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Youth Day



EnerStar Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday, June 6, 2026

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 On The Tracks Cafe (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.

Important News About Director Elections

Unlike traditional utilities, EnerStar Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative owned by the people it serves. As a member-owner, you have a real voice - you can vote in board elections and even run for a seat yourself.

Your vote helps shape your cooperative. That's exactly how it should be.

When more than one candidate runs for a seat, we use our standard mail-in ballot process. However, there are times when candidates run unopposed.

At the 2024 Annual Meeting, co-op members voted to suspend the mail-in process for uncontested races – saving unnecessary costs.

In those cases, unopposed candidates are approved by a simple voice vote at the Annual Meeting.

2026 Board of Directors - Elections

Voting Districts A and B - Candidates are running unopposed and no ballot will be enclosed. These candidates will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in June.

Voting District C - This is a contested race. If you live in District C, your ballot and a postage-paid return envelope will be mailed to you with the official notice. Please refer to the ballot for voting instructions and deadlines.

Got Questions?

If you have any questions regarding your membership or the annual meeting, please call us at 800-635-4145 during normal business hours.

2026 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 were included in the official notice that mailed in late April.

Voting District A, Uncontested

Hello, my name is John Henry, and I am running to serve as a representative board member for District One of the Enerstar Cooperative. I graduated from Oakland High School in 2002 and Lakeland College in 2004 with a degree in agriculture production and management. With 24 years of farming experience, I co-own Henry Farms Inc., which operates in Douglas, Coles, and Edgar County. Additionally, I served as Sargent Township Road Commissioner from 2012-2022, and assisted my father, Mark Henry, in the role from 2001-2012. My wife, Christina, and I have been married for 17 years, with four children aged 4, 7, 11, and 13. We are active members of the Oakland Christian



John Henry
Candidate A1

Church, where we have led Bible studies, vacation Bible school, and participate in after-school programs. I have also coached youth sports and serve on the Oakland Landmarks board, working to preserve historic landmarks. I decided to run for the Enerstar board at the request of a past board member who recognized my ability to serve our area. With experience as a road commissioner and farmer, I have worked alongside

Enerstar linemen during outages and projects, appreciating the excellent work they do. I am committed to ensuring the cooperative continues to have informed, community-oriented leaders working together to provide excellent service. Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Director Candidate Profiles *(continued)*

Voting District B, Uncontested

My name is Thad Martin and I have lived at 5960 Public Well Street for the past 20 years. I was born and raised in Paris and graduated from Paris High School. During both high school and college, I worked summers at EnerStar, as well as briefly after graduation. I graduated from Lake Land College with an Associate's degree in 1993. I am currently self employed as a farmer in Edgar County.

I am a member of Masonic Stratton Lodge #408 and the Edgar County Farm Bureau.

I have been married to my wife Mandy Martin for over 28 years and we have two amazing children, Chayse and Chloe.

My primary for reason for serving on the board



Thad Martin
Candidate B5

is to help EnerStar continue to offer reasonable rates with reliable service. I care about the future of the coop and want to continue to serve on the board and utilize the experience I got working at EnerStar. Because of my experience working for EnerStar and currently serving on the board, I feel I have a good understanding of how the coop operates and am excited to continue looking for opportunities to benefit our members.

In my opinion, some of the biggest challenges facing the coop today are recruiting and retaining a skilled workforce, keeping up with technology in addition to new solar options and environmental battles.

My hobbies include watching Fighting Illini Sports.

Voting District C, Contested

Since December 2000, Dan Gard Jr. has served as Director of the southernmost district. He has served as Chairman of the Enerstar Board since 2012. Dan is an accredited Director through NRECA. Dan is a lifelong resident of the West Union area. He graduated from Marshall High School and has farmed since 1973. He and his wife Barbara have three sons and daughters-in-law and nine grandchildren. Dan is a member of Zion United Methodist Church, the Marshall Cemetery Board, Marshall Masonic Lodge, and a trustee of the West Union Volunteer Fire Department. He also serves on the Wabash Valley Power Board in Indianapolis and represents



Clayton Daniel Gard Jr.
Candidate C9

Wabash Valley Power on the Illinois Electric Coop Association. Dan has previously served as Road Commissioner and trustee in Darwin Township. Dan said, "I enjoy being part of the EnerStar Board working together with the current board members, management and staff to provide the highest quality services at the lowest possible cost. We want to continually improve our plant and infrastructure and services to the customers. I am proud of our linemen and office staff for the job they do and the dedication they have to our cooperative members. I appreciate representing my district on the board and ask for your continued support in the upcoming election."

Voting District C, Contested

I was born and raised in this area and have spent the last 20 years in Martinsville, Anderson township, with my wife, Karrie, and our children Vivienne (11) and Vaughn (9). We are members of the Martinsville Bible Church.

I have been a Veterinarian for 35 years. We operate the Casey Veterinary Service with a team of dedicated professionals. I received my Associate degree from Lake Land College followed by a Bachelor of Science and then a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from University of Illinois.

In addition to my career in veterinary medicine,



Byron J. Shotts
Candidate C9

I have also been involved in agriculture as a producer and landowner focusing on corn and soybean production. Our family has recently added a growing herd of Scottish Highlands, Australian Murrey Grey and British White Parks that is becoming an area of focus for our children. These cattle breeds lead to very unique crosses and quality grass-fed beef.

As a Co-op director, I would strive toward diligent stewardship to keep the economic viability of uninterrupted service for the Co-op in the face of a changing energy landscape.

Thank you for your valued consideration.

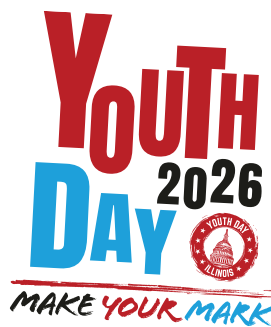


Thank you, State Representative Adam Niemberg, for meeting with the EnerStar representatives.



Thank you, State Senator Chapin Rose, for meeting with the EnerStar representatives.

EnerStar sponsors students for annual Youth Day



On March 25, 168 students sponsored by the electric cooperatives across the state gathered in the Illinois State Capitol for Youth Day, an annual event designed to introduce young leaders to state government and the cooperative principles that serve their communities. Students met with elected officials, explored historic sites and experienced the workings of state government firsthand.

Representing EnerStar Electric this year was Halle Lawson and Ruth Sullivan, both of Paris.

"As cooperatives, we're committed not only to providing reliable service but also to investing in the next generation," said Angela Griffin, CEO of EnerStar Electric Cooperative. "Youth Day helps students understand the cooperative difference and the impact they can have as informed citizens."

The EnerStar representatives had the opportunity to meet with State Senator Chapin Rose and Representative Adam Neimerg, who both represent districts within the EnerStar service territory.

In addition to meeting elected officials, the students also learned more about their cooperative's role in their own communities and had the opportunity to tour the Capitol Building and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

During lunch, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs addressed the students. 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, participate and become lifelong learners.

"You have found time to participate here today by coming to Youth Day," Frerichs said. "You're talking to people. You are learning. And I'll tell you that learning never stops. It only stops when you decide you don't want to learn anymore. ... If you decide to push yourself and become a lifelong learner, you'll grow from it."



Great day for Youth Day! L to R: EnerStar's Kayla Natalie, Halle Lawson, Ruth Sullivan, EnerStar's Britta Baker

In addition to Youth Day, Lawson and Sullivan will also participate in Youth Tour, an annual trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by Illinois electric cooperatives. This year's trip will be held June 15-22. They will represent EnerStar on the weeklong trip to see historic sites, learn firsthand how cooperatives work and gain valuable leadership skills.

"From touring Washington, D.C., to learning the cooperative difference, Youth Tour is much more than a trip," said Griffin. "It's an experience they will carry long after high school."