

JAMMUP

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Taking Control of Your Electric Bill

“My electric bill is the highest it’s ever been!” Have you heard this statement lately or even said it yourself this past winter? Another statement being heard is, “It was never this high when I read my own meter.” Why does it seem your bill may be higher than normal? What is the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA)? And, what is that Customer Charge on your bill? Employees hear these comments and questions when they are out in the field and when talking with members in the office. Therefore, we thought we should address these concerns.

High Bills (Perception or Reality?)

Although the Co-op has not raised its rates since November 2009, some members believe their bills are higher than normal. A significant factor in the amount of your bill is directly tied with the weather pattern. Of course, your bills are normally higher in the winter and summer, and lower in the spring and fall. But, if you feel your electric bill is abnormally high, please call 1-800-762-1400. Someone from our billing department will be happy to discuss your specific account and address your concerns. We track the high and low daily temperatures and can compare that with you, to your daily kilowatt-hour (kWh) usage. **Timothy Windings**



We are here for you and are happy to discuss Co-op business with you out in the field and in the office.

Some members blame an increased electric bill on the new automated meters that were installed in 2009. The new meters are in fact, more accurate at determining your kWh usage. The new meters also benefit member rates due to a decrease in manual calculation

errors and fraudulent meter readings.

Another factor that can affect the amount of your electric bill is the WPCA. The WPCA line item on your monthly billing statement is something new as of December 2009. WPCA is

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based on the Cooperative's wholesale cost of power from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC). Cost of power from SIPC equates to approximately 60 percent of your electric bill. Since we now show this WPCA line item on your billing statement, your monthly cost of power is more accurate because the Cooperative is only charging what is actually needed to cover the cost of wholesale power for any given month, instead of estimating this cost in advance. Due to volatile changes in the price of wholesale power, the WPCA line item can either increase or decrease your bill each month.

The Customer Charge on your new billing statement is not a new charge. This is the same "minimum usage" or "facility charge" you saw on your old rate books. Every member pays this monthly charge to help cover the cost of providing the facilities (transformers, meters, poles, wire, insulators, bolts, etc.) for you to receive electrical service. It is very similar to a monthly charge many of you may see on your home telephone bill. There is a basic charge to have your home telephone service, and if you make long distance calls, you are billed in addition for those calls. The Co-op collects a

Customer Charge each month (just as we did prior to the automated meters), and we bill members for the kWhs they use separately from that basic charge. The difference now, is that the Customer Charge is more visible on the new bills because it is separated from the kWh charges and public utility tax.

The bottom line is... **You are a member of the Co-op. This is YOUR Co-op!** We are here for you and are happy to discuss Co-op business with you out in the field and in the office.

Energy Efficiency Tip



Don't forget to check the air filter

Do you check your furnace/air conditioner or heat pump's filter each month? Probably not, but you should. Dirty air filters will reduce your furnace/air conditioner or heat pump's efficiency levels more than you think, costing you more money. Chances are, you'll need to replace your filter every other month, or even more often if you have multiple pets or smoke indoors. You'll save more money in energy costs by replacing the filter as needed than trying to squeak by another month. Bottom line: Filters are cheap, change them often.

Reminder:
**We Need Your Correct
Primary Telephone
Number!**

When reporting an outage through our automated outage reporting system, it is very important we have your correct, primary telephone number. Our outage reporting system utilizes your primary telephone number through Caller I.D. This allows our dispatchers and crews to provide you with better service. If you have recently reported an outage and our system did not recognize your number, please contact SIEC to update your records at 800-762-1400. Thank you!

SIEC supports Susan G. Komen for the Cure

Almost every year, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) employees and board directors donate to a special cause. This year, \$600 was collected for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, for breast cancer research. Pictured in back row from left: Records Specialist Casey Adamitis, Member Services Representative Pamela Bierstedt, Payroll & Capital Credit Specialist Bree Hileman, Engineering & Operations Specialist Pam Lentz, Office Service Representatives Lana Livesay and Lisa Mead, and Office Services Coordinator Cindy Dallas. Front row from left: Cashier/Receptionist Leslie Harvel, Accountant Stephanie Theis and Director of Communications Jerri Schaefer.



2011 Nominating Committee to Meet June 2, 2011

Members to serve on the 2010-2011 Nominating Committee were appointed by G. Robert Inman, President of the Board of Directors, at the 2010 annual meeting of the members held August 5, 2010. The committee will meet at the cooperative headquarters, 7420 U.S. Highway 51 South, Dongola, Illinois, at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 2, to consider nominees for election to the board of directors at the 2011 annual meeting of members.

The following committee members were appointed to the 2010-2011 Nominating Committee to represent their respective counties:

Alexander County

Delegate: Tim J. Pierce, 27753 State Highway 3, Thebes, IL 62990

Alternate: Robert Porter, 66 Eastwood Drive, McClure, IL 62957

Johnson County

Delegate: Betty Casey, 6855 State Route 146W, Buncombe, IL 62912

Alternate: Linda M. Wood, 4145 Indian Point Road, Vienna, IL 62995

Massac County

Delegate: Josh Reagor, 398 Halstenberg Road, Karnak, IL 62956

Alternate: Orlis Harris, 7785 Waldo Church Road, Brookport, IL 62910

Pulaski County

Delegate: Danny J. Thurston, 819 Sandusky Road, Pulaski, IL 62976

Alternate: Toby Oliver, 100 Fellowship Lane, Grand Chain, IL 62941

Union County

Delegate: Glenn Russell Heisner, 3605 Nash Road, Anna, IL 62906

Alternate: Bruce Mosby, 1215 Bauer Road, Jonesboro, IL 62952

The by-laws of the cooperative provide the nominations to the board of directors may be made by: (1) nominating committee, (2) petition received not less than 25 days prior to the actual meeting, signed by 15 or more active members, or (3) an active member from the floor at the annual meeting. The three year terms of the directors are expired alternately so that each year elections are held for a portion of the board. At the 2011 annual meeting, elections will be held for a director from each of these three counties: Alexander, Johnson and Massac.

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Marathon Models

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85	.92	28 1/4	70 1/4
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- **Heating Elements** reliably maintain water temperatures and are designed to operate in the harshest environments.
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Don't Worry About Leaks

Sizes Available
50 & 85 Gallon Models

Call us for details,
or visit our website



7420 US Hwy. 51 S.
Dongola, IL 62926
1-800-762-1400
www.siec.coop



**Southern's office
will be closed May 30
in observance of
Memorial Day**

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

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Board of Directors

Scott L. Ury (President).....Union Co.
Charles Larry Fisher (Vice President)Massac Co.
Dale E. Taake (Secretary-Treasurer)..... Pulaski Co.
Larry A. Douglas..... Massac Co.
G. Robert Inman..... Pulaski Co.
Carole J. Kelley Johnson Co.
William E. Littrell.....Union Co.
Richard D. Moss.....Alexander Co.
Raymond C. SnellAlexander Co.
Ronald E. Osman (Attorney)

Manager Larry Lovell * Editor Jerri Schaefer

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

"Mark your calendars"

2011
Annual Meeting
Thursday, August 4
Shawnee
Community College
Ullin, Ill.



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. • Web address: www.siec.coop

JOHNSON • ALEXANDER • MASSAC • UNION • PULASKI • POPE