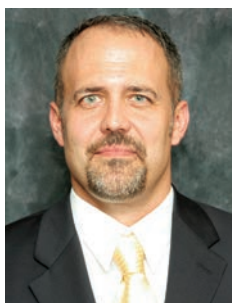


# The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## President's Comments



**Dustin Tripp**  
President/CEO

## Making a difference in southern Illinois

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative is very proud to be one of several businesses in the area that has remained locally owned, governed and operated for the past 84 years in southern Illinois. Our cooperative embraces improving the quality of life in the communities it serves. Your cooperative remains committed to its communities, and the following are just a few examples of how your electric cooperative is striving to make a difference right here in southern Illinois.

Your cooperative coordinates an education grant program known as the Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant. Your cooperative offers a total of \$4,600 in grants to fund innovative, unfunded projects or materials. Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school and the students. Every year, your cooperative sends grant applications to all the schools in the 10-county service area and assists school administrators in applying for these grants. For the 2021-2022 school year, SEIEC awarded grants to Benton Grade School, Eldorado High School, Goreville Elementary School, Hardin County High School and Pope County Elementary School.

SouthEastern also invites all 23 area high schools to participate in a program known as the "Youth to Washington Tour." Students are invited to complete and send an application to SouthEastern for evaluation by staff. Two applicants are awarded the opportunity to participate in a one-day tour of the state's capital in Springfield and then on to a one week, expense-paid tour of our nation's capital in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately,

due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, the cooperative will not participate in Youth to Washington Tour this year but will hopefully offer it again next year.

SouthEastern also participates in a state-wide scholarship fund known as the Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarship Fund as a means of honoring deceased members of the electric cooperative family. Every year, your cooperative sends information to all schools in the 10-county service area with instructions on how to apply for the scholarships. The program will award 14 scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each.

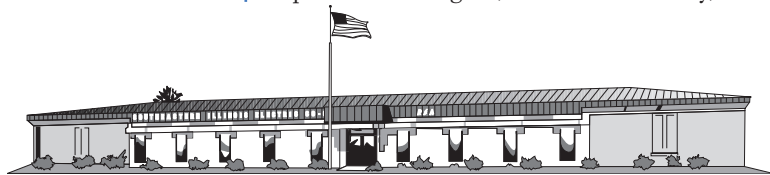
Eight scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric co-op member and are enrolling in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school in the U.S. A ninth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, is awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative director or employee.

Four additional scholarships are awarded to a high school senior who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric co-op members, employees or directors who will be enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college. The scholarships must be used for educational costs, and the students must enter college within one year from the time the scholarships are awarded.

Scholarships are awarded based upon grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation

*Continued on page 18d ▶*

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:  
Terry Odum, Marion, IL



# May is Electrical Safety Month

**E**lectricity lights homes and businesses, provides warmth and keeps appliances and equipment running smoothly. During Electrical Safety Month, SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Safe Electricity provide these electrical safety tips to avoid hazards both inside and outdoors.

## Staying safe on the road

Downed power lines can happen because of wind, storms, animals or an auto accident/collision.

1. If you see a downed power line, call 911 to report it and stay in your car. You cannot tell by looking or listening if the power line is deenergized. Wait in your vehicle until an electric utility crew member says it is safe to get out.
2. Do not drive over a downed power line. Doing so could cause a domino effect and bring down other lines, poles and equipment.
3. The only time you should exit is if your vehicle or cab is on fire. If this is the case, make a solid jump from the car or cab without touching it, landing with both feet together. Then, hop away with your feet together as far as you can.

## Staying safe outside

When working outside, be aware of overhead and underground power lines.

1. Keep at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Keep any items you are carrying or using, such as long poles or other extended equipment, 10 feet away from power lines at all times. Carry an extension ladder or other far-reaching tools or equipment horizontally.
2. Make sure all outside outlets are ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected.
3. Before digging, call 811 or



- your state's underground locating service. Buried lines such as electric, gas, water, sewer and other lines bring services indoors. Besides the dangers of coming in contact with a gas or electric line, fines due to damage are the responsibility of the home or landowner. Privately owned lines and systems will not be marked by the free service.
4. When you see lightning, take shelter inside an enclosed building or a hard-topped vehicle for protection. Stay away from high places, and do not take shelter under an isolated tree. No place outside is safe. Stay away from items that conduct electricity, such as metal fences. If you are swimming or in a hot tub, get out. Water is an electrical conductor that is dangerous during a storm.

## Staying safe inside

With so many people working from home, the workplace and where you live can be one and the same. This means more devices are plugged into outlets or circuits that may not be able to handle the load.

1. Have a qualified electrician/

licensed contractor check for hazards if you notice the following: dimming lights, a sizzling or buzzing sound, the smell of warm plastic, a switch plate that feels warm or looks scorched, sparks when plugging in or unplugging items or circuits that trip often.

2. When working with electrical equipment inside the house or shop, be aware that electrical equipment can spark when flammable vapors, gases or dust are present.
3. Do not overstretch a cord or use frayed or damaged cords.
4. During storms, lightning can enter homes through corded phones, televisions, radios or computers. Lightning can also travel through plumbing, so do not take a bath, shower or wash dishes when you see lightning. If possible, unplug appliances and electronics before the storm, including cell phones charging via electricity. Surges caused by lightning can damage electronics and appliances.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



In honor of Memorial Day on May 30, please take time to remember the brave men and women who gave their lives for this great country. They are, after all, the reason for the holiday.



**SouthEastern Illinois  
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative





**Our office will be closed  
on Monday, May 30  
in observance of  
Memorial Day.**

► *Continued from page 18a*

in school and community activities, biographical statement and knowledge of cooperatives, as demonstrated by a short essay.

The 14th annual scholarship is known as the "LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship." This scholarship helps pay for costs to attend lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. Relatives of co-op employees or directors are eligible for the lineworker's scholarship, as are individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard.

These are just a few examples of how your electric cooperative strives to make a difference in the communities it serves.

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

# 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