

# HI-LITES

## Cooperative Announces Leadership Transition

Dear Members,

It has been a privilege to serve you and be part of this cooperative. I am deeply grateful for your trust, support, and the relationships we've built over the years. Together, we've remained committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable service, and I am proud of all that has been accomplished alongside our dedicated team and community.

As I transition to a new opportunity within the electric cooperative network, I want to assure you that the cooperative remains in capable hands. Please join me in welcoming interim manager, Bob Hunzinger, who brings strong leadership and a clear commitment to continuing the high level of service you expect. I am confident the cooperative will continue to thrive during this period of transition.

Hunzinger has been appointed by the Board of Directors to serve as a consultant Interim Manager during a nationwide search for our next permanent General Manager. We are grateful for his willingness to step into this role and are looking forward to the perspective and experience he

brings. With a long accomplished career in the energy industry, Bob offers valuable insight that will help guide us and strengthen our operations during this transition. We are confident his leadership will help position us to be the best we can be while he is with us.

Bob retired from Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative in Paxton, Illinois in 2025, concluding more than 40 years in the energy industry. A native of Dieterich, Illinois, he holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from University of Illinois. His career began with Illinois Power in Champaign-Urbana and Decatur, followed by time at Soyland Power Cooperative. He also served as General Manager for municipal utilities in Kentucky and Florida, bringing a broad and well-rounded background in utility leadership.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you. It has truly been an honor.

Sincerely,

*Luke Johnson*

**Mt. Vernon Office**  
3906 Broadway  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Salem Office**  
1631 E Main St.  
Salem, IL 62881  
Tuesday - Thursday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Closed: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President  
Doug Knolhoff, Hoyleton  
Secretary/Treasurer  
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# PEAK POWER REWARDS

The **Peak Power Rewards Program** is a voluntary program that offers bill credits for reducing electricity use during short periods of high demand.

### How It Works

**Event Alerts:** When high demand is expected, an event lasting 2–4 hours is called. Members usually receive about 24 hours’ notice by text or email.

**You Choose:** Participation is completely voluntary. You decide if and how to reduce energy use—such as adjusting your thermostat or delaying appliance use. There is no penalty if you choose to not participate in a peak power event.

**Earn Credits:** Members earn \$1 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) saved compared to their normal usage. *Pilot participants averaged about \$5 per event.*

### When Events Happen

Events most often occur during summer (June–August) and winter (December–February) but may happen any time high demand or grid stress is expected.

[www.tricountycoop.com/PeakPowerRewards](http://www.tricountycoop.com/PeakPowerRewards)



*Scan the code & enroll today!*

## Cooperative Calendar

**May 25, 2026**

Memorial Day - Office Closed

**June 26, 2026**

American Red Cross Blood Drive

**July 3, 2026**

Independence Day Observed - Office Closed

**July 11, 2026**

Annual Meeting - Mt. Vernon

## There's an App for that!

Stay connected with your electric cooperative, anytime, anywhere, with the SmartHub app!



With SmartHub, you can:

- View & pay your bill with a few taps.
- Track your energy usage in real-time.
- Report outages and stay updated on restoration efforts.
- Manage your account securely and conveniently.

No more waiting on hold or searching through paperwork – SmartHub puts the power in your hands. Download the app today and take control of your energy experience!

**Download today!**

Android Users



Apple iOS Users



# MAKE YOUR MARK

## Youth Tour 2026



On March 25, 168 students sponsored by 24 electric and telephone cooperatives across the state gathered in the Illinois State Capitol for Youth Day, an annual event designed to introduce young leaders to state government and the cooperative principles that serve their communities. Students met with elected officials, explored historic sites and experienced the workings of state government firsthand.

Representing Tri-County Electric Cooperative were:

**Katelyn Gogolek, Okawville**

**Josephine Meyer, Hoyleton**

“As cooperatives, we’re committed not only to providing reliable service but also to investing in the next generation,” said Lynn Hutchison, Director

of Member Services. “Youth Day helps students understand the cooperative difference and the impact they can have as informed citizens.”

Senator Jason Plummer and Senator Terri Bryant met with the students representing TCEC. In addition to meeting elected officials, the students also learned more about their cooperative’s role in their own communities and had the opportunity to tour the Capitol Building and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

During lunch, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs addressed the students. He shared his journey from a small town in Illinois to his current role, emphasizing the importance of finding interesting and challenging

opportunities. He encouraged students to pursue their passions, participate and become lifelong learners.

In addition to Youth Day, Gogolek and Meyer were also selected to participate in Youth Tour, an annual trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives. This year’s trip will be held June 15-22. They will represent TCEC on the weeklong trip to see historic sites, learn firsthand how cooperatives work and gain valuable leadership skills.

“From touring Washington, D.C., to learning the cooperative difference, Youth Tour is much more than a trip,” said Hutchison, “It’s an experience they will carry long after high school.”



From left: Senator Jason Plummer, Katelyn Gogolek, Josephine Meyer, and Senator Terri Bryant



From left: Katelyn Gogolek and Josephine Meyer

## Mini Caprese Skewers

### Ingredients

- Cherry tomatoes
- Fresh mozzarella balls
- Fresh basil leaves
- Balsamic Glaze (recipe below)



### Directions

1. Thread one tomato, one basil leaf, and one mozzarella ball onto a toothpick.
2. Drizzle lightly with balsamic glaze
3. Serve chilled

Loaded with antioxidants, calcium, and flavor.  
No cooking required!

### Balsamic Glaze

1. Pour 1 cup balsamic vinegar into a small saucepan.
2. Add 2 Tablespoons honey or maple syrup (optional)
3. Bring to a gentle boil over medium heat, then reduce to low.
4. Simmer for 10-15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until it reduces by about half and thickens to a syrupy consistency. Remove from heat and let cool.

## TCEC Annual Meeting: Saturday, July 11th, 2026

# 5 Reasons you should attend the ANNUAL MEETING

### 1

#### Participate in the cooperative business

Elect your TCEC Board of Directors, Receive reports on TCEC's accomplishments and year-end financial status, and learn about TCEC's plans to continue providing reliable and affordable electricity.



### 2

#### \$15 Bill credit for attending!

If you are registered before 10 a.m., you will receive a \$15 bill credit on your August bill!

### 3

#### Fun for our youngest members!

Visit our kid's area with facepainting, RoboRams demonstrations, "Meet a Lineman" station, a photo op area, CONNECT 4, Child ID Kits, and more!



### 4

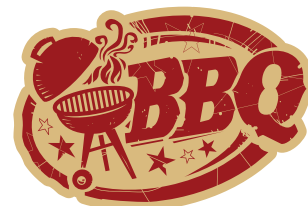
#### Coffee & Doughnuts in the Morning!

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Join us for Krispy Kreme doughnuts and coffee!

### 5

#### Did someone say lunch?

Join us for a BBQ lunch after the meeting and stay for a chance to win prizes!



MAY 25, 2026  
**MEMORIAL DAY**  
REMEMBER AND HONOR



Cooperative offices will be closed on  
Monday, May 25th in observance of  
Memorial Day.