

Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Norris Electric Cooperative

8543 N St Hwy 130
Newton, IL 62448

Phone: 618-783-8765
or **Toll-Free:**
1-877-783-8765

Report an Outage:
1-877-783-3221

Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday
7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Chairman

Gordon McClureJasper

Vice Chairman

Justin Parcel..... Clark

Secretary/Treasurer

Ted HelminkCumberland

Directors

Ava LemmonCrawford
Brandon Graves Richland
Kurt HolscherCrawford
Gilbert Garbe Effingham
Scott Weiss.....Lawrence
Dan Strine Wabash
Dave Sheppard.....Jasper
Ron Viehman.....Lawrence

General Manager

Tamara Phillips



Do not overlook overhead power lines

It can be easy to overlook things that we see every day, including overhead power lines. However, failure to notice overhead lines can be deadly. If you or an object you are touching contacts or gets too close to a power line, you could be seriously injured or killed.

Overhead power lines require 10 feet of clearance in all directions. This distance rule applies to the power lines draped from pole to pole that line roads (distribution lines), as well as the drop-down lines that service homes or other structures.

If your job requires you to operate equipment in the vicinity of large transmission lines and towers, they require even more clearance than distribution and drop-down lines. That clearance is determined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). OSHA mandates line clearance distances for all types of power lines.

Be mindful of overhead power lines when completing the following tasks:

Home maintenance

Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long tools, such as ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles. Lower long tools and equipment before moving or transporting them. Other safety tips include:

- Carry ladders and other long items horizontally whenever possible.
- Be careful when working on or around your roof.
- Never go on a roof in windy or bad weather.

Yard work

When trimming trees, do not allow yourself or trimmers to come within 10 feet of overhead power lines, including service lines to your home or outbuilding. Also:

- Do not trim trees near power lines; instead, leave this to certified line clearance tree trimmers.
- Do not use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines.

Farming

Review power line locations and other potential electrical hazards with all workers at morning safety meetings. Equipment that could get too close or contact a power pole or line includes sprayer tips, tall equipment, dump trucks, augers and other extensions.

At work

Follow all OSHA distance requirements when operating dump trucks, cranes, concrete pump truck extensions and when working on a roof or in a bucket.

Other reminders

- Do not come within 50 feet of a downed or damaged power line. Warn others to stay away. Call 911 to report it.
- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could come in contact when weight is added to the branch.

Look up and look out for overhead power lines. Contact can happen in an instant. For additional electrical safety tips, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Meet your elected Norris Electric Directors

CLARK COUNTY
Justin Parcel, Clark Co

CUMBERLAND COUNTY
Ted Helmink, Cumberland Co

EFFINGHAM COUNTY
Dave Thoele, Effingham Co

JASPER COUNTY
Gordon McClure, Jasper Co, President
Dave Sheppard, Jasper Co

CRAWFORD COUNTY
Ava Lemmon, Crawford Co
Kurt Holscher, Crawford Co

RICHLAND COUNTY
Brandon Graves, Richland Co

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Ron Viehman, Lawrence Co, Vice President
Scott Weiss, Lawrence Co

WABASH COUNTY
Dan Strine, Wabash Co, Secretary/Treasurer

Board of Directors

A Board of Directors is the representative body of the members of the cooperative. It represents the legitimate cooperative owners and acts on their behalf. The owners elect the Board and place in its hands the administration of the assets and responsibilities of the cooperative. The Board of Directors has five principal functions:

1. **Legal:** Ensure the legal right of the cooperative to exist.
2. **Trusteeship:** Act in the best interest of the members.
3. **Planning:** Develop programs and carry out plans based on ideals that reflect the thinking of its members, with realistic goals adjusted to the purposes of the cooperative.
4. **Resources:** Assure the availability of basic resources, including personnel, loan funds, wholesale power, and revenue, according to the cooperative's size and needs.

5. **Control:** Monitor operations to assure compliance with Board policy, budgets, member relations, loan covenants, contractual compliance, and long-range planning.

In addition to the above responsibilities, Directors also have certain duties and rights. Director duties include loyalty, obedience, and due care. Loyalty requires a Director to be loyal first to the cooperative entity. Obedience requires a Director to perform his or her duties in accordance with applicable laws, bylaws, contracts, and policies. Due care requires a Director to perform his or her duties as a member of the Board, or any committee of the Board upon which he or she serves, in good faith, in a manner he or she reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the cooperative, and with the care that an ordinarily prudent person in a similar position would use under similar circumstances.

Make sure your phone number and email are up to date


Please ensure that your phone number and email address are up to date. Many members have discontinued their landline telephones over the years, which can sometimes make it difficult for the co-op to reach them without current contact information. If you have changed your primary phone number or would like to add a cell phone number to your account, please notify us.

Updating your phone number helps to automate payment in our IVR and outage system. It allows the

system to recognize the account associated with the phone number, making the process smoother. You can check your payment stub on your most recent bill to see the primary phone number that we have on file.

We must have your current phone number and email address in our system so that we can reach you in case of an emergency. Please give us a call at 877-783-8765 to update your information or fill out the back of your payment stub and submit it with your next payment.

Retain this copy for your records
Please detach and return bottom portion with your payment
IL08360F

 8543 N STATE HWY 130
NEWTON IL 62448-4060

Cycle 117

Account #: 82012342001	Billing Date: 03/21/24
Current Amount Due 04/08/2024	77.77
Current Amount Due After 04/08/2024	77.77

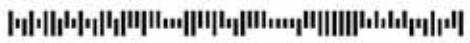
TOTAL NET DUE (for this account #) 77.77

See available payment options on back.

Check here for address or phone number correction and complete form on reverse side. Our records show your phone number is (123) 456-7891.

JOHN DOE 0
123 N 100TH ST 141
NEWTON IL 62448-3832

NORRIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
8543 N STATE HWY 130
NEWTON IL 62448-4060



5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

When summer temperatures rise, so do our energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings.

1. Raise your thermostat. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.

2. Install window coverings like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.

3. Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.
4. Run ceiling fans for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.
5. Lower your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.



Source: Dept. of Energy

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 10 from Norris 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 Baylee Flowers, legal and government relations coordinator at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. "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 or telephone 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 Adam Niemerg (R-102) and Blaine Wilhour (R-110) met with the students representing Norris Electric. These students included Daylen Beckes, Devin Lawyer, Victoria McMillan, Gabrielle Heath, Addison Nuxoll, Alex Birchfield, Ryanna Powell, Cameron Davis, Peyton Walker and Eathan Florey.

During lunch, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Natalie Phelps Finnie addressed the students. She discussed her background as a healthcare provider and how she got into politics. She encouraged them to follow their passions, live confidently and work hard.

"You're embarking upon adulthood," Phelps Finnie said to the students. "You can do anything you want to do.

I just ask that you come to adulthood with the right posture and attitude. ... Don't come with a sense of entitlement that everything is owed to you. Work for it. Earn it."

Participants also met Paris Van Dyke, the 2023-24 Illinois Youth Leadership Council representative, who was sponsored by Wabash Communications during last year's Youth Day. She spoke about her experiences over the past year and challenged attendees to say, "Yes."

"What I want to say to you today is something that I decided to do during this day last year ... take every opportunity," Van Dyke said. "You will learn so much if you just choose to say, 'Yes.'"

At the end of the day, attendees were interviewed for the chance 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. Victoria McMillan of Robinson and Alex Birchfield of Newton will represent Norris Electric on the week-long trip and meet their elected officials, see historic sites, learn firsthand how cooperatives work and gain valuable leadership skills.

(Top) More than 200 students from across rural Illinois represented 25 co-ops, including 10 from Norris Electric Cooperative, stand in front of the Illinois State Capitol building; (2nd) Students representing Norris Electric Cooperative are pictured with State Senator Chapin Rose (R-51) and Representative Adam Niemerg (R-102); (3rd) Students representing Norris Electric Cooperative are pictured with Representative Blaine Wilhour (R-110); (Bottom) Students representing Norris Electric Cooperative visit Springfield.

