

# HOME PAGE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF ENERSTAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## STRONG FOUNDATION BRIGHT FUTURE



### INSIDE

#### 18B-C

Ballot Instructions  
Director Profiles

#### 18D

Bill Cycle Change



## EnerStar Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday, June 3, 2023

Full Breakfast – 7:30 to 9:00 am • Business Meeting – 9:30 am  
Paris High School Campus • 14040 E. 1200th Rd., Paris, Illinois

### EnerStar Annual Meeting Set for June 3

It's annual meeting time and we hope to see you there. There are many reasons to attend your co-op's annual meeting:

- ★ **Socialize!** Catch up with neighbors, family and friends you don't normally see.
- ★ **Food!** We are serving a "full" breakfast catered by Front Street Market (Hume). Also back by popular demand are our famous pancakes!
- ★ **Meet!** Come by and say hi to the employees who make your electric co-op run. Put a face with a name and meet the directors who represent the district you live in.
- ★ **Hear!** Get an update on the past year's activities and learn more about our future plans.
- ★ **Ask!** Ask questions. The annual meeting is a great chance to do that.

*Continued on page 18B*



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.

★ **And, as always, win prizes!** It wouldn't be an annual meeting without the opportunity to win a fabulous door prize or a bill credit! But even if you do not win anything, we still think you are a winner for attending your co-op annual meeting.

Being a member of an electric co-op allows you to take part in your co-op's annual meeting which is one of the cooperative differences. So, make plans to attend this year's annual meeting. You'll be glad you did!



**\$25 Thank you bill credit for attending the business meeting!**



**Win bill credits and great door prizes!**



**Full breakfast catered by Front Street Market along with our famous pancakes!**

## About the election for the board of directors

You, as a member-owner of the cooperative, vote to decide who serves on the board of directors. A co-op director is a fellow member just like you. He or she represents your district and is your voice in the cooperative. This publication includes bios on the candidates. They were also included in the official notice with the proper ballot for your district and information on how to vote.

Completed ballots can be returned one of three ways:

- ★ Mail your ballot in the pre-addressed envelope. There is no postage necessary. Mail in ballots must be received by Friday, June 2, 2023.
- ★ Hand deliver your ballot in the sealed envelope to the EnerStar office at 11597 IL Hwy 1, Paris, Ill., by 4:30 p.m. on Friday June 2, 2023.
- ★ Hand deliver your ballot in the sealed envelope at the Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, June 3, 2023, at Paris High School, Paris.

Ballots will be counted by the Election Inspectors and the Cooperative Attorney. Election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

**GOT QUESTIONS?**

If you have any questions regarding your membership or the annual meeting, please contact the EnerStar office at 800-635-4145 during normal business hours.

We look forward to seeing everyone at this year's annual meeting!

## Director candidate profiles



**Jeff Zimmerman**  
Candidate 1A

The board member serving EnerStar's most western region is Jeff Zimmerman of the Oakland area. He has served on the board for eighteen years.

Jeff is a 1974 graduate of Oakland High School and earned his B.S. in Accountancy from the U of I in 1978. He is a certified public accountant and a certified financial planner.

Jeff has an accounting and financial planning practice in Oakland. The professional services offered include tax planning and preparation, financial planning, client write-up and management advisory services.

Jeff is actively involved in his community. He is a founding board member and treasurer of the Oakland-Hindsboro Charitable Foundation. Jeff is a member of the Oakland Area

Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Oakland Lions Club. He and his family attend the Oakland United Methodist Church.

Jeff serves as Vice Chairman of the EnerStar board of directors. He is a member of EnerStar's Ethics and Audit Committees. He became a Certified Cooperative Director in 2003.

Jeff believes strongly in the cooperative form of ownership as it allows members, who are owners of the cooperative, to participate in the governance and direction of the cooperative. When asked what is the most important fact about the coop that members may not realize, Jeff explained, "It is important to understand how the cooperative came into existence and the economic and social benefits it brings to our communities."

Jeff enjoys gardening, reading and sports. He and his wife, Diana, have been married for 34 years and have two children, Zack and Vanessa.

## Director candidate profiles *(continued)*



**Mike Clark**  
Candidate 5B

My name is Michael Douglas Clark, and I am very interested in becoming a Director on the EnerStar Electric Cooperative Board. My wife, Cindy, and I live southwest of Paris in Symmes Township. We have six married children and sixteen grandchildren that we both very much enjoy in our retirement years.

I graduated from Paris High School in 1971 and attended Danville Area Community College majoring in Mechanical Engineering. On July 12, 1976 I was hired as a groundman/truck driver by Edgar Electric Cooperative Association, later known as EnerStar Electric Power Corp. Two years later, I began my 4 year lineman apprenticeship. I was employed as a lineman until 2005 when I accepted the position of Manager of Operations. In December of 2015, I applied for and received the position of President and CEO of EnerStar where I remained until my retirement on May 31, 2020.

Besides the management and leadership roles that I have served at EnerStar, I have also served on the following boards/committees: Bell Ridge Church as deacon and elder, Symmes Township Cemetery as President, United Utility Supply based in Louisville, Kentucky, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Safety Committee, and represented EnerStar at Board meetings at Wabash Valley Power Association in Indianapolis.

I believe that my experience at EnerStar has prepared me to fulfill any and all of the skills needed to help lead as an EnerStar Director. In the years ahead, EnerStar will face much uncertainty when it comes to individual and corporate off grid generation as well reduced load due to modern efficiencies. Proper planning will include enticing new growth while maintaining a good relationship with present members.



**Thad Martin**  
Candidate 5B

My name is Thad Martin and I have lived at 5960 Public Well Street for the past 17 years. I was born and raised in Paris and graduated from Paris High School. During both high school and college, I worked summers at EnerStar, as well as briefly after graduation. I gradu-

ated from Lake Land College with an Associate's degree in 1993. I am currently self employed as a farmer in Edgar County.

I am a member of the Masonic Lodge Stratton #408, the Edgar County Farm Bureau and a member of the Edgar County Fair Board.

I have been married to my wife Mandy Martin for over 25 years and we have two amazing children, Chayse and Chloe.

My primary reason for serving on the board is to help EnerStar continue to offer reasonable rates with reliable service. I care about the future of the coop and want to continue to serve on the board and utilize the experience I got working for Ener Star. Because of my experience working for EnerStar and currently serving on the board, I feel I have a good understanding of how the coop operates and am excited to continue looking for opportunities to benefit our members.

In my opinion, some of the biggest challenges facing the coop today are recruiting and retaining a skilled workforce, keeping up with technology in addition to new solar options and environmental battles.

My hobbies include raising show pigs and watching Illini sports.



**Clayton Daniel Gard Jr.**  
Candidate 9C

Since December 2000, Dan Gard Jr. has served as Director of the southernmost district. He has served as Chairman of the EnerStar Board since 2012. Dan is an accredited Director through NRECA.

Dan is a lifelong resident of the West Union area. He graduated from Marshall High School and has farmed since 1973. He and his wife Barbara have three sons and nine grandchildren.

Dan is a member of Zion United Methodist Church, the Marshall Cemetery Board, Clark Co Fair Board and Marshall

Masonic Lodge. He also serves on the Wabash Valley Power Board in Indianapolis and represents Wabash Valley Power on the Illinois Electric Coop Association. Dan has previously served as Road Commissioner and trustee in Darwin Township.

Dan said, "I enjoy being part of the EnerStar Board working together with the current board members, management and staff to provide the highest quality services at the lowest possible cost. We want to continually improve our plant and infrastructure and services to the customers. I am proud of our linemen and office staff for the job they do and the dedication they have to our cooperative members. I appreciate representing my district on the board and ask for your continued support in the upcoming election."

# 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.

