



P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ www.wiec.net ■ 800/576-3125

news

Area Serviceman Terry Long retires

After 38 years of service, Area Serviceman Terry Long has hung up his climbing belt and retired. Terry started at WIEC in 1976 and worked in the Member Service department. He later transferred to the line crew and became Area Serviceman in 2003.

As an area serviceman, his duties included checking meter readings, connecting and disconnecting services, restoring outages during working hours, and doing security light maintenance for WIEC's entire 1,217 miles of line in our service territory. Terry also took call for after-hours outages.

In his 14 years of being an area serviceman, Terry, driving his Truck #2, has probably driven every mile of line several hundred times. Manager Tommie Long says, "Terry's dedication and service to WIEC will be greatly missed. His knowledge of our system cannot be replaced."

As an avid hunter and fisherman, Terry will spend his (3615-39) retirement doing what he loves, hunting and fishing. He also will be attending his grandsons' sporting events.

We wish Terry the very best in his retirement. 10-7, Truck #2.





Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

524 North Madison | P.O. Box 338
Carthage, IL 62321
www.wiec.net | 800/576-3125

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monday - Friday

BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

800-576-3125

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Biery —
President, **Carthage**

Rob Gronewold —
Vice-President, **Carthage**

Janet Spory —
Secretary/Treasurer, **Sutter**

Jay Morrison —
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer,
Burnside

Kent Flesner —
Director, **West Point**

Kim Gullberg —
Director, **Stronghurst**

William Newton —
Director, **Burnside**

STAFF

Tommie Long — Manager

Todd Grotts — Manager
of Operations

Becky Dickinson — Office
Manager

MAP LOCATION CONTEST

Every month we are printing four members' map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

WIEC celebrates National Lineman Appreciation Day

America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

On April 13, 2015, Western Illinois Electrical Coop. will honor the hard working men who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on.

The full text of the resolution, which the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Board adopted unanimously, follows:

"Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen;

Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the Second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's Electric Cooperatives."

We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

"Electric linemen do not often receive the recognition they deserve," said Tommie Long, WIEC Manager. "They work all hours of the day, often in hazardous conditions away from their families, going above and beyond



to restore power to WIEC members. Our linemen, as well as linemen from across the nation, truly deserve this special day of recognition."

Linemen have to work safely, smart, and efficiently—all while 40 feet in the air wearing sturdy, thick rubber gloves. Our linemen are responsible for maintaining over 1,200 miles of electrical distribution lines. Last year, they built 33 new services to homes and businesses in our service territory. They do all the tree trimming and brush spraying necessary to keep the lights on. They have a lot on their plates. But when a member calls with an outage or other power irregularity, everything else (4713-7) takes a backseat.

Power restoration takes precedence on a lineworker's to-do list. Two men take a week of call every 4-5 weeks. If more than two men are needed to restore power quickly, another crew is dispatched. We have our line crew on call standing by to serve you 24 hours a day, in the middle of the night or wee hours of the morning, weekends and holidays. Last year, our crew worked over 820 hours of overtime, just to keep the lights on.

The next time you see one of our linemen, buy them a cup of coffee, or shake their hand. If you see them on the road in a WIEC truck, give them a friendly wave. We all should take a moment to thank a lineman.

Our directors make a difference

Can YOU be part of that difference?

As an electric cooperative, Western Illinois Electrical Coop. is guided by an elected Board of Directors who represent our members when making important decisions. Being a member of the co-op's Board is an important position. A director's decisions will impact issues, such as service rates, rights of way and work plans. This position holds great responsibility and requires men and women who understand their community's needs and will keep our members' best interest at heart.

With assets of more than 22 million dollars and serving over 3600 members, WIEC needs board members who can lead when necessary, yet show a willingness to listen and cooperate. Our directors attend monthly meetings and should be willing to commit adequate time to come to the meetings prepared. Although they aren't expected to be walking encyclopedias about the electric industry, they should be prepared to learn about the issues facing WIEC,

including finances, rate management and outside political pressures.

In order for members to elect strong directors to our Board, we must have a pool of strong candidates, which is why we encourage members to consider running for a seat on our Board. This month, twelve members who serve as our 2015 (3510-33) Nominating Committee will meet to place names in nomination for District 1, District 2 and District 3. These areas encompass all of Henderson County and the northern part of Hancock County. The nominated candidates will be voted on at our Annual Meeting in June. Any co-op member (in good standing) who lives on WIEC lines in these districts is welcome to run for a position on the Board in their home district. Directors receive \$100 per board meeting.

Fresh ideas and new perspectives help us to enact policies that keep our cooperative strong for the future. Directors matter. Let's make a difference together.



WIEC line crew earns awards

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. was honored with two safety awards recently during the Safety/Supervisory Technical Conference held in Bloomington. They received the Best Lost Time Record and Best Accident-Illness Record for 2014.

The conference is sponsored annually by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). Shown with the award are from left: Tyler Neally, Mark Kissinger, Cody Grainger, Andy Lafeber, Tim Shumate, Eric Johnson, Scott Carle, Eric Belshaw, Greg Bolton and Operations Manager, Todd Grotts.

Nominating committee appointed

WIEC's board of directors recently appointed the following members to serve on the 2015 nominating committee: District No. 1 – Lymon Ross, Gladstone, and Rodney Fox, Stronghurst; District No. 2 – Spencer Berry, Nauvoo, and Lane Sinele, Niota; District No. 3 – Rodney Pence, Dallas City, and Brent Sparrow, Niota; District No. 4 – Jeremy Kerr, Carthage; District No. 5 – Jonathan Fecht, Carthage; District No. 6 – Robert Menn, Plymouth; and District No. 7 – Max Roskamp, Sutter.

Two members are appointed from the districts whose board terms expire each year, with one being appointed from remaining districts. These members will nominate at least one member for a three-year term to represent Districts 1, 2, and 3.

Currently, Kim Gullburg represents District 1, William Newton represents District 2 and Jay Morrison represents District 3.

The first meeting has been set for March 23rd at 7 p.m. at the WIEC office in Carthage. Call the WIEC office for more information.



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It's Spring!

And that means planting season will begin



It was a long, cold winter. When the calendar turned to April, all thoughts go to spring flowers, warming weather and spring planting. As farmers make plans to return to their fields for spring planting, Western Illinois Electrical Coop. (WIEC) and the Safe Electricity program (www.safeelectricity.org) urge our farming friends to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Operating large equipment near these lines is one of the often overlooked, yet potentially deadly, hazards of working on **(4611-49)** a farm.

Start by making sure everyone knows to maintain a 10-foot clearance minimum from power lines. Sometimes a power line is closer than it looks.

- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many

tractors now have tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines.

- Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators near power lines and guy wires, and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- Simply working too close to a power line is dangerous as electricity can arc or "jump" to conducting objects, such as a ladder, pole or truck. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.

In the rush of spring planting, we urge our farming members to slow down and pay attention to the wires and poles nearby. Just one accident involving a live power line is one too many.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is right around the corner! Have you changed your home's air filter? Filters get loaded with more and more particles as they do their job. This actually has the effect of making them more efficient, but it also increases resistance and reduces airflow. Remember to check filters once a month.

Source: EnergySavers.gov



Welcome New Members

Anngilete' Louise Ashley,
Hamilton
B & B Propane, Houghton, IA
Alan M Byers, Carthage
Randy Dykes, Springfield, MO

Erica Johnson & Brandon
Weisenburger, Basco
Finau Kolomalu, Nauvoo
Jeffrey E Lake, Loraine
PK Management, Coral Gables,
FL

Shelby & Jesse Palmer, Niota
Garrett Schamberger,
Mackinaw, IL
Kenneth Shoemaker, LaHarpe
USDA Rural Development,
Quincy