

THE MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS OF SOUTHERN IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.



living with energy

IN IOWA

FEBRUARY 2012

Tune up your water heater and cut your power bill

**Create a
mini-sunroom**

with a bow or
bay window

**Get big
recipes**

from small
appliances

Stray voltage

on the farm
is an often-
misunderstood
phenomenon

We'll give you a
head start on saving
energy at your place!

See Page 5

Employee of the Month

Congratulations, Tommy Larsen!

Tommy Larsen is SIEC's Employee of the Month for January. He came to the co-op May 2007 as an apprentice lineman; by September 2009, he had completed his Merchant Job Training and Safety Program and is now a journeyman lineman.



Originally from Roseau, Minn., Tom and his wife, Misty, have a 3-year-old son, Ty – and all are very excited about the arrival of Ty's new baby brother around the end of March. Misty is employed at Cargill, and Tom says his time away from work is spent remodeling their home – and when he can find the time, he gets in a little hunting and fishing too. ⚡



Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Our mission is to serve our members and community by safely providing reliable and environmentally responsible power and other services efficiently and at a competitive price to benefit members and improve the quality of life in the areas that we serve.

Office: 22458 Highway 2, P.O. Box 70, Bloomfield, IA 52537-0070

Phone: 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027

Phone Payments: 800-927-5341

Report Outages: 800-607-2027

Call Before You Dig – Iowa One Call: 800-292-8989

Website: www.sie.coop

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

Management

Mark Aeilts, Manager/CEO

Tami Weilbrenner, Finance and Admin. Manager/CFO

Jeremy Wilcox, Operations Manager/COO

Board of Directors

Darrell Downing, President Dean Black

David Hopkins, Vice President Trent Gregory

Joy Evans, Secretary Paul Wells

Dave Yahnke, Treasurer Donnie White

Fred Zeitler

What to Do in Case of Trouble

- ▶ Check for blown fuses or tripped breakers.
- ▶ Check with your neighbors. Ask if their electricity is off and whether they have reported the outage. If not, call Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., and report the problem 24 hours a day: 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027.

Service Charges

ACH (Electronic Payment).....	No Charge
Bill Collection.....	\$30
Meter Tampering.....	\$150
Overtime Service Call.....	\$150
Convenience Charge (Online or Phone Payment).....	\$5
Disconnect.....	\$30
Posting.....	\$30
Returned Check.....	\$30
Reconnect.....	\$75
Trip Charge.....	\$30

Local Perspective

Right-of-way tree trimming begins this month

BY MARK AEILTS

It's that time of year again! Overgrown right-of-way (ROW) can cause problems during severe weather and make it difficult for our workers to reach trouble spots to make necessary repairs. Due to our experiences with ice storms and maintenance issues – and our desire for increased reliability – we'll be trimming regrowth to ensure that your power stays on.

Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., has hired Tom's Tree Service to cut and trim trees in the Ottumwa and Christianburg substation areas in Davis and Wapello Counties. In December, we sent letters to the members this will affect, and our contractor will attempt to contact each house along the right-of-way at least one week before clearing begins.

When a member allows our contractor to remove yard trees interfering with power lines, contracted crews will take the tree down and chip the brush. Larger sections may be cut up and left for members at their request – or the larger sections can be removed from their premises if the wood is in an accessible area. If a member would like a stump to be ground, SIEC also will provide that service through our contractor.

Our ROW program has been a big success

When comparing our 2010 and 2011 power outage statistics, we had an 83 percent reduction in the number of members affected by tree, wind or ice outages. Since we really didn't have any ice or major wind problems, most of the data is tree-related. In fact, we experienced a 66 percent reduction in the number of tree-related outages – and outage expenses dropped approximately 42 percent. With our continued commitment to our vegetation management program, we are planning to continue these positive results.

Always remember that if you spot a tree limb touching or hanging on a power line, don't attempt to knock it down yourself; this is very dangerous. *Always* call our office, and we'll have our linemen come out and take care of removing the limbs so everyone stays safe.

If you're interested in replacement tree planting for your property, please contact our office for a free tree-planting guidance brochure. ⚡

Mark Aeilts is the manager/CEO of Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc.



Pay attention to the signs.

Just as road signs keep you out of harm's way, electrical warning signs call attention to potential dangers. Going beyond the signs places you in danger of potentially fatal electrical shock.



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22458 Highway 2

Bloomfield, IA 52537

641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027

www.sie.coop

Financial Matters

SIEC will award scholarships

During 2012, SIEC will award three \$2,000 scholarships to high school seniors – one scholarship in each of three areas determined by membership totals: Appanoose-Van Buren Counties, Davis County and Wapello County.



Who is eligible?

All high school seniors whose parents or guardians are members of the cooperative with active account(s) are eligible. An exception will be made for a student enrolling in lineman school.

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen and accepted by an accredited 2- or 4-year college, university or vocational-technical school for fall 2012.

How do you apply?

Pick up an application at the Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., office, download an application from our website at www.sie.coop or call 664-2277 or 800-607-2027 to request an application be mailed to you.

Mail your completed application to: SIEC Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 70, Bloomfield, IA 52537-0070.

It must be received no later than March 31, 2012.

What are the terms and conditions?

All completed applications will be sent to a panel of judges to select the scholarship winners. The judges aren't associated with the co-op and will give equal consideration to all students. Winners will be notified May 2012 to allow for presentation to recipients at their graduation awards assemblies.

Scholarships will be awarded on a one-time basis without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender or disability. They are not renewable.

Awards will be paid upon proof of registration at an institution of higher education and issued August 2012. ⚡

Clip and save the new card on Page 12!



Then you'll be able to access all the brand-new Healthy Savings benefits for eye care, dental services, lab tests and more!

Editor's Choice Contest

Here's a \$100 start on saving energy at your place



This month's prize is a **\$100 Living with Energy in Iowa Energy-Saving Gift Card**. Use it to purchase \$100 worth of energy-saving products of your choice at your local hardware store, lumberyard, big-box retailer or other business.

For your chance at winning the Energy-Saving Gift Card, enter the Editor's Choice Contest at our website (www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) by Feb. 29, 2012.

Youth Tour

It's Iowa Youth Tour time!

Our nation's capital will come alive this summer for about 30 Iowa high school students. Each year, Iowa's local electric cooperatives offer the Iowa Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

The 2012 Youth Tour is June 15-21. Highlights of the trip include touring historic sites, exploring the Smithsonian museums, meeting Iowa's congressional leaders, spending a day on Capitol Hill and cruising down the Potomac River. Participants also will make new friends from across Iowa and the nation, as they join hundreds of Youth Tour participants from other states.

It's simple to apply; high school sophomores, juniors and seniors whose parents or guardians are SIEC members are eligible. Just fill out the application form and return it to SIEC.

We'll send you the information you'll need to study for the interview, which

will be held Wednesday, March 7, at the SIEC office. Two lucky people will be chosen to represent Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., on this year's Youth Tour trip. All other participants will receive a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond.

Youth Tour winners also will be eligible to apply for the Youth Leadership



Council. The student chosen to be the Iowa representative on the council will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Pioneers Trust Foundation. Apply soon; the entry deadline is Feb. 28, 2012. ⚡

2012 RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR CONTEST

Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Age _____

Parents _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone No. _____

School _____ Year in School _____

Return to: Youth Tour, Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 70, Bloomfield, IA 52537-0070



Co-op Connections® Program

START SAVING 10% TO 85% ON PRESCRIPTIONS, EYE CARE, DENTAL CARE AND MORE!

- Present your Co-op Connections Card to a participating provider to receive discounts at the time of service.
- This Co-op Connections Card can be used by you, your spouse and your legal dependents.
- 10% to 85% discounts on most prescriptions at over 60,000 participating pharmacies including CVS, Walgreens, Walmart and thousands of independent pharmacies.
- 10% to 60% discounts on eyeglasses, contact lenses, eye exams and LASIK. Participating providers include LensCrafters, Pearle Vision, Sears Optical, JCPenney and Target Optical.
- 20% to 40% discounts on dental care, including cleanings, x-rays, fillings, crowns, root canals and orthodontics.
- PLUS, get additional savings on chiropractic visits, lab tests, imaging scans and hearing aids.

We are delighted to provide you with the Co-op Connections® Healthy Savings discount card! You can now enjoy savings on prescriptions, eye care, eyewear, dental care, chiropractic visits, lab tests, imaging scans and hearing aids at participating local providers.

Please keep in mind that this is NOT insurance, so it is simple and easy to use. There are no health restrictions or paperwork. You can use the card immediately and as many times as needed. When you present your card to a participating provider, you will receive a discount at the time of purchase.

For benefit details, how-to-use information, FAQs and savings examples on each of the benefits, visit www.healthysavings.coop.

↓ **Cut out and use this card to enjoy the new savings!** ↓





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Member ID: 142407524
Group: 22203IA15

To locate a provider or for questions
call 800-800-7616 or visit HealthySavings.coop



COAST TO COAST™ VISION 800-800-EYES	HumanaDental ACCESS	
Mail Order Prescriptions	866-734-7201	
Humana Dental Access®	877-281-7031	
LASIK Eye Surgery	877-307-4448	
Mail Order Contacts	800-878-3901	
Newport Audiology Centers	888-851-9554	
MRI and CT Scans	877-864-9414	
Laboratory Testing Network	877-258-5840	

 **Pharmacies: For additional information or assistance
please call the Help Desk at 877-448-6182.**

THIS IS NOT INSURANCE. Payment must be made at time of service.



This is not insurance nor is it intended to replace insurance. This discount card program contains a 30-day cancellation period. This plan provides discounts at certain healthcare providers for medical services. This plan does not make payments directly to the providers of medical services. The plan member is obligated to pay for all healthcare services but will receive a discount from those healthcare providers who have contracted with the discount plan organization. For a full list of disclosures, please visit www.healthysavings.coop. Discount Medical Plan Organization: New Benefits, Ltd., Attn: Compliance Department, PO Box 671309, Dallas, TX 75367-1309.