


JAMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



President's Report

Dear fellow members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative,

President Roosevelt issued an executive order to create the Rural Electrification Act in 1936. Thus began a marvelous success story told each time we turn on our lights, prepare a meal, or charge an electric car. It was a story of unity of purpose lighting up a darkened landscape. That purpose was to build the infrastructure to deliver electricity to rural areas in order to provide benefits once only enjoyed by our family and friends in towns and cities. In 1938 farmers from our area banded together, braved the elements, and even skepticism to ask for \$5.00 for a membership in an unproven, untested entity that would become Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC).

Unity of purpose is the cooperative foundation upon which the cooperative business model has thrived which now includes more than 900 electric cooperatives across the United States. This makes SIEC a part of the largest electric utility in the nation. These numbers enable our voice to be heard from the county courthouse, to Springfield, and Washington, D.C. Our voice is heard through your directors and our state and national associations comprised of representatives from local cooperatives. Thus our position is heard when legislation and regulations are considered that will affect your electric service.

Unity of purpose is demonstrated in the operations of your cooperative. Your board of directors set policy so that safety, reliability, and affordability are placed foremost in the staffroom, each office, and service truck. Plans are formulated to provide electricity in the most safe and

reliable means available. Purposeful effort is made for reliability even during the most inclement weather. Dedicated employees strive to insure the lights stay on for our member owners. Conscientious attention is given to provide services that protect our natural resources for our next generation.

Unity of purpose enables commitment to the community. Our cooperative seeks to provide services through a national campaign known as Touchstone Energy, an alliance of over 750 cooperatives promoting the benefits of cooperative membership. This includes Co-op Connections, a discount savings plan at more than 27,000 national and local businesses. We participate in TogetherWeSave.com, a website providing tips on energy conservation. Through charitable donations and volunteers from board, staff, and employees in various projects your Cooperative strives to enhance our territory. These efforts with others speak of our commitment to community development to benefit our membership.

We are not owned by investors driven by profit. We are owned by our members. Cooperatives work together to make a difference in the lives of our members. For over 75 years we have cooperated with a unity of purpose. Your board looks forward to seeing you at our annual meeting held August 6, 2015 at Shawnee Community College. I invite you to participate in our unity of purpose.

Sincerely,
 William E. Littrell
 President
 Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative



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 Cathy with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

Refer to the meeting program for new start times.





The Bankesters

We are so very fortunate to have as this year's annual meeting entertainment, The Bankesters. Some of their recent accolades have named the group as the "Best of Bluegrass" by Engine145.com for three consecutive years (2011, 2012, 2013 - 3 CDs); the #1 Bluegrass CD by Independent Music Awards for 2014; the #1 Bluegrass Music Video by Yallwire.com for November 2014; and, the #1 Song by Bluegrass Today.com National Radio Airplay Chart.

As the name suggests, The Bankesters are all family, featuring the extraordinary voices of sisters Melissa, Emily and Alysha. Each has a truly distinctive lead voice but when they sing together, they create magic. Melissa's husband Kyle Triplett brings to the band his own

creative and highly-developed playing style with banjo, guitar and mandolin. Emily primarily plays fiddle but she is also an accomplished clawhammer (old-time) banjo player. Alysha mostly plays mandolin, but fills in on fiddle as well. Melissa holds everything together with her solid, articulate bass playing, along with Phil on guitar.

Based in Carbondale, their travels have taken them as far west as New Mexico, and through most of the states east of the Mississippi. Their repertoire ranges from emotive ballads and folk-influenced alt country, to Americana and high energy foot-stomping, hand-clapping bluegrass. The songs are originals-gleaned from some of today's best songwriters as well as their own.

Special Guest Speaker Chuck Tiemann



Listen to Chuck Tiemann's real life story and you'll wonder how he is alive today. Chuck

began working as a lineman for Kay Electric Cooperative in Blackwell, Oklahoma in August 1977. One day he climbed a 35 foot pole and...well, we will let him tell you the rest of the story that changed his life forever at this year's SIEC annual meeting.

He has appeared on Good Morning America, The Home Show, People are Talking, The Learning Channel and many other television programs too numerous to mention. He has been in over 500 magazines and newspapers around the world and has co-authored a book with John and Scott Sabolich entitled "You're Not Alone". Currently, Chuck works for the Indiana Statewide Association as a Safety Instructor.



Bring your canned food donations in exchange for free compact fluorescent lights.

Board candidate profiles

Larry A. Douglas



Candidate: Larry A. Douglas, Belknap

Occupation: Farmer

Family Information: Wife Diana,

two sons and one daughter.

Education: Graduate of Century High School, B.S. degree from Southern Illinois University in Agriculture Economics

How many years have you been a resident of your county? 47 years

How many years have you been a member of SIEC? 40 plus years

Community Involvement/Volunteer Work/ Past Experience/Board Positions, etc.: Current: Member Metropolitan Kiwanis Club; Vice-President Massac Historical Society; Member Metropolitan Massac County Port District Board; and Member of SIEC Board of Directors. Past: Former member of CUB in Illinois; former member Illinois State Historical Society; Past President of Metropolitan Kiwanis Club; and Past Secretary/Treasurer Shawnee Pork Producers. **Verna Becker**

Hobbies: History and travel

Why do you want to be a director for SIEC? To help continue to represent all the members of the Cooperative and utilize a lifetime of learning experience.

G. Robert Inman



Candidate: G. Robert Inman, Grand Chain

Occupation: Farmer

Family Information: Wife Cheryl;

daughters Jessica, Mary and Samantha; and, five grandchildren

Education: Graduate of Century High School and Associate degree from Shawnee Community College

How many years have you been a resident of your county? Life (Pulaski County)

How many years have you been a member of SIEC? Life

Community Involvement/Volunteer Work/ Past Experience/Board Positions, etc.: Fire Chief of the Grand Chain Volunteer Fire Department and Pulaski-Alexander County Farm Bureau

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing and golf

Why do you want to be a director for SIEC? To represent my community, family, friends and keep reliable electricity for us.

William E. (Bill) Littrell



Candidate: William E. (Bill) Littrell, Jonesboro

Occupation: Minister at Countryside Christian Church in Vienna

Family Information: Wife Mae; children Perry Littrell and wife Cathy; Stella Marie (Littrell) Dallas and husband Joel; and, five grandchildren

Education: Graduate of Shawnee High School, B.S. degree in Agriculture from University of Illinois and post graduate work at Kentucky Christian University

How many years have you been a resident of your county? 61 years

How many years have you been a member of SIEC? 39 years

Community Involvement/Volunteer Work/ Past Experience/Board Positions, etc.: Past board member of the following organizations: Dongola Khourie League, Dongola High School board, Share and Care, Inc., Volunteer Illinois FFA Foundation, member and president of Jonesboro School Athletic Booster Club. Current: Member Countryside Christian Church, Director and past president of Union County Soil and Water Conservation District, board

member Kornthal Historic Preservation, Director and current President of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. Past work experience: Supervisor at Oscar Mayer & Company, owner/operator Home Meat Processors, livestock farmer, and production employee and supervisor at Southern Illinois Power Cooperative.

Hobbies: Spending time with my family and especially my grandchildren; working on the farm, reading religious materials and following University of Illinois sports.

Why do you want to be a director for SIEC? The electric cooperative system has been immensely beneficial to rural America and to southern Illinois of which my family is no exception. These benefits have been a part of the resources that enabled me to pursue a variety of work experiences at Southern Illinois Power Cooperative. I offer this experience in addition to the six years I have spent on SIEC's board in hopes of returning a portion of the benefit I received to our electric community in order to make our Cooperative a present and future source of benefits for our membership.

SIEC Board of Directors

William E. Littrell (President).....	Union Co.
Larry A. Douglas (Vice President)	Massac Co.
Scott Miller (Secretary-Treasurer)	Alexander Co.
G. Robert Inman	Pulaski Co.
David Martin.....	Massac Co.
Bob L. McIntosh	Pulaski Co.
Carole J. Kelley.....	Johnson Co.
Richard D. Moss.....	Alexander Co.
Scott L. Ury.....	Union Co.

Ronald E. Osman (Attorney)

General Manager Chris L. Bennett

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

BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Periodically, the Board of Directors reviews the Cooperative's bylaws to determine if changes are required. Co-Generation of electricity and shortened timeframes for publishing notice deadlines have caused the Board to recommend revisions. The bylaw revisions recommended by the Board are listed below.

Note: The complete bylaw article or section is printed in full in *italicized print*, and the applicable portions of the bylaw to be deleted are shown in ~~strike through print~~ and the wording to be added shown in **bold print**.

ARTICLE I MEMBERS

In this section we recommend adding Co-Generation of electric energy when self-generating systems, such as wind and solar applications, are interconnected with the Cooperative's facilities:

Section 3. Purchase of Electric Energy. *Each member shall, as soon as electric energy shall be available, purchase from the Cooperative all electric energy used on the premises, **except electric energy generated on the premises ("Co-Generation")**, specified in his application for membership, and shall pay therefore monthly at rates which shall from time to time be fixed by the board of directors, provided, however, that the board of directors may limit the amount of electric energy which the Cooperative shall be required to furnish to any one member. **Co-Generation of electric energy, regardless of the source thereof, by means of facilities, which are interconnected with Cooperative facilities, shall be subject to appropriate regulation as shall be fixed from time to time by the Cooperative.** Payment for such electric energy shall include for each member a subscription to JAMUP, its successor publication or any other publication of the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative and to any member publication published by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. It is expressly understood that amounts paid for electric energy in excess of the cost of service are furnished by members as capital and each member shall be credited with the capital so furnished as provided in these by-laws. Each member shall pay to the Co-*

operative such minimum amount per month regardless of the amount of electric energy consumed, as shall be fixed by the board of directors from time to time. Each member shall also pay all amounts owed by him to the Cooperative, as and when the same shall become due and payable. Each member shall also pay collection fees, including reasonable attorney fees and court costs, in the event of non-payment of accounts.

ARTICLE II MEETING OF MEMBERS

This section of the bylaws states the minimum and maximum number of days a notice can be delivered prior to the annual meeting. Deadlines imposed by the publisher for the submission of material to be printed and mailed for the annual meeting have been considerably shortened over the last several years. The Board recommends lengthening the timeframe to provide notice to not more than ninety (90) days which will allow meeting notices to be delivered by publication to our members in ample time prior to the meeting:

Section 3. Notice of Members' Meetings. *Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and in case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than seven (7) days nor more than ~~twenty (20)~~ **ninety (90)** days before the date of the meeting, by mail, by or at the direction of the Secretary, or by the persons calling the meeting, to each member; provided, however, that with respect to all meetings at which directors are to be elected such notice shall be so delivered not less than seven (7) days nor more than ~~fourteen (14)~~ **ninety (90)** days before the date of the meeting. Such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, addressed to the member at his address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative, with postage thereon prepaid. The failure of any member to receive notice of an annual or special meeting of the members, shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at such meeting.*

ARTICLE III DIRECTORS

This section states the various ways a qualified member can be nominated

for election to the Cooperative's Board of Directors. The Board of Directors recommends changing the length of time from twenty five (25) days to forty five (45) days prior to the actual meeting when a member can submit a "Petition for Nomination". This change is also due to the lengthening timeframe imposed by the publisher for printing and mailing meeting notices:

Section 3. Nomination. *It shall be the duty of the President by and with the advice and consent of the members of the meeting of which directors are to be elected beginning with the year 1948 to appoint a committee on nominations for the coming year consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) regular members, and also an alternate member for each regular member appointed to such committee on nominations, who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee or the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No officer or member of the board of directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least thirty (30) days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors, but fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than ~~twenty five (25)~~ **forty five (45)** days prior to the meeting and secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and the nominations made by petition, if any. Nothing contained herein shall, however, prevent additional nominations to be made from the floor at the meeting of the members. The members may, at any meeting at which a director or directors shall be removed, as hereinbefore provided, elect a successor or successors thereto without compliance with the foregoing provision with respect to nominations. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.*