

INSIDE

18B

Years of service
recognized

Julie Higginbotham earns
national board certification

18C

EnerStar Electric brings
rural voice to Springfield

18D

EnerStar crews
climbing high.

Team Spotlight

ECCEL Academy
visits EnerStar



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

11597 Illinois Highway 1
Paris, IL 61944
800-635-4145
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



ROOTED IN SERVICE POWERED BY COMMUNITY

EnerStar Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday, June 6, 2026

Member Breakfast - 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Member Meeting - 9:30 a.m.

Paris High School • 14040 E. 1200th Road, Paris, Illinois

Why you should attend



Meet & eat

Come hungry! Breakfast is
being catered by On The
Tracks Cafe (Paris).

Socialize

Catch up with neighbors,
friends, and co-op
employees and directors!



Vote

Members will vote on
director elections.

Hear & ask

Get co-op updates
and ask questions about
issues that matter to you.



Win

We always have great door
prizes! Win bill credits from
\$25 to \$250!

Thank you

As a thank you for coming,
we will drop a \$25 bill
credit on your account!



Years of service recognized

EnerStar is fortunate to have very dedicated co-op board members. At this year's annual meeting, Darin Griffin of Paris and Jeff Murphy of Marshall were recognized for their co-op service. Thank you for your service to our cooperative!



Darin Griffin
5 years

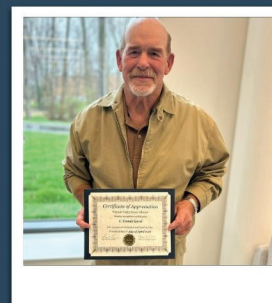


Jeff Murphy
10 years

CONGRATULATIONS

15 Years of Service with Wabash Valley Power

We're proud to celebrate EnerStar Board Member Danny Gard of West Union for his 15 years of service with Wabash Valley Power Alliance! WVPA is EnerStar's wholesale power provider and a co-op just like us!



DANNY GARD
EnerStar Board of Directors

Julie Higginbotham earns national board certification

The electric utility industry is evolving rapidly, creating new challenges for electric cooperatives. As a result, the role of member-owners who serve on cooperative boards has never been more important. Their decisions help shape the future of the co-op, making a strong understanding of the industry, governance and cooperative principles essential.

We are proud to announce that Julie Higginbotham of Martinsville is the latest recipient of the national director's certification.

Julie recently completed the foundational coursework to earn the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate. She joins fellow board members Jeff Murphy of Marshall, Dan Gard of West Union, and Jeff Zimmerman of Oakland, who have also earned this distinction. Kevin Julian of Metcalf and Granville Colvin have achieved both the Director Gold Certificate and the Board Leadership Certificate.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) plays a vital role in meeting this educational need. Representing more than 900 member-owned electric cooperatives that serve 42 million people across 47 states, NRECA provides a wide range of educational opportunities for both cooperative employees and board members.

NRECA director education is offered in three progressive levels, ranging from foundational to advanced

CCD
Certified

Julie Higginbotham, of Martinsville, is the latest EnerStar board member to earn national certification!



Julie Higginbotham

coursework. Topics include director duties and responsibilities, understanding the electric utility business, strategic planning and financial decision-making.

We are proud to have such strong leadership guiding our cooperative and appreciate the dedication these directors show in serving our member-owners and the communities we serve.



EnerStar Electric brings rural voice to Springfield

Electric cooperative leaders from across the state gathered April 14 at the Illinois State Capitol for Lobby Day, hosted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

The annual event provides an opportunity for cooperative representatives to meet with legislators and discuss key energy issues affecting rural communities. From EnerStar Electric Cooperative, President/CEO Angela Griffin and Board Director Granville Colvin were present to advocate for EnerStar consumer-members.

"EnerStar Electric is committed to working with lawmakers to ensure Illinois families and businesses continue to have access to affordable, reliable power," said Griffin. "Thoughtful,

balanced energy policy is essential to meeting the state's future needs."

Participants thanked lawmakers for their engagement during last year's energy omnibus bill discussions, emphasizing that their leadership helped ensure electric co-op members had a voice in shaping policy. During meetings with legislators, cooperative representatives outlined several priority issues.

Illinois electric cooperatives oppose House Bill 3762. While safety is a top priority, cooperative leaders noted the proposal, as written, is overly prescriptive and could impose additional costs and operational constraints. They stressed that electric co-ops already maintain rigorous safety training programs, have a strong culture of workplace safety, and are continuously adopting industry best practices to protect lineworkers and staff.

Co-op leaders also expressed support for House Bill 5195. The legislation would create the Illinois Future of Energy Choice and Economic Impact Commission, bringing together industry stakeholders and state agencies to address emerging energy challenges. The commission would help develop balanced, forward-looking energy policies that reflect the needs of utilities, businesses and consumers while maintaining affordability and reliability.



EnerStar Board Member Granville Colvin (L) and EnerStar CEO Angela Griffin met with Adam Niemerg, Illinois State Representative for the 102nd District. Thank you, Adam, for your time!

In addition, reliability concerns were highlighted. A central focus of Lobby Day was cooperative leaders' warnings about the premature retirement of always-available baseload generation resources and the risk it poses to grid stability. According to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Illinois is projected to face a high risk of energy shortfalls by 2028-2029 if new generation resources do not keep pace with increasing demand and plant retirements. Shortages could lead to price increases for consumers.

Throughout the day, cooperative representatives reinforced their commitment to the member-owners they serve, urging policymakers to consider the real-world impacts of legislation on reliability and affordability.



Chapin Rose (R), of the Illinois Senate representing the 51st District, discussed energy issues with EnerStar Board Member Granville Colvin and EnerStar CEO Angela Griffin. We appreciate Senator Rose's efforts to protect Illinois electric cooperative members.



EnerStar crews climbing high

Climbing trees often brings back childhood memories for many – but at EnerStar, it's a serious skill. For crews on our forestry team, climbing plays an important role in supporting safe, reliable electric service.

With ongoing forestry climbing training, team members have opportunities to further develop expertise in rigging, aerial rescue and advanced climbing techniques.

Forestry Foreman Tyler Robison, a certified arborist with the International Society of Arborists, leads our crews and helps them handle tough jobs.



Team Spotlight: Matt Kelly



We congratulate Forestry Apprentice Matt Kelly for passing the field test in the Forestry Apprenticeship Program. He is now working toward his journeyman certification, which requires at least 4,000 hours of hands-on experience, along with bookwork and testing.

Great job, Matt – and thanks to our entire team for their dedication to keeping our system safe, strong and reliable!



ECCEL Academy visits EnerStar

High school students from the ECCEL Academy in Clark and Edgar counties recently visited EnerStar. The alternative class is designed to explore a variety of local careers and build leadership skills.

At EnerStar, students got a behind-the-scenes look at our not-for-profit cooperative – exploring our history, community impact and co-op

career opportunities. We're proud to support programs like ECCEL that invest in the next generation, including a donation to help expand future opportunities.

A big thank you to EnerStar team members Kim Stewart, Russ Camp and Shannon Quinn for connecting with and inspiring this outstanding group!