

# Membership has its privileges

I'm often asked why we call those who purchase electricity from South Alabama Electric "members" and not "customers." The answer is simple.

Some of my friends are members of Rotary and Kiwanis clubs. Many of you have children who are members of a club at their high school. And you're a member of South Alabama Electric.

Service clubs have a common mission – together the club accomplishes more than an individual could. The same holds true for high school clubs; they pool resources and work together to help each member succeed.

Membership at SAEC offers many of the same benefits as clubs do, but with a big extra. You and the rest of our 16,359 members own the co-op! This structure harkens back to our origins.

SAEC was organized by farmers and rural residents from this area in 1937, with support from the federal Rural Electrification Administration (REA). At that time, investor-owned utilities said there wasn't enough profit to be made to warrant the expense of building power lines into the countryside.

REA offered low-cost loans for bringing electricity to unserved homes and farms. So folks began forming electric cooperatives to meet the need. A fee of \$5 was collected from each family – making them co-op members and owners – to generate capital for borrowing. The rest is history.

You should be proud of

what your co-op has accomplished. We are an economic driver in the communities we serve. A 2009 study funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture found electric co-ops across the U.S. employ 130,000 Americans, both directly and indirectly, with revenues topping out at \$45 billion.

Best of all, every co-op operates on a not-for-profit basis. We don't offer profits to investors – we return money over and above operating costs to you, our members, based on electricity consumption. Annually, electric co-ops nationwide return \$545 million to members through this "capital credits retirement" process; last year our members received \$250,000.

Electric co-op membership remains as important today as it was in the late 1930s. Working together through efforts like the Our Energy, Our Future™ grassroots awareness campaign, we're keeping our needs at the top of Congress's agenda. We're part of something special – a nationwide network owned and controlled by people like you and me. That's why membership matters.



**Max Davis** is General Manager of South Alabama Electric Cooperative

## South Alabama Electric Monthly Operating Report

KWH Sold . . . . .	28,497,473
Avg. Utility Bill . . . . .	\$233.45
Average Use . . . . .	1,742
Total Accounts Billed . . . . .	16,359
Total Miles of Line . . . . .	2,598
Consumers per mile of line . . . . .	6.3

Information from August 2009



## South Alabama Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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# Humane Society Needs Your Help

In 2008, the Humane Society of Pike County (HSPC) received a donation of 12 acres from land Delores Hutter, willed to the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust. This property included: a house, barn and metal building that need to be renovated into kennels for the animals. With renovations in mind, the Humane Society board devised a unique fundraiser to reach their goal.

“We need your help,” June Arn, board member of the Humane Society of Pike County, said. “We began the calendar program last year and it was a very successful fundraiser for our organization. When you purchase a calendar, make a donation, or become a member it goes towards making the HSPC a stronger, more viable alternative to pet control and rescue in our area today.”

The calendar features local pets and makes a great addition to any home or office. They can be purchased for \$12 from the following locations:

- On the Square Antiques, Troy
- Jones Animal Clinic, Brundidge
- Troy Animal Clinic, Troy
- First National Bank of Brundidge and Troy
- Jinrights Hillside Antiques, Troy
- Troy Bank and Trust - Troy, Brundidge, Goshen
- Bows and Bubbles Pet Grooming, Troy
- Regions Bank, Troy
- Gynn's Tax Service, Troy
- Sisters Restaurant, Troy
- any of the Pike County Humane Society board members

The HSPC is a 501(C)(3) organization and is tax deductible to individuals giving support to the shelter. The HSPC provides a spay/neuter program (in

200, more than 600 animals were spayed/neutered). The HSPC also provides educational programs for Pike County and Troy City schools, feral cat program, adoption, emergency veterinary assistance, and other services for abandoned and neglected animals.

To learn more about the humane society, or to download a calendar order form, visit them on the web at [www.pikehumane.org](http://www.pikehumane.org).

Won't you please help **YOUR** humane society today?





Troy University Chancellor Dr. Jack Hawkins Jr., right, visits with Alabama Development Office Director Neal Wade, left, and Dr. Yan Guohua, Director and Consul of Education from the People's Republic of China's Consulate General's Office in Houston, Texas, prior to a ceremonial groundbreaking at Bibb Graves Hall on the Troy Campus on Sept. 19. Bibb Graves Hall, the oldest structure on campus, is undergoing a complete renovation and the addition of some 42,000 square feet to house the Center for International Business and Economic Development and the Confucius Institute at Troy University.

## Troy thinks globally, acts locally

What do Troy University and Touchstone Energy have in common? Both share a common interest in the development of the local communities they serve.

That's why Touchstone Energy cooperatives join together from time to time to support special activities sponsored by Troy University.

For decades, Troy University has placed high priority on its role as an economic engine for southeast Alabama. One way the university helps with economic development is through the Center for International Business and Economic Development (CIBED) as a unit of the Sorrell College of Business.

Since its establishment in 2007, the CIBED has led the University into a new era of involvement in

economic development. The Center's mission is two-fold: to help Alabama communities take advantage of opportunities presented by an international marketplace and to offer academic programs in economic development that have a real-world component.

"So many communities in our state have a longing to be engaged in the global economy, said **Dr. Jack Hawkins Jr.**, Chancellor. "We believe we can help people in those communities not only identify opportunities but also identify methods by which those opportunities can be accessed."

Troy University relies on its global presence – the University maintains locations in 12 nations outside the United States and it attracts more than 800

students from other nations to its Troy campus – to help CIBED build the network of relationships that will ultimately lead to international economic success for Alabama companies. The Center maintains staff and provides services in Dothan, Montgomery and Phenix City – where the University also operates campuses – to enhance its service to the region.

The Center also offers business degrees with an economic development concentration. The master's degree program requires all graduates to complete an internship outside the United States. This prepares the graduates of this program to compete in the global economy and to understand different cultures.

While the Center is thinking globally, it's acting locally; and regional electric cooperatives such as Pea River Electric Cooperative, South Alabama Electric Cooperative and Wiregrass Electric Co-

operative are among the Center's most valuable partners, according to **Dr. Judson Edwards**, CIBED Director.

"We knew from the beginning that the electric cooperatives, with their history of leadership in economic development, would be important partners for us," Dr. Edwards said. "In fact, when we developed an advisory board for the Center, **Horace Horn** of PowerSouth was among the first people that we asked to serve." PowerSouth Energy Cooperative sells wholesale electricity to the electric cooperatives of south Alabama and northwest Florida.

One of the major initiatives for CIBED has been participation in an existing industry survey of Alabama businesses in partnership with the Alabama Development Office, PowerSouth Energy Cooperative, Alabama Power and the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama.

**Lee Lawson**, Economic Development Representative for PowerSouth Energy, said the survey included a wide range of questions on topics ranging from workforce issues to quality of education to service provided by utilities.

"This initiative started in January during the hardest crunch of the economic downturn and it was a huge project with plenty of moving parts," Lawson said. "Troy University students (working through the Center) played a substantial role in the success of the survey.

The Center for International Business and Economic Development (CIBED) is just one of the many examples of cooperation between Troy University and Touchstone Energy Electric Cooperatives in working together for the betterment of the communities they serve.

The University also continues long-standing projects of the University's old Small Business Development Center, which operates as a division of the CIBED by continuing to offer monthly small-business counseling services at various sites across southeast Alabama.

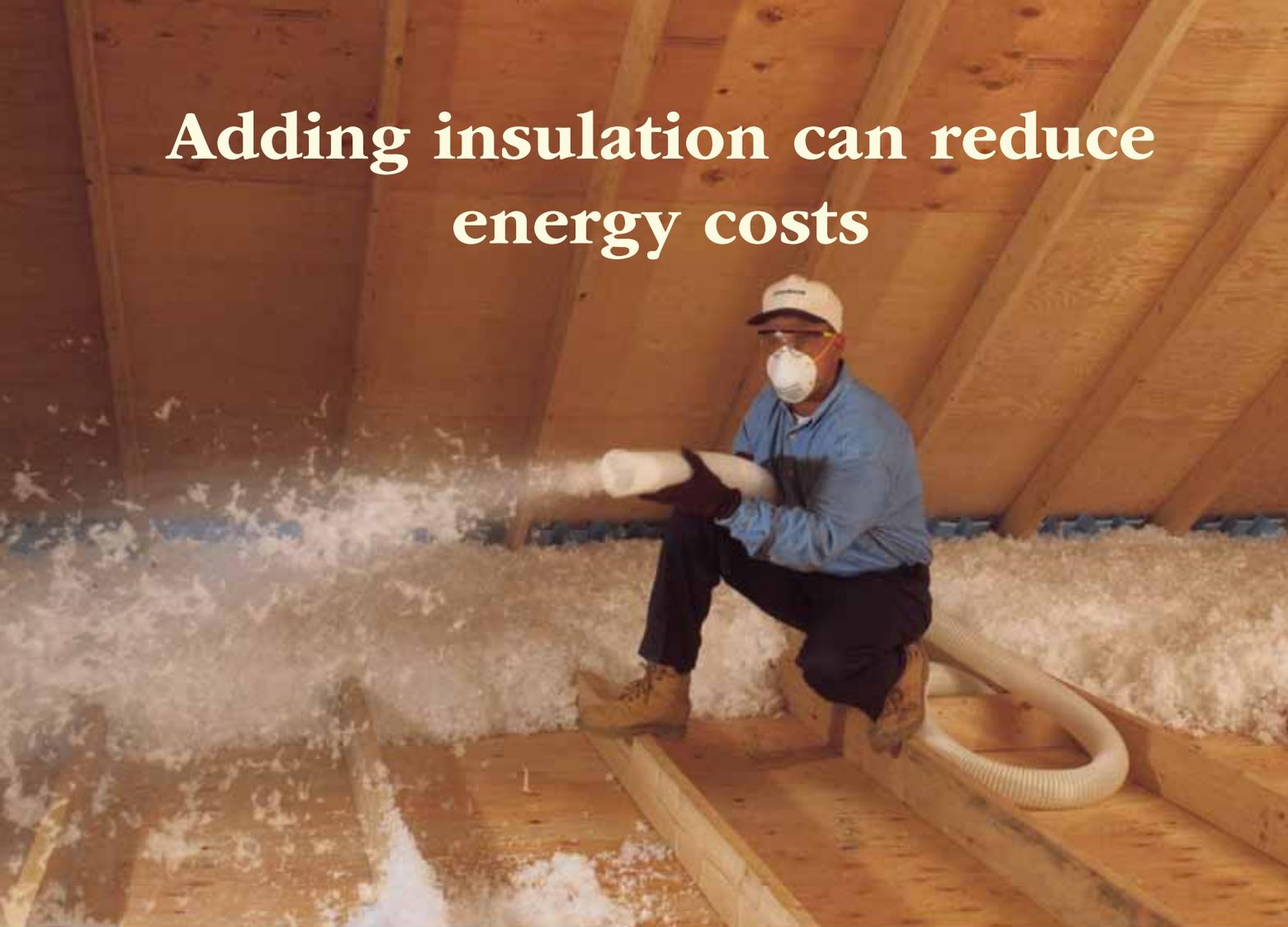
One other way Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are working with the University is by sponsoring a "Salute to Armed Forces Day" at the Nov. 21 football game against Florida Atlantic. Active and retired military personnel will attend the game as guests of the University and will be honored with a special salute during half-time festivities.

Many co-op employees have received their professional degrees from Troy University. These employees can be proud of the fact that their alma mater is busy giving back to the local communities where they live and work. ☪



Andy Kimbro, South Alabama Electric Cooperative, and Laura Thornton, Pea River Electric Cooperative, give out t-shirts to members of the Armed Forces at the "Salute to Armed Forces Day" in 2008. The Cooperatives will sponsor the Armed Forces game this year on November 21.

# Adding insulation can reduce energy costs



One of the simplest ways to reduce your home's heating and cooling costs – and improve comfort – involves installing proper insulation. Doing so provides resistance to heat flow. The more heat flow resistance your insulation provides, the lower your heating and cooling costs.

Heat flows naturally from a warmer to a cooler space. In winter, heat moves directly from heated living spaces to adjacent unheated attics, garages, basements, and even outdoors. It can also travel indirectly through interior ceilings, walls, and floors — wherever there is a difference in temperature.

During the summer cooling season, the reverse takes place. Heat flows from the outdoors to the interior of a house.

To maintain comfort, heat lost in the winter must be replaced by your heating system. In summer, heat gained must be removed by your cooling system. Proper insulation, though, decreases heat flow.

Heat flow resistance is measured or rated in terms of its R-value. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulation's effectiveness.

When calculating the R-value of a multilayered installation, add R-values of individual layers. Installing more insulation in your home increases the R-value.

Insulation effectiveness also depends on how and where it's installed. For example, insulation that gets compressed will not provide its full rated R-value. The overall R-value of a wall or ceiling will be somewhat different from the R-value of the insulation because some heat flows around the insulation through studs and joists. Therefore, it's important to properly install your insulation to achieve the maximum R-value.

For more information, visit <http://www.eere.energy.gov>



