



HOMEPAGE

www.enerstar.com | A monthly newsletter for co-op members of EnerStar Electric Cooperative

76th Annual Meeting of Members



Saturday, March 14, 2015
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 the end of the meeting will receive a token of our appreciation including a \$20 bill credit!

See page 16c for more information on the upcoming Member Rebate and the Capital Credit Refund

76th Annual Meeting Upcoming Director Elections

EnerStar directors are cooperative members elected democratically by the Cooperative membership. The official notice of the meeting was mailed to all members in mid-February. Ballots must be received in the cooperative office by Friday, March 13, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. or can be brought to the annual meeting on Saturday, March 14, 2015.

2015 Candidate for Voting District A, Representative District 2



**Kevin
Julian**

Kevin is a 1976 graduate of Shiloh High School and has lived in his voting district for 48 years.

Kevin grew up on a farm and worked in farming in his early career. In the off-season, he worked for a mechanical contractor. He is currently employed for Pittman Mine Services as a Senior Elec-

trician and holds a federal electrical card issued by the U.S. Dept. of Labor. He is also diesel certified from the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Kevin is currently a trustee in Shiloh Township, and has served in this position for over 30 years. He has been a trustee for Payne Cemetery for 33 years. He is also a founding board member with the Northern Edgar County Ambulance Service with more than 28 years of service.

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

With Kevin's first term coming to a close, he admits there is much more to being an EnerStar board member than he first believed. He feels there are many more things to learn, and many important decisions to be made.

2015 Candidate for Voting District B, Representative District 4



**John
Fell**

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.

"Staying abreast of the ever changing world of regulations involving purchase and distribution of electricity is one of the many concerns of our cooperative. Maintaining affordable and reliable electricity to the membership is one of my main goals."

Fell has also served on the Kansas School Board, the Clear Talk Communi-

cations 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 and the Kansas FFA Alumni Foundation.

I have three sons: Joshua, owner of Midwestfirst.com wireless internet service, Jeffrey is a chef at Loyola University in Chicago, and Kyle presently serving in the Air Force at Lakenheath AFB, in the United Kingdom.

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

2015 Candidate for Voting District C, Representative District 7



**Gene
Higginbotham**

Gene Higginbotham, incumbent candidate for District 7, is a lifelong resident of Martinsville, Illinois, a 1958 graduate of Martinsville High School and has farmed in that area for the past fifty plus years.

Higginbotham has been an Enerstar director since 1998. He notes that there is a "learning period that goes along with any job." He feels that the experi-

ence and knowledge he has gained as a director "are particularly important because of the complexity of the electric utility business. I also appreciate the diversity of the Board of Directors and it is critical to have different experiences in order to make sound decisions for Enerstar's benefit." Higginbotham further notes, "One of the areas I pay particular attention is the fiscal health, growth and improvements that Enerstar is making in their service area.

Higginbotham has held positions on the Marshall Mutual Insurance Com-

pany, the Martinsville School Board, Auburn Township trustee, Multi-township trustee, Bluegrass Cemetery trustee, the Martinsville Economic Growth Association, the Martinsville Agricultural Fair Board, and Edgar County Seed.

Higginbotham and his wife, Judy, have four children, Tony, Randy, Laura, and Matthew, and eight grandchildren. Higginbotham's interests include attending various community events, visiting with people, and looking at or for antiques.

Good News for EnerStar Members

Co-op Issues Refunds, Distributes Rebates

At the January 2015 board meeting, after further review of the cooperative's financial position, the Board of Directors voted to return approximately \$775,000 in excess margins to the members.

"We had an excellent year," said EnerStar CEO Peter E. Kollinger. "Even with the polar vortex in January 2014, our total operating and maintenance expenses were below budget, as were other expenses. It created a very favorable year.

Since 2005, the focus of the

board and staff has been the improvement of the cooperative's financial status along with the improvement of the utility infrastructure. "While members are enjoying improved service reliability, fewer power outages mean the cooperative is spending much less on expenses like overtime and maintenance," said Kollinger.

Fewer power outages are a result of a strong forestry program and overall system improvements such as replacing smaller wire,

which was originally installed in the 1940s, with larger wire. This reduces line loss, which is electricity lost while transmitting over power lines.

Kollinger explained that other economic factors have contributed to higher margins. "For example, historically low interest rates have benefited the cooperative over the last several years. Low inflation on materials and goods have had a positive effect on finances as well. The overall result is higher margins or profits for our members."

"The board liked being able to offer a mix of a capital credit refund and a member rebate since it benefits both older and newer memberships." ~ Peter Kollinger, CEO

Capital Credit Refund

As a non-profit electric cooperative, EnerStar allocates our annual operating margins, or profits, to members receiving service during the year. These allocations are based on revenue received from each member and are called capital credits. Capital credits represent the member's

equity and remain on file until EnerStar's board of directors determines it is financially feasible to issue a general refund.

At the January 2015 meeting, the board voted to issue approximately \$502,000 in capital credit refund checks to members who received electric service for years 1969 to

1976. These checks will be mailed in mid-April to those who received electric service during this time period.

This will be the fourth time the board of directors has issued a general capital credit refund since 2006.

Member Rebate

In addition to the capital credit refund, the cooperative has more good news. The board voted to issue rebates of approximately \$273,000 to all members who had active accounts in November 2014. All single-phase accounts who received service during the month will be mailed a rebate check in the amount of \$50. Checks will be issued March 3, 2015.

"After all, the third cooperative

principle is members' economic participation. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative," said Kollinger. "The board of directors, who are co-op members democratically elected to serve the membership, felt it important that current members also receive a portion of the excess margins."

In closing, Kollinger said the board liked being able to offer a mix of a capital credit refund and a member rebate since it benefits both older and newer memberships.

Members who qualify should watch their mail for the refund and the rebate. If you have questions, please contact EnerStar during normal business hours at 800-635-4145.

Time matters.



Register for PowerShift® by May 15 and earn up to \$117.

The time of day that you use power changes how much that power costs our cooperative. It's like going to a movie: Evening shows cost more because that's when more people want to see movies. Use power when everyone else is, like when the afternoon is hottest, and that power costs more for everyone.

PowerShift helps everyone save by shifting energy usage to off-peak times.

Have us install a switch on your air central conditioner, electric water heater, or pool pump that may be activated when demand is up—typically in the afternoons, and for no longer than 15 minutes an hour on your air conditioner. We won't activate the switch on weekends or holidays, and most people don't even notice the difference.

That's time well spent.

Call **EnerStar Electric Cooperative** at **800-635-4145** or mail in the form to sign up today.

Sign up for Power Shift by May 15, and receive an annual credit*

Name on account _____ Account number _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Physical Address _____

____ Electric Water heater (\$27 annual credit) ____ Central air conditioner (\$45 annual credit) ____ Pool pump (\$45 annual credit)
No gas water heaters No heat pumps or geothermal units

Would you like to be present for installation? yes no Do you own or rent? Own Rent

Signature _____



Enclose your form with your payment or mail to: EnerStar Electric Cooperative
11597 Illinois Highway 1, Paris, IL 61944

The more you save, the more you save.

POWERMoves.COM

*Your credit will appear on your October bill. Some restrictions apply.