


# Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Norris Electric Cooperative

8543 N St Hwy 130  
Newton, IL 62448

**Phone:** 618-783-8765  
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 McClure .....Jasper

### Vice Chairman

Brandon Graves ..... Richland

### Secretary/Treasurer

Dan Strine ..... Wabash

### Directors

Ava Lemmon .....Crawford

Ron Viehman.....Lawrence

Kurt Holscher .....Crawford

Dave Thoele ..... Effingham

Scott Weiss.....Lawrence

Justin Parcel..... Clark

Dave Sheppard.....Jasper

Ted Helmink ..... Cumberland

### General Manager

Tamara Phillips



## Lineworkers are ready when it matters most

By Tamara Phillips

As General Manager of Norris Electric Cooperative, I have the unique privilege of seeing firsthand what it truly takes to keep the lights on for our members. In April, we take time to pause and recognize the brave people who make that possible every single day — our lineworkers.

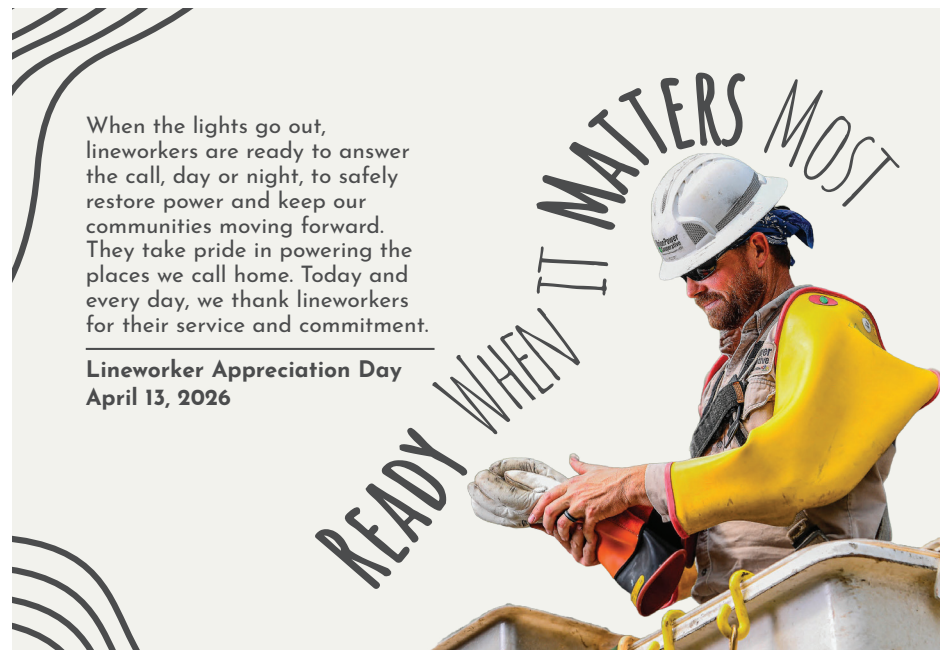
When storms impact our communities and outages occur, many people experience the inconvenience, but our lineworkers see a call to action. Our crews are always ready when it matters most — leaving family dinners, working through the night and heading into challenging conditions to restore power as safely and as quickly as possible. That readiness is not accidental. It comes from rigorous

training, deep experience and a shared commitment to serving others.

What makes lineworkers especially remarkable is that they aren't just restoring power to a system — they're restoring power to their own communities. They live here. They raise their families here. They understand that electricity is more than a convenience; it's essential to daily life, to local businesses, to schools, farms and emergency services. Powering the places we call home is personal to lineworkers.

Electric cooperatives like Norris Electric Cooperative were built on the principle of neighbors helping neighbors, and our lineworkers embody that

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When the lights go out, lineworkers are ready to answer the call, day or night, to safely restore power and keep our communities moving forward. They take pride in powering the places we call home. Today and every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and commitment.

**Lineworker Appreciation Day**  
April 13, 2026

*Lineworkers continued from 18A*

spirit every day. They are the first to respond and the last to leave, often working long hours behind the scenes. At times, serving our neighbors means going beyond our own service territory through a process known as mutual aid. During major outage events, Norris crews stand ready to assist neighboring co-ops — sometimes close to home, and sometimes across state lines — to help restore power. This spirit of mutual aid strengthens all cooperatives and ultimately benefits the members we serve.

We understand any time the lights go out, it can be frustrating, bringing everyday life to a halt. We are incredibly grateful to our members for your patience and encouragement during these times. Linework is demanding, physical, and at times, it can be dangerous. Our crews approach each job focused on safety and teamwork. They take pride in their craft and in the trust our members place in them.

On April 4, 2026, we will celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day, but one day is hardly enough. Every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and dedication, which are the backbone of our cooperative.

To our lineworkers: Thank you for your hard work, your readiness and your unwavering commitment to the communities we serve. We are proud to stand behind you and grateful for all that you do.



# APRIL SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES



*Thank you!*  
FOR YOUR SERVICE



Congratulations to Norris Electric Cooperative Vice President Brandon Graves, Richland County, who recently obtained his Board Leadership Certificate through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), after completing a series of courses focusing in greater depth on specific industry and governance issues.

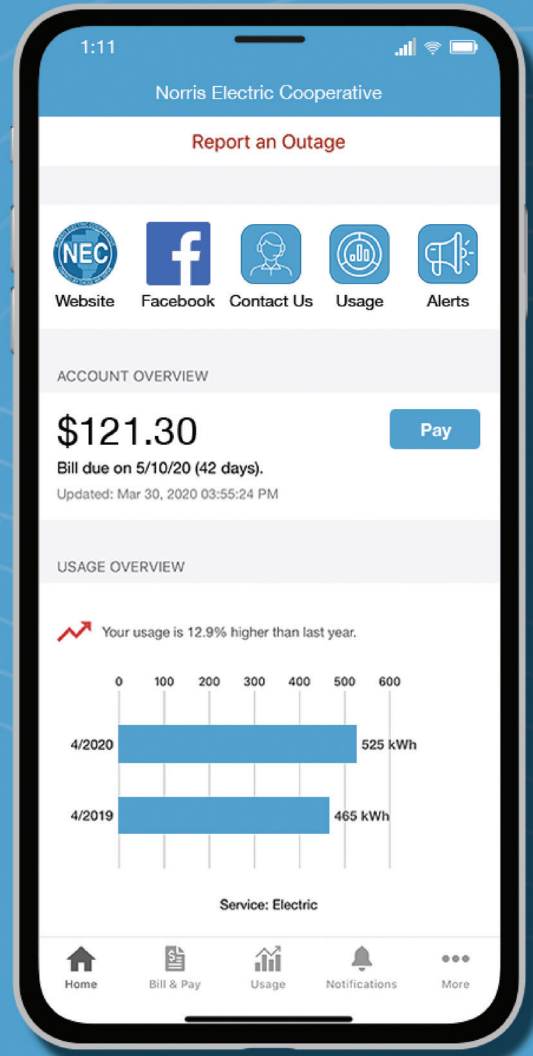
This certificate is one of three of the NRECA's director education programs, which provides directors with the knowledge and skills to fulfill their duties as elected officials. Brandon will continue his cooperative education by taking courses to earn his Director Gold credential.

*Congratulations!*



# SMARTHUB COMING SOON

On May 4, 2026, register with SmartHub to save time and money by managing your account anytime from anywhere.



Visit  
[norriselectric.com/smarthub](http://norriselectric.com/smarthub)  
for more information.

## Safety Tip

Power poles aren't bulletin boards. Nails, staples, signs and decorations can injure lineworkers or damage their protective gear and equipment when they climb poles to keep the power on. Keep poles clear to help protect the people who power our community.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As we prepare for the seasonal shift, remember to set your ceiling fan rotation accordingly. In winter months (or whenever your home heating system is running), fan blades should rotate clockwise, which produces an updraft that pushes warm air down. In summer months (or whenever your home cooling system is running), blades should rotate counterclockwise, which produces a downdraft or windchill effect that makes you feel cooler. When used correctly, ceiling fans can boost comfort and allow you to adjust the thermostat a few degrees for energy savings.

Source: energy.gov



## You can't AVOID what you CAN'T SEE

**Starting a job — big or small — without first getting utilities marked could result in serious injury, service disruptions for you and your neighbors, and a hefty fine.**

**Call 8-1-1 before you dig.**

Learn more at:  **Safe  
Electricity.org®**