

# living with energy

IN IOWA

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



OCTOBER 2011

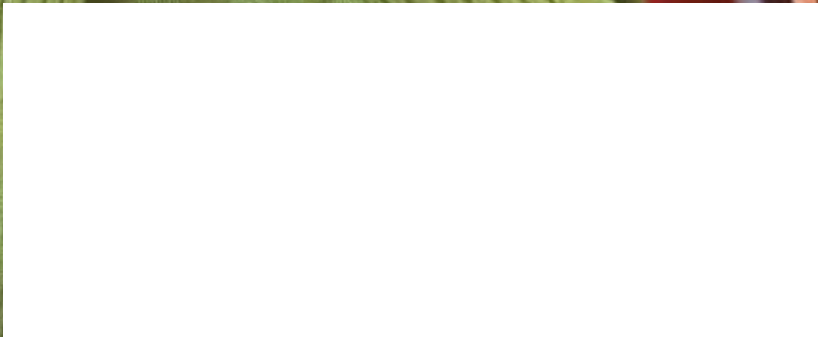
Win a state-of-the-art smoke alarm!  
See Page 5

Conjure up some **tasty treats** for kids' parties!

Your thermostat:  
**How low can you go?**

Electric co-ops **make a difference** at home and abroad

Get a clear picture of how **capital credits work**



# Meet Mike Gerritson!

Mike Gerritson was chosen as SIEC's Employee of the Month for September. He is a journeyman lineman and has worked for the cooperative for 4 years. He and his wife, Andrea, live north of Bloomfield and have two children, son Gabe, 4, and daughter Jessie, 2.



Mike has served on the board for Davis County Daycare. During his free time, he enjoys off-roading and spending time with his children. ⚡



**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

# SIEC's 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting was a big success

BY MARK AEILTS

Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., hosted its 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting Sept. 8, at our headquarters in Bloomfield. The co-op treated attending members to a meal served by the Davis County Cattlemen's Association, ice cream bars from Schwans and music played by the Davis County Community Band.



A safety display manned by SIEC's linemen demonstrated the dangers of coming into contact with live electric lines and stressed the importance of staying in your vehicle if you're ever involved in an accident with downed power lines. Members also had the opportunity to have their blood pressures checked and to receive flu shots courtesy of Davis County Home Health.

This year, in addition to receiving a registration gift, members picked up their Co-op Connections Cards. We encourage you to start using your money saving card right away. To learn more, please go to our Web site at www.sie.coop or check the list of participating businesses at www.connections.coop.

After ballots were counted for the cooperative's board of directors, we announced the results of the election during the business meeting. Dave Hopkins from Bloomfield, Trent Gregory from Bloomfield and Fred Zeitler from Douds were elected to 3-year terms.

Then board president Paul Wells addressed the membership. His topics included:

- Avoiding complacency for a 72-year-old, not-for-profit cooperative.
- Reliability enhancements in replacing aging infrastructure and widening the right-of-way.
- Encouraging savings on electric bills through our Take Control and Save programs and the use of cost-

effective geothermal heating and cooling systems.

- Economic development efforts that include revolving loan funds and partnering with other economic development organizations.

During my comments, I spoke about the importance of nuclear generation in the future mix of resources to supply members with affordable and reliable power.

It's important to let our policy makers know that the development of baseload generation in Iowa is vital to economic recovery and development – as well as our families and personal budgets.

Our lives are increasingly hectic. Family, financial and health concerns keep our plates full. You can rely on your cooperative to be aware of legislation that could impact your electric bills. Iowa's electric cooperatives will continue to watch what's going on in Congress and in Des Moines and to make your voice heard on policies dealing with the delivery of safe, affordable and reliable electricity in an environmentally responsible manner.

Jim Jura, CEO/general manager of Associated Electric Cooperative, was our guest speaker for the night. Jura's topics included:

- An explanation of the three-tiered system that supplies power to SIEC members.
- A description of how our members own the assets of Associated, including our fuel mix of natural gas, coal units and interconnections with wind and hydro generators.
- A review of the current challenge of compressed timelines to comply with EPA and other regulators, as well as rising delivered coal and possibly natural gas fuel prices. ⚡

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

# A good time was had by all at our Annual Meeting



Members enjoy a meal served by Davis County Cattlemen's Association.



Braden Smith was thrilled with his John Deere tractor set!



SIEC linemen talked with members about the dangers of downed power lines.



Youth Tour students Jakob Rutchi (left) and Brooke Bodkins paused to view pictures of their trip to Washington, D.C., during their presentation.



SIEC members could get flu shots and have their blood pressures checked, thanks to the staff members from Davis County Home Health.



Members received rebate information and their Co-op Connections Cards, so they could start saving money right away at participating pharmacies and businesses.



Music played by the Davis County Community Band accompanied the slide show showing the cooperative's highlights from the past year.

## Here's a list of prizewinners from the Annual Meeting

### Power Bill Credits

#### \$200 Grand Prize

Billie L. Jones

#### \$75

Travis Harris  
Cody Pickens  
Bill Smith

#### \$50

Judy Overturf  
Faye Schewe  
Dwayne Smith

#### \$25

David Bales	Franklin M. Hancock
Gerri Crane	Donald Reinhard
Marvin Crady Jr.	Richard Rickelman
Stephen Davenport	Wayne Stewart
Rollin Davis	Monte Wilson
Robert Dutton	
Jack Hamburg	

### Children's Gifts

**Flip camera:** Christopher Alexander  
**John Deere toys:** Braden Smith  
**MP3 player:** Wyatt Sego

## Editor's Choice Contest

### Win a state-of-the-art smoke alarm

We're giving away a Kidde dual-sensor smoke alarm worth \$20 to each of 3 lucky Iowa electric cooperative members this month. For more details and to enter, go online to the Editor's Choice Contest at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) by Oct. 31, 2011.



## Office Closing

SIEC's offices will be closed Friday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day.

## Safety Matters

# Don't let electrical hazards haunt Halloween!

Halloween is the most festively frightening night of the year. But don't make yours fraught with danger.

Here are some safety reminders:

- As you're decorating, check for cracked sockets; frayed, loose or bare wires; and loose connections.
- Fasten all outdoor lights securely to trees and other firm supports. Don't

use nails or tacks that could puncture insulating cords and damage wires.

- Make sure decorative lighting is well ventilated, protected from weather and remains a safe distance from anything flammable such as dry leaves and shrubs. Don't coil extension cords while they're in

use or tuck them under rugs or drapes.

- Plug all outdoor electrical lights and decorations into an outlet protected with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). If your outlets aren't equipped with GFCIs, have an electrician install them or buy a GFCI adapter plug.
- Don't overload outlets with too many extension cords and strands of lights.
- Keep power cords off walkways and porches that trick-or-treaters may use.
- Leave the porch light on for trick-or-treaters, and be sure to turn out all spooky lights and decorations before leaving home or going to bed. This also will save energy.

For more seasonal safety tips, go to [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org). ⚡




# Know your reach.

The equipment on today's tractors easily can lift above the height of a power line. Knowing the reach and height of all your farm equipment – including radio antennas – is a good safety tool. Always use a spotter and maintain a distance of at least 10 feet from power lines.



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## Buymanship

# New program identifies products with the highest efficiency

Products recognized as being the most energy-efficient in their categories now will be identified with a special Energy Star® label. The Most Efficient recognition will represent approximately the top 5 percent of models on the market in the following categories: clothes washers, heating and cooling equipment, televisions and refrigerator-freezers. Additional categories likely will be added during 2012.



"We know American consumers are eager to make purchases that save them money on their utility bills and reduce the pollution in the air we breathe, and these labels will help them identify the best ways to find those purchases," says Lisa P. Jackson, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.