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2021 EnerStar Director Election Results

EnerStar Electric Cooperative is a democratically controlled, not-for-profit electric co-op that is governed by nine directors elected by and from the members of their respective voting districts.

Directors serve a three-year term in office.

Active cooperative members voted in June for fellow members they wish to serve on the board of directors. Kevin Julian of Metcalf in Voting District A and Jeremy Williams of Martinsville in Voting District C each ran unopposed and were re-elected to the

co-op board. Newly elected to the co-op board is Darin Griffin of Paris who will serve in Voting District B.

Serving as election inspectors were Pat Macke of Marshall, Tom Phillips of Chrisman and Ray Young of Paris. Assisting with the election

count was cooperative attorney Billie Constant of Tapella & Eberspacher LLC, the co-op's corporate counsel.

We thank those members who are willing to serve on the board. It's a considerable task and we appreciate their service!

One Member  **One Vote**

Upcoming annual meeting news

EnerStar CEO Brent Reyher announced that since the Illinois governor's Restore Illinois Plan and state mandates that limited the size of gatherings have been lifted, plans are underway for the upcoming 2021 annual meeting of members.

This year's annual meeting will be held on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at the Paris High School campus. An evening meal will be served in the school's cafeteria from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., followed by a business meeting at 6:30 p.m. to be conducted in the Paris Center of Fine

Arts (PCOFA), attached to the high school.

For those not familiar with this facility, the PCOFA is a state-of-the-art performing arts venue that is well-suited for a cooperative annual meeting. The school and the 500-plus seat theatre were opened in 2015 and are both served by EnerStar.

ANNUAL MEETING AT A GLANCE


Thursday, September 9

Paris High School Campus, Paris, IL

Evening Meal - 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Business Meeting - 6:30 p.m.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

11597 Illinois Highway 1
Paris, IL 61944
800-635-4145
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Call To Action: EnerStar Electric Cooperative Members

Continued pressure is being placed on utilities by state legislators to close coal-fired power plants. **Under the Illinois legislative energy proposal, Prairie State Energy Campus in Marissa, Illinois will be required to close by 2035, possibly sooner.**

Prairie State Energy Campus is owned by many Midwest not-for-profit electric cooperatives and municipalities, including EnerStar Electric Cooperative's energy supplier, Wabash Valley Power. Plans for Prairie State began in 2002 and it became fully operational in 2012. It was built with the highest clean-energy standards and uses state-of-the-art environmental controls and technology. It will likely be the last coal-fired power plant built in Illinois.

Today, Prairie State Energy Campus is only 10 years old. In 2035, cooperative owners will still have outstanding loans of \$188 million on this plant. Closure of this plant will make Illinois dependent on neighboring states for replacement energy. The loans, plus the cost of replacement energy, could result in 20-25% increases to YOUR utility bills.

EnerStar Electric Cooperative is committed to keeping energy affordable and reliable while we invest in a cleaner energy future, but we cannot let policy get ahead of technology. Current technology needs to be improved and expanded upon before we can reliably power the grid with carbon-free resources.

Help send the message to Governor Pritzker and state legislators that any legislation proposed must provide a delayed closure date for Prairie State and allow not-for-profit owners to pay off their debt on these new facilities.

We oppose legislation that:

- ✓ reduces grid reliability
- ✓ makes us dependent on neighboring states for energy generation
- ✓ moves good-paying energy jobs and tax base to neighboring states
- ✓ potentially increases our rates by 20% to 25%

PLEASE ACT NOW! Visit: voicesforcooperativepower.com/illinois

Visit the web address above to send a letter or fill out the form below and return it to EnerStar Electric Cooperative.

Thank you for your support,
EnerStar Electric Cooperative President/CEO Brent Reyher

Please cut along this line and return it by mail, drop it off at our office or complete online at voicesforcooperativepower.com/illinois

ENERSTAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE - 11597 IL HWY 1 - PARIS, IL 61944

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

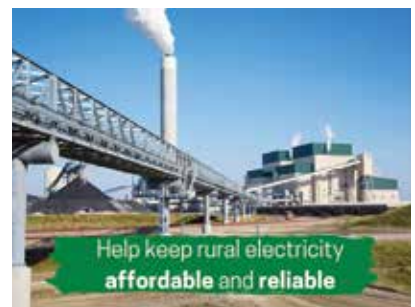
MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

I authorize EnerStar Electric Cooperative to communicate on my behalf regarding Illinois energy challenges.

SIGNATURE _____



EnerStar concludes first-ever aerial tree trimming project

In a continued effort to improve system reliability, EnerStar recently concluded a vegetation management practice with a technique that is new to us. The co-op contracted Aerial Solutions, Inc. (ASI), and their services helped us reach heights previously unattainable with the co-op's equipment.

ASI trimmed trees in challenging areas from above, utilizing an aerial power saw suspended from a helicopter. The equipment is capable of efficiently cutting vegetation along and above the power lines.

Key areas targeted in the EnerStar service territory included southern Edgar County and northern Clark County. According to EnerStar CEO Brent Reyher, "The



EnerStar and ASI crews worked extremely well together, making notable progress across all of the targeted trimming areas with only minimal outages. We appreciate the member's patience as we worked through this for the first time."

Reyher went on to say, "Having the vegetation removed from areas

that we could not easily reach with our existing equipment should yield benefits for a number of years. Given that this was such a positive experience, we are now evaluating how best to utilize the aerial saw as an on-going complement to our in-house vegetation efforts."



Ferrell transformer

Out with the old in with the new! EnerStar crews recently replaced a large transformer at its Ferrell substation in southern Edgar County. The co-op has been evaluating the transformer on a regular basis and field tests indicated it could fail in the near future. While the co-op can back-feed substations quickly, that option is a temporary fix. And purchasing new transformers of that size is anything but quick with delivery times being several months. To be proactive, EnerStar purchased a new unit available from our wholesale power provider, Wabash Valley Power. This is just one of the many benefits of belonging to Wabash!



Illinois electric co-ops at the Farm Progress Show

August 31 – September 2

The Farm Progress Show is back in Illinois this year, and we hope to see you there!

The nation's largest outdoor farm event will be held at Progress City in Decatur, August 31, September 1 - 2. Look for the Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperative's exhibit in our NEW LOCATION on Lot 217 on Second Street between Central Progress and East Progress Avenue, near Gates 7 and 8. Find us next to the Grain System Inc. display.

Representatives from several other Illinois electric cooperatives including EnerStar will be on hand to share information about cooperatives, safety, energy efficiency, and much more.

Be sure to catch a Live Line Safety Demo, sponsored by Jo-Carroll Energy, to learn about electricity and how to stay safe around electrical equipment. There will also be pole climbing demonstrations.

You can also charge your phone at one of our charging stations. While there, play a game for a chance to win a prize. Cooperative members who present their Co-op Connections card or show the Co-op Connections app will receive a special gift. Don't have a card, give EnerStar a call at 800-635-4145 and we will send you one!

Weather permitting, the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon will be flying the American flag each morning of the show. Plans are for

the balloon to also fly late afternoon on the first two days of the show.

For 70 years, The Farm Progress Show has celebrated agriculture by bringing tradition and business together. It is where people from all over gather to meet, observe, and learn. Major manufacturers roll out their newest offerings, and agricultural families take a break from their daily routines to immerse themselves in the wider ag community. The show rotates annually between Decatur, Illinois and Boone, Iowa.

Check out *Prairie Farmer Magazine* or visit farmprogressshow.com to learn more about the 2021 Farm Progress Show.

EnerStar Electric Cooperative Luck of the Draw Scholarship

EnerStar Electric Cooperative is offering five lucky winners a \$250 scholarship to be used toward their continuing education! The scholarship is open to college students who are co-op members or are dependents of EnerStar members.

It's easy to qualify for the scholarship.

- Visit enerstar.com to download the scholarship application and answer a few questions about the co-op. (Don't worry, all the answers are there!)
- Mail (or hand deliver) the completed application to: EnerStar Electric Cooperative, Attn Scholarship, 11597 IL Highway 1, Paris, IL 61944

Scholarships will be awarded to students attending an accredited institute of higher education. This includes a 4-year college or university, vocational-technical trade school (offering associate degrees), community college or junior college and business college (offering associate degree). The scholarship must be used for educational costs, and the student must enter the accredited institute in the fall of the school year for which the scholarship is given.

It is important to note, dependents of co-op members must reside in the home where EnerStar provides the electricity.

Submission deadline is September 1, 2021.