

The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

In observance of Labor Day, the cooperative office will be CLOSED on Monday, September 2nd

75th Annual Meeting of Members Report

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative held its' 75th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, August 6th, 2013 with approximately 1,355 members registered and approximately 2,000 in total attendance. This year marks your Cooperative's 75th Anniversary and members celebrated this historic milestone. For those of you who were unable to attend your Cooperative's annual meeting, this article will summarize the activities and reports members received at the annual meeting.

Members attending the Annual Meeting received attendance gifts consisting of a 75th Anniversary blanket, a \$15 bill credit and a 75th Anniversary booklet that contained facts about your Cooperative's history and recipes that were published in the Illinois Country Living throughout the years. Members were able to meet with various vendors, enjoy bucket truck rides and entertainment provided by The Bankesters.

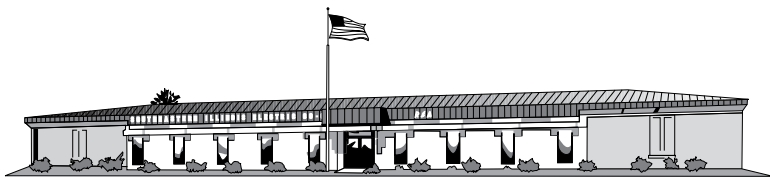
Cooperative members were recognized and honored by the Illinois House of Representatives of the Ninety-Eight General Assembly by presentation of House Resolution HR0430. This resolution congratulated the members of SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative for its 75th Anniversary.

Members were informed about your



Cooperative's tremendous history beginning with the organization that occurred on September 13, 1938 and how the first 155 miles of distribution line was energized on January 24, 1940 bringing electricity to 300 farms and homes in Saline County for

▶ *Continued on page 16b*



the first time. Reports included the significant progress of your Cooperative throughout the years, the tremendous changes in technology and equipment implemented to improve the level of service, increase reliability and keep rural electricity affordable. Cooperative leaders explained how three electric cooperatives located across southern Illinois joined together in 1959 to develop their very own generation facility which led to the development of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative located at the Lake of Egypt near Marion. This means that not only is the delivery of energy provided by your local Cooperative, but the generation and transmission of your energy is also provided by your local Cooperative.

Today, your electric Cooperative provides electrical service to a broad range of members including the more typical rural services such as barns, cabins, homes and farms to commercial facilities and very large industrial coal mines. Your Cooperative has grown tremendously since 1938 and currently

delivers energy to over 23,700 accounts located in ten counties in Southeastern Illinois. In fact, your Cooperative delivers more energy on an annual basis than any other electric cooperative in Illinois.

Members were informed that the Cooperative ended the year 2012 in sound financial condition. In 2012, your Cooperative's Board of Trustees approved the retirement and return of \$1.4 million in Capital Credits to you as Cooperative members-owners. The capital credit checks were mailed to members in December of 2012. This means that over the past three years, your Cooperative has retired



► *Continued on page 16d*

Attention Local Teachers!

Apply for your 2013/2014 Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants

Does your school or classroom need new materials? Can your students benefit from new programs and educational resources? We thought so.

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative is once again coordinating this grant program with Touchstone Energy for our local teachers and administrators. The grants will be provided for innovative, unfunded projects or materials. Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school.

A panel of judges will determine which projects will be awarded the grants. Grant applications are due



by **November 1**. Grant awards will be announced on **January 3**. For a grant application and guidelines, please visit our Web site at www.seiec.com or contact Stefanie Tripp at 1-618-273-3806. It only takes a few minutes to apply.

Since 2006, SEIEC has distributed a total of \$28,000 Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants throughout the Cooperative's service area.

Before You Buy A Water Heater Of Another Brand... Save your energy!



Plastic Tank

- *Can't rust or corrode*
- *No smelly anode rod*
- *Stronger than steel*

Lifetime Tank Warranty

- *Warranted not to leak "for as long as you own your home."*

Envirofoam Insulation

- *The most energy efficient & environmentally friendly*

Plastic Jacket

- *No nicks, dents or scratches*

Reliability

- *Six years Parts & Labor*

Marathon[®]

**SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative is now offering
Marathon Water Heaters for sale at its Eldorado Headquarters.
Please call (618) 273-2611 for more information.**

"Annual Meeting" continued from page 16b

and returned over \$4.8 million to Cooperative members.

As we look ahead to the coming year, your Cooperative's wholesale power supplier has not made an official decision regarding their rates but may need to implement a minor increase in the wholesale rate that if implemented, would flow thru the wholesale power cost adjustment charge on your bill. In the absence of this change, the Cooperative is not expecting to raise the residential rates in the coming year. The Cooperative will be implementing some minor retail rate increases to the larger commercial and industrial rate classes beginning in October of this year.

Given your Cooperative's tremen-

dous history, strong heritage and numerous achievements, we are positioned to embrace the future, face the challenges ahead and thrive for the benefit of the members.

Your Cooperative was formed 75 years ago to bring electricity to the rural areas of southeastern Illinois. The founders of the electric cooperative program developed a unique business structure that by its very nature, makes electric cooperatives very accountable to the members it serves. This unique structure has contributed to the success of your cooperative over the years and remains unchanged even today.

Your cooperative is governed by local people that live and work in your very own communities. Your

cooperative is operated by a group of local employees that also live and work in your very own communities. Your cooperative's sole purpose is to provide you, as cooperative member-owners, with reliable and quality service while continuing to keep rates as affordable as possible. Your Cooperative is owned by the people it serves and will continue to be an electric cooperative that is truly operated "for the people and by the people."

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

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
Fred Plumlee, Thompsonville, IL

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.

585 Highway 142 South • P.O. Box 251 • Eldorado, Illinois 62930
618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F