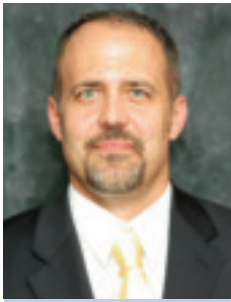


# The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## President's Comments



**Dustin Tripp**  
President/CEO

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative is very proud to be one of a number of businesses in our area that remain locally owned, locally governed and locally operated for the past 81 years in southern Illinois. Our cooperative embraces improving the quality of life in the communities that it serves. Your cooperative remains committed to its communities, and the following is just a few examples of how your electric cooperative is striving to make a difference right here in southern Illinois.

Your cooperative coordinates an education grant program known as the Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant. Your cooperative offers a total of \$4,600 in grants to fund innovative, unfunded projects or materials. Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school and students. Every year, your cooperative sends grant applications to all the schools in the 10-county service area and assists school administrators in applying for these grants. For the 2018-19 school year SEIEC awarded grants to Johnston City High School, Lincoln Elementary-Marion, Norris City-Omaha-Enfield Elementary, Sesser-Valier High School and Vienna High School.

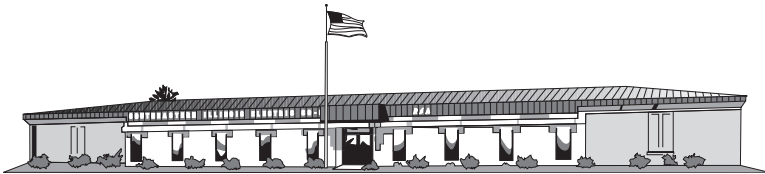
SouthEastern also invites all 23 area high schools to participate in a program known as the Youth to Washington Tour. Students are invited to complete an application and forward the application to SouthEastern for evaluation by staff personnel. The two best applicants are awarded the opportunity to participate in a one-day tour of the state's capital in Springfield and then on to a one

week, expense-paid tour of our nation's capital in Washington, D.C. The two students selected attended the tour of our state's capital on April 3 and will be attending the Youth to Washington Tour later this year.

SouthEastern is also participating in a statewide scholarship fund known as the Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarship Fund as a means of honoring deceased members of the electric cooperative family. Every year, your cooperative sends information to all the schools in the 10-county service area with instructions on how students can apply for these scholarships. The program will award 12 scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each. Six scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member and are enrolling in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school in the U.S. A seventh scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative director or employee. Four additional scholarships will be awarded to a high school senior who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors who will be enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college. The scholarship must be used for educational costs, and the student must enter college within one year from the time the scholarship is awarded. Scholarships

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**READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:**  
Ted Followell, Marion, IL



# Beat the heat this summer

According to the Department of Energy, a typical home uses a whopping 48 percent of energy expenditures just on the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC) system. “Although a lion’s share of that percentage goes to heating homes, Americans still spend \$29 billion every year to power their air conditioners,” notes Molly Hall, director of the Energy Education Council.

Aside from replacing your central air conditioner with a newer, high-efficiency model, there are things you can do to increase efficiency during the hottest part of the year, which can help reduce your energy bills.

About 30 percent of a home’s energy is lost through windows, according to energy.gov. Besides weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors in your home, Safe Electricity offers the following:

- Close curtains, blinds and shades during the hottest part of the day. Not only is about one-third of a

home’s energy lost around windows, but about 76 percent of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the home to become heat, according to energy.gov.

- Install a programmable or smart thermostat. You can save up to 10 percent a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day, according to Energy.gov.
- Clean the filter and get your unit inspected by a HVAC professional.
- Consider changes to your landscaping. Greenery that includes shade trees and those that insulate the foundation can reduce energy costs.
- Ventilate the attic and check insulation. Adequately sized vents and an attic fan can help hot air from building. If your attic has less than 6 to 8 inches of insulation, consider adding more. By addressing air leaks around your home and adding insulation, homeowners can save around 10 percent annually on energy bills,

according to energystar.gov.

- Get a pre-season checkup by a professional HVAC technician, which could help your air conditioner run more efficiently.
- Make sure your outdoor condenser unit is clean and free from debris. Ideally, the unit should be in the shade.
- Use your clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.
- Consider a professional energy audit to reveal where your home is inefficient, including air leaks and exposed duct work.

Increased summer electric demand not only affects the monthly budget, but it can also seriously strain your home’s electrical system, which can create dangerous shock and fire hazards. Flickering or dimming lights or frequent circuit breaker trips are signs of an overloaded electrical system or faulty wiring that should be checked immediately by a qualified electrician.

## 3-Step HVAC Test

As summer temperatures rise, so do electric bills. Follow these steps to test the efficiency of your HVAC unit.

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and you should set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for this test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer (about \$12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES






# How energy efficient is your home?

As your electric cooperative, a job we take seriously is helping you reduce your energy costs. Entering this URL [homeefficiency.touchstoneenergy.com](http://homeefficiency.touchstoneenergy.com) into your browser will take you to the online Touchstone Energy® Home Energy Efficiency Analysis Tool. This tool will ask a series of questions about your home and quickly give you quick tips and fixes, designed around your space, to help you cut down on your energy and costs.

*Brought to you by your Touchstone Energy cooperative.*



**SouthEastern Illinois  
Electric Cooperative**

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are awarded based upon grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, biographical statement and knowledge of cooperatives, as demonstrated by a short essay. The 12th scholarship is known as the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship. This scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the AIEC in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. Relatives of co-op employees or directors are eligible for the lineworker's scholarship, as are individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard. I am pleased to announce that Christopher High School student, Andrea Miller, has been selected to receive a 2019 Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship

These are just a few examples of how your electric cooperative is striving to make a difference in the communities it serves.

See you next month and as always, "We'll keep the lights on for you."



# POWER OUTAGE

## If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions

1. Check the fuses or circuit breakers in your service panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole, check the main breaker panel just below the meter socket. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all of your wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears to be okay, reset the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-877-399-8405. This phone number is monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.
5. Your phone call will be handled by SouthEastern's automated outage reporting system and will be identified automatically through ANI (Automatic Number Identification). An outage record will then be generated

for your location. Please note that the phone number from which you place the call will be the number used to generate the record. If the system fails to recognize your phone number, members having touch-tone phones may simply enter their seven-digit phone number (without area code) in order to report the outage. Members not having touch-tone phones will be asked to leave a message. It is important you leave your name, phone number and location of the outage. Retrieving messages and entering them into the system is time consuming; therefore, please leave only a message that will help in restoration of electric service. Do not remain on the line for an operator because a live operator is not there to respond. In order to keep a current listing of all numbers, it is important that you notify the Cooperative of any changes in your telephone number.

6. Handling outage calls electronically allows you to report power failures very quickly. Once your outage has been reported, it will be dispatched to repair personnel who will restore your outage as soon as possible. Calling back repeatedly will not shorten the length of the outage, but may hinder the efforts of other members who are trying to report outages.

**OUTAGE CALLS ONLY 1-877-399-8405**

### SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F