


# Norris Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# News

## If you are thinking of a career as a lineworker, this scholarship is for you

The LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship is a \$2,000 scholarship to help pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill.

One scholarship a year will be awarded to an individual who is related to a rural electric cooperative

employee or director in the state of Illinois; or is the son or daughter of an electric cooperative member in Illinois; or is enrolled in the Lincoln Land Lineworker's School; or has served or is serving in the U.S. armed forces or National Guard.

If interested in a lineman career, check out the official rules and regulations at [www.norriselectric.com](http://www.norriselectric.com). Deadline to apply is April 30, 2021.



## Attention High School Seniors

Norris Electric Cooperative will award three \$1,000 scholarships to the sons or daughter of Norris Electric members who are currently receiving service from the cooperative at the time the scholarship application is submitted.

### Requirements for application:

1. Must be a high school senior
2. Must begin college within a year of notification
3. Must be a full-time (12 hours) student

### Scholarship awarded based on:

1. Grade point average
2. College entrance test scores
3. Work & volunteer experience
4. School & community activities
5. Knowledge of electric cooperatives
6. Biographical essay

*There is still time to apply for a Norris Electric Scholarship.*

**Deadline for application submission is Feb. 1, 2021**

For more information contact your high school guidance department or visit the cooperative website at [www.norriselectric.com](http://www.norriselectric.com) to download an application.



# To mask or not to mask: That is (not) the question

Most people don't enjoy wearing masks. They are inconvenient and put the kibosh on social interaction. They can give us the sudden urge to take a deep breath and they can make it difficult for others to hear us, to name just some of the downsides.

However, as we all know, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) changed its stance on mask recommendations from when COVID-19 first hit in the U.S. CDC experts first advocated not wearing masks but later changed that recommendation.

Since recommending mask usage, the CDC came up with these specific guidelines for wearing them:

- Wear masks that have two or more layers to help stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Masks are recommended for people 2 years old and up.
- They should not be worn by children younger than age 2, people who have trouble breathing, or people who cannot remove it without help.



- People should not wear masks intended for healthcare workers, for example, N95 respirators.
- Although it might be better than nothing, the CDC does not currently recommend using gaiters or face shields. (A gaiter is like a thick headband you wear around your neck that you can pull up and over your mouth and nose.)

## How to select a mask

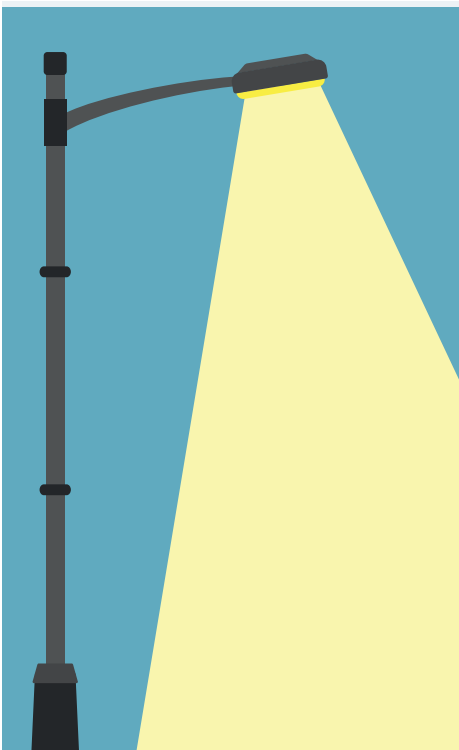
Although mostly common knowledge these days, here are some reminders about selecting types of masks and how to wear them.

According to the CDC, choose masks that:

- Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric.
- Completely cover your nose and mouth.
- Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps.
- Do not buy or use masks that:
  - Are made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe – for example, made of vinyl.
  - Have exhalation valves or vents, which allow virus particles to escape (or possibly enter).
- Are intended for healthcare workers, including N95 respirators or surgical masks.

If you wear glasses, find a mask that fits closely over your nose or one that has a nose wire or reinforcement to help limit fogging.

Although tempting, a mask cannot do its job if it is worn around your neck, under your nose, on your chin, dangling from one ear or left in your car.



## Add a little light to your night

There's no place like home – and at nightfall, you'll have peace of mind with a night light from your electric cooperative.

Nothing discourages a would-be burglar or trespasser like a brilliant night light. Today's night lights are brighter and more efficient than ever. And since the night light turns itself on at dusk and off at dawn, it's there when you need it, automatically.

A night light is an affordable way to provide safety and protection for your family and possessions.

### Norris Electric offers the following night lighting:

73-watt LED outdoor light ..... \$7.00 per month

This cost covers installation, operation and maintenance of the light. The electricity the light uses is not metered and is included in the monthly fee. The only requirement is the light must be installed on a Norris Electric pole. It's a great deal for our members! Contact our office at 877-783-8765 to sign up.

# 2021 Annual Meeting update

February would normally be the month of our Annual Meeting of the Members for Norris Electric Cooperative. With restrictions on gatherings, our board of directors, who always has the safety and wellbeing of the membership at the forefront of their minds, have decided to postpone the 83rd Annual Meeting until April 15. The meeting will be held virtually through Facebook in our Member's Only group. Other options will be made available for members who are unable to access Facebook.

*Keep a watch out in the upcoming ICL magazines and on social media for further details.*

## Petitions for board of directors available

The term of four directors will expire with the April 2021 Annual Meeting. The board seats up for election with one board member to be elected from each county are: Jasper, Lawrence, Effingham and Crawford.

All incumbents intend to seek re-election. They are: Gordon McClure, Jasper County; Scott Weiss, Lawrence County; Gilbert Garbe, Effingham County and Gary Buser, Crawford County. Any other members that reside and take service in any of the counties above may also submit a petition and be placed on the ballot.

According to the cooperative bylaws, all candidates must submit a petition signed by at least 25 members to be placed on the ballot. Requests for petitions will be available January 1, 2021 and may be obtained by contacting the cooperative office at 877-783-8765 x.126. **Petitions must be returned to the cooperative office by noon on February 11, 2021.**

Petitioners with qualified petitions will be placed on the ballots. Ballots will be mailed 30-45 days prior to our annual meeting. The results will then be announced at our annual meeting to be held on April 15, 2021.

## Outage Information Center:



We work hard year-round to deliver reliable service, but when big storms strike and damage equipment, outages can result. When they do, our entire focus is to safely and quickly restore your service. There are three ways our members can report their outage:

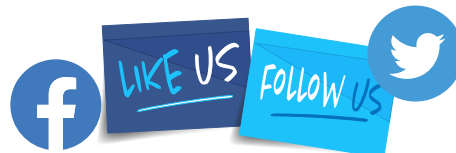
1. **Call 877-783-3221**
2. **Text your outage.** If you prefer to text rather than call your outage in, members will need to have their cell phone number on file at Norris Electric. Then they will need to complete a short registration process on our website, [www.norrselectric.com](http://www.norrselectric.com). Once that is complete, Members will be able to text their outage in. You will also receive a text when your electric is restored!!
3. **Use our app.** If members have a smartphone, download our app and report an outage. (Sign up as a new user through online bill pay on our website to gain access.)

### View outages

Members are able to view Norris Electric's outage map by logging on to our website at [www.norrselectric.com](http://www.norrselectric.com) or view it on the Norris app. By viewing the map, it will give members an idea of where the outages are and how many members are affected.

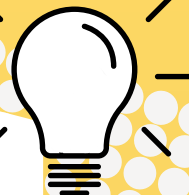
### Outage updates

**Facebook/Twitter** – Be sure to like us on Facebook and Twitter to receive current outage information and updates.





## New Year's Energy Savings Resolutions



### Resolutions You Can Afford to Keep!

#### It costs nothing to...

Set the water heater temperature to 120 degrees.

Run only full loads in the washer or dishwasher.

Turn off lights when you leave a room.

Unplug electronics and chargers not in use.

Adjust your thermostat when going to bed or leaving the home.

#### Spend a few dollars to save a lot more ...

Get a water heater blanket.

Use a programmable thermostat.

Seal air leaks around windows, doors, plumbing, etc.

Replace regular bulbs with LED light bulbs.

Use a smart power strip for electronics.

To generate more energy savings, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

## Residential electric heat rate available

Did you know Norris Electric offers an electric heat rate? The rate is available to residential members of the cooperative for uses where electricity is the sole source of all heating energy. The heat source must be for the whole house and permanently installed. Types of electric heat

which qualify include **geothermal heat pumps, air source heat pumps and electric furnaces.**

The only obligation is the member must continue the electric heat rate for 12-month increments.

The electric heat rate offers a lower rate in the winter months

that more than offsets the slightly higher summer rate when compared to our standard rate.

**Call our office today at 877-783-8765 for a rate comparison and see if you can start saving money on your electric bill!**