

# NEWS, NOTES & VIEWS 12/19

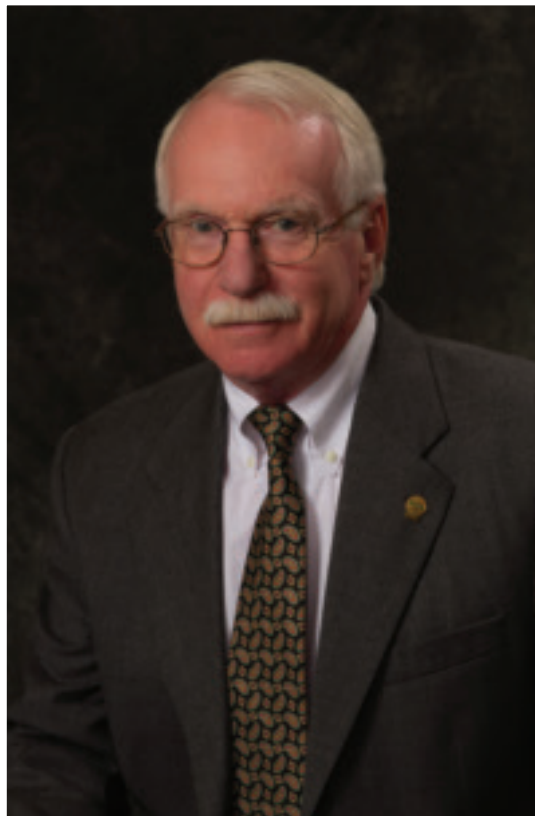
*Merry Christmas from everyone at Illinois Electric Cooperative!*

## Thanks

I began here as general manger at the beginning of November 1997, and I end full-time employment here at the end of December 2019.

Your Board of Directors and your employees and I have simply worked to make this a better place. Counsel and members who've served on the Nominating Committees have done the same. There's been progress because we've worked together and because members have been good enough to give us their support.

Thanks to all of you who've come to member meetings to see and ask us about what we're doing and what we're thinking. That's made as important a contribution as anything else.



Bruce Giffin, Illinois Electric Cooperative  
General Manager

*continued...*



## Illinois Electric Cooperative

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Winchester, Illinois 62694

[www.e-co-op.com](http://www.e-co-op.com)  
1-800-468-4732

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**Working to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve since 1936.**

I leave with a real conviction that important things won't change all that much. Our DNA nourishes five things:

- Members must be treated with absolute respect.
- Employees must be appreciated and treated fairly.
- Safety for employees and the general public should never get shortchanged.
- The electric system has to work reliably, and the internet needs to be faster tomorrow than it is today.
- Finally, the cooperative has an important role to play in the community, particularly with economic development.

I'm comfortable, too, that my employees will continue to do their level best to take care of you. You know, as I do, that they're as decent as the day is long and as smart as tacks are sharp. They work hard, too.

Your Board of Directors brings diverse talents to their jobs and a collective determination to do what's right for the membership. Most of them went through a competitive process for a job that wasn't going to make them rich or famous so that they could contribute. They'll serve you well. Thanks, as well, to the 40 or so people who competed against them for nominations or board seats; as often as not, members of the Nominating Committee said that any one of you would have done a good job.

I'd be remiss not to mention a few people. First, there's Bob Brown to whom I'll be eternally indebted. Bob served on the Board for 30 years and as President for at least 15. I never had a better mentor. Then there's Tom Meehan, who's currently your President, and who loves this organization and what it does for the membership as much as I do. His expectations for our always doing better helps make us better. Then there are leaders of your communities and former Board members Ronald Myers, Alan Heaton and Jim Gay who helped us so ably for years.

The Board conducted a national search for the next general manager, and there were strong candidates from across the country. Five candidates were interviewed in the first round, and two made it to the second.

Randy Long, who started here as an apprentice in 1981, and who excelled throughout the search process, becomes the next general manager in January. He's been second in command here – sometimes, I think, first in command – for years. You're in the best of hands.

So, let me thank you for the opportunity to have the best job in ten counties for the past twenty something years. It's been an honor and a privileged.

Thanks for everything.

Bruce Giffin  
December 2019



## Twelve 2020 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

Illinois Electric Cooperative has announced that in 2020, the Illinois electric cooperatives will award eleven 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 twelfth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The total of twelve scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2020 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Six 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 seventh 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. Four 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 twelfth annual scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” is a \$2,000 scholarship that 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, IL. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; is enrolled in the Lincoln Land Lineworker’s school; or individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible to apply for the lineworker’s scholarship.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says Bruce Giffin. “Illinois Electric 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, visit our website or contact Jennifer Sellars at 217-730-8307, or [jennifer@e-co-op.com](mailto:jennifer@e-co-op.com). Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors. Deadline to apply is December 31, 2019.

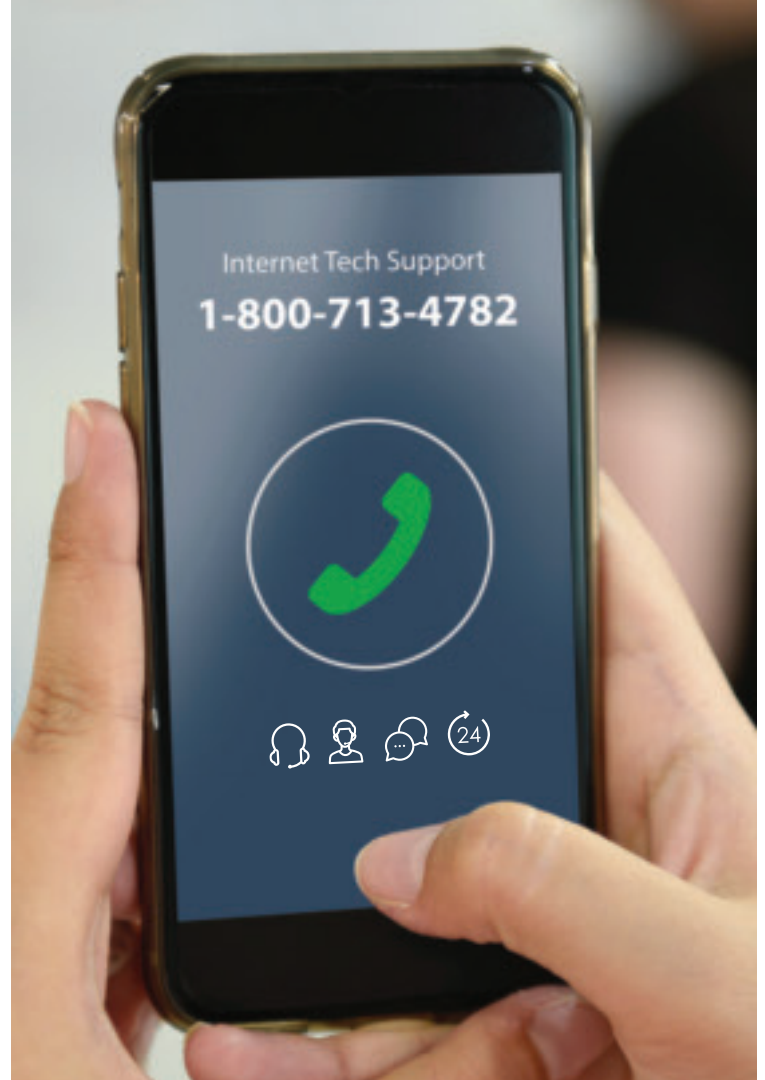
# Need 24/7 internet tech support?

Call 1-800-713-4782

In case you missed the news, earlier this year we introduced a new resource for internet consumers. Members with internet service can call 1-800-713-4782 to receive tech support.

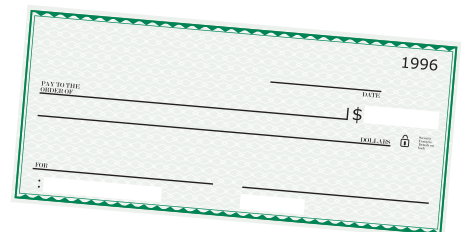
We realize the need for troubleshooting at night and on weekends therefore members with our internet service can call this number 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Any questions or comments on the tech support line, please give us a call at the office at 1-800-468-4732.



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