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www.enerstar.com

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

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Annual Meeting and Board Election Information

EnerStar Annual Meeting Just Around the Corner

Throughout the years, EnerStar Electric Cooperative has promoted the fact that rural electric cooperatives are owned by, controlled by, and exist to benefit the membership. The cooperative's annual meeting offers an excellent opportunity to take part in the business of your member-owned cooperative.

That opportunity is just around the corner at the upcoming 71st Annual Meeting of Members. The meeting will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. Members will want to come early for their pancake and sausage breakfast served by EnerStar employees from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

It is the democratic control that affords you, the member, the privilege of attending the annual meeting and participating in the director elections.

A director is a member just like you. He or she represents your district and is your voice in the cooperative.

The EnerStar service territory is divided into nine Representative Districts. Representative districts are then assigned to one of three Voting Districts. Although the Representative Districts range in size, they contain approximately equal number of members. A description and map of the Representative Districts and Voting Districts is available on page 16c.

Via first-class mail in mid-February members will receive an envelope containing all necessary voting documentation for the EnerStar board elections. The following items will be included: *Official Notice*,

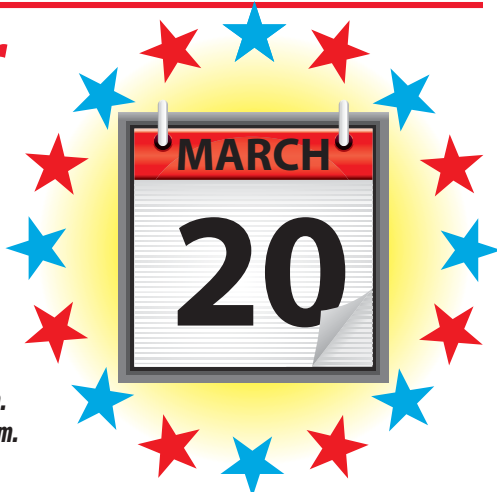
** continued on page 16b*

Mark Your Calendar

**Saturday
MARCH 20, 2010**

**Crestwood School
15601 US Hwy 150
Paris, Illinois**

**Member Breakfast 7:30-9:00 a.m.
Member Registration 7:30-9:30 a.m.
Meeting Begins 9:30 a.m.**





★ continued from page 16a

Voting Ballot, Ballot Envelope and a Return Envelope.

Official Notice – This is the official announcement of the meeting as required by the bylaws. The notice includes the meeting date, time, and location. It also contains election information and voting instructions. Members should carefully read these instructions to ensure their ballot is completed correctly. The notice will also include a brief candidate biography. The candidates are solely responsible for the content provided in the biography.

Voting Ballot – At the 2010 annual meeting, three representative districts are up for election for three-year terms. To properly complete a ballot, members should mark an “X” in the box. The two lines of the “X” must cross inside the box. **Members must not color in the box or use a check mark when voting. The Election Inspectors are required to void any ballot incorrectly completed.** The completed ballot should be placed inside the Ballot Envelope and sealed.

Ballot Envelope – This envelope is smaller than the return envelope with the words “Ballot Envelope” clearly stated on the front. Completed ballots should be sealed inside this envelope. The ballot envelope should be placed in the return envelope and sealed.

Return Envelope – The return envelope is the larger of the two envelopes. For the convenience of our members, the return envelope will be

stamped and self-addressed to the attention of the Election Inspectors. **Members are required to sign the back of the return envelope where indicated.** This certification verifies that the member personally voted the enclosed ballot. If the account is a joint membership, only one member is required to certify the ballot.

Members may return their ballots one of two ways. Return envelopes with ballots enclosed can be mailed or hand-delivered to the EnerStar office by **Friday, March 19, 2010**. Ballots received in the office after that date will be null and void. Return envelopes with ballots may also be brought to the Annual Meeting on **Saturday, March 20, 2010**.

Election Inspectors, chosen by the cooperative legal counsel, will open the ballot envelopes and count the ballots at the Annual Meeting. Mem-

bers’ voting preferences will remain anonymous. Election results will be announced at the close of the meeting after all business properly brought before the meeting has concluded.

Members with questions regarding the voting procedures should contact EnerStar’s Vicki Ewing at 217-466-7601 or Angela Griffin at 217-466-7603.

SIGN THIS BALLOT!

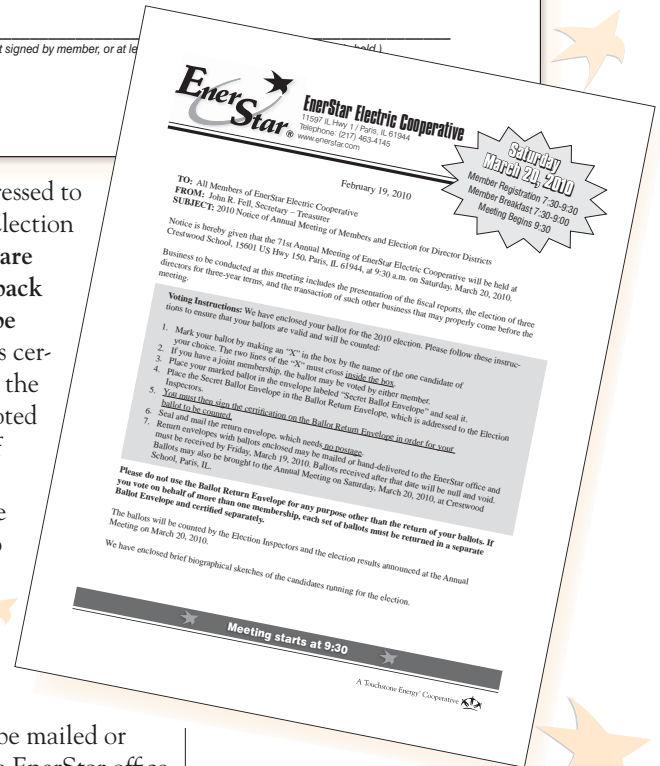
INSERT THE SECRET BALLOT ENVELOPE INTO THIS RETURN ENVELOPE

Return envelopes with ballots enclosed can be mailed or hand-delivered to the EnerStar office and must be received by Friday, March 19, 2010. Return envelopes may also be brought to the Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 20, 2010, at Crestwood School, 15601 US Hwy 150, Paris, Illinois.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that as a member of EnerStar Electric Cooperative I have personally voted the enclosed ballot for the 2010 Director Election.

FROM: _____
(Void if not signed by member, or at least one member of a joint membership.)



Voting Qualifications: Who Can Vote

Because there are certain rules regarding voting procedures for the Annual Meeting of Members, it is important to remind members of their voting rights and responsibilities. The following points explain who can and cannot vote in the director election and at the annual meeting. By knowing these points, you can be assured your vote counts at the meeting.

■ If only one person signed the membership application, then only that person is allowed to vote. The membership belongs to the person who signed the membership application. This is known as a Single Membership. With this membership, only one name is printed on the billing statement.

■ If a husband and wife both signed the membership application, then ei-

ther party may cast one vote for that membership. This is known as a Joint Membership. With this membership, both names are printed on the billing statement. Sometimes, a membership was taken out before the member was married. In that case, the new spouse may not vote for the membership. A single membership can easily be converted to a Joint Membership. If you would like to make this change,

contact the EnerStar office prior to February 1, 2010, for details.

- If you pay your landlord for the electrical usage at a location and the landlord's name is on the bill, you are not able to vote for that location. The membership belongs to the landlord, who would vote this membership.

- If you have power of attorney for a member, you may vote that member-

ship as long as the form is on file at the cooperative office.

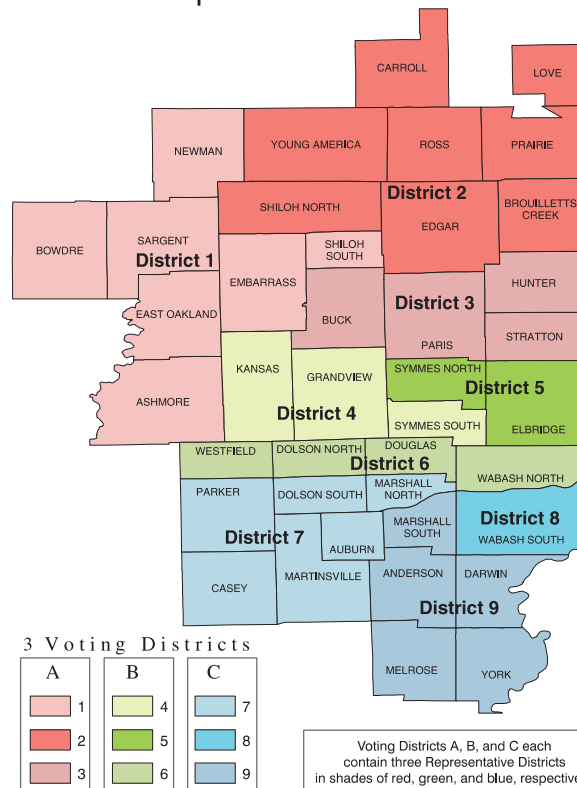
If you have any further questions regarding your membership status, please contact the EnerStar office at 217-463-4145 or 800-635-4145 during normal business hours. We will be more than happy to assist you with any questions you may have regarding your account.

Remember, members can vote by mail, but ballots must be received in our office no later than Friday, March 20, 2010. Otherwise, **bring your voting ballot with you to the Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, March 20, 2010!**

Member News **VOTING**

Three director positions are open for election at the forthcoming 71st Annual Meeting of Members. All positions are for three-year terms. If you have questions regarding in which voting and representative district you are located, contact an EnerStar Members Accounts Representative at 800-635-4145 during normal business hours.

Enerstar Power Corp 9 Representative Districts



Voting District A

Representative District 3,
currently served by
Dale English

Voting District B

Representative District 6,
currently served by
David Sprigg

Voting District C

Representative District 8,
currently served by
Don Baggs



EnerStar Offers Money-Saving Co-op Connections Card

Are you benefiting from the Pharmacy Savings Option?

The Co-op Connections card, available free of charge to members of EnerStar Electric Co-operative, can save you 10 percent to 60 percent on prescriptions at participating pharmacies including CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, K-Mart and Kroger. And there are several local pharmacies that participate in the program as well! *See the list in the box.*

So far, EnerStar members have saved over \$16,000 in about 15 months since the program began last year. But we think there is much more potential! Are you using the Coop Connections card?!

So far, EnerStar members have saved over \$16,000 in about 15 months since the program began last year.

Use your card to purchase prescriptions not covered by your insurance plan. Simply present your card with your prescription at any participating pharmacy and pay the discounted price; no additional forms or paperwork are needed.

If you want pricing before you head out to the pharmacy, visit www.rxpricequotes.com to look up drug prices by location. There is also a section to view a complete list of all participating pharmacies.

Mission statement

EnerStar Electric Cooperative exists to reliably distribute affordable electricity to its member-owners while upholding our values of integrity, accountability, and commitment to our community.



Call EnerStar at 1-800-635-4145 today.

Local Participating Pharmacies:

- Medicine Shoppe Marshall
- Pearman Pharmacy Paris
- Paris Clinic Pharmacy..... Paris
- Martinsville Pharmacy..... Martinsville
- The Pharmacie Shoppe.....Casey
- A P & S Pharmacy.....Terre Haute

*For a complete list of participating pharmacies, visit www.locateproviders.com.
To compare drug prices, visit www.rxpricequotes.com*



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Use your microwave for cooking whenever possible. They use 50 to 65 percent less energy than conventional ovens and do not heat up your house in the summer. However, conventional ovens may be more appropriate for larger size items when cooking time is increased.

Source: Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

A Benefit of Cooperative Membership



One of the benefits our members may overlook is the one you are holding in your hand right now. Yes, the EnerStar Homepage is a benefit of being a member.

Why does EnerStar publish a newsletter every month? Communication, communication, communication! The Homepage is our resource for informing, educating and entertaining our members. We do very little advertising. It's a money saving philosophy. What we want to tell our members, we tell through the EnerStar news.

The main part of the magazine, the Illinois Country Living published by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, contains statewide articles that pertain to national and state news, gardening, statewide features and the ever popular recipe section. It is in the magazine's "center section" where EnerStar can devote their attention to cooperative highlights, member spotlights, energy saving information, electric safety articles, and much more.

Being informed is just one of the benefits of belonging to a cooperative. And if you have a story idea, let us know about it!



I PULLED THE PLUG ON MY ENERGY COSTS JUST BY PULLING A FEW PLUGS.

TVs, gaming consoles, DVRs, cable boxes and almost anything that has a plug uses energy even when it's off. I'm saving \$222 a year by pulling plugs and turning off power strips. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



The EnerStar[®] Team

The EnerStar employees work hard to impress the owners of the electric co-op: you!

Only your local electric co-op makes every customer an owner of the business. Unlike other electric utilities, your co-op exists to make sure your needs are always met, not to make a profit. And since every electric co-op is locally owned and operated, your co-op is always there with you, reinvesting in your community.

That's why in an electric co-op, the people have the power.

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 



To Report a Power Outage Emergency

*Call us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at
(217) 463-4145 or (800) 635-4145*

1. Check the fuses or breakers in your home.
2. Check the breakers below the meter if the meter is located on a yard pole.
3. Call your neighbors. If their power is also off, ask if they have reported the power outage. Please do not assume the outage has been reported. Your home may be the only home experiencing the outage.
4. Call EnerStar to report your power outage. If we have your correct telephone number, you can easily report your outage through our automated outage reporting system. If not, please stay on the line to speak with a Member Accounts Representative.



“Does the co-op have your correct telephone number? Check your billing statement to verify number is correct!”

Using Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs Safely

There's no doubt that compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) are better for the environment — and our pocketbooks — than traditional incandescent bulbs. ENERGY STAR qualified bulbs use up to 75 percent less electricity than incandescent bulbs, last up to 10 times longer, cost little up front, and provide a quick return on investment.

However, concerns over the mercury in CFLs have raised questions about the proper disposal of them. CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury — an average of 4 milligrams — sealed within the glass tubing. By comparison, older thermometers contain about 500 milligrams. Mercury is an essential part of CFLs: It reacts with the coating on the inside of the glass tube to produce light using very little electricity.

Follow these tips to safely handle, dispose of, and clean up a bulb should it break in your home:

Handling

- Always take care when removing the bulb from its packaging, installing, or replacing it.
- Hold the bulb by its base and not the glass part.
- Never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket. If it breaks, follow the tips below.

Recycling or Disposal

- The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that consumers recycle CFLs.
- **EnerStar offers recycling locations at the cooperative headquarters, the Paris Public Library and the Marshall Public Library. Home Depot in Mattoon also accepts intact light bulbs for recycling.**
- Never put a fluorescent light bulb or other mercury-containing product into an incinerator.
- If the bulb burns out before it should, contact the manufacturer. ENERGY STAR qualified bulbs are required to offer at least a two-year warranty.

Cleaning Up If a Bulb Should Break

- Open a window and have people (including you) and pets leave the room for at least 15 minutes.
- Shut off central forced air heating/cooling system.
- If the bulb is broken on a hard surface, carefully scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a glass jar (with metal lid) or sealed plastic bag.
- Use sticky tape to pick up any remaining pieces and powder.
- Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet

wipes. Place wipes in the glass jar or plastic bag.

- Do not use a vacuum or broom to clean up the broken bulb on hard surfaces
- Immediately place all clean up materials outdoors in a trash container or protected area for trash pickup.
- Wash your hands after disposing of the materials.



For additional tips on cleaning up broken bulbs from carpeting, bedding and clothing, visit: http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/promotions/change_light/downloads/Fact_Sheet_Mercury.pdf

Sources: Environmental Protection Agency; Energystar.gov



Our Energy, Our Future A Dialogue With America

Electric co-ops are fighting to ensure that any climate change policy goals adopted are fair, affordable, and achievable. To make your voice heard in this debate, join NRECA's Our Energy, Our Future™ grassroots awareness campaign at www.ourenergycoop.com. To date over 457,000 participants have sent Our Energy, Our Future® campaign messages to members of Congress.



Portable Generator Safety

Portable generators may come in handy during long-term power outages, but recent studies show that an overwhelming percentage may be installed incorrectly. Take heed of these precautions:

- Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator. Be sure you understand them before hooking up the generator.
- Maintain adequate ventilation. Generators emit carbon monoxide. It is against fire code to operate a generator in your home, garage or other enclosed building. Place it in a dry location outdoors.
- Never plug a portable electric generator into a wall outlet or connect directly to a home's wiring. This can energize utility power lines and injure you or others working nearby. Electrical back feed can also damage the generator and home electrical equipment.
- Turn off the generator and allow cooling before refueling. Gasoline and its vapors may ignite if they come in contact with hot components or an electrical spark. Store fuel in a properly designed container in a secure location away from the generator or other fuel-burning appliances, such as water heaters. Always have a fully charged, approved fire extinguisher located nearby.
- Protect your appliances. Turn off or disconnect all appliances and lights before you begin operating the portable generator. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit. Remember, gen-



erators are for temporary usage, prioritize your needs.

- Generators pose electrical risks especially when operated in wet conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. Always ensure that your hands are dry before touching the generator.
- Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times. Many generator components are hot enough to burn you during operation.
- Use proper extension cords. Use only safety-tested, shop-type electrical cords designed and rated for heavier, outdoor use to connect appliances. Many generators are equipped with twist-lock connects to reduce

the chance of accidental disconnections due to vibrations.

- Shut down the generator properly. Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.
- Remember maintenance between uses. Drain the gasoline from the generator while it is being stored. It's also a good idea to inspect the fuel and oil filters, spark plug, oil level and fuel quality and start the generator on a regular basis before an emergency situation happens.

Got questions on your generator? Call EnerStar's Mike Clark at 463-4145 or 1-800-635-4145. Or you can reach him via e-mail at mclark@enerstar.com.



11597 IL Hwy 1 • Paris, Illinois 61944 217-463-4145 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M-F