

WIEC's annual meeting recap

Common goals and shared purposes was the theme of Western Illinois Electrical Coop.'s (WIEC) 79th annual meeting held Thursday, June 28 at the Hancock County Extension Center.

Manager Tommie Long, who retired on June 29 after more than 40 years of service to the cooperative, said as a nation, we seem divided, but that is not the cooperative way. "For the past 80 years, employees, directors and you, the members, have had the common goal of providing safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity to a membership that has had a mission to bring power to the rural areas now served by WIEC," he said. "WIEC was created for you, the member-owner, and to this day is successful due to the employees, the board of directors and the members working together."

Long announced that Manager of Operations Todd Grotts will be taking over as the cooperative's manager, saying, "Todd will be dedicated to continuing WIEC's goals and mission. He is fair, congenial, family-oriented and a man of faith."

President Rob Gronewold highlighted the employees' commitment to member service, saying, "If you would add up all 16 WIEC employees' work experience, you would have almost 250 years of total employment. It is hard in today's world to find dedication like that."

Gronewold honored Billing Coordinator Karmen Metternich



(l-r) Retiring Manager Tommie Long with newly elected directors, Kim Gullberg, Bill Newton and Jay Morrison.

for 20 years of service to the co-op, Area Serviceman Cody Grainger for 15 years of service, and Journeyman Lineman Andy Lafeber, who was unable (5817-56) to be at the meeting due to an outage, for 15 years of service.

A wooden plaque honoring former Billing Coordinator Clarabelle Marshall and all other retirees was presented to the cooperative by her son, Curtis Marshall.

Gronewold said, "Clarabelle loved her job and loved serving the WIEC members. She took great pride in doing her job with great accuracy and attention to detail because that is what the members deserved."

Retirements have opened the door to three employees who have been hired in the past 18 months. Gronewold said these employees will learn from the "old timers" about WIEC's operations and how the

cooperative system works. He spoke of the employees' strong work ethic, saying, "That work ethic will continue as the torch is passed from one generation of

employees to the next."

Secretary-Treasurer Janet Spory reported that WIEC had a strong year financially with \$345,000 in margins.

For those of you who attended Annual Meeting this year, we thank you. It's your participation that makes WIEC strong.

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Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

STAFF

- **Todd Grotts** — Manager
- **Ryan Biery** — 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.



ANNUAL MEETING PRIZES – 2018

| NO | GIFT | DONOR | RECIPIENT |
|----|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | \$75.00 Amazon Gift Card | CRC | Darrold Bruns |
| 2 | 1 Hat | Van Meter | Russell Lawson |
| 3 | Illinois Country Living Cookbook | WIEC | Karen Murphy |
| 4 | Oil Change | CARSON MOTORS, INC | Rodney Huls |
| 5 | 1 Hat | Van Meter | John Robert Twaddle |
| 6 | Hard Cooler | J.M. TEST | Alice Jean Hartweg |
| 7 | 5 qt oil change for Auto or Light Truck and Tire rotation | J & R TIRE SERVICE, INC | Ross Wear |
| 8 | YETI 20 oz Mug | MARINE TRUST COMPANY | Doris Youell |
| 9 | Illinois Country Living Cookbook | WIEC | Francis Allen |
| 10 | 1 Hat | Van Meter | Richard L Nichols II |
| 11 | Free Tire rotation & 4 standard tire computer balances. | MENN'S FIRESTONE | Sandra Jones |
| 12 | Free General Service on furnace or air conditioner | PETERS HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING | Nancy K Huls |
| 13 | 1 Hat | Van Meter | Jerry L Schmitz |
| 14 | Free General Service on furnace or air conditioner | PETERS HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING | Thomas E Ohnemus |
| 15 | Pack Back Sprayer | UPA/TIMBERLAND | Mark Buss |
| 16 | XL T-SHIRT | UPA/TIMBERLAND | Delbert W Limkeman |
| 17 | 1 Hat | Van Meter | Diana K Allen |
| 18 | Flame Resistant Bib Overalls | WIEC | Ruth Burling |
| 19 | GRAND PRIZE #1 Bill Credit for 1000 kWh of Electricity | WIEC | Johnnie M Tobias |
| 20 | GRAND PRIZE #2 Bill Credit for 1000 kWh of Electricity | WIEC | Lewis I Mohr |
| 21 | GRAND PRIZE #3 Bill Credit for 1000 kWh of Electricity | WIEC | David B. Wetzel |
| 22 | GRAND PRIZE #4 Bill Credit for 1000 kWh of Electricity | WIEC | Laura Iutzi Mosena |
| 23 | GRAND PRIZE #5 Bill Credit for 1000 kWh of Electricity | WIEC | LEW LLC. c/o Edward Wilson |

Local students represent WIEC during the nationwide Youth to Washington Tour

What do you get when 71 students from 27 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives join more than 1,800 of their peers across the United States? You get the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth to Washington Tour.

Two local students were selected from a diverse group of applicants to represent Western Illinois Electrical Coop. (WIEC) to enjoy an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. from June 8-15 as part of the annual Youth Tour.

The 2018 Youth Tour delegates from WIEC included Colten Shipman, son of Rodney and Holly Shipman of Dallas City and John Steck, son of



Pictured from left – Colten Shipman, Congressman Darin LaHood, and John Steck.

Bill and Brenda Steck of Carman. The students won the opportunity as part of the Youth to Washington WebQuiz.

The students toured Capitol Hill and met with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, Congresswoman Cheri Bustos and Congressman Darin LaHood. They also visited historical and cultural sites including Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, Newseum, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, a variety of memorials and the U.S. Capitol. Among fun

activities, the students enjoyed were the Marine Corps Sunset Parade, the Smithsonian Museums and an assembly of Youth Tour participants from across the nation.

“Youth Tour is a great opportunity that changes these students’ lives,” says Todd Grotts, manager of WIEC. “This experience helps prepare them for their futures. After touring our nation’s capital, meeting congressional representatives and learning

firsthand how (482-3) our government works, they return home with valuable knowledge and memories that will last a lifetime.”

This truly is a great experience for deserving youth. Colten said that he enjoyed the new experiences and made many new friends. John was grateful for the opportunity and called it an adventure of a lifetime.

Since 1964, the nation’s cooperative electric and telephone utilities have sponsored more than 60,000 high school students to visit Washington, D.C. To learn more about the Youth to Washington Tour, go to www.youthtour.coop.



Enrollment begins for budget billing

Budget billing gives you a way to guard against large fluctuations in your monthly electric bill without ever having to play catch-up at the end of the year. The program is designed to keep your electric bills consistent every month of the year, as long as you remain on the plan. It's the ideal way to accurately anticipate your monthly electric bill, which makes managing your expenses even easier.



With budget billing, your monthly electric bill becomes a rolling average of your electric usage for the most recent 12 months. By averaging your changes in usage over a 12-month period, your bill will remain consistent every month, even in cold or hot months when usage may be significantly higher.

Our budget billing program is free for members with accounts in good standing and with at least 12 months of service history. Members can deactivate the budget billing program at any time by contacting our billing department. If a member on budget billing becomes delinquent or enters into a delayed payment agreement, they will be removed from the program.

The new budget billing (4715-49) program has begun. If you are interested in budget billing, please contact our office.



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

WIEC's annual meeting - Continued from 20a ►

The cooperative will pay back capital credits totaling \$250,000 to members who were on its lines during 1983.

Spory explained, "The retirement of capital credits is the visible demonstration of your ownership in WIEC. As a member-owned cooperative, WIEC operates as a not-for-profit utility. Any profits made by the cooperative are referred to as margins. At the end of each year, the margins are allocated to each member in proportion to the value of the electricity they purchased." In future years, when

it's financially feasible, capital credits will be returned to members. Since 1938, the co-op has returned more than \$3.1 million in capital credits to its members.

During the meeting, Kim Gullberg of Stronghurst, William Newton of Burnside and Jay Morrison of Niota were re-elected to the co-op's board of directors.

Grand prize winners were: Johnnie M. Tobias, Lewis I Mohr, David B. Wetzell, Laura Iutzi Mosena, and LEW LLC c/o Edward Wilson. For a full list of prize winners, see page 20B.

Proxy contest winners

If a member cannot attend the WIEC annual meeting, we encourage them to sign their proxy over to another member who will attend or bring it to the WIEC office. As an incentive to have WIEC members to sign their proxies, all signed proxies received were entered into (461-64) a drawing for a \$10 bill credit. The five winners were: Calvin W. Baumann, Gary W. Jacobs, Terry A. Pope, Reece E Schmitz and Dale Shutwell. These lucky winners received the credit on their June bill that came in around July 10.

Welcome New Members

MAY 2018

Mark Davis, Niota
Alexandria Richardson, Niota
T-Mobile Central, Columbus, Ohio
Michael White, Carman

JUNE 2018

Chad Bunnell, Hamilton
Common Ground Capital, LLC,
Cedar Rapids, Ia
Judith Engen, Dallas City
Cheyanne Flynn, Basco
Freeman Gray, Tennessee, Il
Travis Inghram, Burlington
Nancy E. Knustrom, Trustee,
Cordova, Il
Ryan Schmitz, Stronghurst
Brad Siegfried, Burlington
Kyle & Mariah Skelley, LaHarpe
Mitchell Stice, Carthage
Emily Tate, Niota
Andrew Whitcomb, Dallas City