

PowerLines

February 2023

Member feedback is much appreciated

How are you doing with those New Year resolutions? I have just begun to seriously think about mine – so I am a bit behind.

February has always been a transition month for me. The novelty of a new year in the month of January has worn off and we look forward to the calendar turning to spring in March. February usually has drastic temperature excursions as well. I remember very cold, arctic temperatures from past years in February, as well as spring like temperatures. Unfortunately, I also remember some severe ice storms experienced in February. Let's hope the weather this February trends toward normal.

I want to share highlights from two different member satisfaction surveys recently received. EIEC conducts a survey each October, while our statewide association conducts a survey every two years.

Our combined satisfaction score for the EIEC survey was 88 (out of 100), which matched our average score for surveys dating back to 2012. Eastern Illini achieved its highest ever score of 89 on the statewide surveys, which have been conducted since 2011.

Our highest scores of 9.5 or higher (out of ten) were in the areas of:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Friendly & courteous employees | 9.6 |
| Conduct business professionally | 9.5 |
| Knowledgeable employees | 9.5 |

Our lower scores included:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Supporting renewables | 8.6 |
| Delivering good value | 8.6 |
| Charging reasonable rates | 8.1 |



**MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

The areas of measurement and scores listed above are consistent with surveys completed in prior years.

Both of these scores place Eastern Illini in the top 10% of electric cooperatives nationwide – very good results – thank you!

We appreciate that you recognize the efforts that our employees and directors make toward providing exceptional member service.

Enjoy the last vestiges of winter as we all look forward to springtime!

Sincerely,

Bob Hunzinger

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Did you know?

The average annual electricity consumption for a U.S. household is 10,632 kWh per year. Per month that comes to 866 kWh or 29 kWh per day. Most energy use happens during the day and early evening hours. Americans use 5X more power than the global average.

Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

Nominating petitions available soon

Nominating petitions will be available on February 23, 2023 for the June 8, 2023 director election. Nominating petitions can be obtained by calling 217-379-0423 or you may stop by the Eastern Illini headquarters in Paxton between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.

Each member who desires to be elected to the board of directors must have a petition signed by not less than 25 members of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative. Petitions need to be returned to Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative by Thursday, April 6, 2023, no later than 4:00 p.m.

Directors in Directorate Districts 2, 5, and 9 will be elected at Eastern Illini's Annual Meeting on June 8, 2023.

Current District 2 Director, Tom Schlatter of Chatsworth, is retiring from the Eastern Illini Board of Directors, and his replacement will be elected at the Annual Meeting on June 8, 2023.

Incumbent directors Kevin Moore, Hoopeston, District 5; and Lauri Quick, Tolono, District 9; have indicated they will seek re-election.

The Credentials Committee will meet at Eastern Illini's headquarters in Paxton to review the qualifications of all candidates who file nominating petitions. The Credentials Committee will determine the eligibility of the candidates to serve as an EIEC director.

The nominating process is conducted in accordance with the following provisions of the EIEC Bylaws, Article III, Section 3.5: Nominations: *Any member of the Cooperative in good standing who desires to be elected to its Board of Directors may be nominated by petition signed by not less than twenty - five (25) members and filed with the Secretary/Treasurer of the Cooperative not less than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting of members.*

Nominations from the floor shall not be permitted. The Secretary/Treasurer of the Cooperative shall cause to be prepared and posted at the principal office of the Cooperative at least forty-five (45) days before the annual meeting, a list of the nominations for Directors thus filed with him or her.

A specimen ballot marked "Ballot for Directors" containing the names and addresses of all candidates listed in the

order of priority determined by the date and time when the Cooperative received the respective completed candidate information shall be printed in or mailed with the notice of the meeting.

In the event that multiple candidates' completed information is received on the same date and at the same time for the same directorate district, the ballot order shall be determined by lot conducted by the Board of Directors.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall also have printed in or mailed with the said notice of the meeting or separately not less than seven (7) days prior to said annual meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the district from which they are to be elected.

If a particular directorate district does not have a contested election, that director can be elected by a voice vote as provided in Section 2.6 of Article II of the Bylaws. In such case, the name of the candidate for that specific directorate district shall not be required to be placed on the specimen and actual ballots.



Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

BACK ROW, left to right:

- Kevin Moore, Chairman
- Bruce Ristow, Vice Chairman
- Steve Meenen, Secretary/Treasurer
- Chad Larimore, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

FRONT ROW, left to right:

- Brad Ludwig, Director
- Tyler Finegan, Director
- Lauri Quick, Director
- Steve Gordon, Director
- Tom Schlatter, Director

THANK YOU MEMBERS FOR COMPLETING THE SURVEYS

Member feedback is greatly appreciated

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives greatly appreciate the feedback received from members from surveys completed this fall.

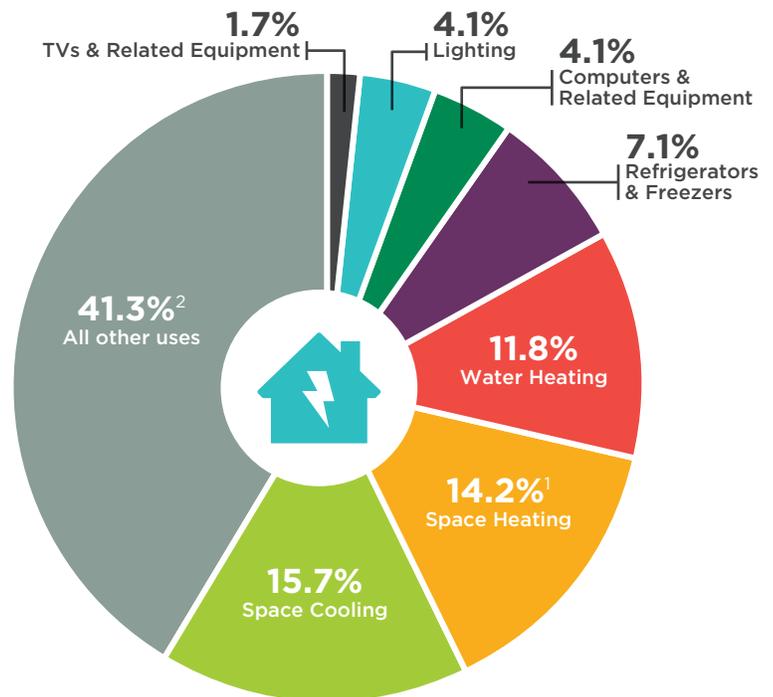
Ann and Pat Clifford of rural Tuscola were the winners of \$250 for completing the state survey. Sean Miller, Pesotum Serviceman, made the check presentation. Ten Eastern Illini members were winners of \$25 bill credits for completing the 2022 member satisfaction survey:

- Deni Abbott, Broadlands
- Richard Baxely, Pesotum
- Patricia Combs, Fisher
- Bryant DeWitt, Martinton
- Tasha Hanson, Clifton
- Larry Larson, Bement
- Sarah Hughes-Oser, Paxton
- David Siebert, Saybrook
- Russell Wilhelm, Atwood
- Donald Wilson, Bismarck



HOW AMERICANS USE ELECTRICITY

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses") accounts for the largest percentage of electricity consumption in American homes.



Source: Energy Information Administration 2021

¹Includes consumption for heat and operating furnace fans and boiler pumps.

²Includes miscellaneous appliances, clothes washers and dryers, stoves, dishwashers, heating elements, and motors.

JOHN MOORE ENJOYS PEOPLE, KIDS, AND EVEN THE DOGS

Delivering the mail in Martinton for 60 years



Moore's first paycheck back in 1963 was for \$21. He has kept every pay stub since 1963. Even today he receives a paper paycheck. He's not interested in direct deposit. He likes to hold his paycheck, deposit his paycheck, and reminisce about the days when he earned \$300 per week and 12 cents per mile to deliver the mail. Moore is the last U.S.P.S. rural carrier on a "mileage route." This means his

Many of us have heard the postal carriers' motto in one form or another. "Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor hail shall keep the postmen from their appointed rounds."

No one takes this mission more seriously than John Moore, a rural mail carrier in Martinton. Moore has been delivering mail for 60 years and plans to continue as he believes if you love what you do, you should keep doing it.

Moore, who was born in 1942, occasionally rode along with his dad, beginning when he was a toddler. He became his father's substitute driver in 1963, when he was 20 years old. Five years later, John joined the National Rural Letter Carrier Association, and the rest is history. It has been a family affair at the Martinton post office for the Moore family. Moore's father worked as a carrier for 46 years. John has been a rural mail carrier for 60 years, so the Moore family has delivered mail for 106 years combined.

As you can imagine, behind every tenured rural mail carrier, is a dedicated and devoted spouse whose support has contributed to his success. John has been married to Judy for 60 years and together they have raised two children and some hogs back in the day. Judy even worked as an office clerk at the post office for awhile.

salary is based on the number of miles he drives — an amount that doesn't change from paycheck to paycheck. Mileage routes used to be more common, but they've gradually been phased out over the years.

Moore is a very conscientious employee. He is prompt, precise, and predictably delivers the mail on his 80-mile route that encompasses 256 deliveries. Moore lives 1.5 miles from the post office and three times he has walked to work in snowstorms using a walking stick and shares details of braving the 1983 blizzard.

He enjoys the people, the kids, and even the dogs. He shared stories of times dogs joined him in his vehicle. He gets to know the folks on his route. He often knows if they are under the weather, on vacation, facing challenges, welcoming a new baby, or celebrating a significant milestone in life.

Moore delivers care and compassion in his job, from neatly placing letters in the mailbox, to giving a customer a call to see if they're home to get their package that won't fit in the mailbox. Moore knows his customers' names and they all know him.

The U.S. Postal Service was created in 1775 and Benjamin Franklin served as the first Postmaster General and U.S.P.S. may be the country's oldest continuously operating business.



Similarly, John Moore, who is 80 years old, has been a rural mail carrier for 60 years and has gone 22 months without a day off work!

According to Moore, come heck or high water, nothing keeps him from doing his job. He is extremely dedicated. He loves to get up and get going and all indications are if you are out in the country near Martinton, you'll probably see Moore in his maroon-colored Chevy Lumina delivering the mail for many more years to come.



SLEEPING WITH YOUR CELL PHONE UNDER YOUR PILLOW IS RISKY

Plug into safety when charging your devices

Charging a cell phone is something we all do every day. No big deal, right? **WRONG!**

For example:

- You need a new charger. So, you head to the nearest gas station and grab one at a discounted price.
- You typically charge your phone in the bathroom — using an unwieldy 10-foot cord.
- You like keeping your phone close, so you plug it in next to your bed and tuck it under your pillow.
- You're out of outlets, so your phone charger has taken permanent residence plugged into an extension cord.

All pose dangers and here's why:

QUALITY CORDS

Whether you need a replacement or just want an extra phone charger, it can be tempting to purchase the low-priced option rather than the higher-priced charger from the manufacturer. However, purchasing a bargain charger could have disastrous consequences.

Most of the time, these products are unregulated and untested. Their components are often low quality and are not backed by a manufacturer's warranty. Only purchase charging devices and electronics from trusted sources and be sure they have been tested or marked by a nationally recognized testing laboratory like Underwriters Laboratories.

RIGHT LOCATION

It's safest to charge your devices on cool, well-ventilated surfaces away from flammable objects. A well-ventilated spot will help prevent your device from overheating. Devices tucked under a

pillow, nestled on the carpet or resting on a bed or couch don't allow for heat to dissipate. Always unplug charging cords when they are not in use. Cords that are plugged in are constantly drawing power and can be dangerous near bedding or carpet. The heat generated may catch the pillow or bed on fire.

WATER HAZARD

Once your phone is plugged into an outlet it becomes a potential electrical hazard. And, unlike a hair dryer or electric razor — devices meant to be used in a bathroom — phones, laptops and wireless speakers are not equipped with a safety mechanism known as a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), which shuts off power to the device when it gets wet.

In the U.S., building codes require you to use outlets equipped with a GFCI in bathrooms and kitchens. Regardless of the type of charging cord you are using, if you drop your phone into water you could be electrocuted.

EXTENSION CORDS

Avoid relying on extension cords when charging devices. Extension cords are not meant for long-term use. If you need to plug in your phone in a more convenient area than is available, this may be an indicator you need more outlets.

Here are six phone charging myths that will surprise you:

DON'T CHARGE YOUR PHONE OVERNIGHT

There is no risk of you "overcharging" your phone and causing damage to the battery, as there are safeguards in place now to prevent that from happening. But you do need to worry about overheating.



LET YOUR PHONE GO TO ZERO PERCENT BEFORE CHARGING

Completely draining your battery before a charge causes it to become more unstable. Instead, keep your devices charged between 50 and 80 percent.

ANY CHARGER, EVEN AN OFF-BRAND MODEL, WILL WORK

Off-brand chargers are not built with safety in mind. This means there is a far greater chance of these chargers causing a fire, or harming your battery.

TURNING OFF YOUR PHONE IS USELESS

You should shut down or properly restart your device at least once a week, because this has been proven to conserve your battery life over time.

DON'T USE YOUR PHONE WHILE IT'S PLUGGED IN

While it is safe to use your smartphone while charging it with its proper charger, it is not recommended to do it when using a third-party charger. That may lead to the phone exploding, or worse, electrocuting the user.

IT'S OK TO CHARGE A PHONE IN YOUR VEHICLE

USB ports in your vehicle probably provide less electricity than your phone really needs to charge. Car batteries might be drained from cell phone charging in older vehicles. Play it safe. Wait until you get home to charge.



February wind and ice can be brutal to the electric system, and dangerous for those who work on it.

If you have an outage, call us at **800-824-5102** and please be patient. Our linemen are on their way to repair and restore your electricity. Visit www.eiec.coop to view our outage map and keep up-to-date.

Line personnel who try to rush outage restoration can make costly mistakes that might hurt themselves, their co-workers, and co-op members, or worse. Working steadily and deliberately means everyone goes home safely each night. For us it's safety first and always.

