

# Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Cooperatives drive democracy

**I**t has often been said that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. It is easy to take our right to vote for granted, maybe because there are so many opportunities to exercise that right. There are national, state and local elections for political offices. Then there are elections for social or other civic organizations. If you own stock, you are asked to vote in those elections. So it is understandable to see how “election fatigue” can take hold.

As we head into the final stage of what has been a divisive national election, it is a good time to remember that elections don’t have to be about name calling and bitterness. Co-ops can and do play a role in cultivating a civil society where people can practice democracy at the hyper local level. As a member of Norris Electric Cooperative you have the right to run for the board of directors. Even if you choose not to have that level of participation, you should feel empowered to reach out to current board members and candidates.

The beauty of belonging to a co-op is every member has a voice, but you must use that voice if you want to be heard on the issues that matter to you. In their document, “A Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade,” the International Cooperative Alliance, a global



organization made up of co-ops from over 100 countries, identified member participation as one of the five key ingredients for a co-op to be successful.

Voting and being actively involved in the affairs of the co-op are key ways in which members can participate. Take the time to get to know candidates running for Norris Electric’s board. Seek out ways that you can help spread the word about the good work your co-op is doing.

The cooperative business model is a great one, it fosters engagement and creates strong communities.

Over 100 years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt recognized this value when he said, “The Cooperative is the best plan of organization. Under this plan, every business is [governed by a board], every person has one vote and only one vote. Everyone gets profits based on their use of the co-op. It develops individual responsibility and has a moral as well as a financial value.”

Those words are truer today than ever before. Let your voice be heard, and take the time to participate in all the elections..

## Jim Tarr Retirement

**J**im Tarr, Forestry Line Clearance Foreman retired from Norris Electric after 40 years of service. Jim started at Norris Electric in 1976 as a Groundman. He also worked as a truck driver and tree trimmer before becoming a Line Clearance Foreman. Jim plans on doing a little traveling, more hunting and spending a lot of time with his family. Congratulations Jim... we wish you well in your retirement!



## Norris Electric Donation

**N**orris Electric presented the Jasper County CEO Board with a \$1000 matching donation to the \$1000 that was received for the year. Shown is Tim Bohnoff from Norris Electric presenting the check to the Jasper County CEO Board of Directors on July 18. (Photo courtesy of Newton Press- Mentor)



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



An average household dedicates about 5% of its energy budget to lighting. Switching to energy-efficient lighting is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bills. By replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating, you can save \$75 each year.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

# Area Banks Accepting Norris Electric Payments

Please remember when you take your payment to the bank it is mailed to us and not directly posted to your account until Norris Electric receives it. This could take several days due to the mail service. Please note these banks are not allowed to take payments if your payment is past due.

Bridgeport	Peoples State Bank
Casey	Regions Bank
	First Neighbor Bank
Dieterich	First National Bank
Effingham	Crossroads Bank
	First National Bank of Dieterich: Effingham Branch
	First National Bank of Dieterich: Lake Sara Branch
Greenup	First Neighbor Bank
Hutsonville	Farmers & Merchants Bank
Lawrenceville	First Financial Bank, NA
	Heritage State Bank
	Peoples State Bank
Newton	First Financial Bank, NA
	First National Bank of Dieterich: IGA Branch
	Peoples State Bank
Oblong	First Financial Bank, NA
Olney	First Financial Bank, NA
Robinson	First Financial Bank, NA
St. Francisville	Peoples State Bank
Ste. Marie	Ste. Marie State Bank
Sigel	Sigel Community Bank
Sumner	First Financial Bank, NA
	Peoples State Bank
Teutopolis	Teutopolis State Bank
	First National Bank of Dieterich: National Trail Banking Center
Toledo	First Neighbor Bank

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## Payment Methods

### Automatic Draft –

Each month NEC will automatically draft your checking or savings account the day before it is due. You will never have to worry about your bill again! Call the office for this convenient option.

### Bank on-line –

This option is set up by your bank. An electronic payment will be transferred to NEC from your bank.

### Over the Phone –

You may choose to call the office during working hours and pay over the phone.

### On-line Payments –

You can make payments on our website. Call the office to get a password.

### Local Banks –

There are several local banks that will accept payments as long as it is not past due. Call the office to see if your bank participates in this service.

### Norris Electric Office –

Members are able to pay at the office during the hours of 7:00am to 5:00pm Monday thru Thursday. There is also a secure drop box at the door where you can leave payment if the office is closed.

### Mobile App –

Download the “Norris App” and pay your bill from your phone. This is a very convenient way to manage your account.

### Mail –

Of course there is always the option of mailing your payment

## Billing Options

### Budget Billing –

Our budget billing plan allows equal monthly payments to members with 12 months of billing history. Budget billing accounts will be recalculated in May and November each year.

### Prepay Billing –

With prepaid billing, you pay for electricity how and when you choose. Purchasing electricity before you use it allows you to control your budget and pay how much you want, when you want. Instead of a monthly statement, your usage and balance are calculated daily. Track your usage by email, text or online and make payments by phone or online.

### Electric Heat Rate –

If a member has electric heat as a main source of heat, they have an option of electric heat rate. Call the office for saving comparisons and details about the value of our program.

## Norris Electric Board of Directors

Gordon McClure (President)	Jasper Co.
Dan Scherer (Vice President)	Lawrence Co.
Dean Dietrich (Secretary-Treasurer).	Richland Co.
Gary Buser	Crawford Co.
Kurt Holscher	Crawford Co.
Gilbert Garbe	Effingham Co.
Ted Helmink	Cumberland Co.
Justin Parcel	Clark Co.
Dave Sheppard	Jasper Co.
Dan Strine	Wabash Co.
Ron Viehman	Lawrence Co.

Aaron Leonard (Attorney)  
General Manager Keith McKinney  
877-783-8765  
877-783-3221 (Outages)

## How to report an Outage

Norris Electric would like to make sure our Members have the proper phone numbers and tools in place to report an outage if the need occurs. There are three different ways to report your outage:

1. **Call 1-877-783-3221**
2. **Download our App**
3. **Text your outage**

All three of these services will notify us of your outage. Even though we have a FaceBook page and several email addresses, please don't rely on FaceBook or email to report your outage. We do not monitor these programs 24/7. If you need assistance with downloading our app or getting set up to text... call our office at 877-783-8765.

## You're a Co-op Member!

Norris Electric Cooperative is an electric cooperative, owned and governed by the 19,000 + households and businesses that use our services. Founded in 1938 to electrify rural areas, our service territory now touches 8 counties in Central/South Illinois and we maintain over 4,075 miles of power lines.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, we're a not-for-profit organization

owned by members. We are committed to providing reliable and affordable energy.

Norris Electric is governed by a board of directors who are residential members of the cooperative and who represent specific counties within our service territory. We adhere to four key cooperative principles: accountability, integrity, innovation, and commitment to community.

## Membership Benefits

As a member-owner, you have a voice in the cooperative which enables you to vote on proposals and directors at Norris Electric's annual meeting each year in February.

You'll receive a free Co-op Connections Card, good for local and national discounts, as well as other

health savings. Learn more at [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop).

You'll also receive a subscription to Illinois Country Living magazine, which contains our monthly member newsletter called Norris News.

You also have access to our local Energy Advisor, who can help you with your energy-related questions or concerns.