



**Western Illinois**  
**ELECTRICAL COOP.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**NEWS**

P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ [www.wiec.net](http://www.wiec.net) ■ 800/576-3125



## Cost of service update



*Tommie Long,  
Manager,  
Western Illinois  
Electrical Coop..*

In the March WIEC News and also at WIEC's Annual Meeting, members were told about WIEC having a cost of service study implemented. This study was performed as a way to ensure different rate classes are paying

their fair share of costs. It illustrates in black and white whether each rate is generating enough revenue to cover their entire cost to service and also shows which rates are not. (4515-2)

The Cost of Service Study has been completed and was presented to the board in September for them to study. At December's Board Meeting, the board will review the study and begin the difficult task of deciding what to do with this information. WIEC has four basic billing components, the Facility Charge, the Energy Charge, the Formulary Rate Adjustment and the Power Cost Adjustment. The

board will determine what direction to move in regards to each of these four components and how it will impact rates overall.

The WIEC Board of Directors is responsible for the financial stability of the cooperative. Imposing an upward rate adjustment is never a popular action. The WIEC board and employees strive to maintain the quality, reliability and integrity of the service we provide you, the member.

Any decision concerning rate adjustments will be made after the beginning of the year and, if necessary, implemented around April 1, 2016.

## Attention High School Seniors...

The deadline for applying for the Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarships is December 31, 2015. This applies to both paper applications and applying online.

■ Five \$2,000 Scholarships to sons/daughters of WIEC members currently receiving service.

■ One \$2,000 Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship for sons/daughters of WIEC employees or directors.(3623-16).

■ Three \$2,000 Scholarships for sons/daughters of WIEC employees/directors or members who plan on attending a two-year Illinois community college.

■ One \$2,000 LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship to attend the AIEC lineworker school in Springfield IL.

Ask your guidance counselor, call our office or go to [www.wiec.net](http://www.wiec.net) (4810-36) for an application or more information.





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

- **Rob Gronewold** —  
President, **Carthage**
- **Jay Morrison** —  
Vice President, **Burnside**
- **Janet Spory** —  
Secretary/Treasurer, **Sutter**
- **William Newton** —  
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer,  
**Burnside**
- **Mark Burling** —  
Director, **Carthage**
- **Kent Flesner** —  
Director, **West Point**
- **Kim Gullberg** —  
Director, **Stronghurst**

#### 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.

## What would life be like without electric co-ops?

In the holiday movie classic, "It's a Wonderful Life" the lead character, George Bailey (played by Jimmy Stewart), wishes he had never been born due to financial troubles he is experiencing. Through the help of an Angel, he sees how many lives would have been negatively affected if he didn't exist. George comes to realize that, even with his problems, he has a wonderful life with great friends and family.

So what do you think life would be like if a group of farmers had not founded WIEC seventy-six years ago?

Living in the U.S. in 2015, it is nearly impossible to imagine life without electricity. Electricity is the "fuel" that makes so many of our modern conveniences work. From the alarm clock that wakes us up, to the refrigerator that keeps our morning milk cold and fresh. From the HVAC unit that keeps us cool in the summer and warm in the winter, to the vacuum that lets us clean more efficiently and all those kitchen appliances that save us time and physical energy. Of course, so much of our entertainment, whether it comes from the TV, radio or computer, depends on the kilowatt-hours that WIEC provides.

Remember that panicky feeling you get when you flip the switch and there is no power? WIEC is here; ready to restore power quickly because we understand how important electricity is to our members.

Businesses of all kinds rely on electricity to produce and sell the products we need. So, it is no wonder that many electric co-ops feel that, while our primary product is electricity, we are really in the "good neighbor" business, too. Without WIEC, the local

economy of West Central Illinois would be lacking 15 good jobs. The \$2 million dollars pumped back into the community by the ripple effect of these jobs and our annual operational expenditures would be gone. The City of Carthage would have had to look elsewhere when they needed a loan for the new infrastructure for the building of Memorial Hospital in 2008. Other local businesses would also have had to find alternative financing for their projects possibly at a higher rate than the USDA Loans they secured through WIEC. Countless children would have not gone through our safety fair each fall or had the opportunity to go to Washington DC as part of the Youth to Washington program because there would be no WIEC.

We are thankful that a group of local farmers and their wives so many years ago had the vision and foresight to do what needed to be done, gathering of their friends and neighbors to form our electric co-op. What they built was a truly amazing electrical system that is going strong after 76 years. As the electric business of the 21st century continues to evolve, you can count on WIEC to meet all of your electric energy needs. More importantly, we are here to help improve the quality of your wonderful life.

*Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @adamcooperative or email him at aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop*



Like us on  
**Facebook**

<http://www.facebook.com/westernillinoiselectricalcoop>

# Welcome New Members

Jacob Carr,  
Carthage, IL  
Avery L David,  
Carthage, IL  
Tyson & Beckie A. Dickerson,  
Nauvoo, IL

Caleb Hicks,  
Stronghurst, IL  
Landon Miller,  
Hamilton, IL  
Kris Priebe,  
Hamilton, IL

Michael A Robinson,  
Niota, IL  
Barbara Scott,  
Ft Madison, IA  
Danny Williams  
& Morgan Speer,  
Basco, IL

## LED security lights

**W**IIEC has begun phasing out some of our older high pressure sodium rental lights with LED security lights. When a member calls our office with a non-working high pressure sodium security light, we will look at the age of the light and the repair history. If we determine that the light is older, has been repaired a lot or if it cannot be fixed, we will give the member the option of replacing it with a

LED rental light.

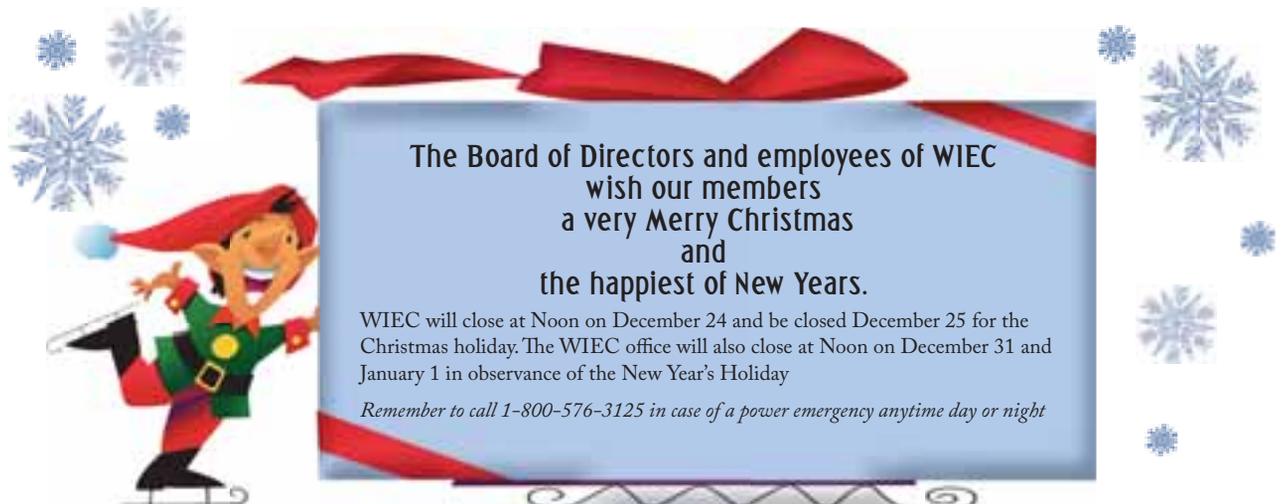
Although the LED lights cost more, they do last longer, use much less electricity and are more durable than their predecessors. They do not contain a gas or an element of any kind. Instead, the entire LED is made up of a semiconductor; which is solid in nature and makes LEDs more durable. LED achieve full illumination immediately. (3630-19) They have an

estimated lifespan of almost 50,000 hours, which works out to about 11 years (working 12 hours a day). All this will reduce the repair and maintenance costs WIEC incur.

The LED rental costs are below. The replacement LED lights will have a bright white light instead of the amber color of the high pressure sodium lights.

| LED Rental     | Type  | High-Pressure Sodium Lights Rental |
|----------------|---|------------------------------------|
| \$5/month      | Member pays for electricity: WIEC maintains light | \$2.50/month                       |
| \$10/month     | WIEC pays for electricity and maintenance         | \$7/month                          |
| \$215 plus tax | Purchase the light with free installation         | \$80 plus tax                      |

For questions, please contact the WIEC office.



# Why electric co-ops replace utility poles

You probably don't pay much attention to the utility poles found throughout WIEC's service territory, but did you know these tall structures are the backbone of our distribution network?

Strong, sturdy utility poles ensure a reliable electric system, which is why we routinely inspect the 23,000 poles found on our lines. Typically, a standard wooden distribution pole is expected to last more than 50 years.

Occasionally, poles need to be replaced for other reasons besides decay and old age. Weather disasters, power line relocation and car crashes are potential causes for immediate replacement.

## Here is a quick breakdown of how crews replace a utility pole:

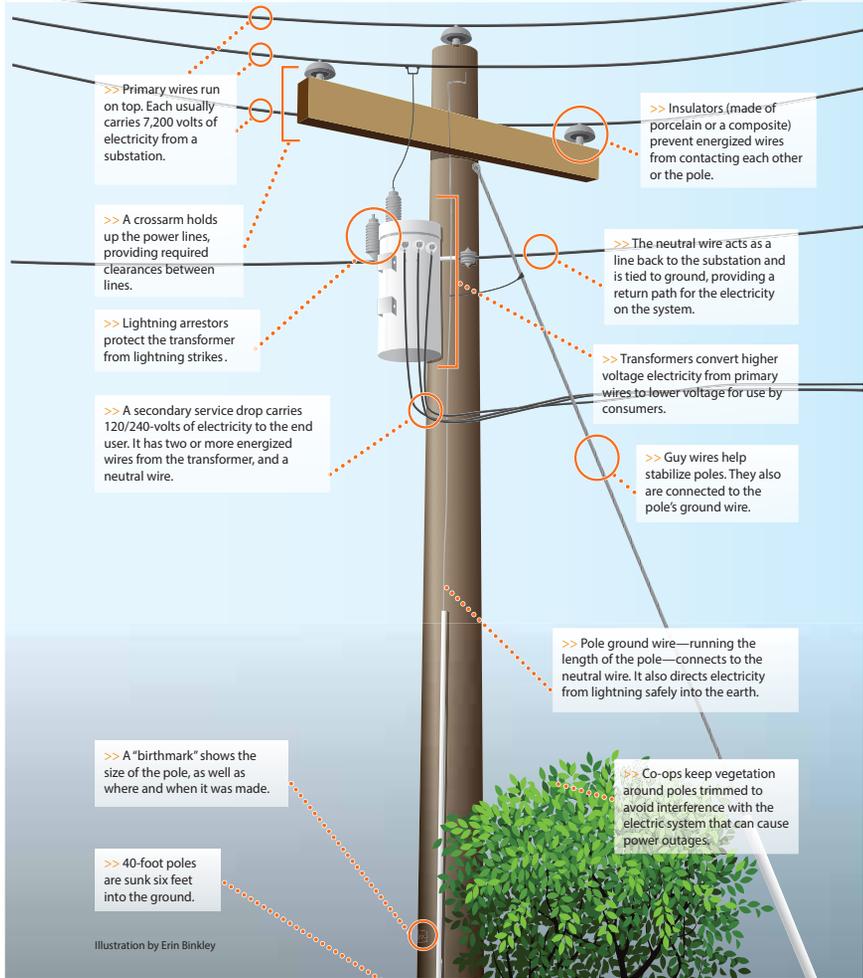
When a pole needs to be replaced, crews will start the process by digging a hole, typically next to the pole being replaced. (5633-31) The depth of the hole must be 15 percent of the new pole's height. Next, the new pole must be fitted with bolts, cross arms, insulators, ground wires and arm braces all of the necessary parts for delivering safe and reliable electricity. Then, crews safely detach the power lines from the old pole. The new pole is then raised and guided carefully into position, and the lines are attached, leaving the new pole to do its job.

So, the next time you come across a WIEC crew replacing a pole, use caution and know that this process ensures a more reliable electric system for you, our members.

*Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

## What's on that pole?

This illustration shows basic equipment found on electric power distribution poles. Not all poles have all of this equipment on them. They vary according to the distribution circuit's need and can vary based on geography, local land use and traffic, and the type of service they are providing.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Remember to close your fireplace damper (unless a fire is burning). Keeping the damper open is like leaving a window wide open during the winter, allowing warm air to escape through the chimney.

Source: energystar.gov