

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2019



# *NineStar* CONNECTION

VOLUME 8  
ISSUE 1

## WELCOME GEM WATER CUSTOMERS

NineStar has purchased Gem Water Utility from the Town of Cumberland. See what this means for the community.

PAGE 7

## ELECTRIC CO-OP POWERS GUATEMALA

Ninestar Connect lineworker to empower a global community for a better tomorrow.

PAGE 6

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
GREENFIELD, IN  
PERMIT NO. 220

SEE PAGE 4

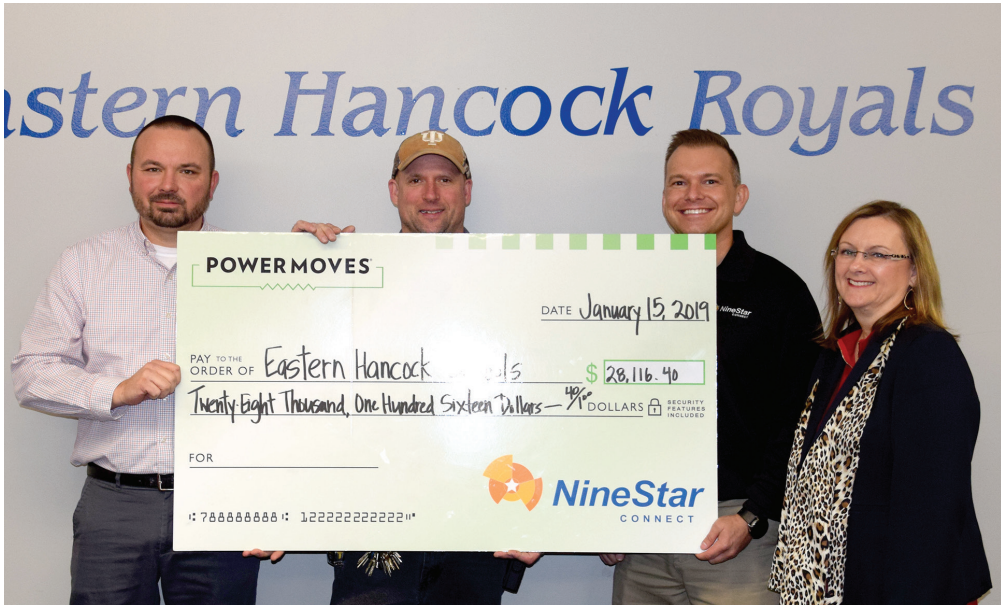
# NINESTAR'S ANNUAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR *MARCH 29*

DIRECTOR  
CANDIDATES  
BIOS AND  
STATEMENTS  
PAGES 10-12

STUDENTS  
SPONSORED FOR  
D.C. TRIP  
PAGE 9







NineStar Connect's Energy Advisor, Matt Strahl, presents a Wabash Valley Power Association's Power Moves rebate check to the Community School Corporation of Eastern Hancock for lighting upgrades in their elementary school. Pictured: from L to R, Adam Kinder, Business Manager, Chris Wilson Facilities Manager, NineStar Connect Energy Advisor Matt Strahl, and Dr. Vicki McGuire Superintendent.



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

"JON IS A TRUE ASSET TO YOUR TEAM. HE WAS EXTREMELY KIND AND HELPFUL."  
- CUSTOMER KINNETT



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@ninestarconnect.com

COVER STORY

PAGE 4

NineStar's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 29, 2019. Deadline for registration is March 22 at 4 p.m.

NEW FARM BILL POWERS RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGIES

PAGE 5

Learn what impact the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 will have on rural energy customers.

A MOM WHO'S GONE TO THE DOGS

PAGE 6

Mary Jane Bogle tells the intangible value of a family pet.

RAY OF LIGHT FUND

PAGE 7

Jennifer McMillan and Julie Mitchell presented the inaugural distribution of the Ray of Light Fund in South Madison Community to Chris Green from Pendleton Heights High School WEEM.

2019 DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Read up on the bios and statements from this year's candidates

PAGES 10-12

POWER OUT?  
NO INTERNET OR TV?  
CHECK NINESTAR'S  
FACEBOOK OR TWITTER PAGE!!

Social Media is exploding and if you aren't checking your laptop, tablet or smart phone for the latest and greatest fads, trends and updates.....you are not living in the 21st century! We have found that posting news about NineStar Connect on Facebook and Twitter has been a successful line of communication for all of our social media followers. Once you "like" our page, you will automatically be notified of any post we share whether it's information about an outage, an event we are planning, local Channel 9 broadcasting or energy information to save you money.

Additionally, if you have a question for us, send us a message. We will research and respond to your question as quickly as possible. We don't want to "leave you in the dark" about any issues or inquiries you might have for us. Our Customer Service has always been a significant piece of what we do and giving you the answers you need is imperative to keeping you knowledgeable and satisfied with our service. To add, when there is that unfortunate outage, your communication to us is just as helpful in determining where the problem is and who it is affecting so we encourage you to share your thoughts.

So if you haven't already, grab your tablet or smart phone and "Like" or "Follow" our Facebook and/or Twitter page. We will do our best to keep you informed and post all the latest details about NineStar Connect news. But don't forget, we still like to hear your voice! When you need answers fast and need to talk to someone, a phone call to our 24/7/365 Support Center is always just a dial away - 317-326-HELP.



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.

NineStar Connection, USPS  
Volume 6 No. 3

Published Bi-monthly.  
Postage Paid at  
Greenfield, IN.

POSTMASTER: Send  
address changes to:  
2243 E. Main St.  
Greenfield, IN 46140

Annual subscription price  
is \$3; available to members  
of NineStar Connect  
co-operative.

ADDRESS:  
NineStar North Campus  
2331 E. CR 600N  
Greenfield, IN 46140

NineStar South Campus  
2243 E. Main St.  
Greenfield, IN 46140

PHONE:  
317-326-3131  
765-533-4303

EMAIL:  
dspencer@  
ninestarconnect.com  
www.ninestarconnect.com

NineStar Connection

EDITOR  
David Spencer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director District 1  
Chris Jeter

Director District 2  
Mark Evans

Director District 3  
Don Shaw

Director District 4  
Darrell Thomas

Director District 5  
Steve Vail

Director District 6  
Joseph Paxton

Director District 7  
Beverly Gard

Director District 8  
David Heller

Director District 9  
Raymond Kerkhof

Director District 10  
Shelly Kleiman

AT LARGE

James Cherry  
Kim Cronk  
Philip Hayes  
Ronnie Mohr

# NINESTAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1



CHRIS JETER

DISTRICT 2



MARK EVANS

DISTRICT 3



DON SHAW

DISTRICT 4



DARRELL H. THOMAS

DISTRICT 5



STEPHEN VAIL

DISTRICT 6



JOSEPH PAXTON

DISTRICT 7



BEVERLY GARD

DISTRICT 8



DAVID G. HELLER

DISTRICT 9



RAYMOND KERKHOF

DISTRICT 10



SHELLY KLEIMAN

AT LARGE



KIM CRONK



JAMES E. CHERRY

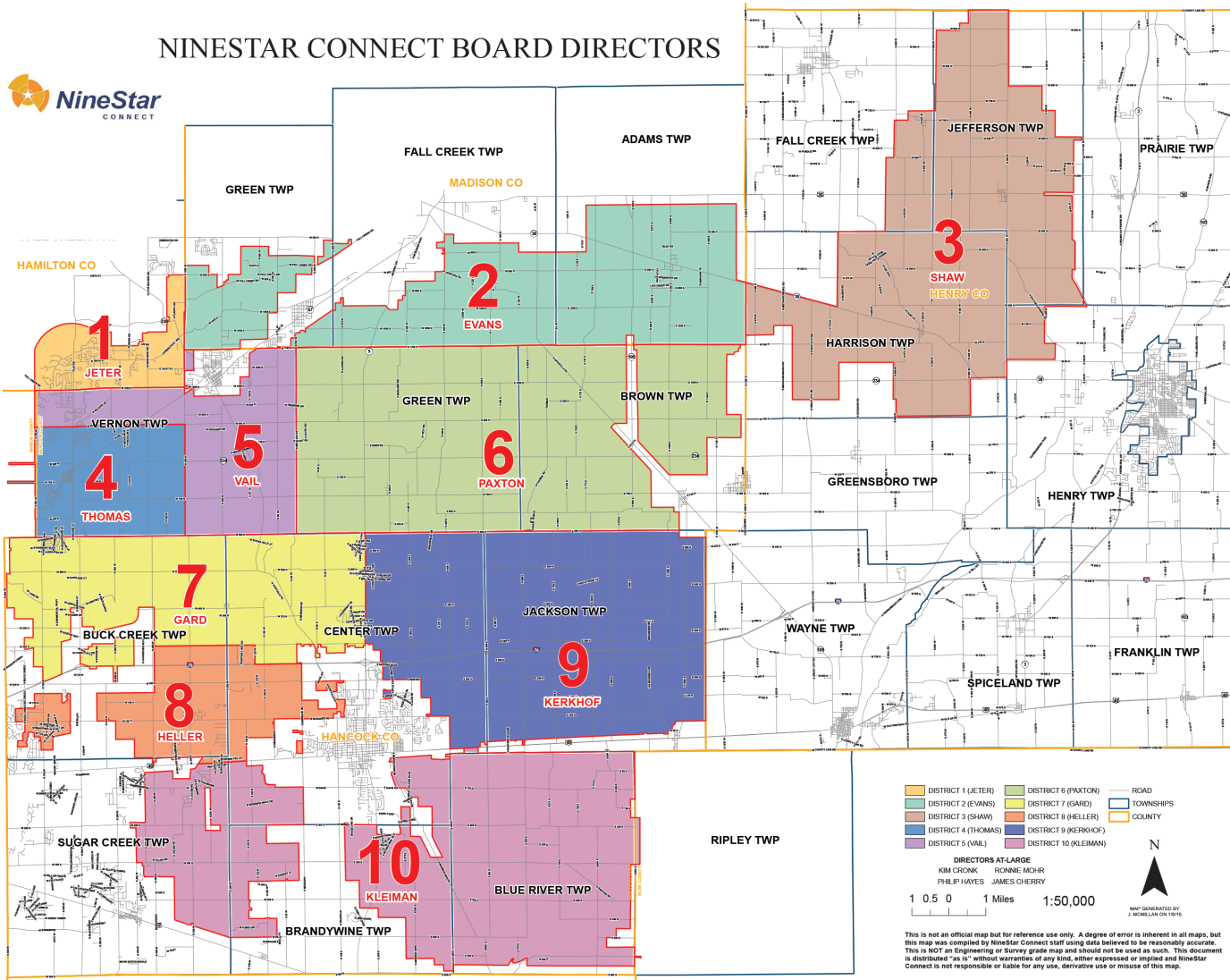
AT LARGE



PHILIP M. HAYES



RONNIE MOHR







BY JULIE YOUNG

If you are interested in learning more about your local cooperative and eager to have a voice in its future, then you won't want to miss out on the NineStar Connect Annual Meeting scheduled for Friday, March 29, 2019 at Greenfield Central High School.

Members are cordially invited to enjoy an evening of fun, food, and fellowship as they hear about the state of the co-op, elect board of directors for a new term and celebrate this year's scholarship winners.

"(The annual meeting) is a time that people look forward to each year and NineStar works hard to make it not only informative, but a special time to share with our members and community partners," NineStar marketing coordinator Christa Riggs said.

The annual meeting is a co-op tradition that goes back to the days in which electricity was a new concept that changed a community's livelihood. Members played a direct role in the establishment and formation of their local cooperative and cherished the opportunity to be part of its development. The meeting, which is usually a combination business and social affair remains a vital part of a co-op's future and something in which all member owners should participate.

"Not every electricity/telecommunications company allows their customers to weigh in on products they offer or empower them to vote for the entity's leaders," Riggs said. "A cooperative is unique in that way. Member/owners have a vested interest in the future of the organization."

The evening will kick off with dinner and registration between 5 and 6:30 p.m. with the meeting to follow. Prior to dinner, members will have the opportunity to network with one another as well as NineStar employees and Board members. In years past, NineStar has offered members free workshops and seminars to learn about new products and services prior to dinner and the business meeting, but this year, members will have the opportunity to play Bingo for the chance to win various door prizes.

"This will take the place of the health fair we offered last year," Riggs said. "During the meeting we will announce the scholarship winners along with reports from the Chairman of the Board, President & CEO, and presentation of our financial reports from our CFO. We will also hear a report from this past year's Operation Round Up, announce the elected officers and finally, we will draw names for cash prizes up to \$5,000."

Per tradition, Jonathan Byrd's will cater the complimentary meal, which will consist of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, cole slaw and assorted deserts.

"There will also be a fish option for those who do not

care for chicken or who are observing Lent," Riggs said. "Jonathan Byrd's has been a big hit with our membership and we are proud that they will be part of our event once again."

For parents concerned about booking a babysitter in order to attend the Annual Meeting, don't worry! NineStar has got you covered. Ninestar has not forgotten about its youngest members. Kids are invited to accompany their parents to the event and enjoy a pizza party all their own! Plans are underway to bring back the exotic animal show, organize face painting, games, and prizes for our younger attendees, including a drawing for a \$100 Wal-Mart Gift Card for the little ones and an XBOX drawing for the "tweenage" set.

"We know they are the members of the future and we want them to know we value them as well," Riggs said.

Members can RSVP for the meeting by calling 1-888-201-0049 or online at [www.ninestarconnect.com/annualmeeting](http://www.ninestarconnect.com/annualmeeting). Deadline for registration is March 22 at 4 p.m. and those who register online will be automatically entered into a drawing for one of three \$50 Cracker Barrel gift cards. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would still like to make your voice heard and your vote count, members are invited to take part in the early voting process, which will take place starting March 1st – 22nd at any of NineStar's four locations during regular business hours. Additionally, between the hours of 8am- 12pm, early voting will take place on March 9th at Sulphur Springs/Jefferson Township Fire Department and on March 16th at Markleville Town Hall.

"We don't want any member to miss out," Riggs said.

## NINESTAR CONNECT'S ANNUAL MEETING

### • When:

Friday, March 29, 2019 at 5 p.m.

### • Where:

Greenfield Central High School

### • RSVP:

1-888-201-0049 or online at [www.ninestarconnect.com/annualmeeting](http://www.ninestarconnect.com/annualmeeting).

**Deadline for registration is March 22 at 4 p.m.**

## 3 ENERGY TRENDS TO WATCH IN 2019

### Key Points

- Blockchain may help stimulate renewable energy deployment and accelerate smart technologies.
- The energy storage market nearly doubled in 2018 and is expected to grow rapidly.
- More facilities are deploying microgrids for backup power and to reduce operating costs.

The energy industry is changing rapidly. If you blink, you could miss out. Here are some energy trends to keep an eye on this year and beyond.

#### 1. Blockchain is unleashed

Traditionally, the energy industry has been a one-sided relationship. Homes and business use energy from the grid and pay their bills. Blockchain technology may soon change all that.

What's blockchain? It's a secure network environment that allows for digital transactions between users without the need for a trusted third party to facilitate those transactions. Originally developed for use with cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin, blockchain technology is now being touted for a variety of applications, including energy.

Blockchain may help stimulate more renewable energy projects, allowing solar and wind producers to more easily connect with buyers willing to pay for renewable energy. An example of this concept is the Brooklyn Microgrid Project. Unused energy from solar panels installed on five buildings is sold to neighboring buildings, with all transactions managed and stored on a blockchain.

Blockchain technology may also help accelerate the Internet of Things. By allowing data to be exchanged more freely between devices, blockchain could provide a major step toward moving from individual smart devices to fully connected smart buildings and communities.

#### 2. Energy storage takes off

Electricity is typically consumed as soon as it's produced. Energy storage systems, by contrast, stockpile power for use when needed. With technology advances and the need for reliable, cost-effective power, interest in energy storage technology is growing. The U.S. energy storage market almost doubled in 2018 alone, according to GTM Research, and the overall market value is expected to reach \$1.2 billion in 2019.

Energy storage can provide consumers a number of important benefits:

- Efficient backup power
- Optimal renewable energy integration
- Demand charge reduction
- Time-of-use bill management

The most commonly used energy storage technologies are batteries and flywheels. Batteries, such as lithium ion (Li-ion), convert stored chemical energy into electrical energy. Flywheels store kinetic (motion) energy by using the inertia of a spinning wheel. The stored energy is recovered to power an electric generator when needed.

#### 3. Microgrids loom larger

Microgrids are local grids designed to operate in conjunction with or independently of the larger grid. A growing number of facilities and communities are relying on microgrids to provide emergency backup power or reduce operating costs. According to Global Market Insights, the North American microgrid market is expected to grow from less than \$2 billion in 2017 to more than \$7 billion by 2024.

A wide array of energy sources are used in microgrids to generate power: generators, gas turbines, fuel cells, batteries and renewable energy sources, such as wind turbines and photovoltaic panels. The variety of energy sources helps to spread the risk of a disruption in power supplies and save money.

A sterling example of microgrid deployment is the Town of Sterling in Massachusetts. The town installed a 5 megawatt system powered by Li-ion batteries and a solar array. The microgrid is designed to provide backup power and save money through lower peak demand and transmission charges. The system is expected to save the community about \$400,000 a year.

To stay current and optimize the efficiency of your facility, it's important to keep your eyes open for the latest on these and other energy industry trends and technologies. NineStar offers Power Moves® rebates and incentives for qualifying upgrades that improve your facility's energy efficiency. Contact Energy Advisor Matt Strahl at (317)323-2042.





NineStar Connect will sponsor two students at the annual Touchstone Energy Camp. The camp will be held June 5-8, 2019, at Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, Indiana.

Current sixth graders entering seventh grade in the fall of 2019 are eligible to attend and are selected by NineStar Connect to participate in the three-day program. The students’ agenda combines traditional outdoor camp activities with environmental education, electrical safety practices and cooperative business education.

“This is a great way for students to learn about the role of the electric cooperative in their community. On top of that, they get to experience all the fun of camp,” said David Spencer, Marketing Director at NineStar Connect.

Apply online for Touchstone Energy Camp by visiting [TouchstoneEnergyCamp.org](http://TouchstoneEnergyCamp.org). Applications are due March 4, 2019.

The Touchstone Energy Camp program was developed by a committee of electric cooperative employees from Indiana. The camp is funded in part by Indiana’s electric cooperatives, Hoosier Energy, Wabash Valley Power, Indiana Electric Cooperatives and other industry partners.

For more information about the 2019 Touchstone Energy Camp, contact Erika Whittington at 317.323.2129.



# NEW FARM BILL POWERS ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGIES

## Key Points

- The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 updated funding for several key rural energy programs.
- The Rural Energy Savings Program provides low-interest loans for energy efficiency improvements.
- The Renewable Energy for America Program provides grants and loans for renewable energy projects.
- Your local electric cooperative also offers Power Moves® rebates and incentives for qualifying energy efficiency upgrades to businesses, including farms.

Energy is critical to the operations of farms and other rural small businesses. The recently passed Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 has a wide-ranging impact on rural energy customers. The Act expands and updates several important programs that provide funding and assistance for energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

## Rural Energy Savings Program

The Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP) allocates \$50 million annually to provide low- or zero-interest loans to rural families or small businesses for implementing cost-effective energy efficiency measures. The maximum interest rate allowed was increased from three to five percent.

Money flows from rural electric utilities to customers or co-op members and can be used for “on-bill financing” programs. Eligible energy-efficient technologies include HVAC systems, refrigeration, lighting, irrigation pumps, windows, and doors. The purchase of more energy-efficient manufactured housing units is now eligible as well. In addition, your local electric cooperative offers incentives and rebates through the Power Moves® program for qualifying energy efficiency upgrades to businesses, including farms. Contact your local electric co-op or visit [www.PowerMoves.com](http://www.PowerMoves.com) for details.

## Renewable Energy for America Program

The Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP) provides loan guarantees and grants to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Congress authorized up to \$20 million annually for the program but funding isn’t mandatory.

Loan guarantees cover up to 75 percent of total eligible project costs to a maximum \$25 million. Grants are available for up to 25 percent of total eligible project costs with a \$500,000 limit for renewables and a \$250,000 limit for efficiency projects. Eligible renewable energy technologies include biomass, geothermal, hydropower, hydrogen, wind and solar.

The Act also increases funding for rural broadband, providing \$150 million annually from 2019 to 2023 and allows funding to go toward grants, as well as loans and loan guarantees. The funding includes \$50 million annually for Community Connect grants. The legislation also increased the minimum acceptable level of downstream speed from four to 25 Mbps.

## Refueling biofuels

A number of programs important to rural energy customers and biofuels producers were also reauthorized by the Act.

- **Community Wood Energy Program:** Provides biomass heating services or discounts to public facilities.
- **National Oilheat Research Alliance:** Promotes efficient and clean heating with fuel oil.
- **Biorefinery Assistance Program:** Provides loan guarantees to lending institutions for construction projects.
- **BioPreferred Program:** Establishes mandatory purchasing requirements for federal agencies and voluntary product labeling guidance.
- **Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels:** Provides incentives to producers of fuel derived from renewable biomass.

The Agriculture Energy Coalition, who supported mandatory funding for energy title programs, believes that biofuels, renewable chemicals and biobased products are a significant growth opportunity for rural America. According to the Coalition, this growth opportunity will generate new revenue streams, expanding value-added agriculture throughout the country.



# NINESTAR’S JUSTIN NOLEN GRADUATES ELECTRIC LINEWORKER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Justin Nolen, a lineworker for NineStar Connect graduated from the Indiana Electric Cooperatives’ apprenticeship program, Rural Electric Apprentice Program (REAP).

REAP is a four-year program that professionally trains apprentice lineworkers from across Indiana. Graduates complete 576 hours of classroom-related study and 8,000 hours of on-the job training at their electric cooperative. Students also complete four additional classes through Ivy Tech Community College. Upon completion of the program, graduates earn an Associate of Applied Science and a journeyman lineman certificate.

“Lineworkers are the backbone of our operations and their

dedication to the consumers of Indiana’s electric cooperatives is outstanding.” said Jon Elkins, vice president of safety, training and compliance at Indiana Electric Cooperatives. “We are proud to have these hardworking individuals as part of the cooperative family.”

NineStar President & CEO Michael Burrow added “Justin has been an outstanding employee for NineStar Connect. On behalf of myself, the board of directors and all of our members I would like to say congratulations.”

In all, twenty other graduates joined Justin earning their certificate becoming REAP graduates and Indiana coop’s newest journeyman linemen.



## A MOM WHO’S GONE TO THE DOGS

By Mary Jane Bogle

Ten years ago today, I wrote a check to our veterinarian for \$820.72. It wasn’t a post-Christmas bonus, although she had always taken great care of our family dog. It wasn’t a donation to help her rescue unwanted dogs and cats, either, although that’s certainly a worthy cause.

No, I wrote her that check because she had just saved one dog—our golden retriever, Bailey. He had needed surgery to remove a bouncy ball he had swallowed and couldn’t pass. We were in the middle of a move to another state, and the last thing I wanted to do was shrink our renovation fund for the new house. Then again, it’s not like you can ask the vet, “How much is this surgery going to cost? Because if it’s significantly more than what we paid for the dog in the first place, maybe we can work something out.”

Nor can you say, “Sorry, kids, but the surgery is going to cost way too much. We’re just going to have to move without him.” Because I couldn’t bring myself to speak those words, I dutifully drove to the bank, partially drained the savings account, and paid for two sets of X-rays, anesthesia, surgery, and post-operative care. (The vet—unknown to me until I came to pay the bill—even set up a cot in his recovery area so she could monitor his progress through the night. Yeesh!)

It was because of the kids that we bought the dog in the first place. Our middle daughter was terrified of dogs. Not just scared, mind you, but crawl-up-daddy’s-leg-when-ever-you-spot-a-dog-two-blocks-down-the-road-on-the-other-side-of-the-street petrified of dogs. Not wanting her to live with such a strong phobia, we did what any loving parents would do. We brought one home so she could face her fears—each and every day.

They say that children who grow up with dogs are smarter than children who don’t. Call me a skeptic, but I think that statistic might have more to do with the fact that people who buy dogs for their children are also likely to buy other things (such as books and crayons, for instance) to enhance their kids’ early childhood education.

I for one, however, am banking on the fact that our dog made our kids smarter than their peers, since their college fund has certainly suffered from all those emergency visits to the vet. Then again, this column is about value, which sometimes has more to do with intangibles than the amount of money in a bank account.

Take our middle daughter, for example. She isn’t scared of dogs anymore. I used to say that you can’t put a price tag on that. Now, I know you can. It’s \$820.72.

Author’s note: Last fall, we said a final goodbye to our beloved golden retriever, losing him to cancer after 10 fantastic years. I don’t regret a single moment of his days with us. Except maybe the time he swallowed the bouncy ball. Or when he chewed the toes off a really expensive, brand-new baby doll. Or ate an entire pan of just-baked brownies, pulling my favorite glass baking dish off the counter in the process. Okay, so maybe our dog wasn’t perfect, but he was certainly the perfect dog for us.

Mary Jane Bogle is a part-time writer and full-time mom. While her mother-in-law declares she was “born in the wrong century,” she remains steadfastly committed to seeking a simpler, more self-sufficient way of life. You can find more tips and tricks on her blog at [simplelifeandhome.com](http://simplelifeandhome.com).

## ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES TO POWER DEVELOPING REGION OF GUATEMALA

### NINESTAR CONNECT EMPLOYEES TO EMPOWER A GLOBAL COMMUNITY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

NineStar Connect lineman Matt Huck and construction manager Jamie Bell will join a crew of 13 other Indiana electric cooperative lineworkers traveling to Guatemala in late March as part of an international initiative to bring electricity to a developing area in Guatemala.



Matt Huck



Jamie Bell

“Project Indiana: Empowering Global Communities for a Better Tomorrow” will bring electricity to a part of the Central American country where none is available. The crew will spend March 24 – April 9 electrifying the village of San Jacinto in east central Guatemala. When completed, approximately 110 homes, a school and a clinic will have electricity for the first time. The village will receive electric power generated at a hydroelectric facility in the region.

This will be the second time NineStar veteran and 26 year employee, Jamie Bell has been a part of Project Indiana as two years ago, Jamie traveled to El Zapotillo in Guatemala. However, on this go around, Jamie will be supervising the Project Indiana’s efforts as he will be in charge of the group of lineworkers to see their goal of providing electricity is met.

Huck joined NineStar in 2017 as an apprentice lineman. He became a Journeyman Lineman in 2018.

“I’m thankful for the time and investment NineStar has put into me. I’m looking forward to being a part of the team traveling to Guatemala,” commented Huck.

Overall, this is the Indiana electric cooperatives’ fourth trip to Guatemala. In August 2012, 28 Hoosier lineworkers from 17 of Indiana’s electric cooperatives, spent four weeks working across the mountainous terrain to bring electricity to 184 homes, a church and a school in three villages. In April 2015, 14 lineworkers battled extreme heat and the rugged land to bring electricity to 164 homes, a school and a church. And, on the last trip in 2017, 14 lineworkers endured temperature extremes to power 68 homes, a school, a church and a health clinic.



# RAY OF LIGHT



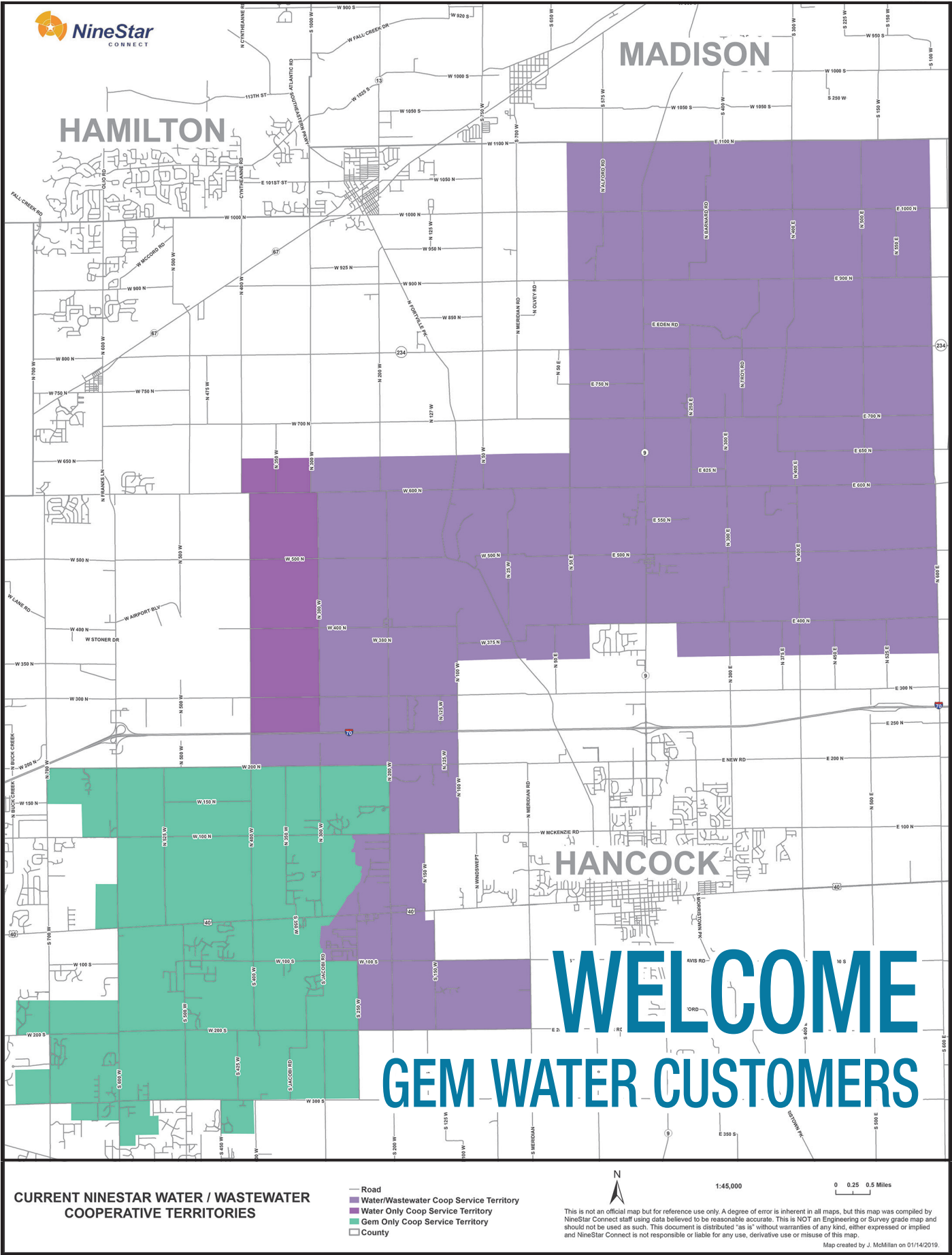
Jennifer McMillan and Julie Mitchell proudly presented the inaugural distribution of the Ray of Light Fund in South Madison Community to Chris Green from Pendleton Heights High School WEEM for purchase of video equipment. WEEM is a radio station that has operated for decades via PHHS where students learn operational as well as broadcasting skills. Teacher Chris Green’s mission is to add a TV channel to their curriculum. NineStar’s Ray of Light fund accompanied a \$3000 grant from South Madison Community Foundation’s Small Towns, Bright Future fund. Also, let’s give a big “thank you” to Janell Kinder, Jennifer McMillan, Rob Guernsey & Julie Mitchell for serving on this committee.



## FOLLOW

US ON INSTAGRAM

@ninestar\_connect



We have completed the purchase of Gem Water Utility from the Town of Cumberland. This enables us to invest further in the infrastructure needed to position the Mt. Comfort Corridor for expected growth. We have also committed to building high speed fiber to each home and business located within the Gem Water Utility territory

in the years to come. In addition, NineStar’s Central Indiana Communications, Inc. (CICI), a for-profit communications subsidiary, plans to build a fiber optic network connecting Cumberland’s municipal facilities, including the town hall, parks and trails.



# President's Message

**A**s I sit here at my desk writing this column for this issue of the NineStar Connection, the air temperature is minus 8 degrees and the windchill is over minus 30 degrees. According to the weather forecasters, in three or four days, the temperatures will be in the mid-50's. "Welcome to Indiana winters!"

That is a phrase I've heard my entire life – spoken not only by my parents but grandparents as well. Phrases such as these resonate over generations because there is a modicum of truth to what they are saying. In this case, Indiana winters are both harsh and very up-and-down.

What most Hoosiers can't appreciate is what goes on behind the scenes at your various utilities during these weather extremes. Again, as I write this column, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator ("MISO" for short) has issued generation warnings to all of its interconnected members across 15 US States and part of Canada and various processes and procedures have been put into place across the middle part of the United States to insure that no one runs out of power or experiences of blackout during these harsh weather conditions. Everyday, MISO (which is based in Carmel, Indiana) quietly goes about managing over 65,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines and over 200,000 megawatts of electric power generating resources. On most days, it is quite routine for their employees but on days like today, all of their planning and expertise are really put to the test.

In many ways, what MISO does is like an intricate dance. Large scale electric power is not storable like other energy commodities like gasoline or natural gas. Quite literally, minute-by-minute, MISO monitors the electric grid and usage within its footprint and makes sure that as usage

increases, generation also increases to meet demand. This can be an extremely tricky thing to manage. Generation assets like natural gas fired peaking units can take several minutes to "spin up" and begin producing power to the grid while base unit coal generators can take several hours to increase capacity. Solar generation is fine when the sun is shining but output can be significantly impacted by passing clouds. Wind is as good as when the wind blows which can be as up-and-down as Indiana winters. A shortage of just a few megawatts on the grid during a peak event can create a cascading effect that could trigger rolling brown outs or black outs over many states and impact literally millions of households.

MISO is also inter-connected with other independent system operators across the United States. They, in turn, communicate and often coordinate putting power on the larger grid when one section of the United States needs more power while other sections might have excess generating power to sell. Generating assets cost hundreds of millions of dollars to build and maintain, so the more frequently they are called upon to generate power, the more their costs of generation are reduced.

These minute-by-minute, carefully coordinated hand-offs of matching generation and transmission to consumption is what makes power in the United States (no matter where you might live) so reliable that we truly do take it for granted. While many people in the developing world are grateful for a few hours of electricity a day and even people in eastern Europe often suffer through regular outages, Americans can become annoyed when a passing thunderstorm drops a tree branch on a power line, creating an outage



that causes them to miss a favorite TV show. That is a testament to all of the hard work the many people who work at the various independent system operators like MISO.

So next time you wake up in the morning to take a long, hot shower while your coffee is brewing, your bread toasting and watching the morning news on TV, remember all of that energy is coming into your home thanks to a carefully coordinated system starting from a generation plant traveling along hundreds of miles of transmission lines and eventually ending up on the NineStar distribution system to be delivered to you without a question of whether it will be there when you need it. I eat, live and breathe it everyday and I am still amazed at how well it works.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our annual meeting and celebration on March 29th!



## NINESTAR TO SPONSOR STUDENTS FOR D.C. TRIP



### NINESTAR CONNECT ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR INDIANA YOUTH TOUR

NineStar Connect will sponsor two students on the annual Indiana Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The 2019 Indiana Youth Tour is June 13-20.

Students entering their senior year in 2019 are eligible to attend and are selected by their local cooperative to participate in the weeklong trip. Indiana will send a delegation of approximately 85 students from throughout the state. The students travel to Washington and convene with more than 1,800 students from up to 46 states.

“NineStar Connect is pleased to provide this opportunity for our local youth,” said David Spencer, Marketing Director at NineStar Connect. “It’s a great trip and a wonderful chance to see the sites, make new friends and learn how everyone, even young people, can make a difference in the political process.”

Apply online for Indiana Youth Tour by visiting [IndianaYouthTour.org](http://IndianaYouthTour.org). Applications are due March 4, 2019.

Students participating in the trip will visit the Gettysburg Battlefield, Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian museums, tour the Jefferson, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorials, take a night cruise on the Potomac River, and much more.

The Indiana Youth Tour students will also participate in a youth rally hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and spend a day on Capitol Hill, where they will have an opportunity to meet with Indiana’s congressional delegation to ask questions and share their thoughts on a variety of timely issues.

For more information about the 2019 Indiana Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., contact Erika Whittington at 317.323.2129.



# INDOOR AIR QUALITY: VENTILATION BY DEMAND

### Key Points

- Ventilation systems are critical for indoor air quality, but they waste energy when running constantly.
- Demand control systems vary ventilation rates based on occupancy and actual air quality.
- Energy savings of up to 60 percent are possible, depending on the type of building.
- Power Moves® rebates are available for qualifying custom commercial and industrial projects that improve your facility’s energy efficiency. Contact NineStar Connect for details.

Adequate ventilation is critical to good indoor air quality and occupant comfort. However, the energy needed to run the HVAC system makes up nearly half of the total energy costs in a typical commercial building. Demand control ventilation (DCV) maintains fresh air levels based on air quality, saving on operating costs while maximizing indoor air quality.

### The problem with ventilation

The ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1 Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality is the most widely used ventilation standard. The Ventilation Rate Procedure under this standard determines fresh air requirements using occupancy and floor area. To comply, facilities typically operate at fixed ventilation rates based on maximum design occupancy. The alternative Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Procedure hinges on an analysis of concentrations of contaminants in the air.

For facilities with varying occupancy patterns, there’s often more outside air coming in than necessary, which requires more energy to heat, cool and maintain proper humidity levels. In humid climates, too much ventilation can result in excess humidity, as well as mold and mildew problems. Inadequate fresh air, on the other hand, can make building occupants uncomfortable and lead to sick building syndrome. DCV solves both of these issues.

### How DCV works

DCV systems use sensors to determine air quality, following the IAQ Procedure. For instance, carbon dioxide (CO2) sensors measure the buildup of carbon dioxide from occupants. Volatile organic compound (VOC) sensors measure outgassing from computers, copiers, furniture, carpets, and paint. They’re best suited for large spaces, such as shopping malls. Some systems combine different sensors into one unit. Data from the sensors is sent to the logic controller, which adjusts the economizer or damper accordingly.

### How much will it save?

Potential savings from DCV systems will vary considerably, depending on the building type, climate and occupancy patterns. However, potential HVAC savings are as high as 60 percent for spaces that are lightly used but designed for large numbers of people, such as sports arenas.

In colder climates, the largest energy savings will be in heating costs. In hot, humid climates, facilities can reduce cooling costs significantly. The largest savings and fastest payback can be expected in high-density spaces with highly variable or unpredictable occupancy, such as public assembly places, convention centers and retail establishments.

In addition to energy savings, DCV systems help improve air quality and control humidity. By recording air quality data, systems with carbon dioxide sensors also help to meet building codes and dispute claims related to indoor air quality issues.

### Design considerations

Demand control ventilation is a good fit where people are the main drivers of indoor air pollution. Typical applications include theaters, convention centers, public assembly areas, office buildings and retail facilities.

In facilities where ventilation is used to dilute a flammable substance or potentially harmful process chemicals, DCV may not work. Also, ventilation rates may impact other building design issues, such as exhaust and pressurization.

It’s important to understand the level and variations of occupancy, as well as the type and amount of any non-human contaminants. Other design parameters to consider include the type of sensors, their location and the minimum flow rate required.

For further information, see the U.S. Department of Energy’s Code Notes: Demand Control Ventilation.





# DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

## BIOS AND STATEMENTS



### MARK EVANS

**BACKGROUND:**

Mark Evans has been a cooperative member since 2000. Mark has his Bachelor's Degree in Science in Business Administration from Ball State University and his Associate's Degree from Mid-America College of Funeral Services. Currently, Mark is the Vice President – Banking Center Manager at First Merchants Bank in Pendleton. He is also the current Clerk-Treasurer of the Town of Markleville and previous Banking Center Manager for Regions Bank. His current role as Banker and Clerk-Treasurer gives him the knowledge and skills to make difficult decisions while managing personal and public funds, financial and budget experience for the past 20 years. Mark is a member of the Markleville Masonic Lodge and Member of East Side Church of God. He is actively involved with the South Madison Community Foundation as a Grant Committee Volunteer, he volunteers quarterly in Madison County with First Merchants Bank and volunteers with Madison County United Way on their Annual Pledge Campaign. Mark and his wife Laura reside in Markleville and have two children; Andrew (age 13) and Gabby (age 6).

### DIRECTOR, DISTRICT 2

**CANDIDATE STATEMENT:**

I have served as a Board Director since 2008. I was involved with the merger between Central Indiana Power and Hancock Telecom, which was a unique situation that enabled two strong Cooperatives to become even stronger. I had been involved in bank mergers in the past, but on the employee side, so my decisions during that merger process were made understanding both the employee impact and company impacts. My current employment with First Merchants Bank as a Banking Center Manager and my position as Clerk-Treasurer have provided me with the knowledge to manage and understand budgets and financials that can be extremely complicated for our Cooperative. I am very proud to have represented our Cooperative and look forward to continue my role as Director going forward. I believe I have the knowledge and skills to continue to serve my role as Director in the most effective manner.



### KAYE WOLVERTON

**BACKGROUND:**

Kaye Wolverton has been a cooperative member since 1991. She graduated from Pendleton Heights High School in 1967 and Apex College and Lasalle Interior Design. She is currently the CEO with Alliance which provides services for marketing, environmental consulting, mediator, acquisition, waste services, water technologies, air technologies, blue ocean strategist consulting, water broker and business startup consulting. Previously, she held the CEO position with Wolverton Consulting & Associates which was active in 32 states. She has had a diverse career and has been connected to others not only throughout Indiana but nationally as well. She has been involved with the Lions Club, Brownies and Girl Scouts and Pendleton Baseball League. A heart for humanity, Kaye helped supply free waste services for over 15 years to food banks throughout Indiana. Kaye has also served on the board as president and vice president of the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce, Carmel Chamber of Commerce Park Board, Keep America Beautiful Board in Anderson, vice president of National Association of Women in Construction, vice president of Greater Anderson Business Club, board member of the East Central Indiana Epilepsy Foundation, advisory board member of the City of Anderson Community, Business, Industry and Pendleton Business Club and board member of South Madison School Corporation. Seven Chamber of Commerce memberships. Owner of 10 diverse businesses from propane, four waste businesses, demolition, beauty salons, air & water technology, salvage, engineering and acquisition corporations. Kaye and her husband Thomas live in Markleville and have three grown children; Farrah, Danielle and Jason.

### DIRECTOR, DISTRICT 2

**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, transparency and the goals that NineStar has outlined as their future mission. I also believe in members needing great service, fair prices. 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, would benefit NineStar and the board in many ways. My family and friends are very important as well as the public I am devoted to; I try to serve in any capacity where I may be helpful. I would love to serve NineStar and the NineStar community with an open mind, team spirit and to always strive to promote the greatness that NineStar offers.



### JOSEPH PAXTON

**BACKGROUND:**

Joseph Paxton has been a cooperative member since 1974. He attended Greenfield Central High School and attended Purdue Agriculture Short Course in 1972. He is a self-employed farmer and owner of Paxton Enterprises. In addition to farming and managing 2400 acres, Joe is a member and past trustee of Eden United Methodist Church, former member and past president of Green Township Fire Department, and currently, is a member and on the board of directors for Farm Bureau Incorporated and NineStar Connect. Joe and his wife Patty have a daughter, Michelle Hasty and a son, Joe P Paxton and four grandchildren.

### DIRECTOR, DISTRICT 6

**CANDIDATE STATEMENT:**

In the past four terms of serving as a district director, I have seen a small cooperative become one that is recognized nationally. NineStar is the very first cooperative to offer power, communications, water and sewer services in the United States. My father served as director for nearly 30 years and he along with the founding fathers had the insight to realize there are many more opportunities that could serve the great residents of Hancock County. I want to continue leading this great cooperative so the community can prosper and grow. Most importantly, to provide the residents and businesses of Hancock and surrounding counties the access to the very best utility services everyone deserves. Looking ahead, there will be continued challenges with the highly-regulated communications and electrical services but I am confident this cooperative will continue to be a leader in the industry.



# DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

BIOS AND STATEMENT: CONTINUED



## TIMOTHY BRYANT

**BACKGROUND:**

Timothy Bryant has been a cooperative member since 1991. He has his Bachelors of Science Degree in Engineering from Purdue University, MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University and is a SHRM Certified Professional. He is the Managing Director for IT Synergistics. For 18 years, Tim worked for the Indiana Blood Center where he oversaw IT, HR, Finance, Materials Management, Facilities and Project Management as his role in VP Administration. His Computer Engineering degree and his experience working with telecommunications for over 25 years allow him to bring a perspective for managing and planning Electric, Voice, Broadband and Video solutions. His company is a small software developer creating applications for the Blood Banking industry. Tim serves as the responsible head & CFO as well as the duties of HR, Marketing and Sales. In his current position, he reports to a Board of Directors, so he understands the working relationship. Tim is a member of New Palestine UMC (past treasurer and high school Sunday school teacher); past County Chairman for FNRA (advancing 2nd Amendment rights); adjunct faculty for IUPUI; volunteer for the Indy 500 Festival/Mini Marathon. Tim and his wife Susan have lived in Hancock County for 27 years and their children (Erin, Matthew and Lauren) attended New Palestine School District. Tim and Susan currently reside in Greenfield.

## DIRECTOR, DISTRICT 10

**CANDIDATE STATEMENT:**

NineStar Connect has demonstrated its competitiveness and vision making it one of the outstanding cooperatives in the nation. Challenges will continue to present themselves including rural broadband, diversification, competition, changing customer demands and infrastructure. My education and experience position me to support NineStar in facing these challenges. With an engineering degree, I've worked extensively in the telecommunications and security fields. Employed in the non-profit market for 20 years, I understand the concerns facing a local cooperative. These include defending and growing market share, ensuring profitability, maintaining customer satisfaction, and improving the efficiency of products delivered. Most importantly, I have worked with and reported to two different Boards of Directors. Understanding the important interaction between a Board and senior management and knowing the questions that need to be asked position me to be an advocate of the members and a well-qualified candidate.



## SHELLY KLEIMAN

**BACKGROUND:**

Shelly Kleiman has been a cooperative member since 2012. She attended New Palestine High School and has taken some medical training classes. For 24 years, Shelly managed the front office of Anderson Family Practice. Shelly is currently a Board Director for NineStar Connect. Shelly possesses several attributes which include leadership, people and management skills. She has held office in the Phi Iota Xi sorority and has worked on several committees for her church. Shelly has lived in Hancock County all her life and has been married to her husband Greg for over 45 years. While she is not helping on the family farm, she enjoys her two grown children (Nicholas and Natalie) along with her five grandchildren who all live in the area.

## DIRECTOR, DISTRICT 10

**CANDIDATE STATEMENT:**

When I was busy raising my children, I felt like I could not devote as much time as I would like to my community. I did the normal school functions, bake sales and clothes drives, etc. When I was asked to run for the board, I was thrilled. I've always been a huge fan of conservation of any form. As a farmer's wife, we have always been involved with the cooperative. Since this will be a second term for me, I feel I have so much to give back. It's obviously on-going learning all the time. Electric, broadband and now water & sewer. I have taken a lot of classes and training the last three years. I hope I get the opportunity to utilize all the training I've gotten in my next term. I feel like I'm better equipped and have more knowledge to run a second term.



## CASEY SHULL

**BACKGROUND:**

Casey Shull has been a cooperative member since 2005. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree in 1991 and his Master's Degree in 2015 from Purdue University. Casey then went on to receive his MBA from Anderson University and will graduate this May from Purdue to acquire his PhD. He currently is the V.P. of Operations/President at OCM Engineering/FOCS LLC. He is also an IEEE Senior Member and holds a PMP Certificate. For 28 years, Casey worked for Indianapolis Power & Light Co. as the Team Leader in Major Overhead Engineering and Operations Manager for Crisis and Outage Restoration in addition to five years in the fiber-optic and telecommunication industries. Casey has consulted to various municipalities in various states to assist in the development of electrical and communication micro-grid systems, provided presentations to industry organizations about emergency electrical restoration to critical infrastructure. He developed an algorithm for critical infrastructure restoration titled the Common Recovery System. He is also a member of Park Chapel Christian Church in Greenfield. Casey and his wife Christine have been married for 30 years and have three children. They reside in the New Palestine area.

## DIRECTOR, DISTRICT 10

**CANDIDATE STATEMENT:**

I believe in the seven cooperative principles in which the core concept is community membership. The founders of the cooperative system were focused on "improving the quality of place for their friends and neighbors" exemplifying community membership. My wife of 30 years and I have been members of electrical cooperatives in Hancock County since 1991 and are proud to be friends and neighbors within the membership of NineStar. Indeed, my 33 years of total experience as an engineer in the Investor Owned Electric Utility (IOU) and communication industries coupled with my academic achievements can assist the execution of innovative ideas. However, I believe innovative ideas come from collaboration and the execution of ideas will improve the quality of place for the members as opposed to growing dividends for shareholders. Thus, I want to serve our community by assisting NineStar's expansion to improve quality of place for members by directing innovative ideas.





# DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

BIOS AND STATEMENT: CONTINUED



## JON P. CRAWFORD

**BACKGROUND:**

Jon Crawford has been a cooperative member since 2002. He graduated from Greenfield Central High School and received a 4-year Apprentice Degree from Anderson University. He currently is self-employed and is President of his company, Crawford Services, Inc. In the past, Jon worked for General Motors as a skilled Trades Electrician. He was Supervisor in that division for ten years. He has also volunteered his time and services along with participating in fundraising efforts to both The Hancock Hope House and Nameless Creek Youth Camp. Aside from spending four years in the United States Air Force as a Sergeant., he has lived in Greenfield since 1962. Jon and his wife Deanna reside in Greenfield and have two grown children, Jonnell and Justin.

## DIRECTOR, AT LARGE C

**CANDIDATE STATEMENT:**

I feel I can bring experience of having been an electrician and business owner for 35 years to a position of Board of Director. My experience as a skilled Trades Supervisor gives me the skills to bring both sides to a common understanding of how business with workers, management and outside vendors creates a cohesive environment critical to the mission of corporations. Industry is in a constant state of change and I feel my becoming a member of the board allows me to be a large part of that change and adjustment.



## PHILIP M. HAYES

**BACKGROUND:**

Philip M. Hayes has been a cooperative member since 1976. He graduated from Greenfield Central High School in 1965 and received his Bachelors of Science in Industrial Management from Purdue University in 1970. Phil also attended post graduate level classes in Accounting & Auditing from IUPUI in 1978/79. He is currently retired. His previous employment was with Naval Air Warfare Center as a Program Manager, Ground Based Systems for 23 years. He also worked 14 years with Raytheon Technical Services, LLC where he was the Business Manager for Manufacturing & Depot Operations. A combination of 37 years of experience in the defense industry; focusing on design, development and manufacture of airborne, space-borne and ground-based communications, navigations, and avionics systems. as well as business/budget management of manufacturing operations. His planning, critical-thinking, and fiduciary skills he developed over the course of his career translated well to the cooperative world and instrumental in helping become an effective NineStar Director. Phil has attended Cooperative Board Leadership Training and continuing education with NTCA-the Rural Broadband Association, Indiana Electric Cooperatives (IEC), Statewide Association of REMC's, National Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NRECA), Alliance of Indiana Rural Water, ACES Power Marketing Risk Management Training and National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation. Phil is a member of Willow Branch United Methodist Church – Pastor Parish & Finance Committees' Chair, Administrative Board Vice-Chair, Auditor, and Sunday School Teacher. He is a Member Prospect Lodge #714 F & AM, Life Member Purdue Alumni Association and Member of Greenfield Kiwanis. Phil is currently Vice-Chairman of NineStar Board of Directors and serves on the Governance, Finance& Audit, and the Policy/By-Law Committees. Phil also represents NineStar on the Wabash Valley Power Alliance (WVPA) Board of Directors (NineStar's wholesale power supplier) and currently serves as Secretary of the Board, including the Executive, Expense, and Audit Committees. Phil is keenly aware of upward pressure on WVPA's future wholesale power rates and hopes to be re-elected to be able to influence the wholesale rate making process which could impact NineStar's future rates and its members. He previously represented NineStar on the NTCA Industry Committee which is instrumental in establishing federal regulatory and policy guidelines for over 800 rural telecommunications companies across the United States. Phil and his wife Pam live in Wilkinson and have one son, Brandon. Brandon and his wife Becky have two children; Sydney and Aubrey.

## DIRECTOR, AT LARGE C

**CANDIDATE STATEMENT:**

I am fortunate to have the opportunity to be a part of the formation, growth, and development of NineStar Connect. The staff and directors of NineStar are collectively engaged in a long-term strategy to ensure all members of NineStar have access to the same quality services. I believe that quality-of-life is an important factor in where people live and work and I enjoy being a part of NineStar's endeavor focused on the 7th Cooperative Principle; ie, Concern for Community. These are exciting times with many new and prospective economic opportunities on the horizon that are related to the infrastructure investments NineStar is making or plans to make. Progress sometimes moves slower than I prefer, but doing the right thing is never easy. I am proud of what NineStar is accomplishing and I would welcome the opportunity to carry the tradition forward representing the members of NineStar Connect.



## RONNIE MOHR

**BACKGROUND:**

Ronnie Mohr has been a cooperative member since 1971. He graduated from Hancock Central High School and Purdue University Agriculture Short Course. Ronnie runs a successful farming operation with his family and has been in the farming industry for 48 years. He currently is a NineStar Connect Director and former Central Indiana Power Director. Ronnie also serves on the Hancock County Sheriff Merit Board, Hancock County Drainage Board, Green Township Volunteer Fire Department, National Corn Grower Association Action Teams and Indiana Corn Growers Association, Indiana Corn Marketing Council. In the past, Ronnie has served on the Land O Lakes cooperative for 20 years and was their first Vice Chairman for seven of those years, Wabash Valley Board G & T and the Hancock County Community Foundation Finance Board. Ronnie and his wife Sarah have three grown children; Andy, Eric and Sarah Jo. They currently reside in Greenfield.

## DIRECTOR, AT LARGE D

**CANDIDATE STATEMENT:**

I would appreciate being considered for NineStar Connect Director and thank you for your support in the past. I am seeking re-election due to the exciting times we are in with water & sewer, broadband and all the exciting challenges. The other reason is my belief in the cooperative system and being able to have local input and governance in our company. I have been a long-time believer that there is “no” better way for a business structure than a well ran cooperative where the customer is the owner and shares in the profit of the business. I feel that our employee and board work together to help us be an example of a well and thriving cooperative that is looking forward to what the future has in store for us.