


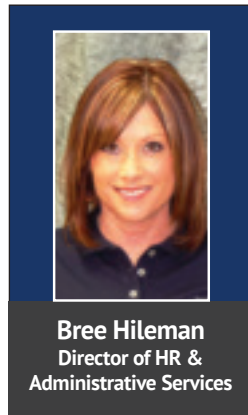
JAMUP

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

SIEC proud

Have you ever called Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) and been greeted by the friendly voice of your neighbor or friend? Or perhaps you have run into one of our employees while shopping at the grocery store or eating at a local restaurant? You see, that is what makes us different and sets us apart.



Bree Hileman
Director of HR & Administrative Services

I am proud to be a part of an organization that serves the community in which we live, instead of a group of distant investors that have never visited our towns or schools. We are local people serving local people.

Many years ago, on Oct. 25, 1938, our electric cooperative was founded by local farmers and neighbors to bring electricity to rural farms and homes that did not have access to it. During that time, large investor-owned power companies thought they couldn't generate enough revenue in rural areas, so they bypassed much of our territory. Thankfully, those farmers and neighbors came together in the cooperative spirit of purpose and cooperation to form SIEC. We should be quite proud of what they accomplished. SIEC is a member-owned, member-governed cooperative.

Being a member-owner of SIEC is much more than just knowing that we are out there working to bring you

safe, reliable and affordable electricity 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Being a member-owner of SIEC is an investment in our community and its members. Because we are a not-for-profit business, when we make more money than we need to keep the lights on safely, affordably and reliably, those profits are returned

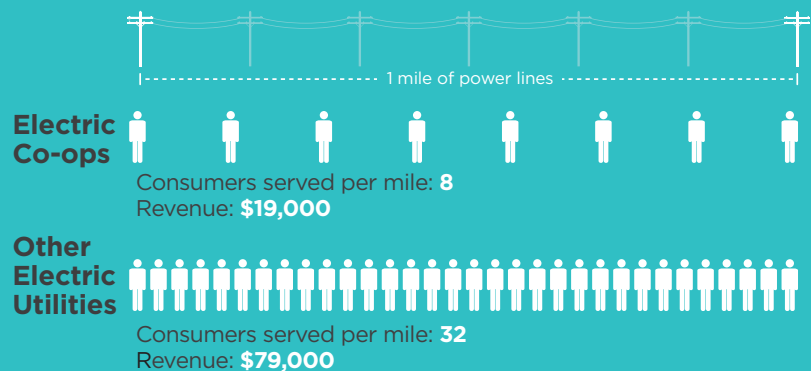
to our member-owners in the form of capital credits. This means after all co-op expenses are met, any additional money earned goes back into our community, instead of an investor's pocket. This is just one

example of supporting our community by putting money back into the local economy.

As your local electric cooperative, we promise to do our part to support our local schools, promote economic development, and participate in community service projects. Our community is a great place to live. Just think of the possibilities if we all work together cooperatively to promote its growth and prosperity. Working together, we can continue to accomplish great things. As always, if you have any thoughts about how we can do a better job, please contact us at 1-800-762-1400. *Maye Stout*

Going the Extra Mile

Electric cooperatives maintain more miles of power lines per consumer than other types of electric utilities. Even though they serve fewer consumers and acquire less revenue, electric co-ops always go the extra mile to power the communities they serve.



Sources: EIA, 2017 data. Includes revenue and consumer averages per mile of line.



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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Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.

www.siec.coop

SIEC sends local students to D.C. for the annual Youth Tour



Pictured from left – Caleb Thurston, Anna Thompson, Caleb Kaufman and Owen Westbrooks.

What do you get when 62 students from 26 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives join 1,800 of their peers across the United States? You get the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth to Washington Tour!

Four students from Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) service territory were selected from a diverse group of applicants to represent their cooperative and enjoy an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. from June 14-21 as part of the annual Youth Tour.

The 2019 Youth Tour delegates from SIEC included: Caleb Kaufman from Buncombe, Caleb Thurston from Pulaski, and Anna Thompson and Owen Westbrooks from Metropolis.

The students toured Capitol Hill and met with U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth and U.S. Representatives Mike Bost and John Shimkus. They also visited historical and cultural sites including Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, President Lincoln's

Cottage at First National Cemetery, a variety of memorials and the U.S. Capitol. Among fun activities the students enjoyed were an assembly of more than 1,800 Youth Tour participants from across the nation and a special farewell event at the Newseum, scheduled to close later this year.

"Youth Tour is a great opportunity that changes these students' lives," says David Johnston, general manager of SIEC. "This experience helps prepare them for their futures. After touring our nation's capital, meeting congressional representatives and learning firsthand how our government works, they return home with valuable knowledge and memories that will last a lifetime."

Since 1964, the nation's cooperative electric utilities have sponsored more than 60,000 high school students to visit D.C., talk one-on-one with their U.S. congressional delegations and learn from energy and grassroots government education sessions.

WHY

DO THOSE TREES LOOK FUNNY?

Trees directly beneath power lines may appear to be in a 'V' or 'U' shape with power lines passing through the opening, while trees growing alongside a power line may appear to be in an 'L' shape. There's a good reason they are professionally pruned that way: to protect people around them.

The shape of the tree will be different, but it's essential to providing safe and reliable service. **Learn more at:**



Stay back and stay safe

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, USA Today lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why for Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC), safety is the number one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our consumer-members. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance – and your help!

Distractions can be deadly

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews— and you.

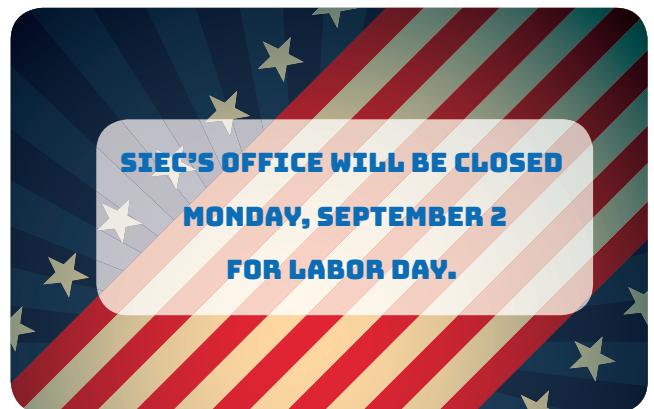
If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't

distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet “supervising” the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize SIEC employees by their service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our local community. **James D. Garner**

Slow down and move over

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us.



Is a power line insulated? (and other myths debunked)

Have you ever wondered why a bird can sit on a live wire or what you should do if a power line is on the ground? Here are some Q-and-As to clear up some common misconceptions concerning power lines, birds on a wire and other conundrums:

What do I do if I see a downed power line?

Vacate the area. Call 9-1-1 to report. Do not return to the area until you are given the go-ahead by authorities.

Can I tell from looking (or listening) if a downed power line is still live?

Absolutely not. A live wire may not spark, arc or make any noise at all.

Where might downed power lines be?

A downed power line might be in the street, ditch or field after a bad storm or car accident. It could also be lurking in flood waters or under debris, trees or other objects after a severe storm.

If a line is on the ground, is it dead?

Once a line is on the ground, it doesn't mean it's dead. There's a chance the line is still energized, which not only means you should not touch it, but also means the surrounding ground and any metal objects nearby could be energized and extremely dangerous, even deadly.

Why might a power line be down or damaged?

A car accident may cause a line to be hanging down or on the ground; severe weather could damage a pole or line; or in some cases it's caused by another unforeseeable reason, such as a storm-damaged tree or a hungry squirrel.

Why can a bird sit on a power line and not be hurt? Doesn't that mean the line is insulated?

No. Lines are sometimes coated for protection against the elements but still deadly upon contact. A bird or other critter can sit on a power line all day happy as a lark because there is no path to ground. If the animal were to contact the utility pole or other grounded source, it will be electrocuted, just as a person would be under the same circumstances.

Do different kinds of utility lines look different?

Perhaps, but for the most part, the non-utility professional cannot know what kind of line it is and what it carries (electricity, phone service, cable TV and so on) just by looking. You also can't tell how much voltage it is carrying by its appearance.



What if my car comes in contact with a downed power line?

Do not get out. Do not try to drive over it. Call 9-1-1 and wait for utility personnel to de-energize the line. If you smell gas or if there is a fire, exit your car with a solid jump landing on both feet (but don't touch the car at the same time) and DO NOT WALK, but hop away.

Can I help someone who has been in an accident involving a downed power line?

No. Do not go near the scene and warn others not to do so. Although our first instinct is often to help, a person running near an energized area could get electrocuted. **Beth E. Harrell**

Contact SIEC at 1-800-762-1400 with any questions about downed lines. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Routinely replace or clean your air conditioner's filter. Replacing a dirty, clogged filter can reduce your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.

Source: energy.gov

