

# THE *Southwestern*

A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

AUGUST 2021 • VOLUME 73 • ISSUE 8



- ANNUAL MEETING EDITION**
- Official Notice of the 83rd Annual Meeting of Members
  - Report for the Fiscal Year 2020

*Southwestern Electric Cooperative provides energy to nearly 24,000 members in communities throughout Southwestern Illinois and the St. Louis-Metro East.*

*As a not-for-profit utility, Southwestern Electric works to reduce the cost of service by encouraging residential, commercial and industrial development within its service area, dividing the fixed cost of service by a larger membership base.*

*Southwestern Electric Cooperative is guided by the premise that a member owned and locally operated utility should serve the best interests of our families, neighbors and communities.*



# Table of Contents

## ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

- 04 Official Notice
- 05 Directions and Map
- 06 This Year's Meeting
- 07 Agenda
- 08 2020 Meeting Minutes

## REPORTS AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- 10 Board President's Report
- 14 Chief Executive Officer's Report
- 18 Board Treasurer's Report
- 18 Financial Information

## VOTING & COMMITTEE INFORMATION

- 22 Voting Schedule
- 23 Credentials & Election Committee

## BOARD CANDIDATE PROFILES

- 24 District I, William "Bill" Jennings, Incumbent
- 25 District I, Phil Hocher, Challenger
- 26 District II, Bruce Unterbrink, Challenger
- 27 District II, Jerry Gaffner, Incumbent
- 28 District III, Jared Stine, Incumbent

## OUR TEAM

- 30 Board of Directors
- 30 Personnel
- 31 Voter Registration Card

## SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246  
(800) 637-8667  
www.sweci.com

### FACILITY LOCATIONS

10031 Ellis Road, St. Jacob, IL 62281

2117 East 1850 Avenue, St. Elmo, IL 62458

## FREEDOM POWER STATION

2516 N 2125 Street, St. Elmo, IL 62458

Auditor: CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

109 North Main Street,  
Austin, MN 55912-0217

*The Southwestern* (USPS 612-500) is published monthly by Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. Periodical postage paid at Greenville, IL. Subscriptions cost \$8.85 per year. Comments or questions regarding material in this publication may be mailed to Joe Richardson, editor of *The Southwestern*, c/o Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246, or e-mailed to joe.richardson@sweci.com. Postmaster: Send address corrections to *The Southwestern*, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.

On the Cover: In a composite image, lineman Adam French makes improvements to Southwestern Electric's Edgewood Substation in Effingham County while the co-op's newest substation, Maple Grove, shines beside I-70, north of Troy.

## ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

# Official Notice of the Annual Meeting

The 83rd Annual Meeting of Southwestern Electric Cooperative members will be held at the Bond County Fairgrounds in Greenville, Illinois, on Saturday, September 11, 2021. The business meeting, beginning at 10 a.m., will take action on the following matters:

1. Roll call: Reporting on the number of members present in order to determine if a quorum is met.
2. Election of directors.
3. Reading of the Official Annual Meeting Notice and proof of due publication and mailing thereof (or the waiver or waivers of the Notice, as the case may be).
4. Reading of the unapproved minutes from the previous Annual Meeting and taking of necessary action thereon.
5. Presentation, consideration, and acting upon the reports of officers, directors and committees.
6. Unfinished business.
7. New business.
8. Announcement of election results.
9. Adjournment.

Pursuant to the election of three directors (one from each voting district), the members listed below have been presented as candidates by the Nominations Committee or nominated by petition. Candidate names are listed in the order they'll appear on the ballot. Ballot order was determined by a random drawing.

DISTRICT I (Macoupin, Madison, and St. Clair Counties): Incumbent William "Bill" Jennings and challenger Phil Hocher, nominated by the Nominations Committee.

DISTRICT II (Bond, Clinton, and Montgomery Counties): Challenger Bruce Unterbrink and incumbent Jerry Gaffner, nominated by the Nominations Committee.

DISTRICT III (Clay, Fayette, Effingham, Marion, and Shelby Counties): Unopposed incumbent Jared Stine, nominated by the Nominations Committee.

Voting will be offered at Southwestern Electric's Greenville office Aug. 27 – Sept. 10 from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (with hours extended to 7 p.m. on Sept. 1 & Sept. 9); at the cooperative's St. Jacob warehouse Aug. 31 & Sept. 8 from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.; at the St. Elmo warehouse Sept. 2 & Sept. 7 from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.; and on Annual Meeting Day, Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Bond County Fairgrounds and the St. Jacob and St. Elmo warehouses from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Members who present the registration card found on the back cover of this publication will receive an added \$10 bill credit.

For additional voting and bill credit information see page 22.

Annette Hartlieb  
Board Secretary



Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Greenville, Illinois

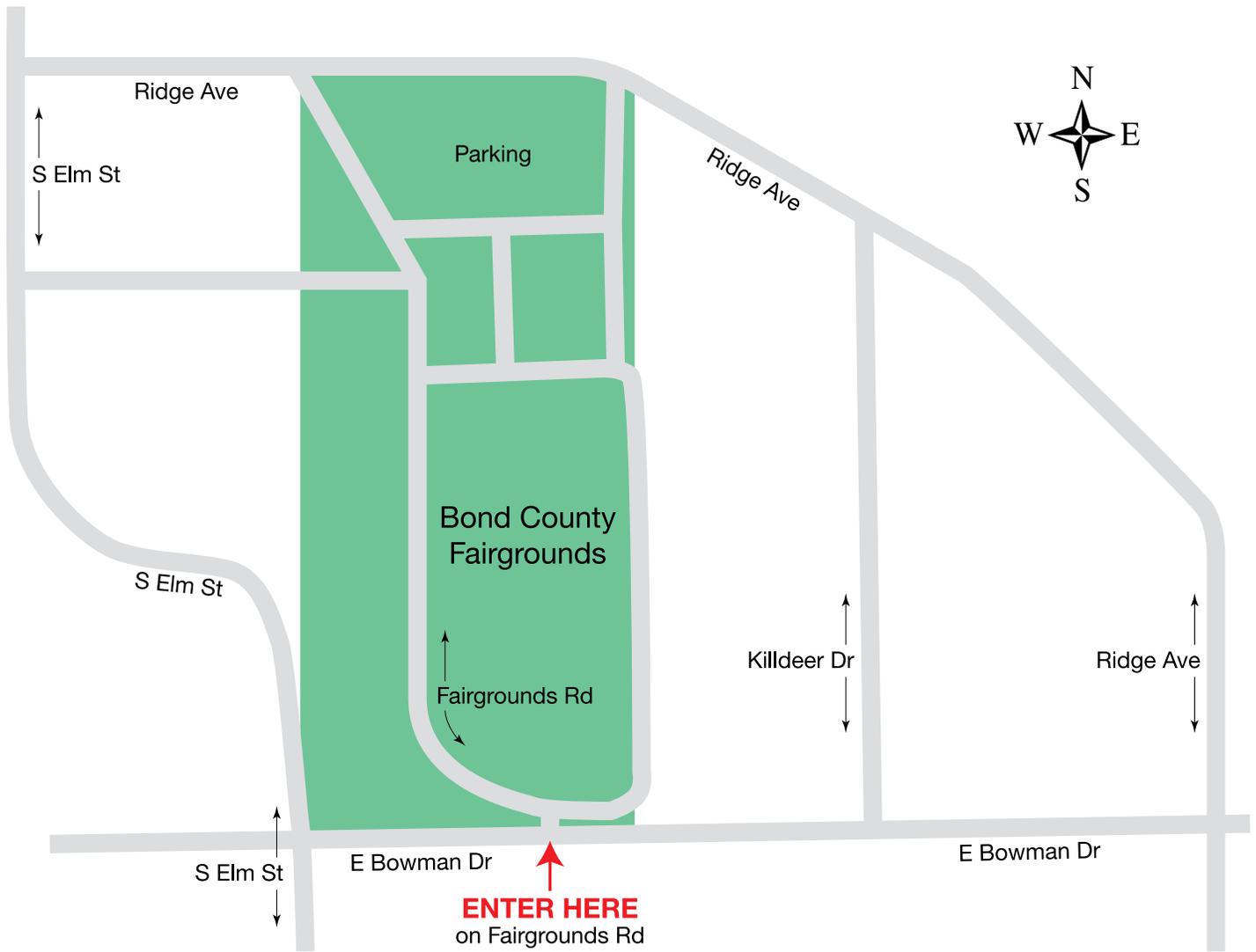
July 14, 2021

# Annual Meeting Directions and Map

The 83rd Annual Meeting of Southwestern Electric Cooperative members will be held at the Bond County Fairgrounds in Greenville, Illinois, located east of South Elm Street on Fairgrounds Road.

To get there, follow US Route 40 to South Elm Street. Turn north onto South Elm (you'll see Southwestern's office on the hill). Follow South Elm about a half mile north to East Bowman Drive. Turn right on Bowman. Drive about 500 feet, then turn left onto Fairgrounds Road. Parking will be available on the fairgrounds. Attendees will be asked to remain in their vehicles for the duration of the meeting.

Questions or comments regarding the meeting may be directed to Susan File, vice president of member services, at [susan.file@sweci.com](mailto:susan.file@sweci.com) or (800) 637-8667, ext. 5924.



# Focus on Safety Prompts Early Voting Options and Return to Fairgrounds

Amidst continuing concerns regarding COVID-19, this year's annual meeting is designed to encourage social distancing and allow members to participate in the cooperative's democratic process as comfortably and safely as possible.

Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 83rd Annual Meeting of Members will be held at the Bond County Fairgrounds in Greenville again this year. Like last year, the meeting will be offered in a drive-through or pull up and park format. Members may vote and leave or vote and pull into a parking area to await the president's address, CEO report and election results.

Attendees will be asked to remain in their vehicles for the duration of their stay. The meeting will be broadcast through a short-range FM transmitter, and attendees will listen on their car radio.

To expedite voting, members are asked to bring the registration card printed on the back cover of this magazine. We also included the registration card in our July issue. The cards are identical and either card will do.

To more effectively practice CDC recommended health guidelines and help ensure member and employee safety, the co-op is encouraging members to vote before the day of the meeting.

Members will earn a \$50 bill credit by presenting their preprinted registration card and voting before Sept. 11. Voting schedules appear on page 22.

In addition to creating an environment which encourages social distancing, the co-op will limit interpersonal contact at this year's meeting. Southwestern Electric will not serve meals, offer attendance gifts, hold prize drawings, play BINGO or put on a carnival. There will be no drawings for cash prizes or a year of free electricity.

This year, registration will open at 9 a.m. At 10 a.m., Ann Schwarm, president of Southwestern Electric Cooperative, and CEO Bobby Williams will deliver their reports. Election results will follow.

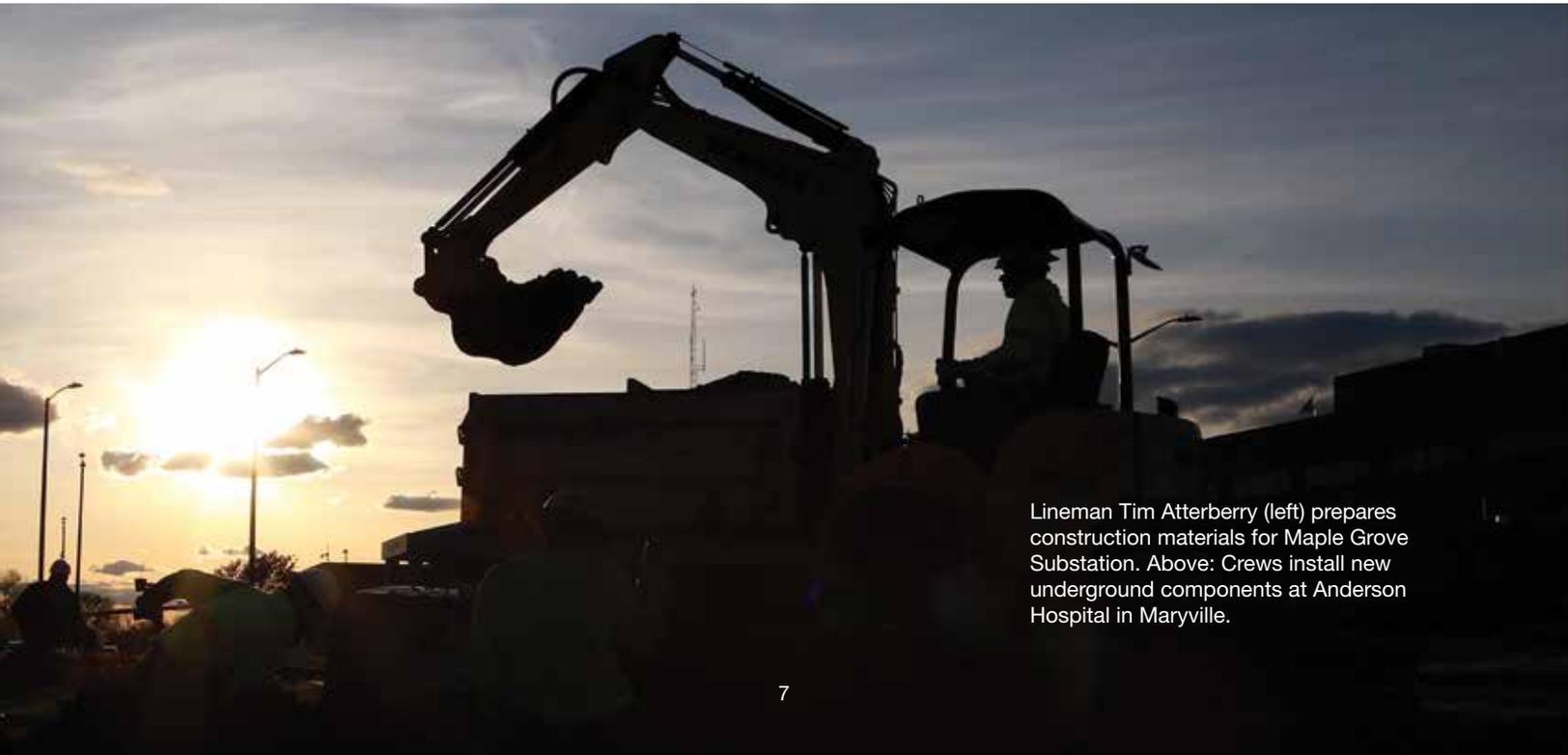
Questions or comments regarding the meeting may be directed to Susan File, vice president of member services, at (800) 637-8667 or [susan.file@sweci.com](mailto:susan.file@sweci.com).



# Annual Meeting Agenda

Registration available 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.  
Business meeting begins at 10 a.m.

Call to Order & Welcome .....	Ann Schwarm, Board President
Invocation .....	Jerry Gaffner, Board Treasurer
Pledge of Allegiance .....	Ann Schwarm
Introduction of Directors, CEO & Attorney .....	Ann Schwarm
Report of Credentials & Election Committee .....	Committee Chairperson
Report of Nominations Committee.....	Committee Chairperson
Election of Directors .....	Michael Hertz, Attorney
Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing .....	Annette Hartlieb, Board Secretary
Approval of 2020 Meeting Minutes .....	Ann Schwarm
Treasurer’s Report .....	Jerry Gaffner, Board Treasurer
Chief Executive Officer’s Report .....	Bobby Williams, CEO
President’s Report .....	Ann Schwarm
Unfinished Business .....	Ann Schwarm
New Business .....	Ann Schwarm
Announcement of Election Results .....	Credentials & Election Committee Chairperson
Adjournment of Business Meeting .....	Ann Schwarm



Lineman Tim Atterberry (left) prepares construction materials for Maple Grove Substation. Above: Crews install new underground components at Anderson Hospital in Maryville.

# Meeting Minutes

## 82nd Annual Meeting of Southwestern Electric Cooperative Members September 12, 2020

The 82nd Annual Meeting of Southwestern Electric Cooperative Members was held on Saturday, September 12, 2020, at the Bond County Fairgrounds in Greenville, Illinois. Notice of the Annual Meeting was given to the members in accordance with the cooperative's bylaws.

At 10 a.m., Board President Ann Schwarm called the business meeting to order. The invocation was given by Director Jerry Gaffner, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Schwarm introduced her fellow directors, Chief Executive Officer Bobby Williams, and Corporate Counsel Michael Hertz from the law firm of Lucco, Brown, Dawson, and Hertz. Director Sandy Nevinger was absent from the meeting.

Hal Langham, chairperson of the Credentials and Election Committee, reported that the quorum was met for the meeting.

The next order of business was the election of three members to the Board of Directors. Each would be elected to serve a three-year term, beginning on September 12, 2020. The term of each elected Director would end on the date of the 2023 Annual Meeting or when a qualified successor could be duly appointed. Chairperson Sandy Kuhns read the Nominations Committee report. She stated that on May 28, 2020 the members of the Nominations Committee met to nominate candidates for the Board of Directors. The

candidates nominated were as follows: Mark Gusewelle, Bill Schnur, and Marvin Warner in District I; Sandy Nevinger (incumbent) in District II; Annette Hartlieb (incumbent) in District III. With no competition in District II and III, Bernie Obermark made a motion to elect Sandy Nevinger Director for District II by acclamation. The motion was seconded and carried. A motion was made by Mike Willman to elect Annette Hartlieb Director for District III by acclamation. The motion was seconded and carried.

Attorney Hertz stated that the 2020 nine-member Credentials and Election Committee, consisting of three active members representing each district, was officially appointed on July 23, 2020. The Credentials and Election Committee was duly informed of their responsibilities on August 27, 2020. Voting was conducted at the Bond County Fairgrounds between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 a.m., and additionally at the co-op's branch facilities located in St. Jacob and St. Elmo. Absentee voting was offered at the Greenville headquarters during normal business hours August 28 through September 11, at the co-op's branch facility in St. Jacob September 1 and September 9 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., and at the co-op's branch facility in St. Elmo September 2 and September 10 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Attorney Hertz stated that there were no proposed amendments to the bylaws to bring before the membership this year.

Secretary Annette Hartlieb read the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting and provided proof of its mailing. President Schwarm stated that the minutes of the 81st Annual Meeting of Members, which was held in Greenville on September 7, 2019, were printed in the Official Notice. Dennis Howell made a motion to approve the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes as reported in the Official Notice with no corrections, additions, or comments. The motion was seconded and carried.

Treasurer Bill Jennings announced that the 2019 Treasurer's Report had been published with the Official Notice, in accordance with the cooperative's bylaws. He reported strong margins of \$3.6M in 2019 and confirmed the cooperative was in compliance with all provisions of the loan agreements with their lender.

During the CEO's Report, Chief Executive Officer Bobby Williams discussed how Southwestern Electric has worked to meet member and community needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. He discussed the new EV charging stations in Troy, reported on the co-op's new residential EV program, and reported on several infrastructure projects that will help ensure reliability, future growth and reduce outage times for members.

President Ann Schwarm gave her report to the membership on behalf of the Board of Directors. She commented on how co-op employees have worked creatively, collaboratively

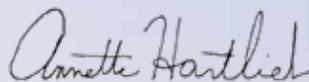
and safely to provide service in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak. Then, President Schwarm and Vice President Sandy Grapperhaus recognized long-time Director Rich Gusewelle who retired from the board this year. Gusewelle served on Southwestern's board for 36 years. He reflected on his time on the board and the many changes he has seen throughout the years.

President Ann Schwarm asked if there was any unfinished or new business to discuss. Hearing none, Credentials and Election Committee Chairman Hal Langham came forward and announced the election results.

Langham stated that the election was fairly and impartially conducted. In District I, Marvin Warner received 846 votes, Mark Gusewelle received 816 votes, and Bill Schnur received 235 votes. In District II, Sandy Nevinger who was re-elected by acclamation received 1938 votes. In District III, Annette Hartlieb who was re-elected by acclamation received 1939 votes. Langham certified that Marvin Warner had been elected in District I.

With no further business to come before the membership, the meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Annette Hartlieb  
Board Secretary



# Open to Opportunity

Report from Board President Ann Schwarm

**O**pening Up. As I write to you in late June 2021, these words are heard almost every day. Like spring farmland after a hard winter, the world is waking to long-dormant opportunities and our communities are coming back to life.

We can shop for groceries without wearing masks.

We can attend our children's sporting events.

We can leave our homes and frequent our churches, schools and shops.

We can gather with family, near and far.

We can even venture across the country on vacation.

And after a year of keeping our lobby closed, we can welcome you into Southwestern Electric's Greenville office again. I think it's worth noting that, while the building was closed, opportunities to work with our communities and expand our infrastructure opened — and Southwestern seized them.

In his report, CEO Bobby Williams shares several milestones from our recently completed work plan and offers

a glimpse of what's ahead. Your cooperative's commitment to maintaining, improving and adding to the infrastructure which provides safe and reliable power is opening our region to new possibilities. In the past year, we've constructed a new substation, retired old lines and built new, educated our membership about the advantages of electric vehicles (EVs) and partnered with Anderson Hospital to provide charging stations for patients, physicians and staff.

While COVID closed doors, it also opened our eyes. We see our work and our workplaces differently. Tools and techniques wrought by necessity have been kept and cultivated by choice.

Whether they're delivering exceptional member service from a home office, addressing infrastructure improvement in the midst of a pandemic, or deploying vital technology and training to a distributed workforce, our employees have proven themselves resilient and our co-op culture amenable to change. As we move toward 2022, Southwestern has shown

*Continued on page 12 >*



***“As we move toward 2022, Southwestern has shown itself ready to take on new challenges and make the most of emerging possibilities.”***

> *Continued from page 10*

itself ready to take on new challenges and make the most of emerging possibilities. Now more than ever, Southwestern Electric Cooperative is positioned to be your accountable energy partner.

Despite being restricted by the pandemic, your board of directors and management team fulfilled a critical responsibility during the last year. We examined years of system data, identified trends in commercial and residential growth, discussed challenges and opportunities as they related to the cooperative, and envisioned Southwestern Electric's future. Our study and discussion provided the foundation for a seven-part strategic plan. The plan addresses your cooperative's finances, capital and operations, emerging technology, safety, member and community engagement, leadership succession, and governance. Southwestern's strategic plan is a living document, and your board and management team will continue to gather data and refine our objectives to ensure that our decisions align with your preferences and priorities.

As part of our plan development, we examined at length the age and needs of our system, prioritizing improvements and additions which CEO Williams addresses in his report. Our system was built over time — 83 years and counting. The improvements will be accomplished in time as well. To be the stewards you have elected us to be, your board of directors must examine the co-op's infrastructure, establish priorities and identify objectives not in isolation, but with your immediate and long-term needs in consideration, and the financial well-being of the cooperative in mind.

The entire board has been involved in developing a financial plan which is both long term and comprehensive. Like our infrastructure plan, the financial plan balances long-range objectives and immediate needs.

As I've mentioned in the past, our energy sales have been stagnating for a decade. Yet during these same years, Southwestern has added substations, new technology, miles of line, and members. That growth comes at a cost.

Consequently, our strategic plan calls for us to explore the benefits and opportunities offered by emerging technologies. That may seem counterintuitive. Efficiencies and green power curtail kilowatt sales. But your board has and will continue to support member interest in environmentally friendly energy such as the solar arrays you see dotting the landscape throughout our trade territory.

That said, the need for increased energy sales remains. Emerging technologies such as EVs can help us meet that

need. With Interstates 55 and 57 at the boundaries of our service area and I-70 running through the heart of our cooperative, Southwestern Electric is optimally positioned to prosper from growth in the EV market.

Meanwhile, member and community engagement remain important to us. Our best hope is that in the months ahead we can become more engaged as our co-op communities open up.

Traditionally, Southwestern Electric's Annual Meeting of Members has been our greatest opportunity for member engagement. Over the years, our meeting has grown into a dynamic event. It was with concern for the health and safety of our members and staff that the board shifted to a socially-distanced event last year. In April of 2021, when the board of directors was tasked with planning this year's annual meeting, we didn't know where the state of Illinois and CDC would stand in terms of COVID precautions.

In the face of that uncertainty, we chose to be safe. We planned an annual meeting that mirrors our 2020 event and places your well-being first and foremost. In addition, many of you told us you deeply appreciated the \$50 bill credit we instituted for early voting last year, as well as the opportunity to vote from the comfort of your vehicle. For our 2021 annual meeting, we've kept those items in place.

I think it is safe to say that as we emerge from the crisis of COVID-19, we take with us an even greater appreciation for our family, our friends, and each other.

We notice and value the exceptional service from our cooperative's employees during sunny days and stormy nights.

We stand in awe of our young scholars who powered through a year of trials to be rewarded with remarkable triumphs.

We recognize that, just when we think we have it all figured out, something changes.

We realize that for all the unknowns and insecurities recent months have brought us, we are kinder, stronger and smarter than we were a year ago.

We find ourselves more patient, more resilient, more *open* to the people and possibilities in our lives.

And we are more grateful.

Until we meet again, may you stay safe, stay well, and stay open to the opportunities around you.

Sincerely,



Ann M. Schwarm, President  
Board of Directors  
Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.



“

**NOW MORE THAN  
EVER, SOUTHWESTERN  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
IS POSITIONED TO BE  
YOUR ACCOUNTABLE  
ENERGY PARTNER.**

”





# *A Blueprint for the Future*

Report from CEO Bobby Williams

**O**ne of my first assignments for Southwestern Electric involved building a substation. As I examined the strengths and weaknesses of various designs, I referred to diagrams that described each system's interrelated parts and how they should operate. Later, as I inventoried and developed components of our distribution system, I referenced technical drawings, comparing the illustrated ideal to the elements in front of me.

While my job title changed a few years ago, I still spend my days analyzing and assembling systems, troubleshooting things that don't work and trying to improve things that do. Even now, I find myself referring to system maps, flowcharts and diagrams — comparing the ideal to the real, and working to make them one and the same.

In her president's report, Ann Schwarm referenced Southwestern Electric's strategic plan. The plan addresses commerce, community, infrastructure and objectives as they

relate to the cooperative. I see the strategic plan as a diagram. It's a blueprint we'll use to build the future. Within that blueprint are work plans for five years of system improvements. Earlier this year, as we completed old plans and turned to the new, I reflected on what your co-op has accomplished in the last five years. I'd like to share some of those projects with you now, and offer you a preview of what's to come.

## **SMARTER SUBSTATIONS, STRONGER LINES**

Five years ago we identified a need for two new substations — one in Madison County and one in Fayette — to accommodate our residential and commercial growth. Today those structures are visible from Interstate 70.

Vandalia Substation is a critical part of Southwestern Electric's eastern infrastructure. Built near Fayette County's growing commercial district at the I-70 Vandalia exit, our Vandalia Substation makes local businesses and residential

Southwestern's new Maple Grove Substation will improve reliability and reduce outage time for members north of Troy.

members less vulnerable to lightning and other environmental intrusions that affect reliability. It assumed about half the power demands previously met by our Shafter Substation. By reducing daily power demands on Shafter Sub, Vandalia Substation is extending the service life of its sister facility. It also allows us to perform maintenance on Shafter Sub without scheduling outages. And as new commercial development comes to the area, those businesses will find we have most of the infrastructure they need already in place.

Elsewhere in our Eastern District, we upgraded our Edgewood, Confidence and Altamont Substations, installed 17,000 feet of high-performance line outside Beecher City, made significant upgrades to Freedom Power Station, and built a new communications tower at our St. Elmo facility.

Let's take a closer look at each of those items:

Linemen replaced Edgewood Substation's aging transformer with a newer unit and outfitted the sub with new switches, fuses, oil circuit recloser units, new wiring, and a voltage regulator.

Crews equipped Confidence Substation with Intelligent Electronic Devices (IEDs), new regulators, and new oil circuit reclosers. IEDs enable the substation to notify Southwestern personnel when a breaker operates. New smart switches and line reclosers help our engineering and operations teams isolate outages and reroute power, reducing outage times.

We expanded our Altamont Substation site, installing an additional transformer, and upgraded both the transmission line that carries power into the substation and the feeders that carry power out of it. The substation's new transformer can accommodate the energy needs of every member served by Altamont Sub, should crews need to deenergize the existing transformer for maintenance. As part of the project, we balanced demands on circuits in Effingham and Fayette counties, improving our overall operating efficiency.

West of Beecher City, we began field testing 17,000 feet

of new, steel-reinforced aluminum conductor. Covered in a non-toxic, environmentally stable film, the line is designed to move power more efficiently than traditional conductors and discourage ice formation, potentially saving money and reducing outages.

Our team at Freedom Power Station — Southwestern's natural gas-fired peaking unit — implemented the facility's first system-wide overhaul since its construction in 1999. The work ensures Freedom can run at a moment's notice. Freedom Power Station's reliability and performance have saved the co-op millions of dollars in fees associated with moving power across the grid.

We also replaced our St. Elmo communications tower with a modern structure that's simpler and safer to maintain. The tower supports a radio antenna array that allows our Fayette County crews to communicate with each other and our Greenville office. Our towers in St. Elmo, Greenville and Maryville provide vital, always-on links between the co-op's linemen and dispatchers.

In Bond County, we expanded our Hookdale Substation and upgraded our substation at Reno, installing new technology that helps us diagnose mechanical issues and troubleshoot outages. Our new recloser system protects substation components and reduces outage time. If there's a temporary fault, like a limb in a line, that fault can clear itself without creating an outage — the line stays energized.

Linked to the co-op's substations in Smithboro and Pocahontas, Hookdale Sub is engineered to serve as a surrogate substation. If power is interrupted to our Pocahontas or Smithboro Substations, we can reconfigure the distribution system to serve those members through Hookdale. The project also included construction of 3.5 miles of overhead power line from the substation to Highway 127.

In northern Bond County, crews wired state-of-the-art circuit-protection into Reno Substation and replaced aging

*Continued on page 16 >*



> *Continued from page 15*

industrial-grade breakers with a new recloser system. The system shields vital substation components from transient power events and helps linemen isolate system issues quickly and efficiently.

We also completed intertie projects that allow us to take our Reno, Smithboro and New Douglas substations offline for maintenance without interrupting service.

In Madison County, we installed new diagnostic and protection technology in our New Douglas Substation and made improvements to our Bethalto Substation.

Finally, earlier this year we completed construction on the second new substation outlined in our last work plan. Sited near the interchange at I-270 and I-55/70, Maple Grove Substation will improve reliability for thousands of members in the I-55 corridor from Troy to Edwardsville.

## THE EV EVOLUTION

For years, we've encouraged you to conserve energy. You've taken that lesson to heart. Each year, as our membership grows, our energy sales remain more or less the same.

Why is that an issue?

We have 3,500 miles of power line to maintain, additional substations to build, old technology to retire and new to deploy. That takes resources. Improving our bottom line through electric vehicle-related power sales will position us to change out more poles that are past their prime and replace additional miles of old conductor with new lines that are more efficient and resilient.

In 2020, we launched our residential EV program, offering free chargers to members who shared their charging data. We also partnered with the city of Troy, the Troy, Maryville, St. Jacob and Marine regional chamber of commerce, and Holiday Inn Express Troy, to install two new EV charging stations near Exit 18 off I-55/70. The public charging stations are drawing travelers off the interstate and commerce into our co-op community.

And we're just getting started.

## A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

As I write this, we're working with Anderson Hospital in Maryville to install four new EV charging stations to serve the hospital's patients, doctors and staff. We're also in search of new locations for additional EV charging stations in co-op communities along Interstates 70 and 55.

Later this year, we'll offer incentive rates for residential electric vehicle charging. For co-op members with EVs, that means a clean, quiet automobile charged at an economical rate from the comfort and convenience of your home. Commercial and residential energy sales driven by EVs will help us build a better system for every Southwestern member — including your friends, your neighbors, and you.

In the immediate future, you'll see our crews building five miles of new transmission line along I-70 near Troy. The line will connect our Maple Grove, Edwardsville and Fruit Road Substations, enabling us to reroute power and restore service quickly during transmission line outages or damage from severe storms.

Meanwhile, we're drawing up plans for a new, larger substation outside Smithboro. Our new Smithboro Substation will accommodate member growth and enable line crews to reduce outage times for hundreds of members in Bond County. We plan to break ground in 2023.

Perhaps the most ambitious part of our plan involves assessing and addressing aging distribution lines. With our new substations sited, interties in place, and transmission line built or underway, we're shifting our focus to the poles and power lines that deliver energy to your homes and businesses. Over the next five years, we'll make a system-wide push to replace 100 miles of old copper line with new steel-reinforced aluminum conductor. The new conductor will better withstand storms and deliver power more efficiently than our existing copper line. Ultimately, that translates into time and money saved and fewer outages.

While we're installing new line, we'll be retiring 2,500 old poles and setting new.

Looking back at the last five years and 2020 in particular, I'm reminded that life seldom goes to plan. That shouldn't prevent us from planning. In our blueprint for the future, it's the space between the real and ideal that gives rise to ingenuity and innovation. When we fall short or we're thrown a curve, we're reminded to reference our diagram. We identify what works and address what doesn't.

We adopt, adapt and improve.

Then we check our diagram again to see if we're short of where we need to be, if we're on the mark, or if — as in the case of the last five years — we've built something stronger, brighter and better than originally planned.

If you have questions or comments about our work plan or any aspect of Southwestern Electric Cooperative, please feel free to reach out to me at [bobby.williams@sweci.com](mailto:bobby.williams@sweci.com). I'm always pleased to hear from you.

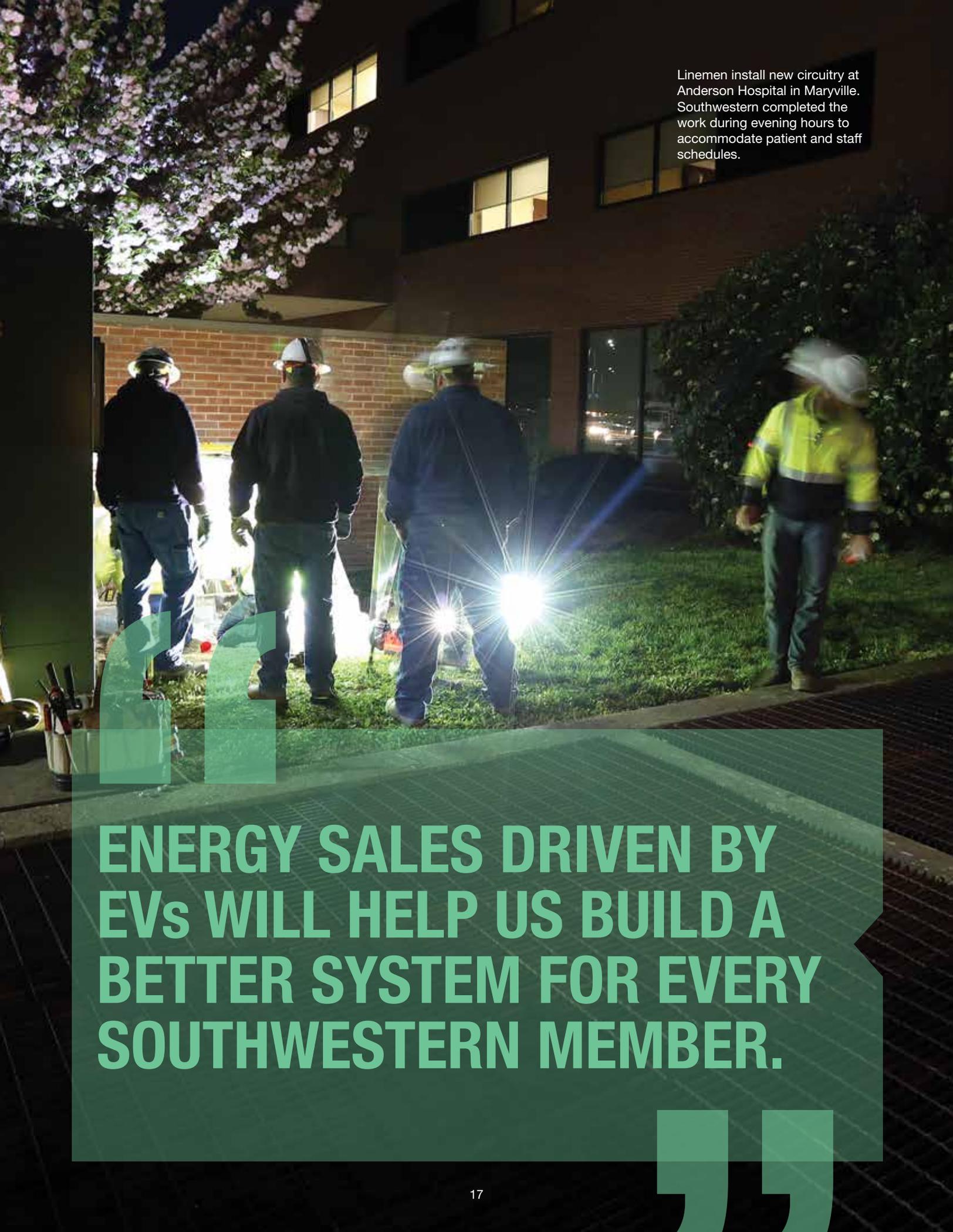
In the meantime, stay safe, stay well, and keep looking to the future.

Sincerely,



Bobby Williams  
Chief Executive Officer



A photograph showing four linemen in hard hats and work clothes working on a brick building at night. They are illuminated by bright work lights, creating a starburst effect. The building has several windows, some of which are lit from within. A tree with white blossoms is visible in the upper left corner. The overall scene is dark, with the primary light source being the work lights.

Linemen install new circuitry at Anderson Hospital in Maryville. Southwestern completed the work during evening hours to accommodate patient and staff schedules.

**ENERGY SALES DRIVEN BY EVs WILL HELP US BUILD A BETTER SYSTEM FOR EVERY SOUTHWESTERN MEMBER.**

# Board Treasurer’s Report

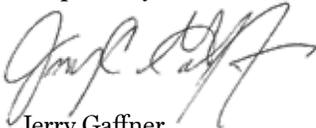
**S**outhwestern Electric Cooperative reported strong margins of \$7.9 million in 2020. Your cooperative remains in compliance with all loan covenants.

To ensure stable electric rates for the membership while fulfilling the cooperative’s wholesale power agreements, from 2014—2017 your board of directors dedicated \$11.8 million to margin stabilization. Southwestern Electric Cooperative applied \$4 million in margin stabilization funding in 2019 and 2020, respectively. As of Dec. 31, 2020, your cooperative has fulfilled its wholesale power contract obligations and has a remaining total of \$3.8 million for margin stabilization use in future years.

Southwestern Electric Cooperative received a clean audit opinion for the year ended Dec. 31, 2020.

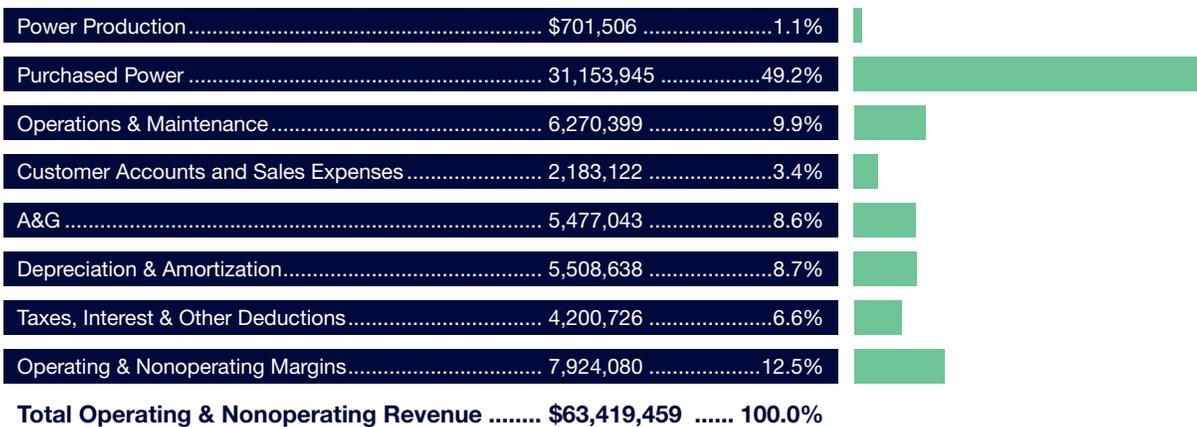
For additional information, please see the financial statements on the pages to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,

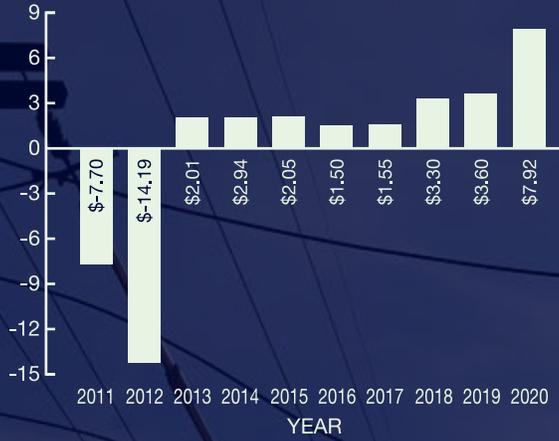


Jerry Gaffner  
Board Treasurer

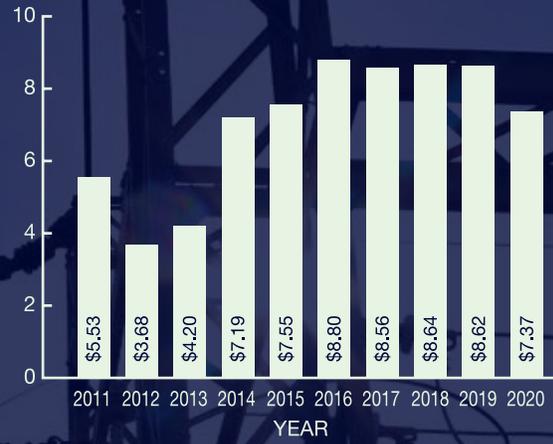
### Where did the cooperative’s revenue go in 2020?



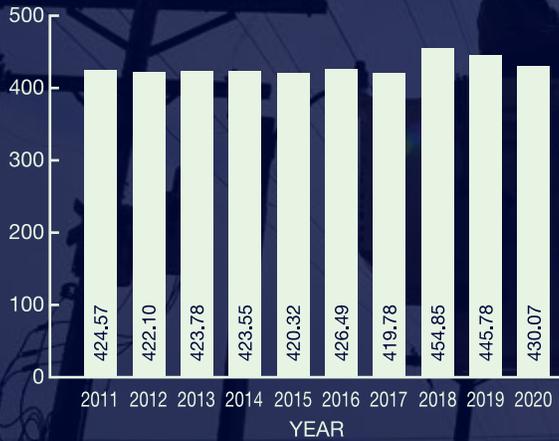
**Margins**  
in millions of dollars



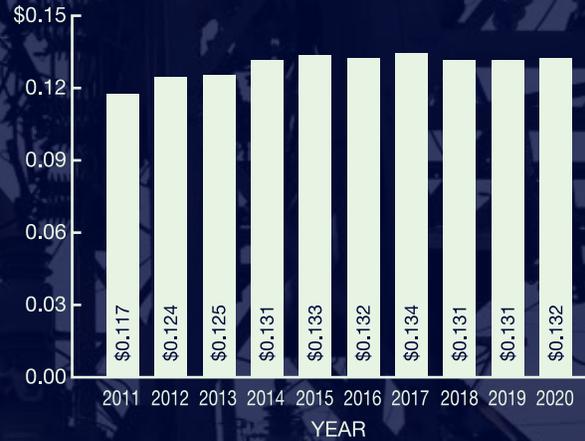
**Capital Investment**  
in millions of dollars



**Total Electricity Sold to Members**  
in millions of kWh



**Rate per kWh to Residential Members**  
in dollars (includes infrastructure and operations charge)



## REPORTS & FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Southwestern Electric Cooperative Financial Information

Statement of Operations	2020	2019	2018
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>			
Electric	\$62,186,853	\$63,191,680	\$60,263,464
Other	<u>251,305</u>	<u>386,988</u>	<u>393,774</u>
Total Operating Revenues	62,438,158	63,578,668	60,657,238
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Cost of Purchased Power	31,153,945	37,119,244	34,880,047
Power Production Expense - Operations	195,083	184,568	256,925
Power Production Expense - Maintenance	506,423	590,950	647,333
Transmission Expense - Maintenance	-	2,501	-
Distribution Expense - Operations	1,428,242	1,604,862	1,462,023
Distribution Expense - Maintenance	4,842,157	4,508,310	5,016,715
Consumer Account Expense	1,427,936	1,333,671	1,342,381
Consumer Service and Informational Expense	182,870	150,063	127,239
Sales Expense	572,316	514,766	493,991
Administrative and General Expense	5,477,043	5,493,311	5,148,087
Depreciation and Amortization	5,508,638	5,313,272	5,151,760
Taxes	212,771	214,476	207,222
Other Interest	71,634	15,344	19,786
Other Deductions	<u>66,445</u>	<u>50,588</u>	<u>36,472</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>51,645,503</u>	<u>57,095,926</u>	<u>54,789,981</u>
<b>OPERATING MARGINS BEFORE FIXED CHARGES</b>	10,792,655	6,482,742	5,867,257
<b>INTEREST ON LONG-TERM DEBT</b>	<u>3,849,876</u>	<u>3,735,459</u>	<u>3,791,277</u>
<b>NET OPERATING MARGINS</b>	6,942,779	2,747,283	2,075,980
<b>NONOPERATING MARGINS</b>			
Interest Income	57,997	81,946	83,582
Patronage Capital Credits	831,713	732,223	1,038,428
Other Nonoperating Margins	<u>91,591</u>	<u>38,673</u>	<u>101,072</u>
Total Nonoperating Margins	<u>981,301</u>	<u>852,842</u>	<u>1,223,082</u>
<b>NET MARGINS</b>	<u>\$7,924,080</u>	<u>\$3,600,125</u>	<u>\$3,299,062</u>

## Balance Sheet (As of December 31, 2020)

### ASSETS

#### Utility Plant

Electric Plant in Service	\$199,838,766
Construction Work in Progress	<u>806,538</u>
Total	200,645,304
Less: Accumulated Provision for Depreciation	<u>(61,278,652)</u>
Net Utility Plant	139,366,652

#### Other Assets and Investments

Investments in Associated Organizations	4,013,042
Notes Receivable, Net of Current Portion	584,975
Other Special Funds	<u>105,716</u>
Total Other Assets and Investments	4,703,733

#### Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,539,498
Accounts Receivable, Net	5,420,622
Materials and Supplies Inventory	1,326,931
Current Portion of Notes Receivable	87,078
Prepayments	380,046
Interest Receivable	<u>13,981</u>
Total Current Assets	9,768,156

#### Deferred Charges

	<u>3,484,041</u>
--	------------------

Total Assets	<u>\$157,322,582</u>
--------------	----------------------

### EQUITIES & LIABILITIES

#### Equities

Patronage Capital	\$53,577,857
Other Equities	<u>3,453,242</u>
Total Equities	57,031,099

#### Long-Term Debt, Net Of Current Maturities

86,658,501

#### Accumulated Provision for

Pension and Benefits	105,716
----------------------	---------

#### Current Liabilities

Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	3,732,788
Notes Payable	300,000
Accounts Payable	2,883,133
Consumer Deposits	818,874
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	<u>1,489,927</u>
Total Current Liabilities	9,224,722

#### Deferred Credits

4,302,544

Total Equities and Liabilities	<u>\$157,322,582</u>
--------------------------------	----------------------

# Voting Schedule

Members may cast their votes for board candidates in the 2021 election at the times and locations listed below.

## **\$50 bill credit with registration card, \$40 bill credit without registration card**

<b>Greenville office</b>	525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246	Aug. 27 – Sept. 10 from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Sept. 1 & Sept. 9 voting extended to 7 p.m.
<b>St. Jacob warehouse</b>	10031 Ellis Road in St. Jacob	Aug. 31 & Sept. 8 from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
<b>St. Elmo warehouse</b>	2117 East 1850 Avenue in St. Elmo (frontage road at the I-70 St. Elmo exit)	Sept. 2 & Sept. 7 from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

**Members must bring the registration card on the back cover of this publication to receive the additional \$10 bill credit.**

## **\$30 bill credit with registration card, \$20 bill credit without registration card**

<b>Bond County Fairgrounds, St. Jacob &amp; St. Elmo warehouses</b>	Annual Meeting Day, Saturday, Sept. 11, 9-10 a.m.
---	--

**Members must bring the registration card on the back cover of this publication to receive the additional \$10 bill credit.**

# Additional Voting Information

Commercial and inactive members, please note the following:

### **Commercial Memberships**

Commercial (business) members are advised that any representative wishing to vote will be asked to present satisfactory evidence that this person has been assigned to act as an agent of the business. A commercial member, just like any other, is entitled to a single vote in cooperative elections.

### **Inactive Memberships**

Only active members of the co-op are eligible to vote in the election.



# Credentials & Election Committee

The Credentials & Election Committee is responsible for presiding over the vote and determining the validity of the results.

## 2021 Credentials & Election Committee Members

### **District I:** *Macoupin, Madison and St. Clair Counties*

Ted Flath	2712 Old Staunton Road	Edwardsville, IL 62025
Kenneth Grotefendt	8243 Fruit Road	Edwardsville, IL 62025
John Sedlacek	633 Cedar Road	Saint Jacob, IL 62281

### **District II:** *Bond, Clinton and Montgomery Counties*

Steven Laesch	1357 Illinois Route 127	Greenville, IL 62246
Ron Jarrett	445 Round Prairie Avenue	Greenville, IL 62246
Hal Langham	1355 Airport Avenue	Greenville, IL 62246

### **District III:** *Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Marion and Shelby Counties*

Angela Reeter	2206 Zent Drive	Vandalia, IL 62471
Pete Burnam	2065 South Lake Drive	Vandalia, IL 62471
Brad Stein	1503 N 2000 Street	Brownstown, IL 62418

Linemen Jimmy Revisky (left) and Adam French and construction foreman Douglas Haarmann (right) position a new pole outside Altamont Substation. Opposite page: Crews upgrade Hookdale Substation.



## BOARD CANDIDATE PROFILES - DISTRICT I



**William "Bill"  
Jennings**  
Incumbent  
District I  
Alhambra

Since being elected to the cooperative's board of directors in 2018, Bill Jennings has made it his mission to identify and define challenges and opportunities in the energy industry as they relate to Southwestern Electric Cooperative (SWECL) members. Jennings completed an extensive curriculum developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), earning the organization's Director Gold Certification in 2020. Through his course studies, he cultivated relationships with industry personnel, co-op directors, and expert instructors from across the country — resources he can call on.

If reelected, Jennings will apply his training and experience to fulfilling the key roles of a director: advocate, regulator and fiduciary. "Over the last three years, I've realized how interwoven these roles are, in terms of representing our co-op members' interests and overseeing policies, CEO performance, financial health, and compliance with the laws/regulations that govern operations," he said.

"What needs to be kept in mind is the need to honor the commitments that have been made to our members, including rate setting, retiring capital credits, and upgrading/maintaining our infrastructure to ensure safe and reliable electricity," Jennings noted.

**"What needs to be kept in mind is the need to honor the commitments that have been made to our members, including rate setting, retiring capital credits, and upgrading/maintaining our infrastructure to ensure safe and reliable electricity."**

"Ultimately it is up to SWECL to work with generation and transmission businesses to purchase electricity affordably. The challenge for board members is to understand current agreements and determine if there are ways to

improve rates. Rates need to be monitored as the energy industry evolves and the demand for electricity rises with EV use and coal fired generators being retired. This future supply and demand relationship will need to be closely watched and acted on to ensure rates continue to be affordable."

Jennings said the board's ongoing mission is to develop and execute strategic plans that implement programs and policies that offer the greatest value to the membership. "As directors, we need to keep an open line of communication with the members, so we understand their needs," he added, noting that communication promotes transparency and accountability.

In addition to his industry training, Jennings brings 38 years of experience in requirements analysis and cost effectiveness value assessment for the Department of Defense (DoD) and Boeing Commercial Aircraft to his role as director. "The analysis skills I possess are the keys to solving problems in a comprehensive and understandable way," he said. "While the needs of SWECL may not be the same as DoD and commercial aircraft customers, the analytical process is the same."

Jennings currently chairs Southwestern's Member & Community Engagement Committee and serves on the Cyber Security Committee.

From 2007-2017, he served on the board for the Midwest Gateway Chapter of the International Council on Systems Engineering, an organization serving engineering companies in the Midwest, acting as president elect, president and past president.

In 2019, Jennings was one of 16 directors selected by NRECA to serve on a national advisory committee which provides knowledge, insight and recommendations for improvement in director duty execution. He was an adjunct professor at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

Bill Jennings has been a Southwestern Electric member since 1993. He lives on a farm near Alhambra with his wife, Patty. They have two grown children, Anna and Thomas.

## BOARD CANDIDATE PROFILES - DISTRICT I



**Phil Hocher**  
Challenger  
District I  
Collinsville

**P**hil Hocher lives on a farm that's been in his family since 1860. Born and raised in the Collinsville area, he remembers when many of the region's subdivisions and commercial districts were farm fields. While his family roots run deep into Madison County's past, Hocher is focused on building the future.

If elected to the board of directors, he intends to explore the co-op's renewable energy options. "I feel we should be looking at the future and trying to think of what our needs will be," he said. "I feel that as a co-op, we need to embrace renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, and transportation such as electric vehicles."

In addition to pursuing renewable energy, if elected, he would focus on "keeping rates for our members as low as possible and keeping service at the high standards we are used to," he said. "As far as reliability and service, I feel Southwestern Electric does an exceptionally good job."

**"I feel that as a co-op, we need to embrace renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, and transportation such as electric vehicles."**

Hocher, who holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from SIU-Carbondale and an MBA from Fontbonne University, St. Louis, recently retired from Pace Construction, a St. Louis-based highway construction company. He brings more than 30 years of leadership experience to his bid for the board. "I feel serving on the board of Southwestern Electric would be an important way to help members by investing my time back into the community," Hocher said.

From 2005 through 2019, Hocher served as president of Pace Construction. "Owning and running a business gave me great experience that I look forward to using if elected to the board," he said.

In 2009 and 2016, Hocher served as chairman of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Missouri, the largest contracting organization in the state. He was chairman of the Missouri Asphalt Pavement Association in 2011, and has served as a board member of the National Asphalt Pavement Association, Associated General Contractors of America, Eastern Missouri Laborers Health and Welfare Fund, and Eastern Missouri Laborers Training School.

"Being on various boards and committees has given me particularly good experience on working with others in a boardroom setting," he said.

Hocher said that in 2015, the AGC of Missouri and the AGC of St. Louis merged. "I was instrumental in the merger from inception to finish," he said. The merger of the two associations resulted in a single, unified organization serving all of rural Missouri as well as the St. Louis metropolitan area, he noted.

Hocher currently serves as treasurer for On River Time, a non-profit organization based in Birmingham, Ala. "Its goal is to help youths from abused homes. Some children have had horrific experiences in their lives," he said. "Being on this board and donating my time to helping these youths is one of the most fulfilling things I have done."

Phil Hocher has been a Southwestern Electric member for 12 years. He lives in Collinsville with his wife, Debbie. They have two daughters, a son, and six grandchildren.

## BOARD CANDIDATE PROFILES - DISTRICT II



**Bruce Unterbrink**  
Challenger  
District II  
Greenville

**B**rUCE Unterbrink is interested in exploring the potential of electric vehicles and solar power. “I recognize these are advancing technologies becoming increasingly popular with consumers and I believe they can offer great benefits for the co-op and its members,” he said.

“I have an interest in how technology has changed the power industry, the same as it has the construction industry,” Unterbrink said. “I would like to pursue solar power for individual use and look at how the co-op could benefit by using solar power for consumer use,” he added.

Unterbrink said he would like to look for opportunities to further Southwestern Electric’s efforts in the areas of electric vehicle and solar education.

If elected, he would also like to explore options for using solar farms to lower rates while maintaining and improving infrastructure.

**“I would like to pursue solar power for individual use and look at how the co-op could benefit by using solar power for consumer use.”**

Unterbrink said he supports the co-op’s approach to providing reliable, affordable energy to the membership. “Southwestern Electric has and continues to seek out avenues for buying power at lower rates and passing the savings on to the members,” he said. “The co-op has been progressive in upgrading power lines and substations, and eliminating some power outages.” Unterbrink said he would like to help the cooperative continue to meet those objectives efficiently and effectively.

As owner and president of Bruce Unterbrink Construction Inc., a Greenville-based construction company with commercial projects in development around the country, Unterbrink has 40 years of experience in establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with architects, developers, commercial clients, and union personnel — experience he feels would serve the membership well if he were elected to serve on Southwestern’s board of directors.

While this is his first bid for a seat on Southwestern Electric’s board, Unterbrink is no stranger to board service. “I served on the Bond County Community Unit School District #2 school board for eight years, and was president for four of those years in the 1970s. As president, I sought a favorable path for teacher negotiations, with no strikes or threats of striking,” he said. “I found that a board made up of members from different backgrounds and occupations is better than a board with members who follow the same train of thought.”

If elected, Unterbrink said he would work diligently to stay current in industry trends and technology, pursue coursework in various aspects of cooperative business practices and ethics, and serve the interests of the membership to the best of his ability.

A lifelong resident of Greenville, Bruce Unterbrink was raised on Southwestern Electric lines and has a deep appreciation of his community. “My brother and I took over the farm when our father passed,” he noted. “I live at the same homestead where I grew up.”

Unterbrink has two sons, Daryn, married to Julie, and Steven, married to Chrystal. He also has five grandchildren. Most of his family resides in Greenville, not far from the family farm.

## BOARD CANDIDATE PROFILES - DISTRICT II



**Jerry Gaffner**  
Incumbent  
District II  
Greenville

**S**outhwestern Electric director Jerry Gaffner has made it a point to practice what the co-op teaches. Since being elected to the board in 2018, he's added solar technology and an electric vehicle to his farm.

"My wife and I have personally invested in a solar array that offsets some of our electrical needs, and we purchased an electric vehicle (EV) a year ago," he said. "Solar and EV are relatively new pieces of technology shaping our co-op's strategies. I felt like it was necessary for me, as a board member, to understand how these newer technologies affect both our members and our co-op. With this experience I have a unique, firsthand understanding which informs my policy decisions on the board."

Prior to running for the board, Gaffner served on Southwestern Electric's Nominating Committee for three years, assisting with the oversight and counting of ballots.

He currently serves as treasurer, chairs the co-op's Emerging Technologies Committee, and serves on the Business & Economic Development Committee and the Member & Community Engagement Committee.

**"My wife and I have personally invested in a solar array that offsets some of our electrical needs, and we purchased an electric vehicle a year ago. I felt like it was necessary for me, as a board member, to understand how these newer technologies affect both our members and our co-op."**

"It is my goal to represent our membership's interests and to ensure our energy needs are met," he said. "During the past three years, I have been challenged to learn, ask questions, represent the membership, and balance the co-op's immediate needs with long-term goals."

Gaffner sees Southwestern as a vital partner to area farms and communities. "Rates and reliability are key to that partnership," he said. "We're constantly working to ensure the co-op offers affordable, reliable power. That requires a deep understanding of energy infrastructure, margins, operating expenses, and the power contracts which drive our rate structure."

When it comes to reliability and service, Gaffner said investing in infrastructure, hiring quality employees, and implementing modern engineering technology will continue to ensure Southwestern meets the membership's energy requirements.

Gaffner, who graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics, brings a background in agricultural business to his bid for reelection. "I am president of Gaf-Fine Farms, Inc. We produce corn, soybeans and wheat, and have integrated technologies to lessen our carbon footprint," he noted. "Being self-employed requires me to think strategically in operations, and in financial and personnel issues."

In addition to serving on Southwestern's board of directors, Gaffner has served eight years on the board of HSHS Holy Family Hospital and currently serves as board chairman. "While serving on the board of directors for Greenville Regional Hospital, we transitioned from an independent hospital into the HSHS system of hospitals," he noted. "This transition stabilized our financial well-being, expanded the medical specialists serving our community and protected the long-term presence of the hospital."

From 2002-2008, Gaffner served as president of the Illinois Milk Producers Association board. He served on the Elder Board of the First Christian Church of Greenville from 2003-2010. He's also served on strategic planning committees at the University of Illinois and at Bond County Community Unit School District #2.

Jerry Gaffner has been a member of Southwestern Electric for more than 20 years. He resides on his farm northwest of Greenville with his wife, Sherri. They have three children, Jonah, Abby and Hannah.

## BOARD CANDIDATE PROFILES - DISTRICT III



**Jared Stine**  
Incumbent  
District III  
St. Elmo

**J**ared Stine describes a director's role as being an honorable and accountable representative, collaborator, communicator and visionary. It was a strong sense of commitment to community that prompted Stine to serve the members of Southwestern Electric in 2018.

Following the death of longtime director Randy Wolf, Stine was selected from a pool of member applicants to serve as a District III director. Stine said his objective is to listen, learn and build on the direction and values of the membership, and the directors who served before him. "I want to actively participate in our future," Stine said, "and our future is sustainable power for our children."

Over the last three years, Stine has worked to deepen his understanding of the energy industry. In December 2020, he was recognized as a Credentialed Cooperative Director by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). His studies focused on the attributes of good governance, fiduciary responsibility and effective advocacy — leadership elements that appeal to Stine. "My experience with NRECA drove home the idea that strategic thinking should be a consistent approach to problem solving — an on-going state of mind," Stine said. "The coursework combined with my experience as a director has deepened my understanding of cooperative principles and my duties as a member representative."

**"Efficiencies are changing our members' demands for power. To ensure affordable energy for our membership, we have to adapt to a new and evolving environment."**

Stine has played a key role in the cooperative's strategic planning sessions, in which future vision and direction are developed. "We are our membership's accountable energy partner,"

he said. "That must be front and center during board discussions. Competitive rates, reliable service, member satisfaction — these are the core elements a board must balance."

Stine currently chairs Southwestern's Scholarship Committee and serves on the co-op's Policy & Bylaws Committee and the Emerging Technologies Committee.

He would like to see the co-op continue to prioritize infrastructure improvements. "We have an aging infrastructure that must be diligently maintained and improved, as financially feasible," he said.

Stine is an advocate of new technology, including public EV charging stations. "Efficiencies are changing our members' demands for power. To ensure affordable energy for our membership, we have to adapt to a new and evolving environment," Stine said.

"Solar energy, EVs, battery storage — these are becoming household words," he said, adding that Southwestern should continue to lead the region in energy education. "I want Southwestern to be our membership's preferred resource when it comes to understanding and utilizing these technologies."

Stine would also like Southwestern to continue to investigate distributed generation and storage opportunities. "The world is rapidly changing. So is technology. This past year has shown us how quickly we may be called upon to embrace change, and find new ways to meet the needs of our membership," he said.

Stine has served on the St. Elmo Christian Church board since 2012 and the St. Elmo Community Unit School District #202 board since 2013.

Members since 2009, Jared Stine and his wife, Krista, live with their children, Sydney, 16, Anna, 15, and Wade, 13, south of St. Elmo, where with other family they operate a sixth-generation family farm.

Crews install lightning masts at Hookdale Substation south of Greenville.



## OUR TEAM

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Sandy Grapperhaus**  
Vice President  
District I  
Collinsville



**Jerry Gaffner**  
Treasurer  
District II  
Greenville



**Annette Hartlieb**  
Secretary  
District III  
Vandalia



**William "Bill" Jennings**  
District I  
Alhambra



**Sandy Nevinger**  
District II  
Greenville



**Ann Schwarm**  
President  
District III  
Loogootee



**Marvin Warner**  
District I  
Edwardsville



**Ted Willman**  
District II  
Greenville



**Jared Stine**  
District III  
St. Elmo

### PERSONNEL

#### STAFF MEMBERS

Michael Barns, *Art Director*  
Victor Buehler, *Vice President of Information Technology*  
Dylan Casey, *Manager of Engineering*  
Susan File, *Vice President of Member Services*  
Veronica Forbis, *Manager of Billing*  
Leslie Frandsen, *Vice President of Billing*  
Nathan Grimm, *Media Specialist*  
Thaddius Intraivaia, *Director of Information Technology*  
Becky Jacobson, *Chief Financial Officer*  
Andrew Jones, *Vice President of Business Development & Marketing*  
Carrie Knebel, *Vice President of Human Resources*  
Julie Lowe, *Energy Manager*  
Joe Richardson, *Vice President of Communications*  
Brooke Scott, *Executive Assistant*  
Neil Sperandio, *Manager of Operations*  
Bobby Williams, *Chief Executive Officer*  
Michael Willman, *Vice President of Operations*

#### GREENVILLE

##### Office & Engineering Personnel

Annette Brown, *Meter Technician*  
Casey Eberlin, *GIS Technician*  
Tammie Frank, *Dispatcher*  
Barb Frerker, *Member Services Representative*  
Laura Gall, *Accounting Clerk*  
Natalie Goestenkors, *Dispatcher*  
Renee Harnetiaux, *Work Order Coordinator*  
Cheryl Hebenstreit, *Cashier/Receptionist*  
Kim Jackson, *Dispatcher*  
Tracy Kuttin-Ferguson, *Purchasing Agent*  
Kathleen Lewey, *Staking Engineer*  
Dean Schnurbusch, *Senior Staking Engineer*

Lauren Schoen, *Member Services Representative*  
Holly Thiems, *IT Technical Support*  
Ashley Towler, *Accounting Clerk*  
Marilyn VanUytven, *Payroll & Benefits Specialist*  
Jo Ellen Wharton, *Member Services Representative*  
Debbie Whicker, *Member Services Representative*  
Jessica Whitehead, *Member Services Representative*

##### Maintenance & Construction Personnel

Mark Chasteen, *Construction Foreman*  
Patrick Harris, Sr. *Warehouseman/ Groundman/Truck Driver*  
Jimmy Revisky, *Journeyman Lineman*  
Eric Rodgers, *1st Class Mechanic*  
Adam Simmonds, *Journeyman Lineman*  
Clayton Snyder, *1st Class Mechanic*  
Scott Wollerman, *Maintenance Foreman*  
Matthew Waters, *Journeyman Lineman*

##### Meter Department

Scott Fitzgerald, *Foreman/Polyphase Meterman & Tester*  
Chris Schmid, *Lineman/Polyphase Meterman & Tester*

##### Forestry Department

Chris Hamby, *Forestry Journeyman*  
Daniel Page, *Forestry Journeyman*  
Keith Steiner, *Forestry Foreman*

#### ST. JACOB

##### Office & Engineering Personnel

Mary Curry, *Staking Engineer*  
Brian Mills, *Staking Engineer*  
Vincent Sanvi, *Staking Engineer*

Carla Schneider, *Member Services Representative*  
Becky Spratt, *Member Services Representative*

##### Maintenance & Construction Personnel

Tim Atterberry, *Journeyman Lineman*  
Brian Bast, *Journeyman Lineman*  
Braden Clark, *Journeyman Lineman*  
Leo Dublo, *Maintenance Foreman*  
Tyler Isaak, *Construction Foreman*  
Tyler Kunz, *Journeyman Lineman*  
Joel LaFrance, *System-wide Troubleshooter/Maintenance Foreman*  
Sonny Lampe, Sr. *Warehouseman/ Groundman/Truck Driver*  
Rick Mersinger, *Maintenance Foreman*  
Rob Nesbit, *Maintenance Foreman*  
Josiah Roberts, *2nd Step Apprentice Lineman*  
Andy Wessel, *Construction Foreman*

##### Forestry Department

Jared Tebbe, *Forestry Journeyman*  
Robert Wright, *Forestry Foreman*

#### ST. ELMO FACILITY

Adam French, *Journeyman Lineman*  
Ethan Fulk, *Journeyman Lineman*  
Douglas Haarmann, *Construction Foreman*  
Kyle Hails, *Maintenance Foreman*  
Todd Hodson, Sr. *Warehouseman/ Groundman/Truck Driver*  
Tyler Meseke, *Journeyman Lineman*

#### FREEDOM POWER STATION

David Brandt, *Power Plant Technician*  
Russell Gilbert, *General Manager*  
Leo Leonhard, *Power Plant Technician*

**VOTER REGISTRATION CARD 2021** *Please sign and present this card at the registration table.*

**83rd Annual Meeting of Members**

Saturday, September 11, 2021



Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enroll me in Operation Round Up**

**PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION**

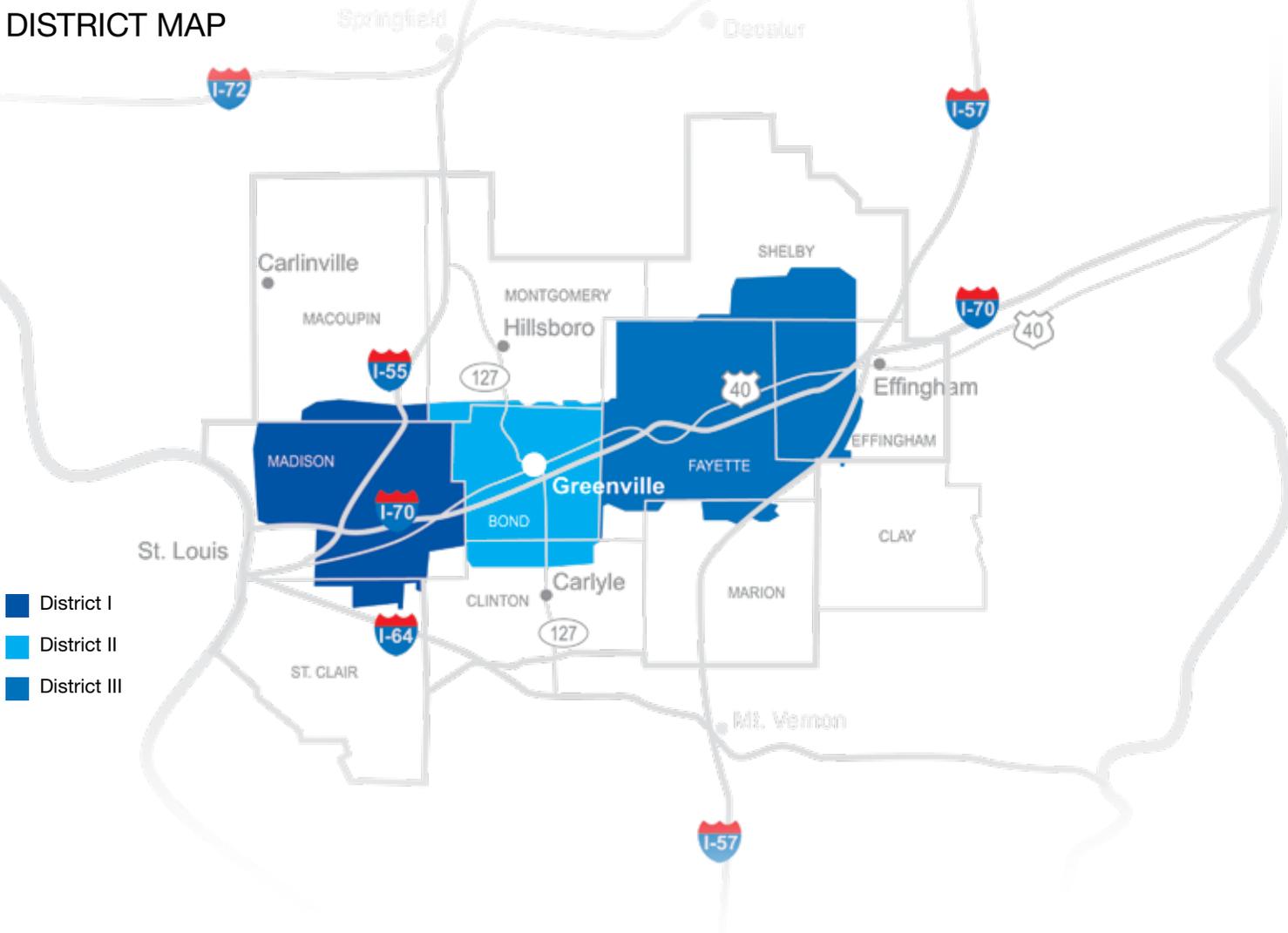
Home Phone # (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fill out and present this registration card to receive an additional \$10 bill credit!**

**DISTRICT MAP**





**S**outhwestern  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

