

JAMUP

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Let me introduce myself



Todd Thurston
Director of Operations
and Maintenance

Hello everyone. My name is Todd Thurston and I am excited to introduce myself to you as the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative director of operations and maintenance. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself and my career with SIEC.

First off, I have to be honest. Anyone that knows me well will tell you, I am not a fan of talking about myself. With that said, this is a bit of a challenge for me, so here it goes. I am a lifelong resident of Pulaski, Ill. where I, along with my father and brother, operate our family farm that has been in operation for nearly 75 years. I am a member of the Pulaski Christian Church and I serve as the Chairman of the Pulaski County Fair Board. When I am not farming or working for SIEC, I enjoy spending time with family and friends and helping my nephews with various school and 4-H projects.

I first became familiar with SIEC when my grandfather, who served as a board member for 40 years, took me on a tour of the power plant at age 14. The following year I attended the Youth to Washington Tour. These experiences sparked an interest that I would not soon forget. After graduating from Meridian High School in 1991, I attended Shawnee Community College where I earned an associate degree in 1993. In 1995, I received a Bachelor of Science degree in

agricultural engineering from Murray State University.

I began my career with SIEC as a janitor in 1999. I was then promoted to the positions of forestry and then lineman. In 2008, I became the warehouse supervisor where I assisted in the design, planning and oversight of the 2015 construction of our new equipment and warehouse building. Most recently, I became director of operations and maintenance in February 2019. Throughout this journey, I have faced many challenges and obstacles. However minor or severe the adversity, I have always been fortunate and proud to have my SIEC family to rely on.

Growing up as a farmer, my father taught me the value of being versatile and the importance of educating myself in as many areas of operations as possible. I feel that it is important to apply that same approach in my new position with SIEC. I also believe that the knowledge and experience I have gained over the years in the various positions I have held brings a unique and valuable perspective to my position. I also believe that this perspective will lend new ideas to make SIEC better for our members and our employees moving forward. There will be both opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, but I am confident that our SIEC family can and will overcome any obstacles set before us. In closing, I am excited for the opportunity to serve the members of SIEC and look forward to being an integral part in continuing to safely and responsibly provide services to empower our members and communities.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the A/C to run longer than necessary.

Source: energy.gov

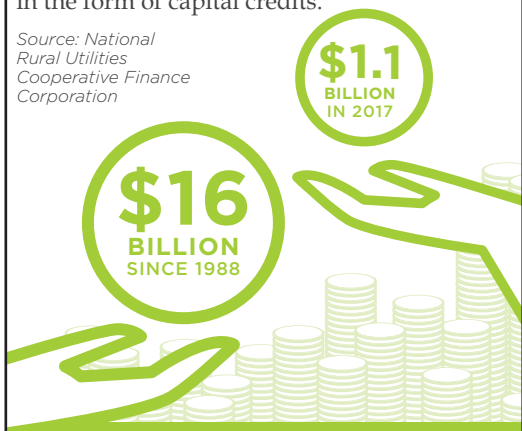


Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$16 billion to members since 1988 – \$1.1 billion in 2017 alone.

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

Source: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation



Our office will be closed

Monday, May 27
in honor of Memorial Day.

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.

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P.O. Box 100
Dongola, Illinois 62926

618-827-3555

Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.

www.siec.coop

Nominating committee to meet May 20, 2019

Members to serve on the 2018-2019 nominating committee were appointed by Scott Miller, president of the board of directors, at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Members held Aug. 2, 2018. The committee will meet at the cooperative headquarters, 7420 U.S. Highway 51 South, Dongola, Ill., at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 20, 2019 to consider nominees for election to the board of directors at the 2019 Annual Meeting of Members.

The following committee members were appointed to the 2018-2019 nominating committee to represent their respective counties:

Alexander County:

Delegate: Karen Moss, 21967 Old Delta Road, Tamms, IL 62988
Alternate: Tim J. Pierce, 27753 State Highway 3, Thebes, IL 62990

Johnson County:

Delegate: Linda M. Wood, 4145 Indian Point Road, Vienna, IL 62995
Alternate: Nancy Breeden, 2390 Lick Creek Road, Buncombe, IL 62912

Massac County:

Delegate: Randy Wilke, 1389 Karnak Road, Karnak, IL 62956

Alternate: Ashley Thompson, 85 Wesley Drive, Metropolis, IL 62960

Pulaski County:

Delegate: Danny J. Thurston, 819 Sandusky Road, Pulaski, IL 62976
Alternate: George Partridge, 1456 Tick Ridge Road, Grand Chain, IL 62941
Christopher T. Flamm

Union County:

Delegate: Glenn Russell Heisner, 3605 Nash Road, Anna, IL 62906
Alternate: Bruce Mosby, 1215 Bauer Road, Jonesboro, IL 62952

The bylaws of the cooperative provide the nominations to the board of directors may be made by: (1) nominating committee, (2) petition received not less than 45 days prior to the actual meeting, signed by 15 or more active members, or (3) an active member from the floor at the annual meeting. The three-year terms of the directors are expired alternatively so that each year elections are held for a portion of the board. At the 2019 annual meeting, elections will be held for a director from each of these four counties: Alexander, Massac, Pulaski and Union County.

May is Electrical Safety Month. Safety Starts with You.

#ElectricalSafetyMonth



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

Electric co-ops are engines of economic development

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) is deeply committed to providing affordable and reliable electricity to our member-owners and empowering the communities that we serve. This means being more than just an electricity provider; it means being a partner in economic development and other activities that improve the lives of our members.

But have you ever stopped to wonder what kind of an impact the nation's roughly 900 electric co-ops have across the United States?

A new report on this very topic shows that electric co-ops supported nearly 612,000 American jobs and contributed \$440 billion in U.S. GDP from 2013 to 2017, or \$88 billion annually. Those are some big numbers.

The study, "The Economic Impact of America's Electric Cooperatives," was conducted by FTI Consulting for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.

The report quantifies what many rural American families and businesses know well—electric cooperatives are powerful engines of economic development in their local communities. Affordable and reliable electricity is a key ingredient for a successful economy. Because electric co-ops were built by, belong to and are rooted in the communities they serve, they play a vibrant role as economic cornerstones for millions of American families, businesses and workers.

Access to electricity was a vital component of economic development and diversification in the mid-20th century, and that remains true today. Roughly one in eight residents nationwide are served by an electric co-op, meaning direct co-op employment and investments can ripple throughout the economy and create additional economic value for local communities, regions and the country.

From 2013 to 2017, electric co-ops contributed \$881 billion in U.S. sales output, \$200 billion in labor income and \$112 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues.

Nationally, electric co-ops spent \$359 billion on goods and services across the economy, including \$274 billion on operational expenditures, \$60 billion on capital investments, \$20 billion on maintenance and \$5 billion on credits retired and paid in cash to members under the membership structure of cooperatives.

In conducting its analysis, FTI Consulting used data from 815 distribution cooperatives and 57

generation and transmission cooperatives as inputs into a national model to simulate the economic effects from the direct expenditures by co-ops. The model also calculates the indirect effects throughout the industrial supply chain and the induced effects from consumer spending by the employees of co-ops and their suppliers.

The result of all this effort is a first-of-its-kind study that reveals electric cooperatives to be economic anchors all across rural America. And it demonstrates on a macroeconomic scale one of the seven guiding cooperative principles: Concern for Community.

POWERFUL CONNECTIONS

The Economic Impact of America's Electric Cooperatives

In 2017, electric cooperatives...

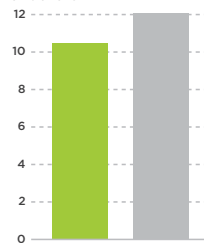
Supported
611,600
American jobs.

- 165,800 direct jobs
- 170,900 indirect jobs
- 274,900 induced jobs*



*Jobs that are created as a direct or indirect result of the work electric cooperatives do.

Taxes in billions of dollars



Generated
\$22.5 billion
in federal, state and local taxes.

- \$10.5 billion in federal tax
- \$12.0 billion in state/local tax

Contributed
\$88.4 billion
to U.S. GDP, including
\$40.4 billion
in labor income to
American workers.



Safety starts with you

Tips for spotting potential electrical hazards in your home

Electricity plays many roles in our lives, from powering baby monitors, cell phones and lighting, to running HVAC systems and appliances. No wonder we get so comfortable with its instant availability that when we flip a switch, we expect most systems or devices to do the job.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and here at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC), we think it's a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards.

Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none of them are designed to last or work forever. When electricity is involved, failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections.

Ground fault circuit interrupters

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include GFCI features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years, but in areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets. **Mary H. Bakehouse**
Loose or damaged outlets or switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

Surge protectors

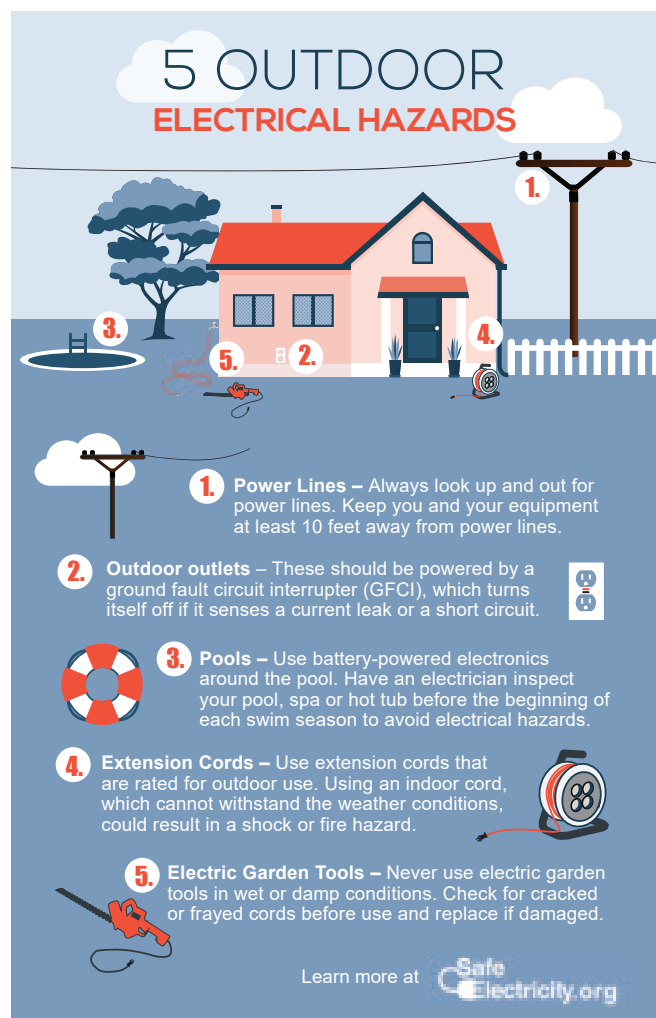
Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment like televisions, home entertainment systems and computer components from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can effectively absorb. That means if your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits or passes that limit. When the limit is reached, protection stops, and you're left with a basic power strip.

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

Extension cords

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. With a growing number of electrical devices connecting your family to the electricity you get from SIEC, having enough outlets in just the right spots can be challenging. Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection



designed into its performance. And always make sure that extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in annual property damage.

Electricity is an essential necessity for modern living, and SIEC is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to all our members. We hope you'll keep these electrical safety tips in mind so that you can note any potential hazards before damage occurs. **Yvonne Robertson**