

Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Norris Electric Cooperative

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Newton, IL 62448

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Report an Outage:
1-877-783-3221

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

Chairman

Gordon McClureJasper

Vice Chairman

Brandon Graves Richland

Secretary/Treasurer

Dan Strine Wabash

Directors

Ava LemmonCrawford

Ron Viehman.....Lawrence

Kurt HolscherCrawford

Dave Thoele Effingham

Scott Weiss.....Lawrence

Justin Parcel..... Clark

Dave Sheppard.....Jasper

Ted Helmink Cumberland

General Manager

Tamara Phillips



Future leaders meet state officials during 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 5, approximately 200 high school students from across rural Illinois represented 22 co-ops during Youth Day, including seven from Norris Electric Cooperative.

"Youth Day offers students from across the state a firsthand experience of democracy in action as they engage with their elected representatives in Springfield," said Brooke Gross, member services manager at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and facilitator of its youth programs. "This annual event provides state senators and representatives a chance to inspire and support the next generation of leaders."

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 Capitol Building and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

State Senator Steve McClure and Representatives Adam Niemerg, Dave Severin and Blaine Wilhour met with the students representing Norris Electric Cooperative. These students included Owen Ulm, Ryan Spiker and Cameron Newkirk, Newton Community High School; Eva Mette and Anna Probst, Teutopolis High School; and Morgan Mays and Brayden Schnarre of Altamont High School.

During lunch, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs addressed the students.

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Meet your elected Norris Electric Directors

Ted Helmink, Cumberland Co

Justin Parcel, Clark Co

Dave Thoele, Effingham Co

Gordon McClure, Jasper Co, President

Ava Lemmon, Crawford Co

Kurt Holscher, Crawford Co

Dave Sheppard, Jasper Co

Brandon Graves, Richland Co, Vice President

Scott Weiss, Lawrence Co

Ron Viehman, Lawrence Co

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 members and place in their 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.

Meet your elected Norris Electric Directors:

- Ava Lemmon, Crawford County
- Brandon Graves, Richland County, Vice President
- Kurt Holscher, Crawford County
- Dave Thoele, Effingham County
- Ted Helmink, Cumberland County
- Gordon McClure, Jasper County, President
- Justin Parcel, Clark County
- Scott Weiss, Lawrence County
- Dan Strine, Wabash County, Secretary/Treasurer
- Ron Viehman, Lawrence County
- Dave Sheppard, Jasper County



He shared his journey from a small town in Illinois to his current role, emphasizing the importance of finding interesting and challenging opportunities. He encouraged students to pursue their passions and take risks.

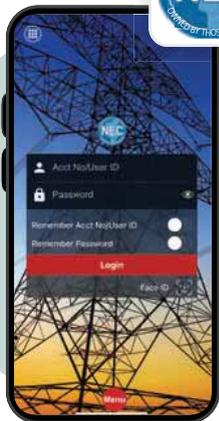
“When you push yourself outside your comfort zone, it’s uncomfortable at first, but you learn a lot,” Frerichs said. “I’m guessing this is a room of people who want to do big things.”

Participants also met Paris Van Dyke, the 2023-24 Illinois Youth Leadership Council representative, who was sponsored by Wabash Communications CO-OP during the 2023 Youth Day and Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. She spoke about her experiences representing Illinois’ electric and telephone cooperatives.

“I wouldn’t be where I am today if it wasn’t for this experience two years ago, because I really got out of my box and decided to try something new,” Van Dyke said. “Be proud of yourself for sitting in the chairs that you are in today, because you have an opportunity that not very many students get. So, take advantage of that, and just remember to say yes to the opportunities that come your way.”

At the end of the day, attendees were interviewed for the chance to participate in Youth Tour, an annual trip to Washington, D.C., also sponsored by Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives. This year’s trip will be held June 16-23. Owen Ulm was selected as the recipient of the 2025 Tootie Holmes Youth to Washington

Scholarship provided by the Cooperative Choice Network Credit Union, which serves Illinois electric and telephone cooperative members. Anna Probst and Eva Mette will also represent Norris Electric Cooperative on the weeklong trip. All three students will meet their elected officials, see historic sites, learn firsthand how cooperatives work and gain valuable leadership skills.



Download the Norris Electric App Today!

Do you have an iPhone or Android smartphone? If so, Norris Electric Cooperative has a smartphone app for you. The app is named **Norris Electric** and is available for free for iPhone and Android smartphones.

With the app, members can check their balance, make a payment, view payment/bill history, report an outage, view the outage map, view usage graphs which tracks usage consumption and set alerts and reminders for due date, high energy usage and payment confirmation.

The app can be found by visiting the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and searching "Norris Electric."

If you have any trouble downloading or signing up for the app, give us a call at 1-877-783-8765 and we can walk you through it.

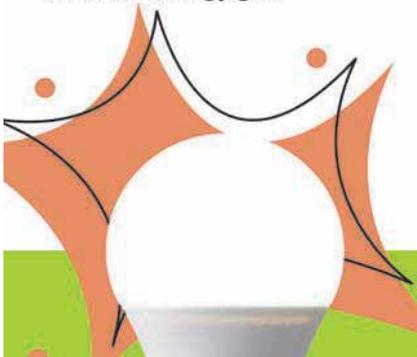


ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year, and more often if there are pets in the home.

When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance.

Source: energy.gov



SUMMER IS COMING PREPARE YOUR HOME NOW

Don't Let Summer Heat Up Your Utility Bill

-  Seal cracks around the house with weather stripping or caulk to keep warm air out.
-  Change the air filter on your cooling unit.
-  Wash your outdoor AC unit and have your HVAC unit inspected.
-  Clear the air vents throughout your house.
-  Install a programmable thermostat. Leave it on a higher temperature when you are away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.
-  Update your insulation to keep cool air in your home and warm air out.

Learn more at: 

Our office will be closed on
MONDAY, MAY 26TH
for Memorial Day.



REMINDER

As of May 1, 2025, banks will no longer accept payments for Norris Electric Cooperative.