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Dear Members,

I am writing to you as the newly appointed CEO/President of EnerStar Electric Cooperative. I am Dave Clinton, CPA, and have been your chief financial officer since 2018. The change occurred on Nov. 29, 2022 following the resignation of EnerStar's CEO Brent Reyher. I assumed the CEO duties while also retaining my duties as CFO to prevent a lapse in leadership. To provide you with a level of comfort about the change, the reasons for Brent's resignation are personal and have nothing to do with EnerStar's financial strength or standing as a high-quality service provider.



Dave Clinton
EnerStar CEO/CFO

Now, a little about myself. I have served in the rural electric cooperative industry since 1978 in the states of Washington, Virginia and now here in Illinois. Most of my roles have been in accounting, often with the title of CFO, but I have served in other leadership roles within the cooperative industry as well. I was the general manager of Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association and worked closely with Washington state legislators representing 20 small rural utilities. These diverse roles across the span of time all had a common purpose: to help improve service to rural America.

However, my history means nothing unless you as members know my philosophy and approach for leading EnerStar Electric Cooperative. The remainder of this article

will summarize some key beliefs I hold and plan to use going forward, as follows:

EnerStar has a long history in this community. For over 80 years, our co-op has been a vital part of what makes this part of Illinois work — and it will continue to be. I

believe in respecting this rich heritage and avoiding changes that compromise this legacy simply for the purpose of making changes.

Promote rates that are competitive for our rural area. I follow the principle that if you “watch the pennies, the dollars will take care of themselves.”

Even as I am writing this letter to you,

EnerStar's management team is reviewing all costs in the upcoming budget to make sure all are necessary and in the best interest of our members. I would never feel comfortable recommending a rate increase, if/when that day comes, without this level of scrutiny.

Service quality. I believe in the adage: “good enough is not good enough” when people are served by a member-owned electric cooperative. We must rise above other utility types. Fortunately, EnerStar is blessed with dedicated, highly trained personnel with that same like-mindedness.

Promote opportunities and incentives. Whether it is an energy conservation article in our monthly magazine or rebates from www.powermoves.com, we encourage our members to buy less of what we sell. As technology allows in the future, we

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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.

Employee Spotlights

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anticipate incentive electric rates where members can save money by reducing or shifting their energy use. These rates also help the co-op as a whole by lowering system requirements during peak capacity times when wholesale power costs are at their highest. Whatever your energy needs, we are proud to be your trusted energy provider and can help guide your energy decisions.

Recognition that some members struggle to pay their bills. These members are to be given the same courtesy and respect as others. We have options for those in this situation. Our team already does a great job in this area. I am expressing my support for our team's efforts going forward.

Adapt to a changing electric industry. The end-use electric consumer may not realize the drastic changes the utility industry is currently facing. The

electric system was originally designed to flow power one way. Renewables are increasingly becoming a part of everyday life, whether that be by government regulations or consumer desires. That means excess power is now flowing back out onto the grid. Storage batteries must now be factored in. Electric cars will be charged and may someday flow excess power back onto the grid as well. And all the while, new technologies are emerging. Yet, with a flip of a switch, we must be able to provide reliable power when a member needs it. Creativity and change are the new "normal." I believe in a proactive approach and look forward to the changes our industry will see in the next five years.

There is more I could write, but I hope the previous points give you flavor for who I am and what I believe. Now, just one more item; it is the glue that

holds everything together, that makes everything work. It is my management style: "servant-leadership." This style of leadership builds up others, makes for a stronger team, promotes high morale and promotes a singular focus on serving you, our member-owners.

Servant-Leaders also devote much of their effort to training the next group of leaders. Beyond day-to-day management, I will be training up the next generation of leaders with demonstrated skills and character quality in areas such as vision, integrity, building trust, planning for the future, appreciation for and encouragement of others. My greatest hope is that all members see these qualities in action!

Humbly submitted,
Dave Clinton, CEO President/CFO
dclinton@enerstar.com

Happy work anniversary!

January

EnerStar is fortunate to have some great employees with many years of experience. Thank you all for your contributions to the co-op and service to the membership!



Chad Cornwell, 1999
Substation Specialist/
Journeyman Lineman



Russ Camp, 2009
Construction Foreman/
Journeyman Lineman



Dave Clinton, 2018
CEO/CFO

YOU COULD BE A WINNER!

Here's a chance to win a

\$50 bill credit!

Each month, we will randomly draw an account number posted below. If it is yours, call to claim your prize!

863801

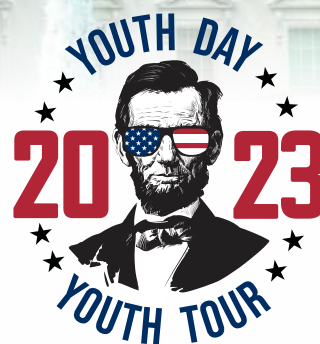


Please call
800-635-4145
to claim by
April 30, 2023

Youth to Washington

Apply today to represent EnerStar in D.C.

For more than 50 years, the electric cooperatives of Illinois have given tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to learn from today's public officials, and EnerStar is on the hunt for two outstanding students to represent our co-op at Youth Tour this year. EnerStar's Youth Tour is actually two separate events: Youth Day in Springfield and the Youth to Washington trip.



YOUTH DAY IN SPRINGFIELD – MARCH 29, 2023

Get a firsthand look at democracy in action! Meet your elected representatives during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day at the State Capitol and tour the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

YOUTH TO WASHINGTON – JUNE 16-23, 2023

The "Youth to Washington" tour gives students the chance to spend a week in our nation's capital

visiting historic sites, touring some of our most moving memorials, and browsing the campus of our nation's capital. They also visit the Supreme Court!

Applicants should be high school freshmen, sophomores or juniors during the 2022-2023 school year. In addition, the students must reside in the EnerStar service territory and receive their electricity from EnerStar.

Visit enerstar.com to find the application in the Community Section. Applications are due February 28, 2023. Good luck!

EnerStar welcomes Shannon Quinn

EnerStar is proud to announce that Shannon Quinn has joined the co-op team as manager of information technology. His placement fills an open position due to the retirement of Jim Lewis, who had been assisting the co-op on a part-time contract basis since September 2020. Shannon attended SIU Carbondale and joined the co-op family after four years at the Illinois Department of Transportation, where he served as the utilities coordinator. Before that, he worked in IT/GIS at the Edgar County Highway Department. An interesting side note about Shannon is his connection to the cooperative family. Many longterm members will remember his grandfather, Conn Wheeler, who worked at the co-op from 1958 to 1998 as a groundman/warehouseman. Welcome, Shannon! We are happy to have you as part of the team.



Planned Outage Notification Call List

If you depend on life support equipment, contact EnerStar

EnerStar does its best to keep the power on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Yet despite our best efforts, outages do occur. For most members, this is an inconvenience, but for those who depend on electricity to power life support equipment, an outage can present a real challenge. To protect yourself, be prepared by installing a generator or having some other form of backup plan.

While most outages are weather-related, a few are planned in advance for maintenance and construction purposes. In instances of a planned outage, EnerStar maintains a Planned Outage Call List for those



members with a verified medical necessity. These members receive notification in the event of a scheduled power outage.

If you or a relative depend on electrically powered life support equipment and would like to be put on the call list for medical reasons, it is necessary for the member's

doctor to send a letter to EnerStar indicating the need for electrically operated life support. The letter should include information regarding the person needing life support equipment, the type of equipment, and location information. It is the member's responsibility to keep all contact information updated with EnerStar.

If your business depends on uninterrupted power supply, the use of an electric generator is highly recommended, and computers should have some sort of a battery back-up system.

It is important to stress that by being placed on the planned outage call list, **EnerStar is in no way guaranteeing uninterrupted power supply.** Members must make personal arrangements for both unplanned and planned outages.

To apply for the Planned Outage Call List, send an email to EnerStar's Kayla Foos at kfoos@enerstar.com or call her at (800) 635-4145, extension 112.

Why we plan outages

Sometimes, you may hear that EnerStar will be having a "planned outage." Ever wondered why?

Occasionally, the equipment we use to bring power to your home needs to be repaired or replaced. When this happens, as a way to keep our crews and you safe, we plan a power interruption.

"We do our best to plan these outages during times when you will be least inconvenienced," said EnerStar's Manager of Operations Keith Borchers.

Borchers explained that while it may be inconvenient, planned

outages are actually beneficial. "Regular system maintenance is critical for many reasons. Yes, power reliability is one issue to avoid after-hour outages but there is also the issue of public safety and the safety of our employees," he said.

Here at EnerStar, we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep you safe and to keep our system running smoothly. So the next time you hear about a planned outage, know that it is one of the best ways we can provide you with quality electric service.

Sign up with SmartHub!

and get updates on outages!



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OFFICE
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DEC. 31 & JAN. 2

LOADING...



HAPPY NEW YEAR!