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A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

EnerStar member and lineman wins Father of the Year

Check out page 22 of Illinois Country Living (ICL) magazine for a familiar face! Our very own member and lineman Chad Cornwell has been named the 2018 Father of the Year by ICL. Chad was nominated by his niece Breanne Like for raising her as his daughter after tragically losing her mother at age 1 and grandmother at 13.

After graduating from Paris High School in 1990, Chad attended Lake Land College studying pre-engineering. A friend told him about the rewarding opportunities of power line work, and he headed in a new direction. He went to lineman school at Northwest Iowa Technical College. He began his career at EnerStar in 1999 where he completed his apprenticeship. Before coming to EnerStar, he worked for the city of Marshall and Ameren.

Chad, along with other members of EnerStar's line crew, has volunteered to work in Alabama after Hurricane Ivan and Hurricane Dennis, Louisiana following Hurricane Rita, and most recently returned from New Hampshire following severe storms in the northeast.

Chad resides in Paris with his wife Leighsa and three children: Colton, 9; Claire, 5 and Catelynn, 2.

Breanne Like was raised in Paris, graduating from Paris High School in 2005. She went on to graduate from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. She currently resides in Evansville, Ind. with her husband David, step-daughter Madalyn and 3-month-old son Mason. She is a chemist at Red Spot Paint & Varnish and David is a lineman for Vectren.

Father of the Year began in 2008 by the Association of Illinois Electric

Cooperatives (AIEC) and ICL magazine. The campaign invites readers to nominate a deserving father with a 500 word essay every two years, alternating with Mother of the Year. All submissions are judged by an in-house committee at AIEC, and the winner must be an Illinois cooperative member.

EnerStar played no role in the Father of the Year campaign, and was only notified after a winner was chosen.



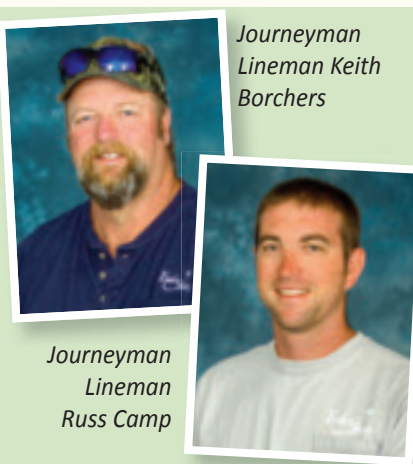
The Cornwell family gathers for a photo. Back row, L to R, Colton and Claire. Front row, Breanne Like, Chad holding grandson Mason Like, and Leighsa holding Catelynn.

EnerStar in the community

Seven cooperative principles guide all electric co-ops including EnerStar. Two of them are “Concern for the Community” and “Education, Training and Information.” The education and training does not just apply to co-op employees. It is our mission to reach out and educate those living in the communities we serve. In April, we had several opportunities to do just that.

Journeyman Lineman Keith Borchers visited Casey-Westfield High School for a career fair attended by 190 students. Keith shared information with them regarding careers at the co-op: lineman, accountant,

member-owner service and more. But with line work being Keith’s passion, he highlighted the tools that



*Journeyman
Lineman Keith
Borchers*

*Journeyman
Lineman
Russ Camp*

line workers use in the field every day. This is always a big hit with students. They are often shocked at the weight of the equipment.

The next day, Journeyman Lineman Russ Camp participated in the Sixth Grade Ag Safety Day sponsored by Clark County Farm Bureau. The event was held at the Martinsville Fairgrounds and attended by students from Casey, Marshall and Martinsville. Russ presented on electrical safety with a tabletop safety display that mimics dangers on the farm. The lessons can be expanded to our everyday lives.

EnerStar Electric sends students to Youth Day

State Representative Brad Halbrook recently met with two local high school students representing EnerStar Electric Cooperative during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day in Springfield. Bethanny Lawson of Paris and Chase Mayne of Martinsville, along with about 210 other students from around Illinois, had an opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action and question their legislators on key issues. They also were invited into the office of Secretary of State Jesse White.

During lunch, Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti addressed students and chaperones. Sanguinetti discussed her humble beginnings and being encouraged to not allow her background to limit her future. With her passion for volunteerism in local communities, she challenged students, “you never know where life may take you. Volunteer, make a difference. If not you, then who?” Illinois State Fair Manager Luke Sailer, a former Illinois Youth



*Pictured with
Representative
Brad Halbrook are
students Bethanny
Lawson of Paris and
Chase Mayne of
Martinsville. Youth
Day is designed to
introduce young
rural leaders to
state government.
There were 24 co-
ops from across the
state represented at
the event.*

Leadership Council representative, challenged the students to take an interest in the political process and stressed how important their voices and actions are. He encouraged them to “take a leap of faith and work hard, and doors will open for you and your future.”

Faye Yang, the 2017-18 Illinois Youth Leadership Council Representative from Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, spoke about her experiences on the Youth to Washington tour and challenged attendees to maintain an interest in

their cooperatives and the political process. After lunch, the students also visited the Old State Capitol and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

In June, Lawson and Mayne will both represent EnerStar at the weeklong Youth to Washington trip. Applications for this opportunity will be posted on the co-op’s website in the fall with a Dec. 31 deadline for the following year’s trip. For more information about Youth to Washington, contact EnerStar’s Kelly McCrocklin at 800-635-4145.



Journeyman Lineman Chad Cornwell and Apprentice Linemen Chase Graham and Austin Swango participated in the EnerStar Safety Day. In this fun session, they allowed the children to try on equipment, enjoy a pole climbing and bucket truck demonstration, and played a tug-a-war game as they pulled a transformer up a pole.

EnerStar sparks learning during a visit from area fourth graders

The safety of our members is important to EnerStar Electric Cooperative. So throughout year, your locally-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative does its part to promote consumer education about how electricity works and how to prevent electrical accidents. We consider it part of our responsibility to the communities we serve to make sure people of all ages respect electricity and know how to be careful around it. A perfect place to spread the word is with the youth in the communities we serve.

“Teaching electrical safety at a young age ensures those lessons and concepts will remain with the children as they mature into adults,” said EnerStar’s Angela Griffin. “Events like these are an important part of EnerStar’s mission. It gives us a chance to showcase the cooperative’s role in the community while educating our youth on the proper way to

handle an electrical emergency.”

This year’s event was attended by Paris Crestwood, Paris Wenz, Martinsville, Paris St Mary’s and Shiloh. The cooperative covers all transportation costs for the schools. “We realize school budgets are tight and feel because this event is so important, it is money well spent,” added Griffin.

The main part of the program is the Live Line Demo by Daren Daverman, who works at an electric co-op in Bloomington, Ill. His display contains 7,200 volts of electricity and is constructed with the same poles, transformers and line hardware used by EnerStar, but he takes his lesson further as he teaches the children what happens if someone were to get into a power line or if a car they are traveling in hits a utility pole. With the use of props such as a fake squirrel, a hot dog and a balloon, Daverman taught the children

about the many dangers of electricity and how to be safe around it.

The Live Line Demo was followed with the personal testimony of EnerStar member Delmar Bell, a Paris farmer who was injured in a power line accident over 30 years ago. The accident caused Bell the loss of his arms. Bell explains that he participates in the event because, “I want young children to learn from my mistake. I never knew the slogan ‘Look up and live.’”

The impact of Bell’s personal testimony gets the students’ attention.

“We really appreciate Delmar attending the EnerStar Safety Day each year,” said Griffin. “I admire the fact that he took this tragedy and turned it into a positive experience. His message not only drives home the importance of being safe around electricity but also teaches the children a lesson on perseverance.”

EnerStar Electric members gain long-term benefits from low-cost solar deal

Members of EnerStar Electric, along with 22 other member co-ops of Wabash Valley Power (WVPA), will benefit from a long-term agreement to purchase the energy and capacity generated by what will be the largest solar array built in Illinois.

EnerStar's wholesale supplier of electricity, WVPA, will be the sole buyer of the energy produced from the Prairie State Solar Project, a 99-megawatt (MW) array to be built on privately owned land in Perry County, Ill. New York-based Ranger Power, a utility-scale solar development company, will build the array, which will produce enough electricity to power 15,000 homes. Groundbreaking is scheduled for late 2019 with operations beginning in 2021. WVPA entered into a 30-year agreement to purchase the

power produced by the array, while the renewable energy credits (RECs) associated with the project will be sold through the Illinois Power Agency REC procurement process.

The Prairie State Solar Project will more than double the solar capacity in Illinois. The Solar Energy Industries Association reports that installed solar projects statewide collectively total 81.5 MW.

"As a not-for-profit cooperative, our first priority is to provide reliable, affordable energy to our members," said Mike Clark, CEO of EnerStar Electric. "This agreement locks in a low-cost fuel source that helps us manage our bottom line and keep costs contained over the next 30 years. Because it is solar, we are proud of the environmental benefits, too."

Ranger Power has been engaged with state and county officials throughout the development of the project. "We're excited to be one step closer to moving forward with this meaningful investment in our county which will support new jobs and new revenues for our community to invest in schools, roads and bridges," said State Rep. Terri Bryant.

The project represents a nearly \$100 million new investment in southwestern Illinois that will contribute millions in tax revenue without requiring additional public infrastructure or services. It will create an estimated 200 jobs during construction and three to five full-time positions once the site is operational.



INDEPENDENCE DAY

Our office will be closed on July 4th in observance of Independence day.

COOPERATIVE HEADQUARTERS

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Monday through Friday
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