

# JAMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Season's greetings

*from Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative*



**David A. Johnston**  
General Manager

Over the years, you've probably heard or read about Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's concern for our community. This is one of the core principles that sets cooperatives apart from other types of utilities

and businesses. We've always taken this mission and responsibility to heart. It's who we are as a co-op.

Over the past few months, like so many of you, we've risen to meet new challenges and strengthen the safety net for our community, particularly for those who are most vulnerable. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic,

we've made numerous adjustments to programs and operations to maintain business continuity while staying focused on the bigger mission of helping our consumer-members during this turbulent time.

Now, with the holidays fast approaching, these recent events have made me pause and think about the role we play in our community. While our purpose is to provide safe and reliable energy to you, the members we serve, we have a greater mission—to be a catalyst for good.

You're probably aware of our Youth Tour program, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.

We also have a strong commitment to safety—not just for our employees,

but for our community as well. We visit schools to teach children of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We hold safety demonstrations at community meetings and other gatherings.

You'll also see our employees serving on local boards, coaching youth sports, and volunteering at charitable events. At the heart of all these programs is you—the members we proudly serve. Looking back, I'm grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make.

This holiday season, I wish you and your loved ones peace, joy and prosperity. Speaking on behalf of our team at SIEC, I know the future will be bright, because of you.

## SIEC 81st Annual Meeting held

The 81st Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members was held on October 7, 2021 at Shawnee Community College. There were nearly 450 attendees.

The pandemic prevented a 2020 meeting, so it was certainly a pleasure to once again gather as a group to conduct the businesses of the cooperative and elect the board of directors. Members were also able to enjoy the Live Line Demonstration, which provides visual and verbal electric safety information. Many prizes and bill credits were given away. A drawing was held for two \$500 college scholarships.

**David C. Carter**

We appreciate all those who were able to attend and welcome those

who could not make to our meeting next year. It is especially important for the membership to be engaged and informed. Especially with the industry changing at an extremely fast pace. We strive to not only be your energy provider, but also your energy advisor. If you ever have a question, please contact us. We welcome the opportunity to chat, and we will do our absolute best to make sure your questions get answered. There is absolutely nothing more important than each of our member owners as well as any concerns you may have.

We also want to extend our appreciation and gratitude to our board of directors. The board puts in countless hours as they strive to make this organization better each day with

oversight and governance so that it has a sustainable future.

Finally, Shawnee Community College welcomed us again this year. In fact, they have for many years. The college is always willing to share their facilities, employees and equipment. They prove over and over to have concern for us. We appreciate the leadership and employees of the college for demonstrating a willingness to help with not only SIEC functions, but local community functions as well.

We hope to see you at next year's annual meeting!

**David Johnston**  
Executive VP/General Manager



# Gingerbread House Contest



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative wants to see your Gingerbread House creations! Show off your creativity and Christmas spirit by designing your very own gingerbread house this December for a chance to win a \$50 gift card! Once the candy construction is finished, make sure to email a photo of the finished product to [bgoforth@siec.org](mailto:bgoforth@siec.org) before digging in, then let the delicious demolition begin! We look forward to seeing your decorated dwellings this holiday season! All submissions must be received by **Wednesday, December 22**. The winning Gingerbread House will be announced on our Facebook page Christmas Eve!



## Fourteen scholarships up for grabs

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

**8** scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric co-op member.

**1** 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.

**4** additional scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

**1** 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 for the first 13 scholarships 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).



## 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.

### SIEC Board of Directors

Randall Rushing  
(President).....Massac Co.  
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Brent Goforth (Editor)

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

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[www.siec.coop](http://www.siec.coop)

## Deck the halls safely

There's nothing like putting up lights and decorations to get you in the holiday spirit. It's something that many do each and every year without incident, yet the holidays are also one of the most hazardous times of the year when it comes to electrical fires and accidents.

Safe Electricity offer several tips as you deck the halls this season:

-  When decorating outside, look up and around for power lines. Never throw light or other decorations into trees near power lines.
-  Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself at least ten feet from power lines.
-  Match plugs with outlets. Do not force a three-pronged plug into a two-pronged outlet or extension cord.
-  Outside, use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use them. Ensure outdoor outlets or extension cords are equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs).
-  Never string more strands of lights together than recommended by the manufacturer.
-  Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords.

-  Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights.
-  Do not attach cords to utility poles.

The outside of your home is not the only place where you need to be cautious of electrical dangers. Also be careful when placing a decorating trees inside your home. The outside of your home is not the only place to use caution. Use care when placing and decorating trees inside your home.



Place fresh-cut and artificial trees away from heat sources such as registers, fireplaces, and radiators; water fresh-cut trees frequently. Turn lights off before you go to sleep. Use a timer to help.

Safe Electricity wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. For more information on holiday safety tips visit, [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

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: [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)