



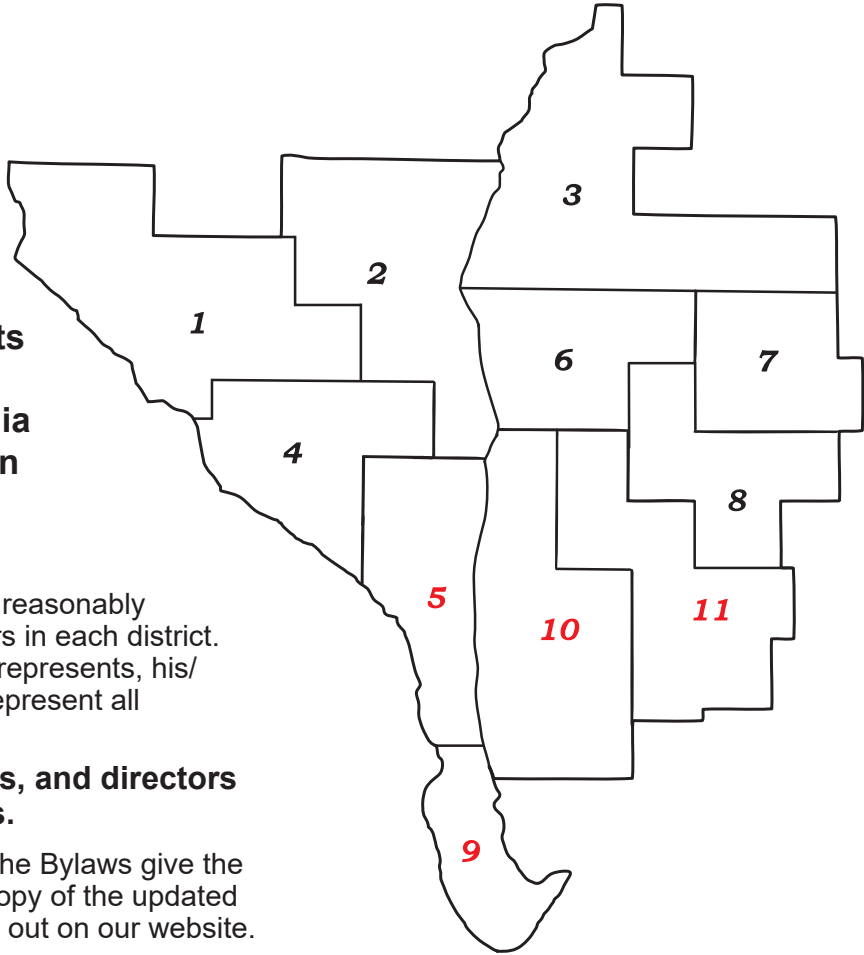
## 2024 Annual Meeting June 8, 2024

This year four directors will be elected to represent districts 5, 9, 10, and 11 at the Annual Meeting. District 9 Director Julia Eberlin will not seek re-election as she is retiring from our board.

Director districts have, as close as reasonably possible, the same number of members in each district. Regardless of which district a director represents, his/her duties and responsibilities are to represent all members.

**In all, there are eleven districts, and directors serve staggered three-year terms.**

This map shows the districts, and the Bylaws give the legal description. Give us a call for a copy of the updated Bylaws if you want one, or check them out on our website.



*continued...*



### Illinois Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 80, Two South Main Street  
Winchester, Illinois 62694

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## **Directors Can Be Nominated in Two Ways, But Not from the Floor at the Meeting.**

The Bylaws set up a mechanism for a nominating committee, which shall not include current members of the board of directors. Only a Class A member is eligible to serve on the board, as well as vote. Class A members are those who purchase electricity from the co-op.

That nominating committee is appointed not less than 90 days or more than 210 days before the Annual Meeting, and its nominations are to be posted in the office at least 45 days before the meeting.

**If you want to communicate with the Nominating Committee about a possible candidate, or any other matter, write to:**

**2024 Nominating Committee  
Illinois Electric Cooperative  
P.O. Box 80 Winchester, IL 62694**

**Your letter will be given to the committee unopened.**

**Any fifteen Class A members may also nominate another member to serve on the board, and such nominations will be on the ballot with those from the nominating committee.**

If you want to participate in the election by submitting a petition signed by fifteen members, be certain that in addition to the Class A members' signatures, there is a printed name and address so that the petition can be verified in time for posting 45 days before the meeting.

Remember that often a husband and wife are one membership, not two. A single member may also have more than one meter, but not more than one membership.

When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either one, but not both, may be elected as a director.

## **Nominations for the 2024 Election Must Be Posted in the Cooperative's Office No Later than April 24, 2024.**

A nomination from fifteen Class A members must be received at the cooperative's office no later than 45 days before the Annual Meeting.

## **Section 3 of Article 4 of the Bylaws Sets Qualifications and Tenure.**

"No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold a position of trust in the Cooperative who is not an actual consumer of goods or services provided by the Cooperative, or who is in any way employed by, or financially interested in a competing enterprise. No person shall take or hold office as a director who is the incumbent of or candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary is paid. Upon establishment of the fact that a board member is holding the office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions; the board shall remove such board member from office. When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either one, but not both, may be elected a Director, provided, however, that neither one shall be eligible to become or remain a Director or to hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless both shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth. Nothing in this section contained shall, or shall be construed to affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors."

## What Do Directors Do? What Do They Get For It?

Together, Illinois Electric and its subsidiary, IRTC, are a \$147,230,000 business, which supplies electricity and internet service to about 16,570 accounts in all or part of 10 counties. There are 53 full-time employees and two part-time employees.

The cooperative, itself, is about average sized among America's 900 electric cooperatives.

The cooperative's directors are responsible for its financial integrity and for its policies.

The cooperative's board of directors is responsible for the organization and IRTC. The board has additional responsibilities to the cooperative's lenders, employees, and the general community.

Basic law requires that a director shall, among other things, undertake the following duties:

- **Care** - Exercise due care and diligence that an ordinary, prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances, devoting such time and effort to the duties of a board member as may be necessary to oversee the business and affairs;
- **Loyalty** - Be loyal to the cooperative, acting at all times in good faith for its best interests and unaffected by any personal interest that is in conflict with the best interests of the cooperative;
- **Obedience** - Be obedient to the cooperative by adhering to all applicable requirements of law, the Bylaws, policies, contracts, and the cooperative's duly made decisions; and

- **Attention** - Be attentive to and study reports from management on the cooperative, and be attentive to and study additional sources of information concerning the industry and business generally so that the best decisions can be made.

Directors attend monthly meetings, at a minimum, to review financial and management reports and to consider matters brought to them by management and/or other directors.

Directors receive monthly reports and financial statements about the cooperative and IRTC before board meetings. There are additional articles, memos and trade publications they're expected to read.

Five members of the co-op's board serve on the technology committee.

The co-op board and the technology committee meet monthly, and there are additional committee meetings throughout the year, as well as meetings sponsored by electric co-op trade associations and banks.

**Serving as a member of the Cooperative's board of directors is a time consuming responsibility. Excluding travel time to meetings, directors spend at least two full days a month on Cooperative business - attending meetings and training and reading to be prepared.**



All of the members of the board are expected to pursue ongoing training in Springfield and at other locations.

Directors attend state, regional and national trade association meetings for additional training and to keep abreast of the best practices in the industry.

Directors receive up to \$350 per day and out-of-pocket expenses for attending meetings. Additionally, since it's in the cooperative's interests that directors have good internet service to receive material by e-mail, directors get wireless, fiber, or satellite based internet service.

There are two ways members can vote in the election. First, you can vote by being present at the meeting, or, second, by sending your proxy with a member who is attending. Members can vote up to three proxies at the Annual Meeting.

## What Does a Petition Look Like?

Here's an example of the form of a petition to nominate a fictional member of the cooperative.

It's important that it state the person's name and address so that we can verify his/her membership.

We, the undersigned Class A members of Illinois Electric Cooperative, nominate **Joe Smith, 348 Green Street, Appleville, Illinois** to stand for election at the 2024 Annual Meeting of Members for the seat on the Cooperative's Board of Directors representing District **Five**.

	Signature	Printed Name	Address
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____

*15 Class A members' signatures are needed, however, to ensure things, it's probably best to have a few extras. Class A members buy electricity from the cooperative.*

# 2024-2025 CEO Programs Accepting Applications



Plant Accountant Tyler Devlin speaking to the Pike CEO students at Illinois Electric Cooperative.

The CEO programs in Morgan, Scott, Greene, Calhoun, and Pike Counties will soon start accepting applicants for next year's classes. CEO teaches students business and life skills that often sets the students apart from their peers.

The co-op along with dozens of local investors helped start the Morgan-Scott CEO program nine years ago, with Greene-Calhoun and Pike programs following two years later. The goal: to help retain young people in our service territory by introducing them to the opportunities right in their backyards. As part of this, students in the CEO program start a class and personal business, as well as hear from more than 50 local professionals and business owners from their communities who share their career journeys, experiences, and lessons learned along the way. These connections help students develop professional networks, which sometimes lead to internship opportunities and ongoing mentorships.



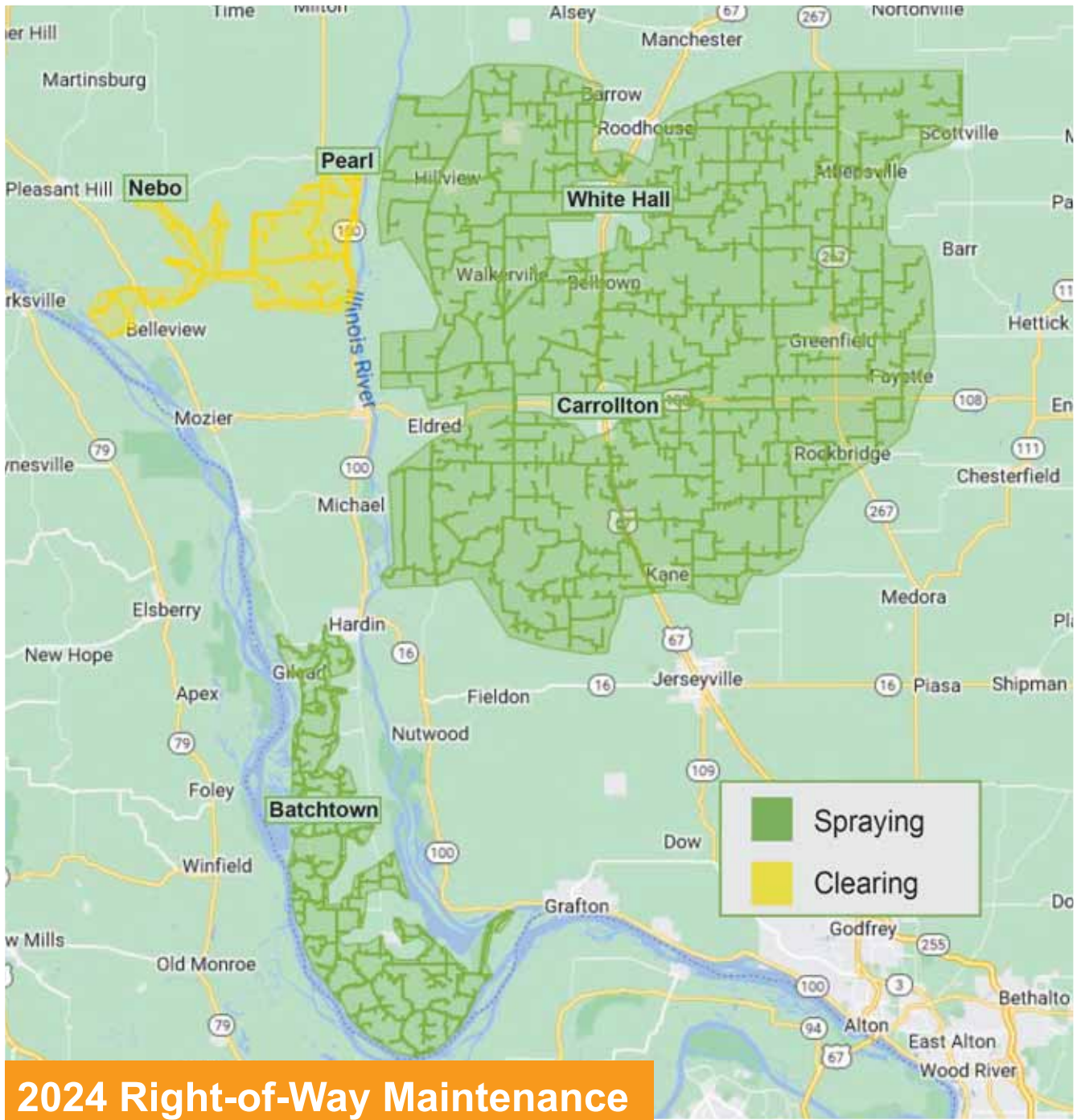
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CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL  
OPPORTUNITIES

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MORGAN-SCOTT • GREENE-CALHOUN • PIKE

Morgan-Scott, Greene-Calhoun, and Pike CEO programs will officially begin student recruitment for the 2024-2025 classes in February. If you have a child or grandchild who will be a senior in the fall, have him or her speak to their school guidance counselor about applying to be in next year's CEO program.



## 2024 Right-of-Way Maintenance

The co-op and contractor crews are beginning to do right-of-way clearing and spraying. The map above outlines where crews will be clearing and spraying in 2024.

We trim and cut trees to reduce blinks and outages, and trees in the electric lines are potentially a serious danger. We also do follow up spraying as it's more cost effective than removal. All of our personnel who

spray have passed the Illinois Department of Natural Resources tests to ensure full compliance.

For more information on right-of-way clearing, visit our website at [e-co-op.com](http://e-co-op.com) and click on Tree Trimming under the Services tab. If you have any questions, concerns, or requests, please contact Roger Fletcher at (217) 742-3128 ext. 1140.

## **Co-op's Rates to Increase an Average of 3.26% with Bills Mailed in February**

At the Annual Meeting of the Membership, our local member meetings, as well as in this publication, I have talked about the factors that drive rates. Maintaining an aging electric distribution system to serve the low-density rural areas is economically challenging. Recently those challenges have only increased with high inflation and rising interest rates. The combination of these factors will have a negative effect on 2024 rates.

Expenses at your co-op have increased substantially. Some of the materials necessary to maintain the electric system have tripled in price. We have also seen a significant change in the cost of trucks and equipment, increasing as much as 70% in some cases.

We must borrow money to make the capital improvements needed to meet the growing demands of the electric system and to provide you with safe and reliable service. We borrow primarily from the Federal Government, guaranteeing the lowest possible rates. Even so, we have seen long-term interest expense increase by 40% year-to-date, adding to the negative pressure on rates.

We have made every effort to reduce costs and manage inflationary pressures, but still, due to the aforementioned reasons, there is a need for a modest rate increase. Without diligence in managing expenses, a more significant increase would have been needed.

Effective in February, rates will increase an average of 3.26%. If you have any questions about rates, please feel free to give me a call. A complete rate schedule is available on our website at [e-co-op.com](http://e-co-op.com).

Randy B. Long,  
General Manager  
Illinois Electric Cooperative

## **Sign Up for Text Message Notifications**



**Illinois Electric Cooperative offers text message notifications to members. This allows members to get alerts on their cell phone of outages that affect them along with the ability to quickly report outages.**

**Visit our website at [e-co-op.com](http://e-co-op.com) or give us a call at 1-800-468-4732 to sign up today!**



## CO-OP OUTAGE MAP

Did you know we have an outage map on our website? The outage map shows outages across our service territory and is essential during storms. Members can view the map on a desktop or mobile phone.

In case of an outage, please call 1-800-468-4732 to report your outage. Calling in to report an outage ensures your outage is logged into our system. For those registered, we have a text message service that we utilize as well.

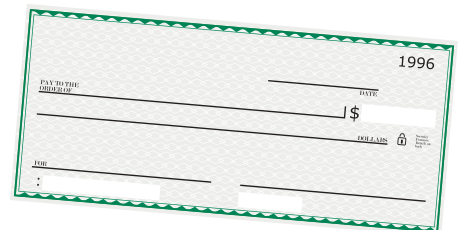
We always recommend having a plan of action in the event of a significant weather event, along with electronics, such as your phone, charged and some essential supplies on hand.

View our outage map by visiting our website at [www.e-co-op.com](http://www.e-co-op.com).



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