

## Safety Fair – version 22

Safety Fair began 22 years ago as a way to familiarize grade school students on being safe in the world around them. Five thousand kids and countless hot dogs later, the WIEC Safety Fair (9516-61) is still reminding kids to “Live Smart, Keeping Safe and Having Fun”.

This year’s fair was held Sept. 17 with five elementary schools and 175 students learning about topics such as bicycle safety; how to make a 9-1-1 call and what happens next; ATV safety including the importance of wearing proper helmets and other safety gear. The students also could

play “Farm Safety Jeopardy” as a fun way to learn about how to stay safe on a farm.

The day started out with a presentation by Steve Hancock of Corn Belt Energy, Bloomington, who brings an energized electrical system and shows the kids the power of 7200 volts. At lunch time, WIEC served the students, teachers and chaperones a hot dog lunch on a Frisbee for them to keep as a memento of their day. The day ended with Chris Egelston, who used his magic to remind kids (379-3) to stay drug free with his own brand of laughter and fun.



## Thank you

A big thank you goes out to the people and organizations that are such an integral part of the fair. Without them, the Safety Fair would not be possible.

- Sly Fox Food Service – ordering, preparing the food and donating the bottled water
- Illini West High School Student Council and its sponsor, Shari Shupe
- Marine Bank & Trust – supplying paper goods

We would also like to thank the following presenters for donating their time:

- IL State Trooper Bryan Clausen
- Bryan Smith, Smith Brothers Honda, Quincy
- Carthage Clipper Fire Dept.
- Dawn Weinberg, University of Illinois Extension
- Maria Hopp, 9-1-1 coordinator – Hancock Co.
- Hancock Co. Ambulance Service



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#### 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

- **Rob Gronewold** —  
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#### 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's family tree

The sixth Cooperative Principle is Cooperation Among Cooperatives. The meaning is simple: cooperatives serve their members better when they work together with other local and national cooperatives for the common good of our members. Many times, this relationship is described "as family." Our extended "family" helps WIEC bring members safe, reliable electricity at an at-cost basis. Since WIEC is one of the smallest cooperatives in Illinois, we do not have the budget or staff to provide our members some of the extra services, such as this newsletter you are reading. We rely on others to help us provide these features at a cost within our budget.

The other members of our cooperative family are often referred to by their acronyms, such as NRECA or AIEC. It gets pretty confusing to listen to all these acronyms being tossed about. We would like to re-introduce you to the other members of the WIEC family (and their acronyms) with a brief explanation of what (10431-38) these organizations do.

**National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) (www.nreca.coop)** – This is a national service organization based in Arlington, Va., created to represent the 900 plus electric cooperatives across the United States. NRECA provides several different services that as a small cooperative, WIEC depends on. NRECA handles our employee benefits and compliance on a national level. It hosts national and regional meetings for our directors and staff so they can stay current on important national issues that impact electric cooperatives and their members. It has a presence at Capitol Hill to watch out for our best interests, such as the Action.Coop initiative we asked members to participate in last year. Through its efforts, our members, as well as other members across the United States, made their voices heard and slowed down the EPA's efforts to regulate emissions of our coal-fired generation plants.

**Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) (www.AIEC.coop)** – This organization is similar to the NRECA, however it provides expertise on a state level. It also provides WIEC with so many services that as a single cooperative, we would not be able to offer our members. It edits, prints and mails the WIEC News and the Annual Meeting notices. AIEC organizes the Youth to Washington Tour, arranges the Youth Day in Springfield and oversees the IEC Memorial Scholarship contest. When bad weather comes to Illinois, it activates the Emergency Work Plan to assist stricken cooperatives with manpower and equipment from across the state so power may be restored as soon as possible. It also provides OSHA training and compliance for our linemen and keeps us up-to-date on what is happening in the Illinois Legislature.

**Prairie Power Inc. (PPI) (www.ppi.coop)** – This is WIEC's generation and transmission cooperative (or G & T). WIEC purchases our electricity from PPI to deliver to our members. Currently, 10 other Illinois cooperatives belong to PPI, and all have seats on their board. PPI works hard to keep our wholesale power cost as low as possible. It also provides much appreciated technical support for the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system, load forecasting and engineering support.

**Touchstone® Energy Cooperative (www.touchstoneenergy.com)** – Launched in April 1998, this is a national brand for the nation's electric cooperatives. Each electric cooperative is a separate entity with its own self-governing board of directors, but Touchstone Energy represents an alliance of electric co-ops and the values they all share. Touchstone also (3911-33) offers a great website (www.togetherwe-save.com) to help members who want to control their energy costs.

# Ten 2016 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives in 2016 will award nine academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” In addition, a tenth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric line-worker school – will also be offered.

The total of ten scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2016 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Five scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A sixth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. Three additional scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters

of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

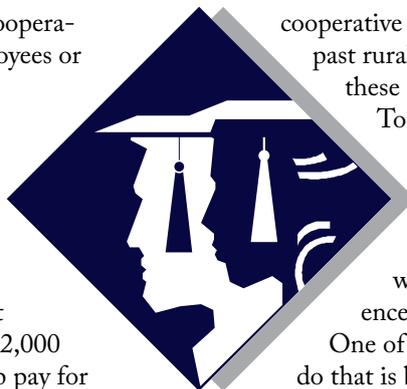
The tenth annual scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Line-worker’s Scholarship,” was awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$2,000 scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the line-worker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained line-workers. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for the line-worker’s scholarship.

“We hope to assist electric

cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says Tommie Long, WIEC Manager. “WIEC and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities.

One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric line-worker’s scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained line-worker.”

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Becky Dickinson at 800-576-3125 or 217-357-3125. All necessary paperwork has also been sent to area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative’s website at [wiec.net](http://wiec.net).



## Office closed

WIEC office will be closed Nov. 11 in honor of Veterans Day.

WIEC office will be closed Nov. 26 in observance of Thanksgiving. The office will reopen on Friday, Nov. 27.

WIEC Directors and Employees wish our members a blessed Thanksgiving.

As always, in case of power emergencies, call 1-800-576-3125

## WIEC has had five scholarship winners

Since 1998, Western Illinois Electrical Coop. has had five winners of the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarship.

They are Mark Hoemmen, Dallas City, (1998); Debra Meyer, Warsaw (2001) and Mark Buss, Bowen, (2010), and Alex Ourth (2013) and most recently Sydney Metternich, Hamilton (2015).

We are very proud of these young people and urge all college-bound seniors to consider entering this contest. College is expensive and scholarships like this can help ease the financial burden.



*Sydney Metternich and AIEC President/CEO Duane Noland*

EVEN THREE  
IS A CROWD.



## NEVER OVERLOAD OUTLETS.

Helping members use electricity safely, that's the power of your co-op membership. Learn more from the experts themselves at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

# Considering a new water heater?

If you are thinking about replacing your existing water heater, consider electric. WIEC has several incentives that will help make the decision easy. Western Illinois Electrical Coop. has specially priced water heaters for sale to our members for installation (8521-23) on WIEC lines.

### Bill Credits

WIEC offers bill credits up to \$8 per month for members who have electric water heaters.

### Rebates

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. offers a rebate to members who purchase an electric water heater



elsewhere. The new water heater must be installed in a home or business that is served by the cooperative.

Call our office for more details.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Reduce energy for water heating. Take simple steps like lowering your heater's temperature and installing low-flow showerheads to reduce your water heating bills.

*Source: energy.gov*

## Welcome New Members

Bonnie R & Jack Gilpin,  
Hamilton

Rhonda Goodman, Hamilton  
Syndi & Clint Horn, Carthage

Deborah Phillips, Ft Madison, IA

Denise Rose, Nona Schafer &  
Angee Sinele, Keokuk IA

Stewart & Krystal Smith,  
Carthage

Anthony Wells, Niota