Why Cooperatives are COOL!

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Abstract:

The presentation will discuss the important role that electric cooperatives play in the electric utility industry. The discussion presents insights into the nature of the utility industry in the Midwest, in general, and Illinois, in particular. The talk will also touch on practical and useful engineering and management lessons accumulated from over 30 years of experience in the industry. In addition, useful job prospect tips will be dispensed.

Biography:

A native of south central Illinois, Bob is a BSEE ('82) graduate of the University of Illinois. He is in his 33rd year working in various aspects of the utility industry. His experience includes Illinois Power Company (in Champaign and Decatur), Soyland Power Cooperative, general manager of municipal utilities in Kentucky and Florida, and his current position as President/CEO of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative in Paxton, IL. Bob has extensive renewable resource experience, including solar and biomass projects. His utility experience includes electric, natural gas, water, wastewater, and fiber optics and communication.

He has served on a variety of non-profit and service boards, including the board chair of YMCA and Economic Development organizations in local communities in which he has lived, and a board member of organizations such as Junior Achievement and United Way. He has served on a number of industry related boards, including the Vice Chair of The Energy Authority, a Director of Prairie Power Incorporated, and as Board Chair for the Florida Reliability Coordinating Council (FRCC).

Bob and his wife Jennifer have four children. He enjoys squash, golf, running, the St. Louis Cardinals, the Green Bay Packers, and their golden retriever Sandy, in addition to being an ardent Illini sports fan.