

PowerLines

May 2021

OFFICIAL NOTICE

EASTERN ILLINI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 10, 2021

Iroquois County Fairgrounds 4-H Building
Business Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

In this issue:

- Bylaw Amendment
- EIEC Board of Director election
- Advantages of small appliances
- Fact or fiction about saving energy
- Member Appreciation Days and Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 34th Annual Meeting of Members of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative will be held on Thursday, June 10, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., at the Iroquois County Fairgrounds in the 4-H Building. The meeting will be called to order at 6:30 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 3, 4, and 6.)
In connection with the election of directors, the following candidates have been nominated by petitions: Steve Meenen of Melvin, District 3; Bruce Ristow of Cissna Park, District 4; and Brad Ludwig of Fithian, District 6.
3. To consider and act upon the bylaw amendment as recommended by the Board of Directors, a summary of which is furnished with this notice.
4. To consider and transact all other business which may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment(s) thereof.

Bradley J. Ludwig, Secretary/Treasurer

*Drive through, say hello,
and pick up some free meals!*

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAYS

in conjunction with the

Eastern Illini Annual Meeting



DATE	TIME	LOCATION
June 7, 2021	3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	EIEC Headquarters, Paxton
June 9, 2021	3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Sidney Community Center
June 10, 2021	3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Iroquois County Fairgrounds
June 10, 2021	6:30 p.m.	4-H Bldg. Iroquois Co. Fair Annual Meeting/Business Meeting

- Each member appreciation event will be a drive-through format
- Pick up FREE, hot, to-go meals provided by Niemerg's
- Vote on a bylaw amendment
- **Pre-registration is requested.** Register at www.eiec.coop or by calling 800-824-5102

CAST YOUR BALLOT AT MEMBER APPRECIATION DAYS

Bylaw Amendment

The Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 10, 2021 at the Iroquois County Fairgrounds. The business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the 4-H Building, directly following the member appreciation event at the fairgrounds.

Members may cast their ballot for the bylaw amendment at any of the three Member Appreciation Days being held from June 7 - 10. The results of voting will be announced at the annual meeting. EIEC members who are not able to attend the annual meeting, but wish to vote on the bylaw amendment, may request a ballot be mailed to them prior to the meeting. The ballot must be returned prior to the annual meeting. Call us at 1-800-824-5102 to have a ballot mailed to you.

The proposed bylaw amendments update the annual meeting language to allow all members that vote in a meeting election to also count towards the meeting quorum, regardless of when they vote. The changes also allow the cooperative to hold virtual annual meetings. Proposed additions to the bylaws appear below and are highlighted in RED.

Section 2.4: Quorum

Business may not be transacted at any meeting of the members unless there are present in person at least 100 members of the Cooperative except that, if less than a quorum is present at any meeting, a majority of those present in person may, without further notice, adjourn the meeting to another time, not earlier than 9:00 a.m. or later than 8:00 p.m., and date, not less than 40 days thereafter, to any place in one of the counties in which the Cooperative serves. At all meetings of the members, whether a quorum be present or not, the Secretary/Treasurer shall annex to the minutes of such meeting, or incorporate therein by reference, a list of those members who were registered as being present in person. **If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes present and voted, shall be the act of the members, unless the vote of a greater number or voting by classes is required by law or Articles of Consolidation, or the Bylaws.**

Section 2.6: Voting

For each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members of the Cooperative, members will have the choice of voting at the meeting itself or prior to the meeting by mail or other method permitted by law; provided that voting by proxy is prohibited. For all matters submitted to a vote, the tabulation of votes and completion of the election process shall take place at such meeting of members. **All votes submitted at the meeting or prior to the meeting by mail or other method permitted by law shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting of the person or persons so participating and shall be counted for the purposes of determining the presence of a quorum.**

Members may be entitled to vote and participate in and act at any meeting through the use of a conference telephone or interactive technology, including but not limited to electronic transmission, Internet usage, or remote communication. Participation in such meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting of the person or persons so participating and shall be counted for the purposes of determining the presence of a quorum.

The election of directors shall be by ballot and each member shall have the right to cast one vote for each director to be elected; provided that if no more than one candidate has been nominated for election as a director for a particular directorate district, so that there is no contest for that district up for election, then the election for that directorate district may be by voice vote if a majority of the members present at said meeting shall so determine. The candidate to be elected from each directorate district, as specified elsewhere in these Bylaws, receiving the highest number of valid votes shall be elected for the term of office for which he or she has been nominated.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MET THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021

In accordance with the EIEC Cooperative Bylaws, Article 3.6: The Board of Directors shall appoint a Credentials Committee comprised of five (5) members to be selected by the Board of Directors of the Cooperative whose duty shall be to review the qualifications of all candidates who have filed nominating petitions, to determine their eligibility to serve as Directors of the Cooperative. On Thursday, April 15, 2021, the Credentials Committee met and reviewed the qualifications of Steve Meenen of Melvin, District 3; Bruce Ristow of Cissna Park, District 4; and Brad Ludwig of Fithian, District 6 who had each filed nominating petitions. No other candidates filed petitions. After reviewing the petitions, affidavits, and qualifications, the Credentials Committee determined that all candidates are eligible to serve as directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative. Because each of the three board districts have single candidates running unopposed, the election will take place via voice vote during the business meeting on June 10, 2021.

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 during their first term (3 years). 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. They also retain outside experts such as the attorney and auditor.

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.

2021 Director Election Candidates



Directorate District 3
STEVE MEENEN
Melvin, IL

Steve Meenen has served on the EIEC Board of Directors since 2006. He is currently District 3 Director and serves as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. He received NRECA Credentialed Certification in 2008.

Meenen is a farmer, a DuPont Pioneer Hi-Bred seed sales representative, and a highway commissioner in Wall Township. He resides near Melvin in Ford County, and has two sons, Mitchell and Spencer.



Directorate District 4
BRUCE RISTOW
Cissna Park, IL

Bruce Ristow was elected as a director of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative in 2006.

He is currently District 4 Director and serves as Vice Chairman. He received the NRECA Credentialed Certification in 2008, the Board Leadership Certificate in 2017, and NRECA Director Gold Certificate in 2019.

Ristow is a farmer and is a DuPont Pioneer Hi-Bred seed sales representative. He and his wife, Pam, reside near Cissna Park in Iroquois County.



Directorate District 6
BRAD LUDWIG
Fithian, IL

Bradley J. Ludwig was elected as a director of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative in 1985 and has served as chairman, vice chairman and is currently serving as Secretary/Treasurer.

Ludwig has received the NRECA Credentialed Certification, NRECA Board Leadership Certificate, and the NRECA Director Gold Certificate. Ludwig is a farm owner/operator and an insurance agent. He and his wife Sally, reside near Collison in Vermilion County.

COOKING SMALLER AND QUICKER MEALS

Advantages of small appliances

Who could have predicted that “quarantine cooking” would become a thing in 2020 and into 2021? Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, everyone has spent more time in the kitchen, which has led to a rise in the use and purchase of small kitchen appliances.

While you are home experimenting with new techniques and trying to master new recipes, consider using smaller counter top appliances, like slow cookers and toaster ovens. In addition to efficiency, smaller kitchen appliances can provide faster cooking times and less hassle with cleanup. When you’re looking for convenient cooking methods with the added bonus of energy efficiency, here are some suggestions for electrifying appliances for your kitchen.

INSTANT POTS

Instant Pots have almost single-handedly popularized the pressure cooker market. This programmable device can not only make 5-minute risotto, but can also be used to cook eggs, cakes, yogurt, and more in the fraction of the time it takes traditionally. The Instant Pot is on for a shorter amount of time, so it uses less power overall. It’s also insulated much better than a slow cooker, which contributes to less heat loss and quicker cooking of food. Instant Pots are available in a variety of sizes. It is recommended to fill your Instant Pot no more than 2/3rds full, so keep that in mind when selecting what size will work best for you. Prices range from \$80 to \$150 plus.

TOASTER OVENS

A toaster oven is a small kitchen appliance that looks like a miniature



oven. But instead of being powered by gas, it is powered by electricity. Toaster ovens can prepare a wide array of meals quickly. Toaster ovens are very easy to use and clean and don’t overheat your kitchen. On the down side, food cooks unevenly and your Thanksgiving turkey won’t fit in a toaster oven, but for day-to-day meal preparation it is a great option and very convenient.

CROCK POTS

Crock pots (slow cookers) have been around since your grandmother’s time and have stood the test of time. Crock pots use far less electricity to cook a roast than an oven does. You can use less expensive cuts of meat and due to slow cooking, it softens even the toughest meat. Foods cooked in crock pots retain much more of their vitamins and minerals and are often more flavorful than food cooked in the oven or on the stove top.

AIR FRYERS

Air fryers are becoming increasingly popular, and consumers have a lot of good things to say about these handy little appliances. Air fryers use convection to circulate hot air and cook the food – this means little to no oil is required, resulting in healthier meals than those from traditional fryers. Air

fryers are fairly small, so they won’t take up much of your counter space, and with everything cooked in the fryer, cleanup will be a breeze. Air fryers are available in a variety of sizes, and prices range from \$40 to \$200.

ELECTRIC GRIDDLES

While they have certainly been around for a while, electric griddles offer many benefits for any home chef

(beyond bacon and eggs!). Griddles are convenient because you can cook everything at once – like a “one-pan” meal, and the possibilities are endless. From fajitas to sandwiches to French toast, griddles can help satisfy any taste buds. They consume small amounts of energy and provide quick cooking times, so your energy bill will thank you.

PIZZA MAKERS

Pizza brings people together, so why not consider a pizza maker for your kitchen? These compact, counter top machines are an inexpensive alternative to a costly brick oven, and they use less energy than your traditional oven. Choose your own fresh ingredients to whip up a faster, healthier pizza at home. Plus, most pizza makers are multifunctional and can be used to cook flat breads, frittatas, quesadillas and more. You can purchase a pizza maker for about \$30 to \$150 on line or at a local retailer.

Remember, when you want to cook smaller meals quicker, counter top appliances can save time and energy.

Spending more time in the kitchen cooking will probably continue for the foreseeable future, so use those small kitchen appliances to your advantage.

Fact or fiction about saving energy

It seems nowadays that everyone is talking about saving energy, which of course, translates to saving money. It's unfortunate; however, that everything we read and hear just isn't true! So, to save you some time, energy AND money, let us debunk some commonly believed energy-saving myths.

Will new windows save energy?

If you've noticed your home is somewhat drafty, doesn't hold heat or air well, or your energy bill skyrockets in the colder or warmer months, you may be asking "will new windows save me money?" Window replacement is a great investment that not only saves energy, but can also increase the value of your home.

But, don't be quick to make the call. In some cases, the investment may not be worth it. Replacing the windows in your home means replacing all the windows in your home, a costly update that isn't really worth it unless they are Energy Star certified. Less expensive recommendations to try first are having the air ducts serviced to make sure there are no leaks, and having specific possibly faulty windows inspected for major problems.

Do ceiling fans cool down rooms?

Ceiling fans don't cool rooms, they cool people. Turning your fan on high is a great way to cool people off in a crowded or stuffy room, because it circulates air that is already in the room. This gives a cooling sensation without actually decreasing the temperature of the room.

If fans are on in empty rooms, you are actually wasting electricity by running the fan. Instead, turn fans on and off as you enter and leave each room.

Does closing vents help to cool or heat other rooms more quickly?

Another common misconception when it comes saving energy deals with closing vents. It's common to close vents in

unused rooms assuming it will redirect air to used rooms. However, HVAC systems work as balanced, complete systems and disrupting that flow can do more harm than good. Instead of shutting vents completely, just turn down thermostats in the winter or up in the summer.

Which is cheaper – running the dishwasher or hand washing?

This one is sure to make everyone happy! Dishwashers are actually cheaper than washing dishes by hand! Unless you are very careful with turning on and off your faucet and not using too much hot water, you're probably wasting water when you choose to wash dishes by hand. Most people just turn it on and let the water run while you're scrubbing each dish instead of just using one tub of water to clean and one to rinse. Additionally, most new dishwashers have high energy-efficiency settings that will save both water and energy.

Do rooms heat up faster if the thermostat is set higher?

Again, it's just not true. The truth is, the higher the temperature of your thermostat, the more your energy consumption will cost. Systems deliver heat at the exact same rate, regardless of where your end goal is. So if you set your thermostat to 82° hoping to reach 76° faster, you're actually just wasting energy, because the system only knows it needs to stop and maintain the temperature once it reaches 82°.

Is it a good idea to put my computer on sleep mode or hibernate mode overnight?

Putting your computer into sleep or hibernate mode, rather than shutting it down, suspends it from waking and

sleeping modes. Quite a lot of energy is used to accomplish this state so that the computer can be ready to pop back on at a moment's notice. It is best to shut your computer down all the way overnight or when you are planning on not using it for a while.

Are Light Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs cheaper than regular bulbs?

In the long run, yes! This one might be hard to believe if you're standing at the store looking at what seems like two very different price points. However, the LED vs. fluorescent price tag is quite deceiving. LEDs are one of the best ways to reduce energy bills. An LED bulb has an incredible lifespan—up to 50,000 hours. To put it in perspective, if a bulb is used 12 hours a day, it'll last about 11 years. That's pretty impressive. Additionally, it uses way less energy than a regular bulb. So, it is worth it to spend the extra money on LED bulbs.



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Eastern Illini
Electric
Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**CONTACT US TO
RESERVE YOUR SPOT:**

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MEAL RESERVATIONS DUE BY MAY 28, 2021