

Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Norris Electric Cooperative celebrates 75 years

Norris Electric Cooperative celebrated its 75th annual meeting of members, Saturday, February 9, at Newton Community High School. The members, who filled the gym floor seating, heard reports on the new power contract with Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), an explanation of future rate designs and a yearly financial update. In addition, members were treated to a special video presentation detailing the history of the cooperative, and a presentation by David Reis, 108th District State Representative.

Board President Larry Seals of Mt. Carmel informed members that this year the cooperative began buying power from SIPC, the generation and transmission cooperative located in Marion.

"The board recognized that the market was beginning to fluctuate greatly and were concerned eventually we would hit the market at the wrong time," said Seals. "Through our new contract with Southern Illinois Power, members will not see dramatic increases as time goes on and should not see any large fluctuations."

Cooperative Manager Keith McKinney pointed out that even though the cooperative's rates had risen, Norris Electric remains one of the lowest cost providers in the state.

Said McKinney, "Although we struggle with costs of new legislation as well as rising costs for material and labor,

we are still your cooperative and do not have to charge more just to pay shareholders."

McKinney also updated members on some of the projects ongoing at the cooperative, such as new line construction and transformer replacements, as well as the addition of a new portable transformer.

"This year we implemented a new Outage Management System," said McKinney. "Our members can now send an outage by texting on their cell phone and get a response back when service has been restored."

Dean Dieterich, Board Treasurer, reported that the cooperative was in strong financial condition.

At the meeting, Representative David Reis presented Norris Electric with House Resolution 0042, congratulating Norris Electric on 75 years of dedicated service to its members.

During the meeting the results of the board of director's election were announced. Frank Draper of Hutsonville, Joe Helmink of Teutopolis, Dave Sheppard of Newton and Scott



Re-elected board members (l-r) Scott Littlejohn of Casey, Joe Helmink of Teutopolis, Frank Draper of Hutsonville and Dave Sheppard of Newton join Manager Keith McKinney for the 75th annual meeting of members held Saturday, February 9, at Newton Community High School.

Littlejohn of Casey were re-elected to three-year terms.

Norris Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy® — an alliance of more than 680 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. Norris Electric is committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The co-op serves more than 19,291 members over 4,070 miles of line in parts of Clark, Crawford, Cumberland, Effingham, Jasper, Lawrence, Richland and Wabash counties. For more information visit www.norriselectric.com.

Norris Electric Cooperative • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 783-8765 • www.norriselectric.com

Don't fall victim to a new scam

Norris Electric Cooperative is always looking out for our member's best interests. In that light, we recently became aware of a scam that affected one of our sister co-ops in Ohio and we want to be sure our members don't fall victim to something like this in Illinois.

A member of an Ohio electric co-op recently received a call about renewing his subscription for the statewide association's magazine. Thankfully, that member questioned the caller because he believed he received the magazine for free. When pressed for information, the caller hung up and the member made his cooperative aware of the situation.

Illinois Country Living magazine is just one of the many benefits of your membership in our cooperative. You will never need to renew your subscription unless you were to move out of co-op territory and still wished to receive it.

We here at Norris Electric will NEVER ask you to pay for your publication. If you receive a call asking for credit card or personal information please hang up and give us a call. Don't fall victim to identity thieves using the familiar name of your cooperative to steal your personal information.

Comeback for energy tax credits

Feds revive incentives for efficient home upgrades

By Megan McKoy-Noe

Ready to boost your home's energy efficiency without breaking the bank? The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 revived energy efficiency tax credits to the tune of \$500.

The credit offsets the cost of upgrades such as super-efficient water heaters and furnaces, boilers, heat pumps, central air conditioners, building insulation, windows, and roofs.

This marks the third extension of the incentive initiated by the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005. The last round expired in 2011; the new legislation covers 2012 upgrades along with projects undertaken in 2013. If you've already received an energy tax credit, you're out of luck—there's a lifetime cap of \$500.

Full details on qualifying upgrades and individual caps are at www.energystar.gov/taxcredits. Here are a few ways to lower your electric bill and save at tax time.

Insulating Factors

Recoup up to 10 percent of the cost of upgrading a home's envelope. The tax credit is capped at \$500 for all improvements; labor costs are not covered. Eligible upgrades are:

- Insulation materials
- Systems designed to reduce a home's heat loss/gain
- Exterior doors
- Skylights and windows (\$200 maximum for upgrades between 2006-2013)
- Qualifying metal or asphalt roofs

Heating and Cooling

Replacing your home's heating or cooling system? You could qualify for a tax credit ranging from \$50 to \$500 for units put in place between Jan. 1, 2012, and Dec. 31, 2013. Eligible improvements are:

- High-efficiency water heaters

(energy factor of at least 0.82 or thermal efficiency of at least 90 percent; \$300 cap)

- Electric heat pump water heaters with an energy factor of at least 2.0 (\$300 cap)
- Advanced main air circulating fan (\$50 cap)
- Qualifying central air conditioner (\$300 cap)
- Biomass stove (select fuels; \$300 cap)

Tax Credit Basics

Energy tax credits are non-refundable—they can increase your refund by reducing the taxes you owe, dollar for dollar, and can be carried forward to reduce taxes in following years. You don't get a separate check for the credit amount.

File for energy tax credits with IRS Form 5695. Be sure to keep a Manufacturer Certification Statement (a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit) for your records. Eligible upgrades must be made to a taxpayer's primary residence by Dec. 31, 2013.

Rebate Locator

Some states offer further subsidies or rebates for efficiency projects. For a complete list of federal, state, and local energy efficiency assistance, visit the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency, a project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, at www.dsireusa.org.

Sources: Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency, Tax Incentives Assistance Project

Megan McKoy-Noe writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

"I never thought I'd need Air Evac membership"

April 13, 2012 is a day that my family will never forget. My husband, his cousin, his younger brother and my twin sons had just left our house for a guy's night at another relative's cabin. I received a phone call saying that there had been an accident. My daughter and I rushed to the accident scene.

It was a head-on collision. Emergency vehicles were everywhere and two vehicles destroyed. Then I saw our family being worked on by paramedics. There is no more helpless feeling than to see family, especially your children, in that situation.

My son, Collin, was injured to a degree that the paramedics felt he needed to be flown in for medical attention. His twin brother, Collier, was sent to one nearby hospital in the same ambulance as his uncle. Their father and his cousin were transported to yet another hospital by ambulance.

The Air Evac Lifeteam crew that responded that day was caring and professional beyond belief. The first thing that the Flight Nurse, Annette, did was hug me and reassure me that they would take the best of care of my son until I could get there by car. She took my information and promised to update me. She called me as soon as they landed to let me know that he was still doing ok and what was happening.

She helped reassure a terrified and shell-shocked mother that day. Words cannot express my gratitude towards Annette and the rest of the crew on that flight. I still have the voice mail



messages that Annette left for me on my phone. Thankfully, our family's story is not the tragedy that it could have been. All five of our family members are recovering, as is the woman who caused the accident.

I had always intended to buy an Air Evac Lifeteam membership, but never did. You never think you will need it until the day that you do. We have our membership now and will always. Thank you Air Evac for the service you provide and the manner in which you provide it.

- Brandy Blackburn

Good News! Norris Electric Coop has partnered with Air Evac Lifeteam to offer you the opportunity to join Air Evac Lifeteam's Membership Program at a special discounted rate! Membership is now available through an affordable monthly billing plan or at an annual discounted rate.

Annual Membership Fees one time annual payment submitted directly to AEL

\$40 per one member household
\$45 per two member household
\$50 per three or more member household

Monthly Membership Fees added to your Norris Electric Bill

\$5.00 – per a one or more member household

TO JOIN – FILL OUT THE QUICK APPLICATION ON NEXT PAGE

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS ROGERS MEMBERSHIP SALES MANAGER 217-690-6488

Norris Electric Cooperative • 8543 N. State Highway 130 • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 618-783-8765

Office hours: Monday — Thursday

7:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m

Air Evac Lifeteam Membership Registration - Norris Electric Cooperative Billing Plan

By applying for membership, I agree to AEL's terms and conditions. Initials: **X** _____ Today's Date: _____ / _____ / _____
month day year

Name as it appears on Electric Bill: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Physical Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Home Tel.: _____ Cell: _____ Work Tel.: _____

Email: _____ Your Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Do you live in City Limits Yes No
month day year

Norris Electric Account Number: (if known) _____

Please List Others Living in Household and Date of Birth (other than yourself)

Name: 1 _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Name: 3 _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____
month day year month day year

Name: 2 _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Name: 4 _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____
month day year month day year

Terms and Conditions

Air Evac EMS, Inc. (d/b/a Air Evac Lifeteam) ("AEL") offers memberships that provide prepaid protection against AEL air ambulance costs that are not covered by a member's insurance or medical benefits, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Transport by an AEL helicopter will be to the closest appropriate medical facility your medical conditions that are deemed by an attending medical professional to be life- or limb-threatening, or that could lead to permanent disability, and which require emergency helicopter transport. A patient's medical condition, not membership status, will dictate whether or not air transportation is appropriate and required. Under all circumstances, AEL retains the sole right and responsibility for determining whether or not a patient is flown.
2. AEL services may not be available when requested due to factors beyond AEL's control, such as use of the appropriate aircraft by another patient or other circumstances governed by operational requirements or restrictions including, but not limited to, equipment manufacturer limitations, governmental regulations, maintenance requirements, patient size or weather conditions. Federal Aviation Administration restrictions prohibit AEL from flying in inclement weather conditions. The primary determinant of whether to accept a flight is always the safety of the patient and medical flight crews.
3. Members who have insurance or other benefits that cover the cost of ambulance services are financially liable for the cost of services up to the limit of any available insurance or benefit coverage. In return for payment of the membership fee, AEL will consider all air ambulance costs not covered by any insurance or benefits available to the member to have been fully prepaid. AEL reserves the right to bill directly the appropriate insurance or benefits provider for services rendered, and members authorize their insurer or benefits provider to pay any covered amounts to AEL directly. Members agree to remit to AEL any payment received from insurance or benefit providers for air medical services provided by AEL, not to exceed regular charges. AEL is not an insurance company. AEL membership is not an insurance policy and cannot be considered as a secondary insurance coverage or a supplement to any insurance coverage. AEL will not be responsible for payment for services provided by another ambulance service.
4. Membership starts 15 days after AEL receives a complete application with full payment; however, the waiting period will be waived for unforeseen events occurring during such time. Memberships are non-refundable and non-transferable.
5. Some state laws prohibit Medicaid beneficiaries from being offered membership or being accepted into membership programs. By applying, members certify to AEL that they are not Medicaid beneficiaries.
6. These terms and conditions supersede all previous terms and conditions between a member and AEL, including any other writings, or oral representations, relating to the terms and conditions of membership.

I have read and understand the AEL Membership Terms and Conditions. The information provided on my application is complete and accurate. I authorize my insurer or benefits provider to pay any covered amounts to AEL directly. By signing this authorization I agree to the terms stated above and acknowledge that I authorized to have the additional \$5.00 AEL dues added to my residential electric account. I also understand that I will communicate directly with Air Evac Lifeteam for Membership Member Service.

For Air Evac Office Use Only
TRACK CODE
9798

Monthly Membership Payment Option - Norris Electric Cooperative Billing Plan

The price for an AEL household membership will be \$5.00 per month

Name: _____

Physical Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Norris Electric Account Number (if known) _____

Primary Tel. _____

Authorization to add \$5.00 per month to Norris Electric Cooperative invoice to pay monthly Air Evac Lifeteam Fees.

The price for an AEL household membership will be \$5.00 per month

- A member's membership will be effective 15 calendar days after receipt by Norris Electric Cooperative of the member's first monthly Membership fee and will continue thereafter as long as monthly Membership fees are paid, but will terminate automatically without notice if no monthly Membership fee is received by AEL from member for a 60 calendar day period.
- A member may discontinue their AEL membership at anytime by signing a discontinuation notice (as provided by AEL).
- **Norris Electric Cooperative and AEL are not affiliated.** Norris Electric Cooperative is not responsible for any of AEL's acts or omissions, and AEL is not responsible for any of Norris Electric Cooperative's acts or omissions. All AEL membership relationships are directly between AEL and its members.

By signing this authorization I agree to the terms stated above and acknowledge that I authorized to have the additional \$5.00 AEL fees added to my residential electric account. I also understand that I will communicate directly with Air Evac Lifeteam for Membership Member Service.

X _____
 Member Signature

_____ / _____ / _____
month day year

For Air Evac Office Use Only
PLAN CODE
1729

Air Evac Lifeteam Annual & Multi-Year Membership Payment Options

			(select one)
1-Year Membership	\$40	for a 1 member household	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$45	for a 2 member household	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$50	for a 3 or more member household	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-Year Membership <small>(Multi-year membership is not available in Indiana)</small>	\$135	for a 1 member household	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$150	for a 2 member household	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$165	for a 3 or more member household	<input type="checkbox"/>
5-Year Membership <small>(Multi-year membership is not available in Indiana)</small>	\$225	for a 1 member household	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$250	for a 2 member household	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$275	for a 3 or more member household	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Check or money order made payable to: Air Evac Lifeteam
 PO Box 948, West Plains, MO 65775
- One Time transfer from checking account or credit card

Total Amount \$ _____



Credit Card Number _____ Expires _____ 3 digit code on back of card _____

X _____
 Signature

Bank Information (required for automatic transfers from checking account)

Name on bank account _____ routing number _____ account number (please attach a voided check) _____

Statement of Authorization I authorize Air Evac Lifeteam to initiate the EFT withdrawal as indicated above. I may change or cancel this payment by notifying Air Evac Lifeteam in writing. All notifications must be received by the first of the month in order to alter the month's transaction. If I have elected to pay by credit card, I agree to abide by all terms and conditions of my credit card agreement. If I have elected to pay via EFT, I authorize my financial institution to transfer the amount indicated on the attached voided check to Air Evac Lifeteam. Adjusting entries to correct errors are also authorized. It is agreed that these debits and adjustments will be made electronically and under the rules of the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA). This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until written notification is given to Air Evac Lifeteam of its termination.

X _____
 (Signature required)

For Air Evac Office Use Only
PLAN CODE
3057