

# The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## President's Comments



**Dustin Tripp**  
President/CEO

## Capital Credits Retirement Checks

As the electric utility industry continues to evolve, face continual change and explore different ways to serve customers, we can all be proud that we are part of the electric cooperative program. Electric cooperatives have a very unique business model that has proven to benefit cooperative members and has stood the test of time for over 76 years.

The most profound and distinct difference between electric cooperatives and other utility business structures is that electric cooperatives are not-for-profit organizations that are member-owned and member-controlled. As a not-for-profit organization, your Cooperative does not strive to produce profits for shareholders and investors but must maintain a sound financial position for the membership. Your Cooperative sets the electric rates high enough to cover the costs of providing service and at the end of the year, any funds that were collected above the cost of service are allocated to you, our members, in the form of capital credits.

These capital credits are retained by the Cooperative and used to build and maintain the infrastructure necessary to serve the members and service the long-term debt of the Cooperative. When the financial condition and cash position of the Cooperative permits, the capital credits are then retired and paid back to you, as members and owners. Every year your Cooperative mails capital credit statements to every Cooperative member notifying them of their allocated

capital credit balance and the amount of capital credits allocated to them in the previous year. This statement shows each member their equity and ownership in the Cooperative.

### Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$12 billion to members since 1988—\$814 million in 2013 alone. Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

**\$814 million**  
in 2013  
**\$12 billion**  
since 1988

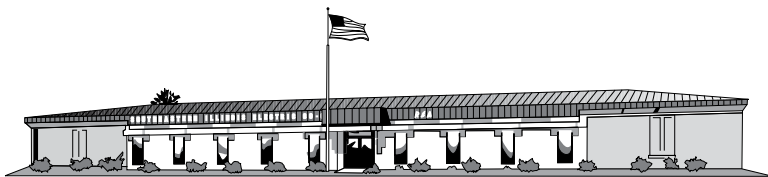
Source: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation

At this time I am pleased to inform you, as Cooperative members and owners, that your Cooperative's Board of Trustees has approved the retirement and return of \$1.1 million of Capital Credits to the members. The capital credits that are being returned are from the years 1979 & 2011. This means

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READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:

Gary Eastwood, Marion, IL





## SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative has partnered with Air Evac Lifeteam to allow our residential customers the opportunity to join the Air Evac Lifeteam Membership program through an affordable billing plan. You have the option to choose the convenience of paying a monthly fee or an annual fee. Each plan is offered at a discounted rate through your Cooperative. Your options are as follows:



### OPTION 1:

The monthly fee is \$5.00 per month per household with a discount of \$0.50 per month per household from SEIEC. Should you choose the monthly plan your electric bill will reflect an additional \$4.50 per month per household.

### OPTION 2:

The annual fee includes a \$10.00 discount through the Cooperative program and is \$55.00 per household for a 1 year membership.

**Join Air-Evac Lifeteam through your Cooperative today  
and choose which option best suits your needs.**



Wishing you a very

Merry Christmas

& the happiest of New Years

*From the Trustees & Employees of SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative*

**Trustees**

Tim Spivey – *Board Chair*  
Pamela Bramlet – *Board Vice Chair*  
Dale Schierbaum – *Secretary/Treasurer*

Gary Hise  
Victor Knight  
Jack Logsdon

Joe Marlo  
Bill Richardson  
Richard Rister

Jamie Scherrer  
Robert Tiberend

**Employees**

Dustin Tripp –  
*President/CEO*  
Tammy Baker  
Donnie Basinger  
Jayson Beasley  
Jim Bond  
Tessa Butler  
Kristina Carlson  
Scott Cochran  
Don Collier  
April Craig  
Richard Crawford  
Jeff Crisp  
Greg Cruse  
Mary Eubanks  
Cindy Frailey  
Drew Frailey  
Ryan Fraulini  
Ryan Fromm

Steve Fromm  
Mark Genet  
Adam Givens  
Clayton Gulley  
Kyle Harbison  
Audree Harrelson  
Jonathon Hays  
Cindy Henry  
JJ Holland  
Robin Holloway  
Kyle Hudson  
Walter Jackson  
Todd Jennings  
Ryan Johns  
Travis Jones  
Anthony Jordan  
Eric Jung  
Austin Lewis  
Corey Lewis

Ethan Madden  
Maverick Marvel  
Tony Mason  
Kevin McClerren  
Dustin McGuire  
Bill McKenzie  
Jeff Neuman  
Matt Ohmes  
Barbara Jo Patterson  
Mona Patton  
Aaron Richards  
Michele Rilying  
Adam Robinson  
Bill Roeder  
Tosha Rutter  
Tyler Shadowens  
Travis Shortland  
Aaron Smith  
Mike Smothers

Andrew Sniderwin  
Randy Spivey  
Allen Stout  
Eric Stricklin  
Travis Sullivan  
Andy Sweat  
Brenda Tanner  
Greg Thomas  
Steve Trapper  
Stefanie Tripp  
Angie Troxel  
Stan Volle  
Brian Welch  
Sunday Whitlock  
Larry Whorton  
Wade Wiley  
Mark Woolverton

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that if you were a Cooperative member in any or all of these years, you should be receiving a check in early December for those capital credits. Over the past five years, your Cooperative has retired and returned almost \$7 million to Cooperative members.

I would like to close by stating that all of us can be proud to be a part of the Electric Cooperative program. 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, some 76 years later. 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 at equitable rates.

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



## Office Closing

The office will be closed Thursday, December 25th for Christmas and Thursday, January 1st for New Year's Day.

# 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