


JAMUP

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So Ends 2016!

The year 2016 will surely be a year to remember – maybe due to personal events in our lives, but without a doubt due to the election of our 45th president of the United States. As I write this in mid-October for our December issue of the JAMUP, I don't know who that person is but I am glad the process is over and now pray that our country will work to become once more a nation of unity.

If I could say one word to ALL of our political leaders, it would be “cooperation.” If our government and our people could once again achieve that, maybe common sense will return. One of the best examples of cooperation is benefiting us right now – rural electrification. Government and its people worked for the greater good, and it didn't matter what color or sex you were, or your financial status or political affiliation. Electricity was made available to all. And, it worked.

Fortunately, your electric cooperative still believes in this great nation and what it stands for and for the spiritual leadership that has made it strong. As we close 2016, we say “Thank you!” to all of our members, our board of directors and to employees for making it a successful year. Sure, our kWh sales were lower than expected, and prices we paid for some things were higher than we had hoped, but all of our employees are safe and they all got to go home to their families each evening. Our country is free

and independent and our government is strong even though the media doesn't always portray it that way, but what other nation in this whole world can compare?

There are two words that have been spoken for centuries that bring people together in celebration: “Merry Christmas!” And, just as Christ came to earth as a baby, what better way to celebrate Christmas than through the eyes of a child today? Whether you have children now or ever did, we were all children once and I hope you will enjoy a few letters to Santa: **Charles Harvell**

Dear Santa - Please give me a doll this year. I would like her to eat, walk, do my homework and help me clean my office. Thank you, Cathy

Dear Santa – Could you come early this year? I've been really super good, but I don't know if I can wait much longer. Please hurry! Love, Mikey

Dear Santa – How will you get into our new house this year? We don't have a chimney and Dad just installed a very expensive security system. Johnny

Dear Santa – Would you rather I leave you cookies and milk, or pizza? Dad says you'd probably like the pizza. Write back soon to let me know. Love, Bree

Dear Santa – Thanks for the race car last year. Can I have another one, only this time one that is faster than my best friend's race car? Thanks, Chris

Dear Santa – Mommy says that you only bring presents for good little boys. That isn't fair. David

As a Christmas wish for those of us that are no longer children, possibly Oren Arnold, a free-lance writer born in Texas in 1900 said it best: “To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.”

What will 2017 bring? I don't know any more about it than you do, but I have faith in the One who does and I thank Him for 2016 and all of the blessings this nation and this Cooperative receives, as well as countless personal blessings given each and every day.

From all of the employees and board of directors of SIEC, have a great Christmas season and a blessed New Year! J



Chris L. Bennett
Executive Vice President/
General Manager



'Twas The Night Before Christmas

Did you know that one of the oldest and most popular Christmas poems ever, commonly referred to as "Twas The Night Before Christmas," was written in the early 19th century?

When the poem was first published in the Troy Sentinel in upstate New York on December 23, 1823, it was published anonymously. "We know not to whom we are indebted," said an editorial note, "but from whomsoever it may have come, we give thanks for it." Though its author is disputed, the poem being attributed to both Clement Clarke Moore and Henry Livingston Jr. over the years, it is undeniably a Christmas classic. It is also referred to as "A Visit From St. Nicholas" or "The Night Before Christmas."

Below are the original lyrics to the poem:

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all thro' the house, Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse; The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugar plums danc'd in their heads, And Mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap. Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.
Dixie Baker

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow, Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below; When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny rein-deer.

With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick. More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he whistled, and shouted, and call'd them by name:

"Now! Dasher, now! Dancer, now! Prancer, and Vixen, "On! Comet, on! Cupid, on! Dunder and Blixem; "To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall! "Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves before the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky; So up to the house-top the coursers they flew, With the sleigh full of Toys - and St. Nicholas too:

And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound:

He was dress'd all in fur, from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnish'd with ashes and soot; A bundle of toys was flung on his back, And he look'd like a peddler just opening his pack:

His eyes - how they twinkled! his dimples how merry, His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry; His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow; The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath. He had a broad face, and a little round belly, That shook when he laugh'd, like a bowl full of jelly:

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laugh'd when I saw him in spite of myself; A wink of his eye and a twist of his head Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And fill'd all the stockings; then turn'd with a jerk, And laying his finger aside of his nose And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.

He sprung to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew, like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight-

**Happy Christmas to all,
and to all a good night.**

Cooking up holiday energy savings

For many of us, the best holidays involve home-cooked meals and wonderful aromas of turkey, stuffing and baked goods wafting throughout the house. It means a busy kitchen and a bustling house full of family and friends. If this rings true for you, despite the increased kitchen activity, you still have an opportunity to save energy during the holidays.

Cut carbs (carbon) painlessly

In addition to being the “heart of your home,” your kitchen could pump savings back into your wallet. According to the Department of Energy, cooking accounts for 4.5 percent of total energy use in U.S. homes. This number, combined with the energy use associated with refrigeration, dishwashing and hot water heating means that as much as 15 percent of the energy in the average American home is used in the kitchen. So, saving energy here can have a significant impact on your household budget. **Thomas Barnhill** For example, when preparing side dishes, baked goods, soups and such, consider using small appliances like a crock pot, toaster oven, microwave or warming plate instead of your conventional oven or stovetop.

These small appliances are a smart, energy-saving alternative, typically using about half the energy of a stove.



Seal in efficiency

When using your oven, don't peek! Opening the oven door can lower the temperature by as much as 25 degrees and causes your stove to work harder (consuming more energy) to return to the desired cooking temperature. If your recipe calls for baking the dish more than an hour, it is not necessary to preheat the oven. If your oven is electric, you can likely turn the oven off for the last five to ten minutes of cooking and allow the residual heat to complete the job. Closed burners and reflectors increase efficiency and offer better heating, so don't neglect this small but important task.

Just as keeping the oven door closed seals in efficiency and enables the stove to operate more economically, the same rules apply to the refrigerator and freezer. Keep the doors closed as much as possible so cold air doesn't escape. However, leaving the door open for a longer period of time while you load groceries or remove items you need is more efficient than opening and closing it several times.

If you are entertaining a large group, you may be able to give your furnace a brief holiday. When your oven is working hard and you have a house full of guests, the heat from the stove and the guests will keep your house comfortable, enabling you to turn down the thermostat.

Clean up with energy savings

When it's time to clean up, extend fellowship to the kitchen, and wash and dry dirty dishes by hand. This uses less energy than a dishwasher. However, don't leave the water



continuously, or you will waste energy. If you do use the dishwasher and rinse dishes before loading them, use cold water. Run the dishwasher with full loads only, and if possible, use the energy-saving cycle. Note that dishwashers that have overnight or air power dry settings can save up to 10 percent of your dishwashing energy costs.

By adapting these efficient practices in your kitchen, energy savings will be one more thing to be thankful for this holiday season.

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Merry Christmas

The Directors and Employees of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative send our wishes for a wonderful Christmas Season to all of our members. May your New Year be safe, happy and blessed.

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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.



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

7420 U.S. Highway 51 South • P.O. Box 100
Dongola, Illinois 62926
618-827-3555 • Office hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Web address: www.siec.coop