

www.enerstar.com

What's Inside

Annual Meeting

Approaching 16b

Learn about director voting

Director District Map . 16c

Important Dates

To Direct or

Not to Direct 16d

Considerations and Responsibilities

EnerStar Safety

Accreditation 16e

High Scores Again!

Smart Meter

Project Complete 16f

New Programs on Horizon

IEC Scholarship Info .. 16g

Deadline January 1, 2011

LIHEAP Energy

Assistance 16g

See if you qualify

Willie's Words

of Wisdom 16h

Safety with Live Christmas Trees



Willie Wiredhand, along with the employees and directors of EnerStar Electric Cooperative wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season!

Who is Willie? Willie Wiredhand has been a celebrated mascot of our nation's electric cooperatives for more than 50 years. Willie was the true embodiment of cooperative spunk, willing to stand up for rural consumers in the face of the impossible!

*Christmas and New Year Office closings:
Dec. 23 & 24 for the Christmas holiday
and Dec. 30 & 31 for
the New Year's holiday.*





Annual Meeting Just Around the Corner

Petitions Available for Board Elections

EnerStar's 72nd Annual Meeting is just around the corner! Therefore, cooperative members have the opportunity to run in the upcoming board of directors election. Members who are eligible candidates and can commit the time and energy to the member-owned corporation may want to consider this opportunity.

The role of director is a huge commitment – of time, energy and education – more than most members realize. Thankfully, there are members who are willing to serve in this important capacity. Decisions made can affect the membership into the next generation.

EnerStar has three director seats, which are three year terms, for the 2011 election. For detailed information on the positions, see below and

the map on page 16C.

Members interested in running for the cooperative board should contact the cooperative office to verify eligibility and receive a petition information packet. The packet includes all the necessary information one would need to learn more about the cooperative and the role of the director.

Board petitions require the signatures of 15 EnerStar members who live in the candidate's Voting District. All members signing petitions must have an original membership card on file and must be currently receiving electricity from the cooperative. Candidates will also need to check with cooperative personnel to make certain they reside within the correct Representative District.

Petition packets can be obtained at the EnerStar headquarters in Paris beginning November 30, 2010. They may also be obtained via mail or e-mail by calling the cooperative office at 800-635-4145 during normal business hours.

Petitions may be turned in to the cooperative office from Jan. 3, 2011, to Jan. 18, 2011. Candidates must also provide a short biographical sketch, 250 words or less, and a digital photo to be published with the Annual Meeting Notice. Candidates should also make plans to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, March 19, in the Crestwood School gym in Paris.

VOTING

Member
News

Three director positions are open for election at the forthcoming 72nd Annual Meeting of Members. All positions are for three-year terms. If you have questions regarding what voting and representative district you are located in, consult the map on page 16c or contact an EnerStar Member Accounts Representative at 1-800-635-4145 during normal business hours.



Voting District A - Representative District 1

Currently served by Jeff Zimmerman, Oakland

The Townships of Newman, Bowdre, and Sargent in Douglas County, Illinois; the Townships of East Oakland and Ashmore in Coles County, Illinois; the Township of Embarrass in Edgar County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Shiloh lying south of the 1800th Road in Edgar County, Illinois



Voting District B - Representative District 5

Currently served by Carrol Drake, Paris

The Township of Elbridge in Edgar County, Illinois; all that portion of the Township of Symmes lying north of the 400th Road and west of Illinois Highway 1 in Edgar County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Symmes lying north of the 300th Road and east of Illinois Highway 1 in Edgar County, Illinois



Voting District C - Representative District 9

Currently served by Dan Gard, West Union

The Townships of Anderson, Darwin, Melrose, and York in Clark County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Marshall lying south of Interstate Highway 70 in Clark County, Illinois



Enerstar Power Cooperative

9 Representatives Districts

Board Candidate Petition Dates

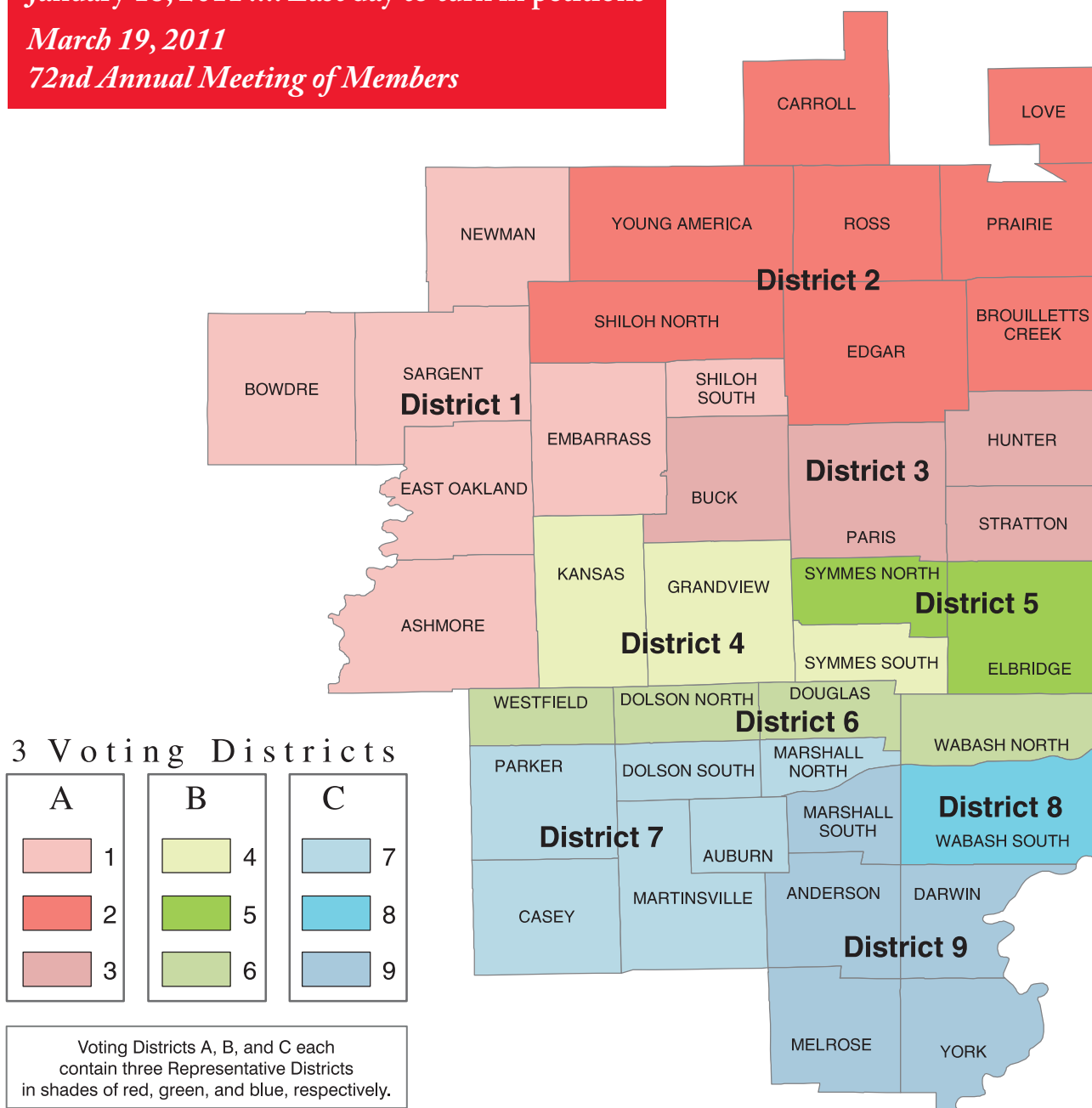
November 30, 2010 Petitions available

January 3, 2011 First day to turn in petitions

January 18, 2011 Last day to turn in petitions

March 19, 2011

72nd Annual Meeting of Members



11597 IL Hwy 1 • Paris, Illinois 61944 217-463-4145 • Summer hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F



To Direct Or Not To Direct...

Things to consider regarding the EnerStar Board of Directors



New directors are often amazed at the body of knowledge the electric industry encompasses. If a new director is not already familiar with the utility business, it can take several years to gain the knowledge and experience necessary to be a truly proficient director. The role of director is a huge commitment — of time, energy, and education — more than most members may realize! If you are interested in becoming a director candidate, you may wish to ask yourself if you:

- Have the willingness to devote significant time and effort to board meetings and important committee meetings
- Have the desire to keep abreast of cooperative and industry trends and help identify development opportunities
- Have the ability and time to study and understand detailed reports and background materials
- Have the ability to think, speak, and act independently, but thoughtfully
- Are supportive of the cooperative's goals and objectives as set by the board and management
- Are personally committed to the community and have a rapport with outside organizations, members, and the public
- Are a leader and are experienced and respected by your peers
- Are a good communicator and an enthusiastic and effective spokesperson
- Are sensitive to possible conflicts of interest and have a clear respect for confidentiality

Minimum Requirements/Responsibilities for EnerStar Directors



- Must be a current member of the cooperative, receiving electric service from EnerStar Electric Cooperative at your primary residence. Directors pay the same rate for electric service and follow the same policies as all other members
- Must not be an employee or close relative of an employee; must not be a spouse of a current director
- Must attend all regular board meetings, normally scheduled for the last Tuesday of each month; special board meetings as called; the EnerStar Annual Meeting; committee meetings, regional and national meetings
- Must obtain training in the industry at every opportunity and stay abreast of current developments
- Must exercise due care and diligence and devote the necessary time and effort to the duties of a director to oversee the cooperative's business and affairs
- Must be loyal to the cooperative, acting at all times in good faith for its best interests, unaffected by any personal interest that is in conflict with the best interest of the cooperative
- Must adhere to all applicable requirements of law, the cooperative's articles and bylaws, board policies, contracts, and the cooperative's duly made decisions

Your EnerStar Directors:



Jeff Zimmerman
Oakland
District 1



Tom DeWitt
Brocton
District 2



Dale English
Paris
District 3



John Fell
Kansas
District 4



Carrol Drake
Paris
District 5



David Sprigg
Marshall
District 6



Gene Higginbotham
Martinsville
District 7



Don Baggs
Marshall
District 8



Danny Gard Jr.
West Union
District 9

EnerStar welcomes new employee

EnerStar is pleased to announce that Jake Keys of Paris is the cooperative's newest employee. Jake is a part-time forestry worker, and will be clearing lines and right-of-ways for the cooperative. Jake is currently attending Lincoln Land Community College and plans to earn a certificate from the Electrical Lineman Course this spring. Welcome Jake!



EnerStar again earns rural electric safety accreditation

One of the ways EnerStar shows its commitment to the communities it serves is by ensuring the safety of not only its employees, but also the member-owners served throughout Clark, Edgar, Coles, Vermilion, and Douglas counties. With this objective in mind, EnerStar recently completed the necessary work to again be awarded the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program (RESAP) certification.

The goal of RESAP is to preserve life and to prevent injuries; to establish electric utility safety and loss control standards; to recognize cooperative employees who work everyday to maintain a safe working

environment; and to complement the co-op's mission of reliable electric service for its members. RESAP certification will also help lower the cooperative's insurance premiums.

"The accreditation process is a huge time commitment and consists of three elements: field observation, documentation, and verification," said Mike Clark, EnerStar's Operations Manager. Clark stated that during the field observation portion, a three-member inspection team from other electric cooperatives led by Jim Nevel, Manager of Regulatory Compliance of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, visited with crews on the job and inspected the electric system.

EnerStar received above average performance scores in all areas. "We were very pleased with our scores. It is a direct reflection of the attitudes of our cooperative employees," said Clark. "It really shows everyone has bought in to the safety program and is commit-



ted to safety and education."

The Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program requires each cooperative to complete a re-certification process every three years. "EnerStar plans to maintain its certification for many years to come," said Clark. "Receiving the RESAP certification is a great accomplishment for the all our employees."





Nearly all EnerStar smart meters installed; new programs under consideration

EnerStar's move to new digital meters, a project that began January 2010, is for the most part, complete. The new meters are data collection points for a system known as Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI).

AMI's digital meters allow for two-way communications between the cooperative and the electric meter. Once the AMI project is complete, the cooperative will cease to manually read meters and automate the process. EnerStar meter reader, Jon Farris, who members are used to seeing out and about in the countryside, will see his job function move from reading meters to maintaining the digital meters.

According to EnerStar's Operations Manager Mike Clark, the cooperative has installed about 5,350 new meters. Of that, the cooperative has a 99 percent read rate and will install repeaters to improve that rate where needed.

The work was completed by EnerStar employees and Advanced Metering Services of Cynthia, Ky. "The project went very smoothly, and I really appreciate what our employees and Advanced Metering were able to accomplish in a relatively short time," said Clark.

"And to get such a good read rate this early in the game is great."

Clark explained that meter reading is just one aspect of the project. "The data collected will be combined with other technologies the co-op uses to improve operational efficiencies but just as importantly, bring new services and improved reliability to the membership."

The cooperative is now turning its focus to system improvement and programs that will benefit the membership.

New Programs on the Horizon Prepaid Billing

Some members may be interested in a prepaid billing option. This service offers the opportunity to pay when you want, in the amounts you want. You pay money up front and use electricity until all your funds are gone. Instead of receiving a traditional paper bill that is generated once each month, usage is calculated daily. Prepaid accounts never pay a late charge and are not charged disconnect fees if the account runs out of credit. Prepaid accounts are eligible to have their deposit waived or refunded and applied toward your current

Benefits of AMI

- Improves outage restoration
- Identifies power quality issues
- Automatic meter readings
- Provide member daily usage information
- Reduces visits to home or property
- Load control options with special electric rates



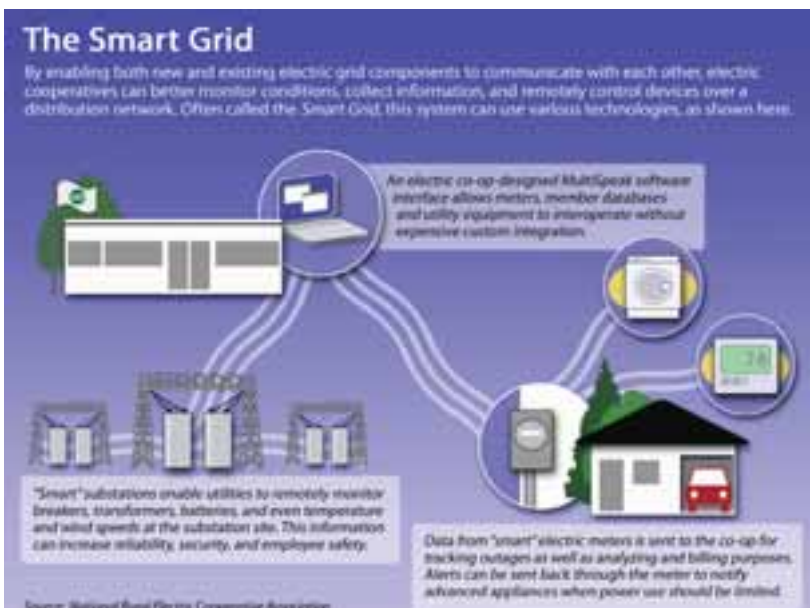
energy costs.

Detailed Usage Information

The cooperative is considering options of providing energy usage information at the member level. With the use of in-home displays, these "power awareness programs" help members save money and the environment by promoting energy conservation. Generally, when members are more aware of their energy usage in real-time, simple lifestyle changes can reduce energy consumption from 5-10 percent.

E-Billing and 24/7/365 Member Self Service

The electric cooperative is moving forward to offer an Internet-based bill presentment and payment solution called E-Bill. Unlike other electronic based payment processors that offer only a "snapshot" view of payment information, E-Bill allows posting of payments that can be viewed in real time. E-Bill will allow you to have access to your electric account information 24-hours a day, seven-days a week. Members will be able to enroll in paperless billing and receive email notification when a new electric bill is generated. Members with multiple accounts will be able to easily view each account and pay all accounts with a single payment. Access to current and historical billing information, payment history and usage history graphs will also be available. There no charge for this service.



Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Program

Eight scholarships for 2011 will be awarded to Illinois high school seniors through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

- 4 scholarships are available for the sons/daughters of Illinois cooperative members for any two or four year accredited college in the United States.
- 1 scholarship is reserved for the son/daughter of an Illinois cooperative employee/director for any school in the United States.
- 2 scholarships are available for the son/daughter of an Illinois cooperative member, employee, or director for an Illinois community college.
- 1 scholarship is reserved for the son/daughter of an Illinois cooperative employee or director to an individual who has served or is serving in the U.S. armed forces or National Guard. This scholarship will help pay for costs to attend lineworker's school conducted by AIEC in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, IL.

Each scholarship
will be worth

\$1,250



To receive additional information and an application, contact EnerStar Electric Cooperative at 1-800-635-4145. Or send an email to: agriffin@enerstar.com. Rules and applications are available at www.enerstar.com.

Applicants will be judged on grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay.

Low Income Energy Assistance Available

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to assist eligible households pay for winter energy services. The amount of the payment is determined by income, household size, fuel type and geographic location.

An overdue bill or cut-off notice is not required. You do not have to own your home or pay energy bills directly to be eligible for assistance. Emergency assistance may be available if your household is disconnected.

In east-central Illinois, monies from the LIHEAP program are administered through the Embarrass River Basin Agency (ERBA). Assistance for reconnection will only be provided to households that have made a good faith effort to maintain their energy services or can pay a portion of the amount

owed for reconnection.

ERBA accepts applications for assistance by appointment on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

When applying for assistance, you need the following information:

(1) Proof of gross income from all household members for the 30-day period prior to application date;

(2) A copy of your current heat and electric bills;

(3) Proof of Social Security numbers for all household members; (4) If a member of your household received TANF or AABD, you must bring their "Medical Eligibility Card;" (5) If you rent your home, proof of your rental agreement, which must state your monthly rent amount, may be necessary.

If you are eligible, ERBA will make the appropriate payments to your energy provider(s) on your behalf.

If you think you might be eligible

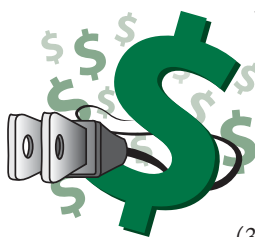
for assistance, you should contact ERBA directly. County representatives can be reached at:

Edgar County..... (217) 465-4911
Clark County..... (217) 382-3412
Douglas County (217) 253-4434
Coles County..... (217) 345-4840

Below are the income eligibility guidelines for the LIHEAP program.

Income Eligibility: 30-day period to application

Family Size	30 day gross
1	\$1,354
2	\$1,821
3	\$2,289
4	\$2,756
5	\$3,224
6	\$3,691





Willie's Live Christmas Tree Words of Wisdom

When you are heading out to buy your Christmas tree, Willie says lift your tree a few inches off the ground, then bring it down hard on its stump. If a bunch of needles fall off the branches, keep looking!

Charlie Brown's choice of a live Christmas tree was funny and sweet in a cartoon, but in real life, a tree dropping its needles isn't a good pick. Freshness counts. Christmas tree lights, especially the old-fashioned bulbs, can get very hot and create a greater fire hazard if the tree is already dry and brittle. So if you are skipping the artificial tree this year in lieu of a real tree, here are tips to make sure your family picks one that is fresh and remains so throughout the holidays:



Digital illustration by Richard G. Biever

- Once your family finds a tree that's the right size and shape, gently take hold of a branch about 6 inches from the tip and pull your hand toward you, allowing the branch to slip through your fingers. Though some trees are prickly, the needles should stay on

the tree and not come off in your fingers. Also lift the tree and bring it down as Willie suggests.

- As soon as you get your choice of a fresh tree home, the stem end should be cut off at least 1 inch straight across the bottom and the tree set in water. Cut trees will be thirsty. Make sure you refill the water daily.
- Cutting your tree at a local tree farm, where you ride a wagon into the fields, will ensure you get a fresh tree — and makes wonderful memo-

ries, too!

- Never use damaged strands of lights to decorate any tree, live or artificial.
- Always turn off the tree lights when no one is around and before you go to bed.

Light up holiday savings with LEDs

Decorating with lights this holiday season? Consider light-emitting diodes (LEDs).

They cost more initially but last twice as long as traditional lights, and you'll recover the difference in three to four years.

- **Efficient.** LEDs use between 1 kWh and 3 kWh of energy, compared to between 12 kWh and 105 kWh for traditional lights, saving \$11 every holiday season.
- **Durable.** LEDs last about 4,000 hours. They're also made of plastic and less likely to break.
- **Don't want to use LEDs?** Consider trimming back the number of hours your traditional lights are on to six hours or less each day.



Sources: Consumer Reports, Alliance to Save Energy