



WIEC hires new employee

On March 12, the WIEC family welcomed Mandy Steinkamp as the administrative assistant and customer service representative for WIEC. With the retirement of Donna Cramer, Mandy will be doing a little bit of everything in the office. Mandy is a Carthage native, and is married with three children and two step-children. She is a Carthage High School graduate and attended John Wood Community College in Quincy.

She enjoys attending her childrens' sporting events and loves to go camping and boating in the summer months.

"After working in the medical field for 20 years, I am excited for the opportunity to change careers and learn about WIEC and meet the members," Mandy says. We invite the WIEC member-owners to come say hello!

2018 Nominating Committee results

The 2018 Nominating Committee met at the WIEC office on March 19 and April 3 to make nominations for directors. Three directors will be elected at the cooperative's annual meeting on Thursday, June 28.

Serving on the committee were Jerry Carnes, Biggsville; Bill Gesling, Carman; Spencer Berry, Nauvoo; Matthew Crowner, Burnside; Matt Dallas, Dallas City; Harold Herdrick, Dallas City; Bryan Stevens, West Point; Dave Biery, Carthage; Robert Menn, Plymouth; and Max Roskamp, Sutter. We thank these members for their willingness to serve their cooperative by serving on this committee.

The following were nominated for director positions:

District 1 – Kim Gullberg, Stronghurst

District 2 – William R. Newton, Burnside

District 3 – Jay D. Morrison, Niota

The nominations have been posted at the Carthage office, as stipulated by the cooperative's bylaws. Any nominations made by petition will be included on the official ballot if they are brought to the (5515-35-1) WIEC office at least 10 days before the meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the annual meeting.



2018 Nominating Committee members include: (L-R) Harold Herdrick, Dave Biery, Robert Menn, Matt Dallas, Bill Gesling, Bryan Stevens, Jerry Carnes, and Max Roskamp.



Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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OFFICE HOURS

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

BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

800-576-3125

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

STAFF

- **Tommie Long** — Manager
- **Todd Grotts** — Manager of Operations
- **Becky Dickinson** — Office Manager

MAP LOCATION CONTEST

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

Employee honored

Recently, Karmen Metternich (l) received a service award, presented by Manager Tommie Long (r) for her 20 years of service to WIEC and its members-owners. Karmen is the billing coordinator and handles billing questions, new member applications, high (7517-6) bill complaints and other billing-related questions.

Also recognized were Journeymen Linemen Cody Grainger and Andy Lafeber, who each celebrated 15 years of service to WIEC.



Don't Waste. Insulate!

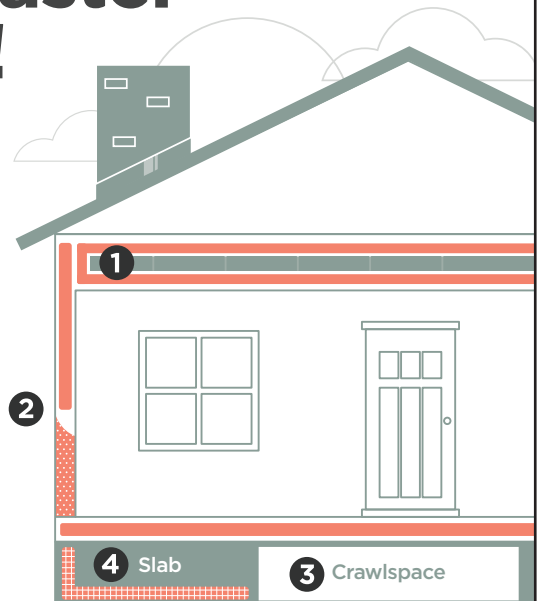
Properly insulating your home reduces heating and cooling costs, and improves comfort. R-values measure a material's resistance to conductive heat flow. The higher the R-value rating, the greater the effectiveness of the insulation. Below are recommended R-values for areas of the home that should be insulated.

**Recommendations on R-values are subject to regional climate conditions.*

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

TYPES OF INSULATION

- Batt
- Foam
- Blow-in



1

DUCTWORK

Whether it's made of metal or plastic (PVC), insulated ductwork protects your investment in conditioned air year-round. Minimal R-values of 4.3 are recommended for blanket-style wraps secured with tape. Insulated ductwork rated at R-6 is also available.

2

EXTERIOR WALLS

There are multiple options for insulating exterior walls. Rock wool or fiberglass batts of R-13 to R-20 value are preferred behind drywall, but each inch of blown-in polyurethane foam insulation provides an R-value of 3.9.

3

BENEATH LIVING SPACE

Whether your home has a full basement, a crawl space or an attached garage, having an insulation value of R-19 under the living space floor will help increase comfort year-round.

4

SLAB FOUNDATION

Properly installed foam boards around the exterior edge of the slab of an existing home can reduce heating bills by 10 percent or more.

Don't put safety on autopilot

Accuracy and consistency when planting makes for impressive straight rows that also help maximize potential productivity. Global Positioning System (GPS) technology is helping farmers do just that. It can provide farmers with real-time, accurate location data about a field, which can be used for crop planning, map making, navigation assistance and tractor guidance.

GPS systems with auto-guidance allow drivers to have their hands off the steering wheel as the tractor maneuvers itself through the field. Thanks to this technology, farmers can more easily and efficiently maintain accuracy even during low light conditions, which enhances productivity. In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering,

which may lead some drivers to think that they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. While it can help with productivity and driver error, it does not mean that safety can be put on autopilot.

Putting safety first requires alertness, focus and knowledge of potential hazards and appropriate safety steps. Drivers need to stay focused on the location of the tractor and its equipment while in the field and be ready to take action themselves if necessary. Regardless of what technology you use on the farm, keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines. A driver's vantage point from the cab may not be sufficient.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines—at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when raising any equipment such as ladders, front-end loaders or augers.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact your utility.
- If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

We made it! Winter is over!

Congratulations, we weathered another Midwest winter. We endured cold temperatures, snow and had to wait and wait for spring to arrive. This past winter was hard on everyone.

It also was hard on heating systems as the prolonged and cold temperatures made furnaces work overtime to keep homes warm. Is your furnace ready for another winter like the one we just endured? Maybe it is time to consider a geothermal heating and cooling system.

Geothermal is safe and efficient with no flue to worry about and no outside unit to mow around. Geothermal systems can cost more up front, however with WIEC's rebates, loan program and a reduced rate for

kilowatts used for heating and cooling, it can start paying for itself much sooner than other types of heating.

- WIEC offers a rebate of \$1,000. This can be applied to trenching, new electric water heater or can be applied right to your electric bill.
- WIEC offers loans (with a 5-year term at a 5 percent rate) to members with approved credit. The payments are **(6618-17)** added to your current electric bill so you have just one payment. How simple is that?
- Federal Tax credits are back. See Energystar.gov for more details.
- Kilowatts used for geothermal heating and cooling are just 7.5 cents instead of 12.75 cents regular rate.



Office closed

The WIEC office will be closed
May 28 in observance of
Memorial Day.

In case of power emergencies,
call 1-800-576-3125



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Vegetation management schedule

This summer, WIEC has contracted with Spoon River Electric for them to perform routine brush spraying in all or parts of the following townships:

In Hancock County:

St. Mary, Hancock, Carthage, Fountain Green, Pilot Grove, Rock Creek, La Harpe and Durham.

In Henderson County:

Terre Haute, Lomax, Media, Stronghurst, Carman and Gladstone



Vegetation management—including brush spraying—is an important aspect of WIEC’s goal of delivering power to you that is safe, reliable and environmentally responsible. Vegetation can make access to equipment difficult, branches fall on lines during storms or shrubbery interfere with voltage (6719-64-1) levels, but by keeping the strip of land underneath and around the power lines clear of weeds, outages can be reduced. Maintaining a cleared right-of-way helps with pole inspections and gives better visibility of rotten or broken poles that could have otherwise gone undetected. Staying ahead of the game keeps us from having to come out after a storm to restore power due to fallen trees.

Due to the advanced printing of this issue of the WIEC News, the exact timing of the spraying is unknown. If there are questions or concerns, please contact our office during normal business hours at 217-357-3125 or 800-576-3125. For more information concerning our vegetation management policy, check out our website at www.wiec.net under the program tab.



Fork lift training



As part of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP), our line crew recently received training in fork lift operating. OSHA requires recertification every three years. As part of the training, the crew had to maneuver the forklift through an obstacle course.

DID YOU KNOW



WIEC and other nearby Illinois electric cooperatives have formed a purchasing group for buying line material we will need for the coming year. By purchasing material in larger quantities, WIEC saves around 25 percent on items we would have to buy anyway, such as wires, poles and transformers.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month



When streaming online content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Source: energy.gov