

JAMMUP

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

SIEC Hosts 2014 Annual Meeting of Members

Over 500 members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) attended the co-op's 75th annual meeting. Members learned that 2014 is a financially sound year, thus far. An announcement was made regarding the upcoming retirement of capital credits toward the end of 2014. The most important message of the evening was that of no anticipated base rate increase for electricity through 2015. Co-op officials spoke about reliability, safety and regulatory concerns facing the cooperative. The meeting was held Thursday, August 7 at Shawnee Community College in Ullin.

Board President Carole Kelley of Buncombe reported that safe, reliable electric service remains SIEC's core business. She also discussed the im-

portance of safety, letting the crowd know that SIEC employees have worked around 800 consecutive days without loss time due to accidents. Employees were also recently recognized for completing the National Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program.

"Our employees not only have a serious safety responsibility to their

families, but they also have that responsibility to the members of SIEC. Working at the cooperative means you can't count on an 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday job. Delivering safe, reliable electricity is our responsibility 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Kelley.

In conclusion, Kelley announced SIEC's latest member service, the Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections Card program. It is a free, card-based member program designed to deliver discounts at local and national participating businesses, while enhancing the value of cooperative

membership.

Kelley announced, "Our members have saved over \$7,000 in prescriptions at participating pharmacies by using the Co-op Connections Card."

General Manager Chris Bennett then gave his annual meeting speech, addressing five main points to the members –EPA regulations, SIEC



financials, SmartHub, an online member service for bill payments and account management, capital credits and electric rates.

He continued by discussing the major challenge in providing affordable and dependable electricity, due to the EPA's proposed "all but one" coal approach. Bennett stressed that reliable power may be in jeopardy if the EPA gets its way and eliminates coal from the power generation mix.

Bennett explained, "Regionally, 70 percent of our generated power comes from coal. Traditionally, it has been the most cost effective source of power. We expect the EPA's proposed shift from coal to result in substantially increased power costs."

Mid speech, he echoed Kelley's sentiments of membership value. Bennett announced the planned distribution of over \$500,000 in capital

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SIEC is distributing over 500,000 in capital credits in 2014. If you lived on our lines in 1985, you will see a credit on your October electric bill statement.

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credits toward the end of 2014 for 1985 to members.

In his closing, he explained that although there would be no electric base rate increase through 2015 from SIEC, there could be increases in Southern Illinois Power Cooperative's (SIPC) wholesale power costs and energy regulatory compliance charges. Over 60 percent of SIEC's operating costs come from purchased power from SIPC.

"If your monthly electric bill changes in 2015, it will be due to a change in the cost of purchased power and/or a change in your monthly usage," stressed Bennett.



During the 75th annual meeting of the members of SIEC, members elected three directors. From the left are David L. Martin of Massac County, Carole J. Kelley of Johnson County, Scott Miller of Alexander County and General Manager Chris L. Bennett.

Eleven local students filled out SIEC Youth Applications for a chance to win a new iPad at the annual meeting. The lucky winner was Anna Madura of Anna. The other 10 participants won an additional \$10 bill credit for their parents.



The crowd enjoyed being educated on electricity and safety with our PowerLine Demo.



Adam Clark of Anna was the winner of the new bicycle.

Over 70 kids registered for a chance to win prizes. Twelve Toys R Us gift cards were given away to kids 12 and under. Everyone had a chance to see CFL Charlie.



The 2014 Lite 4 Bite winner was Bethany Village Food Pantry in Anna. Over 800 cans of food were donated by nearly 200 members. In exchange for canned goods, the co-op gave away free, energy efficient CFLs.



Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

Clare Bunyan is the new Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Queen. The pageant was held during the annual meeting of members.

From the left stood: Clare Bunyan of Cobden, daughter of Chris and Jill Bunyan, Abby Miller of Anna, daughter of Jason and JJ Miller, Reagan Brown of McClure, daughter of Steve and Renee Vick, Valerie Pender of Jonesboro, daughter of Darrell and Cindy Pender, Gabby Wrye of Belknap, daughter of Roberty Wrye and Mary Wrye, Jericha Carter of Anna, daughter of Thomas and Amanda Carter and Kennedy Leek of Metropolis, daughter of Curtis and Jolynda Leek.



First Runner-up was Abby Miller, and Second Runner-up was Valerie Pender. Jericha Carter was voted Miss Congeniality.



Touchstone Energy Power & Hope Award

SIEC's national brand, Touchstone Energy, has a special employee recognition program called Power & Hope. It identifies employees who have gone above and beyond to help others. Crew Foreman LaRue Parr was nominated because of the following reasons:

- He has worked full-time for the cooperative over 30 years and lived in Union County his entire life.

- He is an ordained Baptist preacher and has been leading Big Creek Baptist Church for 13 years.
- He has donated over 14 gallons of his blood to the American Red Cross, helping to save many lives.
- For the past 35 years, twice a year, he hosts and teaches gun safety courses as a "master instructor."

Because of what LaRue does outside of the cooperative on his personal time, makes him a perfect candidate for the Touchstone Energy Power & Hope award.



ATTENTION TEACHERS & LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS!

Get a head start on applying for our 2014/2015 Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants!

The deadline is Nov. 7. Winners will be announced on Dec. 5. What could you do with an extra \$500 for your classroom? Increase your educational resources by going to www.siec.coop and fill out our easy application today!



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Member Survey

Please fill out the member survey you received with your September electric bill statement. We are giving away five \$50 electric bill credits based randomly on the completed surveys received by October 15. Your feedback helps us bring more value to your cooperative membership. Thank you!



Help us reach 1,000 likes on our Facebook page! It's a great way to stay informed of power outages, co-op news and member benefits.

For your convenience, we have installed a secure payment lock box at our Massac County field office, located at 2652 IL 145 Hwy in Metropolis.



Follow us on Twitter!
@SIEC_Dongola

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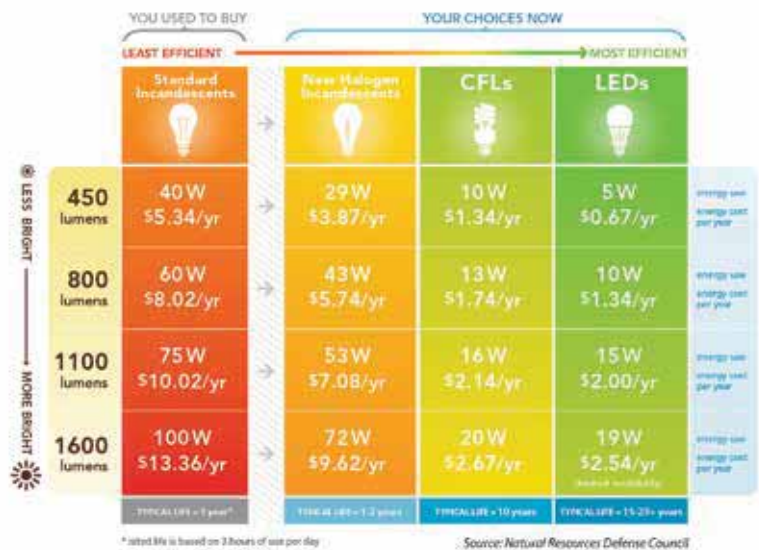
For Outages Call:
800-762-1400 * 618-827-3555

Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Our operations personnel will be wearing pink hard hats this month to support breast cancer awareness.

Compare Your Lighting Options & Save!



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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