

living with energy

IN IOWA



JULY 2016

Win a thermostat that can help you save energy from anywhere! ▶ See page 5

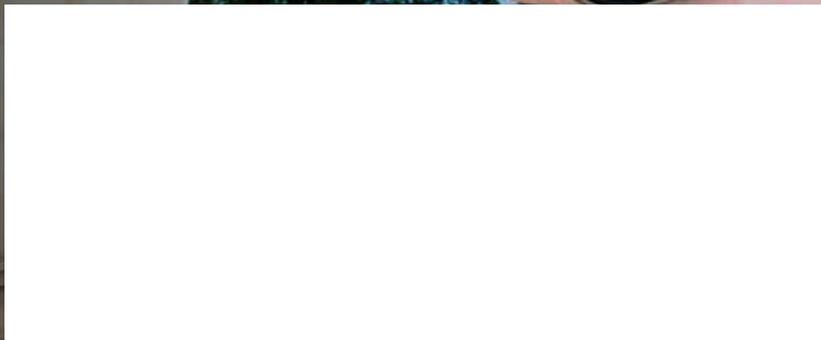
**Youth
Tour**
students
were part
of the big
picture in
Washington,
D.C.



New
cybersecurity
standards
**protect your
co-op –
and you**

Fix
**firecracker
foods**
for family
functions

**Rooftop solar
systems**
aren't entirely
maintenance-free



In the Community

Visit SIEC's booth at the Davis County Fair, July 13-16

Sign up for a chance to win a \$150 Meco Deluxe Electric Cart Grill!

This year we'll be partnering with the city of Bloomfield, and we'll have energy efficiency displays on hand to answer your questions about home energy savings. ⚡



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, COO

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

David Hopkins, Vice President Earl Trachsel

Joy Evans, Secretary Paul Wells

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

Mark Your Calendar!

SIEC's 77th annual meeting is right around the corner!

Mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sept. 8 and come help us celebrate a fun-filled night of great food, entertainment and prizes. Your annual meeting packet with all the details – plus a board of director's ballot – will arrive in August.

Please make sure you vote for the director candidate of your choice. This year's candidates are Virgil Cassill, Darrell Downing, Dick Rickelman, Beth Sullivan, Paul Wells, Dave Yahnke and Bryan Ziegler. If you vote by mail, your name will be entered in a special drawing to win a

\$100 bill credit!

The annual meeting agenda on Sept. 8 will include member registration from 4 to 6 p.m.; free blood pressure screening (courtesy of Davis Co. Public Health) from 4 to 5:30 p.m.; entertainment by Bridge City Country from 5 to 6:30 p.m.; Bailey's BBQ Barn serving pulled pork sandwiches, cheesy potatoes and coleslaw from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; and the business meeting at 6:30 p.m. We'll also have drawings throughout the evening for great prizes! ⚡

How Your Co-op Works

Get to know a director of Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc.



NAME: Earl Trachsel

MY FAMILY: Married for 42 years to Cristine Trachsel (deceased 5 years); son, Greg, and his three children – Adam, Jacob and Alyssa; daughter, Gayle Combs (Jason) and their sons – Tate and Oliver

OCCUPATION: Retired administrator, teacher and cook/farmer

MY FIRST JOB: P.E. and biology teacher at Mediapolis, Iowa; also coached football, girls' basketball and track

ONE THING I ALWAYS HAVE IN MY REFRIGERATOR: Milk and ice cream

SOMEONE I ADMIRE: My parents, because they survived the real Depression and still made all of us

four children feel like we had plenty

OUTSIDE INTEREST: Sports activities and Bloomfield Christian Church

RECOMMENDED READING: the Bible, *The Power of Positive Thinking* and *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff*

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Anywhere God allows me to travel with family and friends

SOMETHING NOT EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT ME: I have been blessed in life far better than I deserve.

WHAT'S ONE THING YOU LEARNED ABOUT SIEC AFTER BECOMING A DIRECTOR THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE? I have learned that there is a lot more to providing

power than flipping a switch and changing a lightbulb to make sure we have the privilege of enjoying safe, reliable energy at a reasonable price.

WHAT'S HARD ABOUT BEING A COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR? Trying to help our co-op by making decisions to supply safe, reliable energy to our members

WORDS TO LIVE BY: Each day is a gift, so treat others in a respectful manner that will help them smile. ⚡

Summer time means safety time

As you and your family spend more time outdoors this summer, Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., reminds you to exercise caution near electrical equipment maintained by the co-op. For example, substations and power lines carry extremely high voltages, and if you accidentally make contact, the results can be dangerous – or even deadly.

Also, never climb trees near power lines. If you make contact with a tree that's touching a power line, your body could become the path of electricity from the line to the ground. If you encounter an animal trapped in a tree near power lines or inside a substation, don't attempt to remove it – no matter how furry and cute! Immediately call the co-op for assistance.

Remote-controlled, airborne toys such as drones and airplanes can be a great way to have fun outdoors. However, these gadgets also bring their own set of safety concerns, because accidental contact could cause an outage and leave many members of your community without electricity.

So, remember these safety tips when flying a remote-controlled toy:

- Steer clear of substations, pad-mount transformers and other electrical equipment.



- Stay a safe distance from overhead electrical equipment such as power lines or transformers.
- Keep the remote-controlled toy in sight at all times.
- Avoid flying if weather conditions are unfavorable. High winds could cause you to lose control of the remote-controlled toy.

At Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, your safety is important to us. We hope you'll share the message of electrical safety, so you and others can enjoy plenty of summer days filled with fun! Visit www.sie.coop for more electrical safety tips. ⚡

Win a thermostat that can help you save energy from anywhere!

With the Honeywell Model RTH8580WF Wi-Fi Thermostat, you can adjust the comfort level of your home from anywhere at anytime. All you need is a Wi-Fi enabled device like your smartphone, tablet or laptop computer; the app is free for Apple and Android devices.



You can install the unit yourself. It will learn your cooling and heating cycles and optimize them to deliver the exact temperature at the right time – plus save you an estimated \$100 or more in energy costs every year.

To enter this month's contest, go to the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com and fill out the entry form no later than July 31, 2016. ⚡



is providing members with

A FREE SET OF AIR FILTERS

— TO REDEEM GO TO: —
www.FilterEasy.com

AT CHECKOUT, USE PROMO CODE

CONNECTIONS

FilterEasy is a Co-op Connections national business.



During warm-weather months, a ceiling fan effectively can produce a "wind chill" effect and make people in a room feel cooler than the actual temperature. So, if you haven't already done so, flip the switch to make the blades operate in a counterclockwise direction and create a cooling breeze.

When the fan is running, you should be able to turn your air conditioner's thermostat up 3 to 5 degrees without any reduction in comfort. And don't forget to turn off the fan when the room is unoccupied; fans cool people, not rooms.

SIEC gives back to the community

Part of SIEC’s mission statement is to improve the quality of life in the areas that we serve. Not only do we strive to serve our members, we also have a commitment to the communities in our service territory.

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 \$1,160.58 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

To that end, SIEC started a Community Support Fund in 2014. SIEC’s employees have the option to donate to the Community Support Fund as part of our Paid Time-Off program, and they can designate that their donation go to a specific charity.

In our second year of the program, 95 percent of SIEC’s employees opted to participate. Donations for 2015 went to the following organizations:

- The Lord’s Cupboard, \$700
- The American Cancer Society Iowa Chapter, \$400
- Davis County Walk for Life, \$500
- Davis County Senior Center, \$1,000
- Dollars for Scholars, \$200
- Friends of the Bloomfield Library, \$1,200
- Hospice of Davis & Wapello County, \$500



- Davis County I-Care Program, \$1,500
- Wapello County Silver Bells Christmas Program, \$300
- Appanoose County Silver & Gold Christmas Program, \$300
- Van Buren County Christmas for Kids, \$900

(Note: Dollar amounts for the Christmas programs in the four-county area SIEC serves were determined by the percentage of members per county.)

We anticipate donating even more funds in 2016. SIEC is very proud of its employees’ generous donations to such worthy causes! ⚡



Don’t let a safety hazard dampen your summer fun. Water and electricity are a dangerous mix.

Never touch any electrical appliances or outlets when you are wet or standing in water.

Learn more at

