


Norris Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

News

Ten 2015 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

Norris Electric Cooperative Manager Keith McKinney has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives in 2015 will award nine academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” In addition, a tenth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The total of ten scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded in 2015 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Five 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 sixth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative director or/ employee. Three additional 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 tenth annual scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” was

awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$1,500 scholarship will 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, Springfield, Ill. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman 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; and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard 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 877-783-8765. 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 www.norriselectric.com.

Norris Electric will be closed for the following Holidays

Christmas Eve
Dec. 24th

Christmas Day
Dec. 25th

New Year’s Eve
Dec. 31st

New Year’s Day
Jan. 1st



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

Outage Information Center:

Outage Map

Members are able to view Norris Electric's outage map by logging on to our website at www.norriselectric.com. By viewing the map it will give members an idea of where the outages are and how many members are affected.

Outage Texting

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 or to avoid on-hold time for widespread outages. To utilize outage texting, members will need to:

1. 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.
2. Complete a short registration process on our website, www.norriselectric.com (Click on the "Outages" tab in the top right corner by the search box and follow instructions.) It is as simple as a couple of clicks and will save time on the phone when an outage occurs. **You will also receive a text when your electric is restored!**

Outage Updates

Facebook/Twitter – Be sure to like us on Facebook and Twitter to receive current outage information and updates.

Board of Director Election Update

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

County	Incumbent
Crawford	Larry Buser (Retiring)
Effingham	Gilbert Garbe
Jasper	Gordon McClure
Lawrence	Dan Scherer

All of the incumbents except Larry Buser of Crawford 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 17, 2014.

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 14, 2015.



You cannot control Mother Nature and now would be a good time for you to purchase a standby generator. 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.

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.



Characteristics and Requirements of an Effective Cooperative Director

Must meet all requirements stipulated by the Bylaws:

- Be a member of Norris Electric Cooperative.
- Be a bona fide resident in the area served by the Cooperative.
- Maintain a homestead located for tax purposes within the area, which the Director shall represent.
- Receive electrical service from the Cooperative to this homestead.
- Not be employed by, or financially interested in, a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative.
- Not related to any current Director or employee of the Cooperative.

Should possess the following basic beliefs and viewpoints:

- Believe in basic Cooperative principles and way of doing business including the right of people to provide an essential service for themselves, member ownership and control, one member-one vote, and nonprofit operation.
- Believe the Cooperative should continually strive to make reasonably priced power available to its members and to achieve this, has the right to join with other cooperatives as a member in a generation and transmission cooperative.

Possess the following personal characteristics as demonstrated by his/her actions:

- Be a proven leader in his or her community with broad interests.
- Be of highest integrity and have the respect of residents in the community in which he or she lives.
- Be able to exercise sound judgment and logical reasoning.

Should be able to make a meaningful contribution to carrying out the functions of a Director, including:

- Conduct fiduciary responsibilities of a Board of Directors including:
 - Hire a manager.

- Approve a budget.
- Approve loans.
- Approve rates.
- Establish policies and initiatives.
- Monitor variances in budget.
- Be willing and able to give the time to prepare for and attend meetings (8 to 10 hours per week) of the Board or committees of the Board, meetings of allied organizations, and director training programs including, but not limited to:
 - Meetings called by the Board of Directors (With a few exceptions, Monthly Board meetings are currently held the third Wednesday of the month starting at 8:30 a.m.)
 - Allied organizations meetings – optional (3 or more days per year)
 - Director training programs – optional (may total 10 or more days)
 - Certified credential director programs are available and completion is strongly recommended
- Make significant contributions to Board meetings by raising pertinent and discerning questions and by contributing innovative ideas and suggestions.
- Study data and other information presented to the Board to keep fully informed.
- Support the decisions and actions of the board once arrived at by action of the majority of the Board.
- Represent the total membership on an impartial basis, not just those in his/her district.
- Make every effort to obtain increasing member and public understanding and support of the Cooperative and the electric cooperative program.
- Become skilled in raising questions about the end results being achieved and in interpreting operating and financial reports.
- Provide leadership to meet the

changing needs of the membership and contribute to the development of the Cooperative's service area.

- Be an independent thinker, but also a cooperator.
- Capable of acquiring the knowledge necessary to cope with the issues of an electric utility, including finances, management, and public issues.
- Willing to listen and learn.
- Possess the character and demeanor that will reflect favorably on behalf of the Cooperative.
- Be of sufficient stature to command the respect of management, employees, fellow Board members and the public.
- Willing to accept and direct change.
- Willing to commit adequate time to the work of the Board and to properly discharge the duties of the Board.
- Able to subordinate personal and other business interests to the needs of the Cooperative when making a decision.
- Able to set policy and approve programs that benefit the Cooperative as a whole.
- Willing to accept the unpleasant moments of a Director's experience.
- Allow management to manage.

Other Information:

- Compensation as a director on the Board is provided per Board Policy.
- Directors are expected to have access to the Internet and email from their home.
- Monthly Internet fees are considered to be covered in the monthly per diem.
- Directors are required to maintain or update software applications that allow them to access files used for their role as a director.
- The cooperative will provide group or individual training on software applications as requested.
- The cooperative will provide an email address that is to be used for cooperative-related business only.

'Tis the season for family, fellowship – and lots of cooking.



No matter what or how you celebrate, energy use tends to increase over the holiday season. With more guests in your home and activities taking place, your electric meter spins a little faster than usual, costing you more money. Start the New Year off right. Celebrate the holidays *efficiently* so you don't have to worry about a high electric bill.

Decorating

- If you choose to decorate with strings of lights, consider LED (light emitting diode) options. They use over 80 percent less energy than traditional strings of lights and have a longer life. Make sure to purchase high quality strings from reputable sources. Safety and the lifetime can be compromised in less expensive LED strands.
- Solar powered lighting options are also worth considering for decorations. Instead of having a plug handy, make sure you have a proper location for the solar panel that powers them.
- Place strands of electric lights on timers so they automatically turn on in the evening after the sun sets, and turn them off around bed time. You won't have to spend time thinking about plugging and unplugging them, and you won't have to spend money powering them when unnecessary.
- Decorate with less lighting. Consider a natural, vintage feel for your decorations. Use items like pinecones, greenery, candy canes, popcorn strings and gingerbread. The whole family can get involved with decorating the home with these safe and festive items.

Cooking

- Cook with your microwave, toaster oven or slow cooker whenever possible. Small appliances cook quickly and more efficiently than your oven.
- When you do use the oven, cook more than one item at a time. Have a ham, sweet potato casserole and rolls that all need to cook in the oven? Make some adjustments to cooking temperatures and times, and put all your dishes in at once to take full advantage of the heat that's being produced.
- Don't peek! It's tempting to open the oven door to check on holiday treats. Use the oven light instead, and keep the door closed. This will keep the heat where it belongs – inside the oven.
- Glass and ceramic dishes allow you to cook food at a lower temperature than metal baking dishes. If the recipe calls for a metal baking pan and you substitute glass or ceramic cookware, reduce the temperature by about 25 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Have food defrosted before you cook. Simply planning ahead can cut cooking times and energy use in half. Place any frozen dishes in the refrigerator the night before so they are ready to go in the oven the next morning.

Around the house

- Turn down your thermostat a few degrees. Extra people bustling around the home and the oven warming food will heat up your home a few extra degrees. Take advantage and adjust your thermostat accordingly. You will save some money on your bill, and your guests will still be comfortable.