



OPERATION ROUND UP®

Each quarter a group of Trustees meet and decide how the extra charge that is rounded up from customer's bills are dispersed from the applications that are received.

Read more on page 6

OUT & ABOUT!

A showcase of places we've been in the community.

Read more on page 9.

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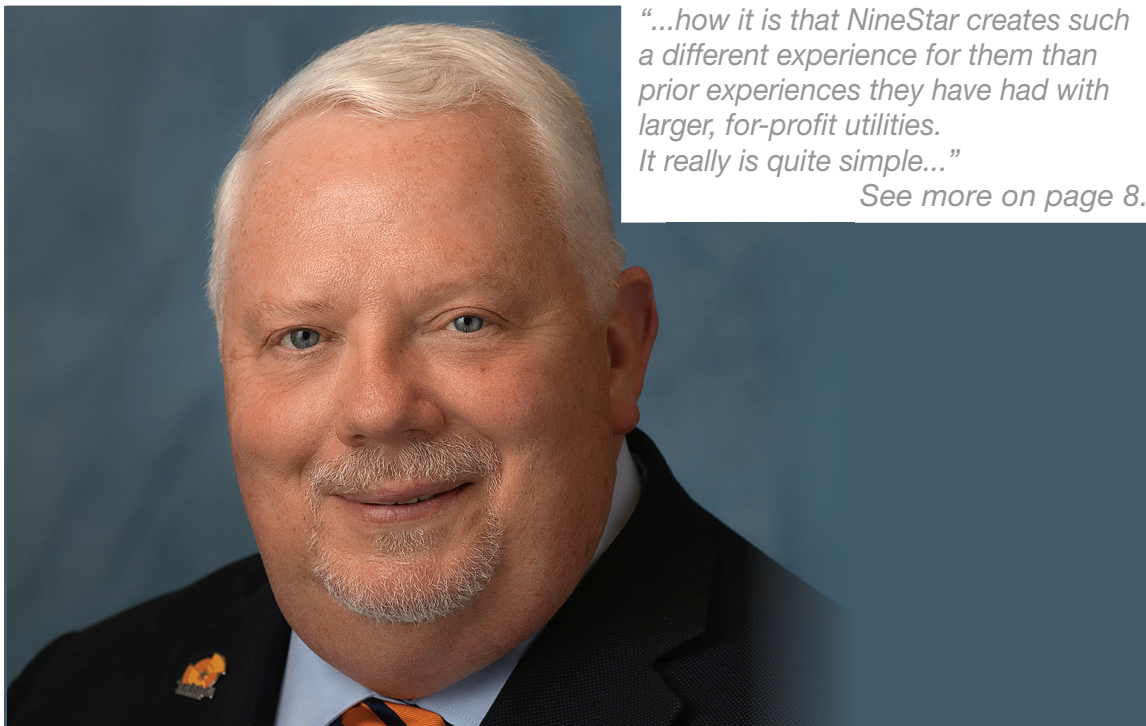
A NEW VENUE

NINESTAR'S ANNUAL
MEETING WILL BE HELD
ON MARCH 14TH

EMPLOYEE
RECOGNITION
PAGE 7

MEET THE
CANDIDATES
PAGE 10-11





“...how it is that NineStar creates such a different experience for them than prior experiences they have had with larger, for-profit utilities. It really is quite simple...”
See more on page 8.



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

“JOANN WAS VERY SWEET AND PATIENT. I APPRECIATED HER HELP.”
CUSTOMER HEIDEN

COVER STORY PAGE 4

NineStar's Annual Meeting to be at a new venue on March 14th, 2025.

OPERATION ROUND UP® PAGE 6

Each quarter a group of Trustees meet and decide how the extra change that is rounded up from customer's bills are dispersed from the applications that are received.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PAGE 7

Congratulations to the NineStar directors & employees who were recognized at the Indiana Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Recognition Banquet.

OUT & ABOUT! PAGE 9

A showcase of places we've been in the community.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Read more about the board of director candidates who will be voted on before this year's annual meeting.

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the **COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES**

VOLUNTARY & OPEN MEMBERSHIP

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DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

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MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

3



AUTONOMY & INDEPENDENCE

4



EDUCATION, TRAINING, & INFORMATION

5



COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

6



CONCERN for COMMUNITY

7



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

STORY IDEA?

Contact David Spencer at dspencer@ninstarconnect.com



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.

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NineStar Connection

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Director District 3
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AT LARGE

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Susan Bodkin
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THOMAS ORDING

AT LARGE



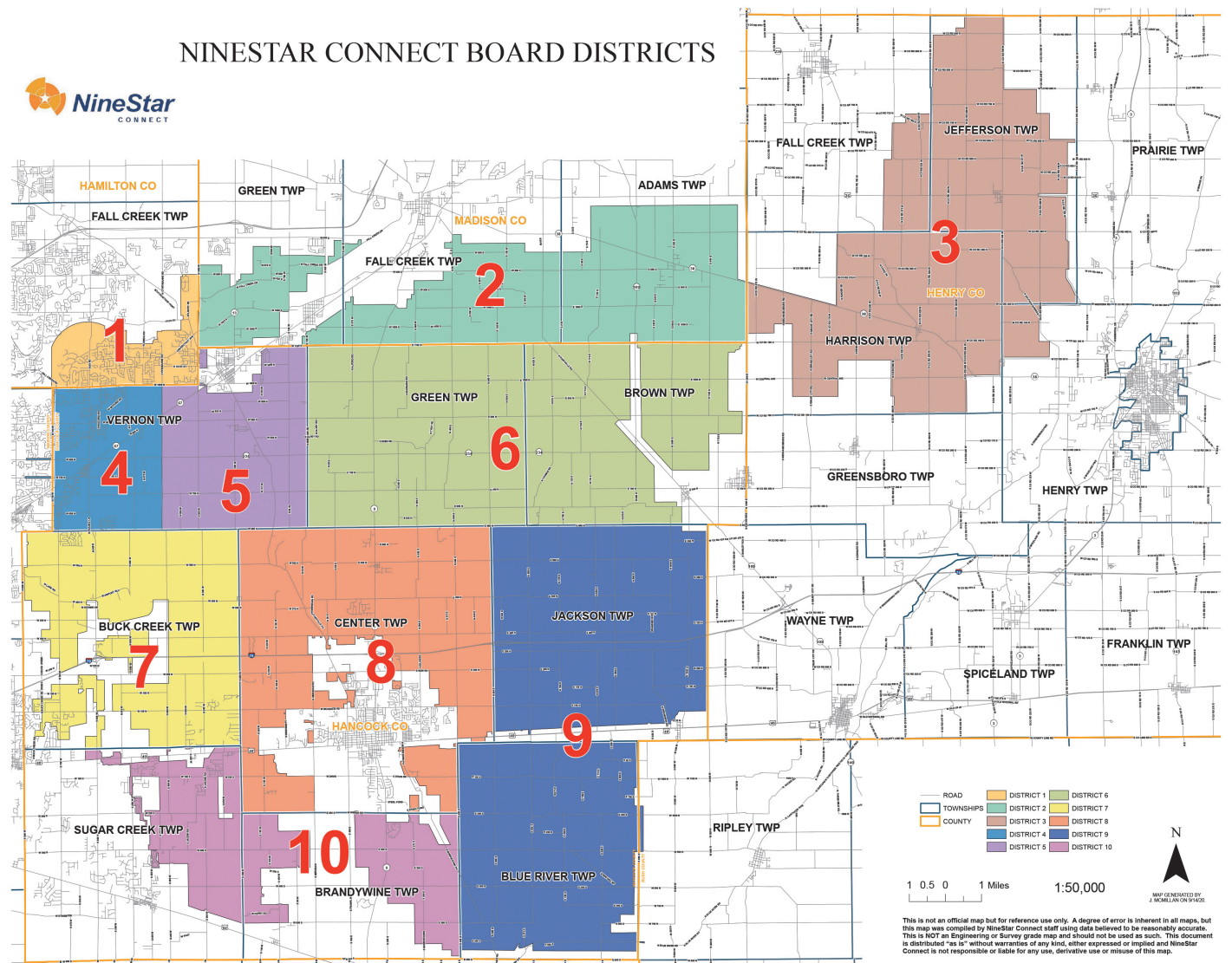
RICHARD GRIFFIN



SUSAN BODKIN



TIMOTHY BRYANT



A NEW VENUE

NINESTAR'S ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 14TH

BY JULIE YOUNG

After years of transforming the Greenfield Central High School fieldhouse into an event space for its annual meeting, NineStar Connect is giving its members a change of scenery for this year's affair. The 2025 NineStar Connect Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Friday, March 14, at the Greenfield-Central High School Performing Arts Center, 810 N. Broadway.

According to Dave Spencer, director of marketing and public relations for NineStar Connect said the newly built, state-of-the-art theater offers a lot of built in features that makes it a particularly perfect venue for this annual event.

"The new auditorium not only seats 1,600, but it also comes equipped with its own production system, so we don't have to hire a company to set up chairs, a stage, and A/V equipment in order to conduct the meeting. It's also a beautiful venue so why not let everyone enjoy it?"

Check-in will begin at 5pm with dinner served in the Greenfield-Central High School cafeteria. Once again, the meal will be provided by Jonathan 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.

Dinner will be followed by the business meeting at 6 p.m., which will include Q&A with the President/CEO and Board Chairman as well as presentation of reports, and the election of directors.

Voting can be completed online using your SmartHub secure login or by stopping by one of NineStar Connect's offices between February 24 – March 12 by 5 p.m. By voting, members will be eligible for either a \$10 bill credit or a dinner for themselves and their immediate family members on the night of the meeting. All voting members will be entered into a drawing for \$7,500 in cash prizes. (Members do not have to be present to win.) Those who plan to attend the annual event in person must RSVP online at www.ninestarconnect.smarthub.coop or at one of the NineStar offices, 2243 E. Main Street in Greenfield or 6045 West Broadway in McCordsville. Members who cannot attend in person will have the opportunity to view the meeting virtually beginning on Sunday March 16 at www.ninestarnow.com

Spencer said accommodating those members who want to stay connected electronically as well as those who like to attend the meeting in person

is important to a co-op that honors tradition while evolving with the times. Throughout the year, NineStar offers Town Halls and other events that are streamed so that those who cannot come out to an in-person event can still take advantage of the content that is shared. It only makes sense that the Annual Meeting can also be accessed in multiple ways.

"It's all about transparency," Spencer said. "For 130 years, we have worked hard to keep our members engaged and let them know what is going on with their co-op and that continues to this day. Although people are busier than ever, voting has gone up over the years and our members appreciate the way we use the tools of the past while embracing the products of the future to keep them informed."



NINESTAR CONNECT'S ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: Friday March 14, 2025

WHERE: Greenfield-Central High School Performing Arts Center

TIME: Check-in and dinner 5p.m.-6 p.m. Business meeting to follow

Voting/RSVPs accepted February 24 – March 12
(Voting closes at 5 p.m.)

Vote Online using your SmartHub secure login at www.ninestarconnect.smarthub.coop or in person at one of NineStar's offices, **2243 E. Main Street in Greenfield** or **6045 West Broadway in McCordsville**. Cash prizes available to both in-person and online participants.

Have a question for NineStar? Submit your question to annualmeetingquestion@ninestarconnect.com by March 5 and it may be answered during the meeting!

KEEPING WARM

HEATING PADS, ELECTRIC BLANKETS AND SPACE HEATERS



Electric space heaters and blankets are great ways to stay toasty warm when the temperature drops. But don't forget about safety before you plug in these chill-chasers.

During these winter months, when space heaters and electric blankets come out of hibernation, home fires increase.

“Heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires in the United States,” said Jon Elkins, vice president of safety, training and compliance at Indiana Electric Cooperatives. “More than 65,000 home fires are attributed to heating equipment each year. These fires result in hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries and millions in property damage.”

Remember: an electric space heater is a temporary option for supplemental heat. Many homeowners may use this option to heat specific rooms while they sleep, but this is unsafe. When you leave a room or go to sleep, it is important to turn off your electric space heater. If you're leaving it unattended, it could overheat or fall. It is also important to always plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Never use an extension cord to avoid overheating.

Electric blankets and heating pads are also popular during the cold months. Never fold them and avoid using them while sleeping. Inspect them for dark, charred or frayed spots, and check to see if the electric cord is cracked or frayed. Be sure to read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels carefully before using them in your home.

While there is no risk for carbon monoxide poisoning with an electric space heater, it holds many other safety hazards if not used properly. To be safe, install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and outside all sleeping areas. If you already have them, be sure to test them once a month.

Don't let your guard down if you keep yourself or your home warm with an electric space heater, electric blanket or heating pad. By following these tips, you and your family have a better chance of avoiding significant fire and electric shock hazards.

ELECTRIC BLANKETS AND SPACE HEATERS: DO'S AND DON'TS

- **DO** read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels carefully before using any space heater or electric blanket.
- **DON'T** leave a space heater or electric heating blanket unattended. Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep.
- **DO** inspect heaters for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections before each use.
- **DON'T** use the heater if plugs are frayed, worn or damaged.
- **DO** keep heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including papers, clothing and rugs.
- **DON'T** use electric blankets while sleeping or as a mattress pad.
- **DO** plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could overheat and result in a fire.
- **DON'T** fold an electric blanket when it's in use. Folded or tucked blankets could overheat and cause a fire.



DONATION REQUESTS

Does your organization or school want to ask for a donation from NineStar?
SUBMIT YOUR REQUEST ONLINE.

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT [NINESTARCONNECT.COM/CHARITABLE-DONATIONS](https://www.ninestarconnect.com/charitable-donations).



NineStar Connect OPERATION ROUND UP®

Each quarter a group of Trustees (NineStar customers who volunteer their time to serve on the ORU committee) meet and decide how the extra change that is rounded up from customer's bills are dispersed from the applications that are received. Here are the organizations that benefited from the Operation Round Up fund the last quarter of 2024:

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF MORRISTOWN - \$2,000.00

Funds for STEM items – equipment, supplies, and learning materials that promote hands on learning.

EASTERN HANCOCK ELEMENTARY - \$2,500.00

Two 3D printers for the elementary media center.

HANCOCK COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES - \$5,000.00

New laptops, desktops, and monitors for off site services and onsite counseling.

The purpose of the Operation Round Up program is to accumulate and distribute funds for charitable purposes to groups/organizations within the NineStar service territory. The source of these funds is the membership of NineStar Connect service customers who voluntarily “round up” their bill to the next highest dollar. The money is accumulated by the co-op and transferred to the NineStar Community Trust.

For ones that want to send in an application for Operation Round-up dollars, the next application deadline is April 4, 2025. Applications can be downloaded from our website at www.ninestarconnect.com under “About” and then “In the Community”.

If you have any questions about the ORU program, please email OperationRoundUp@NineStarConnect.com or call 317-323-3087.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE 2024
FOURTH QUARTER ORU RECIPIENTS!**



CERTIFICATIONS EARNED

Several NineStar employees and directors received certifications through IEC (Indiana Electric Cooperative)

A **BIG** CONGRATULATIONS TO:



Congratulations

NINESTAR CONNECT
Angie Freeman

ON OBTAINING THE LEAD CERTIFICATION

LEAD IEC INDIANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



Congratulations

NINESTAR CONNECT
Timothy Becker

RELITE GRADUATE

RELITE RURAL ELECTRIC LEADERS IN TRAINING EXCHANGE



Congratulations

NINESTAR CONNECT
Alisha Roland

ON OBTAINING THE COOPERATIVE LEADERSHIP EDGE CERTIFICATION

edge



Congratulations

NINESTAR CONNECT
Austin Gearlds

ON OBTAINING THE COOPERATIVE LEADERSHIP EDGE CERTIFICATION

edge



Congratulations

NINESTAR CONNECT
Justin Nolen

ADVANCED LINEMAN TRAINING PROGRAM GRADUATE

IEC INDIANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



Congratulations

NINESTAR CONNECT DIRECTOR
Susan Bodkin

ON ACHIEVING YOUR CREDENTIALLED COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR CERTIFICATE

IEC INDIANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



Congratulations

NINESTAR CONNECT DIRECTOR
Mark Evans

ON ACHIEVING YOUR DIRECTOR GOLD CREDENTIAL

IEC INDIANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



Congratulations

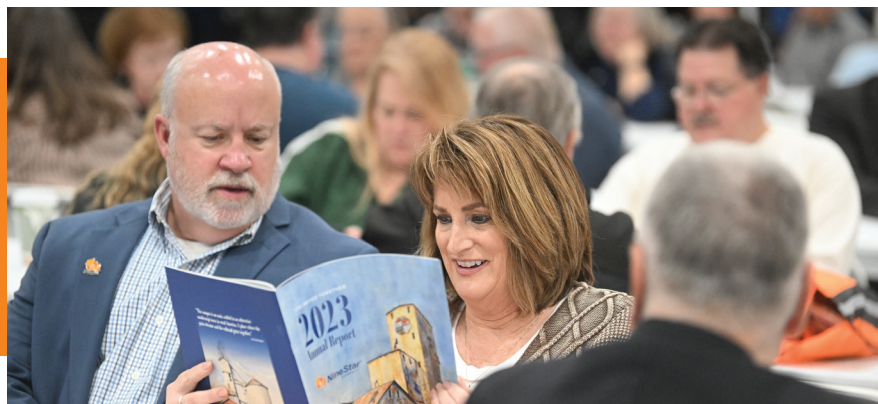
NINESTAR CONNECT DIRECTOR
Jack D. Negley

ON ACHIEVING YOUR DIRECTOR GOLD CREDENTIAL

IEC INDIANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

President's Message

By Michael R. Burrow, President & CEO



Michael R. Burrow

I love the opportunities my schedule occasionally allows for me to get to talk with members of our cooperative. In particular, I really enjoy getting to engage some of our newest members who have moved to the community from Indianapolis or other communities. To a person, most want to talk about the positive experience they have had with NineStar employees and often will ask how it is that NineStar creates such a different experience for them than prior experiences they have had with larger, for-profit utilities.

It really is quite simple and boils down to how NineStar is structured as a public utility. As a non-profit cooperative, we are singularly focused on the quality of service we provide, not profits. Indeed, as a non-profit cooperative utility, when we make a profit, we give it back in the form of capital credits – something I've written about before in this column. Unlike our fellow investor-owned utilities, there is no incentive for NineStar to make greater profits because they are simply allocated and returned to the members who generated them. This is not to say that we don't recognize that we have to be good stewards of our members' money. What it does mean, however, is

that we have a single-minded focus to provide the highest quality of services that we can and that we are always looking to incrementally improve on those services every year.

It also means that we hold ourselves accountable when we don't meet our expectations on quality of service for our members and customers. We own our mistakes and are transparent with our members in how we may have fallen short and what we are doing to improve. I suppose it really is something as basic as treating our members and customers the same way we would want to be treated.

Another thing that distinguishes NineStar is our connection with the communities we serve. Unlike large utility corporations, we are invested in the success of our community. If our community doesn't thrive, NineStar doesn't thrive. That's why you will see many of our employees volunteering their time and efforts to help numerous non-profit organizations within the community and why you see NineStar working closely with our local schools and local government to participate in activities that improve the quality of life for residents and quality of place for our greater community.

We've also been around a long time and are focused on being around for quite a while longer. This year, NineStar will be celebrating its 130th anniversary. Over those many years, we have had various names and different service offerings, but our north star has always been making investments that makes our community a better place to live.

Of course, you simply cannot overlook the impact our board of directors has on NineStar. They are all members of the co-op. They come from the local community. Who better to understand the needs of those we serve. Through their strategic focus and vision, NineStar is a cooperative that punches well above its weight when it comes to providing critical services that our community needs to grow and thrive.

I hope to see many of you at our upcoming annual meeting and celebration on March 14th. Until then, I welcome your feedback and thoughts.

OUT & ABOUT

INTERN

NineStar intern and Eastern Hancock student, Lincoln Richmond beat his own school record in diving with a score of 151.3.



JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN

Justin Messer and Brenden Box are our newest journeyman lineman. Pictured from L to R: Eric Truitt, Justin Messer, Brenden Box, Tommy Nance, & Mike Burrow.



TOYS FOR TOTS VOLUNTEERS

Several NineStar employees took their time to volunteer for Toys For Tots. They spent time organizing and sorting donated toys for local families.



CHRISTMAS ADOPTION

Thanks to donations from Customer Service, Billing, Software Solutions departments, and Eric Truitt, a mother and her five children who are currently living at the Hope House shelter will be enjoying a nice Christmas this year! All kids asked for bikes for Christmas and NineStar Santa was able to fulfill their wish! Along with some other items on their list and some gifts for Mom too, this was something that the NineStar group could all contribute to and chose to GIVE BACK instead of giving gifts for each other.



DIRECTORS

In December, NineStar's board of directors (current & retired) came together to celebrate the holiday season and enjoy the good company with laughs and conversation.



TURKEY TROT

Several NineStar employees participated in Greenfield Turkey Day 5k race.



MEET THE CANDIDATES

VOTE FEBRUARY 24TH - MARCH 12TH

ANNUAL MEETING

IN-PERSON

- ★ FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH
- ★ THE GREENFIELD-CENTRAL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
- ★ DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM, BUSINESS MEETING BEGINS AT 6 PM
- ★ RSVP DURING VOTING
- ★ YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN PRIZES

ONLINE

- ★ VIEW THE MEETING ONLINE BEGINNING ON SUNDAY, MARCH 16TH AT NineStarNow.com

VOTE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VOTE FEBRUARY 24TH – MARCH 12TH AT 5 PM

Vote online at ninstarconnect.smarthub.coop/

RECEIVE A \$10 BILL CREDIT OR DINNER AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND BE ENTERED FOR \$7,500 IN CASH PRIZES.

To learn more visit ninstarconnect.com/annualmeeting.

DIRECTOR, AT-LARGE C SUSAN BODKIN



BACKGROUND: Susan Bodkin has been a cooperative member since 1985. She graduated from Greenfield-Central High School and Purdue University and has a Bachelor of Science Degree in the School of Agriculture. She is currently a resource planner with Christopher Burke Engineering. Susan retired from Hancock County Government as she was the Hancock County Surveyor for 14 years. In the past, she has worked as a technician and weed specialist for Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation. She specializes in leadership and teamwork, construction plan reviews and the general knowledge of Hancock County, especially drainage. Susan is a member of Willow Branch United Methodist Church serving as trustee, secretary, and has been on several different committees. She has volunteered at the Kenneth

Butler Memorial Soup Kitchen and Hancock Regional Hospital and assists with the Hancock County 4-H Sheep show. Susan and her husband David currently reside near Wilkinson. They have a son Joe who is married to Chelsea and grandson Brecken.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: During my career as Hancock County Surveyor and the last three years as a director of NineStar Connect, I have gained valuable knowledge about the utilities NineStar provides. I wish to use this knowledge and desire for continued learning to further assist in guiding the future of the industry as a director. My role as County Surveyor gave me invaluable experience in planning for development and the utilities needed to provide services to these areas. Most recently, I have been involved with many counties and towns while working for Christopher B. Burke Engineering and have assisted them in meeting government program goals. I enjoy serving my community and feel that this is an excellent opportunity to continue that passion. I understand the rural atmosphere and the concern for urban growth. My knowledge and understanding of the county and its function would be an asset for the Board.

DIRECTOR, AT-LARGE C CHRIS GRAY



BACKGROUND: Chris Gray has been a cooperative member since 2003. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University in Electrical Engineering Technology and graduated from New Palestine High School. He is currently the Director of Software at Gener8, Inc. and was a partner at the RND Group before its acquisition by Gener8. Prior to that he worked as an engineer at Thomson Consumer Electric. He has held a PMP certification (Project Management Professional) and continues to use PMP techniques as well as Agile project management approaches in his day-to-day work. Projects he manages frequently require adherence to government standards, and he is extremely confident in using and interpreting standards like ISO or IEC as reference and guides. Chris supports several organizations

through fundraising and volunteering: O'Connor House, Mt. Vernon Athletic Foundation, and Mt. Vernon Fortune Academy. Chris and his wife Jennifer reside in Fortville and have two children, Max and Kate. Chris grew up in Hancock County and has lived here all his life besides a brief period in Marion County and considers himself a lifelong Hancock County resident as he has a large extended family in the county and has enjoyed watching the county grow.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: I'm excited about working with NineStar because of its excellent reputation in the industry. I am eager to contribute strategic and long-term planning that have a direct impact locally and for the members of the cooperative. NineStar's support of the community through initiatives like Operation Round Up aligns with my personal beliefs. I admire the cooperative structure and believe every member should be heard and supported. I'm particularly inspired by how NineStar upholds member participation as one of its core principles.

DIRECTOR, AT-LARGE C JOHN SAMPLES



BACKGROUND: A 50-year resident of Central Indiana, John W Samples has been a NineStar member since 2022. He attended Purdue, Kentucky Christian, and Milligan Universities. His Indiana broadcasting career began in 1979 as a statehouse reporter and public affairs director for WFYI-PBS. He later moved to the Indianapolis CBS affiliate as news producer and anchor, then to the City/County building as press secretary to Indianapolis Mayor William Hudnut. While employed at Wabash Valley Power, he studied Rural Electric Management at the University of Nebraska, then became CEO of the Jay County REMC in Portland, IN and was selected as the initial chair of NRECA's Touchstone Energy marketing committee. In 2000, after 13 years in the rural electric industry, John went into full-time ministry at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville and later with multiple inner-city ministries, including Lighthouse Mission in Indianapolis. As president and CEO of two different international NGOs, he served Christian

churches in Ukraine and Israel as well as the USA. John has consulted with additional nonprofit corporations in strategic planning, mergers, crisis management, fundraising, and human resources. In addition to his professional positions, Samples has served in various church roles, including deacon, youth sponsor, etc. He's been a volunteer firefighter and was a founding board member at the Indianapolis Center for Interfaith Cooperation. The publisher of six books, John has been married to Bobbi, his high school sweetheart, since 1974; they have two adult children, one grandson and another on the way, all living nearby. John and Bobbi reside in McCordsville.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: I still cherish my years as a professional in the Rural Electric program, and I've been hoping to re-engage since the day I left nearly 25 years ago. My belief in the values and principles of electric cooperatives has never wavered, and our decision to build a home in McCordsville nearly three years ago was influenced by the chance to be an REMC member once again. I'd like to think I have something left to give, and it would certainly be a gift to be able to serve the community and the fellowship of co-ops in this way.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

DIRECTOR, DISTRICT #2 MARK EVANS



BACKGROUND: Mark Evans has been a cooperative member since 2000. He graduated from Ball State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Mid-America College of Funeral Service – Associate of Applied Science Funeral Service. He is currently a financial management analyst with DFAS (Defense Finance and Accounting Service). He also serves as clerk-treasurer for the Town of Markleville. He was the former branch manager at First Merchants Bank, Regions Bank. Serving as clerk-treasurer and a background in banking provides the knowledge and skills to make critical decisions, while managing public funds, budgeting and analytics. Mark has volunteered in the past for South Madison Community Foundation Grant Committee, United Way Day of Caring, United Way campaigns, Habitat for Humanity, 500 Festival Education Day and Regions Bank Diversity Council. He is a member of East Side Church of God in Anderson, IN and member of Markleville Masonic Lodge #629. Mark and his wife Laura have two children, Andrew and Gabby, and reside in Markleville.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: I would like to continue to serve as a director for a number of reasons. I have 16 years' experience, and I am one of a few active directors that were board members at the time NineStar was formed from the merger of Central Indiana Power and Hancock Telecom. That experience allows me to bring a historical perspective when making decisions for the members. I have been involved in decisions that have had a positive impact on current members and have grown our membership, while maintaining our cooperative values. I am proud to represent our cooperative, locally and nationally. And when making decisions, I always keep in mind the members and community impact. My experience provides me with the knowledge and skills to be an effective, strategic, and vigilant board member, and want to continue to represent our membership as a director of NineStar Connect. Thank you for your consideration.

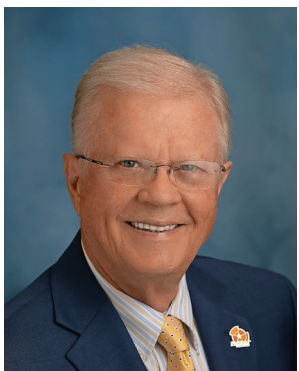
DIRECTOR, DISTRICT #6 JOE PAXTON



BACKGROUND: Joe Paxton has been a cooperative member since 1973. Joe graduated from Greenfield-Central High School and attended Purdue University. He is self-employed as a farmer-owner-operator of Paxton Enterprises which helps manage 3,000 acres of farmland. He is currently a member and on the Board of Directors for Farm Bureau Incorporated and is on the Hancock County committee of Farm Service Agency. He is also a member of Eden United Methodist Church. Joe and his wife Patty have two grown children, Michelle Hasty and Joe Paul Paxton and four grandchildren.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: Over the past 19 years, I have had the privilege to represent our cooperative. I take great pride in representing my community as a director. In my tenure, I have seen two outstanding cooperatives merge into one nationally recognized organization. NineStar's future is bright because of the employees, but also because of the unique relationship among directors and member-owners of our cooperative. Looking forward, there will be some challenges with our highly regulated environment, but with my years of education and experience as a director, I am confident this cooperative will continue moving forward as a leader in the industry. I am focused on the future and want to continue to serve all NineStar members.

DIRECTOR, DISTRICT #9 PHILIP HAYES



BACKGROUND: Philip Hayes has been a cooperative member since 1976. He graduated from Greenfield-Central High School and then Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Management with a minor in Computer Science. He is currently retired. For 23 years, he worked at Naval Air Warfare Center as a Program Manager, Ground Based Systems. He was a Business Manager of Manufacturing & Depot Operations at Raytheon Technical Services, LLC for 14 years. Combined, Phil has had over 37 years working in the defense industry focused on design, development, production, and repair of military electronics. Phil's specialized training consists of Cooperative Board leadership and continuing education with NTCA (Rural Broadband Association), IEC (Indiana Electric Cooperatives), Statewide Association of REMC's, NRECA (National Association of Rural Electric Cooperative), Alliance of Indiana Rural Water Association, Aces Power Marketing Risk Management Training, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation Certificates, Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership Course, and numerous Broadband Core Curriculum

Courses. Phil serves on NineStar's executive and finance committees. Phil also represents NineStar on the Wabash Valley Power Alliance (WVPA) Board of Directors (21 member REMC's from 2 states) which provides wholesale electricity to NineStar. Phil currently serves on the WVPA Executive Committee and his primary WVPA goal is to balance NineStar's member interests, WVPA's financial viability, and the increasingly important goal of grid reliability. Phil is an active member of Willow Branch United Methodist Church serving as Sunday School Teacher, Finance & Pastor Parish Chairperson. He is a member of Prospect Lodge #714 F&AM, a life member of Purdue Alumni Association and member of Greenfield Kiwanis. Phil resides in Wilkinson with his wife Pamela. They have a son, Brandon (Becky) and two grandchildren, Sydney and Ray.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: I am fortunate to have been a part of the formation, growth, and development of NineStar Connect. Today, NineStar is the only rural cooperative in the US providing four utility services: electric, broadband, water, & wastewater. The Staff and Directors of NineStar are a team united in a long-term strategy to ensure members of NineStar Connect have access to the best possible utilities. I believe quality-of-life is an important factor in where people live, and work and I enjoy being a part of NineStar's endeavor to be a solutions provider to our members. I believe NineStar is on the cusp of extraordinary growth and progress that will ensure NineStar will continue to invest in affordable, reliable, and quality services. I am proud of what NineStar is accomplishing and I would welcome the opportunity to carry the tradition forward representing the members of NineStar.

DIRECTOR, DISTRICT #10 THOMAS ORDING



BACKGROUND: Thomas Ording has been a cooperative member since 2019. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting from Ohio Northern University and his Master of Science in Tax from University of Cincinnati. He is currently Director of Tax at Wabash National Corporation. Previously, he worked as a Senior Director at RSM LLP and a Global Director of Tax and Assistant Secretary for Remy International, Inc. Thomas is a Certified Public Accountant in Indiana and Ohio. He has experience with businesses ranging in size from start-ups to multinationals. Thomas and his wife

Lorinda reside in New Palestine.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT: Throughout my career I have dealt with Co-op's either as a buying or selling Co-op and have a good understanding of the Cooperative business model. For these reasons, in 2021, I ran for the Board and was elected and have served for the last three years, and I thank you for the opportunity to have served. NineStar is an innovative organization that provides good services and quality of life for its members. As the service territory continues to grow, I believe my prior experiences and knowledge will benefit NineStar to manage the growth. I would like the opportunity to continue to provide my experience and knowledge to maintain NineStar as a leader.

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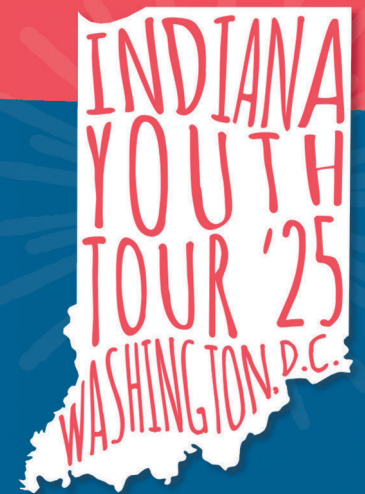


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