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11597 Illinois Highway 1
Paris, IL 61944
800-635-4145
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

English receives top credentials from NRECA

EnerStar Board Member Dale English of Paris recently obtained the highest level of credentials possible through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

To earn Director Gold status, individuals must first earn their Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate. English earned this certificate in 2006. This curriculum emphasizes foundational governance knowledge and skills required of electric cooperative directors.

After earning the CCD, board members then obtain the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) which English earned in 2018. This certificate extends the core CCD curriculum by providing courses with greater depth in industry, governance, risk management, communication, as well as rate and policy development.



The Director Gold certificate recognizes directors who have earned their CCD and BLC and are committed to continuing their education throughout their service on the board.

Thank you, Dale, for your commitment to our cooperative!



**EnerStar's office will be closed
November 11 in observance
of Veterans Day.**



**EnerStar's office will be closed
November 26-27 for
Thanksgiving.**

Twelve 2021 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

Illinois electric cooperatives will award 12 scholarships in 2021 to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The 12 scholarships, \$2,000 each, will be awarded 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 co-op member.
- 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 12th scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, will help pay for costs to attend lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. Sons and daughters of co-op members, relatives of co-op

employees or directors, and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for this scholarship.

"We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships," says EnerStar CEO Brent Reyher. "EnerStar 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 and investing in them through programs like this one."

Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2020. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2021. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact EnerStar's Angela Griffin at 800-635-4145, ext 603 or agriffin@enerstar.com. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available online at www.enerstar.com.



Congratulations to Olivia Seaman, a 2020 IEC Memorial Scholarship winner and a Martinsville High School graduate.

Member FYI

2021 Annual Meeting delayed

Many EnerStar Electric Cooperative members look forward to the cooperative's annual meeting each year in March. But with Illinois restrictions still in place that limits attendance numbers, the board has made the decision to postpone the meeting.

The Annual Meeting typically draws more than 500 people. "We begin planning for the March meeting in November, so we felt postponing it would be best in light of the current COVID-19 situation," said Angela

Griffin. "Hopefully, we will be looking for a June meeting, possibly with a different format than the traditional pancake and sausage breakfast."

It is of paramount importance to the Board of Directors and staff of EnerStar Electric Cooperative that any gathering or meeting of the members be conducted in a healthy environment and safe manner. Members will be notified of the date of the rescheduled annual meeting as future circumstances may permit.

Delayed rate increase implemented in January

As reported previously in this magazine, EnerStar Electric Cooperative was to have a small increase in its electric rates beginning April 2020. Amid the COVID-19 situation and upon staff recommendation, the board of directors delayed the increase.

The increase will now begin with the January 2021 billing statements and will be an additional \$5 to the "Grid Access Fee," formerly listed on the billing statement as the "Facility Charge." This charge is common among electric utilities and it helps utilities recover the fixed costs of the substations, equipment, poles, wire, transformers and right-of way maintenance necessary to get power to members' accounts. It results in about a 3 percent increase on the average residential member. Small commercial accounts will also see the increase.

The last rate increase was in 2013. To establish rates, the cooperative conducts a cost of service study. The study analyzes the co-op's costs of providing electric service and how its rates recover those costs. After carefully reviewing the results from the last study, the co-op's management and board of directors recognized the need to increase the rates to ensure safe, reliable delivery of high-quality service the members have come to expect. It is not a decision taken lightly but a necessary one.



LUCK OF THE DRAW SCHOLARSHIP

Luck of the Draw Scholarship winners announced

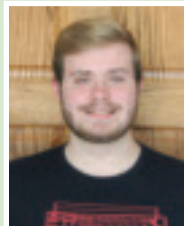
The following area college students recently got some good news that they were the lucky winners of EnerStar's Luck of the Draw Scholarship. Each student received a \$500 scholarship. The scholarship program began last year and was drawn at the annual meeting. Since the meeting was postponed, the cooperative held the drawing in September. Congratulations to the winners!



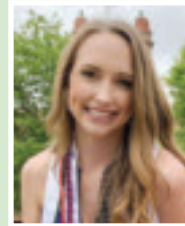
Paris graduate **Katrina Strow** is attending Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. She is majoring in biology/pre-physical therapy with a minor in chemistry.



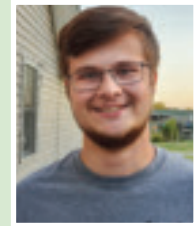
Nathan Minnis from Paris is attending Oklahoma State University. He is majoring in entrepreneurship and finance.



Robby Goekler is from Marshall High School and attending the University of Illinois where he is majoring in information systems and networking.



Mackenzie Martin from Paris is attending Indiana University where she is currently studying for a Doctor of Optometry degree.



Marshall graduate **Michael Wineinger** is attending Ivy Tech Community College and is enrolled in the information technology security program.



Jim Lewis retires from EnerStar

Co-op employees celebrated the retirement of EnerStar's Manager of IT Jim Lewis on Sept. 30. Jim joined the EnerStar team in 2000. From 1978 to 2000, Jim owned and operated Computer Wares in Paris. Even though he officially retired, co-op employees will see him around the office from time to time as he will continue to work on co-op special projects in the areas of information technology, GIS mapping and metering. Enjoy your retirement Jim! **Congratulations!**

Capital credit refund checks mailing in November

Earlier this year, after review of the cooperative's financial position, the EnerStar board of directors voted to retire capital credits to current and former members of the cooperative who received electric service in 1988 and 1989.

As a non-profit electric cooperative, EnerStar allocates annual operating margins, or profits, to members receiving service during the year. These margins are based on usage and are called capital credits.

Capital credits represent the member's equity and remain on file until EnerStar's board of directors determines a general refund may be issued. Checks will be mailed the last week of November for those members who qualify for the retirement.

DRIVE UP – DON'T GET OUT!



In a hurry? EnerStar's convenient drop box is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Located on the east side of the EnerStar parking lot.

GENERATOR Safety

Learn more at:



FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO ENSURE EVERYONE'S SAFETY:

- Make sure there is **nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on**. Use a **heavy-duty** extension cord to connect appliances to the outlets on the generator.
- Always operate the generator on a stable, dry surface **outside the home**—out and away from the garage, doors, windows, and vents into your home. The carbon monoxide the generator produces is **DEADLY**.
- **Never** connect your portable generator to the home directly. This **can result in potentially deadly backfeed**, which happens when electricity is fed back through the electrical system onto power lines, creating a hazard for line workers and others.

