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## Co-op Board Election - Things to Know

For EnerStar members interested in running for the co-op board of directors, the April 4, 2023, deadline to submit petitions is quickly approaching.

Prior to receiving a petition, candidates should verify with cooperative personnel that they reside within an open Representative District. Below you will find geographical descriptions of the open seats. Petitions require the signatures of 15 EnerStar active members who live in the candidate's Voting District.

The role of director is a significant commitment – of time, energy and education – more than most members realize. The petition packet provides information regarding the role of a director.

Result of the director election will be announced at the Annual Meeting of Members on the morning of Saturday, June 3, 2023. To receive a petition packet or for questions regarding the petition process, contact EnerStar's Kim Stewart at 800-635-4145 or email her at [kstewart@enerstar.com](mailto:kstewart@enerstar.com).

### Representative Board District Descriptions 3 year terms



#### ✓ Voting District 1A

##### District 2 - Currently served by Jeff Zimmerman, Oakland

The Townships of Newman, Bowdre, and Sargent in Douglas County, Illinois; the Townships of East Oakland and Ashmore in Coles County, Illinois; the Township of Embarrass in Edgar County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Shiloh lying south of the 1800th Road in Edgar County, Illinois

Township of Symmes lying north of the 400th Road and west of Illinois Highway 1 in Edgar County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Symmes lying north of the 300th Road and east of Illinois Highway 1 in Edgar County, Illinois

#### ✓ Voting District 5B

##### District 4 - Currently served by Thad Martin, Paris

The Township of Elbridge in Edgar County, Illinois; all that portion of the

#### ✓ Voting District 9C

##### District 7 - Currently served by Danny Gard, West Union

The Townships of Anderson, Darwin, Melrose, and York in Clark County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Marshall lying south of Interstate Highway 70 in Clark County, Illinois



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.

### 2023 Annual Meeting of Members

April 4, 2023 – Last day to turn in petition

June 3, 2023 – Annual Meeting of Members

# Members rate EnerStar on satisfaction surveys

To better understand the membership experience, EnerStar surveys its co-op members about every two years. "The survey results always provide us valuable insights," says EnerStar's Angela Griffin. "We appreciate the positive and supportive comments, but the responses also show us opportunities to improve and grow where we might not quite hit the mark."

The findings reported are from recent surveys conducted by the co-op's power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Alliance, and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

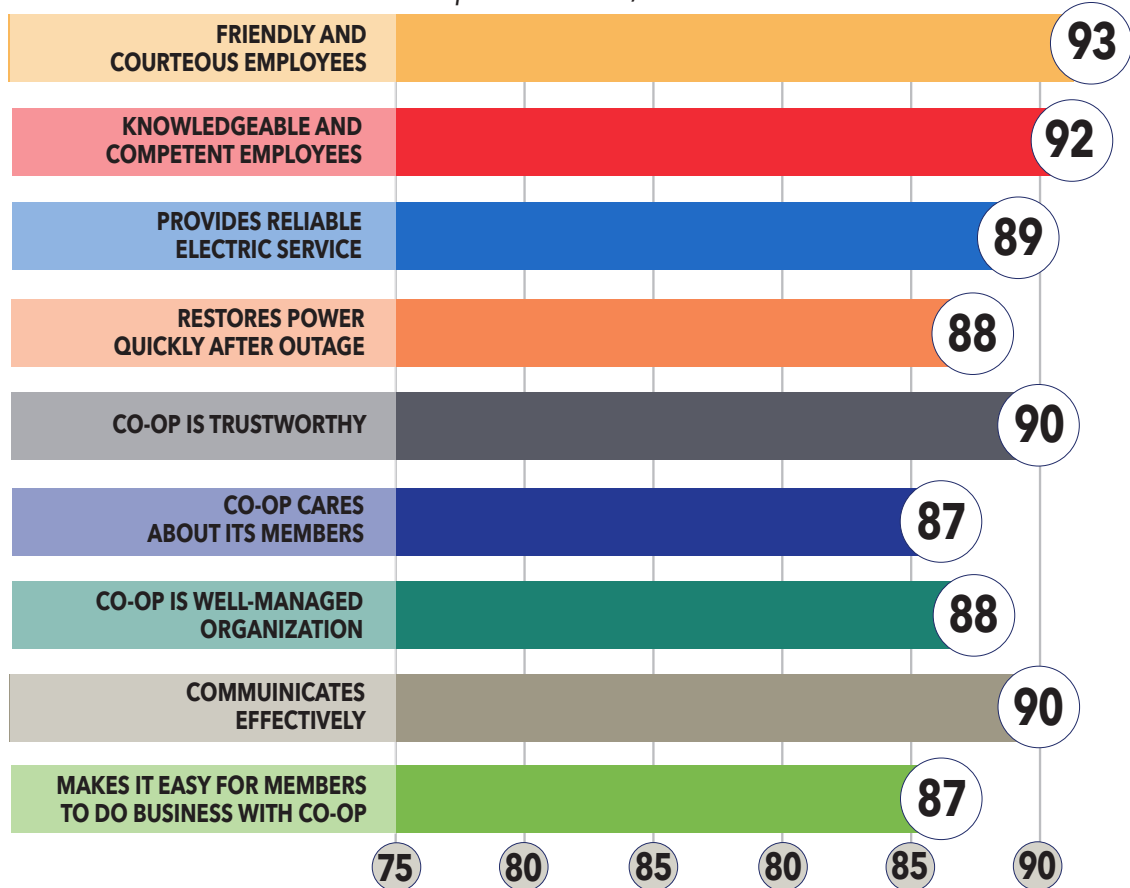
Both surveys allow for custom questions. One question asked this year was for feedback on the co-op's annual meeting. While a majority

of the members had no preference regarding the day and time of the meeting, many members expressed the desire to return to a Saturday morning meeting. "I'm pleased to report that our meeting is set for Saturday, June 3, and while our famous pancakes will make a return appearance, it will be a full breakfast catered by Front Street Market," said Griffin. "We hope to see many of our members there, and all those in attendance will receive a \$25 bill credit and have an opportunity to win some fabulous door prizes while learning more about the co-op."

Members are invited to contact the co-op any-time to offer additional feedback. Call 800-635-4145 or email [memberservices@enerstar.com](mailto:memberservices@enerstar.com).

## Survey Results

Top Box – rated 8, 9 or 10



# Lineworker Appreciation Day April 10

Nearly everyone has experienced the dreaded crash of thunder before the lights go out – and the relief once the lights come back on. In the darkness, what could be missed is the dedication, effort and energy from the lineworkers who are busily braving the elements to return power to your day.

You have likely noticed EnerStar's crews working on power lines and other electrical equipment. They are also there when you do not see them – in inclement weather, in the middle of the night and anytime when needed, 24/7.

Lineworkers perform an essential job, often in challenging conditions. The tools and equipment a lineworker needs to carry while climbing a pole can weigh up to 50 pounds – and that's while scaling poles that can range from 30 to 60 feet tall!

During severe weather events, from blizzards to thunderstorms and many other emergencies, lineworkers are among the first people called to respond. They must be prepared to leave their homes and families unexpectedly and commit

to restoring power, which can take days. They are also committed to serve during hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and other large-scale disasters. Line crews from states away will travel to devastated communities and help restore power. Lineworkers are at no shortage of memorable stories to tell – the jobs that were exceptionally difficult, the weather that was especially rough, and other unique occurrences that made it particularly arduous to restore service.

There are more than 120,000 lineworkers across the United States, and it takes more than 7,000 hours of unique training (about four years) to become a journeyman lineman. Working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and ongoing mental toughness. Lineworkers cannot take shortcuts, and there is no room for error in what they do, often in adverse conditions.

The next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep the power flowing all day, every day. They live and work in your community



*Journeyman Lineman Jake Keys (right) and Apprentice Lineman Carter Hays (left) repair damage after a recent wind and rain storm*

and are among the people most committed to ensure that your town quickly overcomes severe weather impacts. They are the power behind the power you need to get through your day.



**These boots were made for climbing – and that's just what they'll do!**

**April 10 is Lineworker Appreciation Day.**

That day, and every day, we thank electric lineworkers for the challenging work they do. #ThankALineworker

**Lineworkers go above and beyond.**



# Changes to billing coming in May, June

## All members' due dates moving to the 24th of the month

In recent years, a large number of members are choosing alternative billing and payment options like paperless billing or autopay. These changes, along with the co-op's continued efforts to reduce costs, have resulted in a need to change our billing process. Therefore, beginning in May, we will reduce from four bill cycles to one bill cycle. All members will have a due date on the 24th of the month.

We specifically chose the month of May to make this change as it is what we call a "shoulder month." Generally during this time, members are neither heating nor cooling their homes. It tends to be a lower usage month. That factor was important to us because for those members affected, their June bill will be for more than 30 days of electric usage.

This change offers reduces costs and offers many benefits to the co-op. But what is important is how these changes affect you, the individual member. To know how you are affected by these changes, you will need to know your current due date then read on to learn more:

### **If your bill is currently due on the 4th:**

- You will receive a normal bill in April which is due May 4.
- You will not receive a billing statement in May.
- Your next billing statement will be mailed June 5 for usage from April 8 to May 31. That is 22 additional days of usage.
- Instead of your bill being due on the 4th, your new due date is June 24. That gives you 20 extra days to pay your billing statement.

### **If your bill is currently due on the 10th:**

- You will receive a normal bill in April which is due May 10.



You will not receive a billing statement in May.

- Your next billing statement will be mailed June 5 for usage from April 15 to May 31. That is 15 additional days of usage.
- Instead of your bill being due on the 10th, your new due date is June 24. That gives you 14 extra days to pay your billing statement.

### **If your bill is currently due on the 14th:**

- You will receive a normal bill in April which is due May 14.
- You will not receive a billing statement in May.
- Your next billing statement will be mailed June 5 for April 21 to May 31. That is 9 additional days of usage.
- Instead of your bill being due on the 14th, your new due date is June 24. That gives you 10 extra days to pay your billing statement.

### **If your bill is due on the 24th of the month:**

- There is no change to your billing or due date.

- You will receive a May billing statement, and your payment will be due on the 24th as usual.

### **Accounts using Autopay:**

- If your billing cycle dates are changing, your payment will be drafted as usual in May but going forward, it will be drafted on June 24. All due dates will be the 24th of the month.

**If these changes create a hardship:** We understand. If that is you, please do not hesitate to call our Member Services department with your concerns. We may have options available to assist you.



Our offices will be closed on Friday, April 7, in observance of Good Friday.