

NEWS, NOTES & VIEWS 01/15



Win a Chevy Volt!
Sign up for paperless billing and
pay your bill online to enter!

The co-op will give away a Chevy Volt and install a charging station at a member's home in December 2015. Entering the drawing is easy. Visit the co-op's website, www.e-co-op.com.

Click on Login or Register under myBill. Next, click Register and enter your member information including your e-mail address. Make sure to choose Yes for paperless billing.

Continued...



Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 80, Two South Main Street
Winchester, Illinois 62694

www.e-co-op.com
1-800-468-4732

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Working to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve since 1936.

We'll e-mail you your bill. Then you pay your monthly statement online at e-co-op.com. Every time you receive a paperless bill and pay online, you've entered to win the Volt! You could have 12 chances to win.

Why are we doing this?

Once a significant number of members receive an e-mail statement and pay online, the co-op will achieve significant long-term savings. We'll recover the cost of the Volt and continue to reduce costs.

We also like electric cars, and we have an attractive rate for charging them at night when electricity is pretty inexpensive.

How does the rate for charging electric cars work?

The charging station for the car will be separately metered. There's a \$5 monthly minimum. Electricity used from 11:00 pm to 7:00 am will be at 5¢ a kilowatt hour, plus or minus the percentage change in wholesale electric costs from the proceeding month.

At other times, you'd be charged the same as the "purchased power" on your monthly statement. It's the amount we pay our supplier.

How much will it cost to drive an electric car?

It depends most on your driving habits. Generally about \$25 of electricity will take you 1,000 miles.

How far can I go on a recharge?

It depends on the car of course. The Volt has a gasoline backup so you can go as far as you want on gasoline once the battery has completely discharged. The Volt's battery will take you about 38 miles. Some electric cars can go as far as 300 miles on a charge.

What if I buy an electric car and then win the drawing?

We'll give you a cash prize equal to the cost of the Volt. Remember, of course, that cash or the Volt will be taxable income; there's nothing we can do about that.

What if I need billing records for my tax returns?

You can click and print billing and payment records at any time.

What if I already get a paperless bill and pay online?

Thanks, you're all set. You don't need to do anything else.

Call your local Chevy dealer to arrange a test drive!



**TWO MORE REASONS
FOR AN ELECTRIC CAR:**

- 1. YOUR HANDS DON'T
STINK FROM REFUELING!**
- 2. ABOUT 1,000 MILES FOR
\$25.00 OF ELECTRICITY!**

**PLUS:
ZERO.5%**
Financing for Qualified
Electric Co-op Members



**Illinois Rural
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

How to Sign Up for Online Bill Pay and Paperless Billing

Visit www.e-co-op.com and follow the four steps below to sign up for online bill pay and paperless billing. If you are already paying your bill online and would like to switch to paperless billing, login to your account and choose Account Management / Paperless then click Yes for paperless billing.

If you have any questions, please give us a call at 1-800-468-4732 and a customer service representative will help you.



1

myBill

Pay Your Bill, View usage, or Sign Up for Paperless Billing

Login or Register

2

Email Address

Password

Login

If you have not registered before, then you will need to **Register now**.
Forgot your password? [Click Here](#).

3

Registration - Step 1

Please enter a valid account number, member number and email address. Registration requires a valid account number and member number off your most recent bill. Once step 1 is completed, you will receive an email that contains a link to continue the registration process.

Account Number

Member Number

Email Address

Confirm Email Address

Paperless Billing Yes No **Make sure to choose Yes**

I understand that I have authorized the coop to communicate with me in the above manner

Submit

4 Once you click Submit, you will receive an e-mail with a link to enter a password and complete the registration.



2015 Annual Meeting

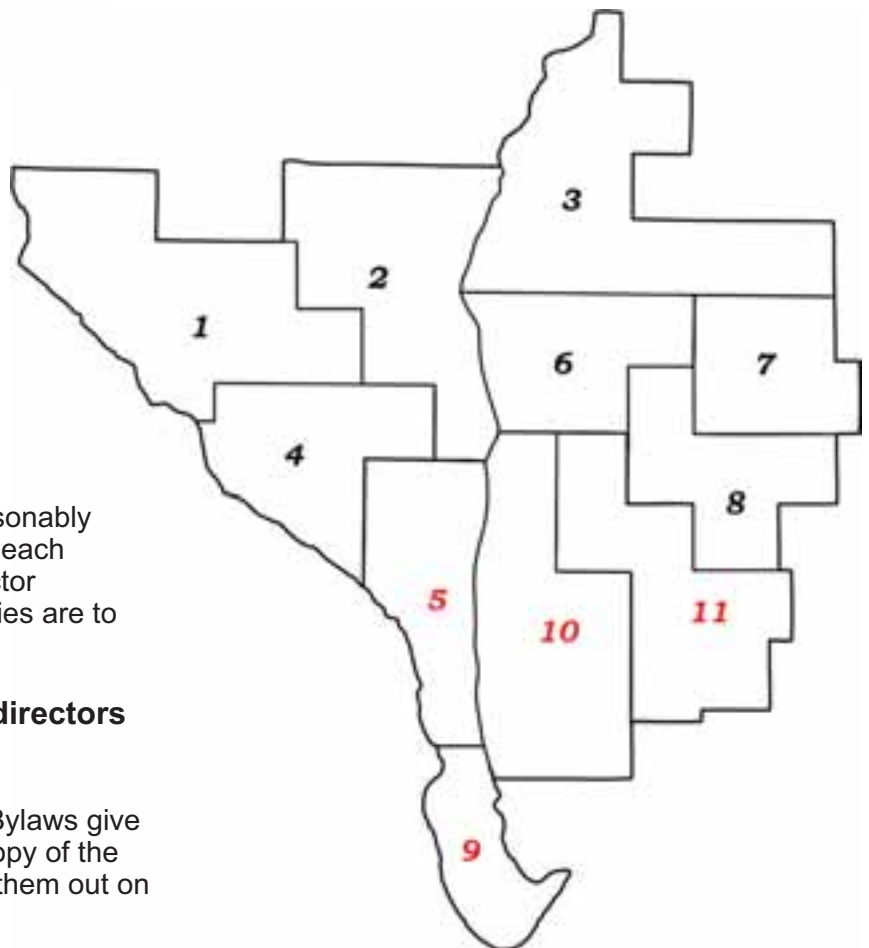
June 6, 2015

This year there will be four directors elected for districts 5, 9, 10 and 11 at the Annual Meeting.

Director districts have, as close as reasonably possible, the same number of members in each district. Regardless of which district a director represents, his/her duties and responsibilities are to represent all members.

In all there are eleven districts, and directors serve staggered three year terms.

This map shows the districts, and the Bylaws give the legal description. Give us a call for a copy of the updated Bylaws if you want one, or check them out on our website.



Directors Can Be Nominated in Two Ways, But Not from the Floor at the Meeting.

The Bylaws set up a mechanism for a nominating committee, which shall not include current members of the board of directors. Only a Class A member is eligible to serve on the board as well as vote. Class A members are those who purchase electricity from the co-op.

That nominating committee is appointed not less than 90 days or more than 210 days before the meeting, and its nominations are to be posted in the office at least 45 days before the meeting.

If you want to communicate with the Nominating Committee about a possible candidate or any other matter, write to:

**2015 Nominating Committee
Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 80 Winchester, IL 62694**

Your letter will be given to the committee unopened.

Any fifteen members may also nominate another member to serve on the board, and such nominations will be on the ballot with those from the nominating committee.

If you want to participate in the election by submitting a petition signed by fifteen members, be certain that in addition to the members' signatures, there is a printed name and address so that the petition can be verified in time for posting forty-five days before the meeting.

Remember that often a husband and wife are one membership, not two. A single member may also have more than one meter, but not more than one membership.

When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either one, but not both, may be elected a director.

Nominations for the 2015 Election Must Be Posted in the Cooperative's Office No Later than April 21, 2015.

A nomination from fifteen members must be received at the cooperative's office no later than 45 days before the annual meeting.

Section 3 of Article 4 of the Bylaws Sets Qualifications and Tenure.

"No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold a position of trust in the Cooperative who is not an actual consumer of goods or services provided by the Cooperative, or who is in any way employed by, or financially interested in a competing enterprise. No person shall take or hold office as a director who is the incumbent of or candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary is paid. Upon establishment of the fact that a board member is holding the office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions; the board shall remove such board member from office. When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either one, but not both, may be elected a director, provided, however, that neither one shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless both shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth. Nothing in this section contained shall, or shall be construed to affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors."

What Do Directors Do? What Do They Get For It?

Together, Illinois Rural Electric and its subsidiary, IRTC, are a \$90,000,000 business, which supplies electricity and Internet service to about 14,000 accounts in all or part of 10 counties. There are 36 full-time employees and 12 part-time employees.

The Cooperative, itself, is about average sized among America's 900 electric cooperatives.

The Cooperative's directors are responsible for its financial integrity and for its policies.

The Cooperative's board of directors is responsible for the organization and IRTC. The board has additional responsibilities to the Cooperative's lenders, employees, and the general community.

Basic law requires that a director shall, among other things, undertake the following duties:

- **Care** - Exercise due care and diligence that an ordinary prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances, devoting such time and effort to the duties of a board member as may be necessary to oversee the business and affairs;
- **Loyalty** - Be loyal to the Cooperative, acting at all times in good faith for its best interests and unaffected by any personal interest that is in conflict with the best interests of the Cooperative;
- **Obedience** - Be obedient to the Cooperative by adhering to all applicable requirements of law, the Bylaws, policies, contracts, and the Cooperative's duly made decisions; and

- **Attention** - Be attentive to and study reports from management on the Cooperative and attentive to and study additional sources of information concerning the industry and business generally so that the best decisions can be made.

Directors attend monthly meetings, at a minimum, to review financial and management reports and to consider matters brought to them by management and/or other directors.

Directors receive monthly reports and financial statements about the Cooperative and IRTC before board meetings. There are additional articles, memos and trade publications they're expected to read.

Five members of the Co-op's board serve on the IRTC board. Both boards meet monthly and there are committee meetings throughout the year.

Serving as a member of the cooperative's board of directors is a time consuming responsibility. Excluding travel time to meetings, directors spend at least two full days a month on cooperative business - attending meetings and training and reading to be prepared.



All of the members of the board are expected to pursue ongoing training in Springfield and at other locations.

Directors attend state, regional and national trade association meetings for additional training, and to keep abreast of the best practices in the industry.

Directors receive \$200 per day and out-of-pocket expenses for attending meetings, whether a full day or part of a day. Additionally, since it's in the Cooperative's interests that directors have good Internet service to receive material by e-mail, directors get wireless or satellite based Internet service.

There are two ways members can vote in the election. First, you can vote by being present at the meeting, or, second, by sending your proxy with a member who is attending. Members can vote up to three proxies at the annual meeting.

What Does a Petition Look Like?

Here's an example of the form of a petition to nominate a fictional member of the cooperative.

It's important that it state the person's name and address so that we can verify his/her membership.

We, the undersigned Class A members of Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative, nominate **Joe Smith, 348 Green Street, Appleville, Illinois** to stand for election at the 2015 Annual Meeting of Members for the seat on the cooperative's board of directors representing district **five**.

Signature

Printed Name

Address

- | | | | |
|----|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | _____ |

15 Class A members' signatures are needed, however, to ensure things, it's probably best to have a few extras. Class A members buy electricity from the cooperative.

facebook

Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/illinoisruralelectric](https://www.facebook.com/illinoisruralelectric)