

living with energy

IN IOWA



SEPTEMBER 2016

You have 12 chances to win an emergency light this month! ▶ See page 5

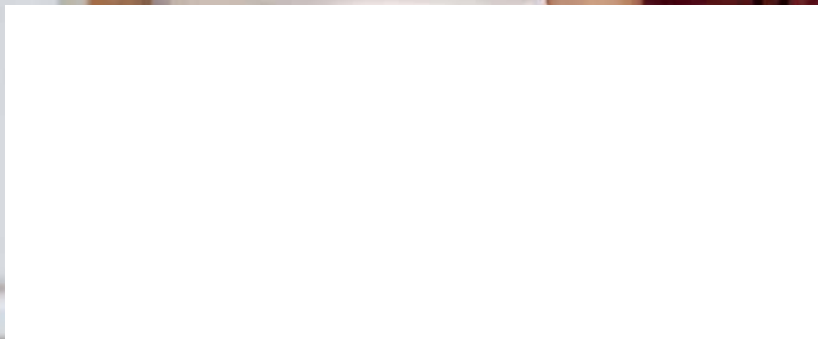
Close the window

on high energy bills!

All politics are local, and so is the future of rural America

Electric co-ops provide input on Iowa Energy Plan

Is a geothermal heat pump right for you?



Reminder

Need help with heating bills?

The 2016-2017 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can help qualifying low-income homeowners and renters with a portion of their primary heating bills. For details on this program, see Page 14 of this issue.



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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

In the Community

SIEC and Co-Bank award \$10,000 to Davis County Historical Society through matching grant program



Shown are (from left) Jo Altheide, SIEC CFO; Ron Hewus and Jack Kirby, Davis County Historical Society board members; Nancy Clancy, Davis County Historical Society president; and Greg Proctor, SIEC COO.

Co-Bank's Sharing Success matching grant program is designed to celebrate the vital role that cooperatives play in the U.S. rural economy and in individual communities across the country. Co-Bank has committed \$3 million in 2016 to match donations by cooperative partnerships through nonprofit organizations in their local communities. Contributions are matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to \$5,000.

The matching funds were a community investment by Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc. This is the 5th year in a row that SIEC has been able to capture the Co-Bank grant

funds for projects in our local area. This year's \$10,000 grant will help the Davis County Historical Society with its restoration of the Historic Findley House.

SIEC works hard not only to provide value to our members, but also to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. Previous recipients of Co-Bank's matching grant program were Moulton EMS and Fire Department, Van Buren County Trails, Davis County Trails Association and Camp Wapello Preservation Group. We're delighted to team up with Co-Bank in support of such worthy causes. ⚡

Co-op VIPs

It pays to enter SIEC contests!

Congratulations to Lisa Bales of Floris, who was the lucky winner of our Davis County Fair booth drawing and took home this Meco Deluxe Electric Cart Grill. If you're thinking about buying a new electric grill or smoker, check the display models at our office lobby. No charcoal or propane is needed; prices range from \$64.95 to \$149.95.



Lineman completes comprehensive 4-year training program

SIEC lineman Anthony Ondriska has successfully completed one of the world's most comprehensive training programs for power line personnel. The Merchant Job Training & Safety Program (MJTS) is available to line personnel in 40 states and is administered through computers and fax machines for immediate response – including assistance through a website.

Each utility has an acting training coordinator who assists the co-op's trainees by administering "closed book" testing. The coordinators manage their own people throughout the educational process from rules set by the MJTS and the statewide electric cooperative association.



SIEC is very proud of Anthony and his accomplishment. Congratulations, Anthony, and we hope you have a very rewarding and fulfilling career here at SIEC! ⚡

You have 12 chances to win an emergency light this month!



"The flashlight's dead! Where are the batteries? What about the candles?"

The next time you need an emergency light, you won't have to utter any of those words, because the Eton Blackout Buddy H₂O from the American Red Cross doesn't need batteries. It doesn't have a hand crank either. Instead, it runs on a little bit of water!

All you do is dip the Blackout Buddy H₂O in a small cup of water to activate it and light the way. Then add water once a day to keep the light shining for up to 72 continuous hours. After that, dispose of the light in your regular trash; there are no environmental issues, because the unit's power module is free from all the nasty stuff you'd find in normal batteries, such as mercury, hexavalent chromium, cadmium and lead.

You can store the 2.6-inch-tall, lightweight Blackout Buddy H₂O for up to 10 years without degradation. Suggested retail price is about \$10 (plus shipping) from the American Red Cross Store at www.redcrossstore.org. ⚡

Visit our website, and win!

We're giving away 12 Blackout Buddy H₂O emergency lights this month. Just complete the entry form at the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website (www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) by Sept. 30, 2016.

You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win. There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified. The winner of the Honeywell Wi-Fi Thermostat in the July issue was Wanda Moores of Harrison County REC.



The life expectancy of a photovoltaic (PV) system depends not just on the solar panels, but on the inverter as well. PV panels have a life expectancy of about 30 years. However, the power rating of PV modules tends to degrade slowly over time, due to such factors as higher temperatures and the aging of materials.

For crystalline silicon panels, the loss in power ranges from 0.5 percent to 1.0 percent a year. Inverters have a life expectancy of approximately 15 years, but in some cases, they'll need to be repaired or replaced sooner.

No Posting on Poles, Please!

- ✓ Driven in nails can tear a lineman's glove.
- ✓ Objects can get in the way of climbing poles to repair equipment.
- ✓ We will remove any signs or objects we find on the poles to keep our linemen safe.



Save at local businesses and online with the card!

Summer has quickly come and gone, but that doesn't mean the fun has to end! Did you know Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., has a program in place to help you save on a variety of goods and services, from hotel discounts to prescription medicines?



The Co-op Connections® Card is a free program that saves SIEC members money on everyday expenses. The card also lets you earn cash back on purchases from more than 3,000 leading online retailers through Cash Back Mall.

In fact, your Co-op Connections Card gives you access to discounts from

tens-of-thousands of retailers, because it taps into a national business community. But it doesn't just help you save at big box stores and chains.

The card also provides discounts for businesses right here in our local community. In fact, the card was created specifically to help businesses on our nation's Main Streets.

SIEC's list of local Co-op Connection businesses was printed in the April issue of this magazine. If you'd like a copy, just call our office and we'll be happy to e-mail or mail you a copy.

One of the most popular features is the prescription discount benefit. Even if you don't have insurance, the card will

help you save up to 85 percent on your medications at more than 60,000 pharmacies across the country. Already have insurance? Just ask your pharmacist to run your Co-op Connections Card too. If the discount is better than your insurance discount, you can opt to use the Co-op Connections Card for the better deal.

During the past 4½ years, SIEC members have saved \$20,250 on their prescriptions ... that's \$4,500 a year!

We know how important it is to save, and we want to make sure that you're taking full advantage of the programs we offer. The Co-op Connections Card is an easy way to see the value of being an electric cooperative member. So don't let the end-of-summer blues get you down. Take advantage of all the deals available to you through your Co-op Connections Card! It really is the one card that does it all!

By the way, if you can't find your Co-op Connections Card, call us at 800-607-2027 and we'll get a new one sent to you right away so you can start saving. Learn more about the discounts offered by visiting www.sie.coop or www.connections.coop.



Keep equipment far away from **OVERHEAD POWER LINES.**

If your equipment makes contact with a power line:

- Stay on the equipment unless, in a very rare case, it's on fire.
- Call emergency and utility services.
- Warn others to stay away.
- Do not leave equipment until a utility professional has told you it is safe to do so.
- If equipment is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Continue to "bunny hop" with your feet together to safety.



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Safety Matters

Are your grain bins ready for harvest?

Harvest season is fast approaching and SIEC strongly encourages you or your electrician to check your grain bin electrical services before harvest season to be sure they're in proper working order.

Planning ahead will help eliminate delays during the harvest. Please contact the cooperative to schedule any assistance you or your electrician need in getting your equipment ready.

Always be aware of overhead lines when working around grain bins. Have a safe harvest season!