

JAMMUP

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Merry Christmas

and Happy New Year

from the Directors and Employees
of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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Looking back on 2014...

When I look back on 2014, I see so many things that I am grateful for both in my personal life as well as my “cooperative” life. 2014 saw the completion of my first full calendar year as your general manager and I can tell you without a doubt, I am grateful to have the best employees and the best directors any manager could hope for! Without them and those that have served before them, SIEC would not be the organization it is today.

I am grateful for our system’s ability to withstand the severe and bitter cold of January through March of this year, and our ability to provide electricity to all of our members while in some areas of the country, people were experiencing outages due to inadequate supply, faulty equipment or just unable to meet the requirements that such weather can bring. I am very grateful for not having any severe icing problems as well.

I am grateful for spring and summer and the work our crews were able to accomplish, but I am also grateful that with the change in seasons, no tornadoes, severe lightning or thunderstorms caused

us any extensive damages, outages or hardships for our members. Due to a mild summer, our operations crews were able to get a lot of work done, and I am grateful they were able to do it safely and without a single lost-time accident “again” this year.

I am grateful that the pending computer conversion I mentioned in this same column last December is now completed and thanks to a group of very hard-working office employees, the process went very, very well. They have worked diligently to learn some new processes and to offer some additional services, especially online services, for our members.

I am grateful for our annual meeting of members this past August and for the wonderful turnout by many of you. We offered a few new things before the meeting and then our own PowerLine Demo team of employees put on an outstanding demonstration of high voltage electricity that we are still receiving favorable comments about.

I am grateful for a group of dedicated men who have given

much of their personal time by voluntarily putting on many, many PowerLine Demo safety training events for area emergency first-responders so that lives might be saved and injuries avoided. Also, to those employees and members who contributed to the American Red Cross blood drive, our cooperative helped sponsor this year.

I am grateful that a tragedy with one of our employees’ family members has had a blessed outcome and how special this Christmas season will be for them.


I am grateful to live in the United States of America and for those that have fought to keep us free – some of them making the ultimate sacrifice and others having to carry the effects from their gallantry for the rest of their lives.

And finally, I am grateful for my Creator and His blessings upon

Chris Bennett
Executive
Vice President /
General Manager



country!

“We never forget who we’re working for.” 

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Be merry and bright, but don’t let your holiday lights shine all night. Save money on your electric bill by installing a light timer for your decked out home. It can help lower your electric bill and reduce energy consumption. Use a manual timer plugged into an electrical outlet to automatically turn lights on and off as scheduled.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Holiday Closings

Wednesday, December 24, 2014, closed at noon

Thursday, December 25, 2014, closed all day

Thursday, January 1, 2015, closed all day

Bennett Announces Scholarships Available for 2015

Chris L. Bennett, Executive Vice President/General Manager of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors in 2015. The Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program is designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.”

What is the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Fund?

The IEC Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) in January 1994. The “driving force” behind creation of the fund was Thomas H. Moore, long-time Executive Vice President and General Manager of the AIEC. Mr. Moore, who retired in January, 1994, strongly believed that a fund and scholarship program should be established to provide a means by which cooperatives and individuals could honor deceased members of the electric cooperative family through memorial gifts. The scholarship program was re-named in honor of Mr. Moore after he passed away in 2008.

The scholarship program prospered under the leadership of Earl W. Struck, who succeeded Mr. Moore and served as President/CEO of the AIEC from 1994 to his retirement in 2006. Mr. Struck passed away in August 2007. The AIEC Board of Directors that month unanimously voted to honor Mr. Struck’s memory by naming the annual scholarship awarded to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative employee or director the “Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship.”

The Illinois Community College System Foundation (ICCSF)



administers the IEC Memorial Scholarship Fund. Eight scholarships were awarded in 2014 and that number was expanded to ten for 2015.

The “La Vern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship” was awarded for the first time in 2011. La Vern McEntire served as a co-op lineman for over 42 years. He and his wife, Nola, endowed this new scholarship to assist students in attending the lineworker’s school at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, IL. For eligibility requirements, please see the “La Vern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship Official Rules and Regulations” at www.aiec.coop.

How much is the scholarship?

Each annual scholarship is worth \$1500. The scholarship must be used for educational costs, and the student must enter college within a year from the time the scholarship is issued.

Who is eligible to receive the scholarship?

Five scholarships will be awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an electric cooperative member who resides in Illinois and is receiving service from the cooperative at the time the scholarship application is submitted.

A sixth scholarship – the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship – will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an electric cooperative employee or director who resides in Illinois.

A scholarship applicant is eligible for consideration in only one of the above two categories, and is eligible to apply through only one electric cooperative.

The applicant must be a high school senior who is planning to enroll in a full-time (at least 12 hours) undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year

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Bennett Announces Scholarships Available for 2015

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college, university, or vocational/technical school in the United States.

Three scholarships will be awarded to a high school senior who will be enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college. Sons and daughters of electric cooperative members, employees and directors who reside in Illinois are eligible to apply.

For full eligibility requirements, please see the "Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Program Official Rules."

How are the recipients selected?

Scholarships are awarded based on grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, biographical statement and knowledge of electric cooperatives, as demonstrated by a short essay.

How does someone apply?

To apply, a student must meet the required criteria and complete the scholarship application available from the local electric cooperative office. Each applicant is responsible for submitting all information required to apply for a scholarship and for returning the application to Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative by December 31, 2014.



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Executive Vice President/General Manager Chris L. Bennett

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

Member prize



In this issue of the JAMUP, we printed the names of six SIEC members who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit toward their utility bill. **We apologize that in the November 2014 issue we inadvertently left out three (3) reader prize names so this month we are including the names of six (6) members. Next month we will continue with listing the names of three (3) members for the \$10 reader prize.** If you find your name printed in this center section and it's not part of the story, call Cathy with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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