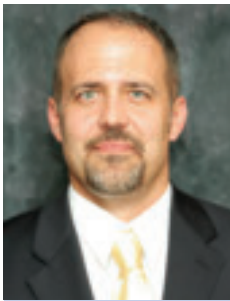


The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

Rate decrease beginning January 1

I hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! As we begin the New Year, I'm pleased to inform you that your cooperative's board of trustees approved a retail rate decrease for every cooperative member that will begin January 1. Collectively, this rate decrease will save cooperative members approximately \$7.4 million per year. This rate decrease is possible due to lower wholesale power costs from the cooperative's supplier and other deferrals and credits.

The residential rate classes will receive a reduction in the energy charge rate. The actual amount of rate reduction that a member will experience depends upon the amount of energy used each month. Rate studies show that the average residential member that is on the standard residential rate (Rate A) and consumes an average of 898 kWh per month will experience an approximate 8.8 percent rate reduction, which equates to an annual savings of over \$135 per year. The average residential member that is on the all-electric residential rate (Rate AH) and consumes an average of 1,536 kWh per month will experience an approximate 8.7 percent rate reduction, which equates to an annual savings of more than \$200 per year.

Small business, irrigation, commercial and industrial accounts will also receive a rate reduction. The actual amount of rate reduction each member will receive depends upon the amount of demand utilized, energy consumed and the respective

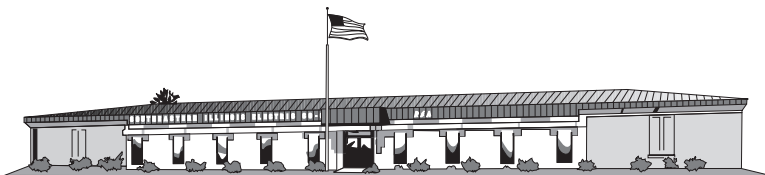
load factor for each account.

Your cooperative reviews the rates paid by our membership and compares that to the other 24 electric cooperatives around the state. Your cooperative's electric rate consistently ranks among the lowest electric rates in the state. With this rate decrease and in reviewing currently available information, your cooperative's average residential rates are the second lowest of all cooperatives in the state.

At the time this article is being written, the cooperative expects to end the year 2020 in sound financial condition and deliver more than 720 million kilowatt-hours to all of you as cooperative members. Residential energy consumption was slightly under budget due to milder weather conditions experienced while large commercial energy consumption decreased significantly which is primarily attributed to the declining coal market.

In 2021, your cooperative will continue to make the necessary investments in the distribution facilities that serve your energy by rebuilding aging infrastructure, replacing degraded poles and performing other maintenance activities including pole testing, regulator maintenance, breaker maintenance and sectionalizing in order to help ensure a safe and reliable electric supply. In fact, the maintenance work will begin in early January with the testing and treatment of approximately 8,000 poles and the continuation of the vegetation

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READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
Linda Young, Marion, IL

WINTER WEATHER

CAN BRING POWER LINES DOWN



DID YOU KNOW:

STAY WHERE YOU ARE

You've just been in an accident involving a downed power line. Your first instinct might be to get out and run, but that could cost you your life. In most cases, the safest place to be is inside your car or truck. Wait there until electric utility workers deenergize the power. If your car is on fire or you see smoke, escape as safely as possible by making a clean, solid jump out and hop away with both feet together as far as you can. Warn others not to approach the scene.



- That downed power lines are extremely dangerous and even deadly?
- The current could spread throughout the ground and anything touching the ground?
- Stray voltage spreads like ripples on a pond?
- If you step from one "ripple" (voltage) to another you could be electrocuted?
- Downed lines could be hiding under standing water, ice or debris?

Learn more at:

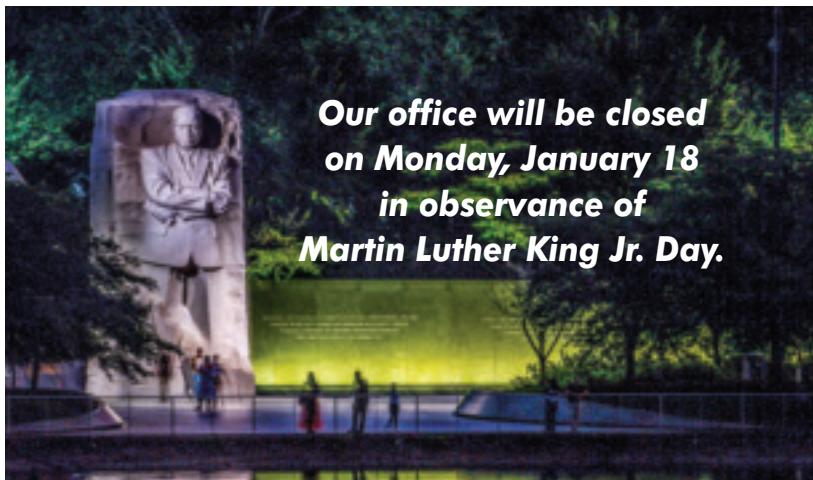
 Safe Electricity.org®

► *Continued from page 20A*

management program by trimming and clearing in six substation areas. Cooperative members will receive more details on the 2021 vegetation management program in next month's article.

On behalf of the trustees and all employees, we want you to know that your cooperative is committed to providing reliable and quality service while keeping rates affordable. We thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

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



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