



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

HOMEPAGE

www.enerstar.com | A monthly newsletter for co-op members of EnerStar Electric Cooperative

Ten 2018 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

Applications due December 31

EnerStar CEO Mike Clark has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives in 2018 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 \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2018 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 employee or director. 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,” is a \$2,000 scholarship and 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. 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 Clark. “EnerStar 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 EnerStar’s Angela Griffin at 800-635-4145 or agriffin@enerstar.com. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative’s website at www.enerstar.com under the “My Community” section.

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EnerStar, Wabash Valley Power dedicate solar array

Here comes the sun!

EnerStar employees and directors recently hosted a dedication ceremony in late September at the Paris Solar Generating Station. The new solar array, located just north of the cooperative's office on Illinois Route 1 in Paris, is now producing solar energy.

EnerStar, along with other participating electric cooperatives, have partnered with Wabash

Valley Power to offer solar energy to the cooperative membership. Wabash owns the solar array and is EnerStar's wholesale power provider. EnerStar is simply a host site for one of Wabash's solar arrays.

"By partnering with other electric co-ops, we can create a program that is more efficient than if we were to simply launch a smaller program on our own," said EnerStar CEO Mike Clark.

Clark explained that with Co-op Solar, co-op members can participate in solar energy without having to install and maintain solar panels. "There will be two options available. The first is a simple, pay-as-you go option, with little commitment," said Clark. He added that a second option that will be available is similar to owning your own array, with a longer-term commitment and a future payback, but without insurance and maintenance costs.



Meet Ray, Co-op Solar mascot!

For more information about this program, call the EnerStar office at 1-800-635-4145 or go online to visit www.powermoves.com/solar.



EnerStar CEO Mike Clark and Wabash CEO Jay Bartlett



EnerStar employees join Ray for the official ribbon cutting to dedicate the new solar array

Get to know your cooperative departments

As we continue our series of getting to know your co-op employees and their duties, we turn our spotlight toward employees who tend to be a bit more visible to co-op members. These are the employees that really keep the lights on: the line crew.

EnerStar does all that it can to reduce the number of power outages our members may experience. And if the power does go out, our goal is to get it back on as quickly and safely as possible. Mother Nature sometimes has her own plans, but you can count on EnerStar crews to be there if needed - rain or shine, hot or cold, day or night.

At the cooperative, "running tickets" most days is Maintenance Crew Leader Archie Eslinger. His day varies greatly depending on the needs of the members. He connects or disconnects electric service, maintains security lighting, and handles job tickets that come from member requests. He also handles system repairs that go along with the day to day operations of the electric cooperative.

When it comes to power quality, Systems Crew Leader Dana Young takes the lead on making sure our



Left to right: Archie Eslinger, Dana Young, and Kent Milbourn

electric system is performing well. You will often see him making improvements at our nine substations as well as making sure that breakers and regulators are working properly.

Construction Foreman Kent Milbourn coordinates all construction jobs that relate to the electric system. That request may come in from a new member building a new house or upgrading electric service, or the scheduled work may be on the cooperative's behalf to replace old poles or change out a conductor,

for example. He also supervises the forestry crew that plays a vital role in reducing power outages.

All three men are Paris natives and have many years of service at the cooperative. Eslinger and Young began their careers in 1990 while Milbourn joined the cooperative in 1998.

Having the latest technology is important to a well maintained electric system, but co-op employees are an important spoke in the wheel at your electric cooperative!

Capital credit refunds approved

At the September 2017 meeting, after review of the cooperative's financial position, the Board of Directors voted to return capital credits to current and former members of the cooperative.

"For many years now, EnerStar's strategic focus has been to simultaneously improve the cooperative's financial status while upgrading our utility infrastructure," said Mike Clark, EnerStar CEO. "We are pleased to say we are accomplishing our goal."

As a non-profit electric cooperative, EnerStar allocates annual

operating margins, or profits, to members receiving service during the year. These margins are based on usage and are called capital credits. Capital credits represent the member's equity and remain on file until EnerStar's board of directors determines a general refund may be issued.

At the meeting, the board voted to issue approximately \$687,525 in capital credit refund checks to members who received electric service for years 1982 to

1984. These checks are expected to be mailed the second week of December to those who received electric service during that time period.



Youth to Washington

Candidates sought to represent EnerStar

For over 50 years, the electric cooperatives of Illinois have given tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to learn from today's public officials. And EnerStar is on the hunt to for two outstanding students to represent our cooperative at the Youth Tour this year.

EnerStar's Youth Tour is actually two separate events: **Youth Day in Springfield in April, 2018**, and the **week-long, all-expense paid Youth to Washington trip on June 8 - 15, 2018**.

Candidates should be high school sophomores or juniors in the fall of 2017. In addition, candidates must reside in the EnerStar service territory and receive their electricity from EnerStar.

To learn more and apply online, visit www.enerstar.com where you will find the application in the "My Community" section. The deadline to apply is

December 31, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact EnerStar's Angela Griffin at 800-635-4145, extension 103 or via email at agriffin@enerstar.com.



VETERAN'S DAY
Honoring all who served.

**Office is closed November 10
for Veterans Day.**

**THANKSGIVING
HOLIDAY**

**Office is closed
November 23 and 24
for Thanksgiving**



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