



## Lovell retires from SIEC after 40 years of service

**G**eneral Manager Larry Lovell of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) retired on July 12 after serving the Cooperative members for 40 years.

Lovell has served as Executive Vice President/General Manager of the Cooperative for the past 23 years of his tenure. Since he was hired in 1973 as a Work Order Clerk, he has worked his way through the Cooperative departments, holding positions as Assistant Engineer, Manager of the Resale Department, Director of Member Services and Office Manager. During his early years of employment with the Cooperative, Lovell completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics with a minor in Business Administration from Southeast Missouri State University.

Throughout his electric Cooperative career, Lovell has served on many boards such as Southern Illinois Power Cooperative at Marion, Union County Hospital District in Anna, Shawnee Community College Foundation at Ullin, Aces Power Marketing in Indianapolis, IN, United Utility Supply Cooperative, Inc. in Louisville, KY, and the Illinois Cooperative Workman's Compensation Group/Rochdale Services, Inc. in Springfield, IL.

He was instrumental in the formation of SouthWater, Inc., a

regional state-of-the art water treatment plant near Tamms. SouthWater provides potable water to 900 retail customers and 10 southern Illinois communities and water districts. Lovell was also instrumental in negotiating a long-term lease and building expansion of the Anna hospital facility.

"Serving the members of the Cooperative and the residents of southern Illinois has been the true focus of my career. The key to success is to never forget who you work for. I have been truly blessed in my life and will always appreciate the opportunities afforded me by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative" states Lovell. **Gale Cook**

Currently, he resides in Anna with his wife Diane. They have two children Alysia and Jason, and five grandchildren. He serves as trustee of St. Mary Catholic Church. He looks forward to spending more time with his family in retirement, while sneaking in some fishing and golfing.

The Board of Directors of SIEC and its employees wish to thank Lovell for his many years of dedicated service to the Cooperative and its membership.



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# Did you hear about the NEW Co-op Connections Card?

As your electric Cooperative, it's important for Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) to provide you with safe, reliable power. Yet our service goes beyond the wires. It's also important we offer additional value that has an enormously positive impact on everyone in the community. And as a Touchstone Energy® Co-op, we strive to meet that goal on a daily basis.

That's why SIEC has launched the Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections® program. This new card-based member benefit program is designed to deliver added value to your membership — residential and business — by offering valuable discounts at participating local and national businesses. **And it's FREE!**

Whenever you show your Co-op Connections card at a participating business (locally or

nationwide), you receive a discount. Equally, those businesses benefit from increased customer visits by Co-op members participating in the program. And it's easy to spot which local businesses are participating. Look for the Co-op Connections stickers in their windows, or simply log on to the SIEC website — [www.siec.coop](http://www.siec.coop) — and check out the list of participants.

**You will receive your Co-op Connections card in the mail, attached to the cover of your December issue of our Illinois Country Living magazine.** Once you sign the back of the card, it's ready for

use at participating businesses.

So while our number one priority is keeping the lights on, SIEC is committed to bringing additional value your membership and the communities we serve. The Co-op Connections program is just another way to accomplish that goal. That's the cooperative difference.

Eugene Dale Mills



## SIEC Member Topics

A few months ago, we began a monthly "Member Topic" section in our local newspapers, in an effort to better educate you, our members, on what's happening at YOUR electric Co-op. Please take time to find Willie Wiredhand and our message in one of southern Illinois' fabulous local publications such as The Gazette Democrat, Vienna Times, Monday's Pub, Cairo Citizen, Goreville Gazette, Metropolitan Planet and Southern Scene.

**Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Member Topic**

**"What is the FACILITY CHARGE on my electric bill statement?"**

This is probably one of the most popular questions we receive. If you remember the old rate books (before automated meter reading), this same charge was called the "Minimum Monthly Charge". The facility charge at the top of your line items on your bill statement is for maintaining infrastructure and providing availability of services, and does not include energy consumption charges. It is **not** an additional or new charge. It is not a charge to read your meter. It is just more visible due to our automated bill statements.

Keep an eye out for our July member topic... **Are you a member or a customer? There really is a big difference.**

**Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



## Marathon Water Heaters

We have your Marathon water heater right here! Call us at 1-800-762-1400 or stop by the SIEC office in Dongola, and choose either a 50 or 85 gallon model. It's guaranteed to last as long as you own your home, and it's the most efficient water heater you can buy.

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# Youth Tour

Tiffany Beanland of Dongola, Whitney Keller of Dongola and Evan Taake of Ullin represented Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour, June 14-21. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois since the late 1950s, is an introduction to our democratic form of government and cooperatives for rural youth.

The students met with Congressman William Enyart and were among 65 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined more than 1,520 young leaders from across the country. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II



Memorial, memorials to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington and Roosevelt, the National Archives, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Newseum and a number of other historical sites.

Pictured from left: Taake, Bean-

land, Keller and Congressman Enyart. **Loft C. Ray**

To find out more about the tour go to [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop) or [www.facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington](http://www.facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington).

## Billing Inserts

*Every few months, we insert an important newsletter into your electric bill statement envelope. It's very important you read this, front and back. It is one of the best ways to inform you of what's happening at YOUR electric Co-op.*

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

SIEC \* 7420 US Hwy 51 S \* Dongola, IL 62926 \* 800-762-1400 \* [www.siecc.coop](http://www.siecc.coop)

### SIEC Member Tips

#### Spring Planting Safety

One of the greatest hazards on today's farms is the risk of electrocution. Before heading back into the fields this spring, SIEC and Safe Electricity remind farm workers to be especially aware of dangers working near overhead power lines, and urge review of farm activities and work practices that take place around all electric lines.

Educate all who work on the farm about power line hazards. Make sure everyone knows the location of overhead power lines. Remind workers to keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them. The minimum 10 foot distance is a 360-degree rule - below, to the side and above lines.

Simply coming too close to a power line while working is dangerous, as electricity can arc or "jump" to conducting material or objects, such as a ladder, pole or truck.

Many farm electrical accidents involving power lines occur when loading or preparing to transport equipment to fields, or while working on farm machinery near power lines. Sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. When moving large equipment or high loads near a power line, always use a spotter to help ensure required clearances are maintained.

Farmers may want to consider moving or burying power lines around buildings or busy pathways where many farm activities take place.

#### Swimming Pool Safety

Summer brings to mind a cool dip in the pool, but don't let a safety hazard dampen your summer fun. Water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Assessing electrical hazards near swimming pools is a wise investment of time and personal energy.

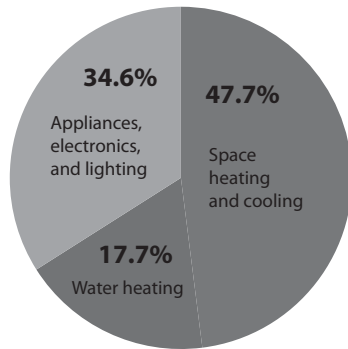
The result of contact between water and electricity can be serious, or even deadly. And in most instances, if potential safety hazards are taken into consideration and handled proactively, accidents and deaths could certainly be avoided.

Pools, decks, slides and any other fixed, pool-related structures should be built at least 25 feet away from overhead electric lines. This clearance is measured in any direction from the water level, edge of pool, adjacent fixed structure, etc. If you have any questions on whether your installation will meet the requirements, do not try to measure the clearance to the line yourself. Always contact SIEC prior to the installation. We will be happy to review your proposed installation to make sure it will meet safety requirements.

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### How Americans Use Energy

New data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows that heating and cooling still accounts for the largest amount of electricity consumption in American homes. But as we use more and more electronic gadgets, that segment is closing the gap.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Now that you know nearly 50 percent of your electric usage is from heating and cooling your home, what are your plans to curb your heating costs this winter?

For ideas, visit [www.togetherwesave.org](http://www.togetherwesave.org)

Look for SIEC Annual Meeting highlights and pictures in the October issue of JAMUP, or see our website at [www.siec.coop](http://www.siec.coop)

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

*Some of you may have already received a Cooperative survey in the mail, or have been contacted by telephone. This is a valid survey from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and we would greatly appreciate your cooperation in participating. We use this information to find ways to serve you better. Please fill out the paper survey and/or answer the questions by telephone if you are chosen. Thank you very much.*

## 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

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](http://www.siec.coop)

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