

Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Norris Electric Cooperative

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Newton, IL 62448

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or **Toll-Free:**
1-877-783-8765

Report an Outage:
1-877-783-3221

Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday
7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Chairman
Gordon McClureJasper

Vice Chairman
Justin Parcel..... Clark

Secretary/Treasurer
Ted Helmink Cumberland

Directors
Ava LemmonCrawford
Brandon Graves Richland
Kurt HolscherCrawford
Gilbert Garbe Effingham
Scott Weiss.....Lawrence
Dan Strine Wabash
Dave Sheppard.....Jasper
Ron Viehman.....Lawrence

General Manager
Tamara Phillips



You're invited!

Join us for an open house at Norris Electric Cooperative!
Nov. 9 • 4-7 p.m.



Come and explore our brand-new office space, learn about our services, and meet our team.

We're excited to showcase our latest advancements and innovations at Norris Electric.



We look forward to welcoming you on Nov. 9!



Happy Thanksgiving!

**Our office will be closed
Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023.**



SEVENTEEN 2024 IEC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



Illinois electric cooperatives will award 17 scholarships in 2024 to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The 17 scholarships, \$2,000 each, will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Ten scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors whose parent(s) are an Illinois Electric co-op member. An eleventh scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will

be awarded to a student who is the child of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. Five additional scholarships are reserved for high school seniors enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college whose parent(s) are an Illinois electric cooperative member, employee or director.

The seventeenth scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, will help pay for costs to attend lineworker school conducted by the Association

of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. Children of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors, and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for this scholarship.

"We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships," says General Manager Tamara Phillips. "Norris Electric Cooperative and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth and investing in them through programs like this one."



Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarship Program

The Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program awards seventeen \$2,000 scholarships annually to deserving students in the "electric cooperative family" entering college to assist them with their educational costs.

About the scholarships

10 scholarships are awarded to high school students who are the child of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2023).

5 scholarships are reserved for high school students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the child of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2023).

1 scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, is awarded to a high school student who is the child of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2023).

1 scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, is awarded to a student to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL (deadline to apply April 30, 2024).

The deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2023. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2024. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Norris Electric Cooperative. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available online at norriselectric.com/scholarships.



Petitions for board of directors are available

What does it mean to serve on the board?

Serving on Norris Electric's board means you're making a difference locally, using your individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the co-op that in turn benefit the larger community. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves. On a granular level, Norris Electric board members typically provide input and guidance on:

- budgets
- co-op goals and direction
- co-op's community/charitable contributions
- capital investments and upgrades in equipment and technology

- renewable investments and energy mix
- co-op's role and involvement in economic development
- analyze and approve the Purchase Power Agreement

The term of four directors will expire with the February 2024 Annual Meeting. The board seats are up for election with one board member to be elected from each county:

Crawford, Jasper, Effingham and Lawrence

Three incumbents intend to seek reelection. They are Ava Lemmon, Crawford County; Gordon McClure, Jasper County; and Scott Weiss, Lawrence County. Gilbert Garbe,

Effingham County, is not seeking reelection. Any members who reside and take service in any of the four counties above may submit a petition to be placed on the ballot.

According to the cooperative bylaws, all candidates must submit a petition signed by at least 25 members to be placed on the ballot. Requests for petitions will be available Nov. 1, 2023, and may be obtained by contacting the cooperative office. **Petitions must be returned to the cooperative office by noon on Dec. 26, 2023.**

Petitioners with qualified petitions will be placed on the ballot. Ballots will be mailed 30 to 45 days prior to our annual meeting. The results will then be announced at our annual meeting, to be held on Feb. 24, 2024.



Salute to our Veterans

Thank you for your Service.



Ian Moore
US Air Force
1992-1996



Ed Hannaman
US Army
1987-1999



Bill Fields
US Marine Corps
1995-1999

Beware of damaged power equipment:

Energy can spread like ripples on a pond

The transmission and distribution of power is safe and reliable much of the time.

However, storms, critters and car accidents can damage energized utility equipment such as power lines, poles and padmount transformers (green boxes). Not only can this cause minor inconveniences, like service interruptions and road closures, it can also create life-threatening situations when energy invisibly spreads like ripples on a pond.

Here is what can occur when utility equipment is damaged:

- Step potential happens when a person walks from one voltage “ripple” to another and their feet experience a difference in voltage.
- Touch potential happens when someone touches something at one voltage and steps on or contacts something else at a different voltage.

Both types of potential can cause serious internal and external injuries or death, since electric current enters the body at one point and exits at another.

How to stay safe

Take precautions near downed power lines, poles or other damaged power equipment. Always assume damaged power equipment is energized; it can look lifeless and harmless and still be live.

Besides accidents, storms and animal interferences, another hazardous situation may occur when equipment or extensions get too close to or contact power equipment. To stay safe around damaged utility equipment:

- Stay inside your vehicle or cab.
- Call 911.
- Report damaged power equipment to a dispatcher.
- Only exit if you see smoke or there is a fire.

If you must exit due to a fire, carefully do the following:

- Cross your arms and make a clean jump out.
- Do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
- Make solid hops with your feet together as far away as you can.
- If you are unable to hop, shuffle away without lifting your feet.
- Do not return to the vehicle.

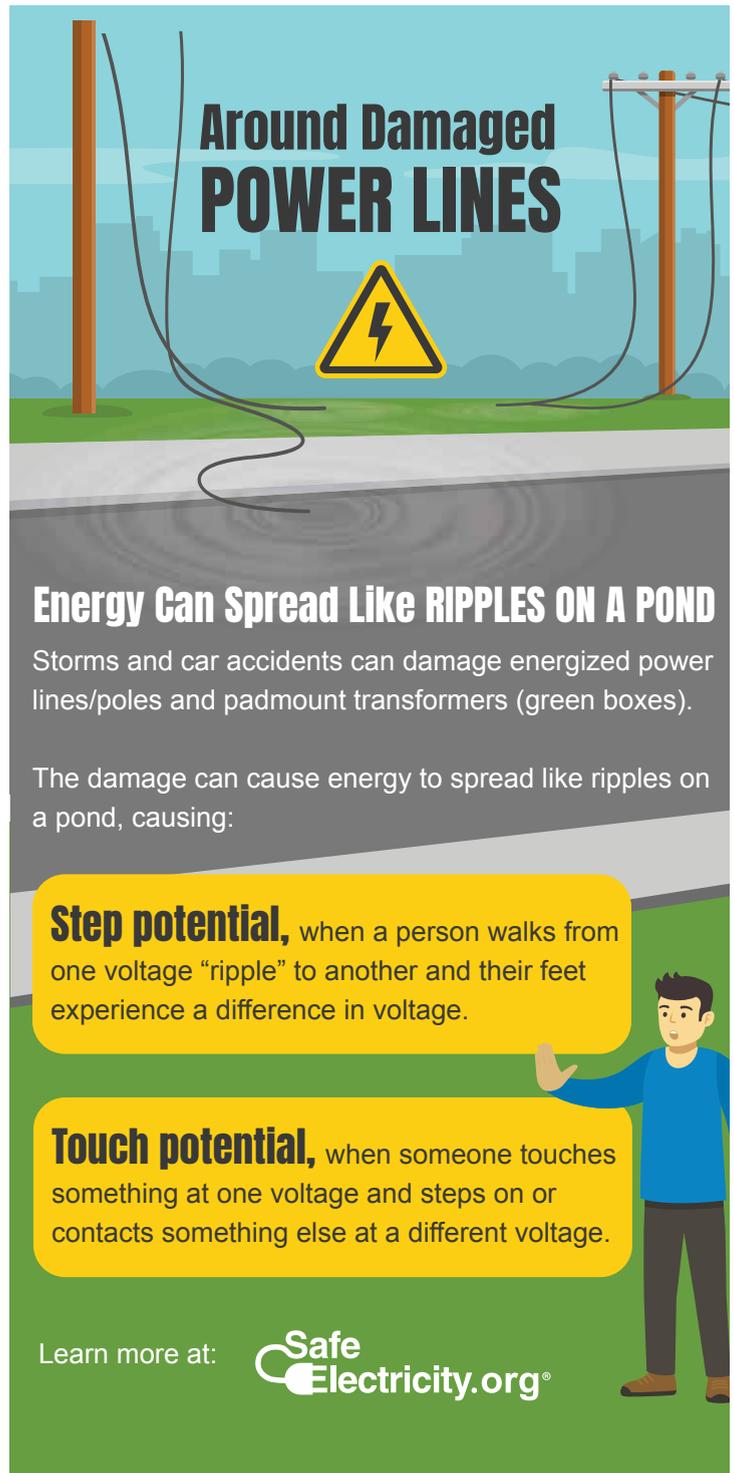
If you are near the scene:

- Do not approach the scene to help.

- Stay at least 50 feet away.
- Do not lean on or touch anything.

Never approach a downed power line or pole or a damaged padmount transformer.

For more electrical safety tips, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Around Damaged POWER LINES

Energy Can Spread Like RIPPLES ON A POND

Storms and car accidents can damage energized power lines/poles and padmount transformers (green boxes).

The damage can cause energy to spread like ripples on a pond, causing:

Step potential, when a person walks from one voltage “ripple” to another and their feet experience a difference in voltage.

Touch potential, when someone touches something at one voltage and steps on or contacts something else at a different voltage.

Learn more at: SafeElectricity.org