

Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Christmas GREETINGS

Merry Christmas from our family to yours.
We wish you peace and joy throughout the year.

-The directors and employees
of Norris Electric Cooperative.



Our office will be closed December 24 -25 for Christmas and December 31 - January 1 for New Years.

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

2014 rate increase

Norris Electric is committed to delivering quality, reliable power at the lowest possible cost. To maintain the quality, reliability and long term financial stability of the cooperative it is necessary for us to adjust our pricing structure again in 2014. 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 rate increase to you, our members, the Board of Directors approved a stepped plan increase over a three year period beginning in 2012. Your January 2014 bill will reflect the third step of these adjustments. A typical residence using 1000 kWh per month will see an increase in

their bill from \$120.50 to \$136.00 in 2014, an increase of \$15.50 per month. Other residential kWh usage increases are below:

Please keep in mind this is the third of a three year rate increase plan. Smaller increases may be needed in the future to maintain long term financial stability. A cost of service study including a rate design was performed in 2013 to ensure that our rate structure is balanced to be fair to all members.

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 the long term 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 are available to work with you on ways to reduce your energy usage.

KWh	2013 Rate	2014 Rate	Increase
500	\$71.40	\$80.50	\$9.10
1000	\$120.50	\$136.00	\$15.50
1218 - Average	\$141.91	\$160.20	\$18.29
1500	\$169.60	\$191.50	\$21.90

Standby generators

Norris Electric offers the Briggs & Stratton Home Generator System line of standby generators. Briggs & Stratton is one of the leading and most well known names in small engines.

Make sure your home and family are protected by a reliable backup power solution! With a Briggs & Stratton automatic home generator,

you can rely on your lights, home appliances, air conditioner, TVs or computers to stay on during a power outage. Standby generators are permanently installed and connected to your home's natural gas line or liquid propane fuel source.

These units are available with transfer switches that automatically start the unit and transfer to standby

power in the event of a power outage. When electric service is restored, the transfer switch switches back to utility power and shuts the generator down.

Many homes and small business's have pumps, fans, computers and other equipment that require them to have a continuous supply of electric power. With a Briggs & Stratton Home Generator System, you never have to worry about another power outage. With the automatic transfer features, you know your processes and equipment are always operating, even when you are gone.

The Briggs & Stratton product line was chosen for its long history in the small engine business and its commitment to a quality line of products at reasonable prices.

If you are looking for a standby generator you may contact Norris Electric at 877-783-8765.



Board of Director election update

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 (Retiring)

All of the incumbents except Larry Seals of Wabash County intend 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.



Dean Dietrich
Richland County



Ron Viehman
Lawrence County

Director's responsibilities

According to information compiled by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in Washington, D.C. a director's responsibility consists of having the ability and knowledge to set policy and approve programs that are the basis for operating the cooperative. A director must have the time to attend monthly board meeting, other special meetings, and seminars. These special sessions are necessary to keep directors informed on the various aspects of the cooperative and the electric utility industry. Other criteria of a board member as identified by NRECA include:

- Be an independent thinker, but also a cooperator
- Be capable of acquiring the knowledge necessary to cope with the issues of a modern electric utility, including finances, management and public issues
- Possess the character and demeanor that will reflect favorably on behalf of the cooperative

- Have the willingness to listen and learn
- Be one who can accept and direct change
- Be of sufficient stature to command the respect of management, employees, fellow board members, cooperative members and the public
- Be willing to commit adequate time to the work of the board to be an effective member and properly discharge the duties of the board
- Subordinate personal and other business interests to the needs of the cooperative when making a decision
- Be willing to accept the unpleasant moments of a director's experience
- Let management manage

What the board does and does not do

- The board does not oversee Norris Electric Cooperative's

day-to-day operation. Directors establish policies and point the cooperative in the direction they want employees to follow. The employees decide the best way to get the job done.

- Directors aren't required to be walking encyclopedias about electric utilities when they are elected. But it is their job to become knowledgeable about issues facing Norris Electric so they can make intelligent decisions.
- Directors must be accessible to the members they represent. While it helps to be sympathetic to the needs of the members, the director must keep the best interest of the entire cooperative in mind.
- It is expected that each director will be able to attend most regular board meetings and any special meetings that come up from time to time.

IN 1752, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



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75 YEARS OF IMPROVING
THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR
OUR MEMBER-OWNERS.



Supplying electricity to rural America hasn't happened overnight. It takes the same vision, cooperation and determination our members had in 1938. Today, as a member of an electric cooperative, we can influence the future by saving energy. Learn how at TogetherWeSave.com.