

JAMUP

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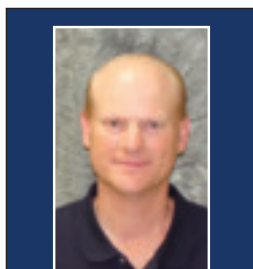
Specialized equipment

One of the costs of keeping the lights on

January marked my 25th year of service with Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. I would like to thank all my current and former co-workers and the board of directors for making the co-op a wonderful place to work, learn and serve for the past 25 years. But, most importantly, I would like to thank all the members; for without you, there would be no cooperative.

If you have been a member during the past 25 years, there is a good chance our paths have crossed. I may have met or talked to you about upgrading electrical service on your farm, analyzing usage at your business, investigating power quality or outage issues at your home, or exploring renewable energy options with you. Working with and serving member-owners is what sets a cooperative apart from other organizations, and it has been a privilege to have been a part of your cooperative the past 25 years.

As an electrical engineer for the cooperative, one of my main job functions is to ensure our electric distribution system is designed to deliver safe and reliable power to members. This job function has not changed in 25 years, but the current available technology has changed the way the cooperative operates. Technology resources that we take for granted today but were not



**Michael Logeman,
P.E.,
Director of Engineering**

available or were just getting started 25 years ago include:

- **The internet and email.** How did we operate without them?!
- **The personal computer.** Remember the DOS operating system? The first electrical system model that I designed of our distribution system used a program in the DOS operating system.

Some of the many advances in technology seen just in the past few years have been:

- **Information technology** – virtually all aspects of cooperative operations now involve some type of computer interface.
- **Automated Meter Infrastructure** – This allows the cooperative to obtain accurate meter readings from the office, analyze member usage, check and verify outages, monitor power quality, along with many other uses. (Plus, members no longer must read their own meter!)
- **Outage Management System** – This allows the cooperative to more efficiently group and analyze outages and dispatch crews. Some members may not have been a fan of the automated system at first, but most now like it. It does make operations considerably more efficient,

allowing your power to be restored much faster.

- **“Smart” circuit breakers** – These are now installed in most electric substations and provide more data from the operation of the distribution system. They also can monitor the system much better than traditional circuit breakers, allowing for improved reliability.

Other notable events and improvements in the past 25 years include:

- **New Metropolis Field Operations facility and Dongola warehouse facility** – these facilities allow us to be much more efficient during major outages, and offer needed space for equipment and material storage.
- **Cobden substation** – This state-of-the-art substation constructed in 2009 provides much needed capacity and reliability on the northern part of the cooperative’s service area.



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- **Increased awareness to safety** – The cooperative recently completed over 300,000 continuous working hours without a lost-time accident. What an amazing achievement and commitment to safety by all cooperative employees!
- **Increased emphasis on right-of-way management** – Our outage-hours have decreased and reliability increased over the past several years. This, in part, is directly related to our increase in right-of-way management activities such as tree trimming and spraying. Thank you to members who are understanding when cooperative personnel ask to cut, trim, and spray trees and brush that may affect the operation of power lines.
- **SouthWater** – The cooperative was the impetus in starting this regional water system.

While there have been many changes over the past 25 years, some things have not changed that much. Power is still delivered primarily by means of wood poles and aluminum or copper wires. Line workers and forestry personnel still must brave all the elements of mother nature to restore power during outages. Office



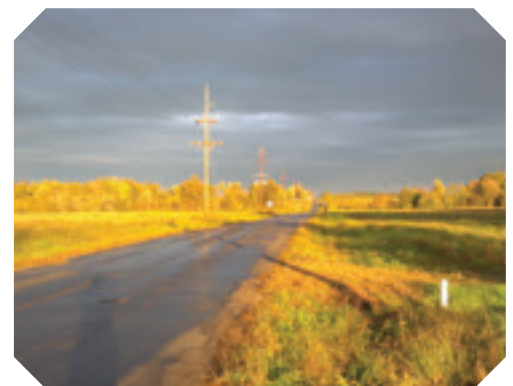
employees many times work long hours to answer phones, dispatch crews, and resolve member issues. I have seen first-hand the dedication of all these employees. Furthermore, personal service by employees that are your friends and neighbors is still a hallmark trait of your cooperative that has not changed over the years.

Sometimes my time at the cooperative is defined by major events that we all remember: **Brian Frick**

- **1993 and 2011 flooding** – In 1993 while holding on to a pole from a boat while one of our linemen worked to restore power, I began to wonder what I had gotten myself into! Also, when I was involved in designing 1.5 miles of new line to serve members who were without power for many days due to the flooding, I knew I was working for a different type of organization – a cooperative.
- **1993 and 1995 windstorms** – With hundreds of broken poles, these were major events for the cooperative.
- **Tornados** – We all remember the devastation and loss of life by tornados in our area.
 - 2002 Dongola and Cypress
 - 2003 Pulaski/Massac/Pope counties – I remember while trying to get to one of our substations, I passed by a major transmission line (not owned by the cooperative) that was down in the road. The wire looked like it was as big as my arm. I knew then we were in for a major ordeal.
 - 2013 Brookport
- **2008 and 2009 ice storms** – As we all know; ice, power lines, and tree limbs do not mix. These storms resulted in one to two-week

outages for most members. One of the main things I remember is the understanding and patience of all our members. The cooperative brought in numerous crews to help with restoration, which was a management challenge. I also remember the churches who provided meals for our crews and affected homeowners when power was out to all restaurants in the area.

While there have been many advances in technology and many major events happen in the history of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative over the past 25 years, my favorite memories will always be the ones where I have been able to provide a service to a member. Whether it has been providing advice about electrical service on a farm or helping a new industry locate in southern Illinois, the member-owners have always made the cooperative an exciting and satisfying place to work and grow. Thank you for allowing me to serve your cooperative over the past 25 years. I look forward to serving you for many more.



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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BEWARE OF ELECTRICAL DANGERS WHEN DECORATING FOR



Christmas is no longer the only holiday that we bring out lights and yard decorations to show our festive spirit. Halloween has become a time to string up lights, plug in fog machines, light up those electric powered decorations and create a yard that is scare-worthy to any trick-or-treater that may stop by. But beware of the hidden electrical dangers that could spoil your holiday.



“Many times we store our annual decorations away in the garage, basement, or storage shed and cords can become frayed or damaged in storage from extreme weather or by a mouse that may have found its way into the storage space,” says Molly Hall, Energy Education Council executive director.



Safe Electricity offers these tips to make your Halloween safe and fun:

- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Check for cracking, fraying or bare wires; they may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- Replace any damaged decorations.
- Make sure any lights, animated displays, or other electrical outdoor products are Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved and marked for outdoor use.
- Follow the care and instructions that accompany your electrical decorations.
- Don't overload extension cords or allow them to run through water on the ground.
- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into outlets protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). If your outlets don't

have them, either contact a qualified electrician to install them or use portable GFCIs instead.

- Keep electrical cords out of walkways to avoid tripping hazards.
- Turn off all electrical decorations and lights before leaving home or going to sleep. Consider using a timer.
- When decorating outside, always make sure to look up and check that you and any equipment, such as ladders, are at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.



Avoid any dangerous tricks this Halloween by enjoying your treats and decorating safely. Get more safety tips at SafeElectricity.org.



Cooperatives See the Future

Dramatic changes are transforming all aspects of the energy industry. Interest in renewable energy is at an all-time high, and ultimately consumers want greater control over their energy use and payment methods. The prevalence of smart-phone apps and “smart” technology for the home is increasing, and consumers and businesses are showing greater interest in electric vehicles. Electric utilities continuously evaluate the ways they provide energy to accommodate these trends. Luckily, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is uniquely positioned to meet these changing energy needs because we are a cooperative.

Co-ops are community-led.

October is National Co-op Month, which is the perfect time to highlight the many ways electric

cooperatives are unique.

Cooperatives are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their consumer-members.

David Johnston, Executive Vice-President and General Manager of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative explains that, “Electric cooperatives belong to the communities they serve. This heightened community focus allows us to quickly adapt to evolving consumer expectations. Our closeness to the community ensures a better response to these needs because we are led by the people that we serve.”

Co-ops are a catalyst for good.

Electric co-ops, like SIEC, are a catalyst for good in their communities. Co-ops engage their consumer-members to do things that might otherwise be impossible

or difficult, like more than 80 years ago when electric co-ops brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it economically feasible. Cooperatives exist to meet a need that was previously unmet in the community, and they are ever striving to anticipate and plan for the future needs of their consumer-members.

The co-op business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented and puts people first. Co-ops strive to be a trusted voice in their communities. Co-ops have earned that trust because, while not perfect, they always have their members’ best interest at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities they serve—now and in the future.

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 RELIABLE,
 AFFORDABLE
 ENERGY.**
**THEN. NOW.
 ALWAYS.**
*We are proud to
 power your life.*

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Member prize

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