

Arkansan to lead Southern Economic Development Council

Little Rock, Ark. — Nov. 10, 2008 — Kirkley Thomas, manager of economic development for The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, was recently elected to serve as chairman of the Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC), the largest regional economic development organization in the United States.



“It is an honor to be elected chairman of the board of SEDC,” said Thomas. “This is the premiere professional association for community and economic developers in the south and I look forward to working with the board to find ways to enhance the skills and add value to the membership. The American south is the fourth largest economy in the world and our members have played a major role in building and sustaining that economic engine.”

SEDC, headquartered in Atlanta, consists of approximately 1,000 members in 17 states. The mission of SEDC is, in part, to provide professional services and educational opportunities to its members and improve the quality of life of the citizens of the SEDC region through the implementation of economic development practices focusing on the creation and retention of quality employment opportunities.

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas comprise 17 electric distribution cooperatives; Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Inc. (AECI), a Little Rock-based cooperative that provides various services to the distribution cooperatives; and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. (AECC), a generation and transmission cooperative. The distribution cooperatives provide electricity to more than 490,000 members, or customers, in Arkansas and surrounding states.