

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2023



NineStar CONNECTION

VOLUME 12
ISSUE 1

SEE PAGE 4

MEETING A NEW YEAR HEAD ON

NINESTAR'S 2023 MEETING TO BE HELD ON MARCH 24



CUSTOMER
APPRECIATION
PAGE 5

OUT & ABOUT
PAGE 8



NINESTAR BLOG

Why I Believe It is Important
for Everyone to Take A Basic
Computer Class
By Alexander Peters

Read more on page 9.

OPERATION ROUND-UP

Learn how a few cents can make
a BIG IMPACT:

Read more on page 7.

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



Line crews replacing a pole hit by a vehicle on 600 E.
See more on page 8.



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

"BRETT WAS VERY NICE AND WE ENJOYED
WORKING WITH HIM DURING OUR
APPOINTMENT."

CUSTOMER HARLING



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 **PAGE 4**
Learn more about NineStar's 2023 meeting
being held on March 24.

OPERATION ROUND-UP **PAGE 7**
Can rounding up a few pennies a month on
your bill help others really make an impact?
Read the article to find out!

OUT & ABOUT! **PAGE 8**
A showcase of places we've been in the
community.

NINESTAR BLOG **PAGE 9**
Why I Believe It is Important for Everyone to
Take A Basic Computer Class: by Alexander
Peters from www.ninestarconnect.com/blog/

**NINESTAR ANNUAL
MEETING &
CELEBRATION**
Save the date!
March 24th, 2023

NOTICE

Nobody has the authority
to remove NineStar's
electric meters other than
NineStar personnel.

As soon as the meter reports
it's "off" we will be dispatching
a truck to that location to
check it out. If your electrician
tells you they can pull the
meter, please let them know
they need to contact NineStar
to schedule a time for us to
pull the meter. We do not
charge for this during normal
business hours (Monday -
Friday 8am to 4pm). Possible
charges might incur if a meter
is pulled by the homeowner or
an electrician.



The *NineStar Connection*
is a publication of NineStar
Connect servicing retail and
residential customers. Nearly
16,000 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@
ninarconnect.com
www.ninestarconnect.com

NineStar Connection

EDITOR
David Spencer

**BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

Director District 1
Charles Kennedy

Director District 2
Mark Evans

Director District 3
Robin Ritchie

Director District 4
Scott Pittman

Director District 5
Steve Vail

Director District 6
Joseph Paxton

Director District 7
Jack Negley

Director District 8
Raymond Kerkhof

Director District 9
Phil Hayes

Director District 10
Thomas Ording

AT LARGE

James Cherry
Susan Bodkin
Timothy Bryant

NINESTAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1



CHARLES KENNEDY

DISTRICT 2



MARK EVANS

DISTRICT 3



ROBIN RITCHIE

DISTRICT 4



SCOTT PITTMAN

DISTRICT 5



STEPHEN VAIL

DISTRICT 6



JOSEPH PAXTON

DISTRICT 7



JACK NEGLEY

DISTRICT 8



RAYMOND KERKHOF

DISTRICT 9



PHILIP M. HAYES

DISTRICT 10



THOMAS ORDING

AT LARGE



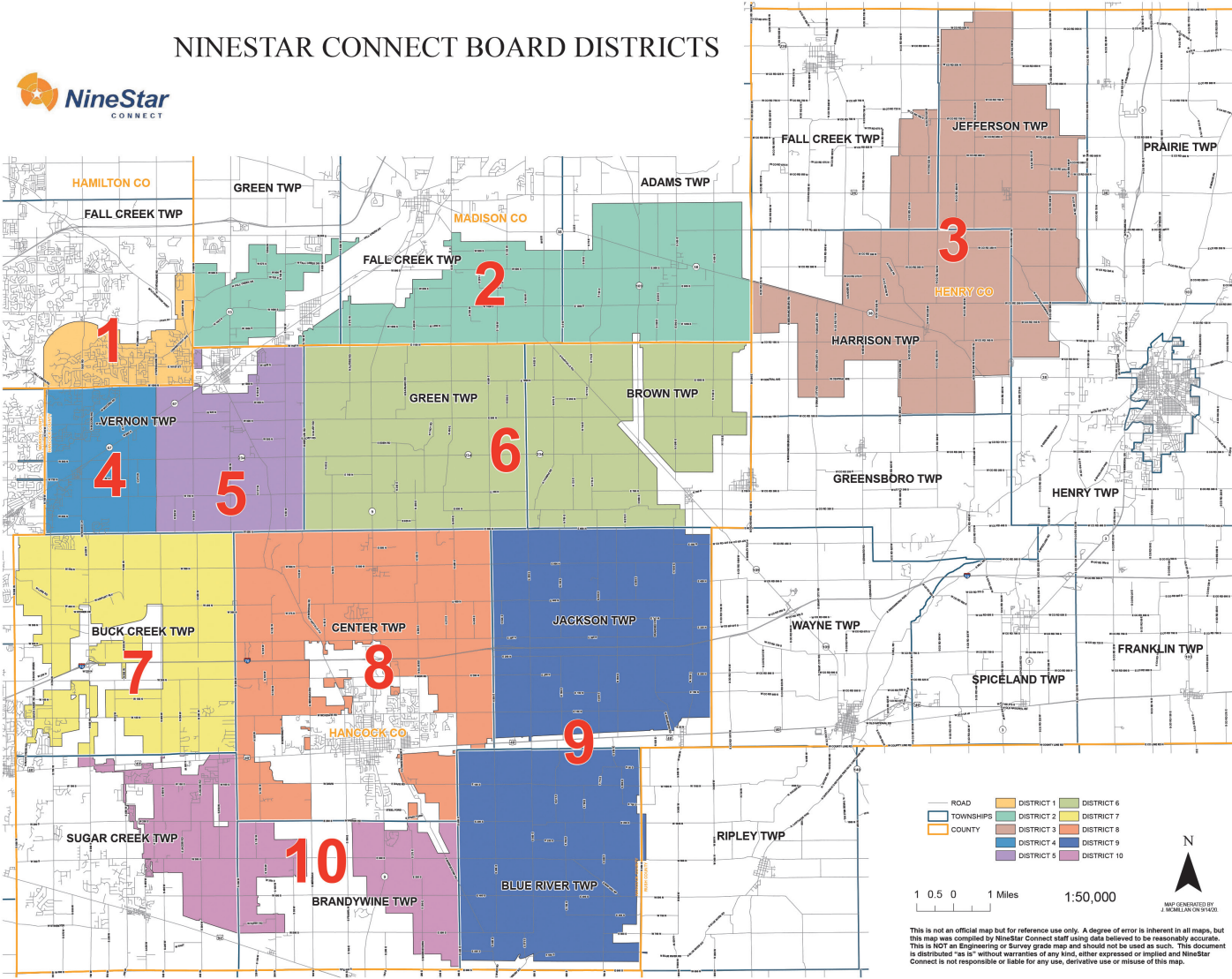
JAMES E. CHERRY



SUSAN BODKIN



TIMOTHY BRYANT



MEETING A NEW YEAR HEAD ON

**NINESTAR'S 2023
MEETING TO BE HELD
ON MARCH 24**

By Julie Young

For the past few years, NineStar Connect has been working to engage its members in new and exciting ways. From virtual town halls and tutorials to offering in-person and online appointments, the cooperative knows it has a diverse and evolving membership and NineStar is meeting their needs head on. This year's annual meeting is no exception. Once again NineStar Connect will hold its annual meeting in person or online so that members can catch up with the cooperative in a way that is convenient for them.

"We know our members have busy lives, so we want to give them the opportunity to be involved on their own terms," said David Spencer, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement for NineStar Connect. "More importantly, they have demonstrated that they want to be involved and engaged."

The NineStar Annual Meeting will be held on March 24 at Greenfield-Central High School beginning with registration and dinner at 5 p.m. The business meeting will follow at 6 p.m. Those wishing to attend can RSVP when they vote for their Board of Directors from March 1-22. Voting closes promptly at 5 p.m. and there will be no in person voting at the meeting. Members who choose to view the meeting online, can do so starting on Sunday evening, March 26th at 6pm on NineStar's website or YouTube Channel.

Members can also submit questions by emailing annualmeeting@ninestarconnect.com before March 22nd. Questions may be answered during the Annual Meeting.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic caused the cooperative to get creative in terms of its annual meeting, the hybrid option and early voting has resulted in an uptick in voting. Those who prefer the in-person experience will also have the opportunity to meet Wabash Valley Power Alliance, from whom NineStar purchases its power as well as the Indiana Electric Cooperatives. Both entities will have booths at this year's event and are excited to be back.

"We are excited to have some of our partners coming back post pandemic to offer information that just might help people save money on their electric bills," Spencer said.

Those who choose to attend virtually and turn in their ballot will be eligible for a one-time, \$10 credit on their bill. Those who choose to attend in person can request meal tickets for dinner, which is once again being provided by Jonathon Byrd's Catering. The menu will include fried chicken or baked tilapia (for those who prefer fish or observing Lent), mashed potatoes, corn, green beans, cole slaw, dinner rolls, drinks, and cherry cobbler or chocolate cake for dessert.

"Jonathon Byrd's has always been a favorite of the membership and we are always happy to have them be part of this annual event," Spencer said.

All members who vote will be eligible for door prizes that will be announced throughout the evening (you don't have to be present to win), and they can expect to enjoy all of the elements that make the annual meeting a signature event for the cooperative: the announcement of scholarships, Operation Round-Up report, and other cooperative milestones will be recorded and available for those who want to hear this information at their leisure.

Over the years, NineStar has offered power hours, town halls, and other events that have been streamed so that those who can't make it to an in-person event can still take advantage of the content. Members will be happy to know that the co-op will continue to offer quality video content to engage with its membership and keep them informed of the co-op's happenings. As more people opt for online content, Spencer said it is a natural segue for the annual meeting even though the in-person event has historically been a popular draw.

"Our members remain committed and connected to the Cooperative and while the annual meeting is a great time to celebrate all that is going on at NineStar, this kind of hybrid version not only looks out for the entire membership, but also enables us to connect with everyone throughout the year," Spencer said. "NineStar believes in changing with the times and based on the response we have gotten from members, they appreciate that. We are meeting the new year head on, and we can't wait for our members to be part of it."

NINESTAR CONNECT'S ANNUAL MEETING

VOTE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARCH 1ST – 22ND

RECEIVE A \$10 BILL CREDIT OR DINNER AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND BE ENTERED FOR \$5,000 IN CASH PRIZES AND \$2,500 IN GIVEAWAYS.

ANNUAL MEETING

IN-PERSON

- ★ FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH
- ★ GREENFIELD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL'S FIELDHOUSE
- ★ DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM, BUSINESS MEETING BEGINS AT 6 PM
- ★ VOTING/RSVPS ACCEPTED MARCH 1-22. (VOTING CLOSING AT 5 PM)
- ★ DOOR PRIZES AVAILABLE TO BOTH IN PERSON AND ONLINE PARTICIPANTS (DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN)

ONLINE

- ★ SUNDAY, MARCH 26TH AT 6PM
- ★ [YOUTUBE.COM/@NINESTARFILMS8205](https://www.youtube.com/@ninestarfilms8205)
- ★ [NINESTARCONNECT.COM/ANNUALMEETING](https://www.ninestarconnect.com/annualmeeting)

POWER OUT? NO INTERNET?

**CHECK NINESTAR'S
FACEBOOK, TWITTER OR
INSTAGRAM 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, Twitter, and Instagram 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, 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, Twitter, and/or Instagram 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
COOPERATIVE
PRINCIPLES

1

VOLUNTARY & OPEN MEMBERSHIP

2

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

3

MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

4

AUTONOMY & INDEPENDENCE

5

EDUCATION, TRAINING, & INFORMATION

6

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

7

CONCERN for COMMUNITY

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION



THANKS

- ♥ **THANKS** for choosing us.
- ♥ **THANKS** for trusting us.
- ♥ **THANKS** for letting us get to know you.

IN APPRECIATION OF OUR LOYAL CUSTOMERS, NINESTAR WILL HOLD A RANDOM DRAWING OF 25 CUSTOMERS EACH MONTH TO WIN A \$150 BILL CREDIT!*

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL \$150 WINNERS!

JANUARY WINNERS

Ken Kalal
Russell P Chargualaf
Brittany Sloan
Danielle Ressler
David Navarra
Tracy Self
Terri Mccolley
Alexandra Henderson
Robert M Saunders
Michael J Sego
Synthia Trusty
Michael Drascic

Stacey Doubman
Thomas E Boilanger
Timothy Combs
Tim Robinson
Barrington C Bloomfield
Wanda L Dray
Kelli Kaboski
Michael Morrow
Mimi Perry
Jeremiah Rogers
Bryan Smith
Drew Smith
Frank R Stricker

FEBRUARY WINNERS

Kara Fuller
Mary Hammons
Jessica Callais
Ronald Martin
Winston Hammons
Wendy Trissel
Josh Clift
Kyle Spurling
Sandra Hudson
Mark Reger
Rick Binford Sr
Amber Pettijohn

Sheila Marion
Kirk Hunziker
Charles Rayne
Amy Mohr
Judy Tolle
Ronald Robbins
Merle Bowman
John Hill
A Stroud
Sally Parks
Teresa Wolfgang
Chad Maroska
Jeff Shanab

*Offer valid for internet customers only. Must be current on your bill. One winner per household per year. Credit will be applied to your communications bill. Winners will be notified via email.

PAPERLESS BILLING WINNERS

DECEMBER WINNERS
ROGER AND ELIZABETH
HURST
FOUNTAIN TOWN, IN

JANUARY WINNERS
MARSHALL & SHE'WANCA
DOTSON
MCCORDSVILLE, IN



Enroll in paperless billing for a chance to win big!



President's Message

By Michael R. Burrow, President & CEO

My schedule can be quite hectic so I really appreciate the times I'm able to take to visit with members of our cooperative and the community in general. I find that there is a genuine, heartfelt affection for NineStar and its employees by those in the communities we serve. I am particularly grateful for those that take the time to offer their appreciation for the hard work our dedicated NineStar employees provide in service of our members and customers, and we always make it a point to share that feedback with them.

In my conversations with members, one question repeatedly comes up: "How does NineStar do what it does so well?" And by that, the question really is "how does a small, community-based coop provide such a high level of service?"

The answer is really quite simple and lies at the heart of why NineStar was created. Most companies are established to create wealth. Corporations are formed to provide services or sell goods so that shareholders can make a profit from their investment. Partnerships and limited liability companies are formed so the partners – whether they be individuals or companies – can create wealth for themselves.

Cooperatives are created first and foremost to provide a service. Mind you, coops cannot operate continually at a monetary loss

and as such, will if operated properly, generate profits (called margins). But coops return those profits back to their members in the form of capital credits. For example, NineStar has been able to return over \$10 million to its members since 2011 while simultaneously investing over \$144 million in new utility infrastructure that serves the growing needs of our community. Again, after hearing these facts, folks will ask, "how does NineStar do what it does so well?"

I often relate stories about our cooperative founders. They created coops that grew to become NineStar to provide electric and telephone to provide much-needed services that were readily available in urban areas but not in the rural areas of east central Indiana. Our founders' focus was on providing critically needed services, not profits.

I am happy to say that this founding tradition continues within the spirit of our cooperative today. While we may think that electric power is everywhere now, NineStar still serves some areas in Hancock and Madison Counties where there are still an insufficient number of homes or farms for an investor-owned or municipal electric utility to build and serve because of the lack of opportunities to make a profit. The same goes for our fiber broadband internet and water and sewer services as well.



Michael R. Burrow

The cooperative bottom line is straight forward: When an organization is created to focus first on service and second on profits, the customer is always well-served and that is a message that I take every opportunity to convey to NineStar's members and the communities we serve. And as to the service we provide - all of us are human and will occasionally make mistakes. At NineStar, we make no excuses. When we fall short of expectations, we make every effort to correct them. Just know that everyone who proudly wears that NineStar "radar star" logo works diligently every day to provide the very best service they can for folks like you who trust us to help make their quality of life and place better.

As members and customers of our cooperative, you should expect no less.



OUR 9 OPERATING PRINCIPLES



1 Our Members



2 Our Employees



3 Our Community



4 Our Cooperative



5 Our Quality



6 Our Innovation



7 Our Future



8 Our Resources



9 Education & Transparency

NineStarConnect.com



Operation Round Up: A few cents can make **A BIG IMPACT**



SIGN UP

Any NineStar customer can “round-up” their monthly bill to the nearest dollar.



ROUND UP

Donations from you and other NineStar members are collected and placed in a trust.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Because of NineStar members’ generous donations, organizations throughout the NineStar serving territory are able to make necessary improvements to benefit those in their communities

CAN DONATING A FEW PENNIES A MONTH TO HELP OTHERS REALLY MAKE AN IMPACT?

They can when those pennies are combined with similar donations from other NineStar members/customers.

That is the whole premise behind Operation Round Up. Through the aptly named program, those who receive their electric, Internet and water/sewer service from NineStar can “round up” their monthly bill to the nearest dollar. So, if your bill is \$52.52, it be rounded up to \$53 with 48 cents deposited into the ORU fund. The average

yearly contribution (a 50-cent contribution per month) is \$6. The maximum you’d contribute is just \$11.88 a year — or 99 cents a month. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

It’s hard to believe such small donations could affect big change. Through Operation Round Up, donations from you and other NineStar consumers are collected and placed in a trust. Non-profit organizations right in your community — like senior citizen programs, volunteer fire departments, and other programs benefitting those in need — can apply for grants through Operation Round Up. A volunteer board of trustees reviews the applications and chooses which programs ORU

can help during that funding cycle.

“Operation Round Up’s mission to make a positive difference in our community fits in perfectly with the cooperative principles we are governed by” said Christa Riggs, Marketing Coordinator and Operation Round Up facilitator at NineStar Connect.

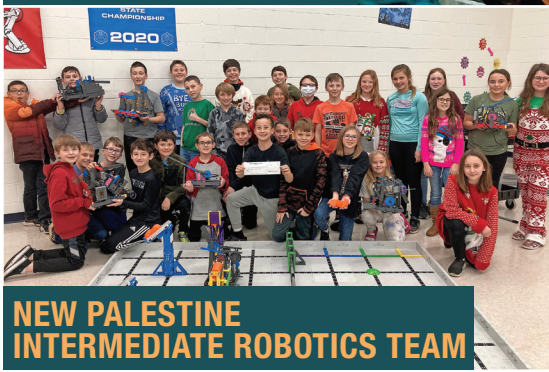
Participation in the ORU program is voluntary; however, by rounding up your monthly bill you are doing a small part of making a big impact for many organizations that need assistance. If you aren’t contributing to ORU, won’t you do so today? Call 317-326-3131 to round up your bill and make a difference!



BLUE ANGEL CONNECT



CHANGING FOOTPRINTS



NEW PALESTINE INTERMEDIATE ROBOTICS TEAM



VERNON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

OUT & ABOUT



Energy Advisor Matt Strahl visits Eastern Hancock Elementary to give students a power line safety demonstration.



Line crews replacing a pole hit by a vehicle on 600 E.



Video Manager, John Painter and his crew broadcasting the Shenandoah vs. Eastern Hancock Boys Varsity Basketball Game.



A group of students from Eastern Hancock High School visited NineStar to learn about potential intern positions.



NineStar employees, Sara Badgley, Maddi Jones, and Shanna Agner, visited Eastern Hancock to help assist with Reality Store Day which provides students with the opportunity to see what it is like for an adult to have a job and pay bills each month.

NINESTAR BLOG



www.ninestarconnect.com/blog/

By Alexander Peters

WHY I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE TO TAKE A BASIC COMPUTER CLASS



Imagine you’ve recently signed up for new service with NineStar Connect. Congratulations! Perhaps this is something that you’ve been waiting a long time to do and now that we are finally in your area, you can’t wait to get our high-speed fiber Internet. Maybe you’ve heard your friends talk about how great the service is and how quickly you can access the Internet, download files, and stream music/movies. Whatever your motivation, chances are you are not 100 percent sure how it all works, but you can’t wait for our technician to install your service and get your devices connected. But what do you do once the technician leaves? Maybe you have an older computer,

and you want to test your new high-speed Internet on that. However, you’re not sure really how. That’s why I believe it’s important for everyone to understand how to use their computer.

A basic computer class can show you how to use your mouse, and keyboard, go to websites, check your e-mail, make accounts for certain websites, and how to stay safe online. While these are all important reasons for everyone to take a basic computer class, perhaps the most important is the last one: staying safe. Websites will try to deceive you with things that pique your interest (ex. Political news articles), and once you click on them it could install some Malware on your computer. Some things you could look for are the URL of the website/link that you’re clicking on. You want to make sure that the name of the website is legitimate and shows a lock next to it (which means that it is a secured website). Here is a good article to look at that has to deal with seniors, and their safety on the Internet: <https://www.safetydetectives.com/blog/the-ultimate-internet-safety-guide-for-seniors/>

Unfortunately, seniors are the easiest prey for hackers who want to steal your personal information. However, this article talks about everything from using more complex passwords, what to watch for with particular scams, and what you need to do in the event that you have been scammed. The Internet is a fun and exciting place to communicate with others, enjoy entertainment and learn new things, but safety is a real concern. That’s why I believe everyone should take a basic computing class if they are not 100 percent comfortable online.

STEPS TO REPLACING A UTILITY POLE

Utility poles remain the backbone of most electric distribution systems. After more than 80 years since electric cooperatives first set them throughout rural Indiana, they remain the most cost-effective way to safely support power lines, insulators, transformers and other electric hardware.

Occasionally, either through a vehicle strike, lightning strike, ice storm, tornado, or simply age, a pole needs to be replaced. And while every electric cooperative has thousands of poles throughout its system, each pole replacement is different. It’s much more than just digging a hole and sliding a new pole in the ground. The work is done methodically and, even in the best scenarios and weather conditions, might take several hours.

One of the most common reasons for a broken pole and an unexpected power outage is a vehicle strike. Here’s a step-by-step description of what typically goes into a pole replacement so that consumers on the “dark side” of the damaged pole can better understand why the power outage affecting them might be taking longer than they would think.

Assess the situation. The cooperative is notified of a broken pole. This can come from the cooperative’s own monitoring system, sheriff’s department or consumers. Lineworkers will visit the pole and assess the damage. This may take 30 minutes to an hour depending on the location and if the notification comes outside of normal business hours.

Secure the scene and call in a crew. If the pole needs to be replaced, the lineworkers on the scene will first make sure the scene is safe. They’ll de-energize the line following established safety procedures. Next, they will call for a crew of three to four others to come with a bucket truck and a digger truck.

In many cases, resetting or replacing a pole also requires calling into 811 – the Indiana “call before you dig” service – before crews can dig new holes. This is required to locate other buried utilities along the right-of-way and can add time to the restoration.

Obtain supplies and tools. The original responding lineworkers will work on what can be done until the additional crews arrive with a new pole and replacement equipment. Depending on the weather and the proximity of the broken pole to the replacement pole and equipment, this may take 1-2 hours.

Replace the damaged pole. When all crew members are present, they begin setting a new pole and will work to safely restore power to consumers as quickly as possible.

This includes removing equipment from the broken pole and attaching the necessary equipment to the new pole. Depending on the location, the equipment needed on each pole will vary. Poles are generally buried around 6 feet in the ground. The buried part of the broken pole is usually pulled out with the hydraulic lift on a truck. Sometimes it’s necessary to dig a new hole. Dirt is backfilled and tamped

down with hydraulic equipment. The power lines are then lifted back into place and mounted on the new insulators. Once all is back in place, the protective gear is removed and an all-clear is given, the power is turned back on.

Sometimes it’s possible during the pole replacement process to redirect power to those affected by the outage. It is the goal of the electric cooperative to safely restore power to as many consumers as quickly as possible.

1

Assess the situation.



2

Secure the scene and call in a crew.



3

Obtain supplies and tools.



4

Replace the damaged pole.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

VOTE MARCH 1ST - 22ND

NINESTAR CONNECT'S ANNUAL MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING

IN-PERSON

- ★ FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH
- ★ GREENFIELD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL'S FIELDHOUSE
- ★ DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM, BUSINESS MEETING BEGINS AT 6 PM
- ★ VOTING/RSVPS ACCEPTED MARCH 1-22. (VOTING CLOSSES AT 5 PM)
- ★ DOOR PRIZES AVAILABLE TO BOTH IN PERSON AND ONLINE PARTICIPANTS (DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN)

ONLINE

- ★ SUNDAY, MARCH 26TH AT 6PM
- ★ YOUTUBE.COM/@NINESTARFILMS8205
- ★ NINESTARCONNECT.COM/ANNUALMEETING

VOTE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARCH 1ST – 22ND

RECEIVE A \$10 BILL CREDIT OR DINNER AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND BE ENTERED FOR \$5,000 IN CASH PRIZES AND \$2,500 IN GIVEAWAYS.

Vote online at ninestarconnect.smarthub.coop/

ONLINE ONLY,

YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

To learn more visit ninestarconnect.com/annualmeeting.

DIRECTOR, AT-LARGE A

RICHARD GRIFFIN



BACKGROUND: Richard Griffin has been a cooperative member since 2003. Richard graduated from Greenfield-Central High School, studied Electrical Engineering at IUPUI and went through the Community Hospital's Paramedic Program.

Richard is currently a Firefighter/Paramedic at Buck Creek Township Fire Department. Richard excels in various ways of communication such as problem solving, ability to understand and implement a standard set of protocols, familiar with ISO ratings and understands water supply and systems. He also is known to be calm and patient under adverse conditions, recognizes the importance of peer training and enjoys the continuance of learning and growing.

He is a member and serves as deacon on the Men's Leadership Team, biblical counselor, teacher for first responder PTSD and youth group leader at Brandywine Community Church. Past volunteer for Love Inc. and Greenfield Fire Department. He was on an exploratory committee to form a non-profit dance studio and he is currently a parent volunteer for the Greenfield Community Aquatics Team.

Mr. Griffin has lived and worked for almost 45 years in Greenfield. This has given him the privilege to serve in many volunteer positions within the community. He dedicates his life to serving others. Richard and his wife Carrie have one daughter, Grace and they reside in Greenfield.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: I would like to bring my experiences of living and working in Hancock County to promote the growth of our community. Having served the community as firefighter and paramedic, I have seen how improvements in electricity and communications has improved our lives. These systems are now vital to the way we live and work. Also, I have had the pleasure to serve hurricane-stricken areas as a first responder. I have seen first-hand how vital electrical and communication grids are to the well-being of the affected area. I have interest in learning more about how the local, regional, and national grids work together to bring us a better way of life. I would like to be part of a board that is and will bring a positive change to our community.

DIRECTOR, AT-LARGE A

TONY SHOWMAN



BACKGROUND: Tony Showman has been a cooperative member since 2018. Tony has three degrees all from the University of Oklahoma: Master of Business Administration – Finance/International Business/Human Resources, Bachelor of Accounting – Accounting/Legal Studies and Bachelor of Business Administration – Finance/Accounting.

Tony is currently a consultant for Resources Global Professionals. Previously he was treasurer for Stant USA Corp and Bluebird Bus Company. He was assistant treasurer for Cajun Electric Power Cooperative, an electric generation and transmission utility, along with other finance positions. Tony has over 30 years of experience in corporate finance and has served as a financial officer with several corporations.

Tony is a member of The Havens HOA Board for approximately 12 years (served as president, VP, and treasurer) and he and his wife attend Outlook Christian Church in McCordsville.

Mr. Showman has served on committees managing pensions, 401k's, and employee benefits. Additionally, he has helped distressed companies navigate through bankruptcy to become viable again and managed corporate cash flow on an international basis. Tony and his wife Kimberly reside in New Palestine and have three adult children: Thomas, Tiffany, and Taylor.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: It is incumbent for us to take a personal stake in our community. I am currently a board member on my neighborhood HOA (serving for approximately twelve years) and interested not only in issues that affect my neighborhood, but also issues that affect the entire community. The area is growing, and I would like to help share the growth and make an impact. I have a sound education and experience in finance and business, including experience in a cooperative generation and transmission utility, coupled with a desire to help the community and believe I can bring those skills to the board. Additionally, I am interested in learning more about the NineStar Connect system and how innovative technology in the various utility segments can be leveraged to benefit all the members. I believe my experience and education, makes me a qualified candidate for NineStar Connect.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

DIRECTOR, DISTRICT #1 CHARLES KENNEDY



BACKGROUND: Charles Kennedy has been a cooperative member since 2016. Charles earned his Bachelor of Science degree in management with an emphasis in finance and marketing from Purdue University. He also attended the Graduate School of Banking in Wisconsin. Charles is currently the Executive Vice President at Cambridge Capital. Previously, he worked at Huntington National Bank & AFNB from 1986 through 1996. His skills include managing several funds, which are engaged in financing and advising small businesses throughout Indiana. He has served as a charter board member of Community Investment Fund of Indiana, a member of several small business boards/advisory boards and a board member of the Indiana Small Business Development Center, which has 10 regional offices throughout Indiana that assists small and emerging businesses. Charles and his wife are members of St. Simon Catholic Church and a 44-year member of Knights of Columbus. Since 2012, he has served

on the Hispanic Business Council of Indianapolis and served on the Athenaeum Foundation Board of Trustees.

Charles and his wife Dianna have enjoyed their Fishers/Fortville community with all the advantages of a large city as well as the neighborhood feel of the smaller towns. They have been fortunate to meet many co-op members. Charles and Dianna reside in Fishers and have three adult children; Patrick, Elizabeth and Thomas.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: I am completing my first term as a board member as well as Secretary of the NineStar Connect board. I strongly feel that my experience in financing and expertise in advising small businesses throughout the state of Indiana bring a unique perspective to the board and have added value to the appropriate decisions that must be made at this level. Further, I am aware of the time commitments the board members dedicate to fulfill their meeting and education obligations and look forward to continuing going above and beyond to ensure co-op members receive the best and most cost-effective services that they very much desire. Because of our strong senior leadership managing the daily operations as well as the board directing the strategic, long-term planning, NineStar Connect is exceptionally well known across the region for their innovation and vision and is without question, a leader in the co-op industry.

DIRECTOR, DISTRICT #1 SCOTT SELM



BACKGROUND: Scott Selm has been a cooperative member since 2016. He received his Bachelor's degree in Accounting with minors in Finance and Business Administration from Marian University. He is currently the CEO and Founder of Kite Incorporated and SJ Property Group ("SJP"). Kite Incorporated launched the Kite Sportz app in May 2022 currently with users in 45 states and connects baseball and softball players, parents, coaches, teams, and instructors to obtain information more efficiently and effectively to promote a more positive sports experience tailored to the individual. SJP was founded in 2004 with a focus on investing in rental properties and managing the growing portfolio that is diversified with families, single professionals, and college students.

Scott has over 20 years of experience in accounting and auditing leadership positions and most recently was Vice President, Internal Audit and Business Assurance at Celadon Group. He has held other

various roles with increasing levels of responsibility with Mead Johnson Nutrition, Delta Faucet Company, Remy International, Deloitte & Touche, and Ernst & Young.

Scott has been married for 20 years to his wife, Jeni, and they share two daughters: Makenna (16) and Aubrey (13) and two dogs. They reside in Fortville and their daughters attend Hamilton Southeastern schools. Scott played baseball in college and has been a youth rec and travel softball coach for many years.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: I'm very interested in this unique opportunity to be a core member of a community-based and member-owned cooperative in which my family lives and for the potential to contribute knowledge and experience I've gained throughout my career to positively impact the community. NineStar Connect has been a visionary leader with a commitment to innovative thinking for future generations in a community that is experiencing explosive growth currently and projected for the foreseeable future. It would be a great opportunity to be involved with such a positive leader in the community. With my career path and experience of reporting directly to the Audit Committee Chair of the Board of Directors, I believe I can bring a unique and balanced experience of foundational corporate business best practices along with an innovative entrepreneurial mindset to be impactful while allowing me to continue to grow personally and professionally.

DIRECTOR, DISTRICT #7 JACK NEGLEY



BACKGROUND: Jack Negley has been a cooperative member since 1987. Jack graduated from Lawrence Central High School in Indianapolis and then went on to receive his bachelor's degree in Engineering from Purdue University, West Lafayette.

Jack currently works for WEG Electric as a Territory Account Manager. He previously worked for GE, Siemens, Furnas Electric, Teradyne, and Reliance Electric. All positions were Technical Sales covering the state of Indiana. Jack has experience as a Sales Manager and has been responsible for sales budgets and staff. He previously sold electrical equipment such as power distribution, transformers, and motor control. He has a good working knowledge of electrical systems. Since 2020, he has served as the Director of District 7 for NineStar and has completed three director certifications for NTCA and NRECA. He also is serving on both the Membership and Economic Development Committees and is chair of the By-Laws and Policy Committee.

Jack has served as President, VP, Stewardship Chairman, member of Elders, By-Laws Committee and currently on the Endowment Committee (for which he started 23 years ago) for Zion Lutheran Church and School in New Palestine. He has also served 2 years on the Buck Creek Township Advisory Board and as Trustee. He is on the Sigma Nu Purdue Alumni Board. Jack was also a member of the Mount Vernon Optimist Club and he ran the basketball program for 6 years.

Jack and his wife Carol have lived at their current address since 1987. His wife taught at Greenfield School System (now retired). All three of their children (Brittany, Kyle and Kayla) attended Zion Lutheran School until 6th grade and then went to Mt. Vernon Schools from 7th-12th grades. Jack and Carol reside in Greenfield.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: I am honored to currently serve our members as a Director of NineStar and would look forward to continue working with NineStar directors, CEO, and executive staff with the goal of our members having the highest quality of life by providing you with the best utility services in electric, fiber, water and wastewater. We are experiencing economic growth and with it comes challenges as we continue to invest in infrastructure and working through opportunities in serving our members best with the increase in the use of electric vehicles. I believe it is critical that we invest in technologies that give us the most reliable electric power, safe and secure internet, clean water, and wastewater services at the most affordable cost to each of us. Long term strategic planning is essential to NineStar's success keeping financial sustainability as a priority. I look forward to the opportunity to represent you as a Director for District 7.

DIRECTOR, DISTRICT #8 RAYMOND KERKHOF



BACKGROUND: Ray Kerkhof has been a cooperative member since 1975. Ray graduated from Greenfield-Central High School and then went on to Purdue University for his bachelor's degree in Agriculture. Ray retired from Harvest Land Co-op as an Ag Center Manager. Previously, he worked for Hancock County Co-op and Ag One Co-op. Ray has had several management and leadership courses throughout his career. He also received his certificate of achievement from NTCA as well as some classes in finance from CFC. He just completed his CCD certificate this past November from NRECA. Ray is a member of Trinity Park Church and a current member of Farm Bureau, Inc.

Other involvement includes Ray as president of 3-K Farms Inc (a family farming operation), he served as president of Hancock County Farm Bureau and District VI Farm Bureau Elect, served as first vice president of Greenfield-Central School Board and has served on the nominating committee for Farm Credit Mid-America representing

Indiana. He also served on the Hancock Regional Hospital Foundation Board and Hancock County Extension Board. He is currently serving as board chairman of NineStar Connect and was selected to serve on the board of Indiana Electric Cooperative (IEC).

Ray and his wife Pam have three children: Chad, Brandi and Nick. They currently reside just outside of Greenfield.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: I've had the privilege of serving as a director for NineStar Connect for the past six years. During that time our service area has experienced accelerated growth and thus our cooperative has grown as well. Staff and your directors have focused on long term strategies to ensure that we meet the demands of today and not miss the opportunities of tomorrow. We speak of the cooperative model and how it differs from the traditional business model. Member ownership and the sharing in its margins resonates with most people and I'm proud to be a part of a company that gives back to its members and the community. As growth continues, we need to monitor its pulse to insure the increase in the quality of life. I welcome that challenge and the many others that will arise in maintaining a growing and thriving cooperative.

