

# Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



## Norris Electric holds 77th Annual Meeting

**I**n the midst of a cold snowy day, Norris Electric held its 77th annual meeting of members, Saturday, Feb. 14th, at Newton Community High School. The members, who filled the gym floor seating, heard reports on capital credits, rates, operations and forestry projects along with Board election results.

The morning began with entertainment from HIGHROAD III, an Appalachian Gospel group from Tennessee.

President Gordon McClure called the Meeting to order at 11:00 am and welcomed members.

Board Secretary Frank Draper read the Proof of Mailing of the Annual Meeting Notices and Board Treasurer Dean Dietrich gave the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Dietrich reviewed the financials and indicated that the records of Norris Electric Cooperative were maintained in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practices and Government Auditing Standards.

President McClure spoke on Norris

Electric rates and the \$1.5 million in capital credit returns that were dispersed in 2014. He also commented on the current Board of directors regarding their knowledge and willingness to learn and stay abreast with the industry standards and legislative issues that may affect our coop. The

directors of NEC are always making educated decisions based on what they think the members would desire and try to represent the members to the best of their ability.

Manager McKinney reviewed the

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*From L-R Norris Electric Cooperative Directors Gordon McClure, Gary Buser, Gilbert Garbe and General Manager Keith McKinney.*

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operations and forestry projects that were completed in 2014 and some taking place in 2015. He also encouraged members to access their electric account and monitor their use to better control their consumption. The benefits of prepay were reviewed along with updated information on Exede internet.

Duane Noland, President and CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives addressed the group and thanked them for their support and cooperation in helping to voice their concerns regarding the new regulations proposed by the EPA to regulate carbon emissions at existing power plants that could threaten reliable, affordable power.

Bailey Pitcher and Travis Whitt were two high school students who participated in the 2014 Youth Tours first traveling to Springfield and then to Washington DC. They spoke about their adventures and the lasting friendships they made along the way. Travis and Bailey thanked the Board and members for making these trips available to high school students.

During the meeting, retiring Board Director Larry Buser was presented with a plaque in honor of his 19 years of service to the cooperative. Because there were no contested board positions, results of the board of director's election were announced. Gary Buser of Crawford County was newly-elected and Gilbert Garbe of Effingham



County, Gordon McClure of Jasper County and Dan Scherer of Lawrence County were re-elected all to three-year positions on the board.

Norris Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy – an alliance of 750 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 19,420 meters over 4,078 miles of line in parts of Clark, Crawford, Cumberland, Effingham, Jasper, Lawrence, Richland and Wabash counties. For more information visit [www.norriselectric.com](http://www.norriselectric.com).



Norris Electric would like to welcome Douglas Klier to our team. Doug was selected as the new Engineering Technician for Norris Electric. Douglas grew up in Jasper County and graduated from Newton Community High School in 2006. He went on to graduate from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2011 with a bachelor degree in Chemical Engineering. He previously worked for BN National Trail of Newton as a Chemical Engineer. We would like to wish Doug a long and fulfilling career with Norris Electric.

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**

# Norris Electric Cooperative unveils new co-op web site.

The Norris Electric web site has a new face. The new site has a cleaner look with easier access to information.

The homepage features the reasons why many members visit our web site – to pay bills, manage their account, check the outage map or download forms. The number one reason members visit our site is to pay their bill.

Pretty much everything you want to know about Norris Electric is here.

We know how hectic life can be. NEC wants to take away some stress and strives to make our members lives as easy as possible. Norris Electric wants to give

our members accurate and informative information at their fingertips. Any member can pay, manage and



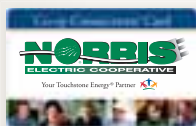
monitor their account on our web-site. If you need a security light, the form is on our site. If you are

looking for high speed internet, the facts and forms are on our site. If you want to view the outage map to see current outages, it is available for viewing. Meet the board of Directors and review NEC's financials on the website. Learn about generators, youth trips, scholarships, Air Evac, and energy efficiency all on our web site.

Building a new service? Our site gives you the information we need in order to supply electricity. Our engineering specs are available so the member knows exactly what we require.

Our goal is to provide our members with 24/7 access to conduct business with Norris Electric Cooperative at [www.norriselectric.com](http://www.norriselectric.com)

## THE ONE CARD THAT DOES IT ALL.



YOUR COOP CONNECTIONS CARD IS MORE THAN JUST A MEMBERSHIP CARD. IT'S A PASSPORT TO MONEY SAVING FEATURES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND NATIONWIDE. WITH YOUR COOP CONNECTIONS CARD YOU CAN SAVE MONEY WITH LOCAL MERCHANTS IN YOUR AREA PLUS HUNDREDS OF ONLINE SPECIALS. YOU CAN ALSO PRINT COUPONS THAT ARE ACCEPTED AT YOUR LOCAL SUPERMARKET FROM OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH COUPONS.COM. LEARN MORE ABOUT ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN SAVE MONEY AT CONNECTIONS.COOP. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A CARD, CONTACT NORRIS ELECTRIC TODAY.

NORRIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS SAVED 38.37% ON PRESCRIPTIONS IN 2014 USING THEIR CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD FOR A TOTAL SAVINGS OF \$7,688.98.

# Electrocution on the farm

Farming is one of the most dangerous jobs in America. Sometimes on the farm, equipment that is normally helpful becomes lethal during an accident. Electricity is essential to the modern farmer, but can be deadly.

Farmers should be aware of special safety precautions since they often use large equipment and ladders that put them close to overhead power lines. Safe Electricity has the following tips to keep you safe on the farm.

- Always lower a portable grain auger before you move it, even if only a few feet.
- Keep all objects at least 10 feet away from overhead lines. Know where all overhead power lines are located on your property and inform all workers about them.
- Plan your route between fields, to bins and elevators, and on public roads so that you avoid

low-hanging power lines. If someone else transports large equipment, always specify a safe route and explain why certain routes must be taken.

- Be sure you and everyone else in your operation know what to do in an emergency.
- If equipment gets hung up on a power line, the operator should NOT get off the machinery unless in immediate danger. If the operator touches the ground and the equipment at the same time, he or she will become a channel for electricity.
- If you must leave the equipment, jump as far away from the machinery as possible. Never get back on machinery that touches a power line until the utility company disconnects the line.
- Investigate the possibility of

burying power lines in heavily used areas on the farm, such as around grain bins.

- Electric lines sag as years go by. Do not try to move a power line out of the way. Contact your utility to fix the line, so you can operate farm equipment with enough clearance.
- Use a spotter. It can be difficult to tell where you are in relation to overhead lines. A spotter can help you stay far away from power lines.

For many, farming is a family business. Be sure to share safety information with anyone you care about who works on a farm.

To learn more about farm safety visit [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org).

*Spring means "Mushroom Season". For those of us in the know, "Mushroom Season" refers to morel mushrooms. As the ground begins to warm and the rains begin to fall, mushrooms begin to grow. So get out your boots and grab your walking stick and take to the woods in search of the prized morels.*

## Cracker Crumbs and Parmesan Cheese Morel Mushrooms

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup saltine cracker crumbs
- 1 tbs crushed black pepper
- 1 tbs crushed sea salt
- 3 tbs parmesan cheese, fine grated
- 1 egg for egg wash
- about 15-20 medium sized morels, washed and halved

### Preparation:

Mix all dry ingredients in a shallow bowl. Warm healthy amount of butter in small frying pan. Beat egg and place in separate shallow bowl. Dip mushrooms in eggwash and dredge into cracker crumb mixture, immediately place into hot butter. Fry till crispy on both sides. Enjoy.

