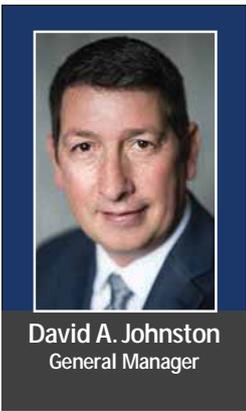


JAMMUP

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Dear Member-Owners,



I hope this message finds you well. As part of our commitment to keeping you informed, I want to provide you with an update regarding the ongoing Cost of Service Study we are currently conducting.

This study is an essential process that helps us determine the actual cost of providing service to our members and ensures we can continue offering reliable and affordable electricity. Based on initial findings, it is becoming increasingly clear that a rate

adjustment may be necessary. While no final decision has been made, we want to be transparent with you about the possibility of a rate increase as we move forward.

We understand the importance of this matter and want to assure you that any potential rate changes will be carefully considered, aiming to balance financial stability with the cooperative's mission of serving our community with safe, reliable, and reasonably priced power.

While rate increases are not desirable, they are needed for the continued financial health of your cooperative. I shared with you last month that our last rate increase was in March of 2018. In March of 2025, we entered year eight on the rates that were implemented in 2018. Historically, the cooperative has gone about five to six years on a rate increase before needing another adjustment. We feel fortunate to be in year eight, especially given the high inflation we have realized since COVID-19. It is likely that our current rates will take us through June 2025, and we will see adjustments in July 2025.

In 2022, inflation peaked at 9.1%. One example of how inflation has impacted your cooperative is with the price of a bucket truck. In 2022, a bucket truck cost \$246,498. Today, a comparable bucket truck cost \$323,066 ... over 31% more. I could provide many more examples, but I am certain you are experiencing much of the same thing as you spend your hard-earned dollars.

Over the next two to three months, we will continue with the study before presenting a formal report to the board of directors. We are committed to keeping you

updated throughout this process and will provide more detailed information once board action has been taken.

David W. Klaver

What you can expect:

- Further communication regarding the study and any proposed changes to rates.
- A transparent and thorough explanation of how any rate change will impact you.
- Decision by the board of directors in May (may extend to June).
- Rate adjustments beginning July 1 (may extend to August).

We value your membership and input and appreciate your understanding as we work to maintain the quality of service you expect while ensuring the long-term financial health of your cooperative.

Thank you for being an important part of our community.

SUMMER SAFETY

FOR KIDS

Climbing trees, swimming, flying kites, and playing outdoor games are great ways to spend warm summer days. Before you send your kids outside to play, make sure they are aware of electrical dangers.



To learn more about safe outdoor play visit:

 **SafeElectricity.org**

Future leaders meet state officials during Youth Day in Springfield

For more than 60 years, the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois have given tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to learn from today's public officials. On March 5, approximately 200 high school students from across rural Illinois represented 22 co-ops during Youth Day, including 2 from Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative.

"Youth Day offers students from across the state a firsthand experience of democracy in action as they engage with their elected representatives in Springfield," said Brooke Gross, member services manager at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and facilitator of its youth programs. "This annual event provides state senators and representatives a chance to inspire and support the next generation of leaders."

In addition to meeting elected officials, the students also learned more about their electric or telephone cooperative's role in their own

communities and had the opportunity to tour the Capitol Building and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

State Senator Dale Fowler and Representatives Patrick Windhorst and Paul Jacobs, met with the students representing SIEC. These students included: Bryce Partridge of Vienna High School and Adam Taake of Century High School.

During lunch, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs addressed the students. He shared his journey from a small town in Illinois to his current role, emphasizing the importance of finding interesting and challenging opportunities. He encouraged students to pursue their passions and take risks.



"When you push yourself outside your comfort zone, it's uncomfortable at first, but you learn a lot," Frerichs said. "I'm guessing this is a room of people who want to do big things."

Participants also met Paris Van Dyke, the 2023-24 Illinois Youth Leadership Council representative, who was sponsored by Wabash

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TOP 10 reasons we appreciate lineworkers

1. They are expertly trained to work on power lines and equipment.
2. They are dedicated to safely and efficiently maintaining power.
3. They have a heart for service, always looking out for their communities.
4. They conquer heights without hesitation.
5. They prioritize safety every second of every day.
6. They answer the call - day or night - to restore power.
7. They work in extreme weather conditions.
8. They go when and where they are needed, supporting communities nationwide when severe weather strikes.
9. They have each other's backs and work together like family.
10. They power our lives and energize our communities!

Thank you, lineworkers, for all you do to keep the lights on.

Safe Electricity.org



SPRING EFFICIENCY WORD SEARCH

Did you know there are several ways to save energy during spring months?

Read the energy-saving tips below to learn more, then find the bolded words in the puzzle below.

E	S	W	Z	S	V	M	P	A	S	M	M	E	Z	R
Y	C	T	Z	I	T	I	B	S	R	D	N	O	L	A
F	K	J	H	Y	N	X	S	U	E	X	U	N	P	I
P	R	K	N	G	R	E	N	F	G	Q	L	J	T	Z
G	Z	I	K	D	I	M	P	E	R	E	X	W	A	S
Q	L	X	L	F	Y	L	P	I	A	Z	Q	C	E	D
F	V	Z	N	X	S	F	D	G	H	U	Z	E	G	X
E	N	E	R	G	Y	M	I	E	C	K	R	N	F	G
B	H	V	J	E	O	F	E	I	L	T	I	C	Q	S
K	P	T	Q	J	J	C	D	L	E	H	G	C	V	I
Q	Z	N	N	C	S	V	Q	D	D	W	P	N	E	M
T	P	T	T	V	L	I	A	U	P	W	X	P	I	F
L	D	R	O	J	A	H	H	I	Q	B	F	F	U	F
C	T	G	B	G	S	P	P	T	G	I	W	K	M	Y
S	W	O	D	N	I	W	R	S	K	M	W	Y	U	K

- Use **LED lights** around your home. LEDs use 75% less energy than traditional incandescent light bulbs.
- Plant **shade trees** around your home to block unwanted heat from the sun.
- Unplug devices and electronics that consume energy when they're not in use, like phone **chargers**.
- Seal air leaks around exterior doors and **windows** to save energy and keep your home comfortable.
- Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. To save **energy**, turn them off when you leave the room.

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.

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"Youth Day" continued from page 18B

Communications CO-OP during the 2023 Youth Day and Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. She spoke about her experiences representing Illinois' electric and telephone cooperatives.

"I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for this experience two years ago, because I really got out of my box and decided to try something new," Van Dyke said. "Be proud of yourself for sitting in the chairs that you are in today, because you have an opportunity that not very many students get. So, take advantage of that,

and just remember to say yes to the opportunities that come your way."

David N. Fager

In addition to Youth Day, Partridge and Taake will also participate in Youth Tour, an annual trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives. This year's trip will be held June 16-23. They will represent our cooperative on the weeklong trip and meet their elected officials, see historic sites, learn firsthand how cooperatives work and gain valuable leadership skills.



Adam Taake of Century High School (left) and Bryce Partridge of Vienna High School (right) met with State Senator Dale Fowler and Representatives Patrick Windhorst and Paul Jacobs.

Safety Tip

Before starting any digging project, call 8-1-1 or visit Call811.com to have underground utilities marked. Hitting buried lines can cause serious injuries, service disruptions for you and your neighbors and costly repairs. Stay safe by knowing what's below before you dig!



SafeElectricity.org