

JAMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Operation Round Up

Supporting the communities we serve



Today, hundreds of electric cooperatives across the country have implemented Operation Round Up as a community-focused program. Operation Round Up is a charitable program designed to financially

support qualified individual/family and organization/agency initiatives that contribute to the betterment of communities within Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's (SIEC) geographic focus. It is a program that is funded by monies generated by rounding up participating SIEC members' monthly electric bills or other specified monetary contributions.

One of the cooperative principles is Concern for Community. Cooperatives feel a strong responsibility to the people in the communities we serve that goes beyond simply providing reliable and safe electricity. One of the most rewarding aspects of Operation Round Up is that it is an extension of the concept of neighbors helping neighbors that built our electric cooperative in the first place.

How it works

By choosing to "round up" your electric bill and contribute a few cents each month, you can help your community thrive! For example, if your electric bill is \$72.68, your bill would

be rounded up to \$73, with the difference of \$0.32 going to SIEC's Round Up charitable program. When you multiply that by the thousands of SIEC members participating in the program, it delivers big benefits to the local community. Your traditional "round up" donation never goes above 99 cents per month. On average, participating members contribute \$0.50 per month and no more than \$11.88 each year. So, if 1,000 members were registered and donated \$6 per year, that would amount to \$6,000 that would go right back into our community. Employees and anyone else can also contribute at any time for any other specified monetary contribution.

Impact to the community

By simply allowing us to round up your bill each month to the next dollar or by making either an additional monthly donation or an additional one-time donation, together we can support important needs in our community. SIEC will pool these contributions in our new charitable fund that will benefit:

- Community service projects
- Economic development
- Environment
- Energy efficiency assistance
- Humanitarian and safety efforts

Election options

There are multiple ways to opt into the program. Below are some easy ways to sign up:

- Enroll through your SmartHub account.

- Complete the election on the back of your bill stub or complete a contribution form.
- Email us at siecbilling@siec.org.
- Call us at 800-762-1400, and an office service representative can sign you up.

This is a volunteer program. You may opt out at any time should you ever choose to.

Patty Corzine

Oversight

This program will be overseen by a committee that is comprised of two active SIEC members in good standing, two SIEC board members and one SIEC management employee. The committee will allow our members to actively participate in giving back to the communities we serve. Meetings will be held on a quarterly basis. Funding determinations will be based on applications received.



Join electric cooperatives across the United States to help cooperative consumer-members reach out to worthy causes in their communities and work together to help others! That's the co-op way!

Choose Operation Round Up to make a difference!

Horses gallop — and so can power lines

How can galloping lines impact power transmission and distribution?

Galloping power lines are typically caused when ice and high winds occur at the same time. Freezing rain creates icicles and odd-shaped ice formations on power lines and conductors. The ice buildup changes how wind and air impact the now misshapen, ice-covered line. This change in airflow can cause the power line to start to bounce.

Once the lines get going, they can bounce and buck enough to hit another line, damage themselves enough to cause a power outage or even fall to the ground.

There is not much a power company can do to alleviate galloping lines, since the wild motion is caused by Mother Nature. To help prevent this, many power lines have special mechanisms, such as twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal, attached to the line. While they can help, sometimes they are no match for severe ice and whipping winds.

Aside from ice storms, year-round storms can cause damaging winds, which can knock down power lines and blow trees and limbs onto power lines. Keep the following safety tips in mind: **Lewis W. Bean**

- When you see power lines on the ground, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility or 911. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.



- Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines that are sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized power line, also making it dangerous. Do not try to guess the type of line — stay away from all lines.
- Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide electrical hazards. Downed power lines can energize objects around them, such as chain-link fences and metal culverts.
- Keep in mind that a dead line could become energized during power restoration efforts or with improper use of generators.
- Never drive over a downed line. It could start a chain reaction and cause additional poles or other equipment to collapse.
- If you are in a car that has contacted or is near a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. Wait until the utility crew has arrived and deenergized the line. Warn others not to approach the car.
- Only exit a car or cab near or on downed lines if there is a fire. If this happens, cross your arms over your chest and make a solid jump out and away from the car with both feet together. Then hop away at least 50 feet or more while continuing to keep both feet together.

For more electrical safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days.

Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.



BEST BETS FOR

Winter Savings

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

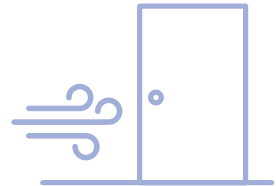
UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE



Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.

ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS

Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.



USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER

Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.

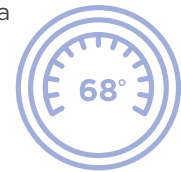


MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT

Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.

LOWER THE THERMOSTAT

Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).



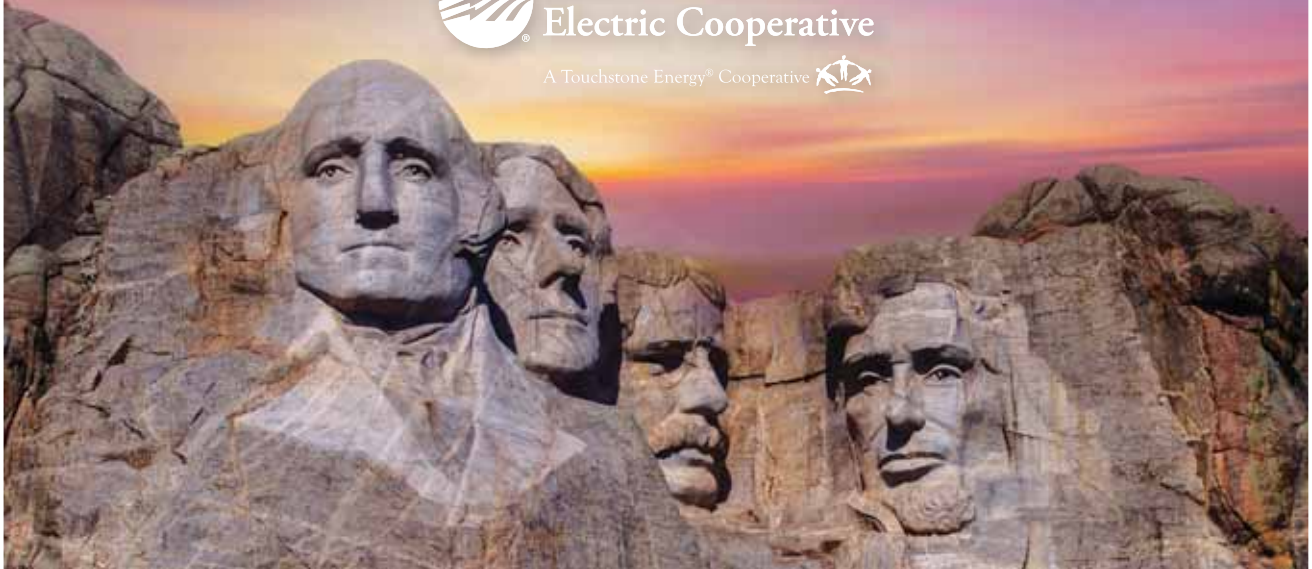
★ Presidents Day ★

Our office will be closed Feb. 19.



Southern Illinois
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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 Brent with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

SIEC Board of Directors

Bill Littrell
(President)..... Union Co.
 Scott L. Ury
(Vice President) Union Co.
 Jerry P. Thurston
(Secretary-Treasurer) Pulaski Co.
 Steve Heisner..... Pulaski Co.
 Lamar Houston, Jr..... Alexander Co.
 David Martin..... Massac Co.
 Scott Miller..... Alexander Co.
 Randall Rushing Massac Co.
 Toni L. Snell..... Johnson Co.
 Ronald E. Osman (Attorney)
 General Manager David A. Johnston
 Brent Goforth (Editor)

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

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.

www.siec.coop



ICE ON POWER LINES IS A WEIGHTY SUBJECT



When it comes to getting electricity across power lines and into homes, ice can be a force to be reckoned with.



ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30x heavier and much more likely to break power lines.

ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH-THICK POWER LINES

Luke D. McMahon

- 1/2 inch of ice adds 281 pounds of weight
- 1 inch of ice adds 749 pounds of weight
- 2 inches of ice adds 2,248 pounds of weight

WHEN ICE MELTS

Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

OTHER ICE FACTS

- Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4 of an inch
- 1/2 inch of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12 inches
- Pressure can also be caused by a broken tree limb
- Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages



Source: Jerri Imgarten-Whitley and Victory Electric Cooperative