

# Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Office Closings



In observance of **Veterans Day**, the office will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, November 11**



In observance of **Thanksgiving**, the office will be **CLOSED** on **Thursday, November 28**

## Board of Director Election Update



Dean Dietrich  
*Richland County*



Ron Viehman  
*Lawrence County*



Larry Seals  
*Wabash County*

There are three board seats up for election with one board member to be elected from each of the following counties: Richland, Lawrence and Wabash. Shown below are the counties and the incumbents from those counties that are slated for election this year.

County	Incumbent
Richland	Dean Dietrich
Lawrence	Ron Viehman
Wabash	Larry Seals

All of the incumbents plan to seek re-election. They must submit a petition signed by at least 25 members to be

placed on the ballot. Any other members that reside and take service in any of the counties above may also submit a petition and be placed on the ballot. Petitions are available now. Members wishing to obtain petitions may call the office and one will be mailed or members may stop at the office and obtain a petition in person. Completed petitions must be in the cooperative headquarters by noon on December 11, 2013.

Petitioners with qualified petitions will be placed on the ballots. Ballots may be voted by return mail or by internet as instructed on the ballots. The results will then be announced at our annual meeting to be held on February 8, 2014.

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# Cooking efficiently

Control energy costs while preparing holiday feasts

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that cooking alone accounts for 4 percent of total home energy use, and this figure doesn't include the energy costs associated with refrigeration, hot water heating, and dishwashing.

As holiday parties and potlucks gear up, keep these tips in mind to control energy costs:

- **Don't peek.** Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, forcing it to use more energy to get back to the proper cooking temperature.
- **Turn it down or turn it off.** For regular cooking, it's probably not necessary to have your oven on as long—or set as high—as the recipe calls for. For recipes that need to bake for longer than an hour, preheating the oven isn't necessary. And residual heat on an electric oven or stovetop will finish the last 5 to 10 minutes of baking time. Just remember to keep the oven door closed or the lid on until time is up. Alternately, if you're baking in a ceramic or glass dish, you can typically set your oven for 25 degrees less than the recipe calls for. Because ceramic and glass hold heat better than metal pans, your dish will cook

just as well at a lower temperature.

- **Give your burners a break.** For your stovetop to function effectively, it's important that the metal reflectors under your electric stove burners stay free of dirt and grime.
- **Don't neglect your slowcooker.** Or your microwave, toaster oven, or warming plate. For example, the average toaster oven can use up to half the energy of the average electric stove over the same cooking time. Information to help you estimate how much energy your own appliances use is available on [EnergySavers.gov](http://EnergySavers.gov).
- **Give your furnace the day off.** If your next party involves a lot of work for your stove, think about turning down your furnace to compensate. The heat of the oven and all those guests will keep the temperature comfortable.
- **Make contact.** Electric stovetops can only transmit heat to pans they are in direct contact with; the less contact your pan has with the burner, the more energy the stovetop will have to expend to heat the pan. If cooking with your warped pan is taking longer than it should, it may be time for a flat-bottomed update.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

# Why I'm thankful for my co-op

At my family's Thanksgiving dinner each year, we all take turns saying something we're grateful for. My list is usually about the same—good health, wonderful family and friends, and a job serving the great people of the Norris Electric service area.

I'm thankful to be a part of Norris Electric Cooperative. Our employees are some of the hardest workers I know. Our mission is to provide affordable, reliable, safe electric power, but we also aim to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. It's a mission we all take seriously.

I'm thankful for Norris Electric because it allows employees to live alongside those we serve. The beauty of a cooperative is that it's locally owned and operated; there are no distant shareholders pulling the strings behind the scenes. Members elect members to serve on the board of directors and govern the co-op. We are your neighbors, your friends, your family.

I'm thankful for my co-op because it serves as a vibrant force in the local economy—partly because we are local. That means Norris Electric is invested in the future of its communities.

I'm thankful for my co-op because we care. From giving scholarships to young people and coordinating an annual food drive to reaching out to members with information that will help them save energy and money, we care about the people and the towns we serve.

Finally, I'm thankful for you, our members and faithful readers, because without you, there'd be no Norris Electric Cooperative.

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us here at your electric co-op.



## Outage Texting –

A Great Way to Report your Electric Outage Afterhours

When your power goes out, you can report your outage by calling 1-877-783-3221 to our answering service or you have the option of texting it in. With the surge of cell phones and popularity of texting, you now have the option to text your outage. Texting outages will provide a quick, effective and convenient option to report your outage for anyone who prefers "texting" over "talking" on the phone. To utilize outage texting, members will need to:

- Have your cell phone number on file at Norris Electric Cooperative. Please contact us at 877-783-8765 to make sure we have it on your account.
- Complete a short registration process on our website, [www.norriselectric.com](http://www.norriselectric.com). (Click on the "Outages" tab in the top right corner by the search box and follow instructions.)

## Eight 2014 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

Norris Electric Cooperative Manager Keith McKinney has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives will again in 2014 award seven academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” In addition, an eighth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The eight scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded in 2014 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Four scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The eighth annual \$1500 scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” was created in 2011 to help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community

College (LLCC), Springfield, IL. LaVern McEntire served as a lineworker for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the new scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard; and individuals participating in the LLCC lineworker’s program are all eligible for the lineworker’s scholarship.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says McKinney. “Norris Electric and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker’s scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker.”

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Norris Electric at 618-783-8765. All necessary paperwork has also been sent to area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative’s website at [norriselectric.com](http://norriselectric.com).

## Budget billing accounts recalculated in November

Members with budget billing for their electric accounts will have their budget amounts recalculated in November. The new budget amount is based on an average of the previous 12 months’ actual charges. The November recalculation could result in a higher or lower monthly budget amount than what you pay now due to increases or decreases in your usage over the prior year. If a change results from the recalculation, a message will be printed at the bottom of your November bill indicating this new amount. If you do not see a message on your bill, your budget amount has remained the same. Your first new budget bill amount will be on your December bill.

Budget billing can help you manage your energy costs by allowing you to allocate the same amount each month. Monthly utility bills can vary significantly throughout the year due to variations in your usage through heating and cooling seasons. With Norris Electric’s budget billing plan you eliminate the month-to-month fluctuations caused by changing weather and usage patterns. It is imperative that members on budget billing still watch their monthly use and outstanding balances to ensure a large increase does not occur during a recalculation month.

If you have any questions regarding budget billing contact the Norris Electric billing department at 877-783-8765.

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# Norris Linemen Power Our Members



During this football season  
and throughout the year,  
Norris's linemen provide  
the power you need,

**NORRIS**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



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