

Area Serviceman Scott Carle retires after 20 years

Twenty years ago, Scott Carle began his career at Western Illinois Electrical Coop. He started with the line crew and then went on to become area serviceman. As area serviceman, Scott served our members by connecting and disconnecting services, restoring outages and doing security light maintenance.

Scott says he will not miss the after-hours outages he's worked for so many years. But when power outages occur or bad (7819-54-15) weather happens, he will be thinking about his fellow workers and hope they stay safe.

We wish the same for you, Scott! Stay safe and enjoy the retirement ride!



Here is his story:

What was your start date?

April 27, 1998

How would you describe your role at WIEC?

I have a wide range of duties to serve the members. There is tree trimming, line work, security lights repair and installation, locating underground wires, and troubleshooting. Troubleshooting is what I enjoy the most. When a member has a problem with their lights, like blinking or low-voltage, I like to look for the problems and figure out the best way to fix it.

What has changed the most in the 20-plus years you've been here?

The equipment is better. Our old

(tree) chipper didn't have an auto feed. It would whip you like Mom did with a green switch. Our bucket trucks have better reachability and mobility. I hate to admit it but having iPads in the trucks has helped tremendously. They contain mapping and line information that is needed out in the field.

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

I would like to spend more time with my wife and my grandkids. Also, try to finish all the half-done projects around my place. I also hope to (8623-10) ride my horse, Chavez, more often.

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

My bark is worse than my bite.



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

I would like to take my wife, my three kids (and spouses) and my 12 grandkids on a family vacation – possibly an island resort.



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

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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.



Reminder ...

The Youth to Washington entries are due at the WIEC office by **February 15**. For additional information, see your high school guidance counselor, call the WIEC office or go to the WIEC website at www.wiec.net.

Welcome New Members

NOVEMBER 2018

Logan Conkright, Hamilton
FTC Tower Co., Kingtree, S.C.
Corey & Ariel Jonas, Hamilton
Rachael & Shane Woodside,
Nauvoo

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

Source: energy.gov

Capital credit checks remain outstanding

Last fall, Western Illinois Electrical Coop. mailed capital credits checks to members who lived on WIEC lines during 1983.

Below is a list of the member's names whose checks have not been cashed. Due to the advance printing of the WIEC News, any checks cashed (**7718-55**) after Jan. 1 will still appear on the list.

If you see your name listed below, please cash your check as soon as possible. Thank you for your assistance.

ALLEN FRANCIS
ALLEN LORA
ALTON RICHARD
ANDERSON LARRY G
ANNEGERS RAYMOND R
APPEL DAVID
BALMER LEVI E
BALMER WILLIAM
BARNES WARREN P
BAWDEN KYLE
BELSHAW MARTY
BENTZINGER DOROTHY L
BERGMEIER ELOISE
BERGMEIER FRANCIS A
BIGGER LONNIE JR
BOLLIN ARDEN
BOLLIN HARRY C
BOLTON STEVEN A
BOOTON FLOSSIE
BOUGHTON MARK S
BOYD CLARA J
BOYD JERALD
BP PIPELINES (NA) INC
BROCKMEIER RUTH
BROWN BETTY
BROWN LARRY G
BUBB VERNON
BUCKERT DANNY
BUCKERT RODNEY L
BURFORD DAN L
BURT MAE C
BURTON WILLIAM
BUSWELL KEVIN M
C B S REALITY
CALIFF BILL
CARLISLE LIVESTOCK & GRAIN
CARNES JANE
CHEESMAN W W
CHENEY DAVID L
COEUR BOB

COFFMAN KENNETH
 COMSTOCK BETTY M
 CONOVER GLENDA
 COOK RICKEY E
 COVERT DARRELL
 COX DIXIE L
 COX FRED
 CRABILL JERRY L
 CROSSLAND ONILEE
 CROW O DAVID
 CUTLER MICHAEL
 DICKWISCH PAT
 DIEW RUTH M
 DIEWOLD JOHN D
 DORAN WILLIAM E
 DOWDEN COMM INC
 DOWELL KENNETH
 DOWELL MADELINE
 DUNHAM LENA
 DUROCHER DANEIL J
 DYE PHILIP D
 EDDINGTON DEAN
 ELAND DAVID G
 ELLEDGE DAVID R
 ERBLAND JOHN A
 EWING PATRICK J
 FARMERS HOME ADM
 FERGUSON RANDY
 FINCH WILLIAM
 FISHER JOHN W
 FOSTER JERRY E
 FOSTER MAHALA L
 GALBRAITH MAX B
 GATES G E
 GERHARDT GENE
 GITTINGS VERDA MAE
 GLIDDEN JACQUELINE
 GLISAN LARRY
 GRAY MARTHA
 GRAY STACY L
 GREEN JERRY
 GROGAN PATRICIA A
 GULLBERG FARMS INC
 GULLBERG WILLIAM K
 GULLBERG WILLIAM K
 GUYMON KENT
 HAMMAN KATHRYN D
 HANCOCK LAND CO
 HANSON BRENT
 HANSON MARK E
 HARMONY TWP SUPVR
 HARRIS CHUCK
 HARRIS STEVE
 HART JAMES E
 HASTEN CERECE
 HECKENBERG CAREN A
 HEISLER MICHAEL
 HENDRICKSON MICHAEL
 HESTER HELEN R
 HINMAN JOAN Z
 HINRICHS FRED E
 HITZ HAROLD
 HOBBY GARY L
 HOCKER R S
 HOLMES LLOYD
 HOLST MARK H
 HOSTO RUTH E

HOUSEWRIGHT M O
 HUMES JAMES L
 HUMPHRY DOLA R
 HUMPHRY RAY
 HUSTON FRANCES
 ILLINOIS NATURAL
 HISTORY
 JACOBS JOYCE I
 JEFFERSON MARIBETH
 JOHNSON BETTY
 JOHNSON FARMS
 JONES ANNA MARY
 JONES JAMES C
 JONES JUDITH C
 KECK DAVID
 KISTLER CO CONTR
 KLINGLER NAOMI
 KNISLEY HENRY
 KNOWLES CHARLES R JR
 KNOWLES MARJORIE A
 KNUPP CAROL
 KOEHLER GLADYS
 KRAFT GUY C P
 KREIS MIKE
 KRIEG GALEN
 KROW PATRICIA
 KRUSE WALTER H
 KUNZ IRENE
 KUPER RANDALL
 LANNING GLADYS
 LAST ADAM MINISTRIES
 LAUNER LEO
 LEFFLER BRIAN C
 LEFFLER DAVID C
 LILLARD LEORA
 LIMKEMANN DON
 LIMKEMANN DON
 LION HART FARM
 LITCHFIELD FAYE
 LITTLE HAZEL MAE
 LITTLE HAZEL MAE
 LITTLE LOIS
 LITTLE RANDY M
 LOGAN GARY W
 LOMAX SADDLE CLUB
 LONG LYDIA
 LOVE BROS
 LOWE KENT H
 LUKENS DALE G
 LYBARGER DALE
 MANLEY B J
 MARBOL CUFT INC
 MARKEY WENDELL
 MARSHALL DAVID
 MARSHALL ELDA MAE
 MARSHALL ENID
 MARTENS RAYMOND
 MCALLISTER NORMAN
 MCCLINTOCK REALTY
 MCDONALD REX E
 MCENTEE CARL F
 MCGAUGHEY DONALD E
 MEADO ROBERT W
 MEEKER ARTHUR R
 MEISTER JACK R
 MILLER DANIEL F
 MILLER LEWIS L

MITTERMYER OSCAR S
 MODRELL LIZ
 MOHR HELEN
 MONNIER DAVID E
 MORRIS TIM S
 MOSS DUZANSKY
 MULCH DONALD A
 MURPHY IRENE M
 MYNATT REX D
 NAGEL DONALD
 NAGEL WALTER
 NEFF ELDON
 NEFF GLEN
 NICOR GAS
 NOLDEN WILLIAM E
 NUDD KAREN
 NYE FRANKLI
 OARD ROBERT T
 OLSON FRANK L
 OTTE DARRELL
 OVERTON DONALD
 PARQUET CLARA J
 PEASLEY C RICHARD
 PENCE BEULAH
 PENCE WAYNE
 PETERSON NEOLA M
 PIPER FRANK
 POWELSON TIM
 PRICE BETTY L
 PRIEBE KRIS
 PRUNTY MORRIS E
 PURDY DARLENE
 PURTLE LEONA
 QUESENBERRY CLINTON JR
 RAMPLEY ETHEL EILEEN
 RAMPLEY THELMA M
 RAND HAROLD N
 RANDALL JOHN D
 RANDALL RON
 RANG MORRIS E
 RAY SCOTT E
 REA MIKE
 REDDING RUSSELL
 REDENIUS PATRICIA
 ROCKY RUN SOFTBALL
 ASSOC
 RODEFFER JOHN H
 RODEFFER WAYNE C
 ROGERS PAULINE M
 ROMER O MITCHELL
 ROSKAMP DAVID
 ROWLAND MARGARET
 RUHS MARY C
 RUMSEY JAMES
 SARTORIUS RICHARD
 SCANLAN DORIS J
 SCANLAN VILAS
 SCHEETZ LEROY
 SCHEETZ LYLE
 SCHEETZ SCOTT
 SCHIEK BEN T
 SCHILSON ELIZABETH
 SCHMEISER MARY B
 SCHMITZ KEVIN
 SCHOCH ALFRED W
 SCHROEDER PAUL
 SCOTT ELWANDA

SCRANTON SHIRLEY R
 SETSER JOHN W
 SHELOR WAYNE
 SHERRICK D W
 SHIELDS MARY K
 SHOEN DEBBIE
 SHOUP FRANK O
 SIEFKEN ROGER
 SIEGFRIED CLEMENT G
 SIEGFRIED STEVEN H
 SINELE LINDA
 SLATER PAUL R
 SMART JAMES R
 SMITH JERRY L
 SMITH RICK L
 SMITH RICK L
 SNYDER DONNA M
 SNYDER DOROTHY M
 SONORA TOWNSHIP
 SPARROW HAROLD
 SPARROW JERRY D
 STAFF ARLENE
 STEELE L D
 STEPHENS GLADYS F
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 STEVENSON EMERALD
 STONEKING TIMOTHY B
 STOUT DANIEL R
 STRATTON FRIEDA
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 WADHAMS KENNETH
 WARSAW GUN CLUB
 WATERMAN CONDA
 WATERMAN HAROLD L
 WATERMAN RICHARD
 WATTS ROBERT E
 WEAR MARY
 WEAR RONALD
 WEPNER ARDATH M
 WHITE TERRY
 WHITSON MARGARET
 WICHMAN MATTIE
 WILDRICK JACK
 WILKENS JOE
 WILKENS PAUL
 WILSON HENRY D
 WISEHART ROCK W
 WOLFORD FRANCES
 WOLLBRINK KELLY
 WOODSIDE DELORIS
 WRIGHT JOHN F
 YOUNG ELLEN M
 YUSKIS DORIS

WIEC board to review 2019 budget

Each year, Prairie Power, Inc., WIEC's wholesale power provider, projects what it believes WIEC's wholesale cost will be for the following year and how many kilo-watt hours we will sell to our member-owners. We take their projections and build a budget for what we believe will be our revenue and expenses for the next year, which in turn gives them an idea of our margins for the next year.

The wholesale power cost provided by Prairie Power, Inc. for 2019 was about 4 percent higher than the actual power cost they charged WIEC for the first 11 months of 2018. They also

projected WIEC sell less kilo-watt hours than the previous year.

At the last board meeting, the WIEC board looked at the WIEC budget for 2019 to study how these projections will impact WIEC's margins for 2019. Although 4 percent cost increase isn't large, it continues the trend of upward power costs.

WIEC's current rate structure contains blocks within Rate 1 and Rate 3, where the more electricity that is consumed, the lower the cost of the kWh. The selling price of these third blocks is currently less than our wholesale power cost and has not been (859-8)

revised since April 2010. When kilo-watts are sold for less than they are bought, it puts a downward strain on our margins and negatively impacts our cash flow.

After examining our rate structure, it became clear that it may not be in our financial best interest to sell power to the members at a price lower than our wholesale power cost. The board will look at our rate structure and will work to make a rate structure that is fair for all member-owners while keeping WIEC financially strong. More information will be in the March WIEC News.

You are more than a customer

By Anne Prince, NRECA

Author Anthony J. D'Angelo observed that "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."

This reflects WIEC's philosophy toward our member-owners and the service territory we serve. As a co-op, we have a different "bottom line." While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the community we serve.

To us, you are not just a customer; you are a *member* of our co-op. Without you, we would not exist.

In 1938, WIEC was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community. Local farmers came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none.

At that time, community members understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped create WIEC. For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as just another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is

constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve. We can do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the community to guide our decisions. Therefore, we hold Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day during the year to engage with you and obtain feedback.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy efficiently. We look to explore more options that will help manage your energy use such as incentive rates for geothermal heating and cooling and specially priced water heaters. In short, we always seek to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

WIEC members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the unique perspective of each of our board members brings to the board table. They are members of the co-op and community – just like you.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we support local youth organizations such as FFA and 4-H programs. We sponsor the "Best Overall Electricity Project"

at the Hancock County 4-H Fair to spur interest in a career in the electric industry.

Over the past 10 years, WIEC has secured no-interest USDA loans and grants for employers in Hancock County, such as City of Carthage, Memorial Hospital, Dearwester Properties and Prairieland Investment Group. By helping with these expansions, it was our intent to keep good-paying jobs in western Illinois.

In 2009, WIEC received the NRECA's "Community Service Award for Community Investment" award in recognition for our work with the City of Carthage. The loan provided the necessary funding for infrastructure to the new Memorial Hospital.

WIEC has a revolving loan fund that could provide additional funding for businesses expanding or upgrading equipment. These funds are intended to serve to generate economic development. By supporting these efforts, WIEC is supporting the community.

While the times have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.