

Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Illinois Youth to Washington 2011

Ryan Meinhart from Wheeler and Nichole Schackmann from Newton represented Norris Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour, June 10-17, 2011. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began 52 years ago to introduce rural youths to our democratic form of government and cooperatives.

The students met with Rep. John Shimkus and were among 74 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined over 1,500 young leaders from across the country. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited the Supreme Court, Washington National Cathedral, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, several Smithsonian Museums, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Newseum, and Arlington National Cemetery including the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Other sites visited included the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, FDR Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial, Air Force Memorial, and the Washington Monument. The students also had a chance to meet and listen to a World War II veteran, Tom Miller, share his stories at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial as well as take in the Sunset Parade and Pageant at that location featuring the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps and Silent Drill Platoon.

Prior to arriving in Washington, D.C., the group made a stop in Gettysburg, PA to tour the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Civil War battlefields.



From left Ryan Meinhart, Rep. John Shimkus, and Nichole Schackmann.

The group not only took in a lot of history from the trip but also learned first-hand how a cooperative works by electing a board of directors, then hiring a manager and employees to run the "drink and snack" co-op throughout the week that paid out capital credits at the end of the trip.

Christine Lee from Coulterville was elected as Illinois' representative on the national Youth Leadership Council. The YLC representative will represent the Illinois cooperatives during several events and meetings throughout the year.



Chaperones for the 2011 Youth to Washington trip were John Freitag, AIEC Tour Director; Kurt & Kristin Bank, AIEC Tour Coordinator, Brenda & Stewart Knolhoff, Clinton County Electric Cooperative and Tim & Tammie Bohnhoff, Norris Electric Cooperative. Tim is the Member Services Coordinator at Norris. Not pictured Paul Dow of the AIEC.

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2012 Rate Increase

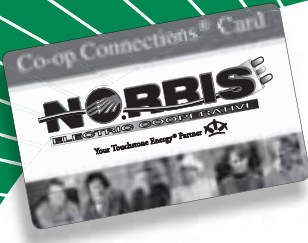
Norris Electric is committed to delivering quality, reliable power at the lowest possible cost. To maintain the quality, reliability and integrity of the services we provide it is necessary for us to adjust our pricing structure. This increase is based on numerous factors, the largest of which is purchased power. Norris Electric's rates remain very competitive with other utilities on an average basis, generally lower than those of other utilities serving Illinois residents.

To lessen the impact of the current rate increase to our members, the Board of Directors has approved a stepped plan increase over a three year period beginning in 2012. A typical residence using 1000 kWh per month will see an increase in their bill from \$96.98 to \$107.20 in 2012, an increase of \$10.22 per month. Other residential kWh usage increases are below:

KWh	2011 Rate	2012 Rate	Increase
500	\$60.33	\$64.60	\$4.27
1000	\$96.98	\$107.20	\$10.22
1218 - Average	\$112.96	\$125.77	\$12.81
1500	\$133.63	\$149.80	\$16.17

Please keep in mind this is the first of three increases over the next three years. We anticipate similar increases in 2013 and 2014 to maintain financial stability. While rate adjustments are never easy, we must ask you as members of the Co-op to share in these costs. Maintaining dependable service at the most affordable price possible remains the cornerstone of our business. To accomplish the goal, we must also protect the integrity and financial stability of the cooperative.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the implementation of this rate adjustment, we encourage you to call our office at 877-783-8765. We will do our best to answer your questions and we look forward to working with you on ways that you may be able to reduce your monthly bill.



Co-op Connections® Card Saving Members \$\$\$

Norris Electric Cooperative members saved 43.5% on prescriptions in May 2011 using their Co-Op Connections card. 226 prescriptions were filled for a total savings of \$4,935.

Vegetation Control Schedule

We will have crews performing routine tree trimming or spraying during **September** in the following areas:



Richland County
Cumberland County
Effingham County
Crawford County



These areas have been scheduled quite a bit in advance so our plans may change. You should call us if you have any questions relating to a specific area or our vegetation management policies and practices. You may also call us if you wish to make other arrangements for your specific property or to question our vegetation control practices. Our Forestry Department can be reached at 1-877-783-8765 or 618-783-8765 during working hours. Our website is www.norriselectric.com.



Retirement

The last day of June was also the last day at work for Norris Electric Cooperative's WildBlue Internet Coordinator Carrie Ford.

Carrie began her career at Norris in the fall of 1992 starting out in the key punch department as every new employee started. From there she was moved to Receptionist and Assistant Cashier. When Norris Electric began a new adventure providing WildBlue Internet, Carrie agreed to assume the responsibilities of the WildBlue Coordinator. This is the position she held until her retirement.

Carrie has been married to Jeff Ford since 1995 and between them they have 5 children, 6 grandchildren and are anxiously awaiting the birth of two more grandchildren. Carrie plans to spend more time traveling to see their kids and grandkids that live in 5 other

states and hopes to share some spare time doing volunteer work.

A carry-in luncheon was enjoyed by the office staff on her last day of work. Carrie received wind chimes and an outdoor water fountain. Everyone at Norris Electric will miss Carrie's easy smile and wish her the best in this new phase of life called retirement.



Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRR)

Prevent Shocks and Burns

Every year in the United States, more than 2,400 children under the age of 10 are treated in emergency rooms for electrical shock or burns caused by tampering with a wall outlet around the home – that is nearly seven children a day. Nearly one-third of these injuries are the result of small children placing ordinary household objects, such as keys, pins, or paperclips into the outlets with disastrous consequences.

Located in practically every room in every house throughout the United States, electrical outlets and receptacles also represent a constant and real danger wherever young children are found.

But now, new technology called tamper resistant receptacles or TRRs can provide a simple, affordable, reliable, and permanent solution to help prevent these kinds of accidents before they occur.

Automatic Protection TRRs, or tamper resistant receptacles, look just like ordinary outlets, but are designed with spring-loaded receptacle cover plates that close off the receptacle openings, or slots.

When equal pressure is simultaneously applied to both sides, the receptacle cover plates open to allow the standard plug to make contact with the receptacle contact points. Without this simultaneous pressure, the cover plates remain closed, preventing insertion of foreign objects and protecting your children from painful, traumatic electrical injuries.

Although not widely used in homes until recently, tamper resistant receptacles have been required in hospital pediatric care facilities for more than 20 years. In fact, TRRs have proven to be so effective that the 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC) now requires them to be installed in all new home construction.

Existing homes can be easily retrofitted with tamper resistant receptacles using the same installation guidelines that apply to standard receptacles, but should only be installed by a licensed electrician.

Though some special interest groups have voiced objections to the code revision because of concerns about the added costs, these specialized outlets cost about \$0.50 more than a traditional receptacle.

In a newly constructed home, TRRs would add as little as 50 dollars to the total cost of the home. In existing homes, standard electrical receptacles can be replaced with TRRs for as little as 2 dollars per outlet – a small price to pay to ensure that your children are protected against electrical shocks and burns from electrical outlets.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

Life Saving Lessons to be Learned

Whether it's swimming, boating or fishing, summertime is water recreation time for millions. While enjoying water activities, don't let a safety hazard dampen your summer fun. As part of its Teach Learn Care TLC campaign, Safe Electricity reminds everyone: Teach what you know about electrical safety. Learn what you need to, and Care enough to share it with those you love.

Electricity is essential energy - it keeps us cool in the summer, lights our house, keeps the refrigerator cold, and runs the TV, stereo and computers. But electricity also can be dangerous. It doesn't take much power to hurt someone - less than one-fifth of the electricity it takes to light a bulb can kill an adult.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends installing and using ground-fault circuit-interrupters (GFCIs) for protection against electrocution hazards involving electrical circuits and underwater lighting circuits in and around pools, spas, and hot tubs.

Assessing electrical hazards near areas of water is a wise investment of time and personal energy. Contact between water and electricity can be serious, or even deadly. According to the CPSC, deaths and serious shocks occur in and around swimming pools each year. Safe Electricity offers the following tips to stay safe in or around swimming pools:

- Do not put any electrical appliances within five feet of a swimming pool.
- Any electrical outlets within twenty feet of a pool should be equipped with a GCFI, or Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter.
- Pools and decks should be built at least 5 feet away from all underground electrical lines, and at least 25 feet away from overhead electrical lines.
- As always, never swim during a thunderstorm.
- Use battery operated, rather than electrical, appliances near swimming pools.
- If a swimmer is electrocuted or shocked, don't dive in yourself or you could be electrocuted as well. Turn off the power, and then use a fiberglass

shepherd's hook to pull the victim out of the water.

When you leave the pool, don't change the radio station or touch any electrical appliances until you are dry - never touch any electrical appliances when you are wet or standing in water. If children wish to play with sprinklers or hoses, emphasize that they should be set up well away from any electrical outlets or appliances. In most instances, if potential safety hazards are taken into consideration and handled proactively, accidents and deaths could be avoided.

Electricity and water are dangerous around larger bodies of water as well. If you plan to go boating or fishing this summer, be aware of your surroundings and potential electrical hazards.

Always check the location of nearby

power lines before boating or fishing. Contact between your boat and a power line could be devastating. Maintain a distance of at least ten feet between your boat and nearby power lines to be safe.

If your boat does come in contact with a power line, never jump out of the boat into the water - the water could be energized. Instead, stay in the boat and avoid touching anything metal until help arrives or until your boat is no longer in contact with the line. Be sure dockside outlets have ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection and check cords that are plugged into them to make sure there is no broken casing or exposed wires.

Check for the location of power lines before fishing. Make sure you are casting the line away from power lines to avoid potential contact.

Electricity travels 186,000 miles per second through water.

ALWAYS keep electrical devices safely away from water.

One thing water and **ELECTRICITY** should never have in common is **YOU.**

DON'T BE THE PATH.

Don't be the common ground between water and electricity.

Safe Electricity.org