

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2017



NineStar CONNECTION

VOLUME 6
ISSUE 1

ANNUAL MEETING

NineStar's 64th
annual event will
include dinner,
entertainment and
the chance to vote for
directors

INSIDE

MEET AND GREET

Get to know your
NineStar Connect District
Director candidates.

INSIDE

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SEE PAGE 4

LET'S CONNECT AT NINESTAR'S ANNUAL MEETING

NINESTAR
PLAYS
HOST
TO 64TH
ANNUAL

MEET YOUR
2017 DIRECTOR
CANDIDATES
INSIDE
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MORE THAN JUST A MEETING

Voting for local, state and national political positions is an extremely important part of your civic duty as an American, and a right we shouldn't take lightly. As a cooperative member, you also have the right to vote for your co-op's leadership. Each year NineStar hosts an annual meeting and one of the to-do's at that meeting is to vote for directors who will serve as your voice on the board.

But voting isn't the only reason to attend NineStar's annual meeting. Here are many more reasons to attend:

- Socialize! Catch up with neighbors, family and friends you don't normally see.
- Food! Enjoy a nice sit down dinner catered by Jonathan Byrds.
- Entertainment! While members register and wait for the meeting to start, you will be shown a slideshow which illustrates the latest information on NineStar Connect.
- Information! Explore programs offered from NineStar that will help you and your family.
- Politics! Meet your legislators who often attend to visit with constituents. This is an opportunity to talk with them personally about the issues that face your community.
- Win Prizes! Everyone is given a takeaway gift from the meeting but stay for the meeting and you might be eligible for one of our many cash prizes!
- Learn! You're never too old to learn new things. You will hear the latest on NineStar's services and what's to come.
- Meet! Meet the employees who make NineStar run. Put a face with a name, shake hands with the CEO and meet the directors that represent the district you live in.
- Hear! Find out what NineStar is doing in the next year to provide safe, reliable services to your home or business.
- Ask! Ask questions. Now is your chance to do that.
- Vote! Again, now is your chance to vote for the board of directors who will set policy for NineStar Connect. The annual meeting is your opportunity to have a voice in your member-owned co-op.



OUR EMPLOYEES MAKE
THE DIFFERENCE. HERE'S A
CUSTOMER REVIEW FOR JAMES.

"JAMES COULDN'T
HAVE DONE A BETTER
JOB FOR ME! HE
WAS PROFESSIONAL,
KNOWLEDGEABLE AND
RESPECTFUL."



- MICHELE W.

Customer service is at the tips of
your fingers. NineStar Connect's
tech support call center is open
around the clock. **317-326-help**
ninestarconnect.com

STORY IDEA?

Contact **David Spencer** at
dspencer@ninarconnect.com

COVER STORY PAGES 4-5

Later this month, NineStar will be celebrating its 64th annual meeting and celebration at Greenfield-Central High School.

OPERATION ROUND-UP PAGES 8

NineStar Connect's Operation Round-Up Committee donated to more area groups this past quarter.

NINESTAR TV SOON TO BE SHOWN IN HD PAGE 9

Starting in a couple of week's, viewers can see these shows and many more in stunning High Definition!

NINESTAR HOSTS NERD NIGHT PAGE 11

In December, the NineStar Network/Technology Department hosted an Internet Streaming seminar to be able to learn different ways of how you can watch your favorite television programs.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Last month the
NineStar board
of directors and
management
team worked
a shift at the
Kenneth Butler
Memorial Soup
Kitchen.

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The **NineStar Connection** is a publication of NineStar Connect servicing retail and residential customers. Nearly 15,000 families and businesses receive this newspaper as part of their membership. **NineStar Connection** provides news, information and features about people, places and issues related to readers.

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NineStar Connection

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DISTRICT 8



DAVID G. HELLER

DISTRICT 9



RICHARD WALKER

DISTRICT 10



SHELLY KLEIMAN

AT LARGE



KIM CRONK



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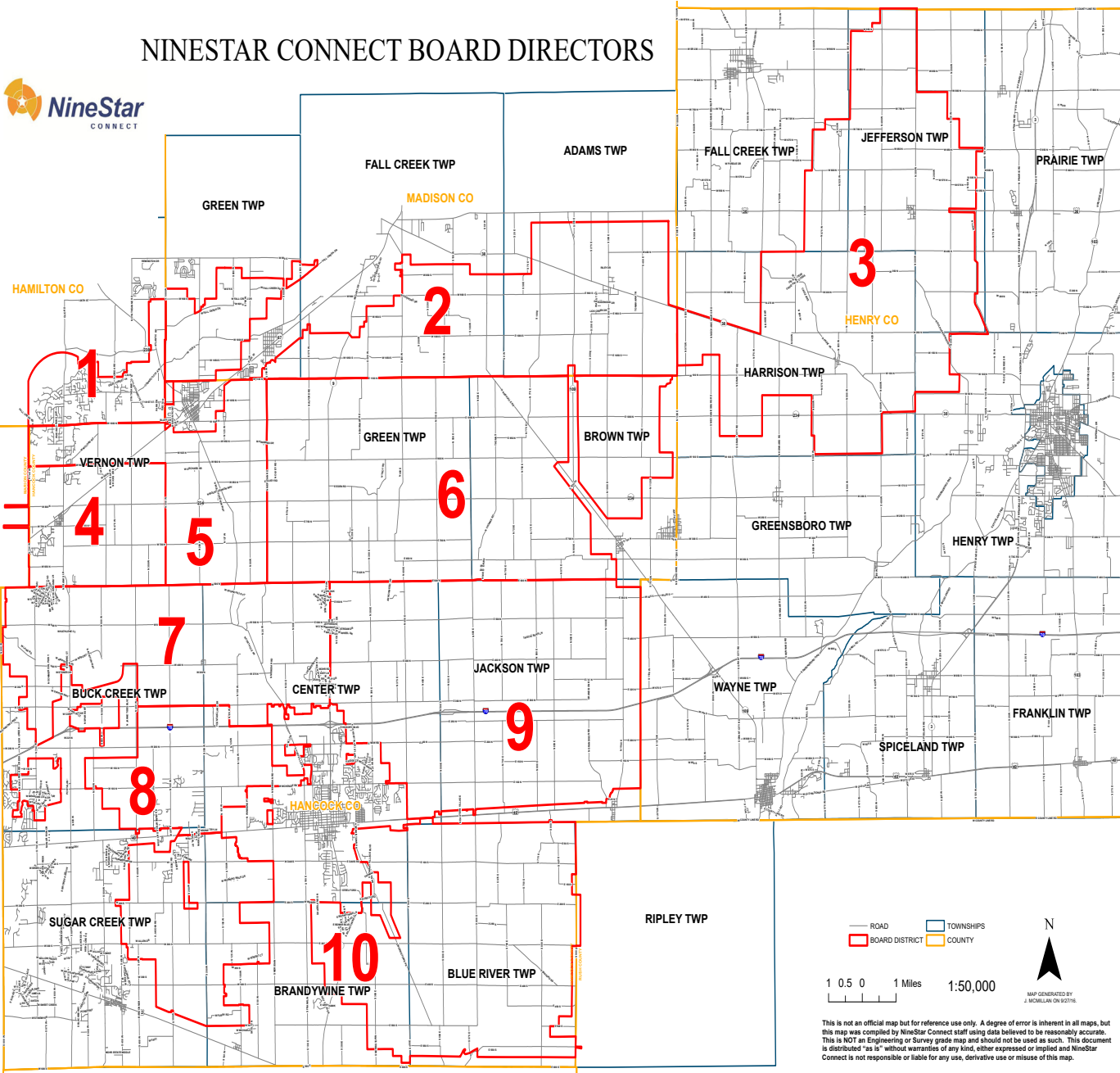
AT LARGE



PHILIP M. HAYES



RONNIE MOHR



LET'S CONNECT AT NINESTAR'S ANNUAL MEETING

Looking for an evening filled with food, family-friendly fun, as well as the latest information on emerging innovations and services? Then you'll want to save the date for NineStar Connect's Annual Meeting, which will be held on March 24, 2017 at Greenfield-Central High School. The entire membership is invited to take part in the festivities, which includes a catered dinner, workshops presented by NineStar experts and free childcare and entertainment for the 10 and under set.

"This is a very special event that we are proud to host every year and we can't wait for our members to see what we have in store for them," said NineStar Marketing Coordinator Christa Riggs.

Dinner will begin at 5 p.m. and will once again be provided by Jonathon Byrd's Catering, the official

catering company of the Indianapolis Colts. This year, the menu includes a choice of two entrees (chicken or fish) as well as mashed potatoes, corn, green beans, cole slaw and assorted desserts. Kids in attendance will be treated to pizza at their own party, which will include face painting, balloon animals

WRITTEN BY

**JULIE
YOUNG**

and a visit from Hedgehog Hannah, who will show off a collection of exotic animals including a wallaby, arctic fox and chameleon.

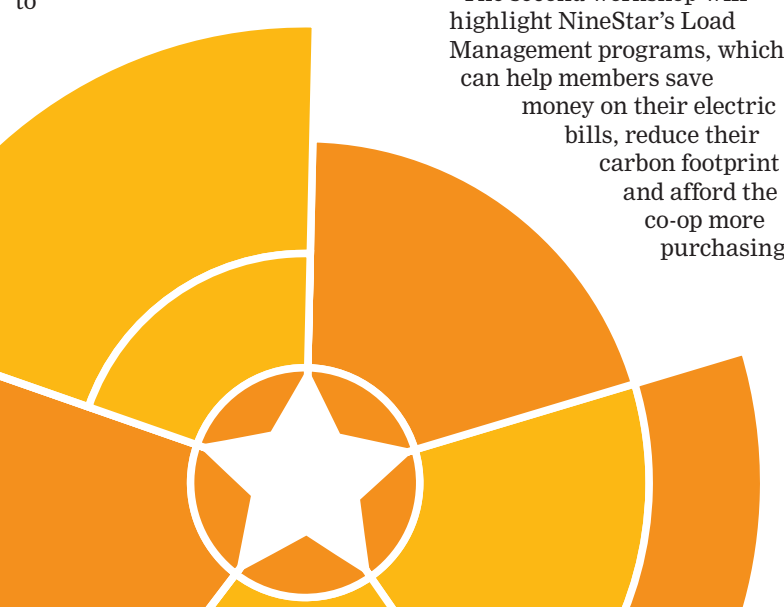
"There will be about 12 animals presented and there will be a few surprises in store for our guests that I can't share," Riggs said. "Over the past few years, we have separated the big kids from the little ones, but Hedgehog Hannah is the kind of entertainment all ages can enjoy. Last year we had 38 kids in attendance and we hope to have even more come out this year to see the menagerie."

While the kids head off to where the wild things are, grown ups will have the opportunity to learn about some of the latest products and services NineStar has to offer with two workshops

geared to help folks become acquainted with the newest innovative ideas.

"NineStar is perceived to be an innovative company and we are always working to expand our products and services in new and exciting ways," Riggs said. "That is the only way that we will remain progressive and these workshops allow the membership to hear about new products, meet with the experts who know all of the ins and outs and find out what kind of impact these products will have on their lives."

The first workshop is centered on NineStar's TV streaming service, which includes the Watch TV Everywhere app as well as accessibility to other streaming plans such as Netflix, Hulu and PlayStation (PS) Vue. Shira Dankner, NineStar's Network Operations Manager, says television viewing audiences are increasingly interested in ala carte programming and binge watching current favorites. This service will not only allow access to top-notch movies, but also enables them to watch favorite past and present television shows, as well as original content and live TV.



ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, March 24
Greenfield-Central
High School
5 p.m. Dinner and
workshops begin
6:30 p.m. Meeting
(including presentation
of scholarship winners,
and election of Board
of Directors)

Catering by Jonathon
Byrd's

Door prizes and cash
prizes will be awarded
(must be present to
win)

Free childcare for kids
10 and under (pizza
will be provided as
well as face painting,
balloon animals and
a presentation from
Hedgehog Hannah)

one's home TV, but is also accessible on the go through a smart phone and mobile app.

"We had a NineStar Nerds night on this product and it was amazing how many members didn't realize it was available to them," said Dankner. "We hope this workshop will help spread awareness about the service and show what an added value it is to our membership."

The second workshop will highlight NineStar's Load Management programs, which can help members save money on their electric bills, reduce their carbon footprint and afford the co-op more purchasing

power. Members who choose the Time-Of-Use program volunteer to shift their power use to off-peak hours of the day while those who sign up for the PowerShift program allow the co-op to cycle off their hot water heaters and/or central air conditioning systems during periods of high demand with a simple switch.

Ninestar Facilities and Special Programs Manager, Brad Henderson will present the workshop, which he says will highlight the benefits members will enjoy when they choose to take part in one of these programs. In addition to helping the co-op save money when purchasing electricity and doing something positive for the environment, those who switch to Time-Of-Use rates may see a 10-15 percent savings on their monthly bill while PowerShift participants can receive up to \$60 in rebates when they have the switch installed.

"Many of our members will remember when we had a similar program that started back in 1981," he said. "It's a pretty basic program that is designed to cycle off appliances for a short period of time during peak demands but in such a way that our members don't even realize that it is happening. The goal of the workshop is to minimize any concerns or fears that members may have and show how it can be a benefit to everyone."

In addition, members who attend the annual meeting will have the opportunity to vote on the new board of directors, listen as NineStar announces the winners of 15 scholarships of \$1,000 each and have the opportunity to win cash giveaways and door prizes as well.

"We really try to be creative and offer something different every year so that our membership stays engaged with the co-op and remains invested in what it is doing," says Riggs. "We want to continue expanding our products and services and we need membership feedback, so be sure to come out and be part of this very special event."

MEET & GREET

NINESTAR PLAYS HOST TO 64TH ANNUAL MEETING

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATE

MICHAEL W. DULIN

BACKGROUND:

Michael Dulin has been a cooperative member in excellent standing since 2013. Enthusiastic, motivated, hands on executive with more than 20 years of



admirable experience in environmental services, logistics and transportation, with ability to execute complex, resource intensive projects and corresponding budgets. Michael has a proven track record in business management and a verifiable record to grow market share while expanding service offerings. Michael is a results-oriented professional who displays a responsible and positive attitude in dealing with and resolving conflicts and challenges in the community and municipalities.

Michael started his career in the solid waste industry overseeing multiple collection and disposal operations, interacting with government officials, growing business through municipal contracts and the private sector. All while growing his business that now spreads across USA, MX, CA, he always understands the fundamentals of a successful

organization. Those key metrics are ensuring a highly engaged workforce, safety a priority, and the highest standards of service and customer experience.

Michael is a transplant Hoosier having spent his childhood in Kentucky, where he received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Environmental Management from University of Kentucky. He was raised in a small rural farm community, where today his family actively farms and Michael also continues to support. He is a grounded individual that understands all levels of the organization, and how to interact with outside agencies that impact the growth of a business.

Michael currently is an Executive with Heritage Environmental Services where he oversees all operations and profit and losses associated with Heritage assets and people throughout the USA, MX, and Canada.

Michael is a member of Geist Christian Church and is an active coach in youth girl's sports (Basketball and Softball). Michael is married to his wife Felicia and has two daughters Lily and Madilyn.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

Michael Dulin Key Attributes To Board of Directors

1. Long-Term Strategic Planning – Gain of Market Share: Understands how to differentiate services to customers and add services. The ability to compete in this segment may require more bundled services,

expanding territory and understand market segment compared to competition.

2. Deep understanding of municipalities – their needs and negotiations: Having dealt with local and state leaders in my career I understand zoning, desires of political arena for their communities, and ability to negotiate fair and equitable contracts. A desire to create an improved environment for people in our communities.

3. Assisting an organization to become an industry leader: Ensure the market growth, and reward our employees and our customers. To help craft a path to ensure the organization is an industry leader that understands that an engaged workforce ensures best in class service, desire to expand service offerings in sewer, water, electric, communications and beyond.

DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATE

CHRIS JETER

BACKGROUND:

Chris Jeter has been a cooperative member since 2014. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Oklahoma Baptist



University and then obtained his law degree from The George Washington University.

Mr. Jeter is the founder/partner of Massillamany & Jeter

LLP, a small firm in downtown Fishers. He previously was an attorney with Barnes & Thornburg LLP. Prior to private practice, Mr. Jeter spent seven years as an active duty JAG Officer in the United States Navy. He serves as secretary of both the Hamilton East Public Library Board and the Fishers Economic Development Commission. He also is a member of the Indiana State Bar Association Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

Chris was born and raised in Hamilton County, moving to Fishers in 1980. His law firm has grown to seven people and is in downtown Fishers. In 2012, he was released from active duty in the Navy and returned to his hometown. Chris and his wife Karen have one eighteen-month-old daughter, Macelyn "Macy," and currently reside in Fishers.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

I have been incredibly impressed with NineStar since being a member. I like what this cooperative is about and the way they are providing value to customers. I want to help NineStar get exposure to residents in the Fortville, McCordsville, and the Fishers area. I have a unique background and perspective as an attorney and long-time member of this community. I am very energetic and committed. I will commit 100 percent to understanding the NineStar culture, history and goals. I will work hard to ensure the cooperative's value is known to more residents in my district. I have read a lot about the interesting and unique history of this cooperative and I am impressed with the way it operates and the level of service it provides. I have made it my mission since returning from the Navy to find ways to help my community and add value to people's lives.

DISTRICT 7 CANDIDATE

BEVERLY GARD

BACKGROUND:

Beverly Gard has been a cooperative member for 29 years. She received her Bachelors of Science in Chemistry from the University of Tennessee at



Chattanooga and did her graduate work at UT Medical School in Memphis. She is now retired but was a Biochemist for Eli Lilly for three years and then an Indiana State Senator for over 24 years.

Beverly has served 3 years on the NineStar board and is currently the Secretary-Treasurer. She was Chairman of the Indiana Senate Energy and Environment Committee for many years. She chaired the Environment Committee for the National Conference of State Legislators, authored legislation on behalf of Indiana Electric Cooperatives and small telecom companies while serving in the State Senate. Beverly testified before a U.S. Senate Committee on federal air quality policies as they affected Indiana and was invited to discuss energy issues with President George W. Bush. Mrs. Gard currently is serving on the Hancock County Public Library Board of Trustees, is Chairman of the State of Indiana Environmental Rules Board, Commissioner of the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission, is the Administrative Board Secretary for Bradley United Methodist Church and member of Indiana Farm Bureau.

Beverly and her husband Don reside in Greenfield and have two adult sons, David and Douglas.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

Serving the past three years on the Board of Directors has been a rewarding experience. I would like to continue to use my background to help NineStar continue to strive for excellence in the services the company offers. Sound financial management and product diversification are necessary to keep services affordable to NineStar members. Federal regulations continue to challenge the affordability of utility services making strong board and administrative leadership essential for the Cooperative. Through my work on public policy issues concerning utilities, I have been able to use that experience to help NineStar as they expand services. Affordability and reliability of services are essential as NineStar strives to bring the best technology to Cooperative members. NineStar is a pioneer in the world of cooperatives and I would consider it a privilege to continue to serve on the Board of Directors.

DISTRICT 8 CANDIDATE DAVID G. HELLER

BACKGROUND:

David Heller has been a cooperative member since 1965. He received his Bachelor and Master Degrees in Education from Ball State University. He has various leadership and educational planning skills while working as a Teacher and later a Principal for the Mt. Vernon Community School Cooperation. David has been on the NineStar Connect Board of Directors for 32 years.

For five years, Mr. Heller was an Educational and Leadership Consultant for National Rural Electric where he taught classes to cooperative directors. He also served as President of the Indiana Principals Leadership Academy. He is a lifetime member of the Methodist Church (Otterbein UM Church) and has been a Sunday School Teacher and Lay Leader.

David and his wife Shirley live in Greenfield and raised two sons, Trent and Todd.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

The NineStar Cooperative has been extremely busy over the course of the past six years. We have deployed Gig capable broadband networks, integrated automated meter networks, and are busy planning our new water and sewer networks. Hopefully, we will address the concerns of the 2/3 of Hancock County that do not have access to water and sewer providers. While many challenges remain to be addressed, we are approaching these challenges with one thing in mind: We are committed to being a local company under local control providing local service to the members and the communities it serves. I have been honored to be a part of this planning. I respectfully seek your support as we go forward in the future.

DISTRICT 9 CANDIDATE RAYMOND KERKHOF

BACKGROUND:

Raymond Kerkhof has been a cooperative member since 1975.



He graduated from Greenfield Central High School and then received his Bachelor's Degree from Purdue University.

He has been through management and leadership training in the cooperative system and is employed with Harvestland Coop as an Ag Center Manager. He also is a share holder and President of 3-K Farms Inc. (the family farming operation) where he has worked since graduating from Purdue. Ray also serves on the Farm Credit Nominating Committee for Indiana.

Mr. Kerkhof is a member of Trinity Park United Methodist Church, Hancock County Farm Bureau, and has served on Greenfield Central's School Board, Hancock Regional Hospital Foundation and Hancock County Extension Board.

Ray and his wife Pam live just outside of Greenfield and have two sons; Chad and Nick and one daughter, Brandi.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

I have worked as a manager for a cooperative for thirty-five plus years and understand the value of the cooperative system. I have also served as an officer on various boards in Hancock County and have been responsible for a number of projects. Growing up as a young man I attended REMC annual meetings and have watched the Hancock Rural Telephone Cooperative progress and develop their communications network. The merger of the two cooperatives has provided the membership a number of opportunities including the addition of water and sewer to the district. But with new opportunities comes new challenges. It is my hope to offer my experiences of the past to the Board of NineStar Connect to meet those future challenges and opportunities.

DISTRICT 9 CANDIDATE RICHARD WALKER

BACKGROUND:

Richard Walker has been a cooperative member since 1966. He graduated from Charlottesville High School. He has worked with the Hancock County Sheriff's Department for 30 years and



worked security at The Hancock Regional Hospital for 26 years. Richard is self-employed and owner of Walker Farms.

Mr. Walker has served on the NineStar Connect Board of Directors for the last three years. He attends Browns Chapel Christian Church. He has lived and farmed in Jackson Township all of his life and still continues to farm with the help of his two sons, Scott and Brian.

Richard lives in Charlottesville and has three children.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

As a Director of NineStar, I have worked to get more people in my area with services. I have some of the services and it has been a great help having the internet and having good service to go along with it. NineStar is a growing company and can do more for the communities and members. It has been a privilege to be a director and serve on the board the past 3 years. It has been harder to be on the board with it being two companies in one and growing into a lot more. It's a winning opportunity for my area, the county, and members. With your vote I will work for a better future for all of us with NineStar. I know with the help of the other board members we can help make NineStar a growing company and will serve the members better into the future.

AT-LARGE CANDIDATE KIM CRONK

BACKGROUND:

Kim Cronk has been a cooperative member since 1989. He



graduated from Shenandoah High School and then received his Bachelor's Degree in Education from Ball State

University. He then went into the Law Enforcement Academy. He has attended several certified educational programs in telecommunications and electricity.

Mr. Cronk has held the position of Henry County Sheriff for 8 years, has served on the Henry County Council and is currently serving as Henry County Commissioner. Kim was a Henry County Deputy Sheriff for 35 years and was a member of the Shenandoah School Board. He is also a member of the National & Indiana Sheriff's Association, Fraternal Order of Police, and Telecommunication and Electrical Associations.

He lives in rural Henry County and has served citizens in Henry and Hancock Counties for almost 40 years in various capacities. Kim and his wife Nila have two children, Lauren and Leanna.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

During the past 20 years, it has been an honor to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for NineStar Connect. I have been fortunate to attend numerous educational conferences which has provided many hours of educational training in the ever changing world of telecommunications and electricity. During my tenure as a director, I have always strived to be a progressive board member promoting the progressive business practices of NineStar. Also being a cooperative, the other board members and I also take pride in the fact that NineStar is owned by its members of the coop and is a not-for-profit organization always promoting "customer service" and "quality of service" as our primary objective. As your incumbent director, I hope to be able to continue this very progressive business.

AT-LARGE CANDIDATE J. STEVEN DOTY

BACKGROUND:

Steve Doty has been a cooperative member since 1970. Steve attended Vernon Township



High School in Fortville, graduating in 1961. He then attended Purdue University earning his Bachelor

of Science degree in 1965. He is retired, having worked for General Motors in Anderson for 36 years, serving in various positions such as Quality Manager and Plant Manager. He resides with his wife on a Hoosier Homestead Farm north of Fortville (Madison County) which has been in the family since 1868. They are proud parents and grandparents. Steve has served in the U S Army and is a Vietnam Veteran. His passion for over 40 years has been honey bees. He is a past president of the state of Indiana Beekeepers' Association; present coordinator of the East Central IBA and past president of the Madison County Master Gardeners (a gold member with over 2000 volunteer hours).

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

I want to ensure that NineStar Connect continues to address its mission of continuous improvement. It is presently a leader locally and regionally in the electric and telecommunication industry. It is apparent that has been attained through the hard work and passion of both the Board of Directors and the entire staff of NineStar Connect. I would like to become a board member and to see that this new cooperative continues to be recognized by its peers and members as one of the "best in the business". It would be a privilege to be a board member and represent the members of NineStar Connect. I would appreciate your support.

AT-LARGE CANDIDATE ROBERT D. LANE

BACKGROUND:

Robert Lane has been a cooperative member since 1984. He is a Mt. Vernon High School graduate. Robert has spent 30 years in the water and wastewater field. He currently holds Class B, II & WT-3 licenses.



Mr. Lane is currently retired but served as Assistant Superintendent for Greenfield Water and previous Superintendent for Water & Sewer in Fortville. He also was the Sewer Plant Operator for

Eli Lilly. He volunteered for the McCordsville Fire Department, Mt. Comfort Fire Department, Hancock County Sheriff Reserves, board member of 4-H Ag Association on first building committee, Trustee of Mohawk United Methodist Church and is a member of Eden Lodge 477 M.M. He also helps farm with his son in Hancock and Henry Counties.

Robert currently lives in McCordsville with his wife Debi and has two grown children, Jeremy and Carey.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

On NineStar's acquisition of water and sewer, I feel I could help the board with decisions pulling from my years of operating and designing new facilities. I have worked with several engineering firms on planning and implementing new technology - Scada, Chemical, Injection, etc. Except the two years in the service (November 1971 - August 1973), I have lived in Hancock County and have a vested interest in the community.

AT-LARGE CANDIDATE LARRY LONGMAN

BACKGROUND:

Larry Longman has been a cooperative member since 2003. Larry received his Bachelors of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Purdue University, West Lafayette. He also completed the Dale Carnegie Institute



Leadership series. He has volunteered in numerous positions for the Town of McCordsville on the BZA, Plan Commission and Redevelopment Commission. Larry is currently serving his second elected term serving as Council President. He is also a member and small group leader of Harvest Church.

Mr. Longman is a Senior Vice President for the Lauth Group, Inc. He has been with Lauth for over 12 years and has progressed from the director level to his current title. He previously worked for Duke Realty for 8 years. As a manager of a business unit/delivery platform in a real estate

development company, he is well versed in analyzing information & data and arriving at solutions that benefit Operational platforms that must make a profit.

Larry is a 2008 Hoosier Fellow and has been twice recognized by Junior Achievement as a finalist for Indy's Best & Brightest in Real Estate & Construction. He actively supports Mt. Vernon Community Schools through a Growth Task Force, has been a girls' softball coach at OYO and has supported United Way programs. Larry currently resides in McCordsville with his wife Jennifer and their two daughters, Emme and Avery.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

I want to be a Director for NineStar Connect in order to grow our customer base, ensure utility reliability and maintain competitive rates within our service territories. I have utility installation and maintenance experience as both a real estate developer and a Municipal Utility Board Member. Utility reliability is a major component of complete customer satisfaction in both of these facets. There are challenges ahead in maintaining the integrity of our electrical infrastructure, simultaneous with new opportunities through the water & sewer service territories. I recognize the importance of planning, financing and undertaking the capital improvements necessary to enhance our service platform for our Members. The NineStar Connect utility service platform sets the stage to strengthen economic development and gain new members throughout a large portion of Hancock County. As such, I want to be part of guiding our Utility Cooperative as a successful partner in Economic Growth and Development.

AT-LARGE CANDIDATE TIMOTHY W. PLANK

BACKGROUND:

Tim Plank has been a cooperative member since 1974. He attended Lincoln Technical Institute for Auto & Diesel



and Purdue University, Agriculture Short Course program. He has served as Vernon Township Trustee for 6 years, Hancock County Commissioner for 4 years and served on the Vernon Township Board for 6 years.

After 40 years of employment and ownership, Mr. Plank sold Fortville Tire Center, Inc. and is now retired. He is a member of Mohawk United Methodist Church and served as member or chair on several committees. He also has served as officer on Buck Creek Volunteer Fire Department and McCordsville Fire Department. Tim also served on the Membership Advisory Board of Central Indiana Power.

He has lived in the McCordsville and Mt. Comfort area since January 1965 when his parents moved from Knightstown and currently lives in McCordsville. Tim and his wife Sandra have three adult children; Krista, Joshua and Ashley and two stepchildren, Ritchie and Stacey. He also has 11 grandchildren.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

I believe for myself, it would be an honor to serve on the Board of Directors of NineStar Connect. Hopefully, I could use some of the knowledge and plans I used while working and then owning Fortville Tire Center, Inc. for 40 plus years. Things like customer service, budgeting, financing and keeping employees working as a team for the company, not just for a paycheck. I believe that my experience from being Vernon Township Trustee for six years, Vernon Township Board member for six years and Hancock County Commissioner for four years could be an asset for serving as a director. Having just retired in August 2016, I now have time to commit to serve as a Director of NineStar Connect. If I'm chosen for director, I look forward to working with all the other directors and management of NineStar Connect.

AT-LARGE CANDIDATE KAYE WOLVERTON

BACKGROUND:

Kaye Wolverton has been a cooperative member since 1989. She graduated from Apex Associates and Lasalle Interior Design. She has also specialized and trained in marketing, Water Tech Schools & Business, ADT Training & Business and has taken classes in insurance.



Mrs. Wolverton is currently self-employed. She has been an entrepreneur of 10 businesses. She has also held several positions including Past President of Noblesville Chamber of Commerce, Past President of Greater Anderson Business Club, Carmel Chamber of Commerce, Anderson Chamber of Commerce and Indiana Chamber. Kaye is a current board member of the South Madison School Corporation.

Her mission in life is to conserve mother earth and capital. She has a heart for humanity and believes in capitalism and a great America. Kaye and her husband Thomas reside in Markleville and have grown children.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

I believe NineStar is a remarkable company with much potential to benefit its membership and the community in which it services. The leadership is exceptional. I believe in team work and transparency. The goals that NineStar has outlined as their future mission, I also believe in. My 45 years in businesses from water, air, waste, CNG, natural gas, utilities, demolition, acquisitions, mergers, contracts, mediations, medical waste, marketing, negotiations and other life skills give NineStar lots of experience on the board. My family and friends are very important and the public I am devoted to as serving in any capacity I may be helpful. I would love to serve NineStar and the NineStar community with an open mind, team spirit, and always striving to promote the greatness that NineStar offers.



NINESTAR'S DARRIN COUCH HONORED BY BAGI

Darrin Couch was recently honored by the Builder's Association of Greater Indianapolis (BAGI) at their annual awards gala. The event, held at the Biltwell Event Center in Indianapolis was attended by many builders and construction experts in Central Indiana. Darrin was presented with the 2016 Associate of the Year Award. For several years Darrin has worked closely with this group concerning education and assistance with products and service offerings provided by NineStar. Attending the event with Darrin was his wife, Paula.

COMMUNITY



NINESTAR VOLUNTEERS AT THE KENNETH BUTLER MEMORIAL SOUP KITCHEN

Last month the NineStar board of directors and management team worked a shift at the Kenneth Butler Memorial Soup Kitchen. The idea for the day of volunteering came from board member Ronnie Mohr who thought it would be important for directors to work with management staff on a project in the community. The group showed up at 3pm and worked nonstop until past 8pm. While at the kitchen the duties included preparing and serving a meal for the guests.



OPERATION ROUND-UP

NineStar Connect's Operation Round-Up Committee meeting was held on Feb. 2 at the company's headquarters. Here are some organizations that benefited from the ORU fund this past quarter:

GIRLS ON THE RUN

Their mission is to "inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running." The core values of Girls on the Run are to encourage young girls ages 3-5th grades to be strong, stand up for themselves and to recognize their power and responsibility, along with being intentional in their decision making. "We believe that every girl can embrace who she is, can define who she wants to be, can rise to any challenge, can change the world, CAN."



GIRLS ON THE RUN

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

Located in Pendleton, Indiana, their mission is "to aim to connect individuals to God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, fight alongside warriors in the battles of their lives, and connect them to one another and to other relationships and resources in the community."

For ones that want to send in an application for Operation Round-up dollars, the next application deadline is April 13. Applications can be downloaded from our website at www.ninestarconnect.com under the Community tab.

Attention Sulphur Springs and Knightstown NineStar members: We are looking for you! The Operation Round Up Board of Trustees currently has 15 members that help decide who the Operation



MORE THAN CONQUERORS

Round Up funds are distributed to each quarter. We are actively looking for someone in the Sulphur Springs and Knightstown areas to help with deciding where these funds are dispersed. We believe that a well-rounded, diverse group of people is key in helping give a fair opinion and assessment of the donations that

are awarded. So to have ORU Trustees represented throughout our NineStar territory is important to us. If you live in either area and are interested in helping with this community outreach program, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Brad Henderson at 317-323-2714 or bhenderson@ninestarconnect.com.

NINESTAR TV SOON TO BE SHOWN IN HD

NineStar TV's original programming can currently be seen on Channel 9. Viewers have come to know and love shows like "Those Who Serve", "Renaissance Chef", "Puttin' on the Fritz", as well as local high school sporting events. Starting in a couple of week's, viewers can see these shows and many more in stunning High Definition! Equipment arrived this week that will make the upgrades possible. Please check out NineStar's Facebook page for information on when the new channel will make its debut. The new channel will be 909.



NINESTAR PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT GREENFIELD ROTARY

In January, NineStar President & CEO Michael Burrow was the guest speaker at the Greenfield Rotary Club meeting held at Ponderosa. Burrow discussed the smart utilities' recent venture into providing water and sewer services in its' territory. The update tied these new product and service offerings with local economic development. Attracting quality business and residential development to the area in a proactive and controlled manner is necessary as the community looks to the future.



Pictured is Regina Bever (Director – Administration) and Christy Harpold (J.B. Stephens Social Worker)

CHRISTINA'S CLOSET

During the holidays, NineStar employees were asked to donate to Christina's Closet, a wonderful program that was established in honor of a little girl that fought cancer, but unfortunately, lost her battle at the young age of only 9 years old.

Christina Marie Kellermeier attended J.B. Stephens Elementary School and loved her friends and her school. She was a sweet, witty and outgoing 3rd grader who passed away on October 19, 2015. In honor of her name, "Christina's Closet" was created to help those kids in need at the school, she so dearly loved.

Christina's Closet accepts new clothes, shoes, pajamas, socks – sizes 3T up to size 14. The school collects these items and stocks them in a storage room that they have painted to make it look like a walk-in closet. NineStar employees raised \$277 in cash donations along with 16 outfits/pajamas, 4 jackets and 6 packages of socks/undergarments.

J.B. Stephens Elementary School, Social Worker, Christy Harpold oversees the items that are donated to Christina's Closet with the help of Christina's mother. If you would like to donate items or give to this amazing program, you can contact Christy Harpold at:

Christy Harpold
School Social Worker
J.B. Stephens Elementary
1331 N. Blue Road
Greenfield, IN 46140
317-462-4491 ext. 41206
Or mail a monetary donation to:
HCCF – Christina Kellermeier Fund

312 E Main Street
Greenfield, IN 46140
Or make an online gift to:
<http://givehcgrowhc.org/online-giving/more-philanthropic-funds>



SAVE UP TO \$3.00 NOW

(and 70% for the next 17 years)*

Go to PowerMoves.com/LED to start saving now.

*Offer good for up to 30 Energy Star®-certified LED bulbs per member, through December 31, 2017.

POWER MOVES®

Energy Efficiency Programs from Your Electric Cooperative

THE PERKS OF BUILDING A TOUCHSTONE HOME

If you're considering building a new home this year, you may be focused on wall color, countertops and floors. Building a home does provide the opportunity to pick what you want but that also extends further than just what a home looks like and allows you to build a home that functions well, keeps you warm in the winter and cool in the summer and doesn't cost you a lot to operate.

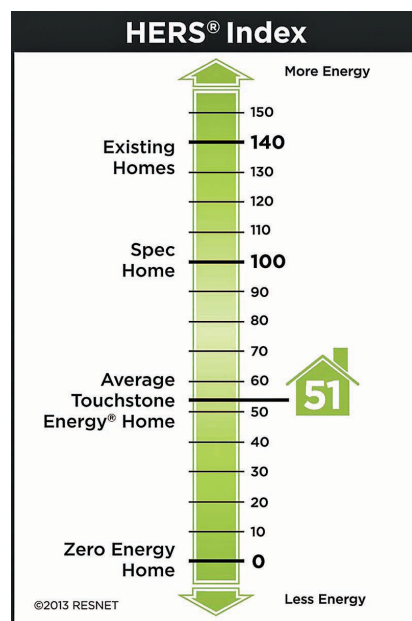
As a member of an electric cooperative, you can opt to build a Touchstone Energy® Home which guides you and your builder through building a high-performance, energy efficient home. As a matter of fact, the average Touchstone Energy Home costs just \$500 annually to heat and \$125 annually to cool.

HEATING AND COOLING COST GUARANTEE

A Touchstone Energy Home comes with a one-year heating and cooling cost guarantee. You will know how much it costs to heat and cool your home right after moving in, rather than waiting for those first winter and summer bills to arrive. And we stand by those annual heating and cooling costs. If your heating or cooling costs exceed those in the guarantee, you will be reimbursed for 50 percent of the difference between the guarantee and actual costs.

INCENTIVES

When you build a Touchstone Energy Home, you may also qualify



for incentives for installing a ground-source heat pump (\$1,500), heat pump water heater (\$400) and ENERGY STAR LED bulbs (up to \$90). Specific criteria must be met in order to receive these incentives. Go to PowerMoves.com or call your electric cooperative's energy advisor

THE PROCESS

An initial meeting with your builder is required to discuss key construction components and review program requirements. A HERS rater will review the blueprints with your builder and discuss how certain areas can impact energy performance

and homeowner comfort. The rater will visit the home after the insulation is installed to verify it has been properly installed. The rater will also return to the site after construction is complete for air sealing verification. The homeowner will receive a full energy efficiency report that includes a Home Energy Rating System rating which measures a home's energy efficiency.

If you're interested in more information, call your electric cooperative's energy advisor so you can build a home that looks and functions like a million bucks but doesn't cost you much to operate. That's the cooperative difference.

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY HOME FEATURES

- High-efficiency heat pump technology for both space heating and cooling as well as water heating
- Attention to air sealing details with a continuous air barrier and mechanical ventilation for improved indoor air quality
- Improved Building envelope that features R-18+ wall insulation, foundation insulation, R-42+ attic insulation and ENERGY STAR® windows and doors
- Free blower door test
- Heating and cooling cost guarantee
- \$500 average annual cost to heat home
- \$125 average annual cost to cool home



JEFF CONLEY RECOGNIZED AT ANNUAL DINNER

Longtime NineStar Connect employee, Jeff Conley, was recently recognized by Indiana Electric Cooperatives at their annual dinner in December. Conley, who was joined by his wife at the dinner, was honored for his 30 years in the electric industry and his time at Central Indiana Power and what is now NineStar Connect. Over his three decades of service he has been a grounds man, journeyman lineman, line superintendent, and most recently he was named Director of Operations. Conley enjoyed the evening and when asked about his tenure at NineStar he responded that he can't believe how time has flown, but coming to work each day with his fellow employees and serving the members is what he loves and that has contributed to time seemingly flying by.

PAPERLESS BILLING

Congratulations to January's winner (Adam Burris) and February's winner (David James) for each winning a \$50 Netflix Gift Card for going Paperless Billing! Each month we pick a new winner for just choosing to get your billing statement electronically. If you are drawn as a lucky winner, you have the option of choosing a \$50 Netflix Gift Card, \$50 Hulu Gift Card or a Roku.

Paperless Billing is the easiest, cheapest way of paying your bill each month. Please feel free to give one of our Residential Service Consultants a call at 317-326-3131 to help you set up if needed. It will be a call you are glad you made!

Enroll in Paperless Billing Today and you could be our **NEXT BIG WINNER!**

*Enroll in Paperless Billing for a chance to win a Roku, \$50 Netflix or \$50 Hulu gift card!



*Drawings Monthly



NINESTAR HOSTS NERD NIGHT

Another NineStar Nerd Night is in the books! In December, the NineStar Network/Technology Department hosted an Internet Streaming seminar to be able to learn different ways of how you can watch your TV. Obviously, NineStar loves our video/TV subscribers, but as surveys show, more and more people are looking into discarding their TV service and watching their favorite programs through their Internet. Streaming apps such as Netflix, Hulu and Amazon are becoming more popular. Our customers are finding that they can lower their cable bill by incorporating such apps or by streaming their favorite shows through on demand capabilities.

On the night of the event, we had a great turn out, served dinner and gave away free streaming devices for those that signed up for select Internet packages.

If you weren't able to attend, no worries! At this year's Annual Meeting & Celebration being held on March 24th at Greenfield-Central's Fieldhouse, there will be a workshop focused on TV Streaming and how it can benefit you!



FROM THE PRESIDENT

COOPERATIVES ARE THE ULTIMATE 'SELF HELP' EXPERIENCE

One of the best parts of my job here at NineStar is getting to talk with our member customers who depend on the services our cooperative provides. As our community changes and grows, I am finding more and more of our members are new to the area and often have never experienced a cooperative before. Often, they are surprised by what I tell them so I thought I might share some of those things with you.

I like to tell members that co-ops are the ultimate "self-help" experience they will ever encounter. By that, I mean simply that we got our start when local residents needed communications or electricity and couldn't get the larger,

investor-owned utilities to make the investment in infrastructure to provide the services we knew we needed to not only survive but thrive in the future. Thanks to the determination and ingenuity of our founders, we decided that if no one would do it for us, then we would do it ourselves.

That "can do" spirit of our founders is part of our life blood today as we continue to build utility infrastructure where larger, investor-owned companies choose not to invest. Where yesterday it was electrical

infrastructure for power, today it is fiber optics for broadband and tomorrow it will be water and wastewater infrastructure.

PRESIDENT & CEO



**MICHAEL
BURROW**

Regardless, it is all about local residents coming together to help themselves by providing critically needed utility services. Where other communities simply do without and fail to thrive, ours comes together and figures out a solution.

Another part of the co-op story I like to tell people who are new to the cooperative business model is that we are a non-profit

utility. By that, I mean that we operate using a simple formula that NineStar charges what it costs to provide the services. Any profit realized is given back to the members in the form of capital credits. Investor-owned utilities utilize a model to charge more than what is needed to deliver the service and pass on that profit back to investors in the form of dividends.

The last thing I want members of NineStar Connect to know is that they should expect more from NineStar than any other utility that they might have had in the past. As a community-based non-profit cooperative, we are a part of the fabric of the communities we serve. Each member of our co-op is a friend

or neighbor and just as we would expect to be treated a little better by a friend or neighbor than by a stranger, members of our co-op should expect to be treated better by NineStar. This is not to say that we make 100 percent of our members happy, 100 percent of the time. No utility can do that. Nevertheless, you should expect to be treated kindly and with respect as we provide our sincere best efforts to find a solution that works for you.

So whether you've been a member of our co-op one year or 50 years, rest assured we remain true to the principles which have become the hallmark of our success. It's what separates a cooperative utility from all the others.



2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF NINESTAR CONNECT

March 24, 2017
Greenfield Central High School
810 N. Broadway

- Dinner & Registration begin at 5:00 p.m. for NineStar Connect & NineStar Communications Customers
- Join us for Free Dinner & Prizes!
\$15,000 in scholarships will be awarded
*\$5,000 in cash prizes will be drawn

Go to
www.ninestarconnect.com/annualmeeting
Register online for a chance to win one of three **\$50 Cracker Barrel®** gift cards
or call 888-201-0049

RSVP by 4pm on March 17th
www.ninestarconnect.com



*Must be present to win.

IN MEMORY

FORMER HANCOCK RURAL TELEPHONE CO. EMPLOYEE PASSES AWAY

Wilma J. Lester, resident of Sulphur Springs, Indiana passed away on Wednesday Sept. 7, 2016 at Glenn Oakes Health Campus in New Castle, Indiana.

Born on April 18, 1925 in Byrdstown, Tennessee, she was the daughter of Blaine and Rose Robbins Huckeby. Wilma was a resident of Sulphur Springs for over 50 years. She was a graduate of New Castle High School and worked many years for Hancock Rural Telephone Co. retiring in July of 1995. She was also a homemaker who enjoyed family activities and playing bridge.

Wilma is survived by two sons; Ronnie Lester of San Jose, California and Kevin Lester (Pam) of New Castle, Indiana, three grandchildren, Evan Lester (Jen) of California, Kyle Lester of California, and Blake Lester of New Castle, Indiana. She is also survived by several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mrs. Lester was preceded in death by: her parents, 12 siblings and her husband James R. Lester.

A funeral service was held on September 10, 2016 at Macer-Hall Funeral Home in New Castle with Rev. Matt Perdue officiating. Burial followed at Miller Cemetery in Middletown, Indiana.

S U D O K U

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes.

See ninestarconnect.com Facebook page for last edition's solution.

	1							8
		8			6		5	
6			5		4			
		4						2
				1	9	7	3	
			4					
	6		8			9		
	5				7		2	
1	9			5				3