

PowerLines

A monthly publication for member/owners of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

July 2013

Inside:



Annual Meeting recap

PLUS:
Annual Meeting images
Lights out

Visit us at area events

This summer we will be out and about attending various community events and fairs. Stop by our booth to learn how to save money on all of your utility bills.

July 9-13: Fisher Community Fair
July 11-14: Historic Farm Days
July 17-21: Iroquois County Fair
Aug. 22-25: Half Century of Progress
Aug. 27-29: Farm Progress Show

Celebrating co-op independence

As we celebrate the 4th of July, let's not forget about rural energy independence.

July is the time we celebrate our nation's independence. In the midst of apple pies and hot dogs, fireworks shows and parades, I can't help but think about the independent streak that inspired groups of farmers around America's countryside to band together and improve their quality of life.

Aside from President Franklin Roosevelt's promise of federal aid in the form of low-interest loans and engineering expertise, rural Americans didn't have much help in bringing electricity to their homes. They pulled themselves up by their proverbial bootstraps and did it themselves. This independence not only tends to inspire cooperatives; it's a guiding principle.

The fourth Cooperative Principle, "Autonomy and Independence," means that no matter what contracts Eastern Illini might enter into, we will always remain an independent entity, and our goal will always remain the same - to provide you with safe and reliable electric service.

Each year, Eastern Illini's annual meeting (see page 2 for more information about our recent annual meeting) becomes an independence celebration. You vote for candidates on the board of directors, and we discuss co-op business. We also share a meal and have some fun.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Electric cooperatives form a vast network across the country, from coast to coast. Co-op lines are strung in 47 states, serving 42 million people—a different world from 1935, when much of America remained dark.

This Fourth of July, as we recognize the hard-fought war that created the United States, I'll also tip my hat to Eastern Illini's founders, who beat incredible odds to make life better for themselves and their neighbors.

Respectfully,


Dave Champion

**Happy Independence Day
from everyone at
Eastern Illini Electric Co-op**

Our office will be closed on July 4 in honor of Independence Day.



330 W. Ottawa | Paxton, IL 60957
www.eiec.coop | info@eiec.coop
800-824-5102

A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

Annual Meeting held June 13

Meeting offers member/owners a chance to participate in their co-op, and relax with some quality food and entertainment.

On Thursday, June 13, over 875 member/owners and their families (totaling about 2,000 people) attended Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting.

The event was geared for family fun and featured several children's activities, including: a bounce house; an inflatable obstacle course; miniature golf; bucket truck demonstrations; the Gene Trimble Band; a magician and Oscar the Talking Robot.

A meal was provided by Niemerg's Catering and the Rocking K Chuckwagon provided snacks for those relaxing outside. All registered member/owners in attendance also received a \$25 bill credit.

Many seminars were also held during the meeting. The wide-ranging topics included energy efficiency tips, renewable energy options, drug awareness and prevention, and even Mary Dickinson, a University of Illinois Master Gardener, who offered tips on plants and plant containers.

Several local legislators attended the meeting to show their support of Eastern Illini, including: State Representative Chad Hays; State Senators Jason Barickman, Michael Frerichs, and Chapin Rose; State of Illinois Treasurer Dan Rutherford; and a staff member from U.S. Congressman Adam Kinzinger's office. Senator Frerichs and Treasurer Rutherford were able to address the crowd during the business portion of the meeting.

Harold Loy of Beaverville, Kay Horsch of Dewey, and Herb Aden of Newman were also re-elected to the Eastern Illini Board of Directors.

Board Chairman Marion Chesnut of Rossville, and Eastern Illini's President/CEO Wm. David Champion, Jr., discussed the current state of the cooperative during their executive report. In 2012, despite low sales, we were able to meet our financial goals. We also retired (paid back) almost \$1.7 million to member/owners that received electric service from 1974 to 1978. We also redesigned our bill format to make it easier to see the various components of your bill.

Based on a cost-of-service study and changes in our wholesale costs, we also adjusted our rate structure a bit, to better reflect how our costs are passed through to you.

Each year, Eastern Illini's Annual Meeting is a tangible benefit of being much more than simply a customer. You are a member and an owner of your locally owned and governed electric cooperative.



Above: Annual meeting attendees enjoy the inflatable games. A family friendly event, the annual meeting offered many youth activities.

Below: Incumbent board members (from left to right), Harold Loy, Kay Horsch, and Herb Aden were re-elected to Eastern Illini's Board of Directors.



Annual Meeting images



Left: This young annual meeting attendee learns what it's like to "climb" an electric pole. Bucket truck demonstrations were also featured.

Above: A father and son enjoy a break after dinner during the annual meeting. A \$25 bill credit was given to all attending, registered member/owners.



Right: Dave Champion, Eastern Illini's President/CEO, attended his last annual meeting. He is retiring after 40 years of service to your cooperative.



Lights out

Automatic controls can keep your lighting costs in check.

Whether you can't train your kids to turn out lights when they leave a room or need a better outdoor lighting scheme, automatic controls might be a cost-effective solution.

Read through these tips to learn how to save money on your lighting costs.

Indoors

Occupancy sensors are helpful indoors, as long as they're positioned to detect people in any corner of the room. They're also good as task lighting—above places like a desk or kitchen sink—so you get the extra light you need while working, but you don't forget and leave it on all night. There are two types of occupancy sensors: ultrasonic and infrared. Ultrasonic sensors detect sound; infrared sensors detect heat and motion.

Timers make an empty home look occupied. If kids are still running in and out, however, timers aren't as effective as occupancy sensors. Plug timers into a wall outlet or install them in the wall, like a light switch or thermostat. Newer varieties are digital.



Photosensors are generally best outdoors, but new applications have found they're also useful for LED nightlights. When an overhead light is on, the nightlight shuts off automatically.

Outdoors

If you already have or are thinking about installing an outdoor security light, consider combining it with a photosensor to keep it from burning all day.

A motion sensor goes one step further, if you don't want continuous light.

Eastern Illini also offers an outdoor lighting program where, for a small monthly fee, we will install, maintain, and cover the cost of the energy used for an outdoor light. Call our office at 800-824-5102 for more information about this program.

Timers are commonly used for aesthetic or holiday lighting, sometimes in conjunction with a photosensor—so they turn on at dusk and turn off at a designated time.

Visit EnergySavers.gov to learn more about energy efficiency in your home.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Lighting accounts for about 13 percent of the average household's electric bill—cut costs by choosing new lightbulbs that have increased output and longevity. Some cost more up front, but prices are dropping as technology advances. Options include color, brightness, and even dimming and multi-way functions. Combining lights with automatic sensors can cut costs further.

Source: Cooperative Research Network