

From the Manager – for the last time!



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

From the Manager – for the last time! At the completion of the WIEC Annual Meeting to be held on Thursday, June 28, 2018, I will have one working day left until my official retirement. I have been blessed to be a part of a great organization for 40 years. I was fortunate enough to be

hired in February 1978 as assistant work order clerk and assistant to the engineer. At the time of my hire, little did I know what a great ride and career I would have.

The cooperative business model has been a great fit for my life. Special thanks to Lester Aeilts (manager), Bill Knight (engineer) and Roger (Doc) Goetz for taking a chance on hiring me. After Lester Aeilts retired in 1989, my longtime friend and boss, Paul Dion, managed the cooperative until 2013 upon his retirement.

Thank you to the board of directors for allowing me to manage the cooperative and for all they have provided to our employees. I have had

great support from our employees – they have a great work ethic and are dedicated to the membership. I have great respect for our small staff – Office Manager Becky Dickinson and Manager of Operations Todd Grotts. Their support has been invaluable.

I will miss the WIEC members. You have been great to work with, and you comprise the best little cooperative in the state. I will miss the relationships. (7712-4) I feel we have built a respectable image as a cooperative.

We encourage you the member to always communicate with us and challenge us to serve you better. I truly wish the best for you as the cooperative moves forward into the future.

Manager Tommie Long retires

On June 29, Tommie Long will retire from WIEC, ending his 40-year career. For most of those 40 years, Tommie headed the operations department. His professional, yet friendly demeanor made a great first impression with those he worked with. That friendly demeanor still serves him well as manager. He also has been on-call for most of his career, on a (7814-45) 3-week rotation, dispatching outages or other power emergencies that occur after hours and on the weekends. For the last five years, he has been manager and has overseen a lot of change. During his tenure as manager,

WIEC has had a strategic planning session, updated the bylaws, had a work plan developed, and implemented GIS, RESAP safety program, and apprentice lineman program. He has given a lot to WIEC and its member-owners. He will be missed.

Here is his story:

What was your start date?

February 27, 1978

What's your favorite part of the job and why?

Starting the day fresh, knowing plans can sometimes change quickly. This job is never one I have dreaded coming to. **Continued on 20d ▶**





Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

800-576-3125

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **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.

Proposed bylaw changes

In an effort to provide due diligence, the WIEC board of directors and manager examined our cooperative bylaws to see if they are still appropriate or if changes are necessary. It has been almost 40 years since our bylaws have been amended, so an evaluation was necessary. Times and customs, as well as state laws, have changed. After being reviewed by an attorney, the following changes are proposed to the WIEC bylaws:

- Any individual receiving electricity agrees to comply with the WIEC bylaws, policies and procedures of the cooperative.
- Those individuals receiving electricity, but who have not submitted a member application, are automatically moved to membership status.
- Allows WIEC to establish the membership fee via policy rather than through the bylaws.
- Brings into compliance with state of Illinois law, the identification of rights of joint ownership and clarifies those rights when dissolution of marriage occurs.

- Provides clarification the cooperative is not liable for any temporary loss of service through planned or unplanned outages.
- Gives WIEC the right to place a lien on, and the right to set off, any debts due by a member to the cooperative.
- Amends (8611-10-1) the method to nominate individuals for directorships.
- Clarifies the duties and responsibilities of the general manager as the chief operating officer to manage and oversee the day to day operations of the cooperative.
- Updates the statement of non-discrimination to conform with USDA requirements.
- Adds option to change capital credit retirement method.

As required by the bylaws, the proposed changes will be printed in the Annual Meeting Notice, so our members may study these modifications. The bylaw changes will be voted upon by the membership at the WIEC annual meeting of members on Thursday, June 28, 2018. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact our office at 217-357-3125 during regular business hours.

WIEC's 2017 Allocation of Margins Notices to be mailed out in June

One of the major differences between a cooperative and an investor-owned utility is that any monies left over after expenses are paid belong to the members in the form of capital credits. Each year, WIEC sends notification to our members explaining what their share of the previous year's margins would be. This year, members will be receiving their Allocation Notice in the mail in June. This will tell members the dollar amount of the capital credits they have earned for 2017.

Remember, capital credits are held by the cooperative and will be returned to the member when Western Illinois Electrical Coop's board of directors decide that the co-op is strong enough financially to do so. This is for our members' information only and does not need any action on their part. Please do not pay the allocation amount or subtract this amount from the bill. If there are any questions, please call our office.

Cooperatives participate in Youth Day



State Senator Jil Tracy and Representatives Randy Frese and Norine Hammond met with John Steck (L) and Colten Shipman as part of the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, April 18 in Springfield. These students represented Western Illinois Electrical Coop. John is the son of Bill and

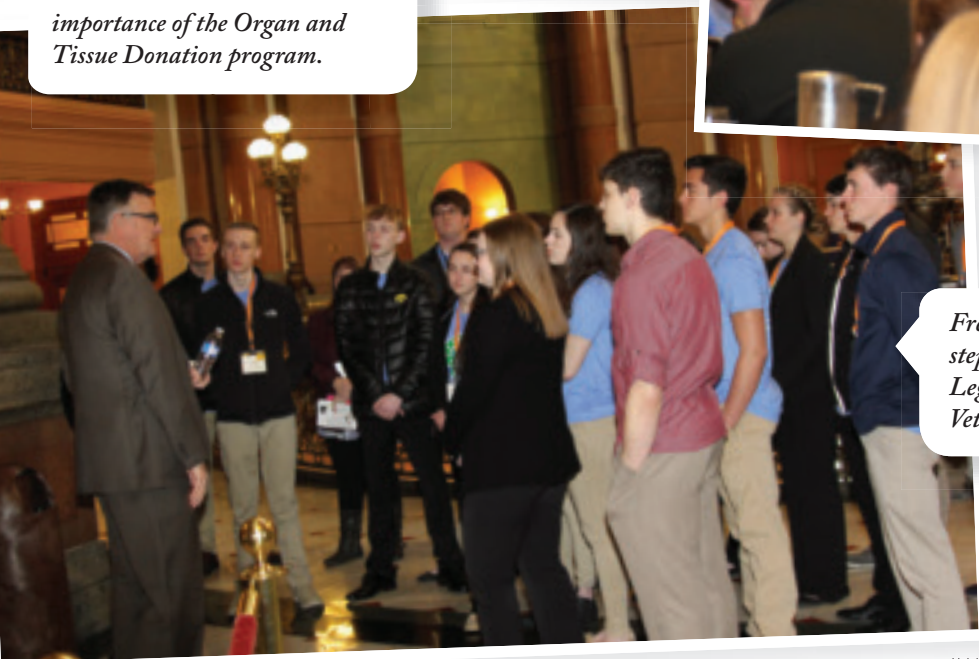
Brenda Steck and attends West Central High School, Biggsville. Colten is the son of Rodney and Holly Shipman (8520-22) and attends Illini West High School, Carthage. More than 210 students from around Illinois had an opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action and question their legislators on key issues.



Secretary of State Jesse White discussed with the students the importance of the Organ and Tissue Donation program.



Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti challenged students, "Volunteer, make a difference. If not you, then who?"



Frese talks with students about the steps being taken to eradicate the Legionnaire's Disease at the Illinois Veteran's Home in Quincy.

The WIEC

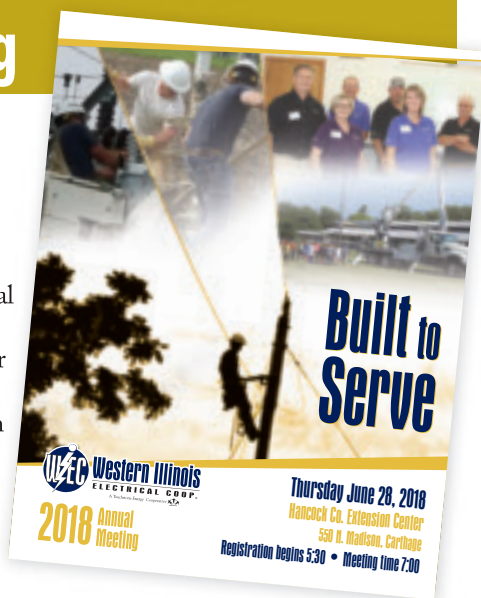
Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 28

Doors open at 5:30
meeting to begin at 7:00

Watch your mailbox for the Annual Meeting booklet. It will contain the registration card, proxy card and other important information. To save time, please bring the registration card with you to the meeting.

See page 13 for more details.



Five \$10 bill credits
will be given away

Can't make it to annual meeting?

Enter the proxy contest for a chance to earn \$10 bill credit!

If you can't come to the WIEC annual meeting on June 28, you can still make your vote count. You can give someone that is attending your signed proxy card, or bring in your signed proxy card to the office and we can give it to an attendee the

night of the meeting. Either way your vote will count!

All members who sign their proxy to be used at the annual meeting will be entered into a drawing for a chance at a \$10 bill credit.

Welcome New Members

Sarah Amos, Plymouth
Austin Beeler, Sutter
Jess Butler, MD., Wilmette, IL
Larry Cortelyou Farm Account.,
LaHarpe
Carla Dochterman, Carthage
William D. Elkin, Sutter
Kerry & Elizabeth (Beth)
Gebhardt, Blandinsville
Joseph & Janice Billings, Nauvoo

Douglas Heighton, Carthage
Kory Horn, Carthage
Jerome G. Hufendick, Kenosha WI
Dustin Moore, Blandinsville
Brandon Motley, Nauvoo
Misty Mullins, Nauvoo
Hunter Pursell, Blandinsville
Lora Lynne Roberts, Niota
Janene Seyfert, Hamilton
Trevor Williams, Bernie, MO

Office closed

The WIEC office will close at
noon on June 29.



Like us on
Facebook

[http://www.facebook.com/
westernillinoiselectricalcoop](http://www.facebook.com/westernillinoiselectricalcoop)

Manager Tommie Long retires (cont. from 20a)

*What has changed the most in the 40
years you've been here?*

Technology (Mostly for the better).
Not sure social media is for me!!

*What is on your wish list for the next
five years?*

- ✓ Good health for my family and myself
- ✓ See part of the USA I haven't visited as yet
- ✓ Improve my golf game
- ✓ Volunteer

*What might (someone) be surprised to
know about you?*

I prefer not to speak in public. I
appear calm on the outside, but I'm
nervous on the inside.

*What is the first thing you would buy if
you won the lottery?*

College education for my grand-
children (If I win enough or if I elect
to play).



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Use rubber or
wool dryer balls, which help
separate clothing in the cycle,
providing better airflow and a
shorter drying time. Wool dryer
balls can help absorb moisture,
which also reduces drying time.

Source: energy.gov