

JAMMUP

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Why should you attend your Co-op Annual Meeting?

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting of Members is scheduled for **Thursday, August 7** at Shawnee Community College in Ullin. Have you ever attended your annual meeting of members? If so, then you already know the importance of having a voice in *your* electric cooperative since you are a **member**, not just a customer. Being a member means you are part-owner in this cooperative. *You* elect our board of directors and *you* have a voice in your rates.

If you have never attended a SIEC Annual Meeting of Members, here are some very important reasons to attend next month:

- **It's our most important business meeting of the year.** You are part-owner of this business by having a membership in the cooperative. Find out if there will be a rate increase soon. If so, why? The EPA wants to enforce new regulations on coal fired plants. This will affect you. Find out what you can do.
- **Vote in the board of director election.** Scott Miller of Alexander County, Carole Kelley of Johnson County and David Martin of Massac County have been nominated and are running for re-election. Are you interested in being a board director? If so, you can run by petition or be nominated from the floor that evening. Please contact SIEC Administrative Assistant Cathy Belcher immediately if you have interest in being nominated (800-762-1400).

- **Electric Bill Credits & Prizes!** Receive a \$15 electric bill credit as a registration prize. All members who register receive this credit. Members are also eligible for great door prizes, including gifts, cash prizes and more electric bill credits throughout the evening.
- **Free CFLs!** Go home with free compact fluorescent lights (CFLs). All you have to do is donate canned goods at the annual meeting and we will give you free CFLs. All donations will be given to a local food pantry. Pantry winner will be announced that evening.
- **Be entertained!** Enjoy classy entertainment such as our annual pageant. We are the only cooperative left in the state and one of the few cooperatives in the nation to host a scholarship pageant. The pageant winner will win a \$1,000 scholarship and represent SIEC throughout the year.
- **Learn electrical safety.** Watch a live safety presentation which could possibly help save your life. SIEC linemen will perform with our new PowerLine Demo.
- **Learn more about our Co-op Connections Card (CCC)** and find out our latest discount providers. Don't have a card? Stop by our CCC table and pick up a new one.
- **Socialize.** Yes, it's a fun, social event as well as a business meeting. Enjoy a delicious barbeque meal in the cafeteria for a minimal cost. Visit with your neighbors, friends and SIEC employees/directors.



- **Bring the kids! (12 and under)** Kids have their very own registration area this year before the meeting. They can win Toys R Us gift cards and have a chance at winning a new bicycle. They can also get their picture taken in linemen gear climbing a utility pole. We have added bucket truck rides this year as well. Kids love bucket truck rides!
- **Youth Contest!** (Entering 6th-8th grades) We have a special contest for member youth and the grand prize is a new iPad! Youth applications can be obtained from our office or website. Fill it out and bring it to the annual meeting. One lucky youth will be chosen to win a new iPad in a random drawing.
- **Get informed.** This is your Co-op. Ask questions from the floor. Questions you have, may be questions other members have but are too uncomfortable to ask. We work for you. Transparency is what you will receive when you want answers.

Beat the heat and join us at our Annual Meeting of Members. See you at Shawnee College on August 7!

Miss SIEC receives second scholarship

Janna Harner, daughter of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) members Scott and Janet Harner of Dongola, is one of eight winners of this year's Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. Harner is only the second Illinois senior to receive this scholarship from SIEC's service territory in the program's 19 year history. She also won a \$1,000 scholarship in 2013 when she was crowned Miss SIEC at the SIEC Annual Meeting of Members.

Harner competed for the \$1,500 IEC Memorial Scholarship with a record number of 276 other students from across the state. Candidates were judged on grade-point average, college



entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay demonstrating their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

SIEC Board Director Scott Ury states, "The employees and board of directors of our Cooperative have always been involved in our local schools and communities. We have a vested interest in the future of our children. The IEC Memorial Scholarship is just one small way we can help make a difference for a student like Janna."

As a recent graduate of Anna-Jonesboro High School, Harner participated in numerous clubs, teams and organizations. She is also involved in community organizations,

such as P.A.S.T., GumDrops, and Baptist Children's Home and Family Services.

This summer, she will continue her education at Shawnee Community College where she will receive an Associates of Science degree. She then plans to transfer to Southeast Missouri State University where she will graduate with a degree in Secondary Mathematics Education.

Harner states, "I am only able to do this because of both the generosity of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, who with their combined efforts have awarded me \$2,500 in scholarships. I have been blessed immensely by both and am so very thankful."

Photo credit: Kassi Needling Photography.

Free iPad!

If you know an SIEC youth who is entering grades 6-8 in the fall of 2014, who would appreciate a new iPad, please encourage her/him to fill out our Annual Meeting Youth Application and bring it to the 2014 SIEC Annual Meeting of Members at Shawnee Community College on Thursday, Aug. 7 in Ullin. One lucky youth will win. Find the application on our website siec.coop, or email jschaefer@siec.coop, or call 1-800-762-1400, or stop in our lobby at 7420 U.S. Hwy 51 South in Dongola. We can also fax the application to you. Applicants must live in a home served by SIEC and must be present to win random drawing. Non-winners will receive a \$10 electric bill credit for participating.

SIEC supports local tourism with barn quilt

In an effort to support and promote local tourism, SIEC hung its new barn quilt in Dongola on May 7, featuring Willie Wiredhand, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's historical symbol of rural electrification.

Barn quilts and barn quilt tours are becoming very popular across the Midwest. Some rural electric cooperatives have been asked to assist in hanging these largely painted quilt squares on barns, as was SIEC, by the Alexander County Tourism Bureau.

SIEC assisted a handful of members with the hanging of their barn quilts in Alexander County. It was decided soon after, that SIEC would design, paint, build and hang one of its own barn quilts, in an effort to support local tourism and spread the barn quilt popularity into Union County and beyond.

By hanging this barn quilt, SIEC is supporting local tourism and encouraging more SIEC members



to create and hang their own barn quilts, so that barn quilt tours may soon become a reality in southern Illinois. SIEC also hopes this quilt sparks conversations about early rural electrification and reminds members about the value of cooperative membership.

Attention Massac County members:

For added convenience, we have installed a secure payment deposit box at our Metropolis facility at 2652 IL 145 Highway. Remember, that in July and August on Thursdays from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., our Massac County office will be open to the public to test the need for a staffed, secondary payment location in our service territory.

PowerLine Demonstration

Thank you to the Massac County First Responders for recently attending an important electrical safety presentation with our new PowerLine Demo at our field office in Metropolis. “Crew Foreman Robin Ramage explains, “Since these responders may be first on the scene of an accident, we always want them to assume a power line is energized until we can assess the situation and make the area safe for everyone.



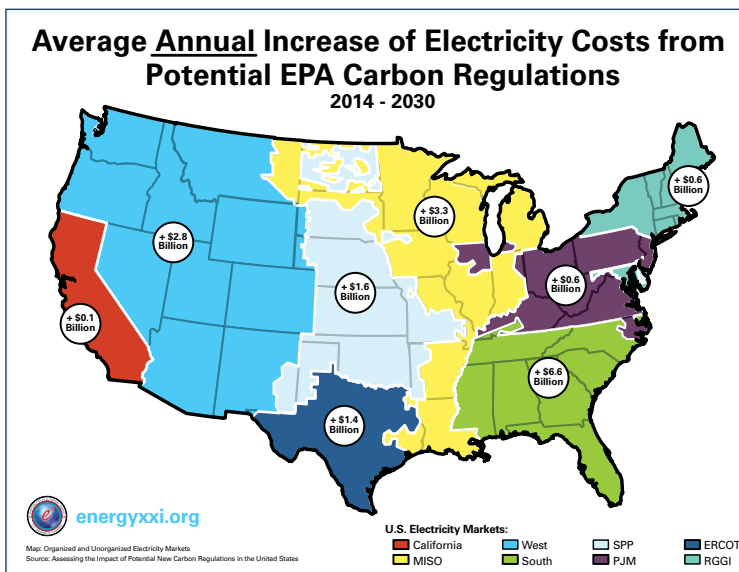
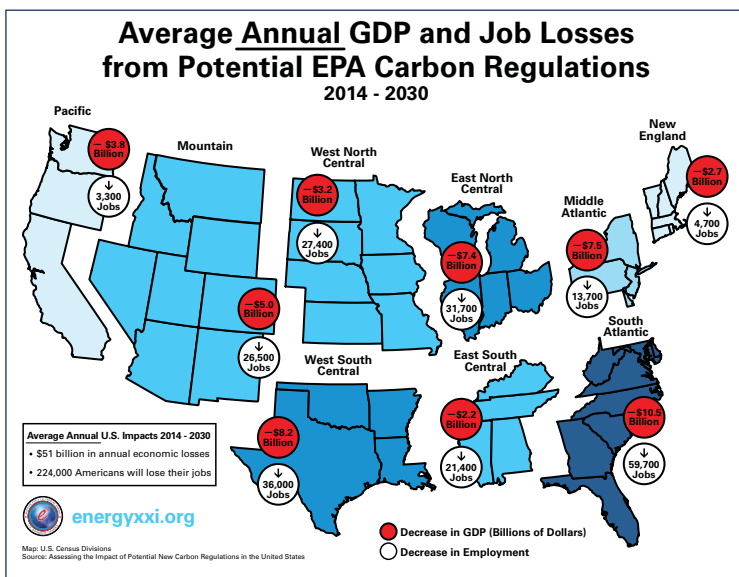
At this safety meeting, we also discussed generator safety, because if a generator is not properly installed, power can backfeed onto our power lines and create a deadly electrocution hazard.”

Your Electricity Bills WILL Increase

Last month the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed new regulations on carbon emissions from power plants. What does this mean for you? Higher electric bills.

The Obama administration and the EPA want a virtual elimination of the use of coal, which fires our power plants. There is not enough wind in southern Illinois nor solar to generate enough electricity for all of us without coal. We have been fighting for an “all of the above” energy strategy, which incorporates coal, natural gas, nuclear and renewable energy. But, that is not what was proposed last month by the EPA.

SIEC is deeply concerned with these proposed regulations because we are member-owned. There are no stock-holders to cushion the blow. You, our members, will share the burden of electric rate increases. Please let your legislators know that you cannot afford electric rate increases because of the EPA’s proposed regulations on carbon emissions. And please don’t forget about significant job losses associated with these regulations. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Americans will pay significantly more for electricity, see slower economic growth and fewer jobs, and have less disposable income. These EPA regulations will result in a very slight reduction in carbon emissions, which will be overwhelmed by global increases.



Blood drive

We only have one blood drive left with the American Red Cross in 2014. Please donate at Coad Chevrolet in Anna on July 29 any time between 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and receive a \$10 electric bill credit with SIEC! You can save up to three lives. (Call 1-800-Red Cross to make your appointment. Walk-ins are accepted but it helps the American Red Cross with scheduling if you can make that call.)



See page 9 for the Miss SIEC pageant entry form. Deadline July 11. Compete in pageant for a chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship from SIEC! (Each pageant participant receives \$75.)

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



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(CCC Discount: 15% off Valspar Medallion interior paint)

Can your walls use a fresh coat of paint? It may be time to brighten up your home. Rusty's has a wide selection of colors for every room, style or mood. Don't waste your gas or money driving to box stores out of town. Shop right here at Rusty's where you know you'll receive quality customer service and products.

Bill's BBQ

(CCC Discount: 10% off BBQ purchase when ordered by the pound on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Take out only).

It's summer! Everyone loves BBQ in the summer! Let Bill's BBQ do all the work and treat yourself to the best BBQ around. Call them today at 618-524-2503.

SIEC members have saved over \$6,000 in local prescription costs alone!



Our office will be closed Friday, July 4 in observance of Independence 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

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 618-827-3555 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m. • Web address: www.siec.coop

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