

# PowerLines

May 2022

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

### EASTERN ILLINI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

**JUNE 9, 2022**

Iroquois County Fairgrounds 4-H Building  
Business Meeting: 6:15 p.m.

### In this issue:

- May is electrical safety month
- EIEC Board of Director election
- Supply chain shortages
- Air Source Heat Pump Rebate
- 2022 Annual Meeting Events

Notice is hereby given that the 35th Annual Meeting of Members of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 6:15 p.m., at the Iroquois County Fairgrounds in the 4-H Building. The meeting will be called to order at 6:15 p.m. and action will be taken on the following:

1. The reports of officers, directors, and President/CEO.
2. The election of three directors (one each from Directorate Districts 1, 7, and 8.)  
In connection with the election of directors, the following candidates have been nominated by petitions:  
Tyler Finegan of Ashkum, District 1; Steve Gordon of Rantoul, District 7; Chad Larimore of Bement, District 8.
3. To consider and transact all other business which may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment(s) thereof.

Steve Meenen, Secretary/Treasurer

Select the annual meeting event nearest you or the one that is most convenient for your schedule.

## ANNUAL MEETING EVENTS

3:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. FOOD SERVED  
6:15 P.M. BUSINESS MEETING

**JUNE  
2**

**TUSCOLA  
COMMUNITY  
BUILDING**

**JUNE  
7**

**GORDYVILLE  
AUCTION HOUSE  
IN GIFFORD**

**JUNE  
9**

**IROQUOIS  
COUNTY  
FAIRGROUNDS**

The content of all three annual meeting events will be the same.

- Sit-down fried chicken dinner
- Ice cream from the Sidney Dairy Barn
- Musical Entertainment

**Register at: [www.eiec.coop](http://www.eiec.coop) or call 800-824-5102**

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative \* 330 W. Ottawa \* Paxton, IL \* 60957  
800-824-5102 \* [info@eiec.coop](mailto:info@eiec.coop) \* [www.eiec.coop](http://www.eiec.coop) \* [facebook.com/easternillini](https://www.facebook.com/easternillini)

# AVOID ELECTRICAL HAZARDS BOTH INSIDE AND OUTDOORS

## May is electrical safety month



### Staying safe inside

With so many people working from home, the workplace and where you live can be one and the same. This means more devices are plugged into outlets or circuits that may not be able to handle the load. It's important to have a professional inspect your

home's electrical system and confirm it can meet your current needs for energy.

1. Have a qualified electrician check for hazards if you notice the following: dimming lights, a sizzling or buzzing sound, the smell of warm plastic, a switch plate that feels warm or looks scorched, sparks when plugging in or unplugging items or circuits that trip often.

2. When working with electrical equipment inside the house or shop, be aware that electrical equipment can spark when flammable vapors, gases or dust are present.

3. Do not overstretch a cord or use frayed or damaged cords.

4. During storms, lightning can enter homes through corded phones, televisions, radios or computers. Lightning can also travel through plumbing, so do not take a bath, shower or wash dishes when you see lightning. If possible, unplug appliances and electronics before the storm, including cell phones charging via electricity. Surges caused by lightning can damage electronics and appliances.

May is Electrical Safety Month, and safety is always a top priority at Eastern Illini.

Electricity lights homes and businesses, provides warmth and keeps appliances and equipment running smoothly. During Electrical Safety Month, Eastern Illini is providing these electrical safety tips to avoid hazards both inside and outdoors.

### Staying safe on the road

Downed power lines can happen because of wind, storms, animals, or an auto accident/collision.

1. If you see a downed power line, call 911 to report it and stay in your car. You cannot tell by looking or listening if the power line is deenergized. Wait in your vehicle until an electric utility crew member says it is safe to get out.

2. Do not drive over a downed power line. Doing so could cause a domino effect and bring down other lines, poles and equipment.

3. The only time you should exit is if your vehicle or cab is on fire. If this is the case, make a solid jump from the car or cab without touching it, landing with both feet together. Then, hop away with your feet together as far as you can.

### Staying safe outside

When working outside, be aware of overhead and underground power lines.

1. Keep at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Keep any items you are carrying or using, such as long poles or other extended equipment, 10 feet away from power lines. Carry an extension ladder or other far-reaching tools or equipment horizontally.

2. Check all outside outlets and make sure they are ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected.

3. Before digging, call 811 or JULIE. Buried lines such as electric, gas, water, sewer, and other lines bring services indoors. Besides the dangers of coming in contact with a gas or electric line, fines due to damage are the responsibility of the home or landowner. Privately owned lines and systems will not be marked by the free service.

4. When you see lightning, take shelter inside an enclosed building or a hard-topped vehicle for protection. Stay away from high places, and do not take shelter under an isolated tree.

No place outside is safe. Stay away from items that conduct electricity, such as metal fences. If you are swimming or in a hot tub, get out immediately. Water is an electrical conductor that is dangerous during a storm.

## BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S ELECTION

# What is expected of a director?

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative has nine co-op members who serve on the board of directors. Directors advocate for the cooperative business model and establish the strategic direction of the electric cooperative. In this role, directors must be able to explain cooperative issues and board policy decisions to regulatory bodies, other members, and to public officials.

Directors attend all regular monthly board meetings, usually held on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Directors also attend special board meetings, committee meetings, and the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative annual meeting. Other meetings directors attend include

educational seminars. Directors are encouraged to complete their NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate within nine years or three terms. Incumbent Directors also participate in continuing education offerings and stay updated on financial reports regarding the cooperative as well as current information provided by state and national associations.

A director represents all members of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, not a geographic region or directorate district. In their role, board members are entrusted with the direction and oversight of a co-op's assets and resources. Board members identify

potential risks and ensure effective systems are in place to manage risks and leverage opportunities.

Prior to monthly board meetings, board members review, analyze, and evaluate materials and information provided by the President/CEO of Eastern Illini. Board members also approve, maintain, and amend Eastern Illini bylaws. Directors embrace and ensure that safety of employees, members, and the public is always a primary objective in all business decisions. They operate with integrity and uphold the mission of providing safe and reliable energy solutions and exceptional service to members.

## 2022 Director Election Candidates

A sample ballot can be viewed at [www.eiec.coop](http://www.eiec.coop)



**Directorate District 1**  
**Tyler Finegan**

Ashkum, IL

Tyler R. Finegan and his wife, Britni, reside in rural Ashkum and are the parents of Anderson, Elliott, and Hendrix.

Finegan is a fourth generation corn and soybean farmer in Iroquois County. Finegan is a 2004 graduate of Clifton Central High School. He continued his education earning degrees from Kankakee Community College and Western Illinois University in Macomb.

Finegan has been serving on the EIEC board since 2019, and currently represents Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative on the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.



**Directorate District 7**  
**Steve Gordon**

Rantoul, IL

Steve Gordon has been an EIEC member since 1982 and was elected to the board in 2016. Gordon has farmed for more than 51 years. He is a member of the Illinois Corn Growers Association, Knights of Columbus and Elks Lodge. He is a strong supporter of St. Malachy Catholic School and The High School of St. Thomas More. Gordon graduated from St. Malachy Catholic School and Rantoul High School and continued his education at Parkland College. In addition to farming, Gordon has business acumen as he has started and sold several businesses over the years. Gordon, and his wife, Becky, reside in rural Rantoul. They are the parents of Kacie (Dallas) Osterbur, their daughters are Emma and Kinsley and Devon (Chet) Little, their daughter is Brynleigh.



**Directorate District 8**  
**Chad Larimore**

Bement, IL

Chad Larimore has been an EIEC member since 2009 and was elected to the board in 2016. He currently serves on the PPI board of directors. He has served on committees, attended educational courses, and met many energy industry individuals. He believes his family farming background aligns well with EIEC's values. Larimore also has an engineering and business background. While raising a young family, Larimore looks towards the future, by keeping an open mind about new technologies while still maintaining a financial responsibility to the membership. His goal is to keep the lights on for EIEC members in a safe and reliable manner. Larimore and his wife, Jessica, live in rural Bement with their son, Drew.

# Supply chain shortages and long lead times



After two years of news about empty grocery store shelves, toilet-paper hoarding, and cargo ships unable to dock for unloading, it's no great surprise that supply chain shortages are impacting the energy industry and Eastern Illini's ability to purchase materials and equipment. When the lead time on getting a new transformer goes from three months to a year, and a bucket truck now takes twice as long to acquire — two years versus one — it's not business as usual. Global supply chain disruptions are causing Eastern Illini to expeditiously work with our suppliers, vendors, and logistics providers to meet demand for parts and other key components essential to keep the power flowing.

"We're facing long lead times for pad-mounted transformers" said Brad Smith, Vice President Operations. "Digital meter availability is also a problem due to the worldwide shortage of microchips. We are currently placing orders for twelve months out."

Pandemic-related concerns and shipping delays have also prompted Chase Sanders, Manager Procurement and Physical Resources, to increase reserves on hand by doubling and even tripling up on some items we have in inventory.

"We're routinely looking at the usage history so we can anticipate the actual demand for the remainder of 2022 and into 2023," said Sanders. "Lead times and the cost of materials, parts, and components have risen beyond anything we could have anticipated. We are forecasting our need for transformers, conductors, and meters in the short-term as well as next year and beyond."

Safety and reliability are always top priorities at Eastern Illini and that is driving decision making when it comes to prioritizing infrastructure repair and replacement. EIEC is exploring the use of reconditioned equipment, like transformers. EIEC is also evaluating the availability of equipment as well as product warranties. All aspects are

being considered when deciding about reconditioned equipment.

"Longer than usual lead times and production constraints have impacted inventory levels making it difficult to manage infrastructure planning," said Smith. "If members have plans to upgrade transformers or install, expand, or relocate electrical equipment in 2022, we want them to contact us sooner than later, so we can plan for what materials and equipment will be required for the project."

Eastern Illini is being proactive to the shortages, increasing costs, and delayed delivery times. We are buying now for what we will need next year and looking for ways to use what we currently have in inventory for critical projects. EIEC members are encouraged to call us at 800-824-5102 to discuss any expansions or upgrades being considered in 2022, so together we can determine the best plan of action.

# EASTERN ILLINI ROLLS OUT PILOT PROGRAM

## Air Source Heat Pump Rebate

In an effort to assist Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative members in obtaining the most energy efficient heating systems in their homes and businesses, we are happy to announce the roll out of a pilot program to provide an incentive for the installation of new Air Source Heat Pump or new mini split system.

Any member in good standing on Eastern Illini Electric lines who either installs an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) for new construction, or who replaces their central A/C unit with an ASHP, can apply for a \$700 rebate. New mini split systems are paid at \$350 per head up to \$700 maximum.

Once you have agreed to purchase the ASHP from one of our approved HVAC contractors listed on our website,

your contractor will submit the online application prior to installation for approval. EIEC will process the application and send notice to the HVAC contractor. Once the contractor has completed the installation and your system is up and running, they can submit your request for payment. EIEC will send the rebate to you, the member.

There are a limited number of rebates available, so get your applications in early. They will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Based on the response to this rebate program, it may be expanded to include other forms of electric heat, tools, or appliances in the future, but this pilot program covers only new Air Source Heat Pumps and mini-splits used to heat/cool your homes and businesses.

Please note that replacement of ASHP's do not qualify for the rebate.

EIEC has a special rate for members with electric heat, and an Air Source Heat Pump could allow you to take advantage of this rate. To qualify, your main heating source in the home must be electric, and you must have an electric water heater.

Modern Air Source Heat Pump's are much more efficient than in years past, and they work down to lower temperatures as well. Having two sources of heat allows you a hedge for times like this, when propane and gas prices are creeping higher.

Call us at 217-379-0410 to find out if this rate will help you save money on your EIEC electric bill.



**ATTENTION:**  
Eastern Illini Electric  
Cooperative Members

## AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP REBATE

Use an eligible Eastern Illini HVAC vendor to install a *NEW* heat pump and receive a

**\$700 REBATE!**

View eligible HVAC vendors at [www.eiec.coop](http://www.eiec.coop)



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