


# Norris Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# News



*Pictured with Senator Dale Righter are students representing Norris Electric Cooperative: Kendra Biggs, Derick Budde, Emily Carlen, Taylor Curry, Olivia Eckhardt, Colby Garrard, Emily Gharst, Jeffrey Hermann, Cameron Kalber, Blake Knoblett, Allison McElravy, Shyann Morecraft, Allie Painter, Addison Pinkston, Kaitlyn Rogers, Josh Rosborough, Jacelyn Street, Chalyda Tarr, Curtis James Wiley, Reese Williamson, Jessica Wilson and Justin Zumbahlen.*

## Norris Electric youth visit State Capitol

State Senator Dale Righter, Representative Darren Bailey, Representative Chris Miller and Representative Brad Halbrook met with students representing Norris Electric Cooperative during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day in Springfield on Wednesday, April 3. Youth Day is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. More than 235 students representing 23 co-ops from across the state attended the event.

Students had the opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action from the Senate floor and question their legislators on key issues. They were also invited into the office of Secretary of State Jesse White.

During lunch, State Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs addressed students and chaperones and encouraged them to find where their passion lies. Frerichs said, "It doesn't matter what you do if you love what you are doing. Find your own path. There may be times when you start down a path and

diverge from it but listen to your heart. Sometimes you have to immerse yourself in something and possibly fail. Even when we don't win, we learn from the experience."

Collin Moseley, the 2018-19 Illinois Youth Leadership Council representative from Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc., reflected on the past year and the experiences he had on the Youth to Washington Tour and his opportunity to represent Illinois at various meetings. He encouraged everyone going on the 2019 Youth to Washington Tour to apply to represent Illinois as the YLC and not be afraid to connect with others on the trip.

After lunch, the students visited the Old State Capitol and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

At the end of the day, the students were interviewed for the chance to participate in the Youth to Washington Tour, June 14-21, 2019.

# National Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. You can do your part to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

Don't attempt electrical DIY projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations

or pad mount transformers that look amiss. Contact us at 877-783-8765 or visit our website at [www.norriselectric.com](http://www.norriselectric.com) for additional electrical safety tips. If you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school, organization's meeting or community event, please contact us for more information. And remember to be mindful when it comes to electrical safety.


**May is Electrical Safety Month.**  
**Safety Starts with You.**

**#ElectricalSafetyMonth**



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the A/C to run longer than necessary.

*Source: energy.gov*


## POWERFUL CONNECTIONS

The Economic Impact of America's Electric Cooperatives

In 2017, electric cooperatives...

**Supported 611,600** American jobs.

- 165,800 direct jobs
- 170,900 indirect jobs
- 274,900 induced jobs\*




**JOBS**

\*Jobs that are created as a direct or indirect result of the work electric cooperatives do.

**Generated \$22.5 billion** in federal, state and local taxes.


- \$10.5 billion in federal tax
- \$12.0 billion in state/local tax

**Contributed \$88.4 billion** to U.S. GDP, including **\$40.4 billion** in labor income to American workers.



**GDP**

**Labor Income**



NRECA  
America's Electric Cooperatives

## YOU get the credit!

Norris Electric retires \$2,018,748.86

Norris Electric is a cooperative, which makes it different from other utilities in many ways. One of the biggest examples of this difference is capital credits. This year, the cooperative refunded \$2,018,748.86 of capital credits to members who bought electricity from 1979 through 1981.

Most companies charge above and beyond what it actually costs them to run their business so they can generate profits for their investors. Norris does not operate this way. As a cooperative, Norris operates at-cost. Our rates are set to collect enough revenue to run and improve the business, not to generate profits for shareholders.

Each year, if there is excess revenue, it is divided and allocated as capital credits among all of Norris Electric's members. The dollar amount is based on how much electricity each member purchased that year. When the financial condition of the cooperative permits, these capital credits are "retired," or paid, to the member in the form of a check. Norris is proud to give back to our members and their families.

Checks will be mailed in May to members who bought electricity from 1979-1981. Contact our office at 877-783-8765 or email [capitalcredits@norriselectric.com](mailto:capitalcredits@norriselectric.com) with any questions.

# Making safety a top priority

"Safety" is a universal word that is mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small as well as companies across all industries are committed to safety. Norris Electric Cooperative has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else. We strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to our members, but equally important, we want to return our employees home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

Norris Electric rolled out a program called "Commitment to Zero Contacts," which is a national initiative designed to provide cooperatives resources to help eliminate serious injuries and fatalities due to electrical contact and enhance co-op safety programs. The program was kicked off with an informative session of why, what, when and where to apply this concept.

Gerry Kinney was one of the guest speakers for the day, and he talked to the group about the day that changed his life forever. Here is his story:

Gerry Kinney, a line foreman from Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative in Fairfield, was working on an electric line in July 2015 not knowing that in just minutes, his world would change forever. It was a typical day that included tasks that he had done many times in the past, without injury.

While working on an overhead line, he came into contact with a live line, just enough for it to enter his body on one side and exit out the other, severely burning both arms. The contact was subtle at first, as he did not know it happened, until he realized he had lost feeling in both hands. Upon inspection, it was clear, contact was made on his little finger and traveled through his body. It did not even cause a blink on the line, and there was no flash.

Thanks to the safety training his fellow linemen had been taking on a regular basis, Gerry was lifted down from his bucket and an Air Evac helicopter arrived shortly to transport him to a hospital in St. Louis.

What would follow would be many months of excruciating pain and an eventual double amputation on both arms. Despite all this, Gerry was thankful he was alive. Doctors working with him were amazed that he survived such an accident. Most who have do not make it.

Gerry went through numerous physical therapy sessions and was eventually fitted with prostheses for both arms. These "miracles of technology" allow Gerry to live as close as humanly possible in his condition, a normal life. He has tested many different prostheses and has evolved into a consultant to the manufacturer, providing input to help make a better product for amputees. He enjoys testing different products and offering suggestions.

Gerry is grateful and blessed to be alive and is a huge inspiration to fellow Linemen. He has shared

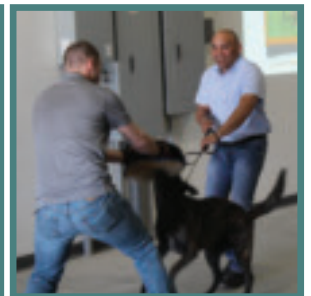


his story with many cooperatives and different organizations expressing his love for life and how it can change in a moment.

The "Commitment to Zero Contacts" program ended with an afternoon session with guest speaker Hector Hernandez. Hector is powerful speaker with an emphasis on improving the world by empowering people, disrupting organizational structures and providing expertise on interpersonal-relations issues. He gave insight on how to get along with difficult people and how to communicate and listen effectively. Hector also presented a session with his trained dog on how to avoid a dog attack and what to do if being attacked.

By initiating the "Commitment to Zero Contact" program, Norris Electric is cultivating a culture of openness and transparency and promote problem solving with regard to safety. We examine the information and data gleaned from near-misses and accident reports to discern patterns and use safety metrics to improve in those areas where we have fallen short. This initiative is to keep safety the first thought of every move and to ensure our linemen return home at night to their families.

Gerry was accompanied by Jim Miles, manager of safety and loss control for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.





## Help us reduce your costs

Are you paying your electric or internet bill by credit card or debit card? Did you know that every time a credit or debit card is used, Norris Electric pays a fee? It is true. Norris Electric pays a percentage of the total amount charged to your card. In order to keep members costs low, we encourage you to review other payment options. Mail your check to the office

- Set up recurring bank draft from your checking or savings account
- Make a payment at one of the convenient local banks
- Set up electronic payment from your bank to be transferred to Norris Electric
- Pay by e-check from our automated phone system
- Pay online with e-check at [www.norriselectric.com](http://www.norriselectric.com)
- Download the Norris app on your smartphone and pay by autopay or e-check
- Make check or cash payment in our office

Please contact the office to make changes that will reduce costs for everyone.

## Word Search

Find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

CIRCUIT  
 CONDUCTOR  
 DIRECTOR  
 ELECTRICITY  
 ENERGY  
 GENERATOR  
 HYDROPOWER  
 JULIE  
 KILOWATT  
 LINEMAN  
 MEGAWATT  
 MEMBER  
 METER  
 POLE  
 REGULATOR  
 RURAL  
 UTILITY  
 VOLTAGE  
 WIRE

P	U	N	K	I	L	O	W	A	T	T	T	L	G	M	G
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K	R	R	E	W	O	P	O	R	D	Y	H	C	M	P	M
V	M	R	O	T	A	L	U	G	E	R	M	R	B	Z	R