

PowerLines

July 2025

38th Eastern Illini Annual Meeting

We want to thank Eastern Illini members who attended the Annual Meeting on June 5, 2025 at the Gibson City Bible Church in Gibson City.

It was great to be able to enjoy a sit-down fried chicken meal and talk with members, friends, and neighbors. We hope everyone enjoyed the meal and music. Hats off to our employees who went above and beyond to ensure everything ran smoothly.

This was our first year for a Health and Home Expo and we want to thank our exhibitors for joining us:

- Call JULIE
- Dippel Electric
- Gibson Area Hospital & Health Services
- Nextlink
- University of Illinois Master Gardeners

Here is why your attendance at the annual meeting was appreciated:

Involvement Matters

As a member, your participation helps shape the future of the co-op and ensures it continues to serve members effectively.

Community Connection

The annual meeting offered a chance to meet your neighbors and fellow members, fostering a sense of connection and community.

Information and Updates

We shared about accomplishments and future plans for the co-op. Members were able to meet our new President/CEO, Bradley W. Smith.

Value and Appreciation

The co-op appreciates your membership and your involvement in the annual meeting. Thank you for joining us.

Business Meeting and Board of Directors Election

The business meeting kicked off at 6:30 p.m. Kevin Moore, Chairman of the Eastern Illini Board of Directors, welcomed everyone. Bruce Ristow, Vice Chairman, confirmed the notice and proof of mailing for the meeting. The meeting minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved. Guy Hall, attorney for Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, determined that quorum had been achieved. He announced that three members of the Board of Directors ran uncontested and were reelected for three-year terms.

DISTRICT 1: Tyler Finegan, Ashkum

DISTRICT 7: Steve Gordon, Rantoul

DISTRICT 8: Chad Larimore, Bement

Since there was no unfinished business or new business, Chairman Moore thanked members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

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Avoid energy scams:

If you receive an unsolicited call regarding your energy service that seems suspicious, be cautious. Verify the identity of the caller by asking for a callback number. Don't fall for high-pressure tactics that demand immediate payment or threaten to disconnect without notice. Never provide sensitive information like your credit card, banking information or account number. If in doubt, give us a call at 800-824-5102.



- View your bill
- Make a payment
- Compare usage by month
- Review known issues
- Report an outage
- Update account information

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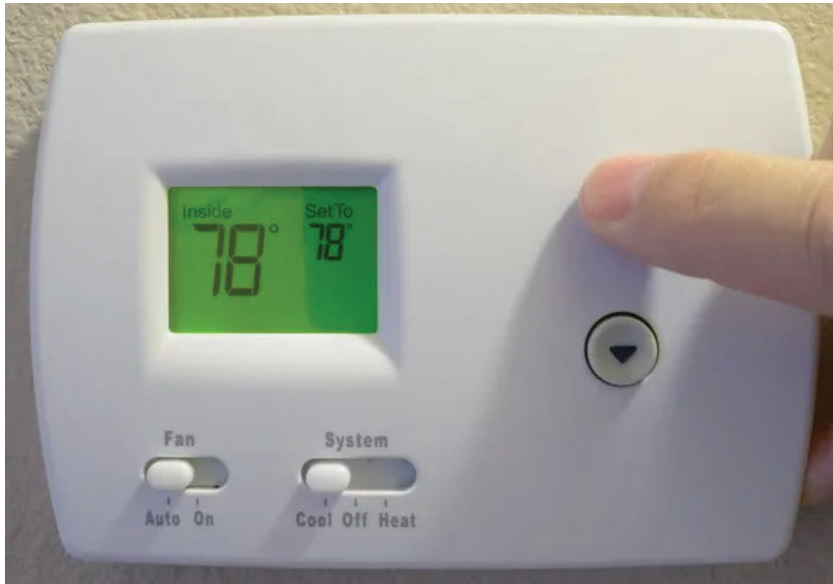
2025 EASTERN ILLINI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING



June 5, 2025
Just want to thank
you for the great dinner.
The chicken dinner was
delicious.
So well organized and
your employees are the
greatest! Thank you!
Oh yes, the house in
Gibson City was top notch!
Wonderful



Ways to lower your energy costs this summer



With weather forecasts predicting a warmer than normal summer, with the hottest periods in early to mid-July, you will soon likely be turning up your air conditioner for relief. Maximum daytime temperatures are forecasted at around 84°F in Illinois. A sultry, thunder-filled summer is predicted with monthly rainfall near 4 inches. In July, on average there are 10 hours of sunshine per day with an expected UV Index to be around 9.

The stakes for keeping cool are high. Heat is the leading weather-related killer in the United States, resulting in hundreds of fatalities each year, according to the National Weather Service. Higher temperatures can lead to heat stroke and heat exhaustion.

As a starting point, Americans can tackle low-hanging fruit options, like using a fan in place of, or in addition to AC. Fans use far less electricity than air conditioners and are priced more reasonably, whether you're looking for a box fan, pedestal fan or ceiling fan.

For those with ceiling fans there's a hack for staying extra cool. Experts recommend setting ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise during summer months, as doing so pushes warm air down and keeps a cool

summer, replace your filter monthly to help your unit run more efficiently.

The ideal temperature to keep your thermostat at during the summer is 78°F. The Department of Energy recommends keeping a home warmer than normal when away to avoid unnecessary AC use.

On average, a difference of 7°F to 10°F for about eight hours a day can save as much as 10% a year on cooling and heating bills. Other small adjustments to keep your space cool include using indoor plants to create shade, keeping your curtains closed to block out the sunlight during the day, investing in reflective blinds or UV-reflective film for windows. Also, limit your oven use and make sure to turn it off right after using it, as it can warm up your space significantly.

For general energy conservation, experts suggest unplugging small appliances or electronics when you're not using them. When taking a shower or bath, use a bathroom fan to remove heat and humidity. Also, make sure nothing is blocking the airflow of your air conditioning (HVAC) system. Plant life or other obstacles in front of vents can make units less efficient.

The Department of Energy recommends checking for indoor air leaks around

breeze going. In the fall and winter, rotation should be switched back to clockwise so that as warm air rises, it's circulated throughout the room.

Change your filter regularly if you use your AC. In fact, during the

baseboards, windows, doors, light fixtures, appliances, switches and electrical outlets. If sealing do-it-yourself style, plug holes with the appropriate caulking and/or weather stripping.

It is also recommended to reduce appliance use and turn off lights when not in use. If possible, cook on a grill to avoid adding heat to your home. Water heating accounts for about 18 percent of the energy consumed in your home. Lowering the temperature of your water heater can help save energy, and who needs a scalding hot shower in the summer anyway?

With hotter temperatures here to stay for the next couple months, it may be worth investing in more permanent measures like improving your home's insulation or updating your ductwork. This will improve ventilation, keep cold air locked in and make your home more energy efficient overall.

Another option is installing a smart thermostat, which allows you to remotely control the temperature of your space. They can also automatically adjust the heating and cooling based on when your home.

Models like Ecobee's Smart Thermostat Essential or Google's Nest Smart Learning Thermostat typically run anywhere from \$100 to \$200.

These investments may cost more upfront but will save you money overtime. For those ready to make an even bigger leap, installing a heat pump, switching to central air or upgrading your HVAC or AC system to one with a high Energy Star rating are other long-term investments.

Even before you buy a home, it's worth investigating what the energy bills will look like. You can request historical energy information and once you own the home, consider an energy audit.

Safety is always a priority

Keeping linemen safe requires a multi-pronged approach, including proper training, personal protective equipment (PPE), and adherence to safety protocols. Linemen always prioritize safety and understand the inherent dangers of their work.

Here's a more detailed breakdown when it comes to safety:

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Essential PPE: Insulated gloves and sleeves, hard hats with face shields, flame-resistant clothing, safety glasses, fall protection equipment, and insulated boots.

Proper Fit and Maintenance: PPE needs to be the correct size and in good working condition. It needs to be checked and reviewed regularly.

Never Assume: Don't become complacent with PPE, even with years of experience.

Cover-up Equipment: To prevent contact with energized lines and poles, use coverup equipment.

TRAINING & EDUCATION

Comprehensive Training: Ensure linemen receive thorough training on safety protocols, procedures, and equipment use.

Continuous Learning: Stay updated on industry best practices and new technologies.

Awareness of Hazards: Understand the various hazards associated with the job, including electrical shock and falls.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS & PROCEDURES

Clear Communication: Maintain clear and constant communication, especially when working at heights or on energized lines. This is crucial for safety, teamwork, and efficient execution of tasks.

Follow Procedures: Adhere to established safety procedures, including lockout/tagout procedures, ground and bonding practices, and fall protection guidelines.

Site Assessment: Thoroughly assess the work site before starting, identifying potential hazards and ensuring the area is safe.

Safe Start: Practice safe start techniques to avoid complacency and focus on the task at hand.

Emergency Preparedness: Develop and maintain a clear plan for responding to emergencies, including first aid, rescue procedures, and evacuation routes.

OTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

Weather Conditions: Be aware of current and forecasted weather conditions.

Fatigue and Stress: Recognize the signs of fatigue and stress and take appropriate breaks to avoid mistakes.

Physical Health: Maintain good physical health and ensure linemen can perform the demands of the job safely.

Collaboration: Foster a culture of collaboration and teamwork, where safety is a shared responsibility of everyone involved.

By implementing these safety measures and promoting a safety-first culture, we can significantly reduce the risk of injuries and fatalities for linemen. Our goal each and every day is to make sure everyone gets home safely to their families.



Splash into summer with water safety

Swimming is an excellent exercise and an enjoyable outdoor activity that is a great way for families to bond and create lasting memories. Whether you're enjoying a backyard pool, spending the day at the lake, or visiting the beach, water activities offer joy and connection. However, many people underestimate the dangers of swimming without proper safety measures.

Drowning incidents can occur quickly and silently, often without any signs of struggle. By equipping your children with essential swimming safety skills and knowledge, you're not only preventing potential accidents, but you're also giving them the tools to enjoy the water safely and confidently for life. Water safety involves understanding how to stay safe in and around pools, lakes, and oceans. Teaching children essential water safety skills is key to preventing accidents and ensuring fun for the whole family.

Never Swim Alone

Always swim with a buddy and in areas where a lifeguard is on duty. Lifeguards are trained to spot danger, respond quickly, and provide guidance on water conditions. Encourage children to use the buddy system. Even strong swimmers should never swim unsupervised.

Supervise Children Closely

Children should always be supervised near water—whether it's the pool, lake, or bathtub. For younger kids, stay within arm's reach (also known as "touch supervision"). For older children, remain actively engaged and avoid distractions like your phone. Take turns supervising if you're with other adults.

Avoid Breath-Holding Games

Discourage children and teens from playing games that involve holding their breath underwater. These can be dangerous and can lead to unconsciousness and drowning. Strong swimmers should learn proper breathing techniques by qualified instructors.



Use Coast Guard-Approved Life Jackets

Water wings and floaties may give a false sense of security. Only U.S. Coast Guard-approved life vests are reliable flotation devices. Ensure they fit properly and are always worn by inexperienced swimmers and young children near water.

Reach, Throw, Don't Go

If someone is in trouble in the water, teach children to reach with a pole or throw a flotation device, but never jump in. Attempting a rescue without training can lead to multiple drownings.

Enter the Water Feet First

Diving into shallow or unfamiliar water can cause serious injuries. Teach children to always enter feet first unless the area is clearly marked for diving and they've learned safe diving techniques.

Swim in Designated Areas

Whether at the pool or beach, stay within roped-off areas and obey lifeguard instructions. Don't let children swim in deeper water than they're comfortable with or capable of handling.

Avoid Alcohol

Alcohol impairs judgment and reaction time. Adults supervising children should avoid drinking, and young adults should be educated about the risks of mixing alcohol with swimming.

Learn CPR

Knowing CPR can save lives. Parents and caregivers should become certified in CPR. Classes are available through the YMCA and the American Red Cross, and local hospitals.

Safety Through Communication

It's not enough to follow safety rules—children need to understand why the rules exist. Talk with them openly about safe swimming habits. Explain why life vests are necessary and why diving can be dangerous.

Enroll in Swim Lessons

The most effective way to teach children water safety is through formal swimming lessons. Lessons help kids learn survival skills before mastering strokes, gain confidence, and reduce their risk of drowning by up to 88% (especially ages 1 – 4).

Choose the Right Water Safety Devices

Floaties, inflatable toys, and pool noodles are fun but should never be used as safety devices.

Why Water Safety Matters

Swimming is fun, promotes healthy living, and builds confidence, but it comes with risks. Following these safety tips will help your family stay safe while enjoying the water.



Celebrate, and be thankful



Who doesn't love parades, barbecues, gatherings of family & friends, and fireworks on July Fourth?

They represent the great American holiday that commemorates our many freedoms. As you celebrate this year, please pause to remember the servicemen and women who sacrificed their lives to preserve our freedom. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

**Happy
Independence
Day!**

