

JAMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Thank you for powering our 86th Annual Meeting!



David A. Johnston
General Manager

On behalf of the Board of Directors, management team, and dedicated employees of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, I want to extend a sincere thank you to every member-owner who joined us

for our 86th Annual Meeting.

The cooperative model is built on a simple yet powerful foundation: democratic member control. Unlike traditional investor-owned utilities, SIEC isn't operated for distant shareholders. We exist to serve you, your families, your farms, and your local businesses right here in Union, Pulaski, Johnson, Alexander, and Massac counties. Gathering together each year to review our progress,

discuss industry challenges, and look toward our shared future is the clearest expression of what makes a cooperative special.

For those who were able to attend, we hope you enjoyed connecting with your fellow members, meeting with our directors and staff, and hearing firsthand about the state of your co-op. From our strong financial standings and independent audit report to major grid modernization projects — like our \$4 million federal grant for operational technology and our upcoming Peak Power Rewards Program — there is a lot of positive momentum driving our system forward.

If you weren't able to make it this year, we missed you! We strongly encourage all of our members to consider attending future annual meetings. It is a fantastic way to:

- **Stay Informed:** Get transparent updates directly from co-op

leadership on reliability, rates, and supply chain strategies.

- **Exercise Your Voice:** Participate in the cooperative process and see how your board represents your local community.
- **Connect with Community:** Enjoy fellowship, door prize opportunities, and engagement alongside neighbors across our five-county footprint.

Our commitment to delivering safe, reliable, and affordable electric service — and expanding world-class fiber broadband through our local partnerships — remains as strong today as it was when our co-op was founded 86 years ago.

Thank you once again for your trust, your active participation, and your ongoing support. You are the heart of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, and we look forward to seeing even more of you at our 87th Annual Meeting next year!

Cathy S. Aaron

Energy Detective Challenge

School is back in session, and it's time to put your observation skills to work! Complete the challenges below and earn points by finding ways your family can save energy.



Goal:
Score 20 points to become an Energy Detective! After you've earned 20 points, cut out the badge below and display it for all to see!



SCAVENGER HUNT

COMPLETED

A light is left on in an empty room (2 points) ☐

A smart or programmable thermostat (4 points) ☐

A ceiling fan spinning in a room where no one is spending time (2 points) ☐

A charger plugged in with nothing connected to it (2 points) ☐

An ENERGY STAR® label on an appliance (3 points) ☐

A window or door left open or cracked when the heating/cooling system is on (3 points) ☐

MISSIONS

COMPLETED

Turn off the lights when you leave a room (3 points) ☐

Open blinds or curtains during the day instead of turning on a light (3 points) ☐

Unplug a charger that isn't being used (3 points) ☐

Remind family members to close the refrigerator door quickly (3 points) ☐

Help your family create a "lights out" check before bedtime (4 points) ☐



Harvest season safety: Protecting lives, farms and our electric system

by *Stephanie Theis, Executive Assistant*

As the summer growing season gives way to harvest, fields across southern Illinois come alive with combines, grain carts, tractors, sprayers and other large equipment. It's one of the busiest — and most rewarding — times of the year. It's also one of the times when we all need to be especially mindful of electrical safety.

At Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, the safety of our members, employees and communities is always our highest priority. While we take great pride in providing reliable electric service, nothing is more important than ensuring everyone returns home safely at the end of the day.

Modern farm equipment continues to grow in size. Combines, grain augers, planters and other machinery often operate near overhead power lines, making it easier than ever to accidentally make contact with energized electrical equipment. Even a brief moment of distraction can lead to a dangerous situation.

Over the years, we've responded to a few incidents within our service territory involving farm equipment contacting overhead power lines. In some cases, equipment sustained significant damage, and we've had to replace poles, lines or other electrical equipment. Thankfully, none of these incidents resulted in serious injuries or fatalities — and we'd like to keep it that way.

A few simple precautions can make all the difference:

- Survey fields before beginning work and identify the location of overhead power lines.
- Lower grain augers, booms and other elevated equipment before moving between fields or entering roadways. **Amanda Lamb**
- Be especially cautious when transporting equipment that may be taller than you realize.
- Use a spotter whenever visibility is limited or when operating near overhead lines.
- Remember that power lines may be more difficult to see during early morning, dusk or when the sun is low on the horizon.

If your equipment does come into contact with a power line, the safest place is usually inside the cab. Stay where you are and immediately call 911 and Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative. Warn everyone nearby to stay away from both the equipment and the ground surrounding it. Electricity can travel through the equipment and into the earth, creating a hazardous area.

Only leave the equipment if there is an immediate life-threatening emergency, such as a fire. If you must exit, do not touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Jump completely clear with both feet together, then shuffle or hop away while keeping your feet together until you are well away from the area. **Charles L. Zeller**

It's also important to remember that a power line lying on the ground should always be treated as energized. Never assume a line is safe simply because it isn't sparking or because the power appears to be out. Stay far away and report it immediately.

Harvest season requires long hours, careful planning and constant attention. Fatigue can make it easier to overlook hazards, so take breaks when needed and encourage everyone working with you to remain aware of their surroundings.

Every damaged pole or downed line can interrupt electric service to neighbors, delay harvest activities, and require costly repairs. More importantly, every close call is a reminder that electricity deserves our respect.

At Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, we're grateful that past incidents in our service area have ended without serious injuries. Let's continue that record by making safety part of every pass through the field.

On behalf of all of us at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, thank you for the work you do to help feed our communities. We wish you a safe, productive and successful harvest season.

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.
Toni L. Snell
(Secretary-Treasurer).....Johnson Co.
Kim Bakehouse.....Massac Co.
Brittany Thomas.....Alexander Co.
Bill Littrell.....Union Co.
Josh Miller.....Alexander Co.
Randall Rushing.....Massac Co.
Nathan Pfaff.....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

DON'T GET OUT

If your machinery, vehicle or other **equipment makes contact with a power line, guy wire or electrical box, DO NOT get out of your cab.** Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground.

To avoid becoming electrocuted:

- **Call 9-1-1** and wait for us to arrive to cut the power.
- **Wait to exit** your cab until the power is de-energized.

In rare cases you may need to exit your cab due to smoke or fire. **If you must get out:**

- **Make a solid jump out** without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle.
- **Hop away as far as you can**, keeping both feet together as you hop away.

For more information visit **SafeElectricity.org**.



**Safe
Electricity.org**