

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
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



All of us join in wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Directors: Gordon McClure, Brandon Graves, Dan Strine, Ava Lemmon, Ted Helmink, Dave Sheppard, Scott Weiss, Kurt Holscher, Ron Viehman, Justin Parcel and Dave Thoele.

Employees:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Tamara Phillips (Manager) | Jessie Gorrell | Matt Mitchell |
| Trisha Beckman | Jeff Higgs | Ian Moore |
| Lisa Benefiel | Chris Hildebrand | Ronnie Newkirk |
| Amy Bickers | Kelly Hinterscher | Brianne Niebrugge |
| Ben Bierman | Tim Huber | Susan Platz |
| Tim Bohnhoff | Steve Hunzinger | Corey Rauch |
| Zach Bolin | Arnold Johnson | Matt Roedl |
| Ralph Bowersock Jr. | Scott Johnson | Michael Scherer |
| Kim Boyd | Tyler Johnson | Travis Sipe |
| Joey Bright | Doug Klier | Joe Sowers |
| Jenny Britton | Kolten Koester | Erik Steffen |
| Bill Carr | Blake Kuhl | Keri Ulm |
| Doug Casey | Jodi Locey | Connor Walters |
| Sean Dammerman | Justin Mahaffey | Michael Weber |
| Brad Davidson | Matt Maxon | Claude Wilson |
| Dylan Davidson | Clayton Mellendorf | Stephanie Woods |
| Bill Fields | Jamie Mendenhall | |
| Casey Fulk | Jim Meyer | |

Our office will be closed Dec. 24th, 25th and 31st and Jan. 1st.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

4 SCHOLARSHIPS
\$1,000 EACH

Norris Electric Cooperative will award four \$1,000 scholarships to the sons or daughter of Norris Electric members who are currently receiving service from the cooperative at the time the scholarship application is submitted.

Requirements for application:

- Must be a high school senior.
- Must begin college within a year of notification.
- Must be a full-time (12 hours) student.

Scholarship awarded based on:

- Grade point average
- College entrance test scores
- Work & volunteer experience
- School & community activities
- Knowledge of electric cooperatives
- Biographical essay

Deadline for application submission is Feb. 2, 2026.

For more information, contact your high school guidance department or visit the cooperative website at www.norriselectric.com/scholarships to download an application.



Petitions for board of directors are available

What does it mean to serve on the board?

Serving on Norris Electric's board means you're making a difference locally, using your individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the co-op that in turn benefit the larger community. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves. On a granular level, Norris Electric board members typically provide input and guidance on:

- budgets
- co-op goals and direction
- co-op's community/charitable contributions

- capital investments and upgrades in equipment and technology
- renewable investments and energy mix
- co-op's role and involvement in economic development
- analyze and approve the Purchase Power Agreement

The term of three directors will expire with the February 2026 Annual Meeting. The board seats are up for election with one board member to be elected from each county:

Lawrence, Richland, Wabash

Three incumbents intend to seek reelection. They are Ron Viehman, Lawrence County; Brandon Graves, Richland County; and Dan Strine,

Wabash County. Any member who resides and takes service in any of the four counties above may submit a petition to be placed on the ballot.

According to the cooperative bylaws, all candidates must submit a petition signed by at least 25 members to be placed on the ballot. Requests for petitions will be available Nov. 19, 2025, and may be obtained by contacting the cooperative office. **Petitions must be returned to the cooperative office by noon on Dec. 30, 2025.**

Petitioners with qualified petitions will be placed on the ballot. Ballots will be mailed 30-45 days prior to our annual meeting. The results will then be announced at our annual meeting, to be held Feb. 28, 2026.

Gift of Energy program

With the holidays quickly approaching, why not make gift giving easier with Norris Electric's "Gift of Energy" program. While most people wouldn't normally look to their electric cooperative for gift ideas, Norris Electric Cooperative is offering just that. Through our Gift of Energy program, anyone can make a payment on a cooperative member's account by filling out the form below or stopping by the office.

The Gift of Energy program provides our members the opportunity to make life a little easier for someone they care about.

Gift of Energy Program

Gift Amount \$ _____ From: _____

Member name (s) _____ Phone: _____

FOR ANY CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS

Member address _____

Member Phone _____ Keep Anonymous

**SUBMIT CHECK TO
NORRIS ELECTRIC COOP**

8543 N State Hwy 130, Newton IL 62448
1-877-783-8765



Future lineman gains hands-on experience with Ian Moore



Norris Electric recently welcomed Kade Sarver, an Effingham High School junior, for a job shadowing experience. He is the son of Jared Sarver and Chelsea White.

Kade had the opportunity to spend the day with Journeyman Lineman Ian Moore, who began his career in the U.S. Air Force as a lineman and now has over 30 years of experience, including 10 years at Norris Electric. Ian introduced Kade to many aspects of line work, including substation inspections, how electricity travels from transmission lines to homes, and the equipment used on utility poles. Kade also observed work on a member's meter loop and learned how underground utilities are located to ensure safety during digging projects.

Kade plans to attend lineman school after graduation. We're excited to see him take the next steps toward this rewarding career, and we wish him all the best in his journey ahead!

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Look out for the "energy-saving device" scam. Whether sold on social media platforms or through random emails, consumers have fallen victim to scams where these products claim to reduce or even eliminate energy bills. These products are advertised as devices that will "balance" or "clean" the power in your home, thus saving you money. There is no such device that can simply be plugged in to lower energy use.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Also, burn only seasoned hardwood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation.

Source: energy.gov

