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Borchers named manager of operations

EnerStar Journeyman Lineman Keith Borchers has been promoted to the position of manager of operations. Keith previously held the position of maintenance foreman.

Borchers began his career at EnerStar in June 1993 after graduating from Northwest Iowa Community College with a diploma in power line technology.

"I'm looking forward to the challenges of the new position," said Borchers. "Serving the co-op membership is my priority."

Borchers has recently been active with the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives serving as a judge at the lineman rodeo for the past three years and, most recently, as a lineman training instructor.

Borchers has been married to his wife Shelly since 1987. They reside in Paris and have four children and two grandchildren.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

Board petitions still available

The annual meeting of members is tentatively set for June 2, 2022 and the April 4, 2022 deadline to submit petitions is fast approaching. If you are interested in running for the EnerStar Board of Directors, pick up your petition now!

Prior to receiving a petition, candidates should verify with cooperative personnel that they reside within an open Representative District. Petitions require the signatures of 15 EnerStar active members who live in the candidate's Voting District.

The role of director is a significant commitment – of time, energy and education – more than most members realize. The petition packet provides information regarding the role of a director.

To receive a petition packet or for questions regarding the petition process, contact EnerStar's Kim Stewart at 800-635-4145 or email her at kstewart@enerstar.com.

Representative Board District Descriptions 3 year terms

✓ Voting District 3A

District 2 - Currently served by Dale English, Paris

The Townships of Buck, Paris, Hunter, and Stratton in Edgar County, Illinois

✓ Voting District 6B

District 4 - Currently served by Jeff Murphy, Marshall

The Townships of Westfield and Douglas in Clark County, Illinois; all that portion of the Township of



Dolson lying north of the 2000th Road in Clark County, Illinois; and all that portion of the Township of Wabash lying north of Interstate Highway 70 in Clark County, Illinois

✓ Voting District 8C

District 7 - Currently served by Greg Robinson, Marshall

All that portion of the Township of Wabash lying south of Interstate Highway 70 in Clark County, Illinois

April 4, 2022 Last day to turn in board petitions

June 2, 2022 2022 Annual Meeting of Members



These boots were made for climbing – and that's just what they'll do!

April 11 is Lineworker Appreciation Day.

That day, and every day, we thank electric lineworkers for the challenging work they do.

Lineworkers go above and beyond.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Co-ops face supply chain delays

We can easily sum up EnerStar's mission with just a few words: to reliably distribute affordable electricity to its member-owners while upholding our values of integrity, accountability and commitment to our community.

It should come as no surprise, but supply chain delays are impacting many businesses including EnerStar Electric Cooperative. Our employees, and mainly Chase Graham, who manages our warehouse and material ordering, have been working diligently to make sure we have enough material to meet the needs of our members, immediate and into the future.

The cooperative has adjusted inventory levels to help with these extended lead times. Several common industry items have gone from a month or two lead time to a year or longer. Transformer lead times are becoming a real issue with manufacturers already filling production slots into 2023. Because of this, frequently used transformer sizes are being purchased in greater quantities to offset these longer time estimates. Even the largest sized conductor used by the cooperative has a year-long lead time. The availability of electric poles is also causing issues.

Not only are lead times increasing but the material prices continue to rise drastically. Prices of transformers have risen to a point that suppliers can no longer guarantee firm prices until they are ready for delivery. These increased costs put pressure on the cooperative – to keep on-hand what we need but insulate ourselves for unforeseen situations. Wire prices are said to be more than 40 percent higher than previous purchase prices. Suppliers tell us not to anticipate prices falling in the near future.



It seems the co-op is being hit from several directions. Meter bases have long lead times and price volatility. Smaller items like nuts and bolts have been hard to find. We are also experiencing notable delays with our fleet. A truck order placed in early 2022 is not expected to be onsite until early 2024.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) recently sent President Biden a letter informing him of the supply chain delays and bottlenecks negatively impacting electric

cooperatives across the nation. A paragraph from the letter:

"Supply chain delays are contributing to an alarming shortage of the most basic machinery and components essential to ensuring continued reliability of the electric system. The typical lead time for three phase transformers of 10-12 weeks has ballooned to eight months. Some manufacturers for pole-mounted transformers are declining to accept orders all together as a result of historic backlogs. Additionally, the lead times for substation transformers has been extended by a full year. Orders for electrical conduit have been delayed five-fold to 20 weeks and costs are up 200 percent year over year. The shortage of microchips worldwide has made digital meter availability a challenge as well."

The cooperative will continue to monitor the situation and do our best to protect the cooperative and as well as our member-owners from price volatility and material storages, while being good stewards of cooperative funds.

Members who are anticipating new or upgraded services are asked to contact the co-op immediately, so we can do our best to meet your deadlines and not be a source of delay.



Office Closing Friday, April 15 for Good Friday



Digging into an Outdoor Project?



Before you dig, dial 811 or visit www.call811.com to protect underground utilities. Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Contact 811 first and help keep our community safe.

We Trees, Too.

We know everyone in our community enjoys the beauty and shade trees provide. But trees and power lines can be a dangerous mix without regular trimming during the growing season.



If you see us out in the community trimming, remember the many **benefits it brings:**

- Keeps power lines clear of tree limbs
- Helps us restore power outages more quickly
- Keeps crews and members of our community safe
- Reduces unexpected costs for repairs

Trimming improves service reliability for you, the members we serve.

