

JAMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

What does it mean to be a member of a cooperative?

As you may know, a cooperative is an organization that is owned and controlled by the people who use it. However, there is more to membership in an electric cooperative than the consumption of electricity or where you send your monthly payment. Often, even members of an organization can begin to think of themselves as customers.

Tiffany Ray They can view the relationship between themselves and the organization as strictly transactional,



when really the idea behind membership is active participation.

Here at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC), we value our members' active participation in a multitude of ways — all of which can be tied directly to the principles that influence each decision we make! Look at the Seven Cooperative Principles listed

below, and see if you can match the paragraph with the corresponding principle! Then think of which area you find most valuable to you and your personal membership with SIEC!

A. Membership is open to all persons who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender or economic circumstances. It is crucial that everyone within a cooperative is represented equally.

B. As our 2023 Annual Meeting approaches on Aug. 10 at Shawnee Community College, it is important to remember the power that each member holds in the future of the cooperative.

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THESE ARE
THE WORDS
WE LIVE BY.

MEMBERS' ECONOMIC
PARTICIPATION



DEMOCRATIC
MEMBER CONTROL



CONCERN FOR
COMMUNITY



EDUCATION, TRAINING
AND INFORMATION



AUTONOMY AND
INDEPENDENCE



VOLUNTARY AND
OPEN MEMBERSHIP



COOPERATION AMONG
COOPERATIVES

"What does it mean?" continued from page 18A

Each member has the right to cast a vote in the election of directors, as well as on topics brought forth during the business meeting. This allows members to actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

- C. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership. For participating on an economic level, margins that go unused by the cooperative for operations, expenses or infrastructure are returned to each member in the form of capital credits!
- D. From time to time, the cooperative may partner with organizations to complete projects or promote initiatives, but it is important that the cooperative maintains the ability to operate

on its own and provide reliable electricity to its members. With the dedication of our employees, board of directors and active members, we continue to be a trusted energy supplier here in Southern Illinois.

- E. Knowledge is power, and we recognize that value for our elected directors and employees. To help them effectively contribute to the development of our cooperatives, they attend conferences and workshops, ensuring we stay up to date on key industry topics, safety standards and emerging technologies that could benefit the cooperative. It is also important that we continue to train and inform you, the member! SIEC invests in the safety of our community through our Live Line Demo, which communicates the dangers of electricity and what to do if members ever find themselves in a potentially dangerous situation.
- F. Occasionally, natural disasters and storms can cause cooperatives to require assistance to restore power to their members. *—Lillian Livesay* In these cases, cooperatives come together to lend a hand to their

neighboring co-op — sometimes, states away! By now, you may have heard or read details of the recent broadband project that SIEC has partnered with Western Kentucky & Tennessee Telecommunications Cooperative to bring high-speed fiber-optic internet to portions of our service territory. This is another great example of two cooperatives working together to benefit each other's memberships! When cooperatives come together, a bigger impact can be made, both in our home state and even across the country.

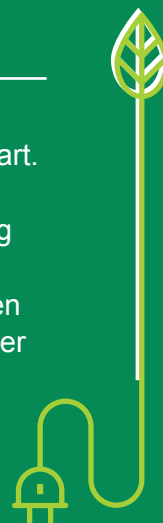
- G. Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership. SIEC is proud to continue sponsoring blood drives through our partnership with Red Cross, expand safety initiatives across our service territory, as well as invest in education. Through the Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant program and various scholarships, SIEC gives thousands back to well-deserving students and educators within the communities we serve!



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Stay safe while spending time outdoors



As temperatures increase and sunny days abound, it is easy to be foot-loose and fancy-free. As you spend more time outdoors, keep these safety tips in mind to have a great summer.

Pools and hot tubs

Before opening your pool or hot tub for the season, ensure there is ground fault circuit interrupter protection on underwater lighting circuits, as well as for lighting around pools, hot tubs and spas. Have your pool's electrical system inspected. Faulty wiring can cause swimmers to experience electric shock drowning.

Boating and swimming

When boating or swimming, know that faulty wiring can cause the water to become energized. Never go swimming near boats plugged into shore power or docks with an electrical source. Energized water can cause electric shock drowning.

Outdoor activities

According to the National Lightning Safety Council, approximately 440 people are struck and killed by lightning each year.* Nearly

two-thirds of the deaths occurred while enjoying outdoor leisure activities — 33% of the fatalities occurred during water-related activities such as boating, spending time on the beach and swimming, while 14% happened during sporting activities such as fishing, soccer and running.

During a storm

When angry clouds roll in, take them seriously. Have a weather app installed on your phone to inform you of weather alerts. Lightning can occur up to 10 miles away from the heart of the storm, so if you hear thunder, take cover. A watch means that conditions are likely for severe weather to develop; a warning means take action.

When playing

When flying drones, remote-controlled planes, toys or kites, fly them in a wide-open area free from overhead power lines. If a toy or object gets stuck in an overhead power line, do not try to remove it. Instead, call your electric utility and a crew will address the issue safely.

Ensure that overhead power lines do not run through or over a tree

before your child starts to climb. Select trees that are in a wide-open space without overhead power lines nearby.

Elgie Rottmann

If kids are playing with a ball and it goes inside a substation fence, teach them to never touch or climb the fence to attempt to retrieve it or any other item. Instead, call your electric utility to safely take care of it. The same precaution applies to a pet or animal inside the fenced area of a substation.

Releasing balloons

Although not an outdoor recreational activity per se, be careful with metallic balloons. If they are released intentionally or accidentally and get caught in a power line or other utility equipment, they can cause a major power outage. Additionally, be careful during a balloon release regardless of the type of balloon. Be sure to release balloons in wide-open areas far from overhead power and airports.

For additional electrical safety tips, visit SafeElectricity.org.

**Analysis of lightning-related deaths in the U.S., 2006–2021*

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 Brent with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

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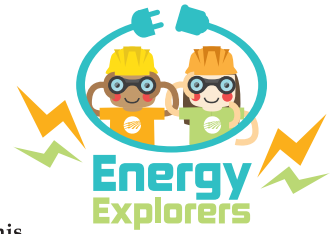
For Outages Call:
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SWIMMING POOL SAFETY WORD SEARCH

Water and electricity never mix. Always practice safety when you're near or in the swimming pool this summer. Read the following safety tips, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle below.



Never bring electrical **devices** near a swimming pool. **Electrical** devices that come in contact with **water** can cause electric shock. When possible, use **battery**-operated devices when **outdoors** near a swimming pool. Outdoor electrical **outlets** should be **dry** or covered. If you hear thunder, immediately exit the swimming **pool**. Thunderstorms and lightning may be near.

C	Y	P	G	V	Q	B	X	S	E	D	R	N	L	Y
I	R	O	J	R	H	S	R	L	J	M	R	I	J	F
I	E	O	X	M	W	O	E	V	T	W	G	Y	L	A
M	T	L	T	J	O	C	M	H	O	H	M	H	K	H
V	T	P	A	D	T	M	C	K	T	Z	G	E	U	Q
E	A	Y	T	R	P	O	Z	N	E	J	K	Y	M	B
H	B	U	I	P	T	E	I	D	Q	K	C	X	Q	M
Z	O	C	L	F	W	N	W	W	C	N	K	J	N	S
R	A	I	T	B	G	G	S	D	R	T	H	T	I	K
L	E	I	T	K	J	K	N	H	X	Z	C	B	Y	J
L	K	T	A	Z	X	T	Y	H	E	Q	D	P	R	R
N	X	M	A	X	M	Q	S	E	C	I	V	E	D	F
Z	O	Y	D	W	O	U	T	L	E	T	S	U	V	L
X	N	P	Y	C	Y	O	H	O	P	J	L	R	C	Q
Z	M	J	Y	L	X	R	L	B	E	N	B	H	C	K

