

living with energy

IN IOWA

Southern Iowa
Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

DECEMBER 2017

Sixth annual Christmas Co-op Connections Card Expo has another great turnout ▶ See page 4

Best Wishes

for a happy,
safe and
energy-smart
holiday!

Find out how **power**
is restored after
a major storm

How long will your
water heater last?

Conference
will promote
energy-efficient
home building

Visit our website at www.sie.coop

Notice of alternative energy production is required by law

In accordance with Iowa Code 476.6A, the owner of any alternate energy production facility (e.g., solar or wind) that's attached to SIEC's lines is required to provide written notification to the cooperative of the intent to install the facility at least 30 days prior to construction. The appropriate interconnection agreement must also be completed and signed by the member and the cooperative before installation on the cooperative's lines can occur.

Please call us at 800-607-2027 if you have any questions. ⚡



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/Economic Development
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.

Sixth annual Christmas Co-op Connections Card Expo has another great turnout



Held on Nov. 13 from 4:30-8:00 p.m. at our headquarters in Bloomfield, the latest edition of SIEC's 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. One of SIEC's core values is commitment to community, and we would like to thank all of the participating businesses and everyone who came out to the Expo.

The event was open to the public for a night of shopping, food and prizes, and the first 225 attendees received a free LED lightbulb. Every purchase earned a free raffle ticket for our prize drawings. Our grand prize winners were Greg Wetterich of Bloomfield and Ashley Wright of Bloomfield. SIEC also gave away a variety of LED Christmas lighting throughout the night.

The Expo had items of interest for everyone in the family: firearms, ammo, hunting, ATVs, jewelry, home décor, gifts, beauty, books and accessories. Of course, the Expo also satisfied everyone's taste buds



with delicious plate dinners, cookies, cupcakes and fudge.

We're proud to offer our Co-op Connections Card to members. In addition to discounts from participating local businesses, another benefit SIEC's card provides is discounts on prescriptions. By using your card you can receive a 10-85 percent discount on prescription drugs at more than 60,000 local and national pharmacies.

The Co-op Connections Card program is free to all members of participating cooperatives, and your entire family can share the same card. If you've lost your Co-op Connections Card, just stop by our office to pick up a new one. ⚡

HOW YOUR CO-OP WORKS

Notice to our members

This is the last month you'll receive *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine. Starting in January, you'll receive a newsletter with your monthly billing statement. We'll spotlight one recipe every month; if you'd like to submit one, please mail it to: SIEC, Attention – Crystal Davidson, P.O. Box 70, Bloomfield, IA 52537, or e-mail it to cdauidson@sie.coop.

Conference will promote energy-efficient home building

Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., will join other Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to sponsor the annual Momentum Is Building conference on Feb. 8-9, 2018, at the Sheraton West Des Moines hotel. For more than 25 years, Momentum Is Building has offered up-to-date building science knowledge, practical hands-on information and new technology displays for building trade professionals – including homebuilders, electricians, heating-and-plumbing contractors, Realtors, bankers and others involved in the construction/retrofitting industries. Electric cooperative personnel from across the state also attend.

Nationally recognized speakers will share their knowledge, including keynote speaker Gord Cooke, Construction Instruction, Ontario, Canada, who will discuss “Meeting the Expectations of Today’s Consumers with High Performance Homes.” Other conference topics include air quality and ventilation strategies, best building practices and techniques, high-performance HVAC, mechanical code updates, residential wiring updates, using social media and more.

Several sessions will offer CEUs, including up to 6 electrical CEUs and up to 6 CEUs in several HVAC disciplines. Momentum Is Building also includes a trade show where attendees can visit with vendors from a variety of companies and see and learn about new products.

“Momentum Is Building offers a great opportunity for local contractors to get the latest information on the building industry,” says SIEC manager Greg Proctor. “In addition to providing CEUs, the sessions demonstrate best practices and always address ‘real-life’ questions about techniques and workable solutions to problems.

“Networking with the experts and with others who face similar



situations is always one of the most valuable aspects of the conference. We are pleased to help sponsor the conference and invite professionals from our area to attend, along with our local cooperative staff. It helps all of us learn new tools to add to our energy-efficiency programs.

“Again this year, we are offering registration scholarships so instructors and students in high school and community college building trades programs can attend. Call our office for more information, or find a school scholarship application on the Momentum Is Building website.”

For more information or to register as an attendee or exhibitor, contact Crystal Davidson at 800-607-2027 or email her at cdavidson@sie.coop. You can also find more detailed information and register online at www.momentumisbuilding.com. ⚡

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 \$1,525.58 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

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a powerful cordless vacuum that cleans from floor to ceiling!

Black+Decker’s new Powerseries Pro line of cordless vacuums can be used as uprights or detachable canisters with integrated extension wands for accessing hard-to-reach areas. With powerful suction and up to 60 minutes of runtime, the lineup includes a standard version, a second model designed to handle pet hair and a third version for allergy sufferers. Prices start at about \$150; visit www.blackanddecker.com for details.

To enter this month’s contest for a standard unit, go to the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com and complete the entry form no later than Dec. 31, 2017. ⚡



Board approves \$400,000 patronage refund

The SIEC Board of Directors has approved payment of patronage dividends in 2017. The refund includes dividends allocated by SIEC to members for the years 1996, 1997, 1999 and 2016. The total payment will be \$400,000. The retirement of capital credits is the tangible demonstration of your ownership in Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc.

This refund was distributed Sept. 1 as a bill credit for all active members of the cooperative. Former members received a check at the end of September.

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've 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 \$8,388,085 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. ⚡

OFFICE CLOSING

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

SIEC's office will be closed:

**Christmas • Dec. 25-26
New Year's • Jan. 1**

Light up the holiday season safely.

Holiday lighting safety tips:

- Before hanging holiday lights outside, look out for overhead power lines. Never throw light strands into trees near power lines.**
- Never string more than three strands of lights together unless the packaging says it is safe to do so. Overloaded cords or outlets could start a fire.**
- Turn holiday lights off before going to sleep or leaving the house. A timer can help you do this.**
- Inspect all the lights you plan on using. Make sure the wires are in good condition—not cracked, brittle, or frayed. The sockets should not be damaged, and no light bulbs should be missing.**
- Never tack or nail through a strand of lights. Do not place cords under rugs or in high traffic areas.**
- Get more safety tips at SafeElectricity.org**
- Check that all light strands are certified and rated for the conditions in which they'll be used.**
- Lighted and electrical outdoor decorations should be plugged into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected outlets.**

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