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NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF ENERSTAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MAY 2025

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Saturday, June 7, 2025

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

Why you should attend



Meet & eat

Come hungry! Breakfast is being catered by The Track Shack (Paris).



Socialize

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



Vote

Members will vote on director elections.



Hear & ask

Get co-op updates and ask questions about issues that matter to you.



Win

We always have great door prizes! 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.

IMPORTANT

VOTING INFO

We are excited about our upcoming annual meeting and can't wait to see everyone there. The Official Notice of the Annual Meeting was mailed to all active members in late April.

Approved bylaw change: Important news about uncontested elections

While we encourage active participation in the director election process, there are instances when co-op members run unopposed for a board seat. At the 2024 annual meeting, cooperative members approved a bylaw change to address this situation.

If more than one candidate is running for a board seat, the regular mail-in ballot process will be used. However, in situations like this year, when only one candidate is running for a board seat, the co-op will suspend the mail portion of the election process. This reduces costs for the cooperative in paper goods and postage. Unopposed candidates will be presented for a verbal vote during the Annual Meeting.

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.

Granville was born and raised in Edgar County and is a 1996 graduate of Paris High School. He went on to attend Eastern Illinois University and graduated in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in Speech Communications with a concentration in interpersonal, organizational, and public relations and a minor in Business. In 2013, Granville started his career with Edward Jones and is currently a Financial Advisor. Granville is passionate about "giving back" to the community in which you work and live. He has been a member of the Edgar County Shrine Club for 25 years. In 2020, he served as President. Granville also served as President for the Charleston Rotary

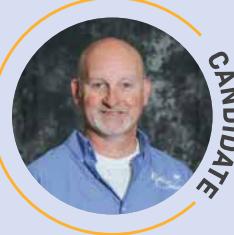


Granville Colvin
Candidate A3

Club (2019) and is currently still a board member. Granville has also served as a mentor for local youth programs. He is currently a volunteer for the PERK program where he has been a mentor for the past 4 years. Granville has served as an EnerStar board member since 2022 and has become a Certified Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and has earned his Board Leadership Certification (BLC). Granville currently resides in Paris with his wife, Danielle, and their two children, Brinkley & Mack. Danielle is a Physical Therapist at Horizon Health in Paris. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, cooking for charity events, and spending time with his family.

Director Candidate Profiles (*continued*)

Hello, my name is Jeff Murphy, and I would consider it a privilege to serve as your representative on the EnerStar Electric Board. I have lived my entire life in Clark County. My wife Amy and I have three children and five wonderful grandchildren. I am a partner/owner of an insurance agency and grew up with a farm background. I think we are blessed to be a part of a member-owned co-op such as EnerStar Electric. Cooperatives are unique in the fact that members are vested in the company. I think our co-op will be challenged in the future with the ever-changing landscape of



Jeff Murphy
Candidate B6

energy production. EnerStar Electric only has an average of 3.4 members per mile of line, and this trend has been consistent. Increased cost of material, labor, maintenance and power purchase will continue to be high priorities. These challenges and more will shape the future of our co-op. State and federal regulations continue to be of concern, and I believe we will have to be flexible to meet these challenges. I look forward to working together with staff and the board to help solve and meet these challenges in the future. I appreciate your support.

Greg Robinson grew up on a swine and grain farm south of Marshall, Ill. He is a graduate of Marshall High School, received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 2000 and Professional Civil Engineering licensure in 2010.

Greg has been employed with the Illinois Department of Transportation for 23 years and has held job titles ranging from bridge inspector to resident engineer to his current position as supervising construction field engineer. In addition to his career at IDOT, Greg operates a small corn and soybean farm with the gracious assistance of numerous friends and neighbors.

Greg has been heavily involved in the Clark County 4-H program since 1985 as a member and



Greg Robinson
Candidate C8

currently as a leader of the Triple-T 4-H club. He has been a member of the Clark County Pork Producers for over 20 years and has been an active member of the Illinois Farm Bureau.

WHY: I am seeking a board position with EnerStar to serve as a representative voice for my fellow co-op members while pursuing the continuous goal of implementing the cooperative principles.

CHALLENGES: The inevitability of increasing operating costs associated with the recent unsustainable goal brought forth by the federal government and followed blindly by Illinois' legislators of eliminating all carbon-emitting (primarily coal and natural gas) will bring unprecedented challenges to the power generation and distribution industry both fiscally and logically.





EnerStar has a dedicated team of employees focused on vegetation management. From left to right, the team members serving the co-op membership in this critical role are ROW Crew Leader Josh Willmuth, Forestry Journeyman Colton Propst, Forestry Level 2 Bryce Walsh and Forestry Foreman Tyler Robison.

Commitment to safety and reliability — the old ways and the new

EnerStar is committed to ensuring the safety and reliability of our electric service, which is essential for daily life and powers both homes and businesses. Our dedicated forestry team – Tyler Robison, Colton Propst, Josh Willmuth and Bryce Walsh – serves as guardians of our electric infrastructure. Their roles require relentless effort, the right equipment and a strong dedication to their craft.

Right-of-Way maintenance

Right-of-Way (ROW) maintenance is essential for providing reliable service. Overgrown trees and vegetation near power lines can cause outages, especially during storms. EnerStar follows a scheduled maintenance cycle, typically every 5 to 8 years, to trim trees and clear obstructions.

We use various methods for this task. The most common involve traditional manual labor, utilizing specialized equipment such as chainsaws, pruning tools and bucket trucks, along with advanced tree-climbing techniques.

We have also adopted innovative methods to manage tree growth near power lines. A few years ago, we contracted a helicopter equipped with suspended saws to access hard-to-reach areas, significantly reducing the time and labor required for clearing.

Jaraff/giraffe

This year, EnerStar's ROW plan included a visit from the "giraffe," which is actually a Jaraff – a mechanical tree trimmer. This machine resembles a small crane and features a long, extendable boom with a circular cutting blade that can rotate 180 degrees for precise cuts in any direction. With the ability to reach heights of up to 75 feet, the Jaraff allows crews to work more efficiently, covering up to 1,000 feet of trimming per day – far more than what can be accomplished with manual trimming. The Jaraff is a significant addition to our maintenance arsenal and is currently being used this year in the West Union and Marshall substation areas.

Our commitment continues

EnerStar is fortunate to have a team of dedicated co-op employees. Whether it's the forestry crews keeping the lines clear, linemen maintaining the system, or the office employees ensuring everything runs smoothly, their collective efforts are the backbone of our service, all with the common goal of providing exceptional member service, improving reliability and keeping our communities powered safely.



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