

Wayne-White NEWS

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

WAYNE-WHITE COUNTIES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE • FAIRFIELD, ILLINOIS • (618) 842-2196 • WWW.WWCEC.COM

In this issue...

Looking back at 2002
..... 16b-c

Educational resources for schools
..... 16d

CEO Reflections



**President/CEO
Rick Colgan**

We don't plan to fail, but we often fail to plan. I mention this because your electric cooperative is about to embark on one of its most ambitious plans in its history. Over the next several years, we are going to invest more than \$20 million in our transmission and distribution systems. We will be working on six substations each year. What is our plan?

Our first priority is to your transmission system. Next year we will test every transmission pole you own. Your transmission line is the backbone of this system. If that line should ever fail, many members will be without power for a lengthy period of time. We're going to make sure that system is structurally sound and hasn't received any significant damage from age, weather, or woodpeckers. If we find a pole that doesn't meet our specifications, we're going to replace it with a steel one. You have probably seen your new steel-pole transmission line if you have driven between Wayne City and McLeansboro. Eventually, all of your transmission poles are going to be replaced with steel ones. These poles have an estimated life expectancy of 60 to 100 years. We think they look pretty sharp. I don't think the woodpeckers care much for them, though.

Our second priority is the distribution substations. The purpose of a substation is to take voltage from the transmission system at 69,000 volts and step that voltage down to 7,200 volts, the voltage on the lines you see in the countryside. We have 24 substations and we're going to build a new one to serve the Gray-

ville prison site. Most of the work in the substations will include cleaning them up, replacing transformers and voltage regulators, adding rock, and moving the fences out a little farther. Doing these things will accomplish two of our objectives. The first is that it will ensure the safety of the linemen that work in the substations. The second is that it will improve the voltage and power quality you receive in your home.

Our third priority in this work plan is called sectionalizing. Sectionalizing is the process of deploying breakers and fuses on the lines so that the fewest number of people possible are affected by an outage. Sectionalizing work is so detailed and exacting that some engineering companies have entire departments dedicated to nothing but performing sectionalizing studies. As our sectionalizing plan becomes more and more complete, outages and blinks to the cooperative's membership will be reduced.

Our fourth priority is the distribution lines. The work plan calls for additional clearing of brush and upgrading of the old lines. There will also be an emphasis placed on installing underground conductor where it makes economic sense to do so. Removing brush and vegetation from underneath power lines will reduce blinks and outages. Upgrading old copper lines with ACSR (aluminum conductor, steel-reinforced) will give those lines additional strength during wind and ice storms. In other areas, replacing old copper lines with underground conductor will alleviate outages caused by weather.

Consultants and staff have spent more than four months preparing and analyzing this plan. They have all worked hard to bring this together. As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, it's not that we plan to fail, it's that we fail to plan. Over the next four years, we're going to experience one heck of a plan!

Looking back at 2002

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative has had a successful year. Our employees and directors have continued to work to better the lives of members. Here's a look back at some of the happenings of 2002.

President/CEO change



Jack Young



Rick Colgan

Jack Young retired as President/CEO after six years of service.
Rick Colgan took over the position in September.

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative

Route 15 West • P.O. Drawer E • Fairfield, Illinois 62837
(618) 842-2196 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 5 p.m. • Web address: www.wwcec.com



Youth Day held in June

Ten students representing Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative met with area legislators during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives' Youth Day on Wednesday, April 17, in Springfield. While in the state's capital, they had an opportunity to watch government in action, visit the Illinois Supreme Court and tour Lincoln's tomb. Pictured with Senator William O'Daniel are, from left: Sean Heid of Norris City, Kory Sutton of Norris City, Melissa Phillips of Norris City, Jason Mullins of McLeansboro, Sarah Vinyard of Norris City, Rep. Jones, Erin Hill of Norris City, Brandon Bozarth of Fairfield, Lacy McNear of Norris City, Stephanie Unfried of Norris City and Kelly York of Norris City. The day was sponsored by Illinois electric and telephone co-ops in an effort to introduce young rural leaders to state government.

Contact your school guidance counselor for this years Youth Tour contest information.



Surviving the tornadoes

On Sunday, April 21, around 4:00 p.m., an F3 tornado ripped across the territory of Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, leaving a mass of destruction in its wake. It took only 10 minutes to demolish the homes and lifetime memories of more than 50 people in the Sims and Fairfield area. The tornado also made toothpicks out of 50 and 60 foot transmission poles. Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative crews had just finished with emergency repairs when another twister with large hail traveled as an unwanted guest through the territory from the north, heading southeast.

The Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative's Operation Round-up Kare and Share (WORKS) program assisted in the tornado relief by accepting donations and distributing them to the victims of the tornado.



Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative provides educational resources to local schools

Wayne White Counties Electric Cooperative is making it easier for area schools to teach about electricity and electric cooperatives. Through a partnership between Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives and Discovery Channel School™, the co-op embarked on a campaign to ensure that middle and junior high school students in our service territory receive a quality education on electricity—from its beginnings to its importance in today's world. By streamlining the vast amounts of information on electricity and the important role cooperatives played in bringing this commodity to rural America, students are able to easily digest the lesson plans in this educational campaign.

Through this community outreach program—called *Get Charged! Electricity and You*—Wayne White Counties Electric Cooperative provides middle and junior high schools with a com-

prehensive kit of educational materials focusing on electricity, a component of the National Academy of Science's National Science Education Standards (NSES). While individual states differ in their implementation and assessment of standards, they often base science topics on the NSES. Developed by teachers, scientists, science educators, and other experts, the standards for grades K–12 describe what students should understand and be able to do in various science categories.

"Providing our local schools with an effective educational resource on electricity and the vital efforts rural electric co-ops put forth in bringing power to the people all across America exemplifies our commitment to community," said Royce Carter Vice President of Subsidiary Business. "By investing in our local students' education, we ensure that our customers, both households

and businesses, can continue to count on us to provide them with more than just electricity."

Each *Get Charged!* kit contains the following educational materials:

- Poster for classroom use
- Two Videos:
- Understanding: Electricity
- Touchstone Energy's Our Story
- Interactive CD-ROM featuring electricity
- Lesson Plan: Get Power - The Cooperative Way
- 10-Student Activity Books
- Electricity Teachers Resource Guide
- Customizable letter to parents and schools explaining the educational program

"Our involvement in Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' partnership with Discovery Channel School allows us to participate with the many other electric co-ops committing educational resources to the schools co-ops serve," said Royce Carter.



Being a cooperative member . . .

What it all means

We don't like to admit it, but sometimes we have a tendency to forget that all our members have not always received their electricity from an electric cooperative. You may not know about the advantages of receiving electricity from a cooperative — your rights, your privileges and your responsibilities. When receiving your electric service from an electric cooperative, you should know:

- You are a member of the cooperative and as a member, you are part owner of the cooperative.
- You have the right to attend the cooperative's annual meeting of members held each year and to vote for the board of directors who governs the cooperative.
- You have the responsibility to keep up with the developments affecting your cooperative.
- Your cooperative was established by local activists at a time when existing utilities refused or neglected to serve the area where you live now.

Your local cooperative chooses to provide you with a monthly subscription to *Illinois Country Living*. Electric cooperatives began publishing periodicals such as this in the 1940s to communicate with their members.

Today, your cooperative relies on this magazine not only to relay information about this business, but also to encourage you to use electricity wisely and safely. Promoting electrical safety can help save the lives of our cooperative members. Promoting wise electrical use can help the cooperative and its members save money. Cooperative personnel can help members make informed decisions when purchasing new, efficient appliances and technologies for the home.

Wayne-White

NEWS

WAYNE-WHITE COUNTIES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE • FAIRFIELD, ILLINOIS • (618) 842-2196 • www.wcec.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



In this issue...

Enter your essay now
..... 16b-c

Water Heater Special
..... 16d

Coffee

on the co-op

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative would like to invite you to join us at one of the following restaurants for coffee on the co-op.

A board member and staff member of Wayne-White Counties Electric will be at the following locations between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. to talk about any ideas or concerns that you might have about your cooperative:

Wednesday, February 5 at Hot Biscuit in Cisne
Thursday, February 6 at the Little Red Barn in Wayne City
Tuesday, February 11 at Main Street Café' in Carmi.
Wednesday, February 12 at Pat's in McLeansboro
Thursday, February 13 at B & Js in Geff
Friday, February 14 at Ray Joes' in Mill Shoals
Monday, February 24 at the Best Western in Grayville
Wednesday, February 26 at the Cardinal in Norris City
Thursday, February 27 at the Four Seasons in Cisne



**We hope
you can
join us!**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Annual Meeting • March 14, 2003

Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors!

Enter your essay now...

Win a free trip to Washington, D.C.

Two students will receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 13-20, 2003.

Two finalists will be selected from each of the following area high schools: Carmi, Cisne, Clay City, Crossville, Edwards Coutry, Fairfield, Grayville, McLeansboro, Norris City, Noble and Wayne City. A minimum of 10 finalists will be selected.

The finalists will participate in "Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day."

Eligibility:

Any high school sophomore, junior or senior living within the Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative service area is eligible. They need not live in a home receiving electricity from the cooperative.

Members of the immediate family of the board of directors, employees and winners of previous Washington, D.C. trips are not eligible.

Topic:

How can technology help rural Illinois?

Form:

Length – not less than 600 nor more than 1,000 words. Typed on 8-1/2 X 11 inch paper, double-spaced and on one side only. Footnote information source. Number each page. Do not type your name on the essay; type it on a separate sheet. Preliminary judging will be made by number.

Information:

Information may be obtained from Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative's office, Fairfield, Illinois, or schools in the cooperative area.

Entry:

Deliver the essays to the teacher in charge or mail to Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, P.O. Drawer E, Fairfield, IL 62837, no later than Feb. 28, 2003.



Jason Mullins and Sarah Vinyard met with Congressman David Phelps on last year's tour. From left are Vinyard, Phelps and Mullins.

Essay Deadline

Essays and entry blanks must be received by noon, Feb. 28. Enter now!

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, P.O. Drawer E, Fairfield, Illinois 62837.

Please send an entry blank and information concerning this summer's "Youth to Washington" essay contest.

Name _____ Date _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____ Age _____ Sex: _____
Male _____ Female _____

High School _____ Class Year _____

**Sponsored by Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative
Fairfield, Illinois • Serving Rural America**



Jason and Sarah take a break in the shade during the busy tour last June.



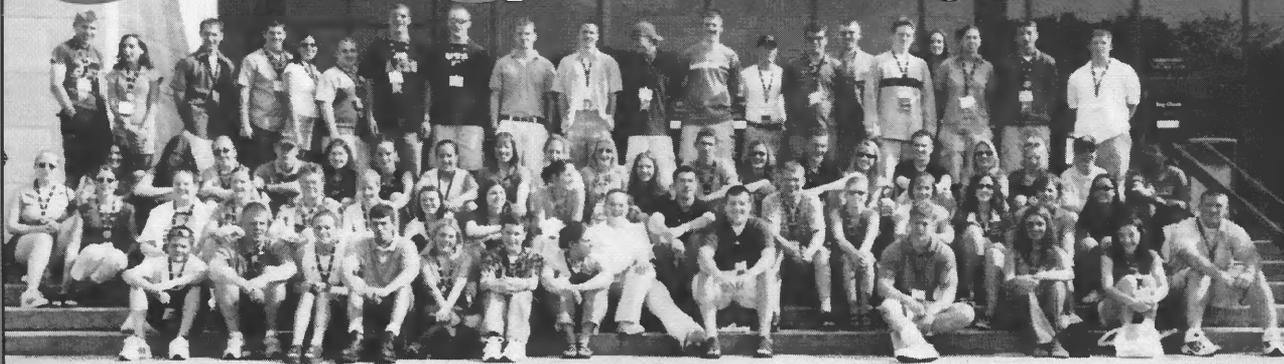
The students who represented WWCEC on the 2001 trip met Congressman David Phelps on Capitol Hill. From left are Joshua Lemons, Congressman Phelps and Summer Johnson.



Last year, students were able to take a tour inside the White House.



Enter your essay now... Win a free trip to Washington, D.C.



Pictured are all the participants of the 2002 "Youth to Washington" Tour. Students from across the state participated in the tour.

SPECIAL water heater

52-gallon Freedom electric water heater
built by State Industries
regular price \$206.66

\$100 Rebate
to WWCEC members
your total cost — \$106.66

- R-20 insulation
- The amazing LimeEliminator — self cleaning — reduces build-up automatically
- Six-year warranty

***Available at Wayne-White Counties
Electric Cooperative office in Fairfield***

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative

Route 15 West • P.O. Drawer E • Fairfield, Illinois 62837

(618) 842-2196 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 5 p.m. • Web address: www.wwcec.com

Wayne-White NEWS

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



WAYNE-WHITE COUNTIES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE • FAIRFIELD, ILLINOIS • (618) 842-2196 • www.wwcec.com

Plan to attend

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative's

66th

annual meeting

*Friday night, March 14, at the
Fairfield Community High School*



In this issue...

*More annual
meeting news*
..... 16b-c

Live Line Demo
..... 16d

*It's for you....
the member,
bring your
family and
enjoy!*



**Business meeting
begins at 7 p.m.**

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative

2003 Annual Meeting

Friday night, March 14

Fairfield Community High School Gymnasium

**FREE Pork
Chop Dinner!**

Come and enjoy!

ATTENDANCE PRIZES

Registration at 5 p.m.

Begin serving dinner at 5 p.m.

Bring your program book
with you to register for
drawings!

**Grand
Prize:
Color TV**



Live Line Demo

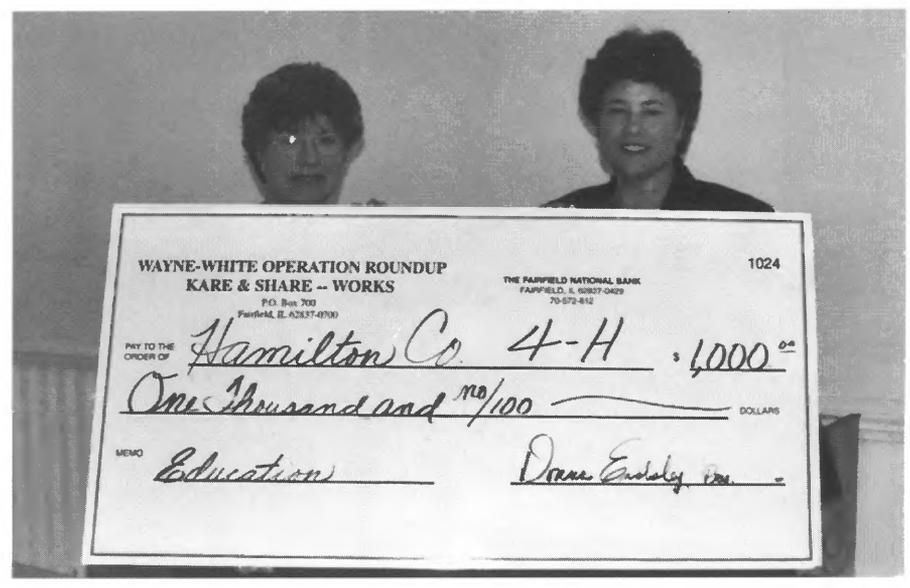
*If you have an interest in
scheduling the
Live Line Demo Display,
please contact our office at*

**(618) 842-2196 or
(888) 871-7695**

Wayne-White NEWS

WAYNE-WHITE COUNTIES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE • FAIRFIELD, ILLINOIS • (618) 842-2196 • www.wcec.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Donna Endsley presents a WORKS check for \$1,000 to Hamilton County 4-H leader Joy Ritchie.

Wayne-White Operations Roundup Kare & Share (WORKS) Annual Report, December 31, 2002

WORKS is an acronym for Wayne-White Operation Roundup Kare and Share. **WORKS** is a charitable foundation established by the Board of Directors of Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative to give their membership an opportunity to “pool their resources” for charitable purposes. **WORKS** is funded each month by members who agree to “round up” their bills to the highest dollar. The difference between their bill and the rounded up amount is contributed to the **WORKS** foundation.

The foundation is governed by a board of directors appointed by the Wayne-White board of directors. The **WORKS** board member will review grant applications and determine where the funds will be expended.

Who is eligible to apply for a Grant?
Grants are available for both individuals in need and for 501(c)3 organizations. The purpose of the program is to meet a critical need that is currently not being met by any other means. Grants are limited to \$2,500 for individuals and \$10,000 for any family, group, charity, foundation, corporation, partnership, joint venture, association or other entity.

How does a person or organization apply for a grant?
Grant applications are available from any **WORKS** board member or from Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative.

When an application is completed and returned to Wayne-White

(continued on 16d)

In this issue...

New Rates Prove Co-ops Are Not Big Business 16b-c

WORKS Financial Report 16d

New Rates Prove Co-ops Are Not Big Business

by Rick Colgan, President & CEO

Fact: The wholesale cost of power is rising. Fact: Our lender says we need to increase our margins to meet our lender's financial ratio requirements. As a result, Wayne-White Counties Electric is forced to raise rates to our members. The average cost will be \$10 to \$12 per month, or 40 cents per day, for the average home.

And we have to keep the rate increase in perspective. We haven't had a rate increase since 1990—and even had a rate reduction in 1997.

That's reason to pause: What else can you buy today that costs the same as it did a decade ago?

This decision highlights the fiscal responsibility of our cooperative. Yes, the cost of wholesale power has gone up. But we aren't paying anywhere near what we would be paying if we were still locked into a contract for wholesale power with Soyland Electric Cooperative.

Right now, Wayne-White Counties has the fourth-lowest residential rate (per 1,000 kWh) among cooperatives in our state. The average investor-owned utility has 33 customers per mile. We have four.

In other words, when an investor-owned utility builds a mile of line, there are 33 customers to pay for it. When we build a mile of line, there are only four customers to bear the expense—yet our rates are competitive because we are a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative.

We may lack the economies of scale of the "big guys," but our mission is to improve the quality of life of our members with reliable electric service at the lowest possible cost.

We're not a big electric company. We're a cooperative—a proud American tradition.

It started in 1752, when Benjamin Franklin founded the first American cooperative, a co-op that is still in business today.

Electric co-ops didn't come about until President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Tennessee Valley Authority Act in 1933 and established the Rural Electrification Administration in 1935.

The idea was to give potential electric customers in farms and rural areas—customers the big electric companies weren't interested in serving—a way to come together and purchase electricity for themselves.

To this day, that is our tradition: Coming together for our own interests—and not for the interests of stockholders or big business.

Investor-owned utilities are managed differently than cooperatives. Stockholders control investor-owned utilities through a board of directors. And that board could be hundreds of miles away, in another city, state or country. How can they know what's good for the local community?

Wayne-White Counties is owned right here by you—and managed by your neighbors, whom you elect. There is no far-flung board on the West Coast that controls our fate. We elect our directors here, locally, during our annual meeting. Local management is better management. After all, they get their electricity from the cooperative, too.

Keeping things local is the reason we opened the new Enfield office. Now, members in the southern part of our territory have a local office that can handle all of the transactions our main office handles. While most utilities are reducing the number of field offices, Wayne-White Counties Electric is expanding its service to members.

In short, Wayne-White Counties Electric is here to improve the lives of our members. If you have any specific questions we can answer, please call us directly at 842-2196. Thank you for letting us serve you. We look forward to continuing—and improving—that service this year.

What costs less today than it did in 1990?

Wayne-White Counties Electric has held rates steady since 1990

Unleaded regular? About 41 percent.

White bread? More than 51 percent.

Electricity at Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative? Zilch.

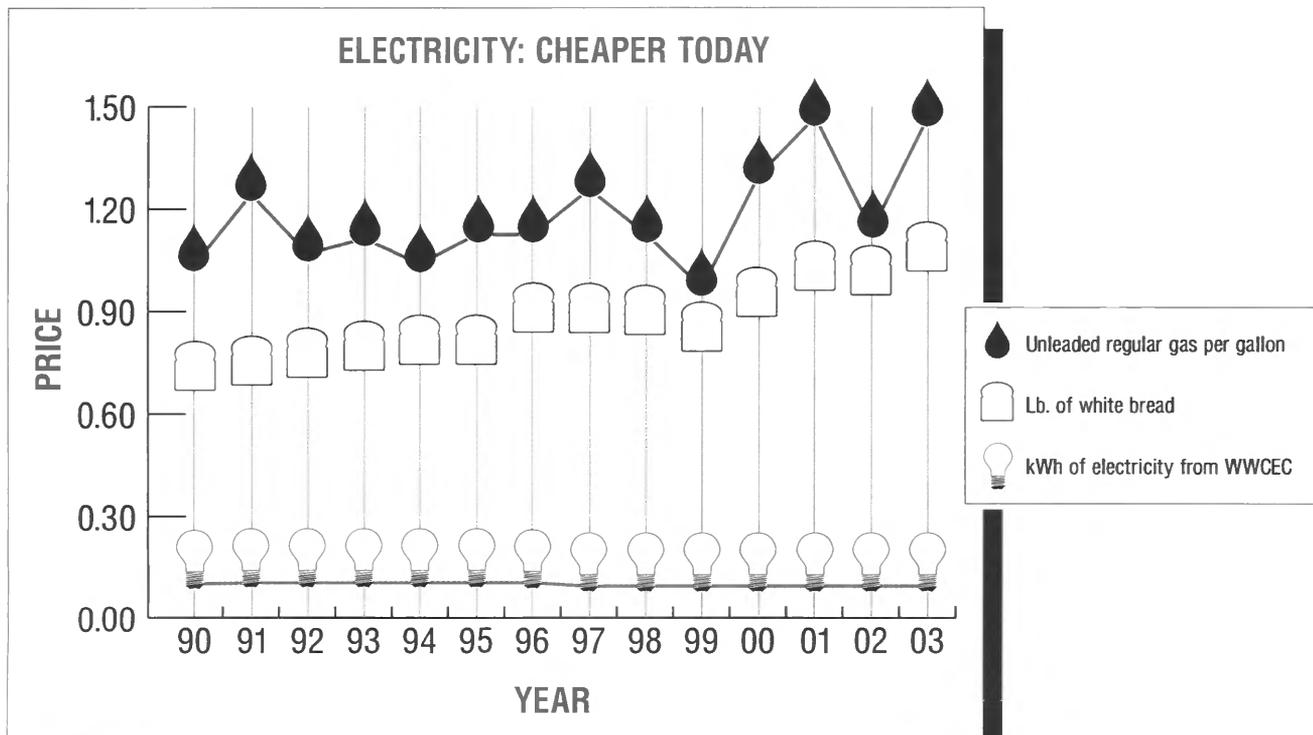
The last increase in electric rates for your cooperative was 1990.

Since then, the only change was a rate *decrease* in 1997.

The same isn't true for other staples. From 1990 to today, bread has increased from 69 cents per pound to \$1.04. That's an increase of 41 percent.

And a gallon of unleaded has gone from \$1.04 to \$1.47—a jump of more than 51 percent.

The board at Wayne-White Counties have been good stewards of your resources, ensuring that we have reliable service at the lowest possible cost.



**Wayne-White Counties
Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

Counties Electric Cooperative, it is copied and mailed to each board member for review. The board will meet at least quarterly to review applications.

Following review of applications, the board will determine what grants will be approved for payment and in what amount.

For grants approved by the board, a check will be issued to the recipient within one week of approval by the board.

What are some examples of needs the board will be considering?

Some examples of grants made through other Cooperative Roundup Programs across the nation are: Medical equipment, ramps, people whose homes have burned, equipment for fire departments, equipment for rescue squads, meals on wheels, hospitals, youth programs, educational scholarships, wheelchair lifts for vans, etc. **Funds will not be used to pay electric bills.**

The works board of directors

The WORKS board of directors is divided into districts very similar to Wayne-White board districts. The board members are:

District #1	Joyce Carson Superintendent of North Wayne School District
District #2	Joe Gabbard Teacher at New Hope Grade School
District #3	Donna Endsley Wayne County Clerk
District #4	Steve Ward Banker, Albion
District #5	William "Bill" Pollard Retired school superintendent from Grayville
District #6	Vacant
District #7	Janet Walker Office Administration for Department of Human Services Hamilton County
District #8	Vince Mitchell Hamilton County School Superintendent McLeansboro
District #9	Sharon White Administrator in the Wayne City School District

For more information on the WORKS program contact Nancy Wells, WORKS Cooperative Coordinator (618) 842-2196.

WORKS Financial Report

Income

Donations to WORKS	\$15.00
Roundup Funds from Members	\$36,521.37
Donations for Tornado Victims	\$37,843.10
Total Income	\$74,379.47

Expenses

Grants to Tornado Victims	\$42,843.10
13 Grants for Medical Expenses	\$19,770.00
2 Grants to Fire Victims	\$2,000.00
Jr. Achievement-Wayne County	\$1,000.00
Frontier College Foundation	\$2,000.00
Lighthouse Food Pantry	\$1,500.00
Hamilton County 4-H	\$1,000.00
White County 4-H	\$1,000.00
Wayne County 4-H	\$1,000.00
Fairfield Fire Dept-Toys for Tots	\$1,000.00
Grant for Wall Furnace	\$200.00
Mileage for Board	\$574.51
Business Checks	\$111.79
Illinois Not-for-Profit Filing Fee	\$5.00
Post Office Box Rental Fee	\$126.00
Total Expenses	\$74,130.40
Balance 12/31/2002	<u>\$249.07</u>

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative

Route 15 West
P.O. Drawer E
Fairfield, Illinois 62837

(618) 842-2196

Office hours: 8 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Web address: www.wwcec.com

Wayne-White

WAYNE-WHITE COUNTIES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE • FAIRFIELD, ILLINOIS • (618) 842-2196 • www.wwcec.com

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



CEO Reflections



President/CEO
Rick Colgan



From left are: new director Danny Rose, President/CEO Rick Colgan, and re-elected directors James Deen and Kent Henry.

New rates a reflection of economy, not waste

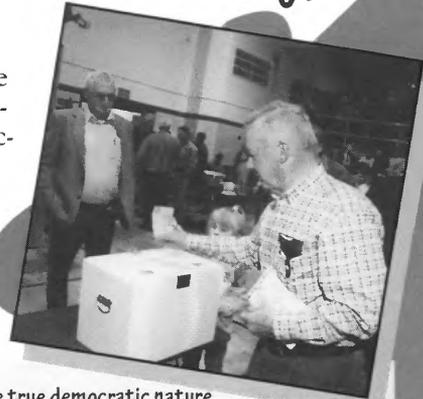
It was good to see so many people in attendance at the annual meeting of Wayne-White Counties Electric. As a cooperative, owned by the members we serve, we look forward to opportunities to share directly with you, our owners.

For those of you who could not make it, I want to share with you the announcements we made about why our rates are rising.

The wholesale cost of power is rising. In addition, our lending institution says we need to increase our margins to meet financial ratio requirements. We cannot cover those increases with existing funds.

That's why Wayne-White Counties Electric is forced to raise our members' rates for the first time since November 1990. The average residential customer will see an increase of \$10 to \$12 per month, or 40 cents per day. An actual increase will depend on individual customer's en-

(continued on 16b)



Members showed the true democratic nature of cooperatives as they voted for their representation on the board of directors.



In this issue...

- More annual meeting news* 16b
- Electrical hazards on the farm* 16c
- Touchstone Energy* 16d

(continued from 16a)

ergy usage.

The cooperative works hard to provide reliable energy at low cost to its members. That's why we have not only held rates steady for more than a decade, but we also reduced rates in 1997.

We have kept rates this low for so long because of our fiscal responsibility to you, our member-owners. For instance, we're upgrading our lines and maintaining our rights of way to reduce the number of blinks and outages. We're beginning to replace wooden poles with long-lasting steel ones that save us money and are better for our environment. And we're upgrading our substations to make our linemen safer.

These expenditures are not the reason for the rate increase—the increase in wholesale costs and our lender are the reasons for that. But they are examples of how we, as a non-profit organization owned by our members, make every effort to provide you with reliable electric service at the lowest possible cost.

Wayne-White Counties has the seventh-lowest residential rate (per 1,000 kWh) among cooperatives and regional investor-owned utilities (JOUs) and the fourth-lowest residential rate among cooperatives 'in our state.

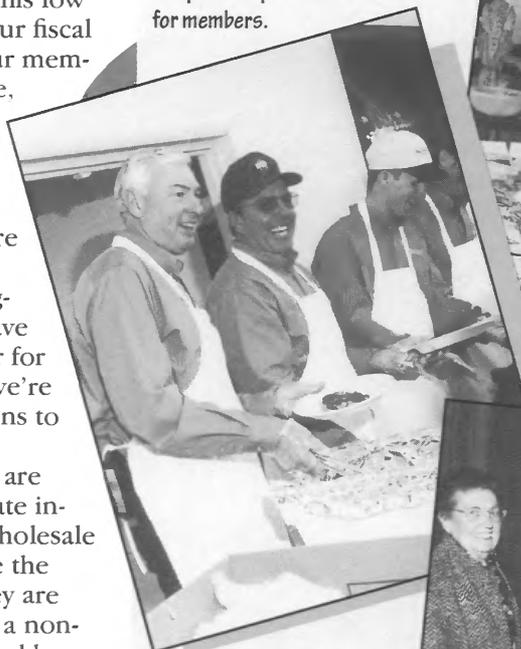
The average IOU has 33 customers per mile of line. The average cooperative has six. Wayne-White Counties has four. IOUs average \$61,000 collected for every mile of line, while cooperatives average \$7,900. We collect even less: \$7,163. We have fewer customers to bear the expenses of our lines. But our rates remain competitive because our goals are different from those of an IOU.

We're not here to make a profit for our stockholders - we're here to provide low-cost, reliable energy to our member-owners.

We're not a multi-national electric utility company. We're a local cooperative, founded and

(Right): Many members took the time to learn to care for their trees, and ask questions of the co-op's certified arborists.

(Below): L.D. Locke, Carl McKibben and Jason McKinney helped serve the pork chop and fish meals for members.



(Right): Mr. & Mrs. William Evans won the grand prize 27" Color Television. They are pictured with Vice President of Human Resources Royce Carter. The Evans' said it was the first time they had won a prize at the meeting, although they faithfully come year after year.



operated on the same principles as the first American cooperative established in 1752 by Benjamin Franklin and the first electric cooperative established in 1935 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration.

The idea behind an electric cooperative was to give potential electric customers in farming communities and rural areas - customers the big electric companies weren't interested in serving - a way to come together and purchase electricity for themselves.

It's why you - our member-owners - elect the board of directors from your community. They're your friends and neighbors, living in the same towns

and receiving the same electric service you do.

It's why our offices are local and why we opened the Enfield office. We want every customer to be a local phone call or short drive away if they need us. At a time when many utilities are reducing the number of field offices, our members in the southern territory are now significantly closer because of the new Enfield office.

Everything we do is with our members' best interests in mind. If you have specific questions, or just need further information, please call us directly at 842-2196. Thank you for letting us serve you. We look forward to continuing - and improving - that service in the years to come.

Management team reorganized

After the early retirements of Tammy Vail, Steve Moore, Dale Kanady and Dale Harris, Wayne-White has had a reassignment of duties to his management team.

"The early retirements pro-

vided us the opportunity to streamline our operation to make it more efficient," says Manager Rick Colgan.

Colgan named Lisa McMeen Vice President of Financial Operations and Chief Financial officer; Jerry White as Vice President

of Operations; Erin Halley as Vice President of Engineering; Royce Carter as Vice President of Human Resources; Jerry Houser as Manager of Member Services and Facilities, Equipment and Procurement; and Lisa Arview as Manager of Information Technologies.

Consider electrical hazards during spring planting season

Many farm workers are killed each year when their farm equipment makes contact with overhead power lines. These tragic accidents are preventable. Before heading back into the fields, Safe Electricity urges farm workers to review farm activities and work practices that take place around power lines.

"Make sure everyone who works on the farm knows the location of power lines and keeps farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them," said Molly Hall, director of Safe Electricity. "Keep in mind, the minimum 10 foot distance is a 360-degree rule – below, to the side and above lines. It may take a little more time, but ensuring proper clearance can save lives."

"Many farm electrical accidents that involve power line contact happen when loading or preparing to transport equipment to fields, or while performing maintenance or repairs on farm machinery near power lines," notes Bob Aherin, University of Illinois Agricultural Safety Specialist. "It can be difficult to estimate distance and sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. A spotter or someone with a broader view can help."

Today's larger farms require transporting tractors and equipment to fields several miles away. Before transit, avoid raising the arms of planters, cultivators or truck beds near power lines.

Be aware of increased height when loading and transport-

ing larger modern tractors. Also, many tractors are now equipped with radios and communications systems and have antennas extending from the cab to fifteen feet above the ground that could make contact with power lines.

Some other equipment safety considerations:

- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level - under 14 feet - before moving or transporting; use care when raising them.
- When moving large equipment or high loads near a power line, always use a spotter, or someone to help make certain that contact is not made with a line.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path!

As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination. Do not try to clear storm-damage debris and limbs near or touching power lines or near fallen lines.

The overhead electric wires aren't the only electrical contact that can result in a serious incident. Pole guy wires are grounded to the neutral; but, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can cause an electric current disruption. This can make those neutral wires anything but harmless. If you hit a guy wire and break it,

call the utility to fix it. Don't do it yourself. When dealing with electrical poles and wires, always call the electric utility.

"It's also important for operators of farm equipment or vehicles to know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line," Hall said. "It's almost always best to stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off."

"If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result," Aherin said. "Even if a power line has landed on the ground, there is still the potential for the area nearby to be energized. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire."

In that case, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to shuffle or hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions occur when the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

Farmers may want to consider moving or burying power lines around buildings or busy
(continued on 16d)

Stone-age idea ... Space-age technology

Geothermal systems are super-efficient in heating and cooling homes. Plus, they are easier to maintain, cleaner, quieter and less obtrusive. But despite the high-tech benefits, the systems are really based on one simple law of nature.

The law? The earth's temperature is constant at about four feet deep. And that heat can mean big savings for your home in the long run.

Like a refrigerator

Geothermal systems work much like a refrigerator. Refrigerators don't "make" cold air, or move cold in. Instead, they remove heat.

Geothermal systems perform this same function using a compressor and a heat exchanger with a loop of pipe. The pipe, buried in the ground, is filled with an anti-freeze solution.

In the winter, the liquid in the loop absorbs the earth's constant source of heat and distributes it throughout the house. The liquid then circulates back through the loop into the ground, and the process is repeated.

In the summer, the process reverses: The liquid actually absorbs heat from the house and gives it off underground.

Geothermal systems also provide the home with hot water, when cooling, as a free byproduct of the process.

So what?

In contrast, conventional heat pumps rely on outside air as the source of heat. Because air temperature varies greatly, these air-source heat pumps are much less efficient than geothermal systems.

Air-source heat pump efficiency is expressed with the Heating Sea-



son Performance Factor (HSPF). These conventional heat pumps have HSPFs of 6.8 to 8.2. Accounting for Illinois' climate and a conversion from a geothermal-specific efficiency rating, geothermal systems can have HSPFs of 10.9 to 12.8.

The same efficiencies apply for cooling, measured with the Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) or Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER). Central air has an EER of 8, conventional heat pumps have SEERs of around 10 and high-efficiency heat pumps have SEERs of 12 to 14.

Geothermal systems have an EER of up to 16. So for both heating and cooling, geothermal systems give more bang for the buck. Investing in a geothermal system will cost more money up front, but the operating costs are low enough that the system will pay for itself in five to seven years. And maintenance costs will be much less, since the systems last much longer than traditional heat pumps.

Besides being constant, ground heat also flows at high volume. This means geothermal systems fill the home with warmth more evenly. No

(continued on 16b)

WAYNE-WHITE COUNTIES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE • FAIRFIELD, ILLINOIS • (618) 842-2196 • www.wcec.com

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Wayne-White NEWS

In this issue...

- Insulate yourself from the "Ouch!" factor 16b
- Youth Day 16c
- Honor the American Flag 16d

(continued from 16a)

more hot and cold spots common to fossil fuel furnaces.

There are other benefits. A geothermal system's source of heat is the earth itself. It's cleaner than fossil fuels, and the supply won't dwindle.

Perhaps even more important is the "whisper factor." There is no noisy compressor unit taking up space outside the home, kicking on and off all day. Geothermal systems are quiet. And they don't take up space on the lawn.

What you need to know ■

When installing a geothermal system, the loop is the

most critical element. It must be buried beneath the frost line to avoid shifting during winter freezes and thaws. The loop can be installed horizontally, vertically or in a body of water.

The type of system each home will require depends on a variety of conditions. Horizontal installation is easier and less expensive during a home's construction, if there is sufficient soil. An older home may want to avoid tearing up the lawn, making a vertical installation the best option.

The size of the unit and the size of the loop will be determined by a heat loss/heat gain analysis.

Regardless of which type is used, homeowners should remember that adding insulation and weatherizing the home is key to maximizing any home's heating and cooling system. In addition, ensuring that all ductwork is properly sealed and insulated can improve efficiency.

For more information, visit these Web sites:

- Southface Energy Institute, which provides education and assistance for sustainable homes: www.southface.org
- Geothermal Information Survival Kit: geoheat.oit.edu/ghp/ghptable.htm

Insulate yourself from the "Ouch!" factor



If you said "Brrrr!" more than usual this winter, you probably said "Ouch!" when you received your electric bill.

Heating and cooling contribute more to annual home expenses than anything else. So making your home's heating and cooling system as efficient as possible is a good way to save money. And that can prevent another "Ouch!" when you receive your summer electric bills.

Two forces affect your comfort level: heat transfer and air movement. Heat transfer occurs because heat always moves to colder areas. So during the summer, heat tries to move into the house. During the winter, it tries to move out of the house. Air movement occurs anytime air moves into your house through gaps, cracks and more.

Preventing heat transfer

You can prevent heat transfer by adding insulation. Walls, floors and ceilings are all places heat can escape dur-

ing the winter or enter during the summer. Insulation is like a wall that keeps heat in or out, depending on the season.

Some walls are better than others. The effectiveness of insulation is measured in R-values. For example, six-inch fiberglass insulation batt rates R-19. But 6 inches of concrete has an R-value of only 0.5.

Different kinds of insulation are available as well. A batt is a pre-cut 8-foot piece. A blanket is a continuous roll. The insulation can come faced, which provides a vapor barrier, or unfaced. Loose fill insulation is an option for hard-to-reach places, and rigid insulation is an option as well.

Your building supply store or insulation contractor can help you figure out what type of insulation best suits your needs.

Preventing air movement

Air movement is easily prevented through weatherization materials that help seal your house. But before you run out to buy a truckload of caulk and weather stripping, inspect your

house inside and out.

There are many areas to check:

- Cracks. Check around the foundation, doorjamb, chimneys and window frames.
- Utility entrances. Locate all of these, including water faucets. You will want to seal all of them.
- Windows. Cracked panes should be replaced, or at least taped. Add weather stripping to any windows without it. And consider storm windows. If they are out of your price range, temporary storm windows made from plastic are available.
- Doors. A tiny quarter-inch crack around an outside door is about the same as having a 6" by 9" hole in the door. Weather-stripping, and a threshold or sweep at the door's bottom, can keep cracks to a minimum.
- Fireplace. Some fiberglass insulation stuffed in the flue will do—just make sure you have a reminder

(continued on 16c)

(continued from 16b)

- to take them out before the next fire.
- Outlets. Believe it or not, electrical outlets and switches account for almost 20 percent of air infiltration. Foam gaskets under the plastic outlet covers can take care of this problem.

- Vents. Make sure bathroom and kitchen vents operate properly, and check the damper for the dryer vent. Any cracks or openings should be caulked. After you've caulked, weather-stripped and otherwise sealed your home, don't forget about the easy stuff. Draperies can be a big source of energy

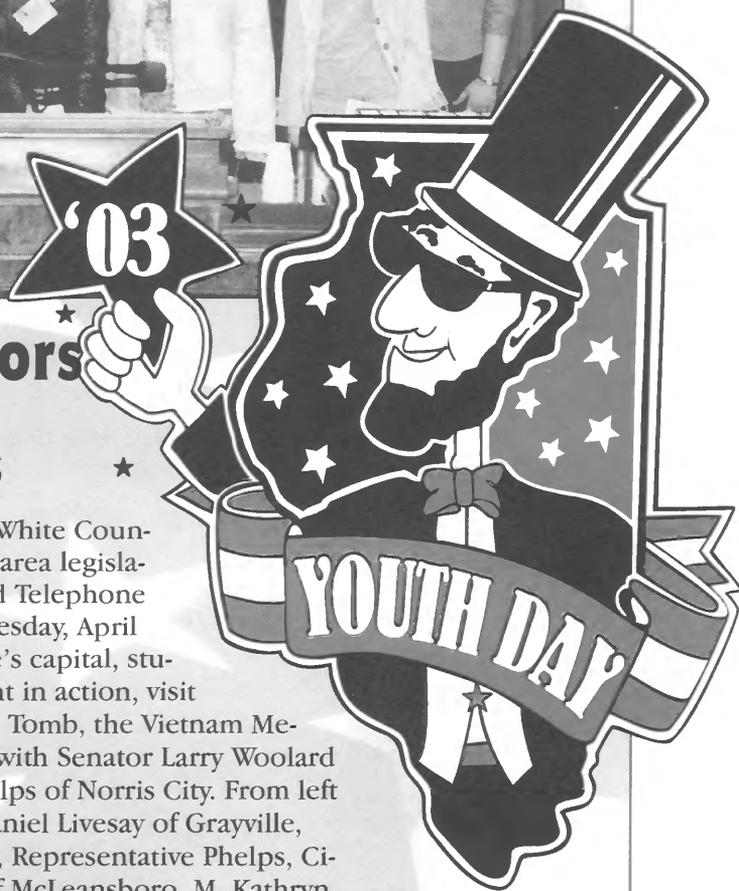
savings. During cold seasons, keep them open during the day, especially on southern- and western-facing sides of the house. Close them at night to prevent heat loss. Do just the opposite in the summer.

Finally, make sure your furnace filter is changed monthly. It may not be weatherization, but it sure can save you money.



Wayne-White sponsors students to meet with area legislators

Eight students representing Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative met with area legislators during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives' Youth Day on Wednesday, April 2, in Springfield. While in the state's capital, students had an opportunity to watch government in action, visit the Illinois Supreme Court, and tour Lincoln's Tomb, the Vietnam Memorial and the Governor's Mansion. Pictured with Senator Larry Woolard of Carterville and Representative Brandon Phelps of Norris City. From left are John Jacobs of Carmi, Tyler Howell and Daniel Livesay of Grayville, Senator Woolard, Tabitha Borne of Broughton, Representative Phelps, Ciara Hawkins of Grayville, Rebekah Campbell of McLeansboro, M. Kathryn Mullins of Dahlgren and Kimberly Miller of Wayne City. The day was sponsored by the electric and telephone co-ops in the state in an effort to introduce young rural leaders to state government.





Honor the AMERICAN FLAG

The stars and stripes of the American Flag hold a place of pride in the hearts of Americans. We hold dear our flag as the symbol of our nation's continuing struggle for freedom. Our flag has seen its share of bloodshed, victories and defeats as it has stood, and is standing, proudly beside our soldiers during wars against freedom. Those soldiers have helped to preserve our flag and what it represents. Honor our nation's flag and soldiers on Flag Day, June 14, by honoring our stars and stripes. You can also honor your flag by learning how to properly display and care for this symbol of America.

■ Flying the flag

Display from sunrise to sunset, never allowing darkness to fall while the flag is raised. The flag may be displayed 24-hours a day if it is illuminated at night.

Do not display during rain, sleet, snow or other inclement weather unless using an all-

weather flag.

Never allow the flag to touch anything below it.

Do not store the flag where it can get dirty.

Do not mark on or personalize the flag in any way.

Allow the flag to fall freely.

Hoist the flag quickly and lower it ceremoniously, never allowing it to touch the ground.

■ Flying at half mast:

When flying the flag at half-mast, raise it first to the top and then lower to half-mast (half way between the top and bottom of the mast). When lowering the flag, first raise it momentarily to the top and then lower. On Memorial Day, the flag should be flown at half-staff until noon. The President of the United States may designate other days the flag should be displayed at half-mast.

■ Folding the flag:

First fold the flag in half width-wise twice. Starting at the striped end, fold one corner over to make a triangle. Fold

this triangle over and repeat until only the stars are showing. Then tuck the last piece inside the folds. A properly folded flag is a triangle showing the blue stars. For a demonstration of folding the flag properly, visit the Web site www.americanflags.com

■ How to dispose of the flag:

Never throw a flag away! When the flag is so worn it is no longer a fitting symbol to be displayed, destroy it in a dignified manner, preferably by burning the flag and burying the ashes. Many American Legion and VFW Chapters conduct flag burning ceremonies, often on Flag Day, June 14th. Contact your local chapter about this ceremony.

For more information on proper flag etiquette, visit www.vfw.org. You can also request a free copy of the VFW's "Our Flag" brochure by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Flag Brochure, VFW Citizenship Education Dept., VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th St., Kansas, MO. 64111.



Make grilling a snap for dad on Father's Day

Whether it's burgers and hot dogs or steaks and ribs, there's nothing like the taste of hot, tasty food off the grill.

Doesn't dad deserve a break today? Buy him a grill for Father's Day. It's something the whole family will enjoy.

Contact your local electric cooperative for more information about electric grills. And don't forget, Wayne-White Services carries propane grills for Dad.

Wayne-White NEWS

WAYNE-WHITE COUNTIES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE • FAIRFIELD, ILLINOIS • (618) 842-2196 • www.wcec.com

Touchstone Energy Cooperative

In this issue...

- Stay safe after storms* 16b
- Electric safety* 16c
- Beat the heat this summer* 16d

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative

sends crew to help with storm damage in Southern Illinois

A severe storm with tornados and 230 mph winds moved through parts of Pulaski, Massac, Alexander and Pope Counties at about 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6.

Massac County officials reported that 117 residences were damaged. Twenty-seven homes were completely destroyed, 26 homes had major damage and 34 had minor damage. Eighteen mobile homes were destroyed, six had major damage, and six had minor damage.

Pulaski County reported eight homes destroyed, 15 with major damage and 40 with minor damage. They reported 15 mobile homes destroyed, five with major damage, and seven with minor damage.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) in Dongola received major damage to its power distribution system and service connections. Early on May 7 the Illinois Electric Cooperatives Emergency Work Plan was enacted and request for help was sent to neighboring co-ops and crews.

Answering cooperatives were advised to wait for specific requests from damaged co-ops for help. Wayne-White received a request for a single line crew on Saturday, May 10, and immediately supplied such. The respond-



Southern Illinois

ing Wayne-White line crew was Gerry Kinney and Chad Hinkle.

They joined crews from Egyptian Electric Cooperative, Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Clinton County Electric Cooperative and Oil Field crews already at SIEC. All crews worked 17-20 hour days and by Tuesday, May 13, power was restored to almost all SIEC's customers. Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative is glad to have been of some help to SIEC and their members.

Stay safe after storms

Summertime can spawn severe, damaging storms and heavy rain. Safe Electricity would like to remind people of the increased electrocution risks that storms and flooding can cause, and offers safety tips to avoid serious injury or death when dealing with the aftermath of a major storm or disaster.

"The danger does not end when the storm does," says Molly Hall, Director of Safe Electricity. "People can be hurt or killed by hazards left behind. It's wise to be cautious in any clean-up effort."

Stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.

If using electric yard tools in clean-up efforts, do not operate them if it's raining or the ground is wet, or while you are wet or standing in water. Keep all electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces.

"Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off," said Jay Solomon, University of Illinois Extension Engineering

Educator. "Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box; if you must, stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter."

Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equip-



ment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.

"Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks," said Solomon. "Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service. It may be necessary to repair or replace electrical

appliances or tools that have been in contact with water. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out."

If after a storm or disaster, the power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know important safety rules, such as never using a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside! And if you use a standby generator, make sure a transfer safety switch is used or connect the appliance(s) directly to the generator output through an isolated circuit before you operate it. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what's known as "back feed." Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.

For more information on electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org. Safe Electricity is a statewide electrical safety public awareness program. The program was created by a coalition of nearly three dozen organizations including the University of Illinois, rural electric cooperatives, and investor-owned electric utilities from throughout the state. All are members of the Illinois Electric Council, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting electric safety and efficiency.



Our office will be closed **Friday, July 4th**
in observance of **Independence Day.**

Cooperative teaches electrical safety to children

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative linemen conducted several "Live-Line" demonstrations for area school children during the month of May. Pictured below are linemen Kerry Merritt (with hot stick), Nathon Coston (center), David Bailey (left), and Hamilton County Jr. High 7th and 8th graders.

Live-Line demonstrations were also performed for Hamilton County's Berry School 1st and 2nd graders, Edwards/Wabash County Farm Bureau for area 5th graders, and at Dolan Lake for area 5th graders. Wayne-White has finished with Live-Line



demonstrations for the busy summer months; however, we will begin again in the fall when line construction work slows down. To schedule Live-Line demonstrations

through Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, contact Jerry White, Vice President of Operations, at (618) 842-2196.

Line clearance/tree trimming school

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative's Manager of Right-of-Ways, Jim Gifford, in cooperation with Frontier Community College, conducted a Line Clearance/Tree Trimming School, May 12-16, at Frontier Community College in Fairfield. Tree workers from Wayne-White and other area cooperatives, companies and municipalities attended the five-day course. Students received training in tree identification, how trees grow and respond to pruning, line clearance tree pruning, ANSI pruning and safety standards, hazard tree identification, tree felling, principles of tree climbing, knots and hitches, and rigging.



Mike Dirksen, President Elect Illinois Arborists Association and competitive climber, provided climbing demonstrations; Gill Excavating demonstrated the brush mowing Brown Brontosaurus; Chuck Combe, Asplundh Midwest

Safety coordinator, provided training in chain saw and chipper safety, OSHA regulations and truck audits; and Mark Finch, Altec Sales, demonstrated a new Altec 75' reach tree trimming truck.

Keep power poles clear

We are beginning to see more personal property on cooperative power poles. Personal property varies from satellite dishes, as pictured, to bird feeders, to attached fencing. These attachments may interfere with safety and/or work that needs to be performed on the pole. Members are asked to refrain from attaching personal property to Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative's power poles.



Make sure your home is ready to beat the heat

Energy use and costs are greatest in the hot, summer months when air conditioning use peaks. The Illinois Electric Council suggests taking measures now so your home can better weather the summer sun, heat and humidity.

"There are a number of measures, small and large, that can make a big difference in comfort and electric bills," says Molly Hall, Illinois Electric Council Executive Director. "Most steps can pay for themselves relatively quickly. For example, weather stripping and caulking are inexpensive ways to boost efficiency and cut energy costs."

Reduce energy costs and ready the air conditioner with a cleaning and tune-up. An efficiently-running cooling system will save dollars. If you're purchasing a new unit, check the efficiency rating, or SEER. The higher the SEER number the more efficient the air conditioner.

Ventilate the attic and check insulation. When the outside temperature is in the 90s, your attic can easily reach 140 degrees. Adequately sized vents and/or an attic fan can help keep hot air from building up. If your attic has less than 6 to 8 inches of insulation, consider adding more. Be sure the insulation doesn't block vents or cover exhaust fans.

Caulk and put weather-stripping around windows and doors. This will reduce air infiltration and reduce both cooling and heating costs. Install awnings over windows exposed to direct sunlight. Outdoor

landscaping that includes shade trees and insulating foundation plants can also reduce energy costs.

When performing these or any home improvement projects, the IEC and its Safe Electricity program offer these safety tips:

- Make sure you've got the right tools and check cords for any cracks or frayed insulation.
- Take note of potential hazards in the work area such as overhead power lines, especially those connected to the home. Keep ladders and long metal tools at least 10 feet away from them.
- Make sure outdoor outlets are equipped with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them
- If your projects include digging, like building a deck or planting a tree, call your utility locating service before you begin. Wayne-White Electric asks you to call "JULIE" at (800) 892-0123. Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. Call at least two business days ahead of your dig date. This service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted, and can help you avoid serious injury.

Follow these operating tips for greater energy efficiency and reduction in air conditioning costs:

- Throughout summer use, change air conditioner filters monthly, more often if pets live indoors.
- Dial up. For each 1-degree in-

crease in the thermostat setting, you can trim cooling costs by about 3 percent.

- Install a timer or programmable thermostat to raise and lower the temperature automatically. Leave it on a higher temperature while you're away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.
- Install ceiling fans that circulate air and reduce air conditioning use.
- Turn off unnecessary lights and televisions sets you're not watching. Don't leave computers on when not in use.
- Make sure heat-producing appliances like televisions and lamps are away from the thermostat. They will raise the temperature at the thermostat and cause the air conditioner to run when it is not needed.
- Plan to do hot work—washing and drying clothes, cooking and baking—during cooler morning and evening hours.
- Keep your kitchen cooler by cooking in a microwave oven or grill outdoors.
- Keep the sun out of your house. Close blinds, shades, or draperies during the hottest part of the day.

The IEC and its Safe Electricity program offer information year round to help consumers use electric energy efficiently and safely. For more information and tips to help cut costs and improve home safety, visit the Web sites www.IECouncil.org and www.SafeElectricity.org.

Wayne-White NEWS

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

WAYNE-WHITE COUNTIES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES • FAIRFIELD, ILLINOIS • (618) 842-2196 • WWW.WWCEC.COM

- In this issue...**
- Youth to Washington* 16b
 - Help make the line-man's job safer* 16c
 - Touchstone Energy* 16d

Mt Erie Celebrates its 150th Anniversary

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative congratulates Mt Erie for its 150-year heritage. Mt Erie had its sesquicentennial celebration on Saturday, June 21. The village of Mt Erie formed its corporate limits in 1853. The village's 150-year heritage places Mt Erie in an exclusive group of surviving pioneer towns. Mt Erie was one of the small Wayne County villages whose pioneering spirit was also influential in bringing electricity to rural Wayne and White counties. In 1935, Mt Erie, Enterprise, Sims, Burnt Prairie, Springerton, and Mill Shoals, joined with Geff, IL to form a small army of villages and farmers who diligently worked to bring the REA and electricity to Wayne and White counties, and who saw the first electric lights come on in November, 1937. Mr. Iwin Yohe, of Mt Erie, served on Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative board of directors from its beginning in 1936 until 1963.



**Wayne-White Counties
Electric Cooperative**
P.O. Drawer E
Fairfield, IL 62857



**150 YEARS
THE
VILLAGE OF
MOUNT ERIE
SESQUICENTENNIAL**
1853-2003 ★★★★★ STATION
MOUNT ERIE, IL 62446 JUNE 21, 2003



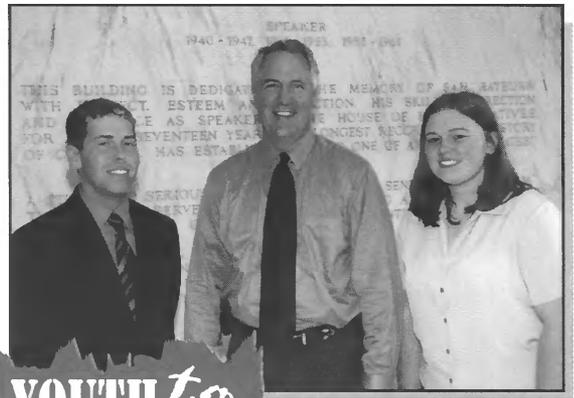
Youth to Washington trip

Rebekah Campbell of McLeansboro and John Jacobs of Carmi represented Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative June 13-20 in Washington D.C. The students met with Illinois congressional leaders and learned about their government during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began in the late 1950s to introduce rural youths to our democratic form of government and cooperatives.

They met with Congressman John Shimkus on Capitol Hill and were among 60 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. In addition to the Capitol,

students also visited the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and a number of other historical sites.

In addition to taking in the sights and sounds of the nation's capitol, all the state groups convened for Rural Electric Youth Day to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers.



Jacobs, Congressman Shimkus and Campbell.



This year's Youth Day agenda included keynote speaker Lt. Col. Brian Birdwell, a survivor of the terrorist's attack on the Pentagon, September 11, 2001.

Enjoying the benefits of Safe Electricity Things your child should know.

We all know the wonderful things electricity makes possible.

There's TV, radio, video games and computers; not to mention that electricity keeps us warm in winter, cool in summer, cooks our food, heats our water, cleans our clothes and keeps our homes and schools bright.

While we should be grateful for what electricity provides, we should also remember that electricity is powerful and we must be careful when using it. This is true for adults as well as children. Sometimes even parents and teachers have to be reminded to treat electricity with respect.

Here are some tips on electrical safety that you may want to share with your family and teacher:

- Never touch broken electrical cords or ones that have wire showing.
- Don't bite electrical cords. Now you may be laughing,

but small children and pets sometimes do bite these cords and it is very dangerous. You may want to teach your younger brother or sister to leave electrical cords alone.

- Never stick your finger or any object into light sockets or electrical outlets. Ask your mom or dad to buy plug covers so no one will get into trouble.
- Don't pull on cords to unplug them. Hold on to the plug.
- Don't touch anything electrical while you're wet or standing in water.
- Stay away from fallen power lines.

Did you know that electricity can travel down kite strings or wires? Never fly kites or balloons near any power lines.

- Do not climb power poles or trees close to power lines.
- Do not touch or go near electrical equipment. There are good reasons this equipment is marked "Danger," "High

Safe Electricity



Help make the lineman's job safer

Being a lineman is no simple task. Climbing poles and stringing electrical wire is a daily job despite bad weather or working conditions. But even if the weather or working conditions weren't problems, co-op linemen have a very dangerous job.

To work on the electrical lines, a lineman uses a bucket truck or climbs up the pole using special steel spikes, called gaffs that attach around his boots. These gaffs dig into the pole and give the lineman a solid hold on the pole as he works with the electrical lines. The lineman's livelihood and his life depend on his being able to keep those gaffs in the pole. If he should lose his hold on the pole, he could fall, hurting himself badly or even fatally.

You can help linemen at our co-op by keeping the poles around your property free of items that might keep them from doing their jobs safely. Here are a few examples of how you can help:

- **Don't hang birdhouses or basketball goals on an electrical pole.** The lineman who has to climb that pole will have to climb around these items and there's a good chance he might use them as a handhold. If the structure he uses isn't secure, the lineman could fall and be badly hurt.
- **Don't use electrical equipment for your target practice.** This can cause nothing but damage to the equipment and could harm you. Shooting at

power lines or the glass insulators located on the poles could cause the lines to come down and cause outages that affect hundreds of people.

- **Don't landscape around the bottom of the pole with flower boxes, birdhouses, etc.** If a lineman

should fall on these items, he could be injured more seriously. Planting flowers in the soil around the pole doesn't do any harm as long as no wooden or sharp objects are used in the bed.

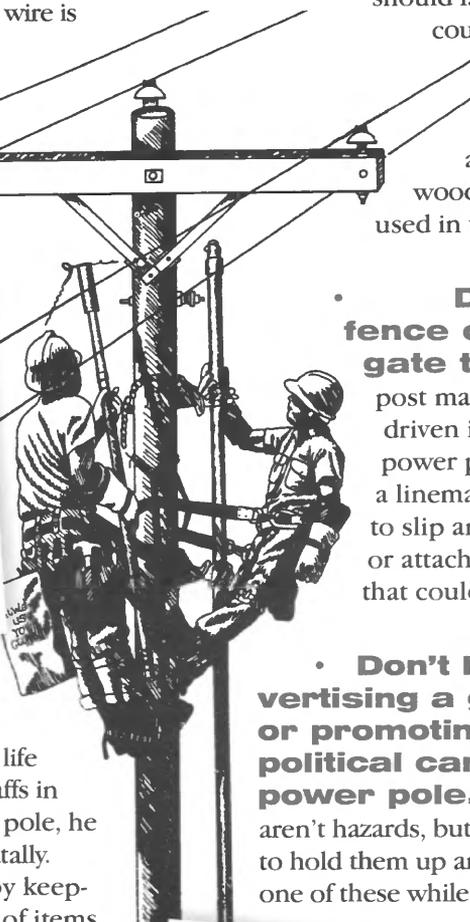
- **Don't erect a fence or attach a gate to a pole.** A fence

post made of wood or steel driven into the ground near a power pole is a great hazard to a lineman if he should happen to slip and fall on it. Don't build or attach anything to the pole that could be a hazard.

- **Don't hang a sign advertising a garage sale or promoting your favorite political candidate on the power pole.** The signs themselves aren't hazards, but the nails or staples used to hold them up are. If a lineman should hit one of these while climbing, his gaff won't

get a strong hold and he could slip off the pole. This goes for any metal object attached to the pole, including spikes, staples or any kind of nail.

If you follow these simple rules, you'll be making the already dangerous job of the lineman much safer. Thanks for your cooperation.





We go to school too

The end of summer is coming. It will soon be time for the big yellow buses to head down country roads to take kids back to school.

But school time is all year long for your electric cooperative employees. While your kids are learning about the three r's — reading, writing and arithmetic, your co-op employees attend classes to stay current on safety techniques, and learn new technology and better ways to perform their jobs.

It's just another way of showing we're committed to our employees, members and community.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The power of human connections

For more information on Touchstone Energy®, contact your local electric cooperative.

Wayne-White NEWS

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

WAYNE-WHITE COUNTIES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES • FAIRFIELD, ILLINOIS • (618) 842-2196 • WWW.WWCEC.COM

“Can you hear me now?”

The marketing campaign of Verizon Wireless Communications has made that phrase a cultural icon. Unfortunately, in Fairfield and many surrounding communities, the answer has been, “No.”

Poor signals, interference and dropped calls have plagued mobile telephone users in the area. Compounding the problem was the fact that Verizon had no place to construct a tower for an antenna site.

But thanks to an arrangement with Wayne-White Counties Electric, things have gotten better.

WWCEC recently leased space on its radio dispatching tower to Verizon so that an antenna could be installed to better serve the area.

“By locating our equipment on (Wayne-White’s) tower, we have dramatically expanded coverage throughout the town of Fairfield and neighboring communities,” said Cheryl Bini, spokesperson for Verizon Wireless. “As a result, callers will have improved performance and better call quality.”

The Verizon equipment was installed at the 215’ level of WWCEC’s 275’ tower. That’s roughly the height equivalent of a 22 story building, which will allow signal to reach a much broader area. Additional equipment is housed in a building at the base of the tower. It includes a back-up generator that can operate the site, if necessary.

The building itself weighs 56,000 pounds, which required a special crane to move it and a poured concrete pad to prevent it from sinking into the ground.

“This collaboration fits perfectly with the cooperative spirit,” said Jerry Houser, vice president of member services for WWCEC. “In the early days of cooperatives, we



verizonwireless



were trying to enhance the quality of life in rural America with the miracle of electricity. Today, the rural landscape is energized, but with advances in telecommunications, some voids now exist there. We’re pleased to have been able to work with Verizon Wireless to bring that quality improvement to the area.”

In this issue...

- Save money and the environment with energy conservation* 16b
- Get Charged! ..* 16c
- Child safety* 16d

SAVE MONEY AND THE ENVIRONMENT WITH ENERGY CONSERVATION

By Shawn Wilcockson

Energy efficiency creates three positive benefits at once. By lowering your utility bills, reducing pollution and increasing your comfort, you win and so does our planet.

Did you know that the average household pays more money on energy bills than necessary? That's right! You are paying for needless energy usage because available energy conservation practices are not being implemented in your home. Learn more about energy conservation and you can begin saving money and helping the environment, all while making your home more comfortable. Here are some home energy-savings techniques to get you started.

- Replace common incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lights. These bulbs use only about a third as much electricity and last 10 times longer than regular bulbs. Another cost savings technique in lighting is to replace fixed outdoor lighting with a motion-detector equipped bulb. Outdoor lights left on all night can add unnecessary costs to your power bill.
- Clean or replace furnace and air conditioning filters regularly, following manufacture's instructions. A clean filter can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5-15 percent.
- Caulk or use expanding foam anywhere you find air leaks.
- Install double-pane windows with low-e coatings. Add storm windows or use plastic film kits to improve single-pane windows.
- Insulate your water heater and hot water pipes. The insulating jacket will reduce standby heat loss by 25-45 percent, saving 4-9 percent on your water heating bills.
- Plant trees to shelter your home from the elements. Provide effective shade for east and west windows.
- Install ceiling or other fans to cut down on air conditioning costs. Air circulation keeps costs down.
- Install a high-efficiency furnace/air conditioner or a geothermal heat pump.
- Set your hot water heater no higher than 140° F (60° C) if you have a dishwasher. Otherwise, set it at 120° F (48° C).
- Turn off electronics when not in use. Idle TVs and VCRs alone cost U.S. consumers \$1 billion a year, or some \$30 per household.
- Do only full loads when using your clothes washer or dryer. Be sure to clean your clothes dryer's lint trap after each use. On sunny days, hang your clothes out to dry.
- Fix defective plumbing or dripping faucets. A single dripping hot water faucet can waste 212 gallons of water a month.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room. In the summer, lights add additional heating load to the home that your air conditioner must overcome.
- Use a programmable thermostat. Rule of thumb for thermostat savings: For each degree you lower your thermostat in winter, you can save about 3 percent.
- Purchase Energy Star rated products (refrigerators, dishwashers, washers and dryers, computers and stereo equipment). These products provide higher energy-efficient capabilities. If over the next 15 years, Americans bought only Energy Star qualified products, we would shrink our energy bills by more than \$100 billion.
- Excerpted from www.energy.gov.

WAYNE-WHITE COUNTIES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2003 RATE INCREASE

Rate 1 - Regular Residential Rate:

Facilities Fee	\$16.00	= \$16.00
1st 750 kwh	x.100	= \$75.00
2nd 750 kwh	x.089	= \$66.75
over 1500 kwh	x.079	

Minimum Bill \$22.00 per month

Tax = kwhs X .0032.

Rate 2 - Winter Residential Rate (for electric heat members):

Facilities Fee	\$16.00	= \$16.00
1st 750 kwh	x.100	= \$75.00
2nd 750 kwh	x.089	= \$66.75
over 1500 kwh	x.050	

Minimum Bill \$22.00 per month

(Consumption used in the months of November through April. Because billing is two months behind, payment will be January through June.)



Get Charged!

for the new school year

Just in time for the new school year, the Illinois Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives are making it easier for area schools to teach about electricity and electric cooperatives. Through a partnership between Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and Discovery Channel School, the co-ops around the state are embarking on a campaign to ensure that middle and junior high school students in Illinois receive a quality education on electricity—its beginnings to its importance in today's world. By streamlining the vast amounts of information on electricity and the important role cooperatives played in bringing this commodity to rural America, students are able to easily digest the lesson plans in this educational campaign.

Through this community outreach program—called Get Charged! Electricity and You —The Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are providing middle and junior high schools with a comprehensive kit of educational materials focusing on electricity, a component of the National Academy of Science's National Science Education Standards (NSES). While individual states differ in their implementation and assessment of standards, they often base science topics on the NSES. Developed by teachers, scientists, science educators, and other experts, the standards for grades K–12 describe what students should understand and be able to do in various science categories.

“Providing our local schools with an effective educational resource on electricity and the vital efforts rural electric co-ops put forth in bringing power to the people all across America exemplifies our commitment to community,” says Nancy Nixon, Marketing Administrator at the Association of Illinois

Electric Cooperatives in Springfield. She adds, “By investing in our local students' education, our co-ops ensure that their members, both households and businesses, can continue to count on them to provide them with more than just electricity.”

Each complimentary Get Charged! kit, contains the following educational materials:

- Poster for classroom use
- Two Videos:
 - Understanding: Electricity
 - Touchstone Energy's Our Story
- Interactive CD-ROM featuring electricity
- Lesson Plan: Get Power - The Cooperative Way
- 10-Student Activity Books
- Electricity Teachers Resource Guide
- Customizable letter to parents and schools explaining the educational program

“Our co-ops' involvement in Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' partnership with Discovery Channel School allows them to participate with the many other electric co-ops committing educational resources to the schools co-ops serve,” says Nixon. “And in a time when schools and teachers are struggling with reduced resources and aging materials, it's refreshing to know that their students will have access to such fresh and exciting interactive materials they might not otherwise be able to afford without assistance from the co-ops.”

For more information on the Get Charged! program, contact your local electric cooperative, or Nancy Nixon at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives at (217) 529-5561 or nnixon@aiec.coop.

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative goes to the fair

During the month of July, Wayne White Counties Electric Cooperative's (WWCEC) VP of Member Services, Jerry Houser took the cooperative to the fair; that is, the county fair. Jerry set up a WWCEC booth at each of the Hamilton, Wayne, Edwards, and White county fairs. The booth featured information about the cooperative, heating and cooling technologies, right-of-ways management, and tree selection and care. Jerry was there each night to answer questions about WWCEC. A steady supply of information, literature, and free gifts were available to fair goers. “It's just another way we get to meet our members” said Jerry.



How to protect your child from electrical accidents

The tendency of small children to stick their fingers in places where they don't belong can sometimes create a problem for mom or dad. But the result can be much more serious – in the form of a painful experience, or even a fatality – when children poke around electrical outlets.



Children also love to tug on loose electrical cords. As a result, they can knock over a lamp, appliance or telephone, and injure themselves in the process. To prevent these types of accidents, the Leviton Institute suggests that all cords be placed out of the reach of small hands and that cord shorteners not be used to eliminate any loose wires.

To prevent your child from receiving an electrical shock, the Leviton Institute suggests that you cover exposed electrical outlets with protective devices. There are many types to choose from, including outlet caps that completely close off unused outlets, tamper-resistant outlets, and tamper-resistant wallplates and adaptors. The latter allow you to use an outlet, while preventing a child from poking fingers, pencils or other objects inside of it.

"You can't be too careful when protecting small children from potentially harmful electrical devices and appliances," suggests Dave Mastrone, a spokesperson for the Leviton Institute. "Small children are naturally curious, and they simply don't understand the power of electricity."

A favorite target of babies and toddlers are power cords, which they are apt to place in their mouth and chew. Consequently, parents should replace a worn or frayed electrical cord with one having an appropriate length. An even better idea is to keep young children away from cords altogether, since a child can actually choke on as little as 12 inches of cord.

Here are additional safety tips to help protect your child from injury:

- Make sure there's a light bulb in every lamp socket.
- When portable fans, clothes irons, space heaters and the like are not in use, be sure to unplug them and put them away.
- If your fuse boxes are within reach of a small child, padlock them shut, and place the key in a safe place accessible only to adults.
- Use extension cords only for temporary power, not as substitutes for well-placed receptacles.
- Use night lights to illuminate darkened areas of your home.
- Use a switch extender wallplate which helps youngsters reach wall switches to turn lights on and off.

As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. That's especially true when it comes to home electricity.

Source: The Leviton Institute.

Electrocution on the farm

Electrocution is quick and deadly, and may be one of the most overlooked hazards on the farm. Every year, 62 farm workers in the United States are killed by electrocution. In 1991, two Iowa farm workers were killed and two others were injured in accidents involving electricity.

Portable grain augers, oversized wagons, large combines and other tall or cumbersome equipment easily can contact overhead power lines. The result is electrocution of anyone on the equipment.

To eliminate your hazards of electrocution:

- Always lower a portable grain auger before you move it, even if only a few feet.
- Keep all objects at least 10 feet away from overhead lines. Know where all overhead power lines are located on your property and inform all workers about them.
- Plan your route between fields, to bins and elevators, and on public roads so that you avoid low-hanging power lines. If someone else transports large equipment, always specify a safe route and explain why certain routes must be taken.
- Be sure you and everyone else in your operation know what to do in an emergency.
- If equipment gets hung up on a power line, the operator should NOT get off the machinery unless in immediate danger. If the operator touches the ground and the equipment at the same time, he or she will become a channel for electricity.
- If you must leave the equipment, jump as far away from the machinery as possible. Never get back on machinery that touches a power line until the utility company disconnects the line.
- Investigate the possibility of burying power lines in heavily used areas on the farm, such as around grain bins.

OFFICE CLOSING

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative's office will be closed Monday, September 1, in observance of **Labor Day**.

Wayne-White NEWS

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

WAYNE-WHITE COUNTIES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES • FAIRFIELD, ILLINOIS • (618) 842-2196 • WWW.WWCEC.COM

CEO Reflections



**President/CEO
Rick Golgan**

October is National Co-op Month. Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative is proud to participate as a cooperative for the past 68 years. But what does it mean to be a cooperative? What sets a co-op apart from other types of business? Why is it that a cooperative is the preferred type of business to do business with?

Cooperatives provide goods and services that may not otherwise be available, or at least, unavailable at a reasonable price. In our case, our cooperative provides electricity, but 48,000 cooperatives all over the country provide housing, child care, healthcare, groceries, hardware, telecommunications and financial services.

When you purchase something from a cooperative, you are more than a customer – you are a member in that business. As a member, we are accountable to you. This arrangement results in more competitive pricing, reliability and efficiency.

Through the cooperative form of business, we all become something more than just buyers and sellers. We are full participants in the free enterprise system. Our members not only buy goods and services from the cooperative, they also own the business. By using their combined power to invest their capital and operate their own business, they provide themselves and others with goods and services and share the benefits.

Members have a voice in their co-op. You can help dictate the future of the cooperative. Make your voice heard! If you don't like what your cooperative is doing, let us know. After all, you are an owner in this business.

Cooperatives are socially responsible organizations. We are dedicated to improving the quality-of-life, not only for our members, but for the communities where we

live and serve. Cooperatives give community members opportunities to develop their leadership skills. Many community leaders have gotten their start at their electric cooperative. Many employees volunteer time as

coaches, school board members, or serve on their local fire departments or ambulance crews.

Earlier in this century, the U.S. Congress, by law, confirmed cooperatives' role in the mainstream of American business. That wisdom has been tested and proven correct year after year, and today cooperative businesses are an irreplaceable part of our economy. As we look around, we can see many examples of how cooperatives have enriched our communities, large and small, and have contributed to our shared prosperity.

Business trends go up and down, and fads and fashions spring up and fade away. But cooperative business produces an enduring economic liberty for all people. That liberty is worthy of celebrating and preserving.



In this issue...

- Camaraderie in a cooperative community* 16b
- Watch for signs of electrical overloading* 16c
- Wayne-White celebrates 50th* 16d

Comaraderie in a cooperative community



Cooperative members from all across the nation come together every October in celebration of National Cooperative Month. This month is dedicated to the principles that define the cooperatives and the member-owned basis in which they were founded. A cooperative is created by the constituents of a community who come together to provide quality goods and services within their community. The primary purpose for such a business is to allow the member-owners to have a say in how the cooperative is run and to collectively receive the benefits.

Shared values and services are the major concerns for cooperatives, not profits, hence the reason they are increasingly successful. More than 120 million people are members of cooperatives and more than 47,000 cooperatives exist in the United States alone. It is a sign of the changing times and the need for citizens to take control of the productivity of businesses in their communities. Co-ops also provide the consumer with a wider variety of choices and minimize product cost. Cooperatives are able to offer goods and services to the consumers at reasonable prices because consumers use their combined power to invest their capital and operate their own businesses.

Cooperatives differ from the traditional forms of business because of the seven Cooperative Principles that define their organization and express their direct responsibility to their member-owners. They are:

1. Voluntary and open membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.

2. Democratic member control

Cooperatives are democratic organization controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership.

3. Members' economic participation

Members contribute equally to, and democrati-

cally control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership.

4. Autonomy and independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5. Education, training and information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of the cooperative.

6. Cooperation among cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. Concern for the community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for community development through policies accepted by their members.

Cooperative businesses are comprised of people from various socio-economic backgrounds that are willing participants in a free enterprise system. Co-ops are empowering because through co-ops people achieve together what they could not accomplish alone.

Cooperatives are succeeding because they bring together a community. They bring people together for electricity, groceries, hardware, telephone, health care, housing, telecommunications or financial services. And in the overall spirit of togetherness, cooperatives give us a sense of pride in our communities and ourselves. So in celebration of National Cooperative Month let us visualize the continued overall success that cooperatives bring into each and every one of our lives.

Watch for signs of electrical overloading during summer

Keeping cool in the hot, humid weather places a great demand on home and office electrical systems. Overloaded electrical circuits and faulty equipment and wiring can start fires and cause injury or even death.

"Older homes and buildings with outdated electrical wiring and systems are at greater risk of dangerous deterioration and becoming overloaded," says Molly Hall, Director of the Safe Electricity program. "The wiring of many homes is not equipped to properly handle and support the increased electrical demands of present-day homes and offices. This can cause not only inconvenient power outages, but hazardous conditions."

According to statistics from the National Fire Protection Association, nearly one-third of an average 406,700 residential fires per year were related to electrical distribution or appliances and equipment. Fires related to heating and air condition systems, alone, account for more than 10 percent of this total. These residential electrical fires cause an annual average of 860 deaths, 4,875 injuries and nearly \$1.3 billion in property damage.

"A home electrical inspection to find and correct hidden hazards could prevent many of these tragedies," says Hall. "The time and investment in having a qualified electrician check your residence, and performing a few home repairs and upgrades are small in comparison to the protection and safety they provide to your family and home."

Safe Electricity recommends an electrical system inspection for all dwellings 40 years old or older and for all existing homes at the time of sale. A few ways to determine if your home needs an electrical inspection include:

- Major renovation or major new appliances have been added in the last 10 years
- Lights often flicker, blink or dim momentarily
- Circuit breakers trip or fuses blow often
- Cords or wall plates that are warm to the touch or discolored
- Crackling, sizzling or buzzing is heard from outlets
- Extension cords or multiple power strips are permanently in use

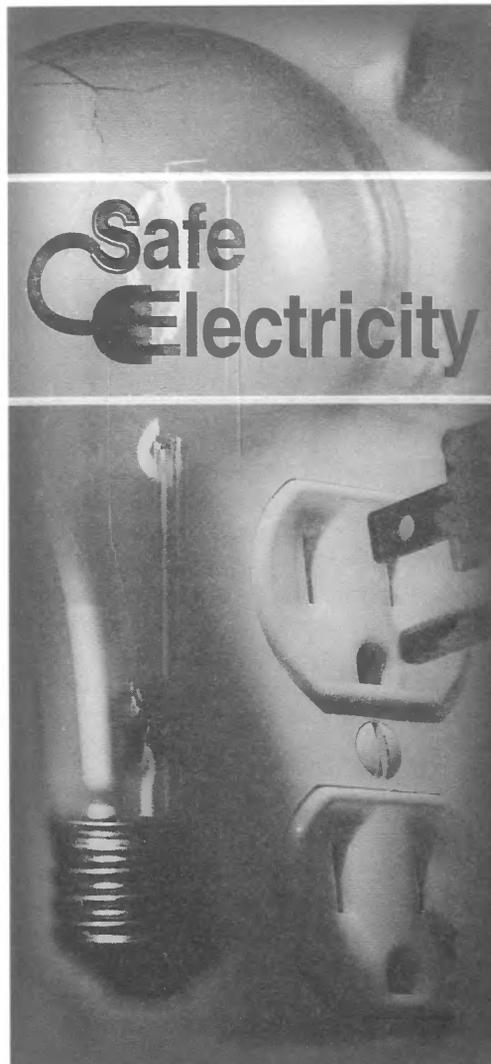
"Avoid using extension cords on a continual basis," Hall recommends. "Use them only temporarily and make sure the cords are good condition - not frayed, stretched or worn - and out of the path of foot traffic. Never use an extension cord for air conditioners, electric heaters or even fans."

"Remove and keep all electrical cords from behind baseboards and beneath carpets and furniture," stresses Hall. "This is a major fire hazard."

If electrical items to be plugged in are close together, use a plug bar or surge protector. But make sure not to overload the electrical circuit, which can create a fire hazard.

In addition to ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets, designed for protection from electrical shocks, Safe Electricity encourages homeowners to have a professional install arc fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) outlets in bedrooms. AFCI is a relatively new technology to address electrical fire hazards. Most local codes now require these outlets in new residential construction.

No matter the season, or age of homes, residents should be vigilant and continually check for electrical hazards such as cracked or fraying electrical cords; overloaded outlets and circuits; and improper wattage light bulbs in



lamps and light fixtures.

"And always make sure smoke alarms are placed and functioning properly," Hall emphasizes.

For more information visit the Web site www.SafeElectricity.org. Safe Electricity is a statewide electrical safety public awareness program created by a coalition of more than three dozen organizations, including the University of Illinois, electric companies and electric cooperatives from across the state. All are members of the Illinois Electric Council, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting electric safety and efficiency.

Wayne-White Counties is ready for storm damage—are you?

Illinois is known to have its share of storms. Ice and snow, wind and showers—either way, it unfortunately means some of Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative's members could experience electric outages.

"At Wayne-White Counties, we do everything we can to prevent outages," said Rick Colgan, CEO of the cooperative. "But when you maintain around 3,500 miles of electric line, occasional outages are inevitable. So we also work hard to minimize the impact on our customers and to get the power back on as quickly as possible."

Colgan said Wayne-White Counties is constantly making improvements to the cooperative's distribution lines and equipment to prevent outages and minimize the impact when they occur.

For example, Wayne-White Counties employs a certified arborist to ensure trees are trimmed responsibly. (Branches on power lines cause outages—and even the touch of a branch

to a line can cause a blink.)

When an outage does occur, Wayne-White Counties' linemen are equipped with global positioning system (GPS) devices. These systems use satellites to help the linemen locate the outage more quickly and restore power sooner.

Ongoing system upgrades are also part of the cooperative's strategy. Wayne-White Counties' five-year plan includes system upgrades such as new lines and substation enhancements. These improvements allow the cooperative to reroute power, temporarily restoring power to some customers while permanent repairs are made.

"Wayne-White Counties is prepared for outages, and our members should be, too," Colgan said. "Cooperative members should have their own strategies for dealing with a power loss until we can restore electricity."

Here are some tips to remember if you experience an electric outage:

- First, make sure the problem is not in your home. Check your service panel or fuse box to see if a breaker has been tripped or a fuse blown.
- Contact your neighbors to find out how widespread the outage is.
- Phone Wayne-White Counties at (618) 842-2196. Don't assume your neighbors will call the cooperative. After all, they might assume that you're going to call.
- Make sure your electric equipment is surge-protected to guard against lightning strikes. Sensitive devices such as computers and televisions are particularly vulnerable.
- Never go near a downed power line, even if it looks like it's not a live wire. Call Wayne-White Counties at (618) 842-2196.
- Never enter a substation. If you have a question or comment regarding one of Wayne-White Counties' substations, call (618) 842-2196.

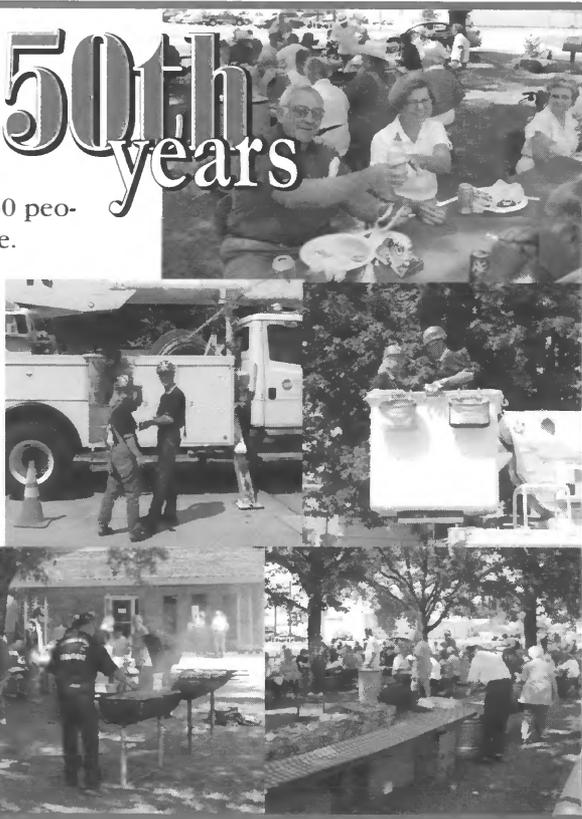
Wayne-White celebrates 50th years

Imagine, 1,000 pork burgers; 350 brats; 850 people—all in celebration of 50 years in service.

In August, Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative celebrated 50 years of service to the community from the building it has occupied since 1953.

"It was our chance to give a little something back to the community that has been so good to us and the customers who have been so loyal for the past five decades," said Rick Colgan, CEO for the cooperative. "This was a great opportunity for our employees and board members to meet with consumers and others from the community in a festive environment."

Entertainment and refreshments were provided, including the previously mentioned tally of sandwiches. And, as the photos indicate, a good time obviously was had by all!



Wayne-White NEWS

WAYNE-WHITE COUNTIES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES • FAIRFIELD, ILLINOIS • (618) 842-2196 • WWW.WWCEC.COM

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

CEO Reflections



President/CEO
Rick Golgan

During this season of Thanksgiving, I wanted to take a few minutes to reflect on the many blessings I've enjoyed this year and say, "Thanks."

First, thanks to the 13,749 member-owners of WWCEC who have welcomed me into this community. Having been on board as part of the management team for just over a year, I'm still learning much about the region. But you all have been so warm and accommodating to me and my family. We're home here.

And speaking of that management team, my thanks to them for helping guide us through some rocky days earlier in the year in dealing with a financial situation

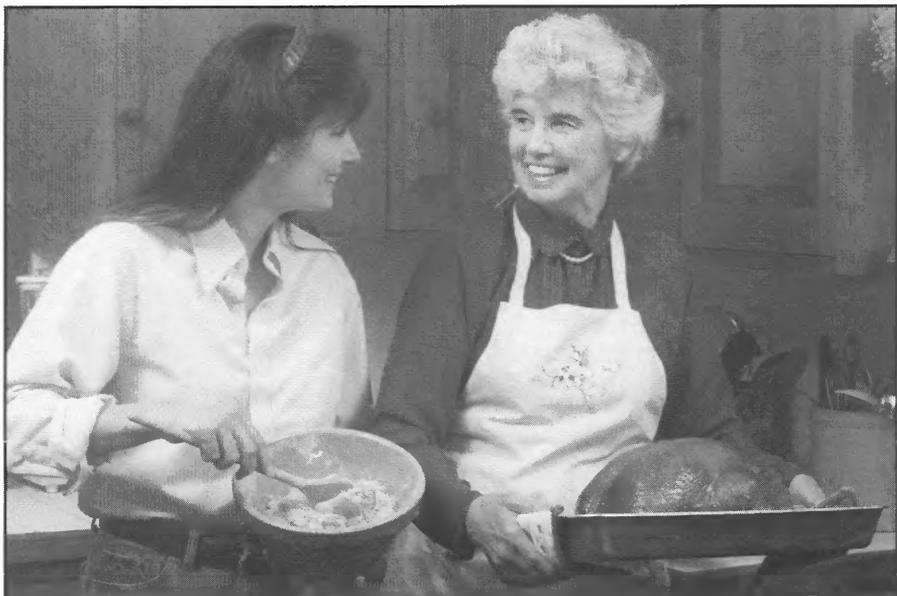
that required us to increase rates for the first time in 10 years.

In a similar vein, thanks to all of the employees of this cooperative who adopted a spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood in making things work out through our labor contract negotiations.

Thanks also to the businesses and governments in the communities we serve that have demonstrated so much leadership during the troubling economic times facing the region, state and nation. There is tremendous talent here; we should all be grateful for it.

And a special thanks to the members of our board of directors who had enough faith in me to entrust me with this truly marvelous opportunity. I won't let you down.

2003 has been a memorable year for a number of reasons. 13,749 consumers, hundreds of community leaders, 51 dedicated employees, nine board members and seven department managers. It all adds up to one great cooperative. Thank you all and peace be with you and your families during the holidays.



The power of human connections is a powerful thing. We give thanks to you our co-op members, our family.



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

In this issue...

Headway from Right-of-Way 16b

Preening & pruning 16c

Weatherizing for winter 16d

Headway from Right-of-Way Department

Last April, Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative's Right-of-Way (ROW) program expanded and embraced some new technologies and methods for preventative maintenance. The new program is innovative and goals have been set on a four-year timeline. Combined with an ambitious work plan for 2003, WWCEC members will soon be the proud owners of one of the best transmission systems, and a top-notch preventative system for ROW concerns.

"It may be in the beginning stages, but once the improvements are made the wait and work will be worth it," said Jim Gifford, Manager of Right-of-Way at Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative. "We don't want to hurry this program. We're doing it right. We're asking permission and getting good clearance." Gifford also is a certified arborist utility specialist. He has been spearheading this effort with several services that work in unison for maximum effectiveness.

Four-year cycle pruning is the big picture plan. WWCEC owns and operates 25 substations, 21 of which are on the four-year cycle pruning plan. ROW crews prune 5.25 substations a year. These substation circuits won't have to be pruned again for the remainder of the cycle. This allows crews to maintain a regular schedule of pruning for these substations and still be available for other ROW requests.

The Brontosaurus comes in next; a powerful and impressive combination of a large track hoe with a specialty Brown's mulching head. WWCEC recently contracted two of these behemoths to work in areas that are too dense for manual clearing.

If you happen by one of these machines on your drive home, you'll be witness to an extraordinary sight: Brontos, as the ROW staff has affectionately dubbed them, can mulch a tree up to 18 inches in diameter in moments. The Bronto can start quite a stir, but don't worry, WWCEC employs the best operators and foremen who can contain the mulching output at safe levels. Though not as physically imposing, the next measures are technologically advanced. Asplundh has been a long-time partner with WWCEC in the ROW program and the partnership has been continued with two contracted crews scheduled to perform foliar spray. This foliar spray covers areas where the Brontosaurus has been, and prevents new growth. Instead of sending crews back to maintain the work of the Bronto, the spray can prevent significant growth for several years.

Another form of spray being used is called Basil Treatment. Basil is used primarily in private right-of-ways, where lines run off-road or across fields. The treatment is applied using a low-pressure spray that can be carried in a backpack sprayer.

The third form of spraying is cut stump treatment. This treatment is similar to the basil treatment, but is specifically used on cut stumps to prevent sprouts from growing back and creating more right-of-way problems. As with the basil treatment, when applied correctly, it can work to prevent growth that would require maintenance for several years to come.

WWCEC also has two in-house trimming crews; one is based in Fairfield and one in Enfield. They work upon member requests. These requests might be for removing limbs, tree trimming or a complete tree removal.

These in-house crews also clear lines scheduled for re-conversion and ROWs where new lines are being built. This partnering with line crews creates the best environment for a safe line and good transmission.

"We're proud of this program. It's innovative and utilizes the best of technology in Right-of-Way," says Gifford. "Though it will be a couple of years before the direct effects are recognizable, this is a step that will maximize value for our member-owners years into the future."

If you are interested in finding out more about ROW and your trees or would like a consultation with one of WWCEC's certified arborists, call the main office at (618) 842-2196.

Wayne-White is a National Arbor Day Foundation Tree Line USA Utility and a member of Project Habitat, a wildlife enhancement program.

Office closing

*Our offices will be closed
Tuesday, November 11
for Veterans Day and
Thursday and Friday,
November 27 and 28 for the
Thanksgiving holiday.*



Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative

Route 15 West
P.O. Drawer E
Fairfield, Illinois 62837

(618) 842-2196
Office hours: 8 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Web address: www.wwcec.com

Preening and pruning: safety trims also achieve aesthetic appeal, value

Wayne-White Counties Electric may be calling on you soon to schedule a little trim for your trees. Don't worry! These trims encourage safe environments for you, your children and your Wayne-White service people. And they increase value for the consumer by preventing loss of power.

Trees are one of our greatest natural resources. They improve the environment and healthy trees can increase property value. Unfortunately, if not properly maintained, trees can also become a hazard: especially near power lines. Wind can blow and stray branches rub against electric lines causing a loss of power, or worse, unhealthy trees can fall and bring down lines as well as poles, creating a dangerous situation on the ground.

Wayne-White prevents these kinds of accidents by scheduling regular trims and evaluations with arborists. These arborists are specialists in the most effective methods for pruning trees. There are several special techniques used for different situations to maximize safety and transmission while encouraging healthy trees.

Some electric consumers worry about these routine maintenance trims because they may have seen the effects of "topping," which involves cutting branches back to stubs. Topping is a harmful pruning practice also known as "heading," "tipping," "hat-racking" or "rounding over."

Topping is not only unsightly and harmful to trees, this practice can also create more safety hazards than it prevents. Topping removes so much of the crown that it upsets an older

tree's crown-to-root ratio and temporarily cuts off its food making ability. A tree's crown serves as an umbrella that shields the tree and neighboring trees from the sun. Removing the crown exposes the bark of the trees to sun scald, which can cause poor health or even death of a tree. Topping makes a tree vulnerable to invasion from insects and decay fungi. Finally, the wood of a new limb, that sprouts after a larger limb is stubbed during topping, is more weakly attached than a limb that develops normally. This creates an increased hazard to the power lines. As a consumer and homeowner, you can be assured that WWCEC does everything possible to protect your trees through partnerships with the arborists on staff. In addition to the system WWCEC has in place for pruning trees, we also want to encourage you to be proactive in planning the placement of future trees:

- Consider the type of tree and height potential when you are planting or placing a new tree.
- Don't forget that services to your home can be delivered by overhead lines *and* underground lines in the cases of water, sewer and natural gas.
- Call your utilities and service providers to find the location of these lines before planting.

Wayne-White is proactive about tree issues and we want our member-owners to be as well. For more information on the methods of trimming, the destructive practice of topping, planning for your trees or to schedule an evaluation with a staff arborist, please contact the main office.

Work plan progresses with financial responsibility

You may notice some changes around the WWCEC service area, including fewer outages. Over the past three years the co-op has been upgrading the system aggressively. Consider some of the stats:

- two-thirds of the planned line re-conversion has already been completed;
- new lines are being placed in more efficient locations;
- 118,056 feet of new line has been installed as of September 17;

Thanks to an ambitious new work plan, consumers can expect the improvements will continue.

The progress of the work plan is impressive, and another reason WWCEC members will appreciate it is the fiscally responsible approach. According to Erin Halley, Vice President of Engineering at WWCEC, the capital required to complete the plan has been well-budgeted and more financial planning has taken place to assure the plan's success.

Halley also spoke highly of the WWCEC employees and contractors who have been involved in the process. "The speed in which the plan was put together and two-thirds of the line re-conversion has been completed by in house employees reflects volumes on their work ethics," said Halley.

Weatherizing for winter

Autumn is a wonderful time of changing leaves and crisp weather that tempts the first sweaters out of hiding and out of doors. Fall also signals the coming of winter. Frost and powdery snow will soon surround bright homes with toasty warm families inside.

As this winter approaches, be sure that your home will stay warm and energy efficient with some suggestions Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative has for weatherizing.

Some simple steps will go a long way. Check your fireplace damper and make sure that when the fireplace isn't in use, the damper is closed. Also replace air filters on any furnace or air conditioning units. Locate all vents in your home and be sure that none are blocked by carpet or furniture.

Next, check your home for drafts or air leaks. Outside air can penetrate your home in many ways. The usual suspects for cold drafts are under-the-door drafts, mail chutes and window frames. But don't forget to check less familiar areas such as outdoor water faucets, dryer vents that pass through walls, or vents and fans.

Caulking is the first line of defense against drafts. Caulk can be used on a variety of locations in your home such as windows, doors, faucets, ceiling fixtures, water pipes,

drains, bathtubs and other plumbing. The bonus is that this easy step when applied to such plumbing also helps prevent water damage.

When planning for drafts near doors and windows that you do not wish to caulk, there are several weather strip varieties that can be used for your weatherizing project.

Experts agree that the investment made on weatherizing your home is returnable within one year with resulting energy savings. This conservancy of our resources will benefit not just your family, but the entire cooperative network. Don't forget that weatherizing your home will help with drafts, but there's no replacement for proper insulation.

Suggestions in this article come from the U.S. Department of Energy. For more information on hard-to-locate leaks, the correct type of caulking for your home or tests for assessing air quality, visit the Department of Energy Web site at www.eere.energy.gov/er/factsheets/weatherize.htm. Other resources and links on weatherizing can also be found there.

Suggestions for using Caulk:

- Always clean the surface to be caulked for good adhesion and first remove any old caulk or paint using a putty knife or screwdriver.
- Make sure the area is dry before application.

- Maintain a 45° angle, and a continuous stream of application for best results.
- For maximum draft protection, check to make sure the caulk adheres to both sides of the crack or leak. If caulk seeps out of a crack, push it back in with a putty knife.

Whenever using caulk and chemical sealants, remember to make sure the area is well-ventilated. Always do an air-assessment before beginning a caulking project.

Weather strip tips

- Door sweeps are an easy and inexpensive way to seal leaks. They can be installed by you at home and many can be adjusted for uneven thresholds.
- Magnetic weather strips are applied to the top and sides of doors, double-hung and sliding window channels. They are very effective and moderately priced.

Tape, non-porous closed-cell foam or open-cell foam or EDPM (Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer rubber) is another easy to install and inexpensive option. Tape should be used for top and bottoms of window sashes, door frames, attic hatches and windows that don't open. Tape is especially effective for blocking corners and irregular cracks.

Students encouraged to apply for 2004 IEC Memorial Scholarship

Wayne White Counties Electric Cooperative President/CEO Rick Colgan has announced that for the ninth consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award \$1,000 academic scholarships to high school seniors. The four scholarships are being awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

High school seniors pursuing a college education in the state of Illinois are eligible to participate in the program. Three of the four scholarships will be awarded to the child

of an electric cooperative member. The other \$1,000 award will go to the child of an electric cooperative director or employee. Deadline for applications to be returned to the cooperative is January 1, 2004.

"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts," said Colgan. "Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative and the other Illinois electric cooperatives want to make a difference in their communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by lending a

hand to our youth."

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay, which demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

The IEC Memorial Scholarship program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. For further information on the IEC Memorial Scholarship Program, contact the cooperative or ask your high school guidance counselor.

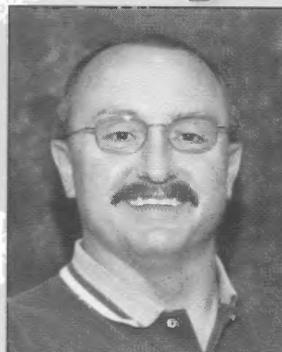
Happy Holidays



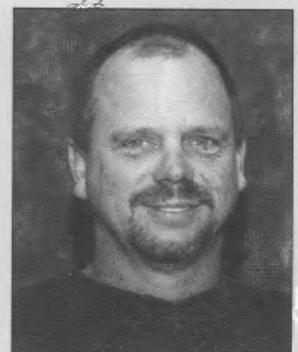
Lisa Arview



Jason Atteberry



Richard Atteberry



David Bailey



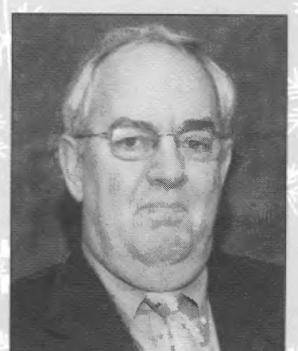
Kent Baker



Cathy Barnfield



Keith Baxter



Royce Carter



Wesley Clark



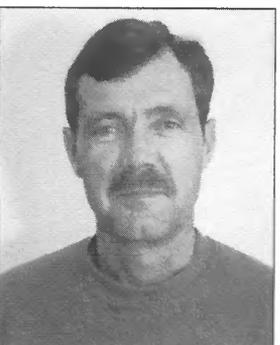
Rick Colgan



Nathan Coston



David Cunningham



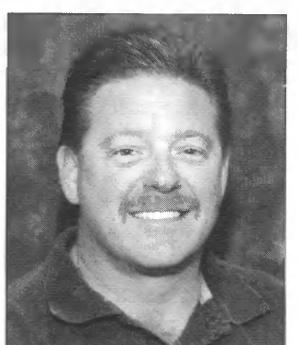
Jack Emery



Dennis Estes



Stan Garner



Jim Gifford



Happy Holidays



Ruby Green



Denice Hallam



Erin Halley



Clint Harl



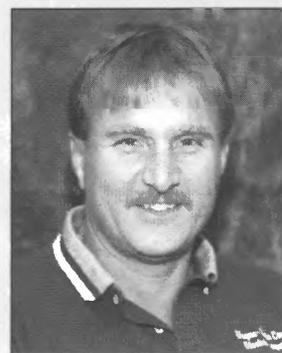
Chad Hinkle



Joe Holman



Jerry Houser



David Johnson



Lee Johnson



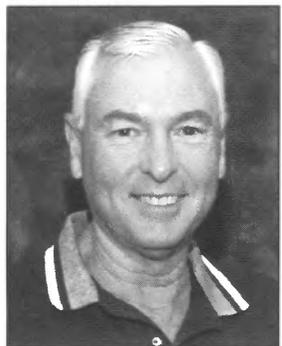
Donna Jordan



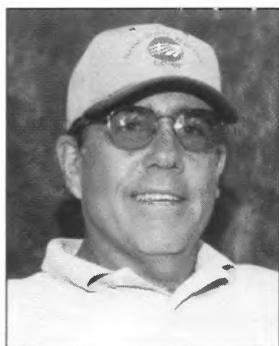
Alan Kincart



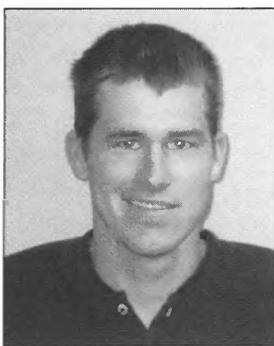
Gerry Kinney



L D Locke



Carl McKibben



Jason McKinney



Happy Holidays



Lisa McMeen



Kerry Meritt



Jim Miles



Joe Molt



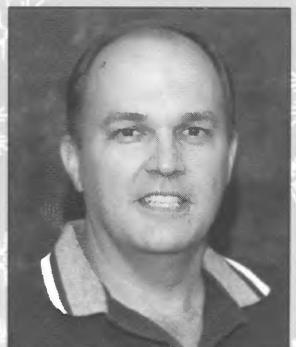
Gary Moore



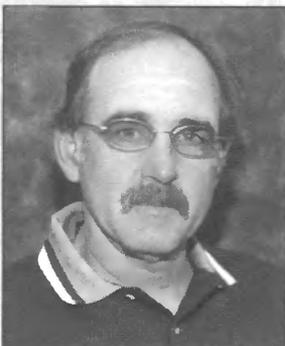
David Orr



Joe Phillips



Fred Puckett



Mike Richardson



Kim Rodgers



Lindy Simpson



Larry Smith



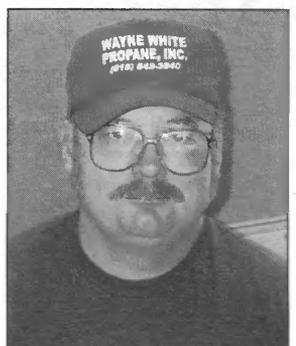
Tina Smith



Steve Spicer



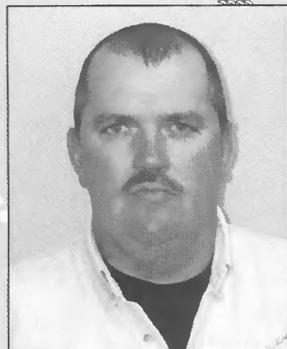
Kathy Tracy



Jed Trotter



Happy Holidays



David Vaughan



Nancy Wells



Jerry White



Shane Wilmore



Richard Windland



Judy Wood



Earl Young



Jeff Zurliene

Co-op offers Christmas Tree service

One way Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative (WWCEC) wishes its members a Merry Christmas is by helping them dispose of their Christmas trees. We will again offer this service the first week of January.

WWCEC will be chipping Christmas trees at five locations in our service territory: city park, Wayne City; Ham-

ilton County Fairgrounds, McLeansboro; White County Fairgrounds, Carmi; Edwards County Fairgrounds, Albion; Wayne County/City of Fairfield, at Wayne-White Electric.

All those wishing to have their trees shredded instead of burning them or throwing them in a ditch, please have it at the designated location before the scheduled chipping date.



CEO Reflections



President/
CEO Rick
Colgan

The Christmas season is about children. From Christ's birth in a manger 2,000 years ago to opening presents at Grandma's house last year, Christmas is about children. Always has been; always will be.

Yes, it is a season of gift giving and a time to bask in the joy of being with family. But such celebration is rooted in the tradition of that first Christmas—the gift giving then, the meaning behind it and the importance

of family as a widely dissimilar group of people brought together by common beliefs for a great glory.

I heard a story recently of a committee of some of the greatest minds in the world brought together to devise a modern message for people to rally around in terms of one viewpoint that could tie diverse nations and diverse people together.

After weeks of listing points of discussion and philosophies that had common ties, the group whittled the laundry list to one page; then to one paragraph; then to one phrase: treat others as you would have them treat you.

Sounds familiar, doesn't it? In my childhood days, we learned a similar phrase. It was the Golden Rule: do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Obviously, people in the

"think tank" thought it was as appropriate today as the speaker of the phrase originally did some 2,000 years ago.

So in the spirit of Christmas, let's rededicate ourselves to that simple philosophy: treat others as you would like to be treated. Share that simple message with your children or your grandchildren. It will only take a minute and it improves the quality-of-life for everyone.

Seasons greetings to all of you from everyone at Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative. May joy and peace be with you this holiday season and into the New Year ahead.



Safe Lighting, Bright Holidays



Twinkling, festive lights are inexpensive and popular way to celebrate the holidays and decorate your home. Whether you're going all out, or looking for a simple touch, here are some suggestions to make sure you don't end up with a safety nightmare.

As you're planning for decorations, consider whether you'll use a live tree or an artificial one. If you buy a live tree, only purchase the freshest, greenest tree, and make sure to keep it well watered. Don't place trees near fireplaces, heat registers, radiators or television sets.

Purchase lights for your tree that have been safety tested and approved by Underwriters Laboratory (UL). Look for the UL label on the box and on each string. Also, never use damaged strings. Before plugging lights

in, check each string for broken bulbs or sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs.

Only use extension cords that are in good condition and rated to carry the electrical load you will use. Avoid placing cords in high-traffic areas—even under rugs or carpets. If you use an extension cord, remember they are only for temporary use.

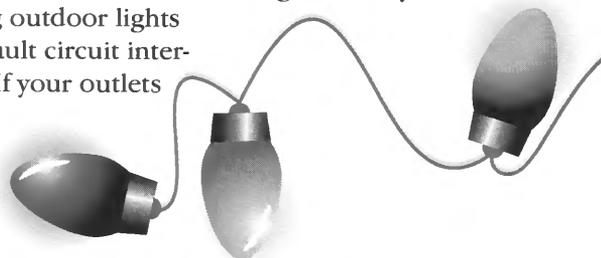
When using lights outside, be sure to purchase lights that are intended for outdoor use. Avoid attaching cords or lights to metal objects; and as with indoor lights, keep the cords out of the paths of swinging doors and off sidewalks or walkways.

Always plug outdoor lights into a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). If your outlets

aren't equipped with GFCIs, you should purchase a portable one for temporary use.

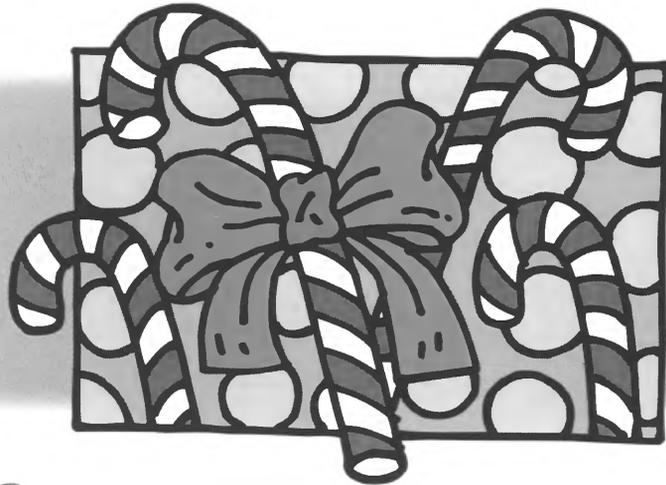
Another helpful tool to consider when decorating with lights is a timer. Lights should always be turned off or unplugged before going to bed or leaving the house. Timers are reasonably priced appliances that help conserve energy and give you peace of mind by automatically turning lights off at a designated time.

Share these tips with your friends and family while preparing for the upcoming holidays so everyone will have a safe and bright holiday.



The twelve stains of Christmas

Tis the season for entertaining, and with the tinsel and merriment come spills and stains. Try these tips from Whirlpool Institute of Fabric Science experts to handle every drip and drizzle of the Twelve Stains of Christmas.



12 candles dripping

Scrape off excess wax with a dull knife. Place stain between paper towels. Press with a warm iron from back of fabric. Then, place stain face down on clean paper towels and sponge with a dry-cleaning solvent. Air-dry and launder as usual. If traces of color remain, launder again using bleach (chlorine or color-safe) according to fabric instructions.

11 auntie's kissing

To remove lipstick, scrape fabric stain with a dull knife. Use a dry-cleaning solvent or pretreat with detergent or stain treatment. Wash in warm water. Air-dry.

10 chocolates melting

Pretreat with a liquid laundry detergent or soak fabric in warm water using a detergent containing enzymes. Difficult stains may require using bleach safe for the garment.

9 toasts-a-tipping

To remove wine, rinse in cold water to dilute stain. Soak up to 30 minutes in detergent, weighted with a towel to keep submerged. Launder in hottest water safe for fabric and color. Air-dry and repeat if necessary.

8 hosts perspiring

Dampen stain with warm water and rub with bar soap. Launder in hot water with chlorine bleach, if safe for fabric. Note: If perspiration has changed the color of a fabric, apply ammonia to fresh stains or vinegar to old stains and rinse. Launder in the hottest water safe for fabric and color.

7 fruits a-falling

Rinse in cold water to dilute stain. Soak up to 30 minutes in detergent, weighted with a towel to keep submerged. Launder in warm water. Air-dry and repeat if necessary.

6 cups of coffee, tea or pop

To remove coffee, tea or soda pop, sponge or rinse stain promptly in cold water. Pretreat with liquid laundry detergent, launder using bleach (chlorine or color-safe) and hottest water safe for fabric.

5 candy canes

To remove colored candy stain, rinse in warm water to dilute stain. Wash in warm to hot water and dry as usual.

4 meat slices

To remove grease or cooking oil, use a dry-cleaning solvent or pretreat with a laundry product by rubbing into stain until saturated. Wash in warm to hot water. Air-dry and repeat if necessary.

3 trees a-tipping

To remove tree sap, use dry-cleaning solvent and then wash in detergent in warm to hot water. Dry and repeat if necessary.

2 upset eggnogs

To remove milk or other dairy products, rinse in cold water to dilute stain. Soak up to 30 minutes with detergent, weighted with a towel to keep submerged. Wash in warm to hot water and air-dry.

And one gravy boat splashing 'round

Scrape off excess with a dull knife if dried. Pretreat: 1) soak with a laundry product containing enzymes or 2) rub with liquid laundry detergent or paste of powder laundry detergent and water. Launder and dry as usual.

The legend of the Christmas tree

The custom of a Christmas tree, undecorated, is believed to have begun in Germany, in the first half of the 700s.

The earliest story tells how British monk and missionary, St. Boniface, was preaching a sermon on the Nativity to a tribe of Germanic Druids outside the town of Geismar. To convince the town's people that the oak tree was not sacred and unbreakable, the "Apostle of Germany" chopped one down on the spot. Toppling, it crushed every shrub in its path except for a small fir sapling. This chance event could have been interpreted numerous ways, and legend has it that Boniface, attempting to win converts, interpreted the fir's survival as a miracle, concluding, "Let this be called the tree of the Christ Child." Subsequent Christmases in Germany were celebrated by planting fir saplings.

The history of the modern Christmas tree goes back to 16th century Germany. In 1561, decorations hung on a tree in the town of Alsace were roses cut from various colors of paper, apples, wafers and sugar. Around Strasbourg there was a widespread practice of bringing trees (evergreens, not necessarily fir trees) into houses for decoration during Christmastide.

The modern custom is also connected with the Paradise tree hung with apples, present in the medieval religious plays. The decorations could symbolize the Christian Hosts. Instead of trees, various wooden pyramidal structures were also used. In the 17th century, the Christmas tree spread through Germany and Scandinavia. Eventually the tree was extensively decorated, first with candles and candies, then with apples and confections, later with any glittering possessions.

The success of the Christmas tree in Protestant countries was enhanced by the legend, which attributed the tradition to Martin Luther himself. It is a widely held belief that Martin Luther first added lighted candles to a tree. Walking toward his home one winter evening, composing a sermon, he was awed by the brilliance of stars twinkling amidst evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles. In England the tradition was made popular by the German Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria. The German immigrants brought the Christmas tree to America in the 17th century. Public outdoor Christmas trees with electric candles were introduced in Finland in 1906, and in USA (New York) in 1912.

Today, the Christmas Tree is a tradition of many families around the world. Decorated in many different themes and colors, they reflect the personalities and styles of the families they belong to. And though it's fun to decorate the family tree, it's important to reflect back to why this tradition is so important.