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Join us for the

# 71st

# Annual Meeting of Members

**Saturday, March 20, 2010  
Crestwood School, Paris**

**7:30 – 9:00 a.m.**

A pancake and sausage breakfast served by EnerStar employees

**7:30-9:30 a.m.**

Member registration

**9:30 a.m.**

Business meeting begins



**All members in attendance at end of meeting receive a Cool Pak Sandwich carrier and a Silicone Oven Mitt!!!**



## 2010 Candidate for Voting District C, Representative District 8 Donald Baggs

Donald Baggs is running for reelection in District 8, which is included in the C voting district. A life-long resident of Clark County. Don and his wife Portia reside on a small farm southeast of Marshall.

Don retired from Cinergy's Wabash River Generating Station after nearly 36 years of service. During this time he was involved in the generation and transmission of electricity. He will use his past experiences to benefit Enerstar's members by helping them keep rates as low as possible, improving system reliability, and continue to

reduce the over-all debt.

Since being elected, he has been certified by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association as a Credentialed Cooperative Director. To make better decisions for Enerstar and Wabash Valley Power Association, he has attended several training sessions at WVPA to help him better understand today's changing technology.

Don would like to thank Enerstar's members and employees for the help they have given and the trust shown in his ability to serve them.



## 2010 Candidate for Voting District A, Representative District 3 Dale English

Dale English, candidate for District 3, has farmed for the past 33 years in the Redmon area. A 1970 graduate of Paris High School, English received a B.S. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois in 1974. After working for Farm Credit for 3 years, he returned to the family farm and grain elevator in 1977.

Dale has been a director of the Citizens National Bank for 21 years. He has been Supervisor of Buck Township for the past 16 years, and he serves as treasurer and elder of the Redmon Christian Church. English has been active in the Edgar

County Shrine Club since 1980 and served as club president in 1993.

"I would like to see the cooperative continue to focus on its main purpose of providing electricity to its members at the lowest possible cost. As we look to the future we must be open minded about alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, and nuclear power."

Dale and his wife, Jan, have been married 28 years and have 2 children and 5 grandchildren. They enjoy spending time with their family, golfing, and traveling when not farming.



### Mission statement

*EnerStar Electric Cooperative exists to reliably distribute affordable electricity to its member-owners while upholding our values of integrity, accountability, and commitment to our community.*

## Candidate for Voting District B, Representative District 6 David Sprigg

David and his family have resided in rural Clark County for the past thirteen years. He grew up in central Missouri, attending college both at the University of Missouri and Tarkio College. He received his B.A. in Management and Marketing. For the past eighteen years, David has been engaged in commercial lending and business banking in the Wabash Valley area and is employed with Citizens Bank of Paris as Vice President of Commercial Lending / Business Banking.

David has been actively involved in the community for many years and currently serves on the board of directors for Enerstar in Paris. He has served in leadership at First Christian Church of Marshall, and the Emmaus and Great Banquet

Communities and continues to be actively involved in teaching and other ministries.

David and his family strongly believe that we all should do our part, giving back to the community that has given us so much to be thankful for. It is for this reason that he would like to continue to serve the community as its District 6 representative for the Enerstar board. As a part of his continued efforts to better serve the membership, David also completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director's training program in 2009.

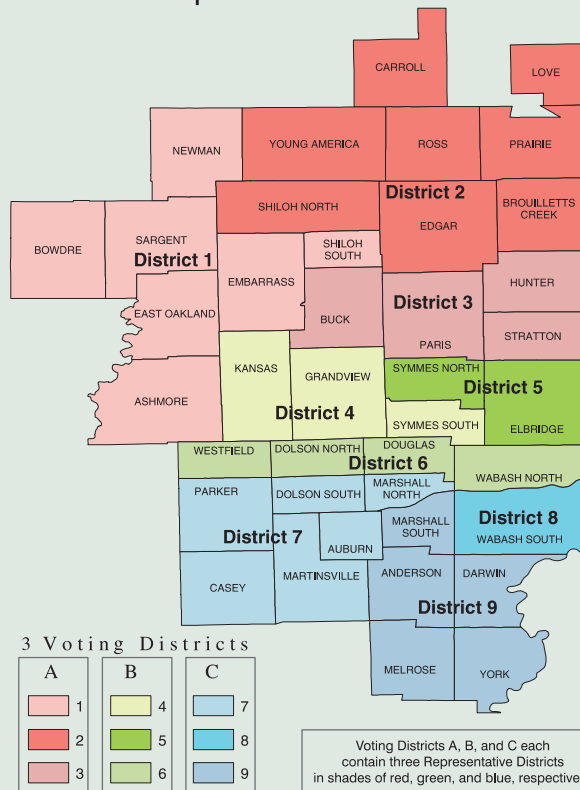
In his free time, David enjoys fishing, boating, and outdoor activities. He and his wife Paula have one son at home, Caleb.



### Members may return their ballots one of two ways.

1. Return envelopes with ballots enclosed can be mailed or hand-delivered to the EnerStar office and must be received by 4:30 pm on Friday, March 19, 2010. Ballots received in the office after that date will be null and void.
2. Return envelopes with ballots may also be brought to the Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 20, 2010.

### Enerstar Power Corp 9 Representative Districts





# See “Power for the Parkinsons” on PBS!

The 57-minute documentary “Power for the Parkinsons,” produced, directed and written by Dr. Ephraim K. Smith, will be aired on PBS station WEIU on March 15. Narrated by broadcast-news icon Walter Cronkite, the documentary tells about making the classic film “Power and the Land” in 1939-1940. The documentary was by the Rural Electrification Administra-

tion. At that time, about 90 percent of the nation’s farms were without electricity, including the one near the Ohio-West Virginia border operated by Bill and Hazel Parkinson, the original film’s central characters. The Parkinson family allowed Dutch director Joris Ivens to film their family for “Power and the Land” doing their typical farm and household chores both before and after the arrival of electricity. Ephraim Smith said it is “the film and family that helped electrify the American farm.”

“Power for the Parkinsons” tells the story that was repeated in Illinois and across the country in the 1930s and 1940s, as farms and rural



homeowners got electricity for the first time. WEIU will be showing this historic program at 11 p.m., Monday, March 15 and again at 4 a.m. on Tuesday, March 16. (Set your VCR or DVR!)

WEIU is based in Charleston,

Ill., and is carried on most local cable systems as well as Channel 51 on DirecTV and Dish Network. It is also available via your over-the-air antennae. For more information about systems that cover WEIU, visit WEIU’s website at [www.weiu.net](http://www.weiu.net) - click on the “Program Schedule” and then “Change Provider.”

WEIU plans to air this program again in future months, and we will provide notice whenever possible to help more people catch a glimpse of our rural history.



## Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

A significant amount of the average home energy bill pays for heating water. Take five-minute showers instead of baths and make sure your water heater is set no higher than 120° F.



Source: U.S. Department of Energy

# Willie Finds St. Patrick's Day Treasure ... and you can, too!

Replace those old light bulbs  
with energy saving CFLs  
and grow your Pot O' Green



## We want your number!

When you receive your next EnerStar Electric Cooperative billing statement, take a moment and verify that we have your correct phone number(s) on file with your account.

When you call to report an outage through our automated phone system, you are prompted to enter your location telephone number. This is how we are able to determine the location of your outage. But you need to make sure we have the correct telephone number tied to your account.

To update your phone num-



ber, simply note the change on the left portion of your bill stub under "Location Phone."

When you call to report your outage, call from the telephone number that you have associated with your electric account.



## Short circuits: Old wiring could be hazardous

Residential electrical wiring changed during the 20th century as new appliances appeared on the scene and electricity evolved from a luxury to a mainstay. More appliances at home led to safety improvements and an increased number of room outlets, leaving older home wiring to play catch-up. Although most older home electrical systems have been upgraded over the years, safety shortcomings may still exist. Since a third of American homes were built more than 50 years ago, home buyers and folks living in older homes should be aware of how wiring changed during the last century.

Electric capacity is a major concern with older wiring systems. Homeowners in the 1930s did not use a lot of electrical appliances, except for a refrigerator, a few lights, and a radio.

An explosion of appliance purchases followed in the late 1940s and early '50s. But the arrival of air conditioning during the 1960s soon rendered many mid-century home electrical systems obsolete. More recently, residences built as little as 20 years ago might be insufficient for handling entertainment systems and personal computers.

Each year, household wiring and lighting cause an estimated average of 32,000 home fires. On average, these fires result in 950 injuries, 220 deaths, and nearly \$674 million in property damage, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

"Homeowners should not assume all is well simply because fuses aren't blowing, circuit breakers tripping, or they're not receiving shocks or smelling burnt plastic," said Tim Haddix, EnerStar's Energy Advisor. "Inside the walls, wire insulation could be cracking and crumbling, especially if wires are drawing more current than they were designed to handle. The wood frame above



plaster ceilings could also become charred by lightbulbs that are too close to the ceiling or higher in wattage than the light fixture's rating."

To avoid such hazards, Haddix explained that consumers should understand the limits of home wiring systems. Often, this depends on when a home was built or if the electrical system was upgraded. In other cases, though, telltale signs may indicate a problem.

"Anytime you receive a shock from an electrical appliance, outlet, or wall switch in your home, it's a warning that you should talk with an experienced electrician," Haddix cautioned. "If a fuse blows or a circuit breaker trips right after you replace or reset it, you have trouble somewhere. Flickering or dimming lights could mean loose connections, overloaded circuits, improper wiring, or arcing and sparking inside walls."

In older homes, heat means too much electrical current is being drawn through outlets. "If your receptacles or plugs are hot to the touch — you can't keep your hand on them for more than five seconds — you may have an overload," Haddix advised.

When too much current gets drawn, wires heat up, baking and

eventually weakening the insulation. Wires with damaged, decayed, or brittle insulation can lead to shocks and fires.

Another issue associated with older home wiring systems is the number of receptacles in each room. Today's electrical code requires outlets be placed every 12 feet of running wall space, about one per wall in the average 10-by-12-foot room. Houses built before 1956 were required to have outlets placed every 20 feet, while homes built before 1935 weren't required to have wall outlets at all.

"Relying on extension cords is not the answer," said Haddix. "Extension cords are meant for temporary use only and should not be a substitute for permanent wiring."

Proper grounding, meanwhile, prevents painful or even deadly electrical shocks when electricity flows through an improper path. Every home electrical system should have some type of grounding.

Newer homes are wired with cables that include a ground wire. The ground wire allows for use of three-pronged receptacles needed to power certain appliances, particularly ones with metal shells, such as refrigerators and washing machines.

Many wiring systems installed in the 1950s and earlier used non-metallic wiring, which lacked a ground wire. Homes from this era boast only two-pronged outlets, unsuitable for many modern conveniences. Simply replacing two-pronged receptacles with three-pronged receptacles violates the National Electrical Safety Code if no ground path exists.

In some cases, older homes may feature newer wiring systems. But the era when the wiring was upgraded impacts electrical limitations. Before buying a home have someone certified in electrical work inspect the system to be safe.

*Source: Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.*

# Be careful when tackling home wiring projects

Spring is just around the corner! And if spring sends you into remodeling mode, consider checking with professionals before you migrate to the nearest hardware store. While do-it-yourself (DIY) projects can be very satisfying to complete, they pose risks when it comes to electricity.

“Mistakes can be costly — or even deadly,” warns Tim Haddix, System Engineer and Energy Advisor for EnerStar Electric Cooperative. “The first and best safety tip is to call in an experienced electrician than to do it yourself.”

An ongoing study by the Quincy, Mass.-based Fire Protection Research Foundation found several common mistakes during a typical DIY wiring projects. The most common:

## Working with a live wire

It may seem perfectly obvious, but thousands of DIYers receive electric shock injuries each year. To avoid becoming a statistic, always turn off the circuit breaker (or remove the fuse) before working on or replacing electrical equipment. If you have a pre-1940s home, be mindful that you probably have more than one breaker box, or panel board, as electricians call them.

## Using the wrong lightbulb

Most lighting fixtures feature a sticker on the socket that tells you the proper type and maximum wattage of the lightbulb to use. Installing a different type of bulb, or one with higher wattage, will not only make the room brighter, but could also damage the fixture and cause a fire. Heat is usually the catalyst in this case: the higher the wattage, the hotter the bulb and the hotter the wire that goes to the lighting fixture.

## Not being grounded

For optimal safety, receptacles

should be wired with the proper grounding and polarity. Generally, three-pronged outlets signify an effective ground path in the circuit. However, homes built before the mid-1960s probably don't have a grounding path, and simply replacing the existing outlet with a three-pronged outlet won't give you one.

“You see instances of this in homes with older wiring,” Haddix says. “It's no worse than if you plug your two-pronged device into a two-pronged outlet. But it does give the homeowner a false sense of security.”

Wiring with a grounding path usually sports a copper grounding wire with the cable. If you are uncertain about whether your home's wiring is grounded, inexpensive UL-listed outlet circuit testers are available to check for proper grounding and polarity. If your outlet is improperly grounded, call an electrician before moving forward in any project.

## Splicing, splicing, splicing

Always make sure your wiring size and type match. Splicing wires by simply twisting them together and covering them with electrical tape is rarely a good idea. Instead, use wiring suitable to your home's wiring and place wiring connections in metal or plastic boxes to decrease fire risk.

Also keep in mind that circuits protected by 15-amp fuses or breakers should be wired with No. 14 AWG copper wire minimum. For 20 amps, use No. 12 AWG minimum size copper wire. Other guidelines apply, so if you expect to do any splicing, seek professional help before you begin.

## Hooking new lights to old wires

Most light fixtures are marked with instructions for supply connections, such as “Use wire rated



*Be careful not to install new lighting to old, inferior wires. To avoid this fire hazard, check your wire rating first, and either upgrade it or buy fixtures within the supply connection range.*

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

for at least 90C,” which refers to the maximum temperature — 90 degrees Celsius or about 200 degrees Fahrenheit — under which a wire's insulation can safely be used. Again, if you have an older home (pre-1984, in this case), wiring may have a lower temperature rating than a new luminaire.

“This isn't something most DIYers even think to consider,” Haddix cautions. “It probably won't burst into flame immediately, but it does increase the risk of a fire.”

To avoid that risk, check your wire rating first, and either upgrade it or buy fixtures within the supply connection range.

Source: Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.



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## Home safety checklist

Thousands of injuries are caused by electrical fires in this country. Create a safer home for your family by making a checklist for electrical fire and shock hazards:

- **Electrical outlets** – Check for loose-fitting plugs, which can be a shock or fire hazard. Replace missing or broken wall plates so wiring and components are not exposed. If you have young children in the home, check that unused outlets are covered.

- **Plugs** – Never force them into outlets. Don't remove the grounding pin (third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-conductor outlet. Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.

- **Cords** – Make sure they are not frayed or cracked, placed under carpets or rugs, or located in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple them to walls, floors or other objects.

- **Extension cords** – Use them on a temporary basis only. They are not intended as permanent household

wiring. Make sure they have safety closures to protect young children from shock and mouth burn injuries.

- **Light bulbs** – Check the wattage to make sure light bulbs match the fixture requirements. Replace bulbs that have higher wattage ratings than recommended on the fixture. Make sure they are screwed in securely so they don't overheat.

- **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)** – Make sure GFCIs are installed in your kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, workshop, basement and garage as well as on outdoor outlets. Test them monthly to ensure they're working properly.

- **Circuit breakers/Fuses** – Fuses should be properly rated for the circuit they are protecting. If you don't know the correct rating, have an electrician identify and label the correct size to be used. Always replace a fuse with the same size you are removing. Check that circuit breakers are working properly.

- **Appliances/Electronics** – If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given

you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced. Look for cracks or damage in wiring and connectors. Use surge protectors to protect expensive electronics.

- **Electrical wiring** – Wiring defects are a major cause of residential blazes. Check periodically for loose wall receptacles, loose wires, or loose lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. Immediately shut off, then professionally replace light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that spark and flicker.

- **Service capacity** – As you continue to upgrade your home with more lighting, appliances and electronics, your home's electrical service capacity may become overburdened. If fuses blow or trip frequently, you may need to increase the capacity of your electrical service or add new branch circuits. A qualified, licensed electrician can determine the appropriate service requirements for your home.

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