

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF ENERSTAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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EnerStar Electric Cooperative

Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Full Breakfast – 7:30 to 9 a.m. • Business Meeting – 9:30 a.m.

Paris High • 14040 E 1200th Road, Paris, IL 61944

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.
- ★ **Come hungry!** Breakfast will be catered by On the Tracks Cafe (Paris)
- ★ **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 and Ask!** We'll update you on co-op happenings and it's a great opportunity to ask

questions about the issues that matter most to you.

- ★ **And, as always, win prizes!** It wouldn't be an annual meeting without the opportunity to win a fabulous door prize! We're giving away bill credits for up to \$300! But even if you do not win, we still think you are a winner. We'll drop a \$25 bill credit on your account to say thank you for attending your 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!



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



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



Bill credits, top prize \$300!



Full hearty breakfast!

YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNIZED

EnerStar is fortunate to have very dedicated co-op board members. At this year's annual meeting, Thad Martin of Paris and Dan Gard of West Union were recognized for their co-op service. Thank you for your service to our cooperative!



DAN GARD
25 years



THAD MARTIN
5 years

Colvin, Julian earn national board of directors certification

The electric utility industry is experiencing a significant transformation, which places added pressure on electric cooperatives. As a result, the role of co-op members serving on the cooperative's board of directors has become even more crucial. Their decisions can have lasting impacts on the cooperative, making a thorough understanding of the industry, governance and cooperative principles essential.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) plays a vital role in helping address this educational need. This national service organization represents over 900 member-owned electric cooperatives that provide service to 42 million people across 47 states. It offers educational opportunities for both co-op employees and board members.

EnerStar is fortunate to have several board members who have obtained the NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate. This training focuses on essential competencies such as director duties and liabilities, understanding the electric business, strategic planning and financial decision-making.

Co-op board members with this



certification include Jeff Murphy of Marshall, Dan Gard of West Union, Granville Colvin of Paris, and Jeff Zimmerman of Oakland.

In addition to his CCD, we are pleased to announce that Granville Colvin recently completed additional training to earn the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC). This certificate delves deeper into specific industry and governance issues, such as risk management, power supply, parliamentary procedure, technology and policy development.

Also, in addition to his CCD and BLC status, we are pleased to announce that Kevin Julian has achieved the status of Director Gold. This designation entails further coursework and the

commitment to maintaining gold status by attending additional training every two years.

"Educational development is a crucial cooperative principle and a cornerstone of effective self-governance. A director with a deeper understanding of the complexities of the constantly evolving electric utility industry can better serve our co-op membership," stated Angela Griffin, CEO of EnerStar. "We are grateful for the time and effort these directors have devoted to the betterment of our cooperative."

Thank you to all our dedicated co-op directors for their service, and congratulations to Granville and Kevin for their further dedication. We appreciate you!



EnerStar Electric Cooperative leaders lobby for rights of members

Electric Cooperative Lobby Day took place April 10 in Springfield, where 80 cooperative leaders representing 29 Illinois distribution and generation and transmission cooperatives, including EnerStar Electric Cooperative, spoke with state senators and representatives at the State Capitol regarding proposed legislation that impacts rural Illinois residents.

"Electric cooperative leaders must engage with elected officials to advocate for co-op priorities, explain legislative impacts, and share our story," said Nick Reitz, vice president of government relations at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), which coordinates the annual event. "Electric Cooperative Lobby Day is a key opportunity for co-op leaders to discuss proposed legislation that threatens to eliminate local control

of cooperative operations and raise rates, as well as force co-ops to implement unfair solar net-metering policies."

EnerStar CEO Angela Griffin and Board Member Granville Colvin met with Representative Adam Neimberg (R-109), Representative Chris Miller (R-101) and Senator and Assistant Republican Leader Chapin Rose (R-51) to share their concerns about the proposed legislation.

House Bill 3779 and Senate Bill 2473 would remove local control from cooperatives, instead giving the Illinois Power Agency oversight authority of power generation resources and the Illinois Commerce Commission rate-setting authority for distributed generation. These bills would deny cooperatives the flexibility to plan for sustainability in the long term and ultimately increase consumer-member rates.

Cooperative leaders also advocated for rural Illinois by opposing House Bill 3322, which forces electric cooperatives to implement one-size-fits-all solar net-metering policies, eliminates transparency, denies consumer members a say, and gives control to the Illinois Commerce Commission.

Cooperatives and municipal utilities have implemented net-metering policies that ensure consumer members who self-generate receive reasonable value for excess electricity while keeping the scales balanced for consumers who do not.

"I appreciate those individuals who represent us in the state legislature for making time to meet with us," said Griffin. "Electric cooperatives are essential in strengthening our rural communities, especially as we navigate the rapidly evolving energy landscape."



Taylor Clark earns IEC Memorial Scholarship

EnerStar Electric proudly announces that Taylor Clark of Paris High School is one of 16 winners of this year's Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship.

Clark competed for the scholarship with 293 other students from across the state. The \$2,500 awards are given each year to 16 children of electric co-op members, employees or directors.

An additional scholarship is reserved for a student interested in lineworker's school and will be announced later.

Candidates were judged on grade-point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay demonstrating their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

Congratulations, Taylor!

Journeyman Lineman Chad Cornwell switches an old meter to begin the deployment for enhanced member service. The current electric meters in use were installed in 2010.



Time for an upgrade

Update on new metering system

Similar to a cell phone upgrade, EnerStar's current metering system needs updating. A new two-way wireless system is replacing the old power-line technology, which has become outdated and difficult to maintain. Finding replacement parts has also become challenging, if not impossible.

The new system creates a win-win situation. The co-op will benefit because the new meters are compatible with our updated software and systems, while members looking for more control over their electric bills will also see personal advantages.

Current metering system end-of-life

Many members may remember the days of manually reading meters and mailing in the readings on a postcard for the next month's bill. In 2010, the co-op implemented its first automated metering system. This technology was revolutionary back then, using power lines to transmit data. It served us well beyond its expected lifespan and saved the co-op money. However, it has become a significant barrier to modernizing our members' electric rate options and services.

New metering installation underway

We are pleased to announce that the meter exchange is now in progress. At the time of writing this publication, most of the work at the Brocton substation is complete, and crews are now moving on to the Chrisman substation.

While the new system brings many benefits to the co-op's day-to-day operations, we want to highlight the direct benefits for our members:

- **Improved outage communications:** Wireless alerts will allow for quicker crew dispatch and enhanced communication through the SmartHub app.

- **Improved reliability:** Enhanced power quality data will help us proactively identify and address potential issues.
- **Real-time data reporting:** This will enable new rate options and rebates for shifting energy usage to off-peak hours, giving members greater control over their electricity costs.

Our co-op employees are excited about implementing the new metering system. It will revolutionize our operations and improve efficiency across many areas. We look forward to using this technology to enhance your service experience. To keep you informed, we will share updates in future articles in this magazine, and additional information will be mailed directly to your home or business.



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