

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



living with energy

IN IOWA

JUNE 2011

LED lighting:

Is what you'll spend worth what you'll save?



Build an eco-friendly, energy-efficient deck

We're cleaning out our prize closet!

See Page 5

Share members' heirloom recipes with your family

Find out what factors really affect power costs

Saving Energy

Stay cool by cutting down on hot spots

Did you know you can reduce heat gain by a third by shading your house with trees, adding insulation and ventilating the attic – or that air leaks allowing warm air into your home (and cooled air out) also can be a costly problem?



For more details on reducing cooling costs, download a free copy of the Iowa Energy Center's 24-page book, *Home Heating and Cooling*, at www.energy.iastate.edu/homeseries. You also can request a copy to be mailed to you by sending an e-mail to iec@energy.iastate.edu or calling 515-294-8819. ⚡



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

Web Site: 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

Paul Wells, President

Dean Black

Trent Gregory, Vice President

Darrell Downing

Joy Evans, Treasurer

Donnie White

David Hopkins, Secretary

Dave Yahnke

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

Trip to nation's capital focused on funding issues and the environment

BY MARK AEILTS

Last month, I traveled to Washington, D.C., with more than 30 other representatives from Iowa's electric cooperatives to discuss energy and environmental issues with the seven members of Iowa's congressional delegation. The key issues that have the greatest impact on the 650,000 Iowans to whom the state's electric cooperatives provide electricity included Rural Utility Service funding, FEMA funding and opposing the designation of coal ash as hazardous.



- Each year since fiscal year 2008, Congress has approved a \$6.5 billion loan level for the RUS loan program, which co-ops use for the construction of infrastructure. This loan level has not cost the federal government a single cent during that time. We support the continued funding of this low-cost, low-risk program that contributes more than \$100 million to the U.S. Treasury and will aid deficit reduction during fiscal year 2012.
- Electric cooperatives rely significantly on FEMA funds to promptly restore power after severe natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and ice storms. Without FEMA assistance, many electric

cooperative consumers living in these affected areas would face the additional burdens of longer waits

for service restoration and the potential for higher rates. Electric cooperatives support continuing the program so FEMA funds remain available for response to – and mitigation of – natural disasters.

■ Coal Combustion

Residuals (CCRs) are materials produced when coal is burned to produce electricity. When properly managed, CCRs offer environmental and economic benefits without harm to public health and safety. Over the years, CCRs have been incorporated into productive, beneficial applications such as roof shingles, wallboard, asphalt and bricks. One of the CCRs, fly ash, plays a critical role in highway construction, because it increases concrete durability cost-effectively and safely. The volume of CCRs being recycled and put to beneficial use has increased steadily and now constitutes about 45 percent of all CCRs produced, replacing the need for using other raw materials. ⚡

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

How Your Co-op Works

Pay your bill by phone, 24/7

Each month, approximately 100 people call the SIEC office to make a payment using a credit card or e-check. With this increase in phone calls, SIEC has enlisted the help of the Cooperative Response Center (CRC) to make the payment process easier for you.

CRC currently answers after-hour calls for SIEC; now the company will be able to take phone payments 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To make a payment, call this new phone number

anytime: 800-927-5341.

SIEC currently offers the following methods for payment.

■ Online: www.sie.coop

■ Phone: 800-927-5341

■ ACH: Payment is deducted monthly from your bank account.

■ Mail

■ In our office

Note: A \$5 convenience fee for each \$500 is applied to all online and phone payments. ⚡

Just for Kids

Live demos help students keep electric safety in mind

During April, Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., and Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative presented electrical safety demonstrations for fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students at Davis County, Eddyville, Blakesburg and Moulton-Udell elementary schools. As background, students received information about the invention of electricity and the history of rural electrification.

They also were able to see and wear some of the tools and equipment used by linemen in their daily work. In addition, the students saw several examples of dangerous situations brought to life during demonstrations that used a working model of an electric distribution system.



Finally, participants learned what to do if they were involved in an auto accident that included downed power lines: Unless the vehicle is on fire, stay inside the vehicle and call 911 for help. Only if the vehicle is on fire should you attempt to leave it by “bunny hopping” as far away from the accident as possible. ⚡

Editor's Choice Contest

We're cleaning out our prize closet!

We're going to give prizes to 10 lucky electric co-op members this month. Plus, one of our lucky winners will receive a \$50 credit on his or her power bill.



To register, go to the Editor's Choice Contest at the *Living with Energy in Iowa* Web site (www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) and fill out the entry form by June 30, 2011. We'll pick the winners' names at random and publish them in an upcoming issue.

The winner of the Midland WR-300 weather alert AM/FM clock radio in the April issue was Bruce Mueller, a member of Butler County REC.

In the News

SIEC honored for leadership in economic development

Every year, Iowa Area Development Group recognizes its electric utility sponsors for their outstanding contributions to business development projects and local community initiatives. The organization recently presented SIEC with an Impact Award for community development for its leadership and support in helping

the Davis County Community School District build a new \$10 million high school. The cooperative secured a \$300,000 USDA loan that assisted in the construction of the school building. In the past, SIEC also has helped the Keosauqua community with its efforts in constructing a new daycare facility. ⚡



(From left) Paul Wells, president of the SIEC board, and Lori McAllister, public relations coordinator for SIEC, received the Impact Award from Rand Fisher, president of Iowa Area Development Group.

Legislative Action

Co-op contingent visits State Capitol to discuss nuclear power generation

Representatives from SIEC traveled to the State Capitol last month to talk with their legislators about issues related to the nuclear power bill being debated in the Iowa House. As the energy needs of Iowans continue to rise, nuclear energy will be an important contributor to the state's baseload power supply.

Nuclear energy also will be a vital component in Iowa's successful economic future. The construction of a nuclear facility will create hundreds of jobs in the building trades, and the wages paid will ripple through the economy as workers and their families purchase local goods and services. ⚡



SIEC representatives visiting the Iowa Capitol last month included (from left) Jennifer Shively, Scott Johnson, Laine King, Travis Weis, Kevin Bulechek, Richard Rickelman, Tom Larsen, Bill Sego, Mike Gerritson and Darrell Downing.

SIEC announces \$2,000 scholarship winners

The winners of the 2011 Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative Academic Scholarships are:

■ **Zach Fligg**, who attended Davis County High School and is the son of Kyle and Melissa Fligg of Bloomfield. Zach has been accepted into the Powerline Program at Northwest Iowa Community College.

■ **Nicholas Johnson**, who attended Davis County High School and is the son of Mike and Brenda Johnson of Bloomfield. Nic also has been accepted in the Powerline Program at Northwest Iowa Community College.

■ **Josh Kent**, who attended Cardinal High School and is the son of Brian and Lisa Kent of Agency. Josh will

be attending William Penn University and plans to study electrical engineering.

In order to be considered for a scholarship, a student must be a high school senior; the student or parent/guardian must be a member of Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., although an exception is made for a student enrolling in lineman school; the student must have been accepted by an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school for the fall following high school graduation; and the student must be a U.S. citizen.

SIEC would like to thank all the students who applied for scholarships this year. We wish you well in your future endeavors. ⚡



Zach Fligg



Nic Johnson



Josh Kent

Awareness Is Your Best Electrical Safety Tool.

Look up BEFORE you lift.



Overhead wires are not insulated and ladders — even those made of wood — carried in an upright position can contact a power line and have potentially fatal results. Metal ladders should never be used near a power line, and, to be safe, call your electric cooperative when it's necessary to work near power lines.



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641-664-2277
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22458 Highway 2
Bloomfield, IA 52537



A new Energy Star® qualified room air conditioner is at least 10 percent more efficient than a standard model.

With an average savings of \$66 over the lifetime of the unit, that means you'll save enough money to buy 23 Energy Star qualified CFLs, an Energy Star qualified ceiling fan or about 15 gallons of ice cream! For more information on buying energy-smart appliances, go to www.energystar.gov.

SIEC's offices will be closed

Monday, July 4,
in observance of
Independence Day