

Illinois Country Living

 Southern Illinois
Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



BETTER
Together

2023 Annual Meeting

Thursday, August 10, 2023

Registration starts at 4 p.m.

Shawnee Community
College, Ullin, IL

 Southern Illinois
Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy
Cooperative 
siec.coop



Official Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 2023 Annual Meeting of the members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative will be held at Shawnee Community College, Ullin, Illinois, at 6 p.m., Thursday, August 10, 2023, to take action upon the following matters.

- The report of the officers, directors, manager and committees.
- The election of three directors of the Cooperative.
- The matters and business set out in the remainder of this notice and any other matter of business that may be properly brought before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

In connection with the election of directors scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been nominated by the committee of nominations, appointed by the president of the Cooperative pursuant to the by-laws:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| ■ Alexander County | Scott Miller
(three-year term) |
| ■ Johnson County | Toni Snell
(three-year term) |
| ■ Massac County | Kim Bakehouse
(three-year term) |

Given at Dongola, Illinois, this 26th day of June 2023.

Gerald P. Thurston, Secretary-Treasurer

Office Closing

Our office will close at 3 p.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2023 to allow our employees time to travel to Shawnee Community College for our Annual Meeting.

We hope to see you there!

Registration is 4-6 p.m.

Entertainment begins at 4:30 p.m.

REMINDER

Please remember to bring your registration insert found in your electric bill you receive in July. The registration insert, when presented at the Annual Meeting, will entitle you to receive a \$15 credit on your next electric bill and be eligible for the drawing of prizes.



ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday,
August 10, 2023 at 6 p.m.
Shawnee Community College

Rusty's Home Center

Contact Info:

418 East Davie St.
Anna, IL 62906

Phone: (618) 833-2101
Fax: (618) 833-4166

Store Hours:

Monday through Friday:
7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday:
7:00 am – 3:00 pm

Sunday: Closed

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Entertainment – Julia Watkins

Intrigued with performing violin in an alternative style, Julia Watkins set out to learn the technical side of amplification to perform as an electric violin soloist.

In high school, Watkins qualified for the Florida All State Orchestra, and sat as Concert Master at the Vero Beach High School Orchestra, as well as Concert Master of the Treasure Coast Youth Symphony. Julia went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Violin Performance from Belhaven University, where she received a full music scholarship.

After graduating from college, Watkins decided to pursue a career in the classical music world. She was

a member of the Paducah Symphony Orchestra, and owned a large music studio where she enjoyed teaching and mentoring hundreds of students. After several years of performing in the symphony, Watkins retired at the age of 27. She returned to school to acquire a Master of Business Administration. She graduated and was hired as an adjunct faculty member at the local college teaching business classes. Watkins then decided to merge her education and background and started her own music entertainment business.



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**



We are looking for two active SIEC members in good standing to volunteer for our Operation Round Up Committee. If you are interested in volunteering, please provide your information immediately following registration at the annual meeting or contact us at the office prior to the annual meeting.

Operation Round Up is a program that is funded by monies generated by rounding up participating SIEC members' monthly electric bills or other specified monetary contributions.

This program will be overseen by a committee and will allow our members to actively participate in giving back to the communities we serve. It also encompasses the two cooperative principles of Concern for Community and Member's Economic Participation.

JAMMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Please join us for the 83rd Annual Meeting of Members!



Member Owners,

The time of year for our board of directors, employees and member-owners to gather for the annual meeting is just around the corner. This year, the annual meeting will be held on the evening of Aug. 10, 2023, at Shawnee Community College.

We gather for this important event to discuss the achievements, challenges and future plans of our

valued members' organization. The annual meeting serves as an opportunity for us to share information and make collective decisions that will impact the future of your cooperative.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is owned by the members it serves. I encourage you to be an active, informed member and attend the annual membership meeting.

Glenda O. Campbell

Together, we can continue to advance a prospering and successful organization.

Warm regards,
David

SIEC Annual Meeting of Members Program

Thursday, August 10, 2023

Member Registration 4 to 6 p.m. in the Atrium. Bring the registration card insert mailed with the electric bill statement you receive in July to register for door prizes. Each member registering will receive one \$15 electric bill credit per membership. In addition, drawings for attendance prizes will immediately follow at the conclusion of the meeting. Canned food and school supply donations will be accepted again in exchange for free LED light bulbs.

Kids' Registration Kids 10 and under should register for the kids' prize giveaways in the Educational Center. Drawing will be at 5:50 p.m.

Entertainment 4:30-5:45 p.m. Entertainment by Julia Watkins

Meeting Begins 6 p.m.

- Invocation
- National Anthem by Julia Watkins

Business Meetings Begins 6:10 p.m.

- Call to Order – 2023 Annual Meeting of Members
- Welcome
- Reading of the 2022 Minutes
- Official Meeting Notice
- President & General Manager Reports
- Nominating Committee Report
- Balloting of Directors
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment
- Recognitions
- Winner of Food Pantry Donations
- Door Prizes

Minutes of the 82nd Annual Meeting

The 82nd annual meeting of the members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative was held at Shawnee Community College, Ullin, Ill., on Aug. 4, 2022, pursuant to Section 1, Article II of the bylaws and notice printed in the July 2022 edition of the JAMUP and additional notice mailed to all members of Southern Illinois Cooperative dated the 23rd day of June 2022.

SIEC Director William E. Littrell offered the invocation. The National Anthem was performed by John Ryan.

Board President Randall Rushing called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

Executive Vice President/General Manager David Johnston extended a welcome to all members who came to participate in the annual meeting proceedings. Mr. Johnston introduced the Board of Directors, Randall Rushing, Board President, Massac County; William E. Littrell, Vice President, Union County; Scott Ury, Secretary-Treasurer, Union County; Lamar Houston Jr., Alexander County; Scott Miller, Alexander County; Toni Snell, Johnson County; David Martin, Massac County; Steve Heisner, Pulaski County; and Gerald P. Thurston, Pulaski County. Also introduced was the Cooperative's Attorney, Ronald E. Osman of Marion.

Scott Ury read the Proof of Mailing Notice and Official Meeting Notice. Ury moved to accept and approve the minutes as mailed in the Official Meeting Notice or distributed at registration and to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion was seconded by Jesse Goines. Motion carried.

President Rushing gave the President's report.

President Rushing then introduced David Johnston to give the General Manager's report.

Johnston introduced Craig Bradley, Secretary of the Nominating Committee, to read the Nominating Committee report. President Rushing asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Nominating Committee. It was moved by Perry Dailey and seconded by James Taflinger. Motion carried.

President Rushing announced the Nominating Committee chosen for 2022-2023. They are:

Alexander County

- Delegate — Tim Pierce, Thebes
- Alternate — Larry Houston, Tamms

Johnson County

- Delegate — Linda M. Wood, Vienna
- Alternate — Nancy Breeden, Buncombe

Massac County

- Delegate — Ashley Thompson, Metropolis
- Alternate — Randy Wilke, Karnak

Pulaski County

- Delegate — Craig Bradley, Karnak
- Alternate — Danny J. Thurston, Pulaski

Union County

- Delegate — Glenn Russell Heisner, Anna
- Alternate — Bruce Mosby, Jonesboro

President Rushing introduced Attorney Ronald E. Osman to conduct the election of directors.

Attorney Osman reported that at the meeting on May 23, 2022, the Nominating Committee

nominated three (3) candidates for election to the office of director, each for a term of three years:

Alexander County — Lamar Houston Jr.
Pulaski County — Steve Heisner
Union County — Scott L. Ury

Attorney Osman proceeded with the election of directors.

Attorney Osman reported that Lamar Houston Jr. was nominated by the Nominating Committee for election to a three-year term in Alexander County. No nominations by petition had been filed and there were no nominations from the floor. It was moved by Tim Pierce and seconded by Larry Lovell to close nominations and have the secretary cast a unanimous ballot by acclamation and elect Lamar Houston Jr. as Director from Alexander County. Motion carried.

Attorney Osman reported that Steve Heisner had been nominated by the Nominating Committee for election to a three-year term in Pulaski County. No nominations by petition had been filed and there were no nominations from the floor. It was moved by Roslyn Smith and seconded by Sharon Wilson to close nominations and have the secretary cast a unanimous ballot by acclamation and elect Steve Heisner as Director from Pulaski County. Motion carried.

Attorney Osman reported that Scott Ury had been nominated by the Nominating Committee for election to a three-year term in Union County. No nominations by petition had been filed and there were no nominations from the floor. It was moved by Paula Stairs and seconded by Gloria Hayes to close nominations and have the secretary cast a unanimous ballot by acclamation and elect Scott Ury as Director from Union County. Motion carried.

President Rushing asked if there was any unfinished business to be brought before the meeting. There was none.

President Rushing then turned the meeting back to Attorney Osman to conduct a member vote on proposed bylaw revisions.

Attorney Osman explained that periodically, the board of directors reviews the cooperative's bylaws to determine if changes are recommended. The past two years of Covid, federal, state and local restrictions prevented the cooperative from holding an in-person annual meeting as required by the present bylaws and prevented election of directors for those years when in-person meetings were prevented. This caused the board to recommend the following revisions to the bylaws in the event of future federal, state or local restrictions preventing an in-person annual meeting. The members were referred by Attorney Osman to the three proposed bylaw changes that were included in the additional notice mailed to all members of Southern Illinois Cooperative dated the 23rd day of June 2022 and handed out when each member checked in for the Annual Meeting, and asked if there were any questions or comments on any of the three proposed bylaw changes. Attorney Osman also told the members that each proposed bylaw amendment would be voted on separately and again asked if

there were any questions or comments. Hearing no questions or comments, Attorney Osman proceeded to present to the members each proposed bylaw amendment to the membership for a vote.

Attorney Osman then presented to the members present and asked:

Should ARTICLE II Section 4 of the By-Laws be amended to read as follows:

MEETING OF MEMBERS

Section 4. Quorum. That one hundred and fifty (150) of the members present in person shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings of members. In case of a joint membership the presence at the meeting of either or both husband and wife, shall be regarded as the presence of one. If less than a quorum is present at any meeting a majority of those present in person may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice. Notwithstanding the above, in the event of a Federal Emergency Declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 or the State of Illinois Gubernatorial Proclamation under the Illinois Emergency Management Act, 20 ILCS 3305, or similar acts, proclamations, or declarations by the Federal Government or the State of Illinois, that prohibits in person meetings or gatherings, the Directors may provide for drive-through voting, electronic voting, or any other alternative voting method designed to provide the members the opportunity to participate in the meeting, so long as appropriate measures have been taken to ensure voter integrity. If any of the above forms of voting are approved for any meeting, a member so participating shall be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

The bylaw amendment to Article II Meeting of Members Section 4. Quorum was presented by Attorney Osman and approved by the members standing and with a show of hands with all of the members present and voting in favor of the amendment as presented.

Attorney Osman then presented to the members present and asked:

Should ARTICLE III Directors Section 3. Nomination of the Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

DIRECTORS

Section 3. Nomination. It shall be the duty of the President by and with the advice and consent of the members of the meeting of which directors are to be elected beginning with the year 1948 to appoint a committee on nominations for the coming year consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) regular members, and also an alternate member for each regular member appointed to such committee on nominations, who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee or the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No officer or member of the board of directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least thirty (30) days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors, but fifteen (15) or more members may make other

nominations in writing over their signatures not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting and secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected and show separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and the nominations made by petition, if any. No nominations from the floor will be accepted. The members may, at any meeting at which a director or directors shall be removed, as hereinbefore provided, elect a successor or successors thereto without compliance with the foregoing provision with respect to nominations. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.

The bylaw amendment to Article III Directors Section 3. Nomination was presented by Attorney Osman and approved by the members standing and with a show of hands, with all of the members

present and voting in favor of the amendment as presented.

Attorney Osman then presented to the members present and asked:

Should ARTICLE IV Meeting of Directors Section 4. Quorum of the bylaws be amended to read as follows:

MEETING OF DIRECTORS

Section 4. Quorum. A majority of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the board of directors, provided, that if less than a majority of the directors are present at said meeting, a majority of the directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice. Notwithstanding the above, in the event of a Federal Emergency Declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 or the State of Illinois Gubernatorial Proclamation under the Illinois Emergency Management Act, 20 ILCS 3305, or similar acts, proclamations, or declarations by the Federal Government or the State of Illinois, that prohibits in-person meetings or gatherings, the

Directors may meet by phone, Zoom or any other form of communication where all the Directors are able to simultaneously communicate. In any Director's meeting held using any of the above forms of meeting, a Director so participating shall be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

The bylaw amendment to Article IV Directors Section 3. Quorum was presented by Attorney Osman and approved by the members standing and with a show of hands, with all of the members present and voting in favor of the amendment as presented.

President Rushing asked if there was any more new business. There being none, he asked for a motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting. It was moved by Cody Poole and seconded by Jeff Roach to adjourn the business portion of the meeting. Motion carried. President Rushing declared the business portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

The directors adjourned to reorganize.

Board of Director Candidate Profiles

Scott Miller

Alexander County



Scott Miller of Tamms has served as a director for Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative since 2011. Scott is a farmer and has been a member of SIEC for 42 years. Scott graduated from Egyptian High School. He is a Sunday school teacher and an assistant Sunday school director at Sandy Creek Baptist Church. He is a member of Farm Bureau, National Corn Growers Association and a former Farm Service Agency County Committee chairman.

Scott's hobbies include hunting, traveling, snow skiing and spending time with family. He is married to Cheryl, and they have two children, Kristin and Joshua, and five amazing grandchildren.

Toni Snell

Johnson County



Toni Snell, of Cypress, is an RN at Choate Mental Health Center in Anna. She obtained her degree in nursing and applied

science through Shawnee Community College. Toni and her late husband Tom have four children, Matt, Becky, Jennie and Jodie. She enjoys spending time with her family, including 15 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren! In her spare time, she likes to travel abroad, go antique furniture shopping, and takes great pride in sending care packages to her grandson Amos Rutherford and his fellow servicemen and women in the United States Navy, stationed aboard the U.S.S. Reagan.

Elizabeth A. Finley

Toni has been an SIEC member for 50 years!

Kim L. Bakehouse

Massac County



Kim L. Bakehouse, of Metropolis, has been selected by the nominating committee as the nominee for Massac County. Kim worked for 44 years at Electric Energy Inc. (EEI) power plant in Joppa, and he believes that his experience in the electric industry makes him a viable candidate for this position. Following his retirement in 2022, he transitioned to crop farming full-time. In his spare time,

Kim likes to collect tractors and spend time with his three grandchildren. When asked what factors led to his decision to accept a nomination, he responded, "For me, the cooperative has always been around and provided good service to its members." In addition to cooperative reliability, he also mentioned that the strong ties SIEC has to the communities it serves immediately came to mind. Kim's grandfather, Lewis Johnson, actually served as chairman on the original cooperative board of directors, which is one reason he feels a responsibility and excitement to serve the membership of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, following in his grandfather's footsteps.

Kim has also previously served on the Soil & Water Conservation Board as chairman, as well as being an active FFA Alumni at Massac Community High School. As a director, Kim said he would value honesty and integrity above all else, ensuring that he continues to learn about the industry and serve the membership here in southern Illinois to the best of his ability.

Cooperative employees



Casey Adamitis
Office Services
Representative



Angela Bailey
Cashier
Receptionist



Jon Beisner
Journeyman
Lineman



Kelly Bowen
Warehouseman



Crystal Brown
Engineering
& Operations
Specialist



Ray Crane
Building & Grounds
Maintenance
Coordinator



Brian Dirden
Crew Foreman



Brent Goforth
Director of Member
Services



Dale Guetersloh
Utility
Serviceman



Leslie Harvel
Office Services
Coordinator



Bree Hileman
Director of Human
Resources &
Administrative
Services



Daniel Hileman
Crew Foreman



Blayne Holshouser
Right of Way
Foreman



Connor Hughart
Journeyman
Lineman



David Johnston
Executive
Vice President &
General Manager



Joshua Kelley
Journeyman
Lineman



Lana Livesay
Payroll
Administrator



Michael Logeman
Director of
Engineering



Robert Mayo
Director of
Operations &
Maintenance



Kyle McDaniel
Forestry Journeyman



Lyle McDowell
Journeyman
Lineman



Nathan Menees
Utility Serviceman



Alaina Johnson
Office Services
Representative



Robert Nelson
Meter Tester/
Lineman



Sheila Orange
Office Services
Representative



Jeffery Palmer
Oil Equipment
Lineman



Gabe Pecord
Forestry
Journeyman



Allen Plott
Crew Foreman



Cody Poole
Mechanic
First Class



Dexter Reynolds
Forestry Foreman



Jeff Roach
Apprentice Lineman



Aaron Stover
Crew Foreman



Brent Taylor
Apprentice Lineman



Stephanie Theis
Staff Accountant



David Thompson
Journeyman
Lineman



Stanley Treat
Utility Serviceman



Lane Ury
Assistant Engineer



Julie Wilke
Director of
Administration
& Finance



Zach Zeigler
Journeyman
Lineman



BLOOD DRIVE

July 5 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
at the
First Christian Church
in Anna, Ill.

Members who donate
will receive a
\$10 bill credit
as a
THANK YOU GIFT.

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.

Balance Sheet Analysis

For the YTD as of December 31

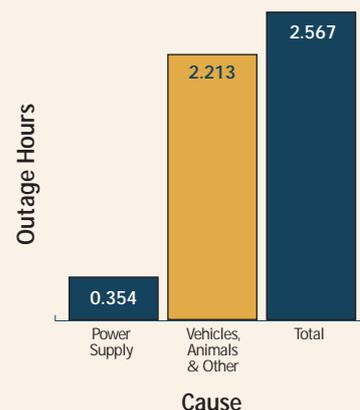
	2022	2021	2020
ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS			
Total Utility Plant	\$ 94,266,372	\$ 91,810,571	\$ 89,913,949
Accumulated Depreciation	(28,397,077)	(26,957,726)	(25,439,684)
Net Utility Plant	65,869,295	64,852,845	64,474,265
Investment in Associated Organizations	18,650,651	17,941,870	17,236,445
Cash	433,762	453,361	522,996
Temporary Investments	350,000	900,000	1,605,000
Notes Receivable	-	17,665	41,711
Accounts Receivable	2,755,029	2,205,708	2,652,281
Materials and Supplies	560,984	471,888	377,132
Prepaid Expenses	88,067	115,311	115,293
Other Current & Accrued Assets	8,092	8,036	8,056
Deferred Debits	8,448	9,623	9,623
Total Assets	\$ 88,724,328	\$ 86,976,307	\$ 87,042,802
LIABILITIES AND OTHER CREDITS			
Memberships	\$ 157,485	\$ 155,505	\$ 153,645
Member's Patronage Capital	43,235,714	43,329,254	40,969,567
Other Equities	4,277,092	3,432,880	3,528,673
Total Member's Equity	47,670,291	46,917,639	44,651,885
Long-Term Debt	31,906,261	31,626,570	33,920,221
Accum. Prov. For Post Retirement Benefits	3,171,752	3,937,786	3,782,936
Accounts Payable	1,942,057	1,258,648	1,647,868
Consumer Deposits	628,660	627,470	622,205
Other Current & Accrued Liabilities	2,875,852	2,608,194	2,417,687
Deferred Credits	529,455	-	-
Total Member's Equity & Liabilities	\$ 88,724,328	\$ 86,976,307	\$ 87,042,802

Operating Statistics

	2022	2021	2020
Total kWh Purchased	197,750,573	191,741,292	186,949,745
Total kWh Sold	187,621,610	182,125,972	176,540,215
Total kWh Used by Cooperative	368,782	337,265	340,964
New Services Added	108	107	154
Services Retired	124	158	240
Net Changes in Total Services	(16)	(51)	(86)
Total Services in Place	13,242	13,258	13,309
Connected Meters	11,219	11,207	11,203
Idle Services	2,033	2,063	2,115
Security Lights in Place	5,259	5,252	5,256
Miles of Line	2,095	2,096	2,098

2022 Annual Outage Hours

(Per Active Meter)



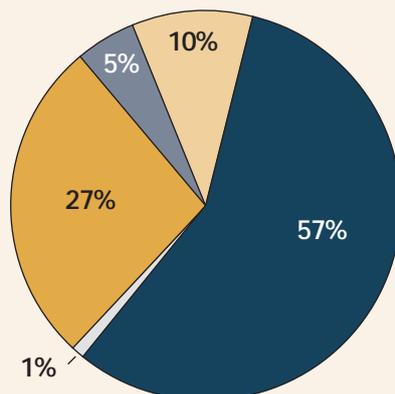
Statement of Operations

As of December 31

	2022	2021	2020
REVENUES			
Sales of Electric Revenues to Members	\$ 27,690,560	\$ 26,951,524	\$ 26,830,891
Other Electric Revenues	232,521	214,474	161,774
Total Revenues	27,923,081	27,165,998	26,992,665
EXPENSES			
Cost of Purchased Power	15,787,987	14,443,575	14,571,960
Operations Expense	438,461	422,520	329,309
Maintenance Expense	3,899,273	3,726,937	3,509,953
Consumer Accounts Expense	929,056	867,351	812,144
Consumer Service & Information Expense	224,817	206,500	100,997
Administrative and General Expense	1,892,869	1,764,959	1,707,291
Depreciation Expense	2,867,296	2,804,904	2,749,187
Interest Expense	1,354,653	1,374,682	1,434,402
Tax Expense	156,542	152,743	157,344
Total Expenses	27,550,954	25,764,171	25,372,587
Operating Margins	372,127	1,401,827	1,620,078
Non-Operating Margins - Other	-	1,046,691	-
Interest on Investments	49,280	34,746	37,670
Generation & Transmissions Capital Credits	640,570	629,646	258,958
Other Capital Credits & Patronage Dividends	154,498	167,890	157,583
Total Margins	\$ 1,216,475	\$ 3,280,800	\$ 2,074,289
Member's Patronage Capital Beginning of Year	\$ 43,329,254	\$ 40,969,567	\$ 39,850,336
Capital Credits to be Allocated for this Year	1,216,475	3,280,800	2,074,289
Retirement of Capital Credits	(1,310,015)	(921,113)	(955,058)
Member's Patronage Capital End of Year	\$ 43,235,714	\$ 43,329,254	\$ 40,969,567

Where Your 2022 Dollars Went

- Depreciation
- Interest of Debt & Taxes
- Operating Expenses
- Operating Margins (Loss)
- Cost of Power





The significance of our National Anthem

By Stephanie Theis

As we celebrate America's independence from Great Britain on July 4, 1776, fireworks, watermelon and apple pie seem to go hand in hand with the Fourth of July celebrations all over the United States. However, another important part of the Fourth of July celebration is the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

All of us have attended a special event in which we have been asked to stand for the playing of the National Anthem. The children of our country have been taught at an early age to stand at attention, place their right hand over their heart and look at our country's flag. I am sure Francis Scott Key did not realize the poem he wrote in 1814 would make such an important impact on our nation.

While I had to research the origin of "The Star-Spangled Banner"

for a course while attending college, I learned Key wrote the poem after being detained overnight on a British ship in Chesapeake Bay in 1814. After the shelling of Fort McHenry, he was so delighted to see the American flag flying over the fort the next morning he began to write the poem. It was first published as "Defense of Fort McHenry" and was soon sung to the tune of "To Anacreon in Heaven." "The Star-Spangled Banner" was officially made the National Anthem by Congress in 1931, even though the army and navy had already adopted it. (<http://print.inforplease.com/ipa/A0194015.html>)

In addition to the first verse that we are all familiar with hearing, there are three additional verses. All of them are equally as important and valuable as the first verse we have grown to

love. All four verses discuss the hard-fought battles in which there was blood, sweat, tears and even death for the freedom of our country. The star-spangled banner will continue to wave in the air above buildings and on flag poles to show pride and victory.

Key had no idea that after several more battles, conflicts and wars, this poem, later transposed into a song, would come to represent such pride, respect and love for this nation.

So, as you celebrate this Fourth of July with your family and friends, take a moment to think about "The Star-Spangled Banner." Listen to the words of the song. Reflect on the meaning of the words. Then, thank a veteran for the freedom you have to celebrate with your family and friends. Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!

Our office will be closed Tuesday, July 4th.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

7420 U.S. Highway 51 South • P.O. Box 100 • Dongola, Illinois 62926
618-827-3555 • Office hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. • siec.coop