

# JAMUP

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## Being grateful, even for the small things



**N**ovember 2021 ... WOW, it hasn't taken long to get here. Weren't we just celebrating Christmas and New Year's? One thing is for certain, the older I get, the faster the years roll.

November is the month to remind us to be thankful for the many positive things happening in our life. As we approach Veterans Day, we should just stop and think about all those who have sacrificed their life for us. Those who have returned home with injuries, or not returned home at all. Those who missed their children's births, early years, school functions, and those good night hugs and kisses, just to serve our country.

November is also the month for us to be grateful. Grateful for all those things in your life that have brought you to where you are right now. I come from a big family, and I am so grateful for all the times we had big family gatherings at my grandparents. When I was young, we only went to town on Saturdays. You didn't run to the store daily for so many reasons. When that day came, we would go spend the day at my grandparents in Anna. We would walk "uptown" and go to the dime store or the shoe store. We usually got to get a cookie or ice cream cone before we went home. I am so grateful that I experienced the slow life ... before all the electronics.

My sisters and I have said many times, "We had such a good childhood." My dad was a farmer, and we weren't rich in money. We didn't have a fancy home or designer clothes. However, we were blessed with parents who provided us with a home full of love and values. I am so grateful for my "good childhood."

With Thanksgiving almost here, we should all take a few minutes and look at what is truly important to us. Is it the fancy decorations or all the things you must do before the big

be thankful and grateful for even the smallest things in our lives.

This holiday season, take a little extra time to help those around you that aren't as fortunate. Help someone with errands, take a meal to someone who can't prepare their own, or create another way to make someone else's day a little brighter. You will also receive the blessing of knowing you brightened that person's day, no matter how great or small the act of kindness.

Gratitude is a quality similar to electricity. It must be generated to



meal? Or is it your health, your job or the love of family you are surrounded by? With what we've experienced with the pandemic the past couple of years, we should all realize that we should

exist at all. You generate your own gratitude and transmit it to others through your actions. I pray this holiday season finds you grateful, thankful and blessed.

## It's a matter of (co-op!) principles

This is a time of year for reflection, and topping our list of things we're grateful for is our wonderful community. Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative employees are thankful to be in such an incredible place. We are fortunate to live in the same place where we work, which makes our ties to this community that much stronger.

The Cooperative Principles are essential to the co-op business model and benefit all members of the co-op, and I'd like to tell you more about four of them.

### Autonomy and Independence

Autonomy and Independence means the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the values and needs of our local community. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local members it serves.

### Education and Training

Education and Training focuses on enhancing the knowledge of co-op employees and board members, which enables them to contribute to the development of the co-op. By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual professional and personal growth, but to the future of the

co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our members (that's you!) and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you receive this magazine every month, so we can share the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.

### Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperation Among Cooperatives fosters the way co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle in action after major storms and disasters that cause

widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts—and we extend the same help to them when they need us.

In addition, because we are part of the national electric co-op network, we can connect and collaborate with other electric co-ops to tackle industry-related challenges, like cybersecurity and an ever-changing energy landscape. *Christie Croley*

### Concern for Community

Concern for Community is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism or donations to local causes, we invest in this community because it's our home too.

Most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op. At SIEC, we're thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.



Recently SIEC added a mural to their lobby, displaying the seven Cooperative Principles to members as they visit the Dongola facility.



Southern Illinois Electric displays the Cooperative Principles proudly in their board room.

## Fourteen 2022 IEC Memorial Scholarships available



Illinois electric cooperatives will award 14 scholarships in 2022 to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The 14 scholarships, \$2,000 each, will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says Executive Vice President and General Manager David Johnston. “Southern Illinois Electric and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth and investing in them through programs like this one.”

Eight scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric co-op member. A ninth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. Four additional scholarships are reserved for high school seniors enrolling full time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees, or directors.

The 14th scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker’s Scholarship, will help pay for costs to attend lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. Sons and daughters of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors, and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for this scholarship.

Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2021. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2022. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Brent Goforth. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available online at [siec.org](http://siec.org).

**FALL BACK!!!**  
**CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS**  
 🍁 **NOVEMBER 7TH.** 🍁



**Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative**  
 will be closed **November 25th**  
 and **26th** for Thanksgiving.



## 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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## Thanksgiving

The time is approaching when folks will begin their holiday shopping, creating to-do lists around the house, preparing for the Christmas Season. As you find yourself surrounded by the hustle and bustle of the early bird sales, frantic shoppers, and the urge to overspend, remember to take time to be thankful for the things you have, the family and friends you get to spend time with, as well as the memories held near and dear, of those who have gone on before you to make an impact in your life.

An easy way to express a feeling of gratitude is to give back generously from the ways you have been blessed! This could mean dropping canned goods off at a local food pantry, or donating new children's toys to an Angel Tree organization near you.

It is easy for all of us to move quickly from season to season, and forget the feeling of gratitude we express during Thanksgiving. So this year, make the act of giving thanks surpass the end of November on the calendar. Spread joy, love and appreciation as we close yet another chapter, and move to a wonderful Christmas season and the beginning of a new year!

We hope you enjoy all that fall has to offer, from the warm apple cider to the decorations and large family gatherings. From all of us at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, we wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving!

*Pictured is a beautiful fall display submitted by SIEC member, Mary Jane White of Buncombe.*

