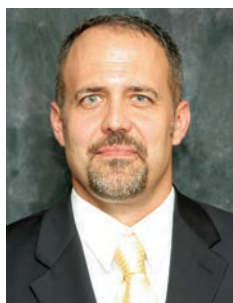


The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

Capital credits retirement checks

As the electric utility industry continues to evolve, face continual change and explore different ways to serve customers, we can all be proud that we are part of the electric cooperative program. Electric cooperatives have a unique business model that has proven to benefit cooperative members and has stood the test of time for 83 years.

The most profound and distinct difference between electric cooperatives and other utility business structures is that electric cooperatives are not-for-profit organizations that are member-owned and member-controlled. As a not-for-profit organization, your cooperative does not strive to produce profits for shareholders and investors but must maintain a sound financial position for the membership. Your cooperative sets the electric rates high enough to cover the costs of providing service and at the end of the year, any funds that were collected above the cost of service are allocated to you, our members, in the form of capital credits.

These capital credits are retained by the cooperative and used to build and maintain the infrastructure necessary to serve the members and service the long-term debt of the cooperative. When the financial condition and cash position of the cooperative permits, the capital credits are then retired and paid back to you, as members and owners. Every year your cooperative mails capital credit statements to every cooperative member notifying them of their allocated capital credit balance and the

amount of capital credits allocated to them in the previous year. This statement shows each member their equity and ownership in the cooperative.

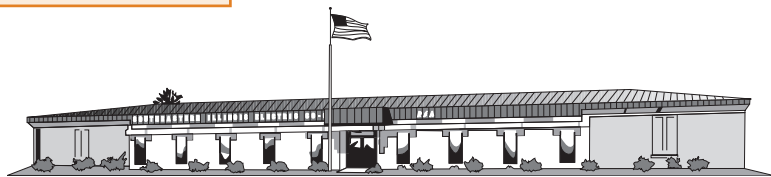
I am pleased to inform you, as cooperative members and owners, that your cooperative's board of trustees approved the retirement and return of \$1.77 million of capital credits to the members. The capital credits that are being returned are from the years 1984, 2019 and 2020. This means if you were a cooperative member in any or all these years, you will be receiving a check this month (December) for capital credits. Over the past 11 years, your cooperative has retired and returned approximately \$20 million to cooperative members.

I would like to close by stating that all of us can be proud to be a part of the electric cooperative program. The founders of the electric cooperative program developed a unique business structure that by its very nature, makes electric cooperatives accountable to the members they serve. This unique structure has contributed to the success of your cooperative over the years and remains unchanged even today, some 83 years later. Your cooperative is governed by local people that live and work in your very own communities. Your cooperative is operated by a group of local employees that also live and work in your very own communities. Your cooperative's sole purpose is to provide you, as cooperative member-owners, with reliable and quality service at equitable rates.

See you next month and as always, "We'll keep the lights on for you."

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:

Darek Jack,
Goreville, IL





Stay safe and warm this winter



As the colder months hit, many of us are not prepared for Old Man Winter's potential wrath.

Although our number one goal at SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc. is to provide safe and reliable service — to do all we can to keep the power on — heavy snow and accumulating ice can easily bring tree limbs down onto power lines, cutting off power to homes and businesses.

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) advises everyone to ready their home and cars, prepare for possible power outages, and to check on older adults. Be sure to have plenty of non-perishable food on hand and extra water stored in clean containers. If bad weather is forecasted, avoid travel, fully charge your cell phone and keep an up-to-date emergency kit on hand.

Specifically, the CDC recommends taking the following steps so that you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall:

Winterize your home

- Install weather stripping, insulation and storm windows.
- Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls.
- Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks.

Check your heating systems

- Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly and ventilated to the outside.
- Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
- Install a smoke detector. Test batteries monthly and replace them twice a year.
- Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.

Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies

- Install a CO detector to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check batteries when you change your clocks in the fall and spring.
- Learn symptoms of CO poisoning that include headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion.
- Keep grills, camp stoves and generators out of the house, basement and garage.
- Use fuel-powered generators at least 20 feet away from the house.
- Leave your home immediately if the CO detector goes off and call 9-1-1.

Prepare your car for cold weather

- Service the radiator and maintain antifreeze level.
- Check tire tread or, if necessary, replace tires with all-weather or snow tires.
- Keep the gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer.

Prepare emergency kits

Avoid driving, but in case you get stuck in bad weather or become stranded, an emergency kit for your car should include: cell phone, portable charger, extra batteries, blankets, food, water, booster cables, flares, tire pump, a bag of sand or cat litter (for traction), maps, flashlight, battery-powered radio, a first-aid kit, and plastic bags (for sanitation).

Start with these items for an in-home emergency kit: a flashlight, a NOAA Weather Radio, extra batteries, a pre-charged portable phone power source, first-aid kit with extra medicine and baby items, if necessary.

Don't forget specific items you or members of your family might need during an emergency.

For additional winter prep tips, consult the CDC (cdc.gov), Red Cross (redcross.org) or ready.gov. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & THE HAPPIEST OF NEW YEARS!

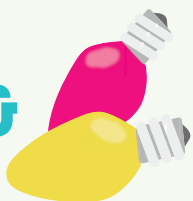
*From the Board of Trustees and Employees
of SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative*

**Our office will be closed on
Friday, December 24th for Christmas
and December 31st for New Year's.**



Keep Your Holidays

MERRY & BRIGHT



Don't add stress to your holiday season. Knowing how to properly use and hang lights could prevent injury or fire.



Make sure your home's electrical system can handle the load.



Unplug lights or decorations before changing a bulb or other parts.



Do not use cords or plugs that are damaged, frayed or cracked.



Only use lights certified by a reputable testing lab.



In addition, consider LED lights when replacing old light strands. LEDs use 80 to 90% less energy than incandescent bulbs.

Learn more:



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

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc.

100 Cooperative Way • Carrier Mills, IL 62917-2275
618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F

Find us on



Facebook.com/
SouthEasternIllinoisElectric