

# JAMMUP

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Annual Meeting Recap

More than 500 members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) attended the Co-op's 73rd annual meeting. Members learned that 2011 was a successful year. An announcement was made regarding the upcoming retirement of capital credits toward the end of 2012. The most important message of the evening was that of no anticipated electric rate increase through 2013. Members also heard reports on local and national issues, including many benefits of being a member of a cooperative. Co-op officials spoke about power marketers who may be contacting members, and shared news of regulatory concerns facing the cooperative. The meeting was held Thursday, August 9 at Shawnee Community College in Ullin.

Board President Scott Ury of Anna reported the Co-op still held a strong equity position. This fact has prompted the board of directors to approve the retirement of capital credits in the amount of approximately \$551,000. This will complete the retirement of capital credits earned in 1984. **David A. Hartline**

Ury reminded members that capital credits are just one of the benefits of being a member of a cooperative.

"We have active member service programs which encourage energy efficiency. We recently promoted a home energy and utility rebate program called HomeE. HomeE assisted



*During the 73rd annual meeting of the members of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, members re-elected three directors. From the left are William E. (Bill) Littrell of Jonesboro, G. Robert Inman of Grand Chain, Larry A. Douglas of Belknap and Executive Vice President/General Manager Larry Lovell of Anna.*

our members with rebates for new water heaters, furnaces, heat pumps, central air conditioners or building insulation," said Ury.

General Manager and Executive Vice President Larry Lovell echoed that sentiment saying, "Cooperatives are different. In simple terms, a cooperative makes it feasible for a group of people to accomplish what an individual business might struggle to do. The cooperative model is so successful that the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2012 to be recognized as the International Year of Cooperatives."

Lovell continued by addressing the letters and calls that members may

have received from power marketers.

Lovell explained, "Many of you have received these letters and calls stating that you can save money if you switch wholesale power generating companies. Sometimes these ads don't mention that electric competition in Illinois is only for the customers of investor owned utilities. Their offer is only for the power generation portion of the bill and does not include transmission or distribution services. They act as power purchasers and aggregators of power generation. Co-op and municipal electric consumers are already a part of an aggregated

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purchasing organization. Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative distributes your power while Southern Illinois Power Cooperative provides transmission and generation.”

Lovell also spoke about the effects new regulations are having upon the power industry. The EPA's current and proposed regulations are causing uncertainties. He agreed that, “We all want to be environmentally responsible. But we disagree about when and how to become more responsible. We need abundant energy to meet our needs today and in the future. We need energy that is economically priced. And, we need to be environmentally responsible. Some how we must balance all of these needs.”

Lovell ended his presentation by saying that the outcome for the year 2013 is less optimistic due to the potential closing of Tamms Supermax prison and its impact on our load factor and cost of power. However, SIPC appears to have stabilized costs for now and continuously looks for ways to cut costs without jeopardizing reliability. Thus, SIEC is not anticipating a rate increase for the rest of 2012 and through all of 2013.

## SIEC Credits Electric Bill Statements with Capital Credit Refunds

**W**e hope you enjoyed your Capital Credit refund on your August bill statement. SIEC's Board of Directors determined earlier in the year that since 2011 provided such a good year of margins, it was prudent to retire capital credits in 2012. Approximately \$551,000 in capital credits were recently refunded, which was the remaining refund of the 1984 capital credits.

Similar to 2011, in an effort to trim costs associated with stamps,

envelopes, labor, etc., those who received capital credit refunds, who are also current members of SIEC, received these credits on your electric bills, instead of SIEC mailing out actual checks.

Although we know the effect of receiving an actual check in the mail may be more exciting, we must continuously find ways to save our entire membership money in tough economic times such as these.

**Gary R. Pluta**

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy® — an alliance of more than 700 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. Southern Illinois Electric is committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The

co-op serves more than 11,700 meters over 2,120 miles of line in parts of Alexander, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski and Union counties. For more information visit [www.siec.coop](http://www.siec.coop).

*For more pictures from the annual meeting, go to our website [www.siec.coop](http://www.siec.coop) and click on the menu item "Annual Meeting".*



*Four area ladies were winners in the 59th Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Beauty Pageant, which was held during the annual meeting of members on Thursday, August 9 at Shawnee Community College in Ullin. From l-r: First Runner-up Janna Harner, daughter of Scott and Janet Harner of Dongola; Miss Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Emily Travis, daughter of Dwight and Lerenda Travis of Belknap; Second Runner-up Valerie Pender, daughter of Darrell and Cindy Pender of Jonesboro; and Miss Congeniality Timbre Craig, daughter of Tracy Craig of Anna.*

**To see the Member Prize Listing from our 2012 Annual Meeting of Members, please turn to page 9.**

### Sustainable Living Expo,

Dixon Springs Ag Center,  
Saturday, October 27, 2012,  
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Free Admission  
Open to Public.

Find details at [www.slexpo.org](http://www.slexpo.org)  
or call 618-638-6954.



# State Senator Gary Forby Receives Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award

At the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives annual meeting held on Thursday, August 2 in Springfield, State Senator Gary Forby, D-59th District, received the 2012 Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award. The award was made in recognition of Sen. Forby's dedicated public service to all citizens of the state of Illinois and for outstanding contributions to the rural electrification program.

Senator Forby served in the Illinois House from 2001 to 2003, and has been a member of the Illinois Senate since 2003. He currently serves as Chairman of the Senate Labor Committee. Among his other committee assignments, he serves on Senate committees on Energy; Insurance; and Licensed Activities. Sen. Forby has been a great friend to Illinois electric cooperatives and all of rural downstate



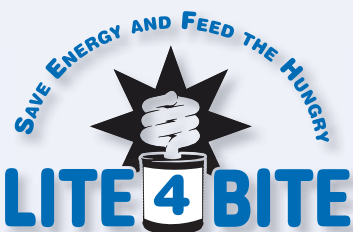
*Among those presenting the Illinois Electric Cooperatives' 2012 Public Service Award to Sen. Forby were (l to r) SIEC General Manager Larry Lovell and Board Directors, Scott Ury, Carole Kelley, Larry Douglas, Sen. Forby, Dalton Barnhart and his grandfather, Director G. Robert Inman and Chris Boyd, SIEC Director of Member Services.*

Illinois while serving in the IL General Assembly. He has also been a strong advocate for the broader Illinois agricultural community.

Sen. Forby is a former farmer and businessman. A resident of Benton, he is also a former chairman of the Franklin County Board.

## ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS,

go to [www.siec.coop](http://www.siec.coop) and fill out your scholarship application for the IEC Memorial Scholarships.



Shawnee Development in Anna was the food pantry winner this year at the annual meeting. Members were asked to bring food donations. In return, they received free compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) which are known for their energy efficiency. Over 600 food items were donated through SIEC's Touchstone Energy Lite 4 bite program. *Harvey Merrifield*



*Pictured from left: Bernita Smith, Carolyn Hale, SIEC Building & Grounds Maintenance Coordinator Steve Fear, Geraldine Smith and Randy Sutherland.*

**ATTENTION TEACHERS & LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS!**

Apply for your 2012-2013  
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.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is again coordinating this grant program with Touchstone Energy for our local private and public K-12 teachers and administrators. Six grants of \$500 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.

Grant applications are due by **November 2, 2012**. Grant awards will be announced on **December 7, 2012**. An objective panel of judges will determine which projects will be awarded the grants. For grant applications and guidelines, please visit our website at [www.siec.coop](http://www.siec.coop) or contact Jerri Schaefer at 1-800-762-1400. It only takes a few minutes to apply.



**Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Board of Directors**

- Carole J. Kelley (President) ..... Johnson Co.
- G. Robert Inman (Vice President)..... Pulaski Co.
- William E. Littrell (Secretary-Treasurer)..... Union Co.
- Larry A. Douglas ..... Massac Co.
- David Martin ..... Massac Co.
- Scott Miller ..... Alexander Co.
- Richard D. Moss ..... Alexander Co.
- Dale E. Taake..... Pulaski Co.
- Scott L. Ury..... Union Co.
- Ronald E. Osman (Attorney)

Manager Larry Lovell \* Editor Jerri Schaefer

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

**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)