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## EnerStar board member Jeff Murphy earns national certificate



EnerStar Board Member Jeff Murphy of Marshall recently earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate (CCD) from the National

Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This national organization represents EnerStar along with 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric providers in the United States.

This first part of NRECA's three-part Director Education Program, the Credentialed Cooperative Director program, consists of five courses that

focus on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills required of co-operative directors. The CCD prepares directors to fulfill their fiduciary duty as elected officials serving on behalf of their membership.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, EnerStar is owned by the members it serves and these members democratically elect members to serve on the board. Board members, who live and work in EnerStar's service territory, oversee the governance of the cooperative.

Jeff represents District 6 in Clark County and has served on the board since 2016. Thank you, Jeff, for your commitment to our cooperative!

## Co-op director elections

### Get your ballots in by June 24!

In mid-May, active cooperative members were mailed ballots for the upcoming 2021 EnerStar Board of Directors election. Members are encouraged to return their ballots by the June 24, 2021 deadline. A postage-paid envelope is included with the ballots.

The EnerStar board of directors is comprised of co-op members and they are elected to oversee the governance of the cooperative. They are responsible for establishing and reviewing cooperative corporate policies to ensure that EnerStar fulfills its mission to provide members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity with excellent customer service. It is a very important role!

## Annual meeting tentatively rescheduled

The Annual Meeting of Members which was previously postponed has been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021 at Paris High School in Paris, Ill. We will continue to closely monitor the Illinois governor's Restore Illinois Plan and state mandates that limit gatherings for the size of audience that is expected. Details will be included in upcoming magazine issues, and should the meeting proceed on that date, the official notice of the meeting will be mailed in early August.



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Paris, IL 61944  
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# Director Candidate Profiles

*The biographical information (up to 250 words) for these candidates has been provided by the candidates who are solely responsible for the content.*

## Kevin Julian

Candidate for Voting District A, Representative District 2



Kevin is a 1976 graduate of Shiloh High School and has lived in his voting district for 55 + years. He grew up on a farm and worked in farming in his early

career. He has recently retired as a senior electrician for Peabody Energy and Pittman Mine Services. After retiring, he has continued his education to maintain both federal and state electrical licenses

Kevin is currently the highway commissioner for Shiloh Township, where he was previously a trustee for over 30 years. He is a founding member of the Northern Edgar County Ambulance board, where he

currently serves as president. He is also the representative for EnerStar on the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives board in Springfield.

Kevin and his wife, Pam, a librarian at Shiloh School, have three daughters and three grandchildren. In his free time, Kevin likes going camping and spending time with family and friends. He also enjoys running a small trenching and backhoe service.

After serving three terms as the District Two representative, Kevin believes EnerStar currently has a very diverse board for making many difficult decisions in order to keep the co-op headed in the right direction.

## John Fell

Candidate for Voting District B, Representative District 4



John Fell, incumbent candidate for District 4, is a lifelong resident of Kansas, where he graduated from Kansas High School in 1973. He then went on and graduated

from Lakeland College in 1975 with an associate degree in agriculture production and management. Fell farms the family farm north of Kansas with the help of his son Josh.

Fell has served as a director of the Enerstar Electric Cooperative Board since 1985 and has held office as Secretary-Treasurer since 1993. Fell is certified by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) as a Credentialed Cooperative Director.

Returning capital credits over the last several years has been a great accomplishment of the Board which

separates you the member owner apart from IOUs.

Fell has also served on the Kansas School Board, the Clear Talk Communications Board and Harmony Cemetery Board. He is involved with the Gold Wing Road Riders Association and belongs to the Paris Chapter PI. He is a member of Kansas United Methodist Church.

I have three sons: Joshua, owner of Midwestfirst.com wireless internet service, Jeffrey is the Senior Director of Culinary Operations for Quest Food Management in the Chicago area, and Kyle lives in Honduras working at an Air Force base as a level 2 NDT technician with DYN. Corp

I enjoy my hobbies of riding ATVs and motorcycles, fishing, hunting, skating, dancing, and singing.

## Darin Griffin

Candidate for Voting District B, Representative District 4



Hi, my name is Darin Griffin. I have lived in Edgar Country my whole life. I have worked at VADAS Auto Parts for 34 years and am in the

process of taking it over. I farm a little over 350 acres in my spare time and I am on the Grandview Volunteer Fire Department for over twenty years.

I like the outdoors and gardening. Thank you for the opportunity to join the EnerStar Board.

## Jeremy Williams

Candidate for Voting District C, Representative District 7



Jeremy was raised on a farm north of Martinsville and has lived in his district his whole life. He graduated from

Martinsville High School in 1999. He attended Lake Land College in Mattoon and received two certificates, one in Ag Mechanics and one in Ag Business in 2001. After college he worked for Illini FS and Effingham Equity as a custom applicator. In 2008 Jeremy got the opportunity to go back to work full time on the family farm in Martinsville and continues to work there.

Jeremy has volunteered for the Clark County 4-H program in many capacities, Beef Superintendent, Youth Committee, fair judge for the tractor driving contest, and has volunteered time making upgrades to the fairgrounds for 4-H.

Jeremy has served many different boards including, Clark County Ag Ed Association for 4 years, Auburn township board for 4 years and 3 years as Road Commissioner. Shore-Murphy board of directors for 4 years and is currently still serving. Is currently on The Equity advisory board serving a 4-year term.

Jeremy is married to Abby and they have 2 children Hudson 6 and Harper 3. They live next to the family farm in Martinsville.

Jeremy has been on the Enerstar board since April of 2017. He was asked to fill the term of a director who retired and has served since then.



## EnerStar to use aerial tree trimming

For the first time in the co-op's history, EnerStar Electric Cooperative is taking to the skies to improve the safety and reliability of their electrical facilities.

EnerStar has contracted with Aerial Solutions, Inc. to trim right-of-way in areas that are difficult to reach via ground crews. This North Carolina-based helicopter company uses a patented aerial power saw to trim the right of way along power lines. The 800-pound saw consists of multiple 24-inch diameter rotary blades suspended from a 90-foot vertical boom tethered beneath the helicopter.

"We are excited to get this project underway," said EnerStar's CEO Brent Reyher. "Using an aerial approach will allow us to remove vegetation previously out of reach of cooperative personnel."

The first target area is in southern Edgar County along the co-op's transmission line feeding the Ferrell substation. "This line is predominately off-road in private right-of-way, so it is very difficult for our crews to maintain," said Reyher. A transmission line serving the co-op's Kansas substation in western Edgar

County will also be trimmed. At the time of publication of this magazine, other potential sites were being considered by the cooperative.

The helicopter will fly at a speed of 5 miles per hour at tree top heights and use multiple motor-powered saw blades to perform the work along EnerStar's transmission lines. By suspending the cutting surface above the air, the helicopter can reach heights beyond that of existing cooperative equipment and can move along the line corridor more efficiently than ground-based equipment.

EnerStar crews will be actively involved, helping ASI maintain a safe working perimeter and by overseeing clean-up efforts of downed material. While most downed material will be removed within 48 hours of trimming, the entire clean-up effort may extend beyond that period.

"During the course of this trimming effort, an occasional blink or temporary interruption of your electric service may occur," said Reyher. "Even though ASI and EnerStar will make every effort to reduce outages related to this aerial trimming,

material will not always fall exactly where we anticipate. It may impact the co-op's lines, causing a blink or even a line to trip out of service. EnerStar apologizes in advance for any inconvenience this may cause. Once completed, however, this vegetation maintenance practice will improve long-term reliability in those areas."

Trimming is tentatively scheduled for the first half of June. Members who may experience a brief power outage during the trimming will be notified. Information can also be found on the coop's website and Facebook page.

Reyher encourages members to call EnerStar with questions or concerns at 1-800-635-4145. As an extra precaution, members with livestock in the flight plan should contact the co-op if they have livestock that they believe could be disturbed by the helicopter. The co-op will work with the owner to ensure that those concerns are mitigated.

For more information on the company providing the aerial tree trimming service, visit [www.aerialsolutionsinc.com](http://www.aerialsolutionsinc.com).

# Feeling **Lucky!**

## EnerStar Electric Cooperative **Luck of 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 [www.enerstar.com](http://www.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
- **Submission deadline is September 1, 2021.**

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.

Scholarship winners are responsible to provide EnerStar with a copy of their class registration for the first quarter/semester. Once correct documentation has been received and paperwork has been verified, checks will be made payable to the school and sent to the home address on record with EnerStar.

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