

The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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 82 years in southern Illinois. Our cooperative embraces improving the quality of life in the communities that it serves. 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 the 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 2019-2020 school year, SEIEC awarded grants to Washington Elementary, Marion; East Side Elementary, McLeansboro; Gallatin County Junior High; Benton Grade School; and Marion 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 Illinois capital in Springfield and

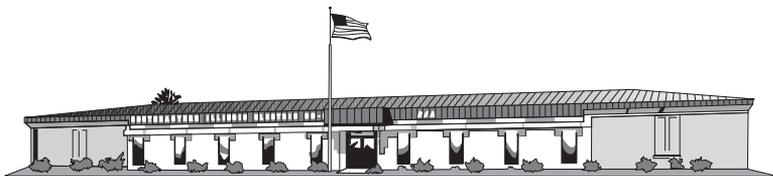
then on to a one week, expense-paid tour of our nation's capital in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus, Youth to Washington and the tour of the state's capital was canceled but will hopefully continue next year.

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 receiving service from the cooperative who 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

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READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
Amy Quinn, Harrisburg, IL





I HIT A POWER POLE. NOW WHAT?

We all think it will never happen to us, but it can in an instant.

Drivers veer off the road and run into power poles. Farmers sometimes contact a power line while driving tractors or other machinery. Dump or feed truck drivers raise or lower their bed and snag a power line.

People can become dangerously close or enter electricity's path. Knowing what to do in that situation can save your life. Incidents with power lines or other utility equipment break the electrical current's usual path. This can make the ground, vehicles and other equipment electrified.

If you hit a utility pole, pad-mounted transformer (green box) or other electrical equipment, **DO NOT** get out of the vehicle. Instead, call 9-1-1 and wait for utility crews to come to de-energize power. Call 9-1-1 in all of these instances:

- Your tractor or car strikes a guy wire (guy wires are the wires staked into the ground that stabilize utility

poles). Under normal conditions, the guy wire is neutral, but if the wire is weakened, pulled out of the ground or otherwise damaged, it could become energized.

- You hit a patch of ice, go off the road and hit a utility pole. Or you are in a car accident and one of the vehicles strikes a power pole. Only get out of the car if there is smoke or a fire; otherwise, stay put. If there is a fire, make a clean jump or hop from your car or truck (without touching it), and hop with your feet together or shuffle keeping your feet on the ground at least 30 feet to safety. Think of the downed line sending electrical current across the ground in a ripple-like effect. Each ring of the ripple represents a different voltage. If you step from one ring to another, this is called step potential and it can electrocute you.

- You see an accident that involves a downed power line. **DO NOT** approach the scene.
- You hit a pad-mounted

transformer or other type of electrical box.

- Your vehicle hits a substation.
- You ran off the road, hit a pole and it's dark out, but **YOU DON'T KNOW** if lines are down.

OTHER SITUATIONS

- You get something stuck in power lines (drone or remote-control device): Do not try to retrieve it.
- You see kids climbing or sitting on pad-mounted transformers: Tell them not to sit or play on it.
- You are carrying a tall ladder or pole: Look up for power line locations and keep at least a 10-foot clearance at all times.
- You see kids climb trees that have power lines above: Warn them not to climb trees near power lines.
- You are using a portable generator: Never plug it into a wall outlet. This can cause backfeeding into the line and kill a lineworker or neighbor.

For more information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Celebrate Flag Day

COVID-19 has caused a great deal of uncertainty, but through acts of kindness, generosity and sacrifice we've seen how Americans have come together in our time of need. Though this virus has caused us to be apart physically, it will never divide who we are together. We are the United States of America.

On June 14, proudly fly your flag, the symbol of the enduring strength of this great country.

*Brought to you by
Touchstone Energy Cooperatives*



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

 SouthEastern Illinois
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save.



Find us on 

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from the time the scholarship is awarded. Scholarships 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, Springfield, Ill. 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.

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