

JAMUP

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

A season of gratitude and growth: Reflecting on 2025



David A. Johnston
General Manager

As we approach Christmas and the close of another year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to every member of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. The holiday season is a time for reflection — on where we've been, what we've accomplished, and the blessings we share as a community. Looking back on 2025, I am proud to say that this has been a year defined by progress, resilience, and cooperation.

A Year Marked by Reliability and Innovation

This year brought meaningful improvements across our entire electric system. Through strategic upgrades, enhanced vegetation management, and taking the first steps toward the deployment of advanced metering technology, we have maintained our minimal outage duration and increased service reliability for thousands of homes, farms, and businesses in southern Illinois.

Our crews — often working early mornings, late nights, and yes, even holiday weekends — demonstrated unwavering dedication to keeping the lights on. Their commitment embodies the cooperative spirit at its finest, and I want to publicly thank them for their service.

Living Out the Cooperative Principles

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative is guided by the Seven Cooperative Principles, and in 2025, those principles remained at the heart of everything we did.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership

We welcomed new members with open arms — reflecting the inclusiveness that has defined us since 1938.

2. Democratic Member Control

Your participation in meetings and elections ensured your voice shaped our direction. Because you are not just customers — you are owners.

3. Members' Economic Participation

Through continued financial stewardship and local investment, continue to add value directly to the community.

4. Autonomy and Independence

We upheld our commitment to transparency and local authority, ensuring decisions reflect the needs of Southern Illinois families — not distant investors.

5. Education, Training, and Information

We expanded energy-efficiency education, hosted school safety demonstrations, and provided training for our future workforce.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

By collaborating with other Illinois electric cooperatives, we shared resources during storms, strengthened grid resilience, and participated in statewide planning efforts.

7. Concern for Community

From youth leadership programs to scholarships and charitable initiatives such as Operation Round Up, we reinvest in the people who make this region home.

These principles are not just words on paper — they are the foundation that supports every improvement we make.

A Community Moving Forward Together

One of the greatest successes of 2025 has been the continued collaboration between our members, our board of directors, and our employees. Whether responding to winter storms or planning long-term reliability projects, our cooperative thrived because we worked together — each of us contributing to a shared mission.

The Spirit of Christmas

As Christmas approaches, I am reminded of the values this season inspires: generosity, gratitude, and hope. These values mirror the very essence of the cooperative model. During this season, I encourage each of us to reflect on the gift of community and the strength we find in unity. On behalf of everyone at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, thank you for your trust, your support, and your continued partnership. It is an honor to serve you. May the peace and joy of Christmas fill your homes, and may the new year bring health, prosperity, and continued blessings to you and your families.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
David A. Johnston, Executive VP/General Manager

Youth to Washington 2026 Application

Please submit a completed application to ONE of the following methods below:

Mail/Drop-off to: Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative
Attn: Brent Goforth
7420 US Highway 51 S.
P.O. Box 100
Dongola, IL 62926

Email to: bgoforth@siec.org

Please complete each section. The application should be received by mail, drop-off, or email to the address above by **Monday, February 9, 2026**.

Awards and communications will be first made by email.

STUDENT APPLICANT INFORMATION

First Name: _____ MI: _____

Last Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Applicant Phone: _____ - _____ Applicant Email: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Name(s): _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Address (if different) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Email: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Phone: _____ - _____ Parent/Legal Guardian Phone: _____ - _____

School Name: _____

T-Shirt Size: _____

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

Describe yourself, your educational goals/passions, and anything else you would like to share of importance. (May be hand-written or typed. Must follow essay guidelines. Approximately 100 words.)

ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Please list activities or organizations in which you currently or have participated in during the last three years. List any awards received, offices held, or special achievements or recognition received. You may include school, church, community, or other activities.

Activity/Organization	No. of Years	Office(s) Held	Special Awards, Honors, Etc.
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ESSAY INFORMATION

As lawmakers continue to consider legislation that limits carbon emissions, what positive and negative effects would this have on the member-owners of electric cooperatives? Please include in your essay the importance of fuel diversity to generate electricity with regards to:

- 1. Affordable Electricity
- 2. Reliability
- 3. Meeting Electricity Demand
- 4. Safety
- 5. Environment

PARTICIPATION

I understand my ability to participate is essential for application. I have reviewed these dates and I have no activities scheduled that would prevent me from participating in Youth Day in Springfield on March 25, or Youth to Washington trip June 15-22, 2026.

I affirm I am either 1) a child/ward of a consumer-member of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, or 2) attend a public or private high school in Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's service territory that includes: Anna-Jonesboro, Cairo, Century, Cobden, Dongola, Egyptian, Goreville, Joppa, Massac, Meridian, Shawnee, & Vienna School Districts.

Signature of Applicant

Date

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT STATEMENT

I/we give permission for _____, our daughter/son, if she/he is selected as a delegate for the Illinois Youth to Washington Tour (Youth Tour) program, to join the all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., and any other activities sponsored by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). Youth to Washington is coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the AIEC, and local Illinois rural electric cooperatives. We also give permission for SIEC, AIEC, and the affiliates of the Youth Tour program to take, publish, and use photographs of my child/ward for publicity and historical purposes. In consideration for SIEC's sponsorship, including the provision of insurance coverage, adult chaperones, and financial support of Youth Tour, the undersigned hereby release, remise, and indemnify SIEC, AIEC, and their employees, officers, directors and agents from any and all claims arising from our child's/ward's participation in this program and its activities.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Printed name of Parent/Legal Guardian

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Printed name of Parent/Legal Guardian

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

Scott L. Ury
(President) Union Co.
Jerry P. Thurston
(Vice President) Pulaski Co.
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(Secretary-Treasurer) Johnson Co.
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Randall Rushing Massac Co.
Tadge Wilson Pulaski Co.
Ronald E. Osman (Attorney)
Executive VP/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

Christmas Tree Fire Safety

- **Pick fresh:** Choose a tree with green needles that don't fall off easily.
- **Trim base:** Cut 2" before placing in stand.
- **Water daily:** Keep the stand full and the tree fresh.
- **Placement matters:** Keep at least 3' from heat sources; don't block exits.
- **Secure tree:** Anchor to prevent tipping, especially with pets or kids.
- **Light it right:** Use only UL-listed lights; replace damaged strands.
- **No candles:** Never decorate with a flame.
- **Turn off lights:** Unplug when sleeping or away.
- **Use smoke alarms:** Test monthly.
- **Ditch when dry:** Remove promptly; don't store near home or garage.

Learn more:

