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This month, in the final edition of our ongoing series introducing our co-op employees, we will highlight EnerStar's Strategic Management Team (SMT). This team works together, sometimes outside of their job descriptions, to serve the collective needs of the co-op employees and the membership.



The management team at EnerStar plays a crucial role in navigating the cooperative through the constantly evolving electric industry. The team members are as follows: Front row (left to right): Kim Stewart, Kira Taylor and Angela Griffin. Back row (left to right): Dave Clinton, Greg Hollingsworth and Shannon Quinn.

About the Management Team members

Kim Stewart is the Chief Operating Officer. She oversees administration, board relations and safety while managing human resources for the co-op's employees. Stewart is a Southern Illinois University graduate with 32 years of experience in the HR field, including 6 years since joining the EnerStar team in 2018.

Kira Taylor became part of the co-op family in December 2023 as the Chief Financial Officer. She earned a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in business administration from Eastern Illinois University. She is a Certified Public Accountant with over 20 years of accounting and auditing experience.



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Angela Griffin is the Manager of Marketing and Communications and has recently taken on the CEO role. She has been a member of the co-op family since 1989, after graduating from Indiana State University.

Dave Clinton joined EnerStar in 2018 as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and accepted the role of CEO in 2022. Clinton has had a long career in the rural electric cooperative industry, beginning in 1978 and spanning the states of Washington, Virginia and concluding in Illinois. He recently retired from the CEO role and will assist the co-op during the CEO transition.

Greg Hollingsworth was welcomed back to EnerStar in 2022 as Manager of Engineering and Operations and is responsible for the reliability of the co-op's electric infrastructure. Greg had previously worked at EnerStar from 1988 to 2008 as a journeyman lineman, eventually serving as foreman.

Shannon Quinn is the Manager of Information Technology and joined the co-op in 2023. Shannon attended SIU Carbondale and joined the co-op family after four years at the Illinois Department of Transportation, where he served as a utilities coordinator. Before that, he worked in IT/GIS at the Edgar County Highway Department.

EnerStar CEO role update



Dave Clinton retires

EnerStar CEO Dave Clinton retired Nov. 1, 2024. Throughout Clinton's varied career, his roles have included Chief Financial Officer, Chief Executive Officer, co-op industry lobbyist, and crisis manager. Recently, he led team efforts to develop

EnerStar's long-range strategic plan.

Regarding his co-op legacy, "I feel I can best describe my career as simply listening to the challenges and needs of people and then using a servant-leadership strategy to develop and implement positive changes," said Clinton. "Those solutions will last long after I have moved on to the next challenge."

Clinton will stay with the cooperative through the transition period until the end of the year. He will assist the management team in developing the co-op's financial budget and with several other projects, including future rate strategies and load control programs.



Griffin named CEO

Succeeding Clinton as CEO will be long-term EnerStar employee Angela Griffin. Griffin has over 35 years of diverse experience in the cooperative sector. In 2016, Griffin completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative's Management

Internship Program at the University of Wisconsin and has since participated in ongoing co-op training at the state and national levels. Throughout her career, she has served on numerous local nonprofit boards. She currently serves on the board of directors for the Paris Economic Development Corporation.

"During my interview, one question asked was, 'Which of the seven cooperative principles is most important to you?' While I value all of them, Commitment

to Community stands out the most to me," said Griffin. "I take great pride in our local co-op roots, our dedication to the communities we serve, and the co-op member-owners." Griffin added that most co-op employees work here and live here. They are equally committed to serving our co-op membership.

Griffin explained that the electric utility is rapidly evolving. Alongside this transformation, the cooperative has experienced several changes, including the retirement of many long-term employees. She credited the strong management team under Clinton's leadership for leading the cooperative through this period by focusing on training and developing a long-term strategic plan.

Griffin emphasized that the co-op's members can rely on its core values. "Safety, stability and member service will always be our top priorities," Griffin concluded.

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- We'll send you a gift certificate to give to your recipient or we can send it anonymously.
- No action is required from the recipient.

IEC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

17 SCHOLARSHIPS \$2,500 EACH

Seventeen \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded in 2025 through the IEC Memorial Scholarship Program.

10 SCHOLARSHIPS awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members..

5 SCHOLARSHIPS for high school seniors enrolling full time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

1 SCHOLARSHIP, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, awarded to a high school senior who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric co-op employee or director.

1 SCHOLARSHIP, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship, awarded to a student attending lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill.

Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2022.

The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2023.

For more information, go to aiec.coop/iec-scholarship.



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS

Our office will be closed Dec. 24 & 25 for Christmas and Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.



Youth to Washington

APPLY TODAY TO REPRESENT ENERSTAR IN D.C.

For more than 60 years, the electric cooperatives of Illinois have given tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to learn from today's public officials, and EnerStar is on the hunt for two outstanding students to represent our co-op at **Youth Tour** this year. EnerStar's **Youth Tour** is actually two separate events: **Youth Day** in Springfield and the Youth to Washington trip.

YOUTH DAY IN SPRINGFIELD – TBD 2025

Each year, nearly 300 outstanding students get an up-close, first-hand look at democracy in action when they meet their elected representatives during Illinois Electric Cooperatives Youth Day.

YOUTH DAY IN SPRINGFIELD



YOUTH TO WASHINGTON – JUNE 16-23, 2025

Those individuals selected will also travel by charter bus for an all-expense, week-long tour of Washington, D.C. where they will create lasting memories and visit all the Washington must-see sites including Gettysburg, George Washington's Mt Vernon, Smithsonian museums, Arlington Cemetery, and much more!

YOUTH TO WASHINGTON



HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should be high school freshmen, sophomores or juniors during the 2024-2025 school year. In addition, the students must reside in the EnerStar service territory and receive their electricity from EnerStar.

Visit www.enerstar.com to find the application in the Community Section.