

# NEWS, NOTES & VIEWS 06/19

## Meet Your Board of Directors

*Kevin Klein*



Between Murrayville and Franklin, in southeastern Morgan County, sits a small vacation rental business, aptly named Peace on the Prairie. There, visitors from across the country and around the world can seek relaxation, freedom from hustle and bustle, and, well, peace, all the while surrounded by 24 acres of reclaimed prairie, part of a reclamation process begun in 1990. The man behind the business and the prairie is Kevin Klein, who, aside from being a Professor of Economics at Illinois College for 33 years, has also donned the title of IEC Director since June of 2017.

Though a relative newcomer to the Board, and to his duties as a director, Kevin brings with him both personal and professional experience which have proven—and will continue to prove—valuable to the cooperative and its membership.

*continued...*



## Illinois Electric Cooperative

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When Kevin purchased the rural spot, which would later become the center of his business away from work nearly 30 years ago, he had little interest in nor knowledge of electric cooperatives. “I just wanted to get my electricity,” he jokes. A far cry from an aspiring board member, his then-lack of interest in serving on the Board, combined with career and family responsibilities, made him seem an unlikely candidate for the job.

Fast-forward to 2017, when a seat on the Board became available, and Kevin found his job and family were demanding less attention than they previously had. Joining the Board of Directors for an electric cooperative allowed Kevin to play to some of his greatest strengths: namely, a career teaching all levels of economics to college students, and experience starting and operating his own business. “It’s a really good fit for me.” He has since furthered his commitment to board membership by completing multiple levels of training offered to board members through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), which include Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD), Board Leadership (BL), and Gold qualifications.

The commitment to both personal and professional growth does not end there. Kevin also brings to the Board his desire to listen to the wants and needs of members and fellow Directors. He believes an understanding of all sides of an issue, as well as the motivations behind them, allows for a keener understanding of the problems, the potential solutions, and the people involved. As for his colleagues, Kevin thinks very highly of his fellow board members. “I am proud to serve with such a high quality group of people who care.”

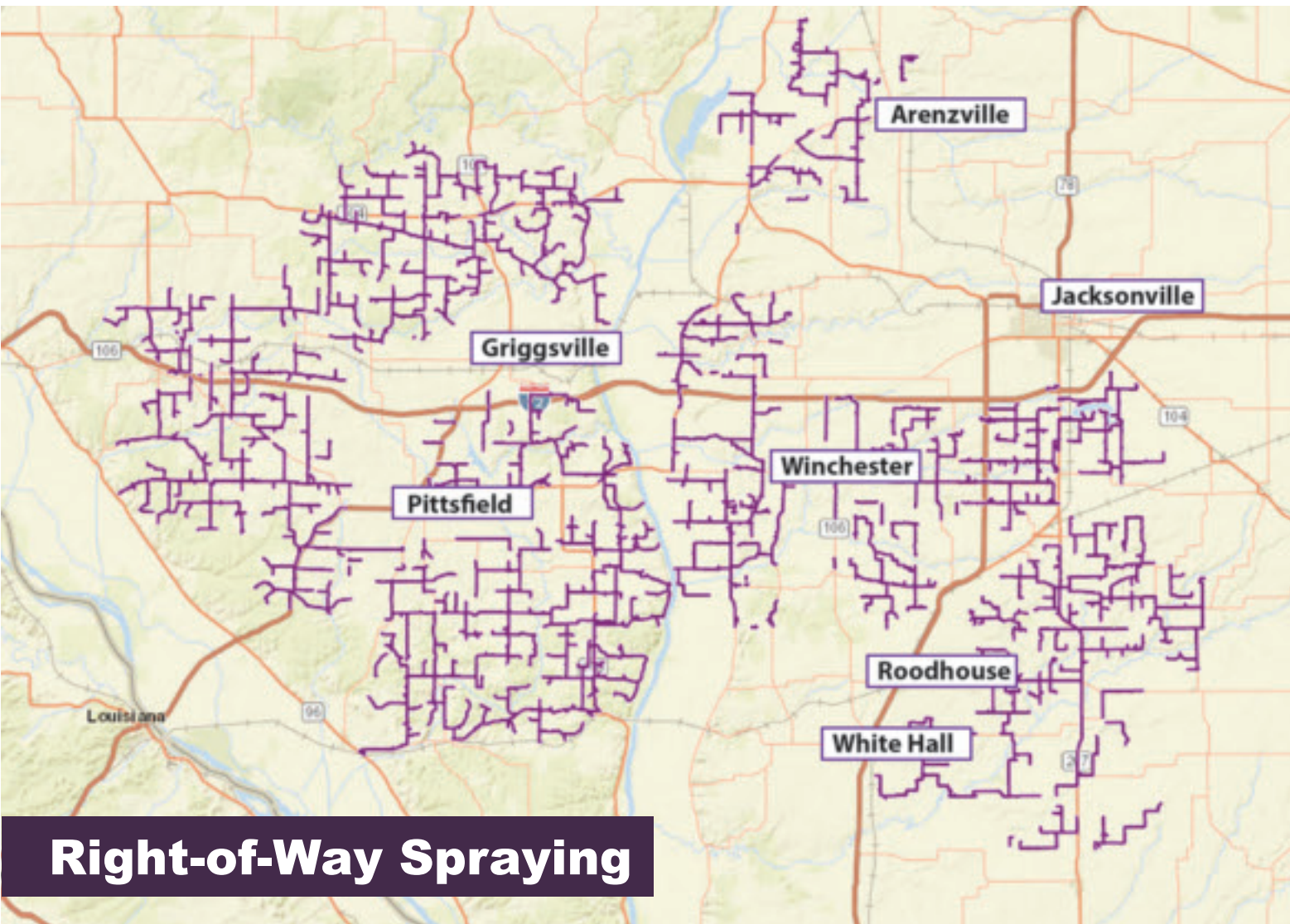
In the future, Kevin knows all rural cooperatives will continue to face the serious threat of population decline. As an economist and entrepreneur, he recognizes the need for Illinois Electric Cooperative to promote economic development opportunities in the area, as well as to help promote quality of life for IEC membership. Both of these activities help to attract new businesses, preserve existing businesses, and to maintain the local populace. The horizon is daunting, and the challenges are ever-present, but with these challenges come opportunities, and it is there where Kevin sees the most exciting potential.



Director Kevin Klein looking out at his property, Peace on the Prairie, near Murrayville.

Kevin Klein may still be a beginner when it comes to serving on the IEC Board of Directors, but the qualities he brings to the table set him on a trajectory of continued success in that role. If his long career as a professor and his time as a business owner do not speak toward his commitment to his undertakings, his responsibilities as a husband to his wife, Jaime, and a father of two daughters certainly does. And if ever his responsibilities take too much of his energy, or demand too much of his time, he will always have a little Peace on the Prairie waiting for him at home.

*This article on Kevin Klein is the seventh in a series of written profiles on Illinois Electric Cooperative’s Board of Directors, which have been compiled and written by Noah Sellars, one of our college interns.*



## Right-of-Way Spraying

Spraying is a very important part of our right-of-way maintenance program. The co-op is continuing to do scheduled treatment of cleared areas in an effort to maintain the right-of-way in the most cost effective way possible.

The areas highlighted in purple on the map above are line sections we have already cleared, and now due for follow-up spraying. The cost of clearing can range from \$6,000 to \$12,000 per mile, depending on the density of brush. To spray the same area costs about \$700 per mile.

Obviously, it's more cost effective to control re-growth through spraying, rather than re-clearing at a much higher cost. The co-op has maps from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to ensure that we are within guidelines when spraying in sensitive ecological areas in the service territory.

We will send notification to landowners prior to beginning this process. All of our personnel who spray have passed the IDNR tests to ensure full compliance. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please give us a call



# Illinois Electric Cooperative's 2019 Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 15th

\_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_  
**Winchester Grade School**

Winchester Grade  
School is now  
air-conditioned!

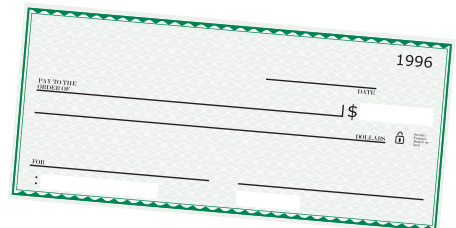
Members  
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Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

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