

PowerLines

January 2019

Wishing you all the best in 2019!

Father Time marches on. The year 2018 is history. What will 2019 bring to us?

2018 Margin Rebate

Your cooperative will experience kWh sales approximately 5% above budget for 2018 (pending December use). This coupled with expenses coming in below budget has resulted in net operating margins significantly above our budgeted levels.

Your board of directors approved for these additional margins to be returned to all co-op members during this billing cycle.

Be sure to check your current bill (December 2018 usage) for the amount of your 2018 rebate. The billing line is titled:

2018 Margin Rebate.

The projected \$800,000 total margin rebate will be credited on this bill based on your 11-month average use from January through November. This is an immediate and tangible benefit of being a member-owner of your not-for-profit electric cooperative.

2019 Projection

Your Directors approved the 2019 budget during the November board meeting. Once again, we are pleased to inform you that our rates for 2019 remain the same, just as they have every year since the 2013 rate adjustment. Our wholesale power provider, Prairie Power, Inc., has projected a slight increase in their electric rate to us, which will be reflected in the PCA component of our billing.

However, during 2019, staff will coordinate a rate study to follow up on the cost of service study that was completed in 2018. Expenses in general have increased since the last rate adjustment. When coupled with Illinois renewable legislation that provides subsidies for solar and wind, along with the changing nature of electricity use in general, we need to ensure that our revenues collected through our various rate structures are equitable for all members.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Please take time to review the other informative articles featured in this newsletter.

We also welcome our newest board member, Lauri Quick, who resides in the Tolono area, representing District 9.

On behalf of your cooperative employees and directors, we thank you, and wish you all a happy, safe, and successful 2019.

Happy New Year!

Bob Hunzinger



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How do you want to save today?

Co-op Connections® Card



Eastern Illini
Electric
Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

your connection to powerful solutions®



Pharmacy discounts
Cash Back Mall
Healthy Savings
Coupons.com
Appliance rebates

Visit www.connections.coop to get your card and start saving.

Margin Rebate

The board of directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative have authorized a **Margin Rebate** that will be credited on this month's electric bill based on your 11-month average use during the year. Check your current bill for the amount.

Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

EASTERN ILLINI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Welcomes Lauri Quick

The Board of Directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative has appointed Lauri Quick as the newest Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative board member.

Quick will serve as director from District 9, a position that became vacant after the passing of Jay Hageman, long-time EIEC director.

She has been a member of Eastern Illini for ten years and brings a wealth of experience to the position.

Quick is currently employed by the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois as Administrative Aide in the Office of Advancement.

In her role within the Office of Advancement, Lauri counsels and advises on administrative matters, manages the operating and events budgets, and facilitates educational programs and special events for donors, alumni and the public.



Quick holds a bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University and a master's degree in Human Resources Education from the University of Illinois.

As a member of the board, Quick will work with the other board members to set up

cooperative policies, approve budgets, and contractual considerations, monitor the financial and operational needs of the Cooperative, and provide guidance and oversight to cooperative management and staff.

"I am honored, and grateful to the Eastern Illini board for the opportunity to be part of this exceptional organization," said Quick. "I look forward to representing the interests of all cooperative members".

"Lauri impressed us with her diverse skill set and perspective as well as her community involvement and enthusiasm for the position." Said Tom Schlatter, EIEC Board Chairman. "We know that our membership will see the same qualities in Lauri when they meet her".

Quick and her husband, David, make their home in Tolono, IL. She has two children and three grandchildren.

RESOLVE TO SAVE ENERGY

Make a home energy resolution
and reap the benefits all year long!

Three easy ways to save energy:

1

Install a programmable thermostat.

You could save an estimated \$180 annually!



2

Ditch incandescents.

Did you know incandescent bulbs release 90% of their energy as heat? Use LEDs instead.



3

Reduce energy used for water heating.

Lower your water heater's temp and consider installing low-flow showerheads.



Source: energy.gov

Dedicated to Restoring Power

The Old Farmer's Almanac, founded in 1792, claims an 80 percent accuracy rate – and if you believe that, you might be optimistic about the weather forecast for January and February. Recently released predictions call for warmer-than-average temperatures and above normal rainfall and below average snowfall. Illinois weather is often unpredictable and chances are there will be a few winter storms that cause power outages.

At Eastern Illini we strive to provide reliable electricity to our members; however, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst – our co-op linemen. The crews perform proactive and planned electrical line work on most days, but when an ice storm hits, regardless of the day or time, it's all hands on deck.



Braving snow and ice storms are challenging conditions for linemen - often climbing 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power.

Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., linemen must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, linemen wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks linemen perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts that can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of their work, and troubleshoot problems. In our territory, Eastern Illini linemen are responsible for keeping 4,500 miles of lines across ten counties working, in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that linemen use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineman is not a glamorous profession. It is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any time of the day or night.

BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.



■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.



■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

If you experience an outage, report it through **SmartHub** or call us at **1-800-824-5102**.



Eastern Illini Welcomes New Employees



TROY ALLEN

Vehicle Service Technician

Troy maintains, repairs and services cooperative vehicles including cars, light to medium duty trucks, aerial man-lifts and derricks with gas and diesel engines, hydraulic systems, hydraulic tools, and small engine equipment. He also maintains, repairs and services cooperative buildings, and mechanical and electrical equipment.

Troy resides in Ludlow, IL with his wife Tami. He enjoys drag racing in his spare time and owns a 1970 Monte Carlo.



BROOKE CARLSON

Member Care Representative

Brooke communicates, assists and furnishes information regarding programs, products, rates, regulations, policies and practices to members of the Cooperative.

She establishes and maintains member records and inputs data and information into member records. Brooke processes payments, interacts with members in person, on the phone and by email.

Brooke is moving to Paxton soon. She enjoys music and photography.



MARK CLASSEN

Accountant

Mark provides assistance to the EIEC controller regarding financial reporting of the Cooperative's business units, including preparation of standard and general journal entries, accounts payable, miscellaneous receivables, bank reconciliations, and capital credits. He will also assist the controller with audits, tax return preparation and financial reporting.

Mark resides in Danforth, IL with his wife Ashley and son Haines.

YES!

**YOU'RE GETTING MONEY BACK
ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL!**

Your co-op had a good year, and we're excited to share that success with you. A **MARGIN REBATE** is a line item on your current bill. Take a look to see the amount of your credit. This is one of the many benefits of being a member of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative.



Happy New Year!



Harold Loy Retiring from EIEC Board of Directors

Success of any electric cooperative has a lot to do with a board of directors with a desire to do what is in the best interest of members and the entire co-op.

Since 1992, Harold Loy has served as a member of the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. For 27 years, Harold has provided leadership to the cooperative. He has decided not to seek re-election at the 2019 Annual Meeting of members on June 6, 2019.

Eastern Illini's President/CEO Bob Hunzinger noted, "We are extremely grateful for Harold's service on Eastern Illini's Board of Directors. His contributions have been a great asset for all of the members of the cooperative."

Harold is from Beaverville in directorate district 1, which includes the townships of Milks Grove, Chebanse, Papineau, Beaverville, Ashkum, Martinton, and Beaver in northern Iroquois County.

Harold graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. He received the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Professional Directors Certificate in 1998 and became a NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director in 1999. He received the NRECA Board of Leadership Certificate in 2009.

Harold and his wife, Nancy, operated a grain and livestock farm and have been very involved in agriculture over the years, especially the Donovan Farmers Cooperative Elevator.

Harold will complete his term as a member of the Eastern Illini board of directors which will expire in June. At that time a new directorate of district 1 will be elected. Interested candidates need to live in directorate district 1 and submit a nominating petition 60 days prior to the 2019 Annual Meeting.



One of the many benefits of receiving electric service from EIEC is that the cooperative is governed by a board of directors who are members.

There are nine members of the board of directors representing nine areas in the 10-county EIEC territory.

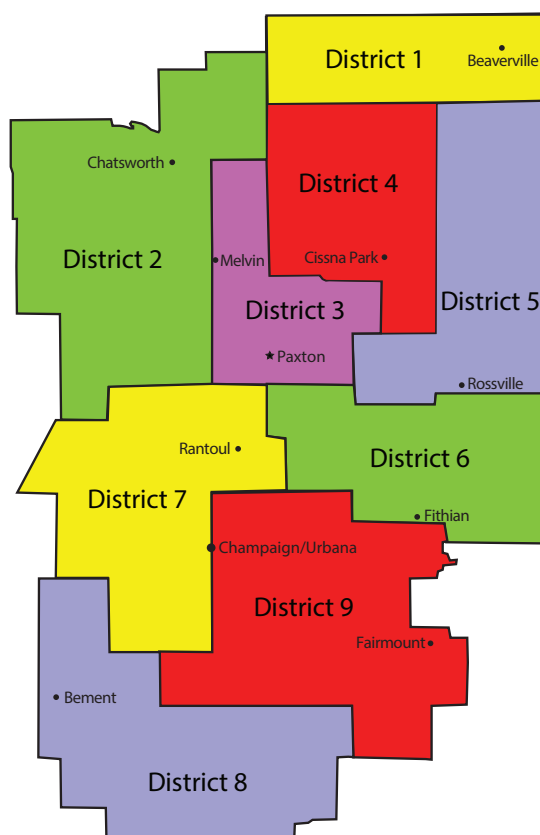
Each year, three of the nine directors are elected to the board during the annual meeting. The 2019 EIEC Annual Meeting will be held June 6 at the Paxton Buckley Loda Junior/Senior High School.

The board of directors is responsible for guiding how the cooperative's money and assets are used to fulfill the co-op's mission. They do so in such a way that protects the cooperative and the interests of all members. A member of the board of directors has five principal functions: legal, trusteeship, planning, resource management, and compliance.

To be eligible to serve as a director, the person who is applying must be a member of the cooperative and their primary residence needs to be in the board district that is up for election.

Candidates submit a nominating petition that includes collecting at least 25 signatures of other members. Nominating petitions will be available from the cooperative in the Spring. The applicant then returns the nominating petition to the cooperative not less than sixty days prior to the Annual Meeting.

For more information about running for the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, feel free to call us at 800.824.5102.





Want to have fun, meet students from across the country,
talk with your legislators, and spend a week in D.C.?

SAY YES! and apply for the Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative
2019 Youth to Washington Trip, June 14 - 21, 2019.
More information at www.eiec.org.

- Sons or daughters of an Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative member currently receiving electric service from the cooperative are eligible to apply.
- Available to students who are sophomores or juniors in high school.
- Up to six applicants will be selected as finalists and will attend Youth Day being held Wednesday, April 3, 2019 in Springfield.
- Following Youth Day, four of the finalists will be chosen to represent EIEC on the 2019 Youth to Washington trip that takes place June 14 - 21, 2019.
- The application deadline is January 31, 2019
- Contact Gayle Ford, at gayle.ford@eiec.coop or call 800.824.5102 for more information.

