

# Illinois Country Living

## Official Notice of the 2021 Norris Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

The 83rd Annual Meeting of the Members of Norris Electric Cooperative will be held virtually on April 15, 2021 at 7 p.m. to take action upon the following matters:

- Approval of 2020 annual meeting Minutes
- Treasurer Report
- President Report
- Manager Report
- Director Election Results
- Unfinished Business
- New Business

The terms of four director positions expired and solicitations for members to submit petitions for candidacy were included in the January and February issues of the Illinois Country Living magazine. The members were reminded that in accordance with the Norris Electric bylaws the only way a person may be nominated is to have 25 members sign a petition and

have the petition validated. The authenticity of the petitions has been verified and each candidate is qualified to be a Norris Electric Director. Because there were no contested positions, the Board dispensed with the election process and said four candidates will be declared duly elected to serve a three-year term as Director of Norris Electric Cooperative. That being:

- Gordon McClure.....Jasper County
- Scott Wiess.....Lawrence County
- Gilbert Garbe ..... Effingham County
- Gary Buser.....Crawford County

**IMPORTANT: 150 members must register for a quorum at this meeting.**

Dated this 23 day of March, 2021  
Dean Dietrich, Secretary



Each member attending virtually will receive a **\$10 bill credit** to one account.

**PLUS** additional prizes will be awarded!



# 83rd Norris Electric Cooperative

## Virtual Annual Meeting of Members

### Thursday, April 15th

Log in Time: 6:45 p.m. • Business Meeting: 7 p.m.

The Board of Directors and Management invite and encourage you to attend the 83rd Norris Electric Virtual Annual Meeting of the Members. With restrictions on gatherings, the Board of Directors, who always has the safety and wellbeing of the membership at the forefront of their minds, decided to have the 2021 meeting virtually. The virtual meeting will be held through Facebook Live in our Member's Only group. Other options are available for members who are unable to access Facebook. Your participation is extremely important. Your co-op exists to serve you, and through your participation you help us identify and meet your specific needs.

The idea that sparked the formation of Norris Electric Cooperative 83 years ago is the same idea that serves as our guiding principle today – namely, providing our members with safe, reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost consistent with sound economy and good management.

**Each member attending virtually will receive a \$10 bill credit to one account.**

Follow these simple instructions to join our group now.



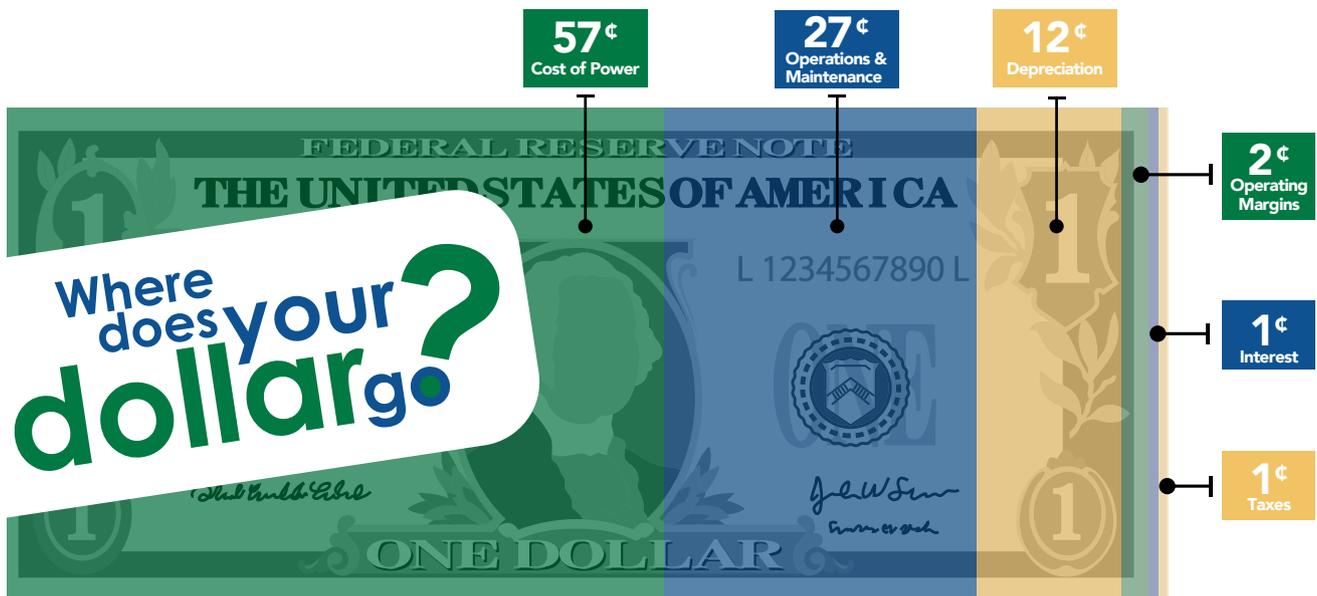
### 3 easy steps to join

1. Go to Facebook and search: 2021 Norris Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting
2. Click the "Join Group" button
3. Enter your Name, Account Number and preferred method of contact (email or phone number)

That's it! Your request should be processed in 1-2 business days!

If you are unable to access Facebook or would prefer a Zoom link or conference phone number, please call the office at 877-783-8765, and we will provide alternate attendance options.

Reminders will be sent to join us the night of April 15.



# Program

6:45 p.m. Log on to Facebook Live, Zoom or Conference Call

7 p.m. Welcome, Call to Order & Quorum .....Gordon McClure, Board President

Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

## Reports

- Treasurer
- President
- General Manager

Election of Board Directors

Unfinished Business

New Business

Adjournment

Award Prizes



## Prizes to be awarded:

- 1** \$250 Grand Prize bill credit
- 5** \$100 bill credits
- 5** \$75 bill credits
- 10** \$50 bill credits



# Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members

The 82nd Annual Meeting of Members of Norris Electric Cooperative was held on Saturday, February 8, 2020 at the Newton Community High School in Newton, Illinois.

At 10 a.m. Board President Gordon McClure called the meeting to order and welcomed members. He then introduced the Newton Community High School Star Spangled Banner Club to sing the National Anthem.

Following the National Anthem, Board Director Dave Sheppard gave the invocation. President McClure welcomed the Members and informed the audience there was a quorum of 150 or more members present and that business could be conducted.

Two children from the audience, Riley Ruholl and Rhett Holscher, were chosen to draw two names from the registration slips for the \$100 early bird prizes. Names drawn were Clem Staley of Crawford County and Dale Davidson of Jasper County.

Board Secretary Dean Dietrich read the Proof of Mailing of the Annual Meeting Notices. Notices for the Annual Meeting were mailed out on January 23, 2020.

President McClure asked if there were any additions or corrections to the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes which were printed in the programs handed out during registration. There were no corrections or additions. A motion was made by Nancy Stewart of Crawford County and seconded by Keith McKinney of Effingham County to accept the 2019 minutes. Motion carried.

Board Treasurer Dean Dietrich gave the Treasurer's report. Mr. Dietrich reviewed the financials posted in the program and stated the records of Norris Electric Cooperative were maintained in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practices and Government Auditing Standards.

President McClure thanked Members for attending the meeting and their interest in the coops business of reports, finances and activities. President McClure brought the Members up to date regarding the cooperative's 10-year strategic plan to aggressively replace and build new lines, upgrade substations and provide additional space to house line trucks and equipment.

Manager Tamara Phillips introduced Journeyman Lineman Ralph Bowersock Jr,

who represented Norris Electric on an international trip to Guatemala on a three-week project to electrify 42 homes in the remote village of Chixoy. Ralph gave a presentation to the Members of the highlights of his trip. He thanked the Coop and the members for the chance to be a part of the Guatemala Electrification Project.

Manager Phillips followed up McClure's statement by how the coop is advancing the strategic plan by aggressively retiring and replacing old poles and lines. Additionally, the cooperative is adding a substation at Greenbriar in 2020 to help reduce and eliminate extended outages. Phillips stated safety is always the number one concern at Norris. Safety programs have been put in place to ensure safety for our Members, our Community and our Employees and their Families. Along with listing other accomplishments in 2019, Manager Phillips ended her speech thanking the employees and Board of Directors for their continued efforts and dedication.

Special Guests were recognized by President McClure. Those in attendance were retired Norris Employee Keith McKinney, Coles-Moultrie Manager Amy Borntrager, Candidates running for State Election Adam Niemerg, Andy Hires and John Spencer. Also in attendance as special guests were Jasper County Sheriff Brandon Francis and Jasper County Ambulance Personnel.

Duane Noland, President of the AIEC, introduced all the staff assisting the meeting from the State Association. Duane also touched on issues at the state level and those that have an effect on cooperatives. The AIEC offers support for cooperatives and is a liaison for numerous cooperative organizations.

Jeff Vance, Director of Origination for Vistra Energy, addressed the Members and gave a brief overview of who Vistra is and where Vistra is heading in the future. With the evolving renewable energy movement, Vistra is making advancements towards a greener future.

President McClure then introduced State Representative Darren Baily. Bailey stated he is a member of a cooperative and feels blessed to be a part of the cooperative community. Bailey also advised Members to

watch for more information coming on the Green Energy Bill. Renewable Energy and Climate Change are hot topics and Members should educate themselves on both. Bailey also stated he is accessible to members if they have any concerns regarding the Illinois Government.

President McClure recognized Reese Williamson who was chosen to travel to Washington DC in 2019 on the Youth to Washington Tour. Reese, daughter of Clint and Stacey Williamson, from Hustonville High School, gave a report on the trip to Washington and thanked the members and board for the amazing experience.

President McClure explained the election process for the Board of Directors. This year three petitions were submitted from the three incumbents. Since there were not any contested seats for the positions on the board, the Cooperative did not send ballots to the members. Mr. McClure introduced the three Directors that will be seated this year: Dan Strine, Wabash County; Ron Viehman, Lawrence County; and Dean Dietrich, Richland County. The rest of the Board was then introduced: Scott Weis, Lawrence County; Gilbert Garbe, Effingham County; Gary Buser, Crawford County; Kurt Holscher, Crawford County; Justin Parcel, Clark County; Ted Helmink, Cumberland County; Dave Sheppard, Jasper County and Gordon McClure, Jasper County. Aaron Leonard, General Counsel for Norris Electric, was also introduced.

President McClure asked if there was any unfinished business. Nothing was presented. He then asked if there was any new business. No new business was presented.

Norris Electric proceeded to give away four \$500 scholarships to high school seniors. Children Riley and Rhett were asked to draw the four lucky names. Winners were: Lexi Marshall of Jasper County; Davalyn Tarr of Jasper County; Alexis Bell of Jasper County and Josie Grunloh of Jasper County.

A motion was made by Keith McKinney of Effingham County and seconded by Larry Buser of Crawford County to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Prizes were awarded and a delicious meal was served by Niemerg's of Effingham to approximately 609 people. There were 373 registered members present.