



Norris Electric Cooperative holds 79th Annual Meeting

Norris Electric Cooperative held its 79th annual meeting of members, Saturday, Feb. 11, at Newton Community High School. The members, who filled the gym floor seating, heard reports on the cooperative's finances, forestry projects and upgrades to its infrastructure.

Board President Gordon McClure addressed the possible changes the new presidential administration could have on some of the current burdensome EPA regulations on coal plants, coal mining and waters of the U.S. "We all want clean air, safe water and affordable energy," McClure said. "But, we had to recognize the EPA's authority to regulate had been overdone." McClure also explained the board's process, over the past year, to select a new manager to replace retiring Manager Keith McKinney. A board committee was formed instead of using an outside search firm. In September of 2016 it announced the selection of Tamara Phillips, a 34-year employee of the cooperative.

Norris Electric Manager Tamara Phillips welcomed members, stated she had served under three of the previous four managers, and expressed her honor at being selected to direct the cooperative into the future.

Phillips updated attendees on the work the cooperative had undertaken in 2016 including upgrading over 20 miles of line and building 11 miles of

new line. She also reported that aggressive line clearance work was completed and the cooperative is on track to achieve a four-year trimming rotation. Line clearance results in increased reliability by reducing outages caused by trees.

She also thanked Norris Electric employees for their commitment to the cooperative and



Shown (L-R) are re-elected Board Directors Dan Strine, Dean Dietrich, Ron Viehman and Manager Tamara Phillips.

its members. Phillips reported that in 2016 employees had worked 130,272 hours and driven 537,806 miles, all without a safety incident, which exhibits their commitment to safety.

Board Treasurer Dean Dietrich reported that the cooperative had revenue of \$44,304,413 and 66 percent of that amount was used by the cooperative to buy the power members needed

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from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative. About 29 percent of the total was used for operating expenses, depreciation expenses and taxes and the remaining 5 percent which includes interest revenue and other non-operating margins is allocated to the members as capital credits.

During the meeting, it was announced that Dan Strine of Wabash County, Ron Viehman of Lawrence County, and Dean Dietrich of Richland County has been re-elected to new three-year terms on the board of directors.

Norris Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy - an alliance of 750 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. Norris Electric is committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The co-op serves more than 19,478 meters over 4,089 miles of line in parts of Clark, Crawford, Cumberland, Effingham, Jasper, Lawrence, Richland and Wabash counties. For more information visit www.norriselectric.com. Norris Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Lives on the line

By Meghaan Evans

Every year, we take the time to thank our extraordinary lineworkers who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Norris Electric lineworkers maintain 4,089 miles of line in eight counties, and without them, our world would be dark.

We depend on our entire staff to keep Norris Electric running smoothly, but on April 10, 2017, we honor all lineworkers who often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations, so our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer every day. These brave men and women repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for

our communities. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. No matter the time—day or night, weekday or weekend—if the lights go out, so do they.

Perhaps you have seen them raising their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains, or in freezing, icy conditions. They work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in our co-op community.

In addition to aiding members in our local service territory, lineworkers are always willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring

community, county or state is in need after a major outage occurs.

Our lineworkers are brave, committed and critical to our success.

We hope you will join us in thanking the many lineworkers—both locally and around the world—that light our lives. Remember, your power works because they do! Use #ThankALineman on social media to show your support.

Meghaan Evans writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

National Lineman Day – April 10th

“Let us introduce you to our Linemen who keep your lights on”



Erik Steffen



Ralph Bowersock, Jr.



Scott Ghast



Travis Sipe



Arnie Johnson, Bill Fields, Tony Zuber and Matt Mitchell



Kent Benefiel, Steve Hunzinger and Ben Bierman



Doug Page and Scott Johnson



Ed Hannaman and Keith Long



Matt Roedl, Joe Sowers and Justin Mahaffey

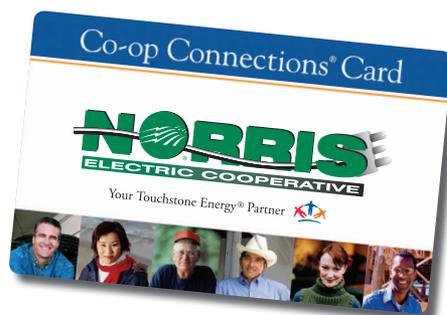


Doug Althoff, Ian Moore and Casey Fulk



Jeff Higgs and Doug Casey

Great discounts when you use your Co-op Connection Card!



Highlights for the month of April:

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| Effingham Tire and Auto Center, Effingham, IL | FREE alignment with the purchase of 4 tires |
| Miller Feed & Tack, Flat Rock, IL | 10% off all clothing & boots, Full line of Western clothing & boots, work boots & Carhartt |
| C&T Richland Motor Parts – Napa Auto Parts, Olney, IL | 10% off all regular retail priced merchandise |
| Louis Ochs Chevrolet Buick, Newton, IL | Purchase any new vehicle or GM Program/company vehicle & receive \$100.00 credit on accessories or \$75.00 credit toward the purchase price. |
| Schuetz Companies LLC, Olney, IL | Free consultation and estimate for any commercial or residential project. (\$250 value) |
| As a Norris Electric Member, make sure to use your free Co-op Connections Card for discounts and valuable offers at local businesses and national retailers for those everyday purchases and gifts. Go online to search for local and national deals by zip code or by category at www.connections.coop . | |

Need a New Card? Contact us at 1-877-783-8765

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Earth Day is April 22. Give back to the environment by planting a deciduous tree near your home. Deciduous trees lose their leaves during the fall, allowing sunlight to warm your home. The extra shade during summer months will keep your home cooler and give your AC a much needed break.

Five Easy Ways to CELEBRATE EARTH DAY Every Day

1. Conserve water by taking showers instead of baths.
2. Turn off all lights when you leave a room.
3. Bring your reusable bags to the market and other stores when shopping.
4. Go paperless. Pay as many bills as possible online.
5. Ditch the car and walk when possible.