


Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Norris Electric Cooperative

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

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Brandon Graves Richland

Secretary/Treasurer

Dan Strine Wabash

Directors

Ava LemmonCrawford

Ron Viehman.....Lawrence

Kurt HolscherCrawford

Dave Thoele Effingham

Scott Weiss.....Lawrence

Justin Parcel..... Clark

Dave Sheppard.....Jasper

Ted Helmink Cumberland

General Manager

Tamara Phillips



Norris Electric holds 88th Annual Meeting of Members

Members of Norris Electric Cooperative (NEC) filled the gymnasium of Newton Community High School for their co-op's 88th Annual Meeting of Members, held Saturday, Feb. 28. Following the national anthem, performed by Grammy nominee Kiley Phillips, daughter of General Manager Tamara Phillips, and the Pledge of Allegiance, leadership updated members on the status of the cooperative.

Board President Gordon McClure welcomed members, thanking them for their commitment to stay informed regarding the past year's activities and progress. "One thing is certain — change is constant," he said. "Perhaps the most significant changes have come through advancements in technology that affect nearly every aspect of our daily lives. It is easy to become overwhelmed by the pace of these developments, but we must continue to adapt and move forward thoughtfully."

He shared that Phillips would be retiring in June 2026. "A CEO search committee was appointed and tasked with recommending qualified candidates with cooperative experience to lead Norris Electric Cooperative into the future," said McClure, who later introduced incoming Manager Luke Johnson, most recently the general manager of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Board Treasurer Dan Strine reported that revenue collected in 2025 totaled \$56 million, of which 63% percent was used to purchase wholesale power. About 33% was used for operating expenses, depreciation expenses and taxes. Another 4%

included interest revenue and other non-operating margins.

"The remainder is a margin of \$123,771 that will be allocated back to you, our members," Strine explained. "These funds were mainly used for construction projects but will be paid back to you in the future."

Phillips then addressed the membership. "Over the past year, we delivered electricity to our members with a reliability rate of 99.92%, despite weather challenges. During our recent snowstorm, we only had two single home outages over a three-day period," she said. "This is proof the work we are doing helps with reliability."

She outlined work completed by the cooperative in the previous year, including 25 miles of three-phase line upgrades, the replacement of 652 aging poles and 750 miles of right-of-way maintenance. "These investments strengthen our infrastructure and reduce long-term costs," said Phillips, adding that the implementation of new system software was also currently underway.

She relayed that in 2025, the cooperative retired \$1.3 million in capital credits to its 1990-1991 members. The cooperative's transition to Dairyland Power Cooperative in June 2026 was also addressed by the general manager. "They will serve as our power provider for the next 10 years," she said. "The decision to partner with Dairyland looks to be a promising one for our members."

Finally, Phillips thanked members, the board of directors, Norris employees past and present,

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Notification: Assignment of margins

Norris Electric Cooperative has completed the allocation of margins for 2023, 2024 and 2025 to members who received service during those years. The total margins allocated as capital credits are as follows:

- **2023 margins:** \$152,783.95
- **2024 margins:** \$792,541.03
- **2025 margins:** \$768,070.52

Each member's share of these margins has been calculated and credited to their individual capital credit account.

Allocation notices have been provided to all eligible members. These notices were either included on your electric bill or mailed to members with inactive accounts. Please note, this allocation is an accounting credit only — it cannot be claimed at this time or applied to your current electric bill.

The board of directors reviews the cooperative's financial condition each year to determine when and how much capital credit can be returned to members. Most recently, in August 2025, Norris Electric retired capital credits from 1990-1991 totaling \$1,336,144.76.

Please remember, you must be a member with service in your name to receive capital credits. If you move off cooperative lines, be sure to provide us with your current mailing address so future capital credit checks can reach you.

If you have questions, please contact Norris Electric at 618-783-8765. To learn more about capital credits or to view the list of members with unclaimed credits, visit www.norriselectric.com/capitalcredits.



and her family for the support she received during her 44 years with the cooperative. "Serving as your manager has been one of the greatest honors," she said. "I am proud of what we have accomplished together."

During the meeting, students who represented NEC in 2025 during the annual Youth to Washington Tour — Anna Probst and Eva Mette of Teutopolis High School and Owen Ulm, recipient of the Tootie Holmes Memorial Scholarship — were introduced. Probst and Mette shared their experiences and gratitude with members in attendance. Ulm was unable to attend but shared a video message with the membership.

In addition, NEC awarded four \$500 scholarships to high school seniors in attendance. The scholarship winners were Allison Brummer, Newton Community High School;

Karly Deckard, Newton Community High School; Madison Gray, Casey-Westfield High School; and Anna Probst, Teutopolis High School. Dairyland awarded two additional scholarships to Danica Potts, Oblong High School; and Katie Tedrick, Altamont High School.

Because there were no contested seats this year, the cooperative did not send out ballots for board elections. Dan Strine (Wabash County), Ron Viehman (Lawrence County) and Brandon Graves (Richland County) will each be seated for an additional three-year term.

Following a call for new business and many prizes awarded, the meeting was adjourned. Members were then treated to fried chicken and pulled pork for lunch. All registered members in attendance also received a \$10 bill credit on their energy bill.



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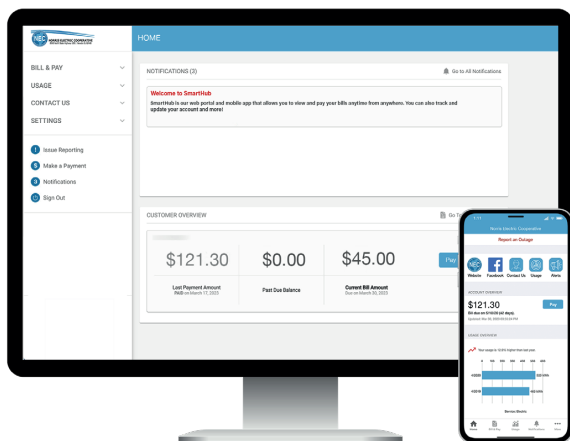


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IMPORTANT INFORMATION


On **May 4, 2026**, we'll be launching our new SmartHub mobile app and web portal. This new system has features to help you save time and money.

Some payment options will be unavailable **during this transition time**. Payments will not post to your account until the new system is in place. Visit norriselectric.com/smarthub for more information.

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Youth Day 2026

MAKE YOUR MARK




Co-op students engage lawmakers during annual Youth Day

On March 25, 168 students sponsored by 24 electric and telephone cooperatives across the state gathered in the Illinois State Capitol for Youth Day, an annual event designed to introduce young leaders to state government and the cooperative principles that serve their communities. Students met with elected officials, explored historic sites and experienced the workings of state government firsthand.

Representing Norris Electric were Greyson Holscher and Miles Holscher of Palestine High School; Mitchell Spiker, Gabriel Maldonado, Carson Gage Jones, Emma Walker, Cooper Sutter and Lydia Lessley of Newton Community High School; Hunter Fitts of Oblong High School; and Avery Henning of St. Anthony High School.

“As cooperatives, we’re committed not only to providing reliable service but also to investing in the next generation,” said Brooke Gross, member services manager at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and facilitator of its youth programs. “Youth Day helps students understand the cooperative difference and the impact they can have as informed citizens.”

State Senators Chapin Rose and Steve McClure met with the students representing Norris Electric Cooperative.

In addition to meeting elected officials, the students also learned more about their cooperative’s role in their own communities and had the opportunity to tour the Capitol Building and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

During lunch, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs addressed the students. He shared his journey from a small town in Illinois to his current role, emphasizing the importance of finding interesting and challenging opportunities. He encouraged students to pursue their passions, participate and become lifelong learners.

“You have found time to participate here today by coming to Youth Day,” Frerichs said. “You’re talking to people. You are learning. And I’ll tell you that learning never stops. It only stops when you decide you don’t want to learn anymore. ... If you decide to push yourself and become a lifelong learner, you’ll grow from it.”

Participants also met Micah Anderson, the 2025-26 Illinois Youth Leadership Council representative, who was sponsored by Adams Telephone Co-Operative during the 2025 Youth Day and Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. He spoke of his experiences over the past year, saying that representing Illinois has been

one of the most fulfilling things he’s done in his life.

“Throughout the year, I’ve grown in many ways that I could have never imagined,” Anderson said. “I never thought that I would be able to see myself as a leader. I never thought that I would be confident enough to get in front of a crowd and deliver a speech. ... But here I am in front of all of you today. I’m a testament to the growth that you can undergo if you take advantage of the opportunities that are placed in front of you. I challenge you all to do the same.”

At the end of the day, attendees were interviewed for the chance to participate in Youth Tour, an annual trip to Washington, D.C., also sponsored by Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives. This year’s trip will be held June 15-22. Lydia Lessley of Newton Community High School and Hunter Fitts of Oblong High School will represent Norris Electric Cooperative on the weeklong trip to see historic sites, learn firsthand how cooperatives work and gain valuable leadership skills.

“From touring Washington, D.C., to learning the cooperative difference, Youth Tour is much more than a trip,” said Gross. “It’s an experience they will carry long after high school.”

