

Little Becomes a Certified Loss Control Professional

Operations Manager Ryan Little has completed an intensive program in electric utility safety and loss control. The Certified Loss Control Program is a series of workshops offered by the National Utility Training & Safety Education Association. The program is designed to instruct participants in many areas related to the electric utility industry safety.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, nearly 4 million workplace injuries occur each year. One of the goals of a Certified Loss Control Professional is to help ensure a safe work environment for utility workers and the public in general. Avoiding workplace accidents avoids downtime and can ultimately lead to lower utility rates.

Ryan Little is one of only a few electric utility professionals in the country who will receive this certification this year. The program requires participants to complete a rigorous series of seminars and tests, a 30-hour OSHA course, and a detailed final course project.

Loss Control participants go through four week-long sessions designed to challenge and educate them in new,



Ryan Little,
Operations Manager

innovative safety techniques. Participants must also maintain their certificate by attending courses each year to stay up to date with industry changes.



Illinois Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 80, Two South Main Street
Winchester, Illinois 62694

www.e-co-op.com
1-800-468-4732

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Working to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve since 1936.



Congratulations to Chad Gregory on his retirement! Chad has served the co-op for 31 years. Thank you for your dedication and the many contributions you've made over the years. We appreciate everything you've done for the cooperative and the members we serve.

Attention High School Juniors: Apply Now for CEO

CEO is now accepting applicants for the fall 2026 class. Students who will be entering their senior year may apply.

The CEO programs take high school seniors out of their schools and meet in business settings throughout the year. Around 40 business, agricultural, and professional leaders make presentations to the groups and the classes visit a similar number of businesses throughout the year.

In the first half of the school year, the students develop a class business, which helps fund their individual businesses in the second half of the year. Students in the program are also paired with a mentor from their business community.

Over 100 investors make the programs possible, including with Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation, District One Foundation, and Illinois Electric Cooperative.



CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL
OPPORTUNITIES

MORGAN-SCOTT • GREENE-CALHOUN • PIKE

Interested high school juniors should speak with their high school guidance counselors. Deadline to apply for Morgan-Scott and Greene-Calhoun CEO is March 15th and for Pike CEO March 27th. To learn more and see photos of the class in action, search any of the programs on Facebook or visit one of the program websites below.

morganscottceo.com
greenealhounceo.com
pikeceo.com



Joe Killday, Cole Hurrelbrink, Brad Kemper, and Ethan Hart at this year's Safety and Energy Conference..

Illinois Electric Recognized for Outstanding Workplace Practices

Safety leadership and training were the focus of the 2026 Safety and Energy Conference, held in Springfield. The two-day event brought together electric cooperative professionals, safety leaders and industry partners for educational sessions, networking and recognition of outstanding safety performance.

The conference, which was held by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, covered a range of topics focused on leadership, safety and workplace culture, including personal influence and leadership, technical safety training, and the role of safety culture in the workplace.

Safety awards were also given, recognizing cooperatives for exemplary safety performance over the past year. Illinois Electric Cooperative earned the 2025 Best Loss Time Rate and the 2025 Best Incident Rate Certificates of Achievement.

The Best Loss Time Rate Award is given to cooperatives with the lowest amount of lost work time due to workplace injuries, relative to the number of hours worked. The Best Incident Rate Award recognizes the cooperatives with the lowest overall number of recordable workplace incidents, including minor injuries.

As the electric industry continues to evolve, safety remains a top priority. Illinois Electric Cooperative will always be committed to a strong safety culture for both employees and cooperative members.



Ethan Hart with his wife Kaitlyn and their son Callen.

Employee Spotlight

Ethan Hart

Journeyman Forester

About the Employee

Ethan Hart, a Barry native, started working for Illinois Electric Cooperative as an intern in 2016 before later going full-time. He works as a Journeyman Forester. Ethan, his wife Kaitlyn, and son Callen, along with their dog Remi, reside just outside of Barry.

Ethan takes pride in the fact that maintaining the right-of-way makes sure members have reliable electricity across our rural service territory.

When not at work, Ethan can be found either with his family or grain and cattle farming.



Illinois Electric Cooperative earns this award based on data modeled by the AC SI® in 2024. Award criteria are determined by the AC SI based on customers rating their satisfaction with Illinois Electric Cooperative in a survey independent of the syndicated AC SI Energy Utility Study. For more about the AC SI, visit www.theacsi.org/badges. AC SI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.



facebook.com/illinoiselectric