



HOMEPAGE

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

EnerStar Lineman Compete State Safety Rodeo

Linemen from EnerStar Electric Cooperative participated in the 17th annual Lineman's Safety Rodeo sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in early October.

The Lineman's Safety Rodeo, held on the Hot Line Training Grounds at Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) in Springfield, coincided with a series of courses designed to help electric line personnel improve their work skills in safe and efficient ways. Each year at the rodeo, teams of linemen from Illinois electric cooperatives participate in competitive events using skills that focus on agility, speed and accuracy. This year 14 teams participated in the competition.

The EnerStar team consisted of Linemen Keith Borchers, Russ Camp and Jake Keys. During the individual competition, Russ Camp received second place in the Egg Climb and third place in the H-Structure Obstacle Course.

Line personnel competed in five team events and three individual events. Team events included Hurt Man Rescue, Egg Climb (linemen climb a 30-foot pole with a raw egg in their mouth), H Structure Obstacle Course, and two Mystery Events. Individuals competed in the Egg Climb, Hurt Man Rescue and H Structure Obstacle Course. Scores



Pictured are (l-r) Keith Borchers, Russ Camp and Jake Keys, EnerStar linemen, who participated in the AIEC's 17th Lineman's Safety Rodeo held in Springfield, Ill.

for each event use a 100-point scale and are based upon completion time and proper execution of the task including safe work practices. Deductions are made to a team or individual's overall performance score due to such things as slipping when climbing poles, dropping tools or executing inappropriate procedures or methods.

Russ Camp competes in the Hurt Man Rescue challenge.



COOPERATIVE HEADQUARTERS
EnerStar Electric Cooperative
11597 Illinois Highway 1
Paris, IL 61944

TELEPHONE
800-635-4145
PAY BY PHONE
888-999-4201

OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Serving the Illinois counties of Edgar, Clark, Vermilion, Douglas and Coles.

Petitions Available for March Board Elections

EnerStar's 76th 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 2015 election.

Members interested in running for the board should contact the cooperative office to verify eligibility and receive a petition 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.

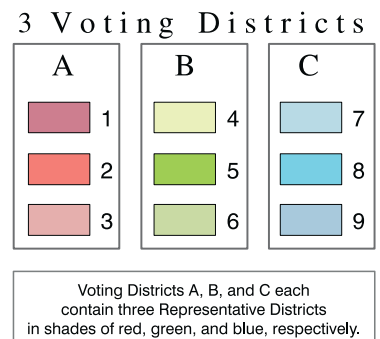
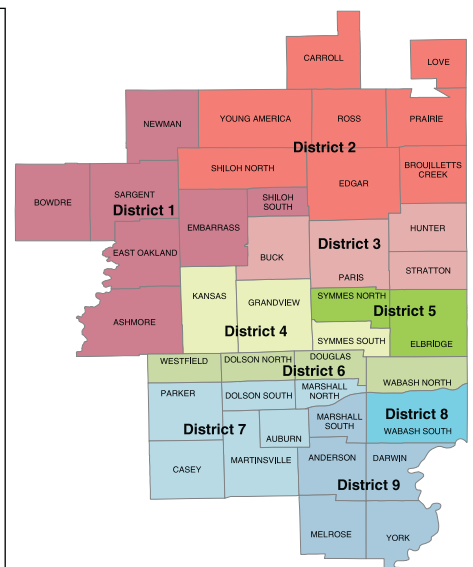
Petition packets can be obtained

at the EnerStar headquarters in Paris beginning November 25, 2014. 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 December 29, 2014, to January 3, 2015. Candidates should 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 2015 Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, March 14, in the Crestwood School gym in Paris.

VOTING

<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Voting District A - Representative District 2</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Currently served by Kevin Julian, Metcalf</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 20px;"><i>The Townships of Carroll and Love in Vermilion County, Illinois; the Townships of Young America, Ross, Prairie, Edgar, and Brouilletts Creek in Edgar County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Shiloh lying north of the 1800th Road in Edgar County, Illinois</i></p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">3 year term</p>	<p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Voting District B - Representative District 4</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Currently served by John Fell, Kansas</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 20px;"><i>The Townships of Kansas and Grandview in Edgar County, Illinois; all that portion of the Township of Symmes lying south of the 400th Road and west of Illinois Highway 1 in Edgar County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Symmes lying south of the 300th Road and east of Illinois Highway 1 in Edgar County, Illinois</i></p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">3 year term</p>	<p style="color: blue; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Voting District C - Representative District 7</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Currently served by Gene Higginbotham, Martinsville</p> <p style="margin: 10px 0 0 20px;"><i>The Townships of Parker, Casey, Auburn, and Martinsville in Clark County, Illinois; all that portion of the Township of Dolson lying south of the 2000th Road in Clark County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Marshall lying north of Interstate Highway 70 in Clark County, Illinois</i></p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">3 year term</p>
---	---	---



How renters can fight the winter chill

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 33 percent of Americans rent their homes. Unfortunately, many lease agreements forbid major alterations to rental properties. But don't worry, renters! Everyone can benefit from using these low-cost, energy-efficient tips from EnerStar to improve the efficiency of your home this winter.

Hot savings

Heating the home typically makes up about 48 percent of your utility bill. Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter – Energy.gov recommends 68 degrees Fahrenheit to boost energy efficiency.

During the winter months, take advantage of heat from sunlight. Open draperies and shades during the day to allow natural light to heat your home. Remember to close them in the evenings as the temperature drops and window panes become chilly.

Does your home have window air conditioning units? This winter, remember to insulate the units from the outside with a tight-fitting cover. This keeps heated air from escaping outside. If desired, you can remove the window unit during winter months to prevent energy loss.

Another way to save on heating is to make sure your water heater is set at the lowest comfortable setting. Have you experienced scalding hot water when taking a shower? If so, it's likely that your water heater is set too high – which is a waste of energy. Older models of water tanks are often not insulated, which can be easily remedied by covering them with an insulating jacket.

Bright ideas

Lighting is one of the easiest places to start saving energy, and savings are not strictly limited to winter months. Try replacing a few of your most frequently used light bulbs with ENERGY STAR-qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) that use 75 percent less energy and last several times longer than incandescent light bulbs.

Other ways to save

Many older homes have single-pane windows and old or missing caulk. Don't let the winter chill seep indoors! Apply caulk around window frames, sashes and door panels to combat air leaks. Also, be mindful when using electronics at home. Unplug devices when not in use, and use smart power strips to save on energy

use. To learn more ways to be energy efficient around the home, visit www.togetherwesave.com.

Did you know?

Heating your home accounts for up to 48 percent of your utility bill.

A few tips to help you save:

Clean or replace your furnace filter once a month (or as recommended).



Caulk and seal windows to avoid air leaks.



Keep draperies and shades open during the day and closed at night.

Visit www.energy.gov for more ways to save!

Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Program

Eight scholarships for 2015 will be awarded to Illinois high school seniors through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

- 5 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.
- 3 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.

To receive additional information and an application, contact Angela Griffin at 1-800-635-4145. Rules and applications can be downloaded at www.enerstar.com. Deadline is January 1, 2015.

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

Each scholarship
will be worth

\$1,500

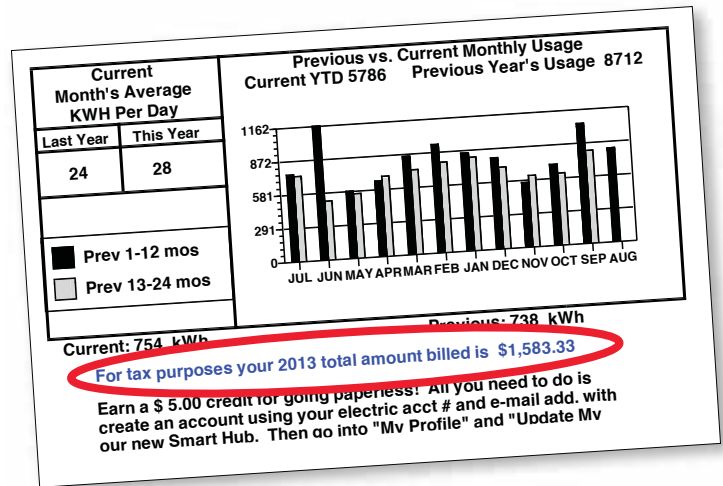
January statements to include previous year billing info

When the new year rolls around and people start to work on preparing their tax filings, EnerStar Electric Cooperative receives many requests for information on the previous year's billing statements. Therefore, beginning with the January 2015 billing statements, EnerStar will now include a statement below the graph area indicating the amount billed for the previous year on that particular account.

In addition, historical information such as billing, payment and energy consumption can also be found by creating an online Smart Hub account at www.enerstar.com by clicking on "Manage My Account."

You will need your account number, last name of the primary member, an email and a password to set up an account. To download the

free Smart Hub app to your mobile device, simply search "SmartHub" in either the Google™ or Apple™ app store.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Be merry and bright, but don't let your holiday lights shine all night. Save money on your electric bill by installing a light timer for your decked out home. It can help lower your electric bill and reduce energy consumption. Use a manual timer plugged into an electrical outlet to automatically turn lights on and off as scheduled.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Find us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/Enerstar

Follow us on  **twitter**

twitter.com/enerstar



Our office will be closed
December 24 and 25
for the
Christmas holiday
and December 31
and January 1 for
the New Year holiday.