

ENERSTAR ELECTRIC CO-OP

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NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF ENERSTAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



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Youth Day 2024

EnerStar Electric Cooperative  
**Annual Meeting of Members**  
**Saturday, June 1, 2024**

Member Breakfast - 7:30 am to 9:00 am • Member Meeting - 9:30 am  
 Paris High School • 14040 E. 1200th Road, Paris, Illinois

### Why you should attend



#### Meet & eat

*Come hungry! Breakfast is being catered by Roosters & Rumps, Marshall, Ill.*



#### Socialize

*Catch up with neighbors, friends, and co-op employees and directors!*



#### Vote

*Director election results announced, and members will vote on bylaw changes.*



#### Hear & ask

*Get updated on the co-op and ask questions about issues that matter to you.*



#### Win

*We always have great door prizes! This year, win bill credits from \$25 to \$250!*



#### Thank you

*As a thank you for coming, we will drop a \$25 bill credit on your account!*



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.

## About the Election for the Board of Directors

We are excited about our upcoming annual meeting and can't wait to see everyone there. The Official Notice of the Annual Meeting will be mailed to all active members in late April, so keep an eye on your mailbox. Along with the notice, you will receive details about the candidates running for an open seat on the EnerStar Board of Directors, a voting ballot for your representative district, and a pre-addressed return envelope. Ballots can be returned three ways:

- Mail your ballot in the pre-addressed envelope. There is no postage necessary. Mail-in ballots must be received by Friday, May 31, 2024 by 4 p.m. Do not include any other correspondence, such as a payment for your electric bill.
- Hand deliver your ballot in the sealed envelope to the EnerStar office at 11597 IL Hwy 1, Paris, IL, by 4 p.m. on Friday, May 31, 2024.
- Hand deliver your ballot in the sealed envelope at Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, June 1, 2024, at Paris High School, Paris.

Ballots will be counted by co-op members serving as Election Inspectors. The director results will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

At the meeting, members will also vote on two proposed bylaw changes. Detailed information will be included in the official notice but can also be found at [www.enerstar.com](http://www.enerstar.com).

**GOT QUESTIONS?**

If you have any questions regarding your membership or the annual meeting, please contact the EnerStar office at 800-635-4145 during normal business hours.

We look forward to seeing everyone at this year's annual meeting!

## Director Candidate Profiles

There are three co-op members who petitioned to be included on the director ballot. Below are director candidate profiles. These profiles will be included in the official notice that will mail in late April.

Kevin is a 1976 graduate of Shiloh High School and has lived in his voting district for 55 + years. He grew up on a farm and worked in farming in his early career. He has recently retired as a senior electrician for Peabody Energy and Pittman Mine Services. After retiring, he has continued his education to maintain both federal and state electrical licenses.

Kevin is currently the highway commissioner for Shiloh Township, where he was previously a trustee for over 30 years. He is also the representative for EnerStar on the Association of



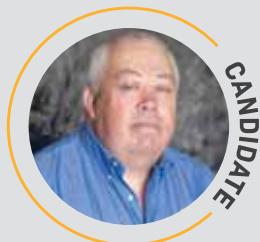
**Kevin Julian**  
Candidate A2

Illinois Electric Cooperatives board in Springfield.

Kevin and his wife, Pam, a librarian at Shiloh School, have three daughters and four grandchildren. In his free time, Kevin likes going camping and spending time with family and friends. He also enjoys running a small trenching and backhoe service.

After serving three terms as the District Two representative, Kevin believes EnerStar currently has a very diverse board for making many difficult decisions in order to keep the coop headed in the right direction.

Darin Griffin has lived in Edgar County his whole life. He has worked at VADAS Auto Parts for 34 years and recently became the owner. In his spare time, Darin also farms a little over 350 acres and has been involved with the Grandview

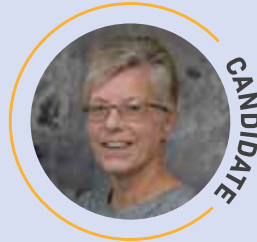


**Darin Griffin**  
Candidate B4

Volunteer Fire Department for over twenty years. His hobbies include doing anything outdoors and gardening. Darin joined the EnerStar board in 2021 and thanks the membership for the opportunity to serve on the EnerStar Board.

## Director Candidate Profiles *(continued)*

Julie has lived in the Martinsville area for the past 40 years and taught in the Martinsville School District for 33 years before retiring two years ago. Retired life has kept her busy, but she enjoys working in her garden, reading, and putting together puzzles in her free time. Even though she may be busy, she always finds time to spend with my four grandchildren. Julie, and her husband, Tony, have been members of the Martinsville Bible Church for over 36 years; Tony serves as a church deacon, while Julie



**Julie Higginbotham**  
Candidate C7

has served as church treasurer for over twenty years. Julie was appointed to the EnerStar board of directors in October 2023 to fill a vacancy created when the then-director moved out of the service area. Julie states she has thoroughly enjoyed the past few months as a director and continues to learn more about the electric cooperative and how it functions. She will continue that mission as a duly elected director and do her best to serve the member-owners of the cooperative.



## Getting to know your co-op employees

*Julie Wineinger and Kira Taylor*

As part of our ongoing series to introduce you to our co-op employees and their roles, we are highlighting our accounting department this month.

Julie Wineinger is an accountant who graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. She has over 26 years of accounting experience, including just over 11 years at EnerStar.

Kira Taylor, our Chief Financial Officer, joined the team in December 2023. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and a Master's Degree in Business Administration, both from Eastern Illinois University. Kira has over 20 years of accounting and auditing experience, most recently in a managerial position at Walgreens' corporate office. She is also a Certified Public Accountant.

Both Julie and Kira are employees and members of EnerStar. "As a member, I appreciate the opportunity to understand the complex process of bringing electricity to the countryside, with its more rural terrain," said Julie. "I have compassion for our operations department, which works in all kinds of weather,



*Julie Wineinger (left) and Kira Taylor handle accounting functions at the co-op. They are both co-op members as well!*

with a 24/7/365 commitment. Rain or shine. Hot or cold. Night or day."

Kira considers working for EnerStar a dream job and has wanted to work at the co-op for many years. She says the role has exceeded her expectations. "It has been like a breath of fresh air after leaving the corporate world, because EnerStar truly cares about their employees," said Kira. "We are empowered to do what is right for our members each and every day. It truly demonstrates the 'co-op difference.'"

Thank you, Julie and Kira, for your dedication to our electric co-op!





*Turner Graham and Carly Foley met with State Senator Chapin Rose (R-51) and Representative Adam Niemerg (R-102).*

## Leaders of tomorrow represent their co-op on Youth Day

For more than 60 years, the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois have given tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to learn from today's public officials. On March 20, more than 200 students from across rural Illinois represented 25 co-ops during Youth Day, including two from EnerStar Electric Cooperative.

"Youth Day gives students across the state an up-close look at democracy in action as they meet their elected representatives in

Springfield," said Angela Griffin, EnerStar's Manager of Marketing and Communications. "State senators and representatives have the opportunity to inspire and encourage the leaders of tomorrow during this annual event."

In addition to meeting elected officials, the students also learned more about their electric cooperative's role in their own communities and had the opportunity to tour the Illinois State Capitol and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

State Senator Chapin Rose (R-51) and Representatives Chris Miller (R-101) and Adam Niemerg (R-102) met with the students representing EnerStar Electric. These students included Turner Graham and Carly Foley, both students at Marshall High School.

In addition to Youth Day, Graham and Foley were also



*Carly Foley and Turner Graham met with Representative Chris Miller (R-101).*

selected to participate in Youth Tour, an annual trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives. This year's trip will be held June 14-21. They will represent EnerStar Electric on the weeklong trip and meet their elected officials, see historic sites, learn firsthand how cooperatives work and gain valuable leadership skills.

Information on the 2025 event will be available later this fall. Information will be included in this magazine and the co-op's social media channels.



*EnerStar chaperones were Kayla Foos (left) and Angela Griffin (back).*