

PowerLines

February 2022

Hopeful for Spring

We finally experienced a few cold spells in January, but up to this point the Winter season has been fairly kind to us. Fortunately, we are getting closer to Spring as the hours of daylight are noticeably increasing. One normally sure sign of Spring is the February start of spring training for major league baseball – but that is on hold due to the current work stoppage since their collective bargaining agreement expired.

Besides looking forward to Spring, what does the remainder of 2022 have in store for Eastern Illini and all of us personally?

Given the past almost two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, unfortunately we are still in the throes of the Omicron variant (and possibly future variants) that continues to wreak havoc in many areas, especially with patient counts and staffing at health care facilities and various aspects of the economy. Please take the necessary precautions to protect yourselves, families, and the community to keep everyone as safe as possible.

In addition to the normal core goals and activities at EIEC, additional projects to accomplish include:

- Begin the process to replace the metering infrastructure initially installed beginning in 2004.

- Update our cost-of-service study and begin the process to develop future rate structures that will include more cost recovery through fixed cost components such as the facility charge and future demand billing.

- Beginning work on the recently updated long-term capital improvement plan to augment our system maintenance programs.



**MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

- Continuing to adapt to Illinois legislation relative to renewable energy to equitably treat all cooperative members.

So, how are your 2022 resolutions coming along?

Since my wife and I have, for the most part, not traveled since the beginning of COVID-19 two years ago, we plan to travel and visit with

our children that are scattered across the country. I typically have repetitive resolutions to exercise, get into better shape, and eat better, but this year I also want to do what I can within my circle of influence to bring people together to accomplish things to improve our small part of the world.

Sincerely,

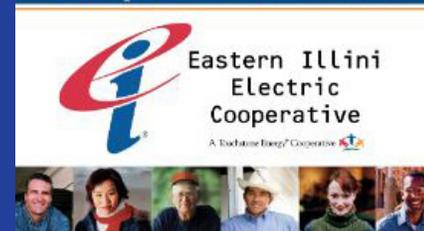
Bob Hunzinger

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How do you want to save today?

Co-op Connections® Card



Local Deals
Pharmacy Discounts
Cash Back Online
Hotel Savings

Visit www.connections.coop to register and start saving today.

Did you know?

You may be eligible for assistance in paying your winter electric bill.

Contact LIHEAP or your local community action agency for more information, or give us a call at 800-824-5102 for a complete list.

Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

Nominating petitions available

Nominating petitions will be available on February 24, 2022 for the June 9, 2022 director election. The following members were nominated by the Board of Directors and have agreed to serve on the 2022 Credentials Committee:

- **District 1**, Marie Monk, Ashkum
- **District 2**, Brian Koerner, Chatsworth
- **District 4**, Delores Butzow, Onarga
- **District 8**, Rodney Blackburn, Sadorus; Josh Shelmadine, Tuscola

The Credentials Committee will meet at Eastern Illini's headquarters in Paxton during the week of April 11th to review the qualifications of all candidates who file nominating petitions. The Credentials Committee will determine the eligibility of the candidates to serve as an EIEC director.

Directors in Directorate Districts 1, 7, and 8 will be elected at Eastern Illini's Annual Meeting on June 9, 2022.

Incumbent directors Tyler Finegan, Ashkum, District 1; Steve Gordon, Rantoul, District 7; Chad Larimore, Bement, District 8 have indicated they will seek reelection.

Nominating petitions can be obtained by calling 217-379-0423 or you may stop by the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative headquarters in Paxton between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.

Each member who desires to be elected to the board of directors must have a petition signed by not less than 25 members of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative. Petitions must be filed by Friday, April 8, 2022 no later than 4:00 p.m.

The nominating process is conducted in accordance with the following provisions of the EIEC Bylaws, Article III, Section 3.5: Nominations: *Any member of the Cooperative in good standing who desires to be elected to its Board of Directors may be nominated by petition signed by not less than twenty-five (25) members and filed with the Secretary/Treasurer of the Cooperative not less than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting of members. Nominations from the floor shall not be permitted. The Secretary/Treasurer of the Cooperative shall cause to be prepared and posted at the principal office of the Cooperative at least forty-five (45) days before the annual meeting, a list of the nominations for Directors thus filed with him or her.*

A specimen ballot marked "Ballot for Directors" containing the names and addresses of all candidates listed in the order of priority determined by the date and time when the Cooperative received the respective completed candidate information shall be printed in or mailed with the notice of the meeting. In the event that multiple candidates' completed information is received on the same date and at the same time for the same directorate district, the ballot order shall be determined by lot conducted by the Board of Directors. The Secretary/Treasurer shall also have printed in or mailed with the said notice of the meeting or separately not less than seven (7) days prior to said annual meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the district from which they are to be elected.

If a particular directorate district does not have a contested election, that director can be elected by a voice vote as provided in Section 2.6 of Article II of the Bylaws. In such case, the name of the candidate for that specific directorate district shall not be required to be placed on the specimen and actual ballots.

BACK ROW, left to right:

- Kevin Moore, Chairman
- Bruce Ristow, Vice Chairman
- Steve Meenen, Secretary/Treasurer
- Chad Larimore, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

FRONT ROW, left to right:

- Brad Ludwig, Director
- Tyler Finegan, Director
- Lauri Quick, Director
- Steve Gordon, Director
- Tom Schlatter, Director



EIEC OFFERS ELECTRIC SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS TO SCHOOLS

Electric safety for elementary students

EASTERN ILLINI ELECTRIC CO-OP SAFETY DEMONSTRATION



ATTENTION TEACHERS GRADES 3 - 5

Teaching electrical safety, especially to children, is a priority at Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative.

We are pleased to offer our tabletop electric safety demonstration to elementary teachers and students. Presentations are 20 - 30 minutes and can accommodate groups of twenty plus at a time.

Contact Kenney Davenport at 217-379-0410 or kenney.davenport@eiec.coop

FREE
PRESENTATION
ABOUT
ELECTRIC SAFETY
FOR YOUR
STUDENTS



**Kenney
Davenport
217-379-0410**

**Complete the request form on
the Eastern Illini website:
<https://www.eiec.org/school-presentations>**



**Eastern Illini
Electric
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Preparing for a winter storm



BE PREPARED FOR A WINTER STORM

In the event of a power outage, view our real time outage map at www.eiec.coop

To report an outage call: 800.824.5102

Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion.

Winter storms and blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice, and high winds.



Greater risk



Can last a few hours or several days



Can knock out heat, power, and communication services

IF YOU ARE UNDER A WINTER STORM WARNING, FIND SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

Stay off roads.



Use generators outside only.



Stay indoors and dress warmly.



Listen for emergency information and alerts.



Prepare for power outages.



Look for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.



Check on neighbors.



Take an active role in your winter safety

Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind driven snow that lasts for several days. Some winter storms are large enough to affect several states, while others affect only a single community. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet, and freezing rain.

Eastern Illini crews stand ready to restore electricity in the event of an outage caused by snow, ice, high winds, and freezing rain. Depending on the severity of the storm, restoring power can take anywhere from a few hours to a few days. We encourage members to hope for the best and prepare for the worst.

Here are some things to consider regarding winter storms.

PREPARE NOW

Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking, and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups.

Pay attention to weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and winter storms. Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medications. Do not forget the needs of pets.

Think about what you can't live without and make plans to have extras on hand. For example, extra batteries for flashlights or radios are important.

Water—at least a 3-day supply; one gallon per person per day; food—at least a 3-day supply of nonperishable, easy-to-prepare food; flashlights; first aid kit; medications (7-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, cane); cell phone with chargers; family and emergency contact information; extra cash; ample alternate heating methods such as fireplaces or wood burning stoves or a generator.

Create an emergency supply kit for your car. Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water, and non-perishable snacks. Keep the gas tank full. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.

SURVIVE DURING

Stay off roads if at all possible. If trapped in your car, stay inside. Call for help or wait for help to arrive.

Limit your time outside. If you need to go outside, wear warm, loose fitting lightweight clothing in several layers. Before tackling strenuous tasks in cold temperatures, consider your physical condition, the weather factors, and the nature of the task.

Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Learn the signs of and basic treatments for frostbite and hypothermia. For more information, visit: www.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/staysafe/index.html. For example, a temperature of zero degrees Fahrenheit and a wind speed of 15 miles per hour creates a wind chill temperature of -19 degrees Fahrenheit. Under these conditions, frostbite can occur in just 30 minutes.

Help people who require special assistance such as elderly people living alone, people with disabilities, and children. Check on your animals and make sure that their access to food and water is not blocked by snow drifts, ice or other obstacles. If at all possible, bring them indoors. Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other

gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area. Locate the unit away from doors, windows, and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors. The primary hazards to avoid when using alternate sources for electricity, heating, or cooking are carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock, and fire.

Install carbon monoxide alarms in central locations on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas to provide early warning of accumulating carbon monoxide. If the carbon monoxide alarm sounds, move quickly to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Call for help from the fresh air location and remain there until emergency personnel arrive to assist you.

RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND

Frostbite causes loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers, and toes.

Signs: Numbness, white or grayish-yellow skin, and firm or waxy skin.

Actions: Go to a warm room. Soak in warm water. Use body heat to warm. Do not massage or use a heating pad.

Hypothermia is an unusually low body temperature. A temperature below 95 degrees is an emergency. **Signs:** Shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech, and drowsiness. **Actions:** Go to a warm room. Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head, and groin. Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including the head and neck.

Snow and cold temperatures are to be expected when living in the Midwest. On average, Illinois experiences five severe winter storms each year, so now is the time to prepare your home, family, and vehicles for a dusting of snow or the next major winter storm headed our way.

WIN A TRIP

to Washington D.C.!

June 17-24, 2022



Visit historic
monuments
and museums!

Meet U.S.
Representatives
and Senators!

Sophomores and
Juniors in High
School who live
on EIEC lines.

The trip of a
LIFETIME!



EASTERN ILLINI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APPLY AT: <https://www.eiec.org/youth-washington-program>