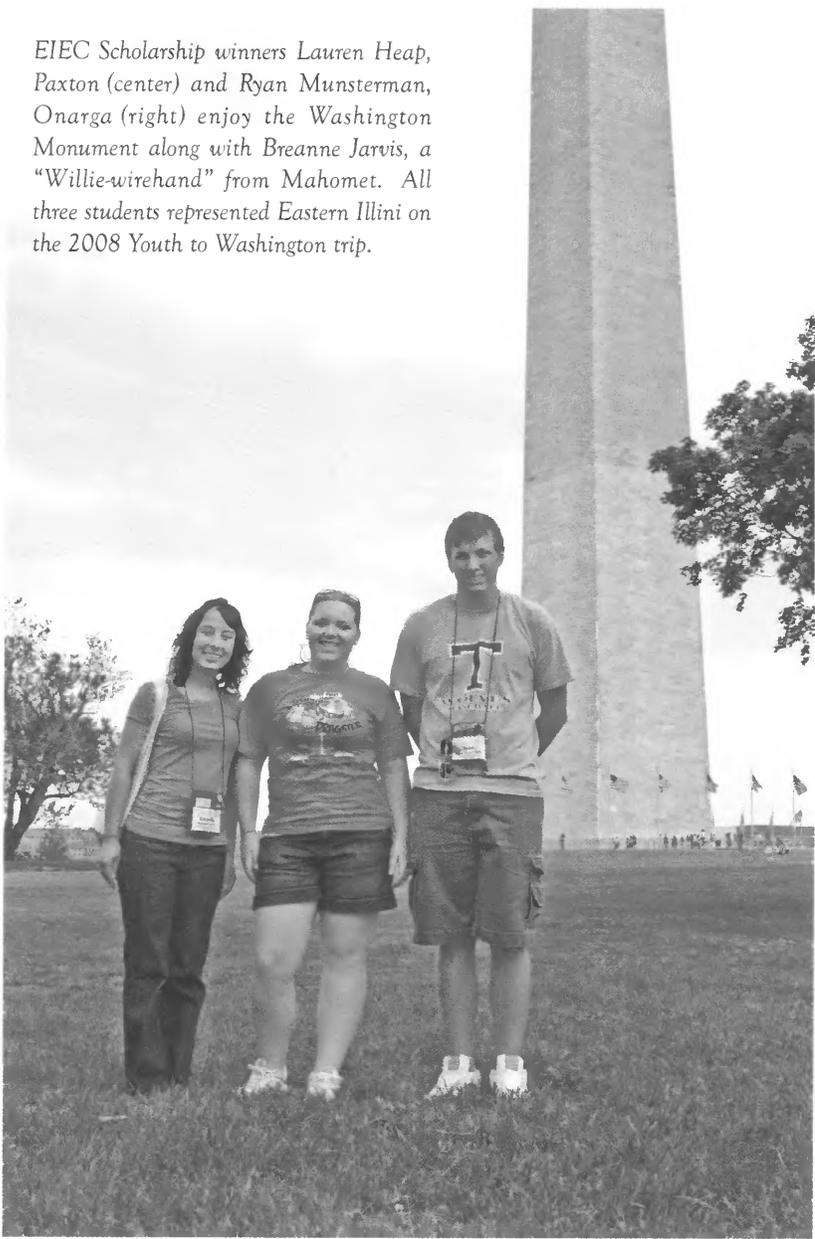
Eastern Illini Sponsors Youth Tour

Lauren Heap, daughter of Gene and Lisa Heap of Paxton, and Ryan Munsterman, son of Larry and Jody Munsterman of Onarga, were selected as the recipients of Eastern Illini's 2008 "Youth to Washington" Scholarships. The winners each received a \$1,000 scholarship and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. Also representing Eastern Illini on the trip was Breanne Jarvis of Mahomet.

"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist Eastern Illini's youth and to demonstrate our commitment to community," says President/CEO Wm. David Champion, Jr.

The two students competed for the scholarships with other students who are children of Eastern Illini members. Candidates were judged on academic

EIEC Scholarship winners Lauren Heap, Paxton (center) and Ryan Munsterman, Onarga (right) enjoy the Washington Monument along with Breanne Jarvis, a "Willie-wirehand" from Mahomet. All three students represented Eastern Illini on the 2008 Youth to Washington trip.



▶ Continued on page 16c

In this issue...

- 16b.... Energy Wise Home Seminars
- 16c..... Youth to Washington Trip
- 16d-e The Electric Grid
- 16f..... Our Energy, Our Future
- 16g..... Water Quality Update

Message From The President



Energy Wise Home Seminars Scheduled

New monthly seminars – held throughout EIEC’s territory – will offer energy efficiency tips to help you tackle rising energy costs.

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative’s electric rates will be increasing effective January 1, 2009. Unfortunately, energy costs are likely to continue to increase into the foreseeable future. To reduce the affect of the rate increases, Eastern Illini will be conducting Energy Wise Home Seminars beginning this month at a location near you.

Eastern Illini wants to help you reduce the effect of rising energy costs by offering the Energy Wise Home Seminars at three different locations each month, from August through December. The seminars will be approximately 90 minutes in length and cover topics concerning your home’s building envelope, insulation, heating

Town	Location	Time	When
Onarga	Ford-Iroquois Extension Office **	7 p.m.	1st Thursday of every month
Paxton	EIEC Headquarters 330 W. Ottawa	7 p.m.	2nd Thursday of every month
Pesotum	EIEC Warehouse Just East of I-57	7 p.m.	3rd Thursday of every month

** September and December meetings in Onarga will be held at the Onarga Civic Center.

and cooling, water usage, lighting and appliances. Actual member examples and the investment versus savings will be shown. These seminars could help you save between 20 and 40 percent on your energy bills.

Please see the chart above for meeting times and locations.

For more information concerning

the Energy Wise Home Seminars, check out our Web site at www.eiec.coop or contact us at 800-824-5102.

*Sincerely,
Dave Champion*

Energy-Efficient Clothes Washers

Energy Star-qualified clothes washers use the latest technology to substantially reduce energy and water consumption. They must boast a modified energy factor of at least 1.72 and a water factor no greater than 8.0 – criteria that generally limit them to front-loading and advanced top-loading models.

Front-loading clothes washers use a horizontal or tumble-axis basket to lift and drop clothing into the water, instead of rubbing clothes around a central agitator in a full tub. These units use less energy than conventional clothes washers by reducing the amount of hot water needed to clean clothes. Front-loading models also squeeze more water out of clothes by using spin speeds that are two to three

times faster than conventional washers, thereby reducing drying time and energy use.

New top-loading models typically employ spray valves to rinse clothes instead of using a new tub of water. Repeated high-pressure rinses that remove soap residue not only reduce the energy required for water heating, but typically save an average of 15 gallons of water per wash.

Qualified top-loading models also have sensors that monitor the incoming water temperature, keeping it hot enough to dissolve detergent and provide high-performance cleaning, but cool enough to save energy and minimize damage to fabrics. This technology results in less hot water and less energy consumption.



Source: NRECA Cooperative Research Network



The entire Illinois contingent visits the White House as part of the 2008 Youth to Washington trip. The trip, sponsored in part by Eastern Illini, gives area students a chance to see our government in action.

achievement, work and volunteer experience, school and community activities, goals and knowledge of electric cooperatives.

On May 14, 2008, Debbie Laird, Executive Assistant, presented the scholarship to Ryan at Crescent-Iroquois High School's Awards Program in Crescent City. On May 21, 2008, Bob Dickey, Manager of Marketing and Economic Development, presented the scholarship to Lauren Heap at the Gibson City Melvin Sibley Awards Day in Gibson City.

On June 13-20, the two students toured our nation's capital.

"While in Washington, the students got an up close, first hand look at democracy in action and learned why it is important for every citizen to get involved in government," President/CEO Champion adds. High-

lights of the trip included visits to the White House, the Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, and the National Cathedral. The students also visited the Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, and the Newseum, as well as a number of other historical sites.



Students representing Eastern Illini met with Congressman Tim Johnson and his aide, Bobby Frederick during the 2008 Youth Tour. From left are Congressman Johnson, Heap, Jarvis, Munsterman and Frederick.

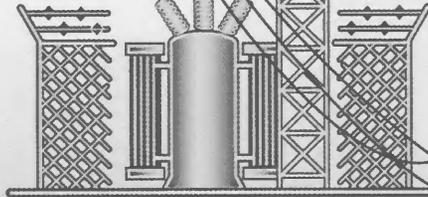


How D

*It's easy to take re
and the path of e*

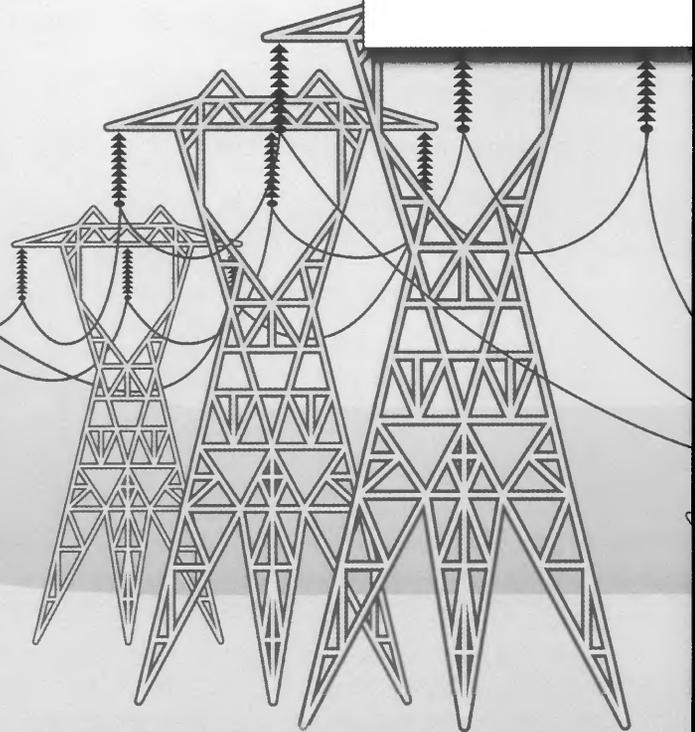
Power Plant

At a generating plant, water is heated to steam using fuels such as natural gas, coal and oil; the steam turns turbines that turn generators to produce electric energy. In some areas, nuclear power or water flowing through hydroelectric dams powers the turbines.



Step-Up Substation

Transformers at the generating plant increase the voltage up to 345,000 volts, so it can travel long distances over high-voltage transmission lines.

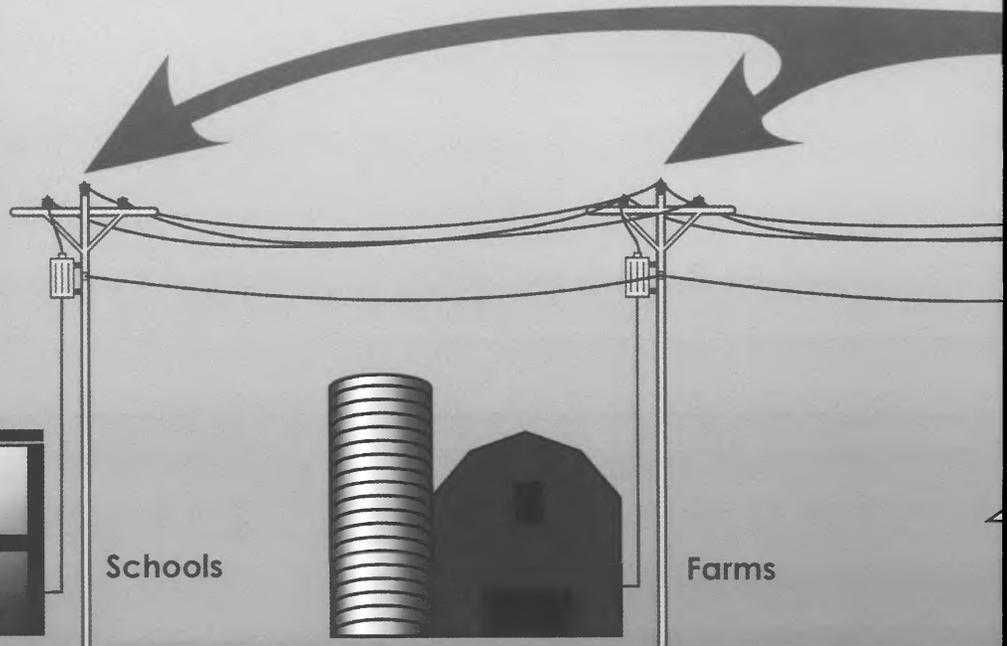
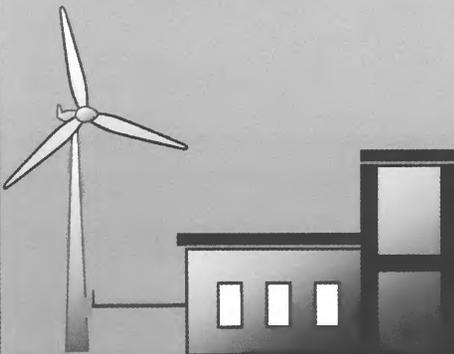


High-Voltage Transmission Lines

These lines carry the electric energy over long distances. Insulators on the towers prevent the power from flowing to the towers or the ground.

Consumer-Owned Renewable Generation

A wind turbine, solar panel array or methane digester is interconnected to the co-op's lines through a cut-off switch and other equipment. The switch disconnects the turbine from the line to ensure the safety of linemen working during outages and regular maintenance projects.



Schools

Farms

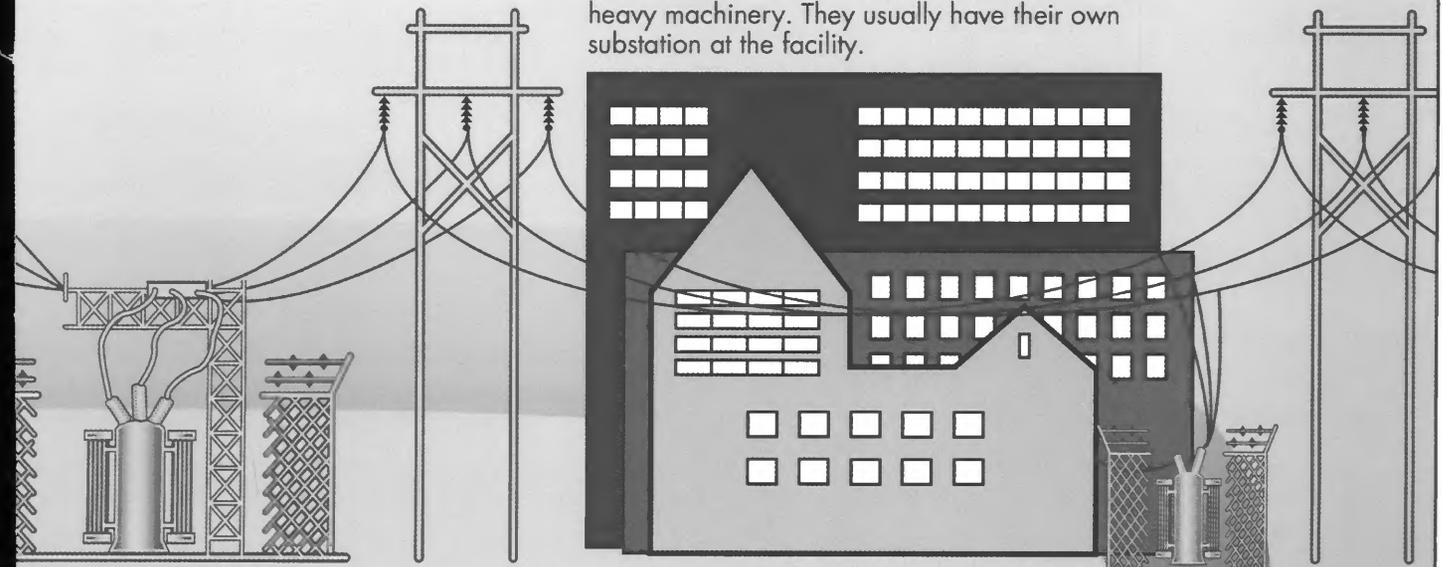
Graphic courtesy of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives

Dependable Electricity Reaches You

The electric power for granted. But there's a lot involved in getting that power to you, and it starts well before a light switch is flipped.

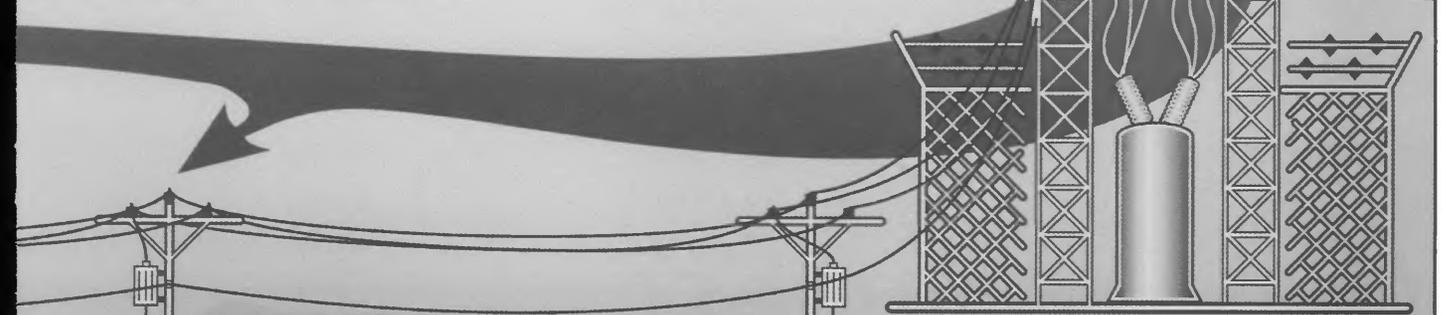
Large Industrial User

Most industries need 2,400 to 4,160 volts to run heavy machinery. They usually have their own substation at the facility.



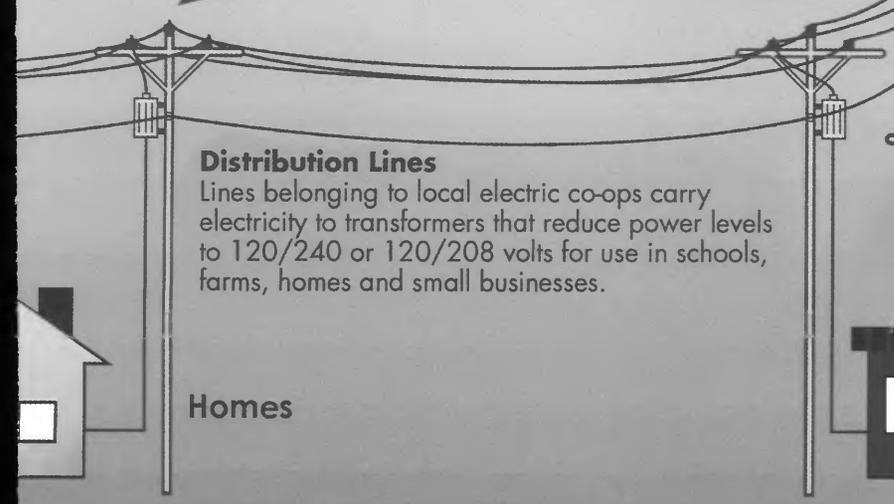
Transmission Substation

Transformers reduce the electric energy up to 9,000 volts, making it suitable for high-volume delivery over short distances.



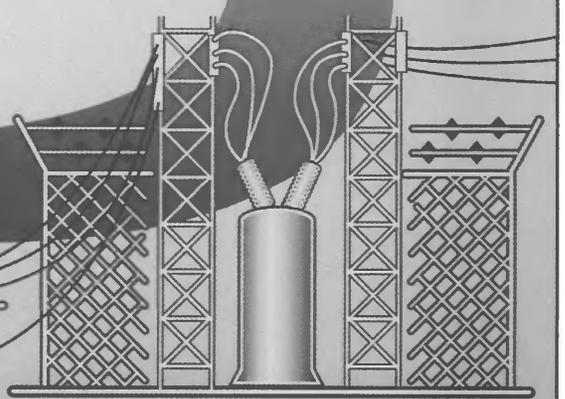
Distribution Lines

Lines belonging to local electric co-ops carry electricity to transformers that reduce power levels to 120/240 or 120/208 volts for use in schools, farms, homes and small businesses.



Local Distribution Substation

Local electric co-ops operate several of these substations to reduce electricity to 7,200-14,400 volts for distribution to their members.



Homes

Small
Businesses

IT'S TIME TO COME TOGETHER AND CHANGE OUR FUTURE.



We have an energy challenge, America.

When it comes to finding solutions, we must meet climate change goals while keeping costs down and electricity available. America needs a plan. Immediately. Because we all know that our energy needs keep on growing—every day.

Now is the time to have a candid conversation with your elected officials. Together, we can find answers and take action.

Start the conversation today at www.ourenergy.coop.



Our Energy, Our Future
A Dialogue With America

Ask Dave...

AQUALITY SOLUTIONS®



How Does Lead Get Into My Drinking Water?

Lead rarely occurs naturally in water. Lead contamination can enter a drinking water supply at any point in the water delivery system and through leaching from lead service connections, pipes, or lead solder in copper pipes in the home. Lead levels in drinking water may occur if:

- The public water system has lead pipes or lead service connections; or
- The home has lead pipes; or
- The home has copper pipes with lead solder.

In all three examples, lead leaching is more likely if the house is less than five years old; or if water sits in the pipes for several hours; or if the water is naturally soft. Do not confuse naturally soft water with water treated by water softening equipment. They are not the same. Water softening neither causes nor cures corrosion.

For more information about water softening, or for your FREE water test, call AQUALity Solutions 866-4WATER1.

How To Replace a Light Switch



You can save energy by installing dimmer or motion sensor light switches. Here's how to change your light switch, whether for energy savings, or even just to change your décor color or style.

1. Turn off the circuit breaker to cut power to the switch you are going to change. Put a note on the circuit breaker to prevent someone from resetting it before you're ready. Double check that power has been cut to the switch. If the light switch shares an electrical box with an outlet, make sure the power to the outlet is disconnected too before beginning.
2. Remove the switch cover plate.
3. Remove the screws holding the switch in place and pull it out of the wall.
4. Make note of where the wires are attached to the switch by drawing a template or marking the wires with tape.
5. Remove the wires by unscrewing the screws holding them in place.
6. Unless your home is very old, all of your switches will have a green screw on one end that is the grounding screw. You will need to reconnect the wire hooked to this screw to the new switch's grounding screw.
7. Attach the other wires to the new switch in the same positions as the old one. If you're installing a dimmer switch, it will have wires already coming out the back of the switch. Twist these wires to the old wires with the wire nuts that should come with the dimmer switch. You may want to wrap electrical tape around the wires and wire nuts to be sure they stay secure.
8. Push the wires and the switch back into the wall and attach with screws.
9. Put the switch plate back on.
10. Turn back on the power to that circuit. Remember to always look away from the breaker box and use one hand to flip the circuit just in case the circuit blows. Now, consider changing that light bulb you just lit up to a compact fluorescent (CFL) for more energy savings. Make sure to look for CFLs that specify use with dimmers or three-way fixtures.



Superior quality • competitive rates
worry free long distance • local service

**NO
MONTHLY
FEE**

4.9¢
per minute

**800 Number – 6.9¢ per minute
No Contracts! No Hidden Fees!
Just Plain & Simple!**

For more information,
call (877) 658-3453

Visit Eastern Illini's Web site at

www.eiec.coop



Eastern Illini's Web site is loaded with features to make your life simpler and to save you money. Visit the site today to pay your bill, discover money-saving energy efficiency tips, view EIEC publications and Board Reports, and learn about all of our products and services.

Click, Click, Save!

See Page 9 See Page 9



for more information
on Eastern Illini
Electric Cooperative

**Looking for local
Internet service?
Look no further**

Conxxus offers dial-up Internet
service to communities
throughout Central Illinois!

**Packages starting
at \$14.95 a month!**



Call (877) 455-4266 for
more information or to sign-up today!
Now offering: Customizable Spam
Blocker, Pop-up Blocker

CONXXUS



It's what conxxus to the world

Formerly **ILLICOM**
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

330 W Ottawa Rd., Paxton

(877) 455-4266

www.conxxus.com

EIEC Awarded Federal Funding To Help Gifford Nursing Home

Illinois Director of U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Doug Wilson announced the award of \$1,040,000 to EIEC at a check presentation in Gifford Aug. 13. Rural utilities program borrowers are eligible to apply for funds from the agency's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program to provide economic opportunity and essential services in rural areas. EIEC will use their \$300,000 grant and \$740,000 zero percent interest loan to help Country Health, Inc. in Gifford expand and renovate its nursing home.

"Our partnership with EIEC will make a big difference in East Central Illinois," said Wilson. "They identified a very worthy project, we provided



uniquely affordable funding, and they will administer the financing."

EIEC President/CEO Wm. David Champion, Jr. noted, "We are extremely excited to be working with both the Department of Agriculture and Country Health, Inc. on this project. We are happy to help offer this attractive financing option as a way for Country Health to provide even better services and facilities for their residents, as well as increasing the work force in the area."

Country Health will use the no cost funds to help build an addition and undergo extensive remodeling. Its three and four person bedrooms will be converted into private and double rooms, with private bathrooms, large

windows looking out onto landscaped gardens and ample storage. The state-of-the-art resident care facility will have new nursing stations, spa-like bathing rooms, a new physical therapy pavilion, numerous new amenities in the commons areas and a wireless communications system that will substantially enhance resident care.

"Besides providing affordable electric rates, EIEC has committed to providing support for a project that will affect the quality of life for families in this area," Wilson said. "When this project is completed, 10 new employees will be hired and the region will have an exceptional skilled nursing facility, thanks in part to the initiative of EIEC."

In this issue...

Message from the President 16b

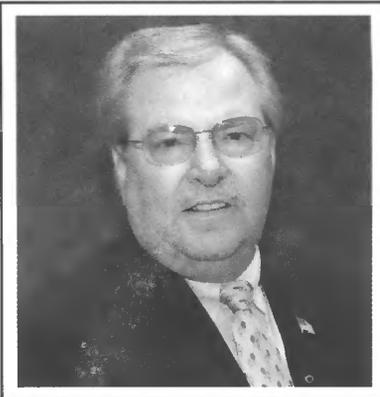
P2000 Insulation 16c

Windmill Gardens 16d-e

Have a Safe Harvest 16f

Water Quality Update 16g

Message From The President



Energy Wise Home Seminars Scheduled

New monthly seminars - held throughout EIEC's territory - will offer energy efficiency tips to help you tackle rising energy costs.

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's electric rates will be increasing effective January 1, 2009. Unfortunately, energy costs are likely to continue to increase into the foreseeable future. To reduce the affect of the rate increases, Eastern Illini will be conducting Energy Wise Home Seminars beginning this month at a location near you.

Eastern Illini wants to help you reduce the effect of rising energy costs by offering the Energy Wise Home Seminars at three different locations each month through December. The seminars will be approximately 90 minutes in length and cover topics concerning your home's building

Town	Location	Time	When
Onarga	Ford-Iroquois Extension Office **	7 p.m.	1st Thursday of every month
Paxton	EIEC Headquarters 330 W. Ottawa	7 p.m.	2nd Thursday of every month
Pesotum	EIEC Warehouse Just East of I-57	7 p.m.	3rd Thursday of every month

** September and December meetings in Onarga will be held at the Onarga Civic Center.

envelope, insulation, heating and cooling, water usage, lighting and appliances. Actual member examples and the investment versus savings will be shown. These seminars could help you save between 20 and 40 percent on your energy bills.

Please see the chart above for meeting times and locations.

For more information concerning the Energy Wise Home Seminars, check out our Web site at www.eiec.coop or contact us at 800-824-5102.

*Sincerely,
Dave Champion*

Need Help Paying Your Bill?

You may be eligible for low income energy assistance and Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's Neighbor to Neighbor program. Contact your local LIHEAP Agency for available programs at

www.liheapillinois.com.



Stops wind

Stops cold

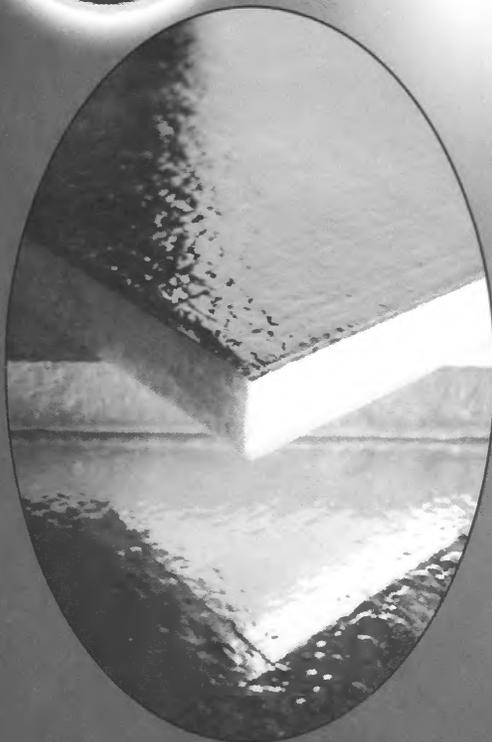
Stops heat

Stops moisture

Easy to install

20-year warranty

P2000 Insulation System



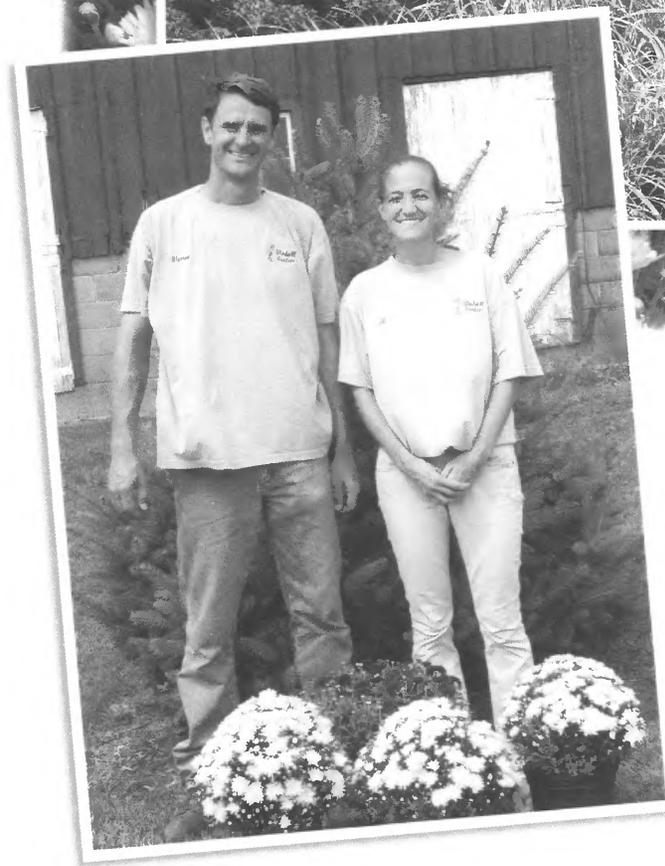
The all-weather
guard in one
product

For more information
contact Eastern Illini
at 800-824-5102



P2000 is an environmentally friendly product. US: www.p2insulation.com CAN: www.p2000insulation.ca

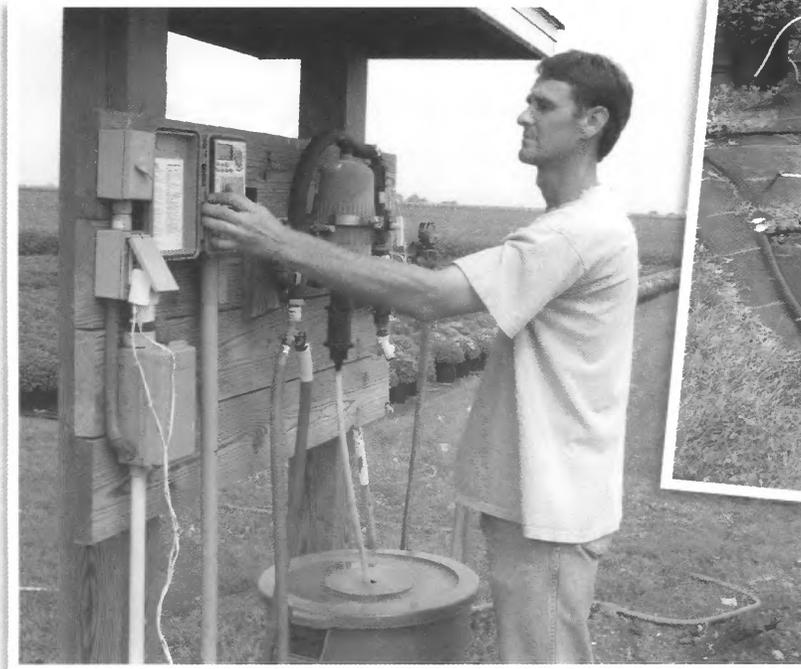
WINDMILL GARDENS



In 2000, Jill Kaeb decided to quit her job at a greenhouse/nursery to stay at home with her newborn son. Eager to supplement their family income, Jill and her husband, Warren, began growing mums. The rest, as they say, is quickly becoming Windmill Gardens history.

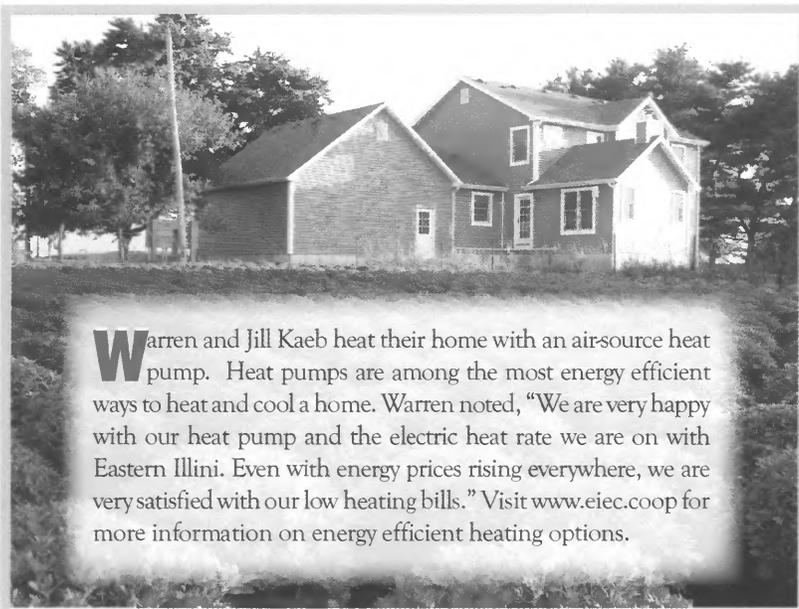
What began as 1,400 mums in a few varieties has now grown to almost 6,000 mums in nearly 30 varieties. While most of the mums are grown in 2-gallon containers, Windmill Gardens also sells mums in hanging baskets, window boxes, whiskey barrel inserts and decorative containers. They now also offer ornamental grasses, pumpkins and gourds, and bulk hardwood mulch. Jill noted, "Each year things seem to be getting bigger and bigger. We love coming up with unique ways to pot our mums."

Mum is the word when it comes to these flowers.



One unique feature in the Windmill Gardens operation is their automatic watering system. "We had to come up with a way to make sure all the plants were given the correct amount of water - at the correct time. We definitely have a one of a kind system," Warren said.

While most of their mums are sold wholesale - to groups like the Farm Progress Show or as school fundraisers, Windmill Gardens is also open to the public every Saturday in September - while supplies last. Visit them from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 974 East 600 North Road in rural Buckley (about 3 miles West of Cissna Park). You can also call them at 815-457-2237 for more information and pricing.



Warren and Jill Kaeb heat their home with an air-source heat pump. Heat pumps are among the most energy efficient ways to heat and cool a home. Warren noted, "We are very happy with our heat pump and the electric heat rate we are on with Eastern Illini. Even with energy prices rising everywhere, we are very satisfied with our low heating bills." Visit www.eiec.coop for more information on energy efficient heating options.

Yield Fewer Accidents This Harvest

Harvest season can yield higher numbers of electrocution, shock and burn injuries on the farm. Nationwide, an average of 64 agricultural workers are electrocuted and hundreds more injured in electrical accidents each year. Safe Electricity and Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative urge farm workers to avoid tragic accidents by taking note of farm activities that take place around power lines.

“Equipment contacting overhead power lines is the leading cause of farm electrocution accidents in the Midwest,” says Wm. David Champion, Jr. “Many of these accidents occur near grain bins, when augers make contact with power lines.”

“Everyone who works on the farm should know the location of power lines and keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them – below, to the side and above power lines,” says Molly Hall, Director of Safe Electricity. “Ensuring proper clearance can save lives.”

Here are some safety considerations for farm workers:

- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level - under 14 feet - before moving or transporting; use care when raising them.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.
- Always use a spotter or someone to help make certain that contact is not made with a line when moving large equipment or high loads.
- Do not use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.
- As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay may also conduct electricity under certain conditions.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.
- Apply decals to all equipment that may pose electrical hazards and explain decals to workers who use the equipment.
- Inspect farm equipment for transport height and determine clearance with any power lines under which the equipment must pass.
- Review the possibility of underground utility supplies for new or replacement power lines.
- If you have a standby power system, review its location, operation and importance with all workers.



- Train seasonal employees to be aware of risks for potential electrical shock on the farm even if they only work temporarily.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

If you come into contact with a power line:

“It’s almost always best to stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off,” says Hall.

“If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result,” Wm. David Champion, Jr. says. “Even if a power line has landed on the ground, the potential for the area nearby to be energized still exists. Stay inside the vehicle unless there’s fire or imminent risk of fire.”

In that case, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to hop or shuffle to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions happen when the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

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

Ask Dave...

AQUALITY

SOLUTIONS®

Water Quality Answers



Have You Discovered the Difference Quality Water Can Make?

Water is one of the most fundamental keys to life, comprising about 60 percent of the human body. We are sure you have heard the expression that "water is good for you," and it is - if the water is good. Unfortunately, water has a tendency to dissolve a little of everything in which it comes in contact, from beneficial elements to harmful chemicals and other contaminants.

That's why it is important to know that you have high quality working and drinking water, whether your water comes from a public utility or a private well. El Schippert AQUALity Solutions, the water quality experts you have trusted since 1965, offers a full line of water testing services, which are performed by company and certified laboratories, to fulfill any and

all your water testing needs.

For more information
about water softening, or
for your FREE water test,
call AQUALity Solutions
866-4WATER1.

LABOR DAY

Office Closed-
Monday, September 1
for Labor Day





Superior quality • competitive rates
worry free long distance • local service

**NO
MONTHLY
FEE**

4.9¢
per minute

800 Number – 6.9¢ per minute
No Contracts! No Hidden Fees!
Just Plain & Simple!

For more information,
call (877) 658-3453

Visit Eastern Illini's Web site at

www.eiec.coop



Eastern Illini's Web site is loaded with features to make your life simpler and to save you money. Visit the site today to pay your bill, discover money-saving energy efficiency tips, view EIEC publications and Board Reports, and learn about all of our products and services.

Click, Click, Save!

See Page 9 See Page 9



for more information
on Eastern Illini
Electric Cooperative

**Looking for local
Internet service?
Look no further**

Conxxus offers dial-up Internet
service to communities
throughout Central Illinois!

**Packages starting
at \$14.95 a month!**



Call (877) 455-4266 for
more information or to sign-up today!
Now offering: Customizable Spam
Blocker, Pop-up Blocker

CONXXUS 

It's what conxxus to the world

Formerly **ILLICOM**
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

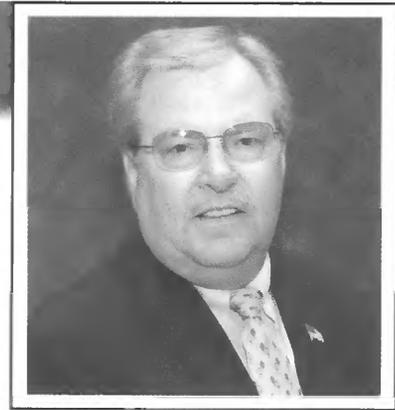
330 W Ottawa Rd., Paxton

(877) 455-4266

www.conxxus.com

Message From The President

Now's the Time to Make Your Voice Heard



Next month, the American people will take to the polls to choose the next President of the United States, members of Congress, and in many cases state legislators and local officials. As electric cooperatives strive to meet our present and future energy needs, we are asking lawmakers of all stripes what they'll do to ensure that consumers continue to enjoy safe, reliable, and affordable electric power.

Today, many policymakers and elected officials believe renewable

energy, like wind, solar, and biomass (tree trimmings, farm byproducts, animal waste, and landfill gas), provide the solution to addressing climate change and establishing energy independence. But to keep the lights on and electric rates affordable, electric cooperatives will need to make use of all available generation resources, including renewables, nuclear power, and fossil fuels like coal and natural gas that use the latest environmental technology.

Our nation's electric system, commonly referred to as the "grid," relies on a network of power plants, transmission lines, and distribution facilities woven together in an intricate web to provide us with electricity. When a piece of this puzzle doesn't fit or goes missing, brownouts and blackouts can occur – as many folks in the Northeast remember from August 2003, or those in the West recall twice during the summer of 1996.

Over the next 22 years, demand for electricity is predicted to increase 30 percent, and our country has used up the excess power capacity it once had available. That means we will need to build new power plants, all at a time when costs for construction materials such as steel, copper, and concrete,

and fossil fuels like natural gas and coal are skyrocketing. The challenges we face are immense.

As a result, electric cooperatives are urging lawmakers to invest in technology that will allow us to help all households become more energy efficient, fast-track plans for building new transmission lines – connecting rural regions where renewable electricity is generated to the population centers where it's consumed, cut through the red tape that prevents construction of new nuclear power plants (which emit only clean water vapor), and capture and permanently store carbon from coal-fired power plants (as a way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions blamed for contributing to global climate change).

These steps will not only strengthen our nation's electric infrastructure and head off an impending electric power crisis, but significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions. Even better, they will help ensure that any climate change goals ultimately adopted remain politically and economically

■ Continued on page 16b

In this issue...

Message from the President..... 16a-b

Energy Wise Home Seminars..... 16c

Where Can You Save Energy.. 16d-e

Co-op Connections Card..... 16f

Water Quality Update..... 16g

KEEP ENERGY ISSUES IN MIND THIS NOVEMBER:

VOTE!

AND HELP KEEP OUR ELECTRICITY AFFORDABLE

In addition to casting your vote on November 4, you can help educate and inform lawmakers about meeting our energy needs affordably. Electric cooperatives are currently engaged in a grassroots campaign called "Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue With America."

Nearly 400,000 letters and e-mails have already been sent to Congress by your fellow consumers from all across the United States, each asking critical energy questions.

To join the effort, visit www.ourenergy.coop.



Our Energy, Our Future
A Dialogue With America

■ *Message from the President*
continued from page 16a

sustainable over the decades necessary to make a difference.

Now's the time to make your voice heard. In addition to casting your vote on Nov. 4, you can also help educate and inform lawmakers about these concerns. Electric cooperatives are currently engaged in a grassroots

campaign called "Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue With America." Nearly 400,000 letters and e-mails have already been sent to Congress by your fellow consumers from all across the United States, each asking critical energy questions. To join the effort, visit www.ourenergy.coop.

In partnership with the federal government, electric cooperatives met the greatest engineering chal-

lenge of the 20th century – spreading the benefits of electric power to the most remote corners of our nation. The time has come once again for Congress to step up to the plate and make certain we continue to enjoy the electric service we've come to expect at a price we can afford.

Sincerely,
Dave Champion

Energy Wise Home Seminars

New monthly seminars – held throughout EIEC’s territory – will offer energy efficiency tips to help you tackle rising energy costs.

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative’s electric rates will be increasing effective January 1, 2009. Unfortunately, energy costs are likely to continue to increase into the foreseeable future. To reduce

the affect of the rate increases, Eastern Illini will be conducting Energy Wise Home Seminars beginning this month at a location near you.

Eastern Illini wants to help you reduce the effect of rising energy costs by offering the Energy Wise Home Seminars at three different locations each month through December. The seminars will be approximately 90 minutes in length

and cover topics concerning your home’s building envelope, insulation, heating and cooling, water usage, lighting and appliances. Actual member examples and the investment versus savings will be shown. These seminars could help you save between 20 and 40 percent on your energy bills.

Please see the chart below for meeting times and locations.

For more information concerning the Energy Wise Home Seminars, check out our Web site at www.eiec.coop or contact us at 800-824-5102.

Town	Location	Time	When
Onarga	Ford-Iroquois Extension Office **	7 p.m.	1st Thursday of every month
Paxton	EIEC Headquarters 330 W. Ottawa	7 p.m.	2nd Thursday of every month
Pesotum	EIEC Warehouse Just East of I-57	7 p.m.	3rd Thursday of every month

*** September and December meetings in Onarga will be held at the Onarga Civic Center.*



Need Help Paying Your Bill?

You may be eligible for low income energy assistance and Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative’s Neighbor to Neighbor program. Contact your local LIHEAP Agency for available programs at www.liheapillinois.com.



Where Can You Save Energy?

The hotter your attic gets, the harder it is to cool the area below.

Caulk and seal leaky windows.

If attic floor joists are visible you need more insulation.

Insulation should not block soffit vents.

Reduce drafts with gaskets behind outlet covers.

Have a professional find all your air leaks with a blower door test.

Turn off lights, TV, etc. when not in use.

Change system filters monthly.

Weatherstrip exterior doors. Insulated or solid doors are best.

Don't block HVAC registers or returns.

Cover exposed ground with a vapor barrier.

Inspect ductwork for leaks. Seal with a mastic paste.

Have your HVAC system routinely checked by a qualified technician.



©07
J. Hoffman

Install low flow showerheads and keep water use to a minimum.

Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs.

Use exhaust vents to reduce humidity when bathing or cooking.

Light should not be visible from the living area below.

Insulate and weather-strip the attic access.

Air tight refrigerator gaskets will hold a dollar bill firmly in place.

Ceiling fans distribute air.

Close and replace damper when not in use.

Fix leaky faucets and pipes.

Eliminate drafts by caulking or foaming plumbing penetrations.

New appliances use less energy.

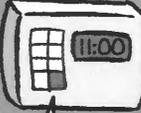
Insulate ducts to R-4 or R-6.

Use cold water cycles and clean your lint filter between loads.

Add an insulating jacket and install a timer on your water heater. Set at 120.

Bath, stove and dryer vents should vent to the outdoors.

Outside HVAC components require unrestricted air flow.



Set thermostat at 78 or higher in summer, 68 or lower in winter. Programmable thermostats save energy.

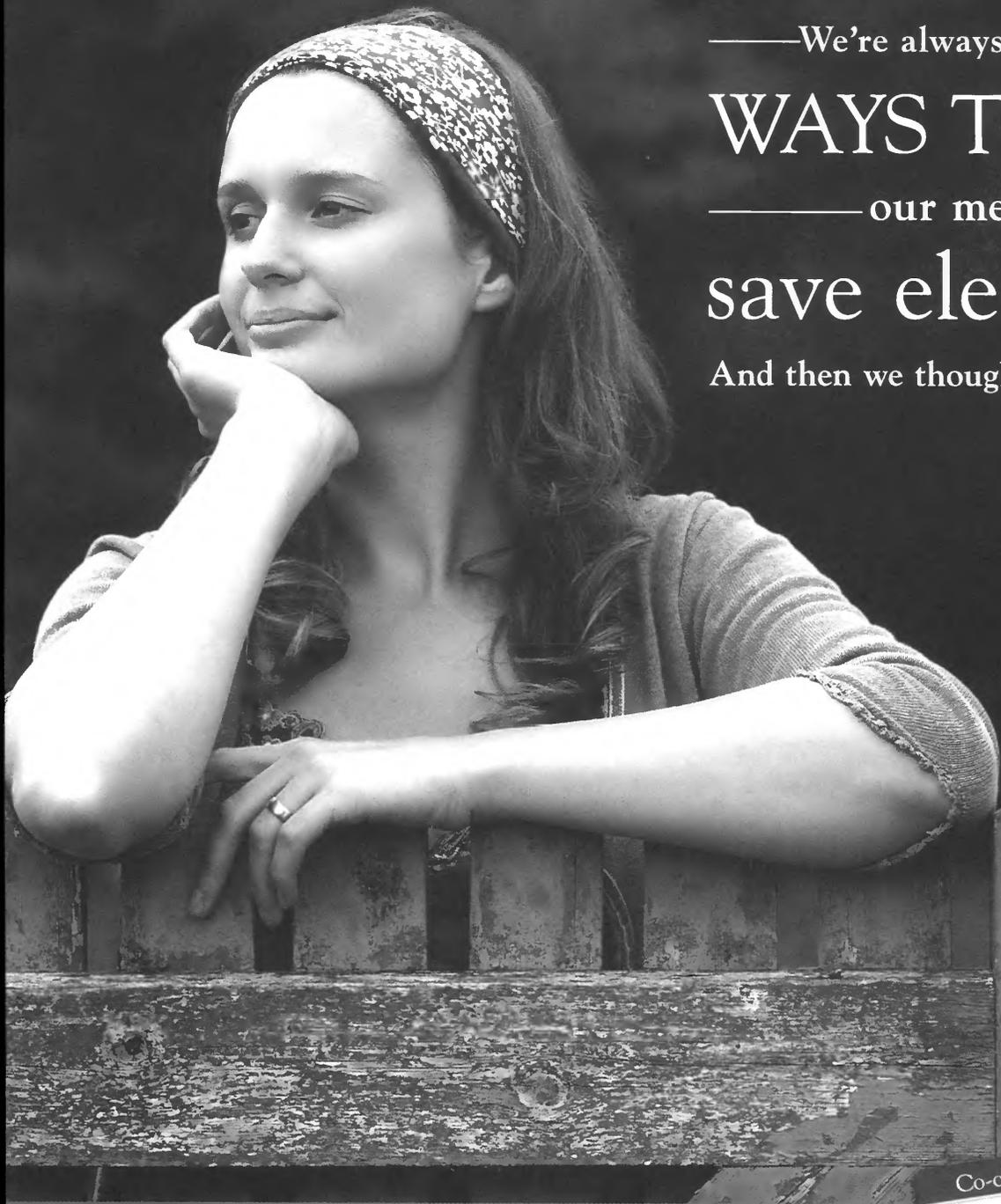
—We're always thinking of—

WAYS TO HELP

—our members—

save electricity.

And then we thought, why stop there?



To help our members save money on goods and services of all kinds, we started the Co-op Connections program. Just take your Co-op Connections Card wherever you go. Pull it out anywhere you see a Co-op Connections sticker. And say hello to the savings.

The card is yours. The savings are yours. All because you're a member of a Touchstone Energy cooperative. And we're always looking out for you. To learn more, go to www.eiec.coop.

Don't forget about our prescription drug discounts, and all of the national savings available through the Co-op Connections program. To date, Eastern Illini member/owners have saved over \$22,000 in prescription costs by using the Co-op Connections Card!

Looking out for you.

Ask Dave...

AQUALITY SOLUTIONS®

Water Quality Answers



What causes etching of my glassware in the dishwasher?

It is caused by the strong phosphate sequesterants (e.g., trisodium phosphate) in dishwashing detergent. It may also be triggered by the combination of extremely hot water, soft water and too much detergent.

The high water temperature can cause the detergent phosphate compounds to break down into an even more aggressive form. If hardness is

available, it will consume the most aggressive of these sequestering chemicals. Otherwise, however, the detergent agents can actually extract elements directly from the glassware composition. The solution to etching is to use less detergent and water temperatures less than 140°F when you have soft water. Water softening is such an enhancement that the dishes

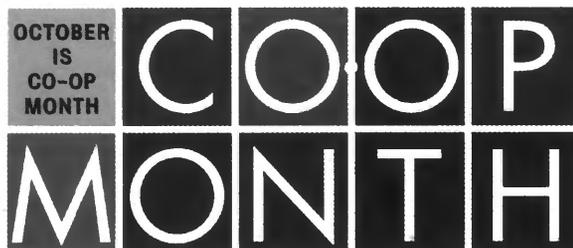
will get cleaned just as well with less detergent and 120° - 140°F water in softened water.

For more information about water softening, or for your FREE water test, call AQUALITY Solutions 866-4WATER1.

October is National Cooperative Month

Each October, cooperatives all across America celebrate the role, accomplishments and contributions of our nation's cooperatives. Observing National Co-op Month gives electric co-ops yet another reason to tell our members that they are part of something special.

At a time of increasing national concern about the economy, especially rising energy costs, we also must communicate the cooperative difference



to decision makers at all levels whose actions affect our members and the communities in which they live and work. The cooperative difference defines who we are and what we can

achieve: looking out for our members' best interests.

For more information of National Cooperative Month, visit <http://www.coopmonth.coop>. This year's content includes the updated "A Day in the Life" publication with new intriguing cooperative member scenarios, as well as other great tools to help educate consumers about the impact cooperatives have in their everyday lives.



Superior quality • competitive rates
worry free long distance • local service

NO MONTHLY FEE **4.9¢** per minute

800 Number – 6.9¢ per minute
No Contracts! No Hidden Fees!
Just Plain & Simple!

For more information,
call (877) 658-3453

Visit Eastern Illini's Web site at

www.eiec.coop



Eastern Illini's Web site is loaded with features to make your life simpler and to save you money. Visit the site today to pay your bill, discover money-saving energy efficiency tips, view EIEC publications and Board Reports, and learn about all of our products and services.

Click, Click, Save!

See Page 9 See Page 9



for more information
on Eastern Illini
Electric Cooperative

**Looking for local
Internet service?
Look no further**

Connxus offers dial-up Internet
service to communities
throughout Central Illinois!

**Packages starting
at \$14.95 a month!**



Call (877) 455-4266 for
more information or to sign-up today!
Now offering: Customizable Spam
Blocker, Pop-up Blocker

CONXXUS 
It's what connxus to the world
Formerly **ILLI COM**
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

330 W Ottawa Rd., Paxton
(877) 455-4266
www.connxus.com

EASTERN ILLINI

ELECTRIC NEWS **PAXTON, ILLINOIS**

www.eiec.coop A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 217-379-2131 or 800-824-5102

Attention High School Seniors

Seven Scholarships of \$1,250 Each
Will Be Awarded In 2009



Check It Out!

**Check your
current billing
statement for
your 2007 Capital
credit allocation.**

Seven scholarships of \$1,250 each will be awarded in 2009 to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

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.

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 an application, see your high school guidance counselor or contact us.





————— You are —————
CHANGING A LOT MORE
than just a light bulb.

Believe it or not, when you switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs, you'll actually be changing the way you use electricity. Or rather, the way you'll use less of it. Switching to compact fluorescent bulbs can reduce your lighting costs by up to 70%. And that's just the start. By ensuring your home is well insulated, properly sealed, and using energy efficient appliances, a lot of little changes can really add up. *To learn more about saving energy, visit touchstoneenergysavers.com.*



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Looking out for you.

Ask Dave...

AQUALITY SOLUTIONS®

Water Quality Answers



How Does Your Water Measure Up?

As an Eastern Illini Electric Co-operative member, you enjoy benefits of reliable energy 365 days a year. And the same EIEC membership can give you quality water every day of the year, too.

AQUALity Solutions can help you get solutions to your water problems. Dave Schippert and his team of

experts will give you a FREE water consultation to determine the best solution for your water problems.

As an EIEC member, you can use your Co-op Connections Card to take advantage of six months same as cash or low financing for any purchase of water treatment equipment from AQUALity Solutions.

Call AQUALity Solutions at 866-4WATER1 or visit their Web site at www.4water1.com to take advantage of this limited time special offer for Eastern Illini members.

**Office of the EIEC
will be closed
November 27 & 28
in observance of
Thanksgiving.**

Energy Wise Home Seminars

Town	Location	Time	When
Onarga	Ford-Iroquois Extension Office **	7 p.m.	1st Thursday of every month
Paxton	EIEC Headquarters 330 W. Ottawa	7 p.m.	2nd Thursday of every month
Pesotum	EIEC Warehouse Just East of I-57	7 p.m.	3rd Thursday of every month

** September and December meetings in Onarga will be held at the Onarga Civic Center.

Eastern Illini wants to help you reduce the effect of rising energy costs by offering the Energy Wise Home Seminars. These seminars could help you save between 20 and 40 percent on your energy bills.

For more information concerning the Energy Wise Home Seminars, check out our Web site at www.eiec.coop or contact us at 800-824-5102.

Visit Eastern Illini's Web site at

www.eiec.coop



Eastern Illini's Web site is loaded with features to make your life simpler and to save you money. Visit the site today to pay your bill, discover money-saving energy efficiency tips, view EIEC publications and Board Reports, and learn about all of our products and services.

Click, Click, Save!

See Page 9 See Page 9



for more information on Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

Looking for local Internet service? Look no further

Conxxus offers dial-up Internet service to communities throughout Central Illinois!

Packages starting at \$14.95 a month!



Call (877) 455-4266 for more information or to sign-up today!
Now offering: Customizable Spam Blocker, Pop-up Blocker

CONXXUS 

It's what conxxus to the world

Formerly **ILLICOM**
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

330 W Ottawa Rd., Paxton

(877) 455-4266

www.conxxus.com

2009 "Youth to Washington" Scholarship

Two high school seniors will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship and a weeklong, all expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June 2009.

- Applicants must be sons or daughters of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative members. (Immediate family members of employees and directors of Eastern Illini are not eligible.)
- Applicants must be high school seniors.
- Scholarships may be used for educational costs for an undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college or university, including vocational/technical schools.
- Scholarship winners will be expected to be "full time" students (at least 12 hours). Winners must submit evidence that they are enrolled



- as full time students before receiving the \$1,000 disbursements.
- Scholarships must be used within 12 months of high school graduation, are for one year, and are not renewable.
- Scholarships will be awarded based on grade point average, college entrance test scores, work, and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, biographical statement, and knowledge of electric cooperatives as demonstrated by a short essay.

- Deadline for receipt of completed applications is February 1, 2009.
- The "Youth to Washington" Scholarship Committee will select the winners.
- Scholarship winners will be notified by March 1, 2009.

For more information contact Debbie Laird at (800) 824-5102, or visit our Website at www.eiec.coop.

In this issue...

- Message from the President 16b
- Scholarship Application 16c
- The Cooperative Connection . 16d-e
- The AQUALity Corner 16g

See page 16c for a scholarship application

Message From The President

On Jan. 1, 2009, Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative will implement our first general rate increase since 1993.

Eastern Illini, along with 10 other electric cooperatives in Illinois, purchases electricity from Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI). For the last six years (concluding at the end of this year), we have had a beneficial wholesale power contract. We have been working for the past three years to secure a long-term, economical power supply. PPI has purchased a stake in a new clean-coal power plant located in southern Illinois. We had anticipated the power plant being online in time to coincide with our current rate contract expiring. Due to unsuccessful environmental challenges, the plant has been delayed until late 2011. Because of these delays, PPI was forced to purchase base load power on the open market, which will cause our wholesale power cost to increase by 45 percent.

The energy marketplace has changed dramatically since our last rate increase in 1993. As a result, the Eastern Illini Board of Directors directed us to undertake a cost of service study to determine the costs

associated with providing electric service to each of our rate classes. We wanted to make sure that each rate class pays the actual cost to provide electric service and that no rate class is subsidizing any other rate class.

Our new wholesale power costs and the recently concluded cost of service study were the main factors in determining our new rate structures. About 78 percent of our member/owners are on the single-phase general service rate - rate 1. This rate will see an overall average increase (including an increased facility charge) of about 17 percent. Eastern Illini currently offers - and will continue to offer - a special rate for member/owners that heat their homes with an electric heating system. Our wholesale electricity increase will obviously affect these members as well, but since their rate has traditionally been lower, the impact of the increase will be about 45 percent. The reality of the situation is that all energy sources - whether it is gasoline, propane, fuel oil or electricity - simply cost more now.

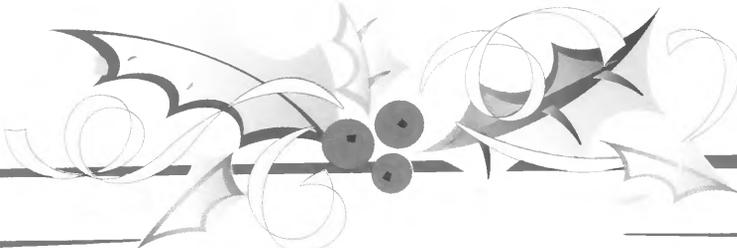
We are committed to providing you with reliable and environmentally responsible electric service at the low-



est possible cost. To help minimize the effect of this rate increase, we are offering *Energy Wise Home* meetings, held throughout our service territory each month, for the rest of this year and into 2009. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the implementation of this rate increase, or want more information about our *Energy Wise Home* meetings, please call our office at 800-824-5102 or email us at info@eiec.coop.

Sincerely,

*Sincerely,
Dave Champion*



The offices of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25 in observance of Christmas and Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, 2009 for New Year's.

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

2009 "Youth to Washington" Scholarship Application

Name _____

Address _____

Home Telephone Number (____) _____ Cell Phone Number (____) _____

E-mail Address _____ Date of Birth _____

Name of Parent or Guardian _____

High School Attended _____ Counselor's Name _____

H.S. Grade Point Average (100 Point Scale) _____
(e.g. if your school uses a 4 point scale, multiply your GPA by 25; if your school uses a 5 point scale, multiply your GPA by 20.)

Most Recent S.A.T. and/or A.C.T. Score _____
S.A.T. A.C.T.

Work and Volunteer Experience

List positions held, for what time period, and whether volunteer or for pay.

Participation in School and Community Activities

List activities (both school and non-school) in which you have participated.

Organization or Activity	No. Years	Offices Held
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Biographical Statement

Write a brief biographical statement that includes your educational goals, financial needs and other pertinent information about yourself that you feel is important. The biographical statement should be typewritten, double-spaced, and attached to the application.

Knowledge of Electric Cooperatives

Submit an essay of 500 words or less in your own words concerning the organization and services of Electric Cooperatives and your relationship or involvement in the activities and/or operations. The essay should be typewritten, double-spaced, and attached to the application.

Statement of Applicant and Parent or Guardian

We have examined this application, including accompanying submissions, and to the best of our knowledge and belief, it is true, correct and complete.

Date: _____ Signed: _____ Signed: _____
(Applicant) *(Parent or Guardian)*

*The deadline for receipt of completed applications and required submissions is February 1, 2009.
 Mail applications to: Debbie Laird * EIEC * PO BOX 96 * Paxton, IL 60957*

The Cooperative Connection

Leslie and Jim Benson had several things in common before they ever met. Both had farm backgrounds and were raised in rural communities; Leslie was from Newton, Ill. and Jim was from Morris, Ill. They worked at the same agricultural seed research facility after college. Leslie and Jim enjoyed the outdoors. They preferred living in the country over town.

So after they were married, they started looking for a place to fix up in the country. On one of their trips to visit Jim's family they came across some property with an old farm house north of Elliott. (Jim was to learn later that the house had been moved to this location from the Melvin area.) Both saw the potential of the house and property. They were eager to begin the restoration.

The interior of the 1,400 square foot, two-story farmhouse, resting on three-quarters of a basement, was completely gutted down to the studs. One of Jim's objectives was to make the house as energy efficient as possible without blowing their budget. He replaced the electrical wiring, insulation, windows, siding, roof and heating system.

To improve the house's insulation value, Jim replaced the 4-inch studs with 6-inch studs and filled them with insulation. In the basement he insulated and sealed the box sills with 2-inches of polystyrene and six more inches of insulation. The original heating system was a fuel oil furnace. The house had no air conditioning. Since Leslie and Jim spent most of their time outdoors in the summer, they decided that air conditioning was not a priority. But both agreed they did not want to heat their home with the fuel oil furnace.

One early summer evening after Leslie was reading the Eastern Illini *Illinois Country Living* magazine, she came across an article about convection heating. It was 30 percent more efficient than electric baseboard. The small, wall-mounted units did not require a blower fan to move the heat. The units could be sized according to each room. Ductwork was not needed. Each room's temperature could be regulated separately. The whole heating system could be controlled for time of day with a programmable thermostat and it was clean heat. Leslie called Eastern Illini.

Within a few days an Eastern Illini representative came to visit and size their heating needs. The sizing was completed for the kitchen and dining room, two bedrooms, two bathrooms and living room. The total investment would be less than \$3,500.

It's been over four years since the Convect Air heating system was installed. The highest monthly electric



bill for Jim and Leslie's electric home has been \$236. Their average monthly bill over the past 12 months has been \$160. They have replaced all of their lights with compact fluorescent lighting.

Now that their home has been restored, they have turned their attention to the outside. Jim and Leslie have planted every kind of fruit-bearing tree conducive to the Illinois climate: apple, apricot, cherry, peach, pear and plum. They have planted several kinds of berries: strawberry, blueberry, raspberry, blackberry and grape. The vegetable garden, according to Jim, has everything that will grow in east central Illinois. They like to raise pumpkins, too. Not to mention all



the flowers surrounding their home and property. When they're not working outside, Leslie is busy decorating their home, canning several kinds of fruits and vegetables or making preserves and jams from their home-grown fruits and berries. You will find Jim busy restoring antique John Deere tractors. A drive past the Benson home will restore memories of country living and the benefits of the cooperative connection.





The economy. Saving energy. Climate change. All the things
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
—— we're already working out. ——

The economy. Saving energy. Climate change. They're all vastly important issues. And chances are, they've been on your mind and in your conversations. That's why your electric co-op is working hard to help find the right solutions. After all, we don't simply send electricity to your home. We look out for you and your entire community. And we do so for a simple reason—it's our community too.



Looking out for you.

Ask Dave...

AQUALITY SOLUTIONS®

Water Quality Answers



Q. Do salt-free water softeners really work?

Assume that you are referring to electronic, magnetic or media devices that are purported to “condition” water. Notice, I did not say “soften” water. In my opinion, the only way you can “soften” water is by removing a “hard mineral” (calcium, magnesium) and replacing it with a “soft mineral” (sodium, potassium). Conditioning can be accomplished in a number of ways:

Filtration - by removing sediment, silt and other contaminants the water is being “conditioned.”

Carbon Filtration - by passing the water through a media containing carbon to remove chemicals and chlorine.

Seed Crystallization - by using either electrical current, magnetic or media crystallization to form “seed crystals.”

Oxidation - by using chlorine, potassium permanganate, hydrogen peroxide, ozone or oxygen to oxidize contaminants in the water.

Filtration, carbon filtration and oxidation are well-established methods of conditioning or treating water, so I will further assume that you are referring to the plethora of companies who are promoting “salt-free water conditioners.” I will say that there is some validity to most of these methods, however companies or websites who say that they “soften” water without salt or make other preposterous claims like “salt can be absorbed through the skin” or that electronic devices increase sudsing are not dealing in reality and should not be trusted. While there are some fine products in this category of “water conditioning,” there are also plenty of outright frauds and other companies selling products which have limited validity and application.

For more information, or for your FREE water test, call AQUAlity Solutions at 866-4WATER1.

EIEC Directors Receive CCD Certificate

Eastern Illini Chairman of the Board Harold Loy of Beaverville presents Director Bruce Ristow of Cissna Park and Director Steve Meenan of Melvin with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s (NRECA) Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate.

The NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses.

The curriculum reflects NRECA’s commitment to directors, ensuring that they have an opportunity to develop the competencies that will equip them to be successful in the new competitive environment.



Energy Wise Home Seminars

Town	Location	Time	When
Onarga	Ford-Iroquois Extension Office **	7 p.m.	1st Thursday of every month
Paxton	EIEC Headquarters 330 W. Ottawa	7 p.m.	2nd Thursday of every month
Pesotum	EIEC Warehouse Just East of I-57	7 p.m.	3rd Thursday of every month

** September and December meetings in Onarga will be held at the Onarga Civic Center.

Eastern Illini wants to help you reduce the effect of rising energy costs by offering the Energy Wise Home Seminars. These seminars could help you save between 20 and 40 percent on your energy bills.

For more information concerning the Energy Wise Home Seminars, check out our Web site at www.eiec.coop or contact us at 800-824-5102.

Visit Eastern Illini's Web site at

www.eiec.coop



Eastern Illini's Web site is loaded with features to make your life simpler and to save you money. Visit the site today to pay your bill, discover money-saving energy efficiency tips, view EIEC publications and Board Reports, and learn about all of our products and services.

Click, Click, Save!

See Page 9 See Page 9



for more information on Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

Looking for local Internet service? Look no further

Conxxus offers dial-up Internet service to communities throughout Central Illinois!

Packages starting at \$14.95 a month!



Call (877) 455-4266 for more information or to sign-up today!
Now offering: Customizable Spam Blocker, Pop-up Blocker

CONXXUS 

It's what conxxus to the world

Formerly **ILLICOM**
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

330 W Ottawa Rd., Paxton
(877) 455-4266
www.conxxus.com