

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



living with energy

IN IOWA

NOVEMBER 2011

Celebrate the
holidays
with energy-efficient
decorative lighting

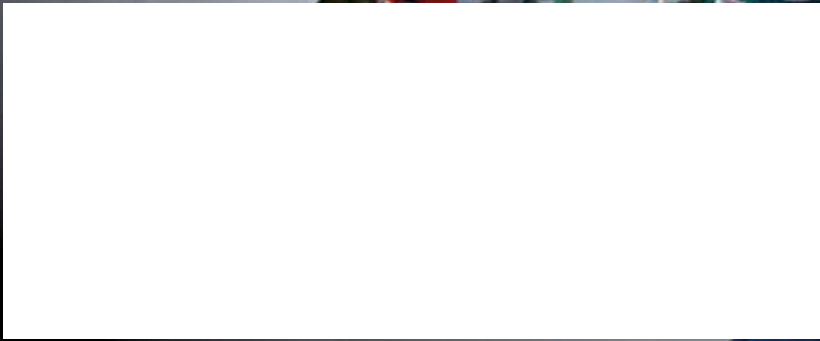
Win a Wi-Fi,
touch-screen,
programmable
thermostat

See Page 5

Look inside for a
wild bunch
of recipes!

Check our
picks for
energy-saving
gifts

Silent sentinels
are key to safe,
reliable and
affordable power



Employee of the Month

Congratulations, Bob Weaklen!

Bob Weaklen was chosen as SIEC's October Employee of the Month. He has worked for Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., for 38 years and currently is our meter reader and collector.



Bob and his wife, Veronica, reside in Bloomfield. He's a member of the Rotary Club of Bloomfield, Bloomfield Planning and Zoning Commission and Mainstreet. He also was president of the statewide member service group and Northeast Power's Member Services Group – and enjoys watching sporting events and going to auto races. 🚗



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

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

We're helping create a business environment for success

BY MARK AEILTS

We're all aware of the tough economic environment today – none of us more so than the folks who are unemployed. It's urgent for the rest of us to do what we can to support our neighbors and friends while taking steps in the right direction for a better tomorrow.

When combined with the existing Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., Revolving Loan Fund and other gap financing instruments in the region, there literally are millions of dollars to assist entrepreneurs – and for lenders to partner with and encourage small business development.

A prospective business needs to have a proper loan application, business plan, down payment and a bank or credit union as the primary lender. Based on the number of jobs brought to the community, the Revolving Loan Fund committee will make a decision on how much gap financing our fund can provide to an existing or new business.

Recently, SIEC utilized its Revolving Loan Fund to approve a gap financing loan to assist our new dentist in Bloomfield, Dr. Kirstina Gratz, DDS. Unfortunately, we've had too few applications for small business loans, so as the Revolving Loan Funds grew in our bank account we sought other ways to assist the community. For example, we loaned \$100,000 to the Davis County Fair Board for its new building and another \$100,000 to Davis County for courthouse repairs.

We're here to help in any economic development programs and actively are seeking ways to encourage more residential housing and make homes more energy efficient with items such as geothermal heating and cooling systems. We're working hard to make sure our local economy not

only can recover but also thrive for years to come.

Our long-term business environment has gotten a little brighter during the past couple of years. The Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative received a \$300,000 grant from USDA to fund expansion and an equipment upgrade for Davis County Hospital. In addition, SIEC received a



\$300,000 grant to help construct the new high school for Davis County Community School District, and Keosauqua Light and Power received a \$300,000 grant to assist the Van Buren Hospital daycare center. As the hospitals and school repay their zero-interest loans over 10 years, a total of \$900,000 plus interest will begin to be available for additional Revolving Loan Funds for businesses in our community.

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

Office Closing



In observance of Thanksgiving, our office will be closed Nov. 24-25.

Financial Matters

You can win a \$50 credit on your electric bill!

Are you tired of having to stop in the office and pay your bill? Frustrated with not being able to find a stamp so you can mail your electric payment? We can help!

SIEC offers Automatic Debit (also known as ACH) for paying your bill. Sign up for ACH, and your name will be added to a drawing for a \$50 credit on your bill.

There will be three lucky winners. The only requirements are that you stay on ACH for 1 year and use the 10th or the 15th as your withdrawal date.

ACH bill payment is convenient – and best of all, it's free. You'll have peace of mind knowing your bill is



paid on time each month, even if you're away.

You can download the automatic debit authorization form from our Web site at www.sie.coop – or call us at 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027, and we'll be happy to mail or fax a form to you.

Operations Update

Linemen complete pole-top rescue training



SIEC recently completed its annual pole-top and bucket-rescue certification program with safety instructor John Dvorak from the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. It's important that every line worker is prepared to rescue fellow workers, should an accident happen either at the top of a pole or while the bucket on a service truck is positioned in the air.

The safety of our linemen is our No. 1 priority!

Editor's Choice Contest

Win a Wi-Fi, touch-screen, programmable thermostat

Have you ever left the heat or air-conditioning on – only to remember after you've gotten a long way from home that you forgot to adjust the thermostat? The Filtrete Model 3M50 thermostat solves that problem by allowing you to control your home's temperature from anywhere; all you need to do is access the unit through the Internet from your laptop or smartphone.

According to the manufacturer, the 7-day programmable thermostat is easy to install and is 100 percent compatible with all popular residential heating and cooling systems, including forced-air, heat pumps and gravity units. The device includes a large, bright touch-screen display for easy viewing, on-screen filter-change alert and vacation and holiday programs. It also carries a 5-year warranty.

We found this innovative thermostat at Home Depot for about \$100. For more information or to buy one, go to www.radiothermostat.com/Filtrete or visit www.homedepot.com.



Visit our Web site, and win!

We're going to give this high-tech, programmable thermostat to one lucky electric co-op member this month. To enter, go to the Editor's Choice Contest at our Web site (www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) by Nov. 30, 2011.

We'll pick the winner's name at random and publish it in an upcoming issue. The purpose of this contest is to encourage you to visit our Web site, and we cannot accept entries by any other means. In addition, you can enter each contest only once, there is no obligation associated with entering this contest and we do not share entrant information with anyone.

The winner of the easy-to-install 52-inch Hunter ceiling fan in the September issue was Darlene Witzka, a member of North West Rural Electric Cooperative.

In the News

SIEC has another winner in magazine contest

Clarence and Rosalie Kinney were the lucky winners in the Editor's Choice contest for the August issue of *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine. They received 12 Hampton Bay Solar Walk Lights, which provide 8-plus hours of bright-white LED lighting.

See this month's Editor's Choice Contest (*left*) to find out how you could be the next lucky winner – or visit the magazine's Web site at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com.



Rosalie Kinney (left) stopped by the SIEC office to pick up her prize from Lori McAllister, public relations coordinator for the co-op.

Are you saving money with your discount card?

During the first 3 weeks of the Co-op Connections Card program, SIEC members have experienced a savings of 28.56 percent on prescription drugs. Please keep using your Co-op Connection Card at participating pharmacies and other businesses, so we can see



this number grow. To locate participating pharmacies, go to www.locateproviders.com; under "Groups" enter code 22203. Then click "Search" and enter your Zip code and mile radius. If you don't have easy access to the Internet, call the SIEC office at

641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027 and ask for Lori. She'll be happy to mail you a copy of the list.

To view a complete list of offers from all businesses, go to www.sie.coop and click on the Co-op Connections Card; then click on "Save in your area" and the "View all" tab.

To receive the special discounts, just show your card or key fob at participating local businesses. Spotting these businesses is easy – just look for the Co-op Connections sticker on the business' door or register.



You not only should keep yourself out of reach of power lines, but also use equipment – especially things like a metal ladder – at a safe distance. Electricity can arc from a power line to a nearby conductor. To be safe, don't get too close.

New businesses offering discounts

Curves (Centerville)

Health and fitness club for women
HOURS: 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday-Friday; 9:00 a.m. to noon, Saturday
DISCOUNT OFFER: No Service Fee (\$99 savings)
WHERE TO REDEEM: 211 E. State St., Centerville, Iowa 52544
PHONE: 641-437-7241
WEB SITE: www.curves.com

Curves (Ottumwa)

Health and fitness club for women
HOURS: 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday-Friday; 9:00 a.m. to noon, Saturday
DISCOUNT OFFER: No Service Fee (\$99 savings)
WHERE TO REDEEM: Quincy Place Mall, Ottumwa, Iowa, 52501
PHONE: 641-684-1869
WEB SITE: www.curves.com

MPA Computers

Computer sales and repairs, consumer electronics repair, Web site design and marketing collateral, service calls
OWNERS: Dave Birchmier and Cassie Hansen
E-MAIL: support@mpacomputers.com
HOURS: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday-Friday
DISCOUNT OFFER: 5% off all services and in-stock merchandise
WHERE TO REDEEM: 112 S. Washington St., Bloomfield, Iowa, 52537
PHONE: 888-672-0070
WEB SITE: www.mpacomputers.com



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