

## INSIDE

**18B**

Annual Meeting

**18C**

Mill Creek Park donation

**18D**

McCollum certification

Office closing Labor Day

## EnerStar Electric Cooperative Holds Annual Meeting of Members

As is tradition, EnerStar member-owners gathered on Saturday, June 10, at Paris High School for the co-op's annual breakfast and meeting.

Board President Jeff Murphy called the meeting to order after confirming that a quorum was present. Secretary/Treasurer Greg Robinson then presented the financial report for 2024. After all routine business was conducted and employees were introduced, Murphy recognized Board Director Thad Martin of Paris for 5 years of service and Board Director Dan Gard of West Union for 25 years of service.

Murphy welcomed EnerStar CEO Angela Griffin to the stage to share EnerStar's accomplishments from the past year.

Griffin was appointed CEO in October 2024 and has been with EnerStar for 35 years. She discussed the two key components that drive the cooperative: reliability and rates. Griffin outlined EnerStar's strategic approach to improving reliability across a challenging terrain that spans 1,500 miles of power lines and includes over 28,000 utility poles. She credited the Forestry Department for its crucial role in preventing outages by proactively managing trees surrounding the electric system. Additionally, Griffin explained that the cooperative is implementing a meter



*The EnerStar Annual Meeting is an excellent opportunity for member-owners to visit with co-op members who are elected to serve on the board of directors and learn more about the cooperative. Jeff Zimmerman (left), a co-op director from Oakland, visits with a member before the start of the meeting at the co-op's member breakfast.*

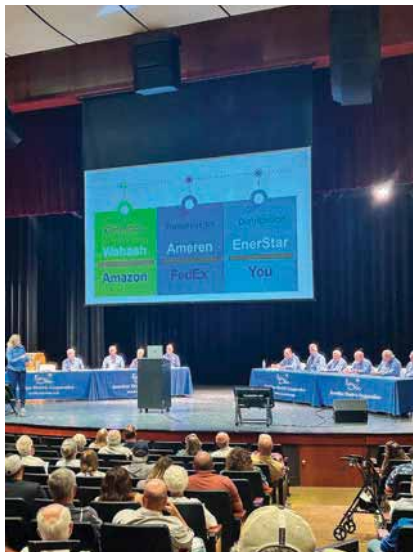
replacement program. While some may view these meters as simply cash registers, today's meters provide much more data and are designed to enhance reliability, reduce outage times and significantly improve communication during outages.

Griffin addressed the topic of electric rates stating that EnerStar's rates have been fairly stable for the last 10 years. "There has been misinformation on social media that I would like to take the time to address." She clarified, "The confusion arises from the belief

*Continued on page 18B*



11597 Illinois Highway 1  
Paris, IL 61944  
800-635-4145  
Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



*EnerStar CEO Angela Griffin takes time during her presentation to explain how electricity flows from the grid to cooperative members. She emphasized that EnerStar purchases power from Wabash Valley Power Alliance, a generation and transmission cooperative that has helped provide stable rates for members. Griffin addressed a common misconception, clarifying that although Ameren delivers power through the transmission grid to EnerStar's substations, it does not sell power to the cooperative.*

that we purchase our power from Ameren and that their recent rate increase announcement will impact EnerStar members. That is not true."

Griffin explained that EnerStar purchases wholesale power from Wabash Valley Power Alliance, a not-for-profit generation and transmission cooperative that serves electric cooperatives across Illinois and Indiana. She highlighted that the cooperative business model is fundamentally different from that of investor-owned utilities. "Wabash and EnerStar share common cooperative values and a commitment to serving rural communities. We are proud to stand apart, and together with Wabash as our power partner," Griffin said.

She further clarified that the confusion arises because a separate division of Ameren acts as the transmission provider in downstate

Illinois. "While Ameren may deliver power to us through the interconnected electric grid, we do not purchase power from them."

In her closing statements, Griffin announced that no significant rate increases are currently planned. The cooperative will continue to practice conservative fiscal management to keep rates as low as responsibly possible. After the new year, the cooperative will conduct a Cost-of-Service study to determine if rate adjustments are necessary.

EnerStar Attorney Rob Anderson conducted board elections. Members voted to reelect Granville Colvin, District Three; Jeff Murphy, District Six; and Greg Robinson, District Eight.

Before Murphy adjourned the meeting, he gave credit to co-op employees for their continued efforts to serve EnerStar's membership. "The theme for our annual meeting is 'Working Together, For Our Future'. It's those working on the lines or in the front office fielding your phone calls, working together, doing all they can for the future of our co-op to provide a



*Co-op employees were on hand to greet members attending the annual meeting. Included here are (L to R): Kira Taylor, Kim Stewart, Kayla Natalie and Niki Hall.*

superior member experience and provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity," Murphy stated.

The meeting concluded with a drawing for bill credits among the present members. All registered members in attendance received a \$25 bill credit on their energy bill as a token of appreciation from the cooperative for their active involvement in the co-op.

The annual meeting is a perfect opportunity for member-owners of the cooperative to be active participants in the co-op business model. Next year's meeting will be held on June 6, 2026.



*As a not-for-profit cooperative, EnerStar's Board of Directors is elected by the cooperative membership. Directors are co-op members who assist the co-op management team in developing the strategic, long-term goals of the cooperative. Serving on the co-op board are (bottom row L to R): Dan Gard (West Union), Julie Higginbotham (Martinsville), Kevin Julian (Metcalf), and Jeff Zimmerman (Oakland). Top row: Thad Martin (Paris), Greg Robinson (Paris), Jeff Murphy (Marshall), EnerStar CEO Angela Griffin, Granville Colvin (Paris), Darin Griffin (Paris), and Cooperative Attorney Rob Anderson.*



## Mill Creek Park Awarded WVPA Community Development Grant

Mill Creek Park, a scenic and well-loved outdoor destination in Clark County, has received a \$5,000 Community Development Grant from Wabash Valley Power Alliance (WVPA), the wholesale power supply partner of EnerStar Electric Cooperative.

The grant will be used to support improvements and expansion within the park's campground area, enhancing the overall experience for both locals and visitors.

WVPA launched the Community Development Grant Program in 2025 to support impactful, locally driven projects across its member cooperative service areas in Illinois and Indiana. Each grant, up to \$5,000, is awarded to projects that strengthen livability and promote quality of place. Eligible initiatives include downtown revitalization, workforce housing planning, public amenities and childcare development, among others.

"We're extremely pleased to work with the Mill Creek Park team to secure a \$5,000 grant for the park," said EnerStar CEO Angela Griffin. "As the local power provider, we're proud to invest in projects that make our community a better place to live and visit. This project was a perfect fit since the park draws thousands of visitors annually and plays a key role in promoting regional tourism and local economic activity."

Spanning more than 2,600 acres and featuring an 811-acre lake, Mill Creek Park offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities, including camping, boating, fishing, ATV trails, horseback riding and hiking. The park features more than 130 campsites, rental cabins and multiple picnic shelters. Its amenities attract families, nature enthusiasts and outdoor adventurers from across the region.

"Electric cooperatives are community-focused organizations, and we're committed to serving the families and businesses along our lines," said Zyan Miller, Economic Development Specialist at WVPA. "Through this grant program, we're proud to foster growth and vitality in the communities we call home. It's an honor to support the important work being done by EnerStar and the Mill Creek Park team."



WVPA is a not-for-profit generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative serving 21 member electric cooperatives in Illinois and Indiana, including EnerStar. Owned and governed by its members, WVPA prioritizes local needs, shared resources and long-term community investment.

For more information about Mill Creek Park, visit [www.clarkcountyparkdistrict.com](http://www.clarkcountyparkdistrict.com). To learn more about Wabash Valley Power Alliance, visit <https://www.wvpa.com>.



## Congratulations!

Congratulations to EnerStar's Connor McCollum! We are proud to announce that Connor has officially earned his Journeyman Lineman certification!

This is not an easy task. The 4-year process, besides working full-time, includes over 10,000 hours of additional book work, classes, on-the-job training and quarterly reviews.

We are proud of you!



The EnerStar office will be closed Monday, September 1, to celebrate Labor Day.

## Safety Tip

Keep plants and fences away from green transformer boxes — especially the padlocked side. Utility crews need at least 10 feet in front and 4 feet on the sides to work safely and quickly during outages. Keep a clear path to the transformer — even if it's in your yard, it's technically on an easement, and they still need access!



Safe Electricity.org



# YOU DO YOU.

We'll provide the power.

