

JAMUP

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

2020 annual meeting and COVID-19 updates

The Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) board of directors continues to monitor all factors surrounding COVID-19.

With our members' best interest and health in mind, the board of directors will announce a 2020 Annual Meeting of Members date and time once the southern region has reached Phase 5 – Illinois Restored of Governor's Pritzker's Restore Illinois plan. Written notice will be given to the members in accordance with SIEC's bylaws.

Once the annual meeting date and time are set, the process for board elections for Alexander, Johnson, Massac and Pulaski Counties will continue. In accordance with SIEC's bylaws, petitions for nominations to the board of directors will be accepted at SIEC's cooperative office until 45 days prior to the meeting.

Our focus is to maintain a healthy workforce while also meeting our



David A. Johnston
General Manager

obligation to deliver reliable power and excellent service to the membership.

We continue to encourage you to use our electronic payment options to reduce potential exposure to the coronavirus. You can use our pay-by-phone option, SmartHub app on your personal device or visit our website at www.siec.org.

As always, our drop box is another secure option.

Disconnects for non-payment and late fees remain suspended. If you are having trouble making your payment, please contact us at 618-827-3555 for options that may help during these economically difficult times.

As always, if you should need additional information, please contact our office.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time at home? Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home.

Visit energystar.gov, then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started!

SCHOLARSHIPS

Enter to win a scholarship

Two-\$500 scholarships will be awarded by random drawing via Facebook Live on Friday, July 31 at 2 p.m. All recent graduates who meet the criteria listed below are eligible to participate in the drawing for *The Richard Moss Memorial Scholarship* and *Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Scholarship*.

Qualifications and guidelines:

- Parent(s) or Legal Guardian must be a member of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative.
- Must be a 2020 high school graduate.
- Must be enrolled as a full-time student at an upper learning institution by the fall term of 2020.
- The scholarship funds will be sent directly to the recipient upon verification of enrollment.
- Applications must be returned to the Cooperative no later than 4 p.m., Friday, July 24, 2020.

Applicant Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Date of Birth: _____ Parent/Legal Guardian: _____

SIEC Electric Account Name & Number: _____

College/School You Will Be Attending: _____

High School: _____

By signing this application, you hereby agree the information provided is true and correct, and permission is granted for Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative to use your information and your photograph for publicity purposes.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applications can be returned to SIEC by:

- Email to: bhileman@siec.org
- Mail to: Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 100, Dongola, IL 62926
- Drop off in the night deposit box at our office
- Fax to: (618) 827-3585





BE SMART around electricity inside your home

Many safety hazards are obvious and can be seen, smelled or heard: that wrinkled rug you could trip on, spoiled food that could make you sick, icy pavement that could cause a fall or a weather siren announcing a tornado. Electrical hazards, however, are often undetectable. While some you can see, smell or feel (outlets that are warm to the touch or lights that flicker), many others you cannot. **Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative and Safe Electricity** offer these electrical safety tips to keep in mind in your home.

Cell phones make strange bedfellows. Don't sleep or lounge in bed with a charging cell phone or other device. This can cause burns to skin or bedding to ignite. This also goes for devices that are warm to the touch but not plugged in.

Do not use cheap chargers. Instead, use the original charging components that came with cell phones or other electronics. When it's time to replace them, spend extra to buy brand-specific chargers. Using cheaply made generic chargers with electronics can cause injury (shock/burns) or even fire.

Charging devices and water don't mix. Do not use a charging cell phone near water. Take a break from your phone while bathing. Deaths have occurred when a plugged-in cell phone has fallen into the bathtub.

Do not overload outlets or circuits.

It's tempting to plug in several items in one outlet or circuit but drawing too much power can damage your electronics or your home's wiring. It could also start a fire. If too much current is drawn, usually a circuit breaker would trip or fuses would blow, but that's never guaranteed.

Do not use portable heaters unattended or around small children or pets. Do not place flammable items near on a space heater.

Ditch that old electric blanket. Do not use a 10-year-old electric blanket, one that has frayed or visible wires in the blanket, or one that has a damaged electrical cord or plug.

Test your GFCI buttons monthly. Put a reminder in your phone or mark it on your calendar each month. GFCIs help prevent ground faults that can shock or injure you, but they can't do their job if they are not working.

Do not ignore odd electrical symptoms in your home. If lights flicker, outlets are warm or you smell odors like something is overheating but can't determine where it's coming from, there may be problems with your home's electricals. If you notice any of these symptoms or other unusual electrical oddities in your home, have a qualified electrician assess your home's electrical system.

Is your home AFCI protected? AFCI stands for arc fault circuit interrupter, and when there is an arc

fault, it means an electrical source in your home is malfunctioning. When that happens, an arc (intense heat or light) can be discharged. Because of that, AFCIs are required by National Electric Code to help prevent home fires. Have a professional electrician assess your home to make sure AFCIs are installed, especially in an older home. He or she can also inspect your older home's wiring to make sure it can handle today's electrical demands.

Babyproof and childproof your home. There are many electrical dangers that toddlers and children can tamper with, such as exposed outlets, accessible power strips and surge protectors, and hanging or dangling cords. Additionally, little ones like to imitate you, and there have been reports of toddlers trying to plug in the wrong end of a phone charger into the outlet, which can cause severe shocks or burns. Be aware of potential electrical dangers throughout the home. Get down on the floor and see what's at eye level or within reach.

Tamper-resistant outlets became part of the National Electric Code in 2008, but many homes built before that year do not have them. Make sure all outlets are covered (with a plastic plug, for example) so small children cannot insert foreign objects into the slots. **Charles Mitchell**

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

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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For Outages Call:
800-762-1400 • 618-827-3555

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Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.
www.siec.coop



When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

Seek shelter indoors or in a hard-topped vehicle. If you can't get to shelter:

- avoid open fields and hilltops.
- stay away from tall, isolated trees and objects.
- spread out (if you're in a group).



4th of July
HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

SIEC is closed Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day.