

PowerLines

July 2020

OFFICIAL NOTICE

EASTERN ILLINI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

August 8, 2020

Harvest Moon Twin Drive-In Theatre

Gibson City, Illinois

Registration: 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Business Meeting: 10:00 a.m.

Notice is hereby given that the 33rd Annual Meeting of Members of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2020, at 10 a.m., at the Harvest Moon Twin Drive-In Theatre, 1175 S. Sangamon Avenue, Gibson City, Illinois. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will close at 10 a.m. The business meeting will be called to order at 10 a.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 2, 5, and 9). In connection with the election of directors, the following candidates have been nominated by petitions: Thomas Schlatter of Chatsworth, District 2; Kevin Moore of Hoopeston, District 5; and Lauri Quick of Tolono, District 9.
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

In this issue:

- Election and bylaw amendment
- Thinking about solar?
- Rural Broadband
- New tower at Eastern Illini
- 2020 Annual Meeting: August 8

Important Notice:

Please be advised that there will not be a \$25 bill credit for attending the annual meeting this year. The Eastern Illini board of directors voted to forgo the bill credit in 2020. The annual meeting has also been modified to encompass only the business meeting to minimize any risks associated with COVID-19.



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

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Cooperative 

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S ELECTION AND BYLAW AMENDMENT

2020 Annual Meeting: August 8



Tom Schlatter, Chatsworth
District 2



Kevin Moore, Hoopeston
District 5



Lauri Quick, Tolono
District 9

Board of Director's Election

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors is made up of cooperative members just like you. They are tasked with setting the policies and guidelines that Eastern Illini's management team then carries out. Each year, three of the nine positions on the board are up for election. Board terms are for three years. In 2020, Directors will be elected in Directorate Districts 2, 5, & 9.

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 Tuesday, April 21, 2020, the Credentials Committee met via Go To Meeting and reviewed the qualifications of Thomas Schlatter of Chatsworth, District 2; Kevin Moore of Hoopeston, District 5; and Lauri Quick of Tolono, District 9 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.

The bylaw amendment will be voted on at the EIEC annual meeting on Saturday, August 8, 2020. 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.

Proposed bylaw amendment up for vote by Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative members:

The Board of Directors of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative is proposing a bylaw amendment at this year's annual meeting. The proposed change is to Article 3.3 Director Qualifications:

ARTICLE 3.3 DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

A person shall not be eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative unless he or she is a bona fide member of the Cooperative receiving service from the Cooperative at his or her principal residential abode.

CURRENT BYLAW WORDING:

In addition, a person cannot become a director if he or she either in his or her own right or through a joint membership is in any way employed by, or has more than a minor financial interest in, any enterprise which operates electrical facilities, competes to a material degree with the Cooperative, or a business selling electric energy or merchandise to the Cooperative, or a business substantially engaged in selling electrical facilities, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative.

PROPOSED UPDATE TO BYLAW WORDING:

In addition, a person cannot become a director if he or she either in his or her own right or **directly or indirectly** through a joint membership, **spousal or civil union relationship, is an employee or former employee (who was employed by the Cooperative within five years prior to the subject director election) of the Cooperative;** or is in any way employed **in a managerial capacity with,** or has more than a minor financial interest in, any enterprise which operates electrical facilities, competes to a material degree with the Cooperative, or a business selling electric energy or merchandise to the Cooperative, or a business substantially engaged in selling electrical facilities, **materials,** fixtures or supplies to the members of the co-op.

POINTS TO PONDER WHEN CONSIDERING PHOTOVOLTAIC

Thinking about Solar?



**Before
You Say
Yes to Solar**

If you are considering a photovoltaic “solar system” for your home, there is more to consider than promised monthly savings. Please contact us with any questions about solar versus traditional electric energy transmission and delivery, as well as concerns about connection to the power grid.

Here are some of the many aspects to consider:

- Know all the costs, not just those for equipment and installation.
- In addition to equipment and labor, there are also pricey “soft costs” like permits, financing charges, SREC commissions, insurance, and other pass through costs.
- Collect objective opinions about the pros and cons of solar versus electric.
- Since Eastern Illini is a cooperative, how will my decision to install solar impact all of the other members?
- What type of insurance is required by Eastern Illini and my homeowner insurance provider?
- What happens when it’s cloudy? How does that impact energy supply?
- Are installers specially trained and certified to install solar?
- How is the power safely disconnected if it needs to be turned off?
- Is the work supervised by a master electrician?
- Who maintains the equipment and how much does that cost?
- What happens if I sell the property?
- How does the system interface with Eastern Illini?
- What are the safety issues surrounding solar?



LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE IS GAINING SPEED

EIEC partners with WATCH Communication



Many of us have been there – staring at our computer screen, waiting for email to load. Waiting, waiting, and more waiting. Don't even think about streaming a video or accessing Twitter. Welcome to life as an Internet user in rural America and east central Illinois.

Thirty nine percent of rural Americans lack access to high-speed broadband, compared to just 4 percent of urban Americans, according to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The lack of access directly hampers the ability to take advantage of educational and entrepreneurial opportunities on line. Without access to broadband, rural users rely on slower, less reliable Internet options, many of which run over phone lines that are generations old and run at slower than 10 Mbps.

Fortunately, there is hope for change, and many entities are working together to increase access in rural areas. Federal and state officials have made nationwide broadband access a priority, offering grants and incentives to Internet service providers to upgrade their networks.

WATCH Communications is partnering with Eastern Illini to bring high speed Internet to rural residences in the EIEC service territory.

“High speed Internet access has changed from being a luxury to a necessity in a short period of time, and connecting our rural communities has been a challenge,” said Bob Hunzinger, President and CEO of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative. “Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative is excited to be able to partner with WATCH Communications to meet that challenge head on, and help bring our members, students, businesses, farms and families the affordable, high speed connections they need to compete in today's environment.”

“Bringing broadband Internet to rural areas is a challenge, but it's one that WATCH Communications excels at,” said Chris Daniels, President and CEO of WATCH Communications. “Partnerships with electric cooperatives gives us a great opportunity to bring high-speed Internet to areas that are under- and unserved. We're excited to work with the EIEC to help improve the quality of life for its members by delivering high speed Internet to connect them to the world beyond the last mile.”

WATCH Communications has already begun installing equipment on top of grain legs and towers in the EIEC service area that will cover Alvin, Bismarck, Cissna Park, Kempton, Potomac, and Rossville. EIEC members who live in those areas will be able to subscribe to Internet plans.

While Eastern Illini doesn't have a direct day-to-day business relationship with WATCH Communications, we still are mindful that our members may need a more reliable Internet connection. We've entered into this pilot project to help promote their service. In addition, we're excited to announce that all Eastern Illini member-consumers will receive \$50 off their installation when they sign up for service. For more information, please contact WATCH directly at:

800-589-3837

or

www.watchcomm.net



As the winds pass by, the tower will stand tall



Chase Sanders, Manager of Procurement and Physical Resources and **Tim Kulow**, Foreman of Electrical System Engineering stand beneath the newly erected 325 foot Eastern Illini tower.

alignment of support beams was not for the faint of heart. The assembly was completed from high elevations in a wide range of weather and wind speeds. The on site MUTI supervisor has been involved in erecting over 400 towers during his 20 year career.



As you drive by the Eastern Illini office in Paxton and gaze up into the sky to the south of the warehouse and maintenance buildings you will see the new 325 foot tower recently erected.

The new tower that was purchased from Rohn Tower, a world leader in tower design and manufacturing, is located in Peoria, IL. Rohn builds vertical structures to stand the test of time and has been awarded certification by the American Institute of Steel Construction.

Once the tower was manufactured to specifications, it was transported in pieces and parts to Paxton. In preparation for the new tower, the ground where the new tower would stand was cleared, excavated, and readied. Providing a stable foundation is key prior to assembling the tower.

After Rohn delivered the new tower, they passed assembly off to Midwest Underground Technology, Inc. (MUTI), located in Champaign, IL. MUTI are experts in tower erection.

MUTI assembled sections of the tower on the ground and used a telescopic crane to place each tower piece on top of the next. The tightening of bolts and

to Federal Aviation Administration and International Civil Aviation Organization. As a result, the tower has a L864/5 LED light at the highest point. The light shines white during the day and red at night to make it visible to airplanes whose flight paths pass over the tower.

The tower provides broadcasting capabilities to WPXN Radio headquartered in Paxton, IL and wireless communication for WATCH Communications, an Internet provider, headquartered in Lima, OH.

The old tower which was slightly shorter than the new tower, withstood the test of time as it was erected in 1967.

The new tower project was a collaborative effort by Eastern Illini employees over the past six months. Chase Sanders, Manager of Procurement and Physical Resources, and Tim Kulow, Foreman of Electrical System Engineering, played an integral part in completing the tower project. The new tower is self-supporting and will serve the needs of Eastern Illini for the next 50 years or more.



EASTERN ILLINI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
INVITES YOU TO THE

2020 ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2020

8:30 A.M. REGISTRATION

10:00 A.M. BUSINESS MEETING

HARVEST MOON

TWIN DRIVE-IN THEATRE

1175 S SANGAMON AVE.
GIBSON CITY



Eastern Illini
Electric
Cooperative

- Get an update on the co-op
- Vote on the bylaw amendment
- Listen to the business meeting from the comfort of your vehicle