

living with energy

IN IOWA

Southern Iowa
Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

DECEMBER 2016

Win an air fryer, and eat healthier without giving up the taste of your favorite foods! ▶ See page 5

Season's Greetings

from your electric cooperative!

Give your home a **kid-safety check** for the holidays

Board of Directors approves 2016 **patronage refund**

Changing technologies bring fresh approaches to power pricing



SIEC's 5th Annual Co-op Connections Expo draws huge crowd

Held on Nov. 1 from 4:30-8:00 p.m. at our headquarters in Bloomfield, the 5th annual edition of SIEC's Co-op Connections Expo included 63 area businesses – all of which participate in our Co-op Connections Card program and offer special discounts to SIEC members year round. The event was open to the public for a night of shopping, food and prizes.

Every purchase earned a free raffle ticket for our prize drawings. SIEC gave away a variety of LED Christmas lights throughout the night, as well as three Grand Prizes of a \$100 gift certificate to a participating vendor of the



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

Greg Proctor, CEO/General Manager
Jo Altheide, CFO/Key Accounts Manager
Lori McAllister, CCO/Member Services Manager
Lindsay Smith, Office Manager
Ross Hunter, Systems Analyst

Board of Directors

Darrell Downing, President	Travis Harris
Paul Wells, Vice President	Beth Sullivan
Joy Evans, Secretary	Earl Trachsel
Dave Yahnke, Treasurer	Ben Koellner
	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	\$50
Meter Tampering	\$150
Overtime Service Call.....	\$150
Disconnect.....	\$50
Posting	\$50
Returned Check	\$30
Reconnect.....	\$75
Trip Charge	\$50

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

winner's choice.

We also took donations for our local Angel Tree program that included cash and various brand-new items. A special thank you goes out to Dana Batterson, who donated five Scentsy Buddy stuffed animals with fragrance packets!

The expo had things of interest for everyone, ranging from firearms, hunting and ATVs to jewelry, home décor and beauty items. Of course, the expo also satisfied everyone's taste buds with delicious plate dinners,



cookies, cupcakes and fudge.

One of SIEC's core values is commitment to community, and we'd like to thank all the participating businesses and everyone who attended the expo. We're proud to offer the Co-op Connections Card to our members. Another benefit SIEC's Co-op Connections Card provides, in addition to offers from participating local businesses, is discounts on prescriptions. To date, SIEC members have saved a total of \$20,250 on their prescriptions! 🚀



▲ This year's Grand Prize winners of a \$100 gift certificate to a participating vendor were Crystal Davidson of Bloomfield (left), Nancy Proctor of Bloomfield (right) and Andrea Bogert of Drakesville (not pictured).

Financial Matters

Board of Directors approves \$300,000 patronage refund

The SIEC Board of Directors has approved payment of patronage dividends in 2016. The refund includes dividends allocated by SIEC to members for the years 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2015. The total payment will be \$301,582. The retirement of capital credits is the tangible demonstration of your ownership in Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc.

This refund was distributed Dec. 1 as a bill credit for all active members of the cooperative. Former members will receive a check toward the end of December.

Capital credit distributions from member-owned, not-for-profit utilities such as SIEC are somewhat similar to the dividends paid to shareholders of investor-owned utilities. The difference is that a co-op's "shareholders" are also the members that it serves and the "dividends" (capital credits) are distributed to the co-op's member owners.

Even if you move off the cooperative's lines, you'll still receive the capital credits that you have earned; however, your check will be issued when the general refund is made to all the other members who have earned



capital credits for that same period. Therefore, it's very important that you keep us updated with your current address so we can mail your capital credits to you. Should the member of record pass away, capital credits are refunded to the surviving spouse or heirs.

Before distributing the capital credits, SIEC directors must consider the financial condition of the cooperative, the need for capital funds and the availability of loan funds. With this distribution, members will have received a total of \$7,988,084 in patronage dividends and refunds. SIEC's directors and employees would like to thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to serving you in the future. ⚡

Co-op VIP

Line superintendent reaches 25-year milestone

Congratulations to SIEC employee Doug Wintermote for 25 years of service! He's worked as a journeyman lineman and a crew foreman, and he's currently our line superintendent.



Thank you, Doug, for all your years of service to the cooperative and its member-owners! ⚡

Editor's Choice Contest

Win a \$250 air fryer and eat healthier!

The Philips Airfryer circulates superheated air around a metal mesh cooking basket, requiring little or no oil as it fries, bakes, roasts and grills. And, of course, you'll save energy, compared to using your oven or cooktop. Go to www.usa.philips.com for more details.



Enter the contest by Dec. 31, 2016, at the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website: www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com. ⚡

Office Closing

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

SIEC's office will be closed:

Christmas ■ Dec. 23 and 26
New Year's ■ Jan. 2

Extend a helping hand: Give to RECare

Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., always has extended a helping hand to people in need. That's why we've established RECare, a program of members helping members. You can help needy people weatherize their homes and pay their winter heating bills. If you're interested, please complete and return this form to our office.

We currently have a balance of \$1,425.58 in the RECare fund. Disbursements are made to low-income members on a case-by-case basis by local community action agencies.

Any amount you give will be appreciated!

RECare CONSUMER AUTHORIZATION FORM

Yes, I want to contribute to RECare.

I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

I will contribute \$ _____ per month for _____ months to RECare. I understand this amount automatically will be added to my monthly electric bill.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Signature _____

Please mail to: **RECare**

Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 70, Bloomfield, IA 52537-0070

Think before pulling the plug!



You may have seen a new marketing initiative by the propane industry that encourages homeowners to dump their electric water heaters in favor of water heaters

fueled by propane gas. The multimedia campaign, called “Pull the Plug on Electric Water Heaters,” makes its case with brochures, flyers, print advertisements, videos, radio spots, fact sheets, webinars, an e-book and even endorsements by a celebrity home-improvement expert. But make no mistake: The intent of the campaign is simply to sell a lot more propane.

At SIEC, we believe electricity is the smart energy choice. It’s safe, reliable, clean, predictably priced and adaptable to many uses, from the exotic to the mundane. More than ever, America runs on electricity.

Still, you might be tempted to switch water heaters. As your trusted energy advisor, SIEC wants to provide you, our member-consumer, with the facts you need to make the best decision.

So, let’s look at the propane marketing campaign. Some of the claims challenge common sense and would be hard to prove, including assertions about efficiency, environmental impacts and cost. “With a propane water heater, you can use less energy, save money and reduce your carbon footprint,” proclaims Danny Lipford, host of the television program “Today’s Homeowner,” in a campaign video. “They really are that efficient.”

Really? Apparently Danny neglected to mention that propane is a fossil fuel.

The campaign also resorts to scare tactics. Installation of propane water heaters is often a laborious process that requires running propane lines and exhaust vents. Turning reality on its head, the pro-propane campaign would have you believe that replacing an electric water heater “can take days longer – days you’ll spend taking icy-cold showers,” Lipford warns. Actually, installing an electric water heater is a snap.

Electric water heaters are the smart choice for many reasons:

- High-efficiency electric water heaters, including heat pumps, are readily available.
- Electric water heaters are safe. They produce no carbon monoxide, and they pose no threats from combustion or explosion.
- Electric water heaters can run on power generated from a range of energy sources, including solar, wind, hydro and other renewables.
- Electric water heaters don’t lose energy from exhaust or the replacement air that circulates into

and out of a house. Propane heaters require on-site storage tanks.

- Electric water heaters are easy to install. They require no expensive gas lines or exhaust flues.
- The cost of electricity is less volatile than other fuels. The cost of propane tends to fluctuate wildly.

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives offers information on water-heating choices, water heater efficiency and hot water distribution as part of its Home Efficiency Analysis Tool at <http://homeefficiency.touchstoneenergy.com>. Just enter information about your home and click on the Systems tab. ⚡

The holidays can be a time for making beautiful memories and sharing special gifts. Give your family the gift of a safe celebration. As you prepare for this special time of year, take some time for safety. Follow manufacturer's instructions on all decorative items that use electricity, and be aware of overhead power lines as you work outdoors.

Give your family some TLC. Teach what you know, Learn what you need to and Care enough to share it with those you love.

Visit SafeElectricity.org for help with making your home a safer place this season.

Teach what you know.
Learn what you need to.
Care enough to share it.

SafeElectricity.org

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