

# PowerLines

July 2021

## 34th Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members

We want to thank Eastern Illini members who attended Member Appreciation Days in Paxton, Sidney, and at the Iroquois County Fairgrounds. It was great to see you. This was the first year for the drive through, say hello, and pick up to-go meals appreciation events. We hope you enjoyed them. Hats off to our employees who went above and beyond to make certain everything ran smoothly. The Member Appreciation event at Iroquois County Fairgrounds culminated with the EIEC Annual Meeting which began at 6:30 p.m. in the 4-H Building.

Kevin Moore, Chairman of the EIEC Board of Directors, confirmed the notice and proof of mailing for the meeting. The meeting minutes and Treasurer's Report were also approved. Members heard from President/CEO Bob Hunzinger as to the impact COVID-19 had on the Cooperative. He also shared information about the future plans for Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative.

Guy Hall, Attorney for the Co-op, determined that quorum had been achieved and he announced that the bylaw amendment was approved with 530 yes votes and 17 no votes.

Three members of the Board of Directors ran uncontested and were reelected for three year terms.

DISTRICT 3: Steve Meenen, Melvin  
DISTRICT 4: Bruce Ristow, Cissna Park  
DISTRICT 6: Brad Ludwig, Fithian

Since there was no unfinished business or new business, Chairman Moore thanked members for attending and the meeting was adjourned. The Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors held a reorganization meeting following the annual meeting and elected board officers.

CHAIRMAN: Kevin Moore  
VICE CHAIRMAN: Bruce Ristow  
SECRETARY/TREASURER: Steve Meenen  
ASST. SECRETARY/TREASURER: Chad Larimore

The Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative board of directors hold their monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the EIEC Headquarters in Paxton.

We have included some photos of each of the Member Appreciation Days. We sincerely appreciate your participation.

### In this issue:

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- The American Dream
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- Happy Independence Day



- View your bill
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- Review known issues
- Report an outage
- Update account information

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### 7 COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training, & Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

### EASTERN ILLINI MISSION

Providing our members with safe, reliable energy solutions and exceptional service.



# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING Member Appreciation Days



# MEMBER APPRECIATION DAYS

## Sidney



## Consider electricity when purchasing a home



As we celebrate this Independence Day, let's take a moment to highlight what homeownership means and how it positively impacts our lives.

Many of us dream of the white picket fence and flying the American Flag on our front porch. The fact that mortgage rates continue at near record lows, is a key factor in helping Americans achieve their dreams of buying a house. The average American's monthly mortgage payment is less than what it was in 2005. That's part of the reason why the number of Americans buying new houses spiked to a 15-year high.

Nine in 10 homeowners see owning a home as part of achieving their personal American Dream. Seventy one percent of millennials aged 18-34 perceive homeownership as part of the American Dream. And, 75 percent of non-owners say that homeownership is part of their American Dream.

Owning a home promotes pride of ownership. When you own a home, you can remodel, paint, and decorate without getting permission from the landlord. Homeownership also builds equity. From having room for your kids to play to being able to entertain, owning a home helps people realize their full potential. It also provides a greater sense of stability, while growing personal wealth.

As Americans look to purchase their

first home, it is important to consider the electrical aspects of a home prior to purchasing it.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, electrical failures or malfunctions are present in an estimated average of 47,000 home structure fires per year in the U.S., which result in 430 deaths, 1,280 injuries and \$1.5 billion in property damage. Based on figures from the National Center for Biotechnology Information, electrical injuries in general cause approximately 1,000 deaths per year in the U.S.

Aside from having a professional electrical inspection completed, look for the following warning signs of electrical safety hazards before signing on the dotted line:

- Warm to touch outlets & light switches
- Loose, scorched or discolored outlets
- Wall or light switches that cause shocks upon contact
- Strange smells (something burning or overheating)
- Smoke or sparks
- Exposed wires
- Lack of GFCIs (ground fault circuit interrupters)
- Lack of AFCIs (arc fault circuit interrupters)
- Faulty appliances
- Evidence of frequent blown fuses or circuit breakers
- Missing or broken wall plates
- Delayed responses after switching lights on and off
- Flickering lights

Another good house-hunting practice is to take note if there are too few outlets to

accommodate your needs—for electronics, appliances and other items that will increase the electrical load. If you will need to use extension cords and large outlet strips on a regular basis, you risk overloading your electrical system and creating an electrical hazard.

If you are buying a home, a reputable home inspector should note electrical wiring or other electrical deficiencies and code violations. Make sure electrical items are addressed by a qualified electrician before you call your new place home.

We encourage home buyers to ask for historical data regarding electric use of the home they are considering purchasing. Everyone uses electricity differently, but it is important to know how much electricity is used on average, so you will have an idea of what to expect when the first electric bill arrives after moving in. Work with the seller to schedule the transfer of electricity from one owner to the other. You will want to let the electric provider know ahead of time that a transfer of ownership is happening and fill out the required paperwork to put the electric account in your name at the time of closing.

Nearly 60 percent of Americans own their homes. Why is owning a home still a part of the American Dream? Because homeownership is one of the greatest freedoms of all.

# EASTERN ILLINI AWARDS SHARING SUCCESS GRANT

## Grand Old Flag Flies High in Paxton



Keep an eye out for quite a site as you drive on I-57 near Paxton. If you look to the east, you will see a spectacular 30 ft. by 60 ft. American flag flying high in the sky atop a 150 ft. flagpole. Its size is amazing and its patriotic presence leaves a lasting impression.

On Memorial Day weekend the Grand Old Flag project spearheaded by Dennis Kingren, Paxton Fire Chief and Eastern Illini employee, finally became a reality.

Kingren's vision began back in 2018 when he saw similar giant flags displayed in Princeton, IL; New Baltimore, MI; and Sheboygan, WI. A Grand Old Flag committee of community members was formed and they went about fundraising for the project. Contributions of more than \$75,000 have been received to get the Grand Old Flag project off the ground and flying high.

The Grand Old Flag committee welcomes donations to the project. Going forward the flag will need to be replaced when it becomes worn or torn. The cost of each flag is \$1,800. Donations may be sent to the Frederick Community Bank, 106 N. Market St., Paxton, IL 60957. Make checks payable to PAXTON PRIDE and reference Grand Old Flag. There is a walkway leading up to the flag and benches where visitors can sit, reflect, and admire the flag.

The walkway leading up to the flag is lined with bricks that have been purchased by generous donors. There are still bricks available for purchase. The 4" X 8" bricks are \$100 each and the 8" X 8" bricks are \$250 each. They can be personalized and ordered at: [www.thatsmybrick.com/paxtonflag](http://www.thatsmybrick.com/paxtonflag)

The dedication ceremony began with 65 people carrying the flag 11 blocks from the Paxton fire station to just west of the Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School.

A large crowd turned out to see the flag raising. Kingren kicked off the dedication by thanking everyone who had made the Grand Old Flag possible. Special event speakers included Kathy Bennett, wife of state Representative Tom Bennett, R-Gibson City; Paxton Mayor Bill Ingold; Andy Hudson from the Paxton Area Chamber of Commerce; Tim Hess, a U.S. Marine, who is the director of PBL High School's marching band; and Ed Enright, a retired deputy district chief for the Chicago Fire Department.

Patriotic music played during the dedication and a recording from America, Why I Love Her, featuring John Wayne reciting and interpreting the Pledge of Allegiance communicated patriotism and pride in America to all in attendance.

Eastern Illini is proud to be a sponsor of the Grand Old Flag project. EIEC partnered with CoBank, a cooperative bank serving vital industries throughout rural America, through the Sharing Success Grant Program and donated \$5,000.



You're a grand old flag,  
You're a high flying flag  
And forever in peace  
may you wave.  
You're the emblem of  
The land I love.  
The home of the free  
and the brave.



# HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY AMERICA!



*O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave*

Please join us in displaying the American flag on July 4th as we commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In 1776, the United States of America was born when the original thirteen states came together and separated from England. This was a defining moment for our country, and one we still proudly celebrate today.

