



Petitions for Board of Directors are available

The term of four directors will expire with the April 2021 Annual Meeting. The board seats up for election with one board member to be elected from each county are: Jasper, Lawrence, Effingham and Crawford.

All incumbents intend to seek re-election. They are: Gordon McClure, Jasper County; Scott Weiss, Lawrence County; Gilbert Garbe, Effingham

County and Gary Buser, Crawford County. Any other members that reside and take service in any of the counties above may also submit a petition and be placed on the ballot.

According to the cooperative bylaws, all candidates must submit a petition signed by at least 25 members to be placed on the ballot. Requests for petitions will be available January 1, 2021 and may be obtained by

contacting the Cooperative office at 877-783-8765 x.126. Petitions must be returned to the Cooperative office by noon on February 11, 2021.

Petitioners with qualified petitions will be placed on the ballots. Ballots will be mailed 30 - 45 days prior to our annual meeting. The results will then be announced at our annual meeting to be held on April 15, 2021.



If you are thinking of a career as a lineman, this scholarship is for you

The LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship is a \$2,000 scholarship to 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.

One scholarship a year will be awarded to an individual who is related to a rural electric cooperative employee or director in the state of Illinois; or is the son or daughter of an electric cooperative member in Illinois; or is enrolled in the Lincoln Land Lineworker's School; or has served or is serving in the U.S. armed forces or National Guard.

If interested in a lineman career, check out the official rules and regulations at norriselectric.com. Application deadline is April 30, 2021.

Annual meeting update

February would normally be the month of our Annual Meeting of the Members for Norris Electric Cooperative. With restrictions on gatherings, our board of directors, who always has the safety and wellbeing of the membership at the forefront of their minds, have decided to postpone the 83rd Annual Meeting until April 15. The meeting will be held virtually through Facebook in our Member's Only group. Other options will be made available for members who are unable to access Facebook.

Keep a watch out in the upcoming ICL magazines and on social media for further details.

ONCE THE POWER IS OUT HOW IS IT SAFELY RESTORED?

It can happen when wind causes trees or branches to fall into power lines or when ice buildup on wires causes the lines to sway and "gallop." When lightning strikes, transformers and other electric equipment can be affected.

Slick road conditions can also play a role when vehicles strike a power pole or pad-mounted transformer and cause a disruption in service.

Please know that when the power does go out, we are doing all we can to safely and efficiently restore power. Here are the steps we take in the assessment and restoration process:



STEP 1: ASSESS THE DAMAGE

We assess the damage to utility equipment and power lines across the service area

STEP 2: ADDRESS SAFETY RISKS

We address immediate safety risks, including downed power lines



STEP 3: RESTORE ESSENTIAL SERVICES

We ensure that public health and safety facilities are operational

STEP 4: PRIORITIZE REPAIRS

We repair (usually in this order): transmission towers and lines, substations, distribution lines, and then service lines to properties



If you see a downed power line, always assume it is live and deadly.

Learn more at:



Payment methods

COVID-19 has changed the way many of us function. We want our members to be informed of all the payment options available to them.

Automatic Draft is one of our many options of payment methods. Each month Norris Electric will automatically draft your checking or savings account the day before it is due. You will never have to worry about your bill again. If you would like to sign up for automatic draft, fill out the attached form and mail it in to the office ... it is as simple as that!

Bank online is an option set up by your bank. An electronic payment will be transferred to NEC from your bank.

Over the Phone payments can be made any time through our automated payment center.

Online Payments through our website, norriselectric.com, is a way to make payments anytime at your convenience.

Norris App is as easy as 1, 2, 3. If you have a smartphone, this is the way to go!

Local Banks accept payments as long as it is not past due.

Mailing your payment is always an option for our members.

Norris Electric Cooperative Authorization Agreement for Direct Payments (ACH Debits)

I (we) hereby authorize NORRIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE to initiate debit entries to my (our) Checking Account indicated below at the depository financial institution named below, hereafter call DEPOSITORY, and to debit the same to such account. I (we) acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my (our) account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

Depository
Name _____ Branch _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Routing Number _____ Account Number _____

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until NORRIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford NORRIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE and DEPOSITORY a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Name(s) as it appears
on checking account _____
(please print)

Signature(s) _____

Address _____

Call Back Phone Number if Bank doesn't Approve _____

Please include a void check with this agreement.

Office Use Only

Name on Electric Bill _____	Date _____
Billing Acct Number _____	Cycle _____
_____	Cycle _____
_____	Cycle _____



High electric bills

It happens every winter ... sustained cold weather ratchets up energy use and high electric bills start arriving. Norris Electric can't control the weather, but we can help you control your bill with Budget Billing and Prepay Billing and tracking your usage.

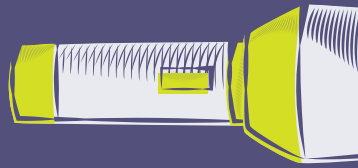
Our **Budget Billing** plan allows equal monthly payments to members with 12 months of billing history. You will pay the same amount each month, therefore, no surprises in your bill. (Budget billing accounts are recalculated in May and November each year.)

Prepay Billing is when you pay for electricity how and when you choose. Purchasing electricity before you use it allows you to control your budget and pay how much you want, when you want. Instead of a monthly statement, your usage and balance are calculated daily. Track your usage by email, text or online and make payments by phone or online.

We also recommend **tracking your usage** to help identify why your bill is high. For example, one member identified a new portable electric heater, and another a livestock tank heater. Not only can you look at your monthly use but you can narrow it down to hourly use as well. Members can view daily temperatures along with kW hours used. Access to this knowledge will help you to understand your electric consumption and how to better control use. To check your usage, log on to norriselectric.com or download the Norris App. Under "My Account" select "Manage My Account." Once you log in, click on the "My Usage" tab and you can view your graphs.

These are just a few options to help with controlling high electric bills. Please visit our website at norriselectric.com for energy efficient tips and more useful tools or call our office at 877-783-8765 and speak with a Member Service Representative.

POWER OUT?



22 WAYS TO UNPLUG

If you are trying to keep yourself (or others) entertained during a power outage, save the battery power on your phones and other electronics for emergencies or weather updates, and consider some of these "unplugged" activities instead:

FUN FOR KIDS



Read a book



Play board or card games



Look at old photos



Tell ghost stories



Make shadow figures



Make a fort out of boxes and blankets



Sing your favorite songs



Play Simon Says

GET CREATIVE



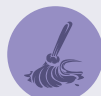
- Write a story.
- Make up jokes.
- Draw or paint a picture.
- Set up an indoor bowling alley with plastic cups as pins.
- Fix something around the house.

PRACTICE SELF CARE



- Take a nap.
- Paint your nails.
- Go for a run or hike.
- Check in on your neighbors.
- Practice a skill, such as a second language, sewing, knitting, or tying knots.

AROUND THE HOUSE



Clean and organize your house



Rearrange your furniture



Fold laundry or organize your closet



Plant seeds or tidy up your yard

Safe Electricity.org®