

NEWS, NOTES & VIEWS 12/24



Journeyman Lineman Ike Richard gives a presentation to ISD students in Jacksonville.

Students at the Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) recently learned about electrical safety from one of our linemen with a unique connection to their school. Journeyman lineman Ike Richard, who attended ISD in kindergarten and first grade, returned to his former school to

share his knowledge alongside Illinois Electric Cooperative's Operations Manager, Ryan Little, and Special Equipment Technician Sam Surratt. Bringing Buckey along, the team's presentation covered essential safety tips, including what to do around downed power lines, especially when in a vehicle.

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Illinois Electric Cooperative

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Special Equipment Technician Sam Surratt and Journeyman Lineman Ike Richard presenting at ISD.

For Ike, returning to ISD was a special experience. “It was memorable to come back and speak to these students,” Ike shared, recalling his early days at the school before moving to Griggsville for the remainder of his education. He graduated from Lincoln Land Community College’s Electric Distribution Lineman program, gaining the skills that have supported his successful career. He started as an intern before becoming a full-time lineman with Illinois Electric Cooperative in 2017.

The presentation focused on general electrical safety and highlighted specific scenarios, such as the dangers of downed power lines. The team educated the students through hands-on demonstrations, showing them the consequences of not acting safely around electricity and giving them practical advice on staying safe. The interactive session, complete with student questions and Buckey cruising around, made learning about safety memorable and engaging.

Reflecting on his talk, Ike expressed hope that he could serve as a role model for the students. “I want them to see that there are many career paths and a lot to look forward to after high school,” he said. “I know many of these students are from larger cities, so I’m glad I could show them a bit of what it’s like to work in a rural part of the state.” Ike also hoped the students would see him as an example of someone who, while being hearing-impaired, pursued and succeeded in the career he wanted.

Today, Ike lives in Winchester with his wife, Shelby, and their three children, Adeline, Boone, and Denver. His favorite part of his job at the co-op, he says, is helping community members and working with his dedicated co-workers. His visit to ISD allowed him to pass on his passion for his work to the next generation, showing them the importance of electrical safety and the possibilities available to them.



5 Things to Consider Before Installing Solar

Thinking about Solar?
Here's some important things you should know before deciding

1 Can solar be a good thing for me?

Yes. It can reduce your power costs when done properly.

2 Will I still have Illinois Electric Cooperative as my electric provider if I install solar?

Yes. We will provide a solar (bi-directional) meter to you at the time of interconnection once your system is installed, which will allow you to be compensated for your excess solar power, and to receive power from IEC when your panels are not producing.

3 Does the cooperative offer net metering?

The co-op offers "Net Billing." We will purchase any excess power your system produces. Net billing does not allow "banking" of kilowatts for later use.

4 What size of system should I install?

One large enough to supply the power you use when the sun is shining and solar is producing.

5 What happens if I install a system large enough to supply my maximum power usage?

Most members' maximum usage happens early evening when the sun is setting. A system sized for maximum demand will produce more than you need during the day while not meeting your needs in the evening.

If you are considering solar, please call us at 1-800-468-4732 before signing a contract. We will explain our policies and help you size your system properly to provide the maximum benefit.



Employee Spotlight

Seth Bushnell

Manager of Finance

About the Employee

Seth Bushnell of Roodhouse started at the co-op in 2006. Today, he oversees the co-op's financials as the Manager of Finance. A Greene County native who grew up on co-op lines, he continues that today with his wife Laura and their three children: Boston, Layna, and Bria.

Seth enjoys being surrounded by good people at work and being part of what he describes as a "great organization" that strives to do good things for the community and its members.

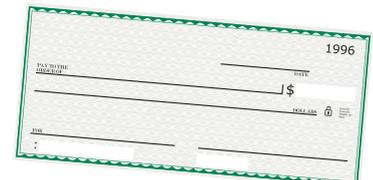
When not working, Seth enjoys being with his family and friends. He spends most of his free time attending his kids' sports activities and enjoying the outdoors. Seth and his family love to go camping and watch Illini basketball.



Seth Bushnell with his wife Laura and their children Bria (13), Layna (15), and Boston (18).

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