

26th Annual Safety Fair

WIEC's annual Safety Fair began in 1994 to equip fifth grade students with knowledge about different ways to be safe in the world around them. The message of "Live Smart, Keep Safe and Have Fun" has been shared with approximately 5,700 students over the years. 3913-34

This year's fair was held Sept. 19 with seven schools in attendance and close to 190 students learning about various ways to stay safe in different environments. Students were educated on bicycle safety, farm safety, how to make a 9-1-1 call and the interaction with an ambulance and its crew, ATV safety including the importance of wearing proper safety gear, boating safety and how critical it is to wear the correct size life jacket as well as other boating safety techniques. The presenters do a fantastic job of engaging with the students. Some of them bring games to play and have prizes to be won! Presenters allow kids to ask questions while helping them understand the need to be safe.

The day started with a crowd favorite... the Live Line Demonstration from Zach Williams of Corn Belt Energy, another Illinois electric co-op located in Bloomington. He brought an energized electrical system and showed the kids the power of 7,200 volts by touching a hot dog to the live line. He explained to them that the reaction the hot dog has is

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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

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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.



▶ Continued from 20a



like what would happen if a person were to touch the line. At lunchtime the students, their teachers and chaperones were served a hot dog meal on a frisbee, which the students got to take home as a reminder of the lessons learned throughout the day. The day ended with Chris Egelston wrapping up. He used magic, laughter and fun to remind kids to stay drug free.

We would also like to thank the following presenters and workers for donating their time: 3811-60

Lunch Workers:

- **Jay Morrison** – WIEC board member
- **Janet Spory** – WIEC board member
- **Rebecca Dickinson** – retired WIEC employee
- **Donna Cramer** – retired WIEC employee

Presenters:

- **Melinda Bickel** – Bickel Cycling and Fitness, Burlington, IA
- **Dawn Weinberg** – Farm Safety, University of Illinois Extension
- **Eric Wheatley** – Boating Safety, IL Department of Conservation
- **Maria Hopp** – Hancock County 9-1-1 Administrator
- **Hancock County Ambulance Service**
- **Phillip Smith** – Smith Brothers Honda, Quincy, IL
- **Zach Williams** – Live Line Presentation, Corn Belt Energy, Bloomington, IL
- **Chris Egleston** – Magician, St. Louis, MO

Thank You!

A big **THANK YOU** goes out to the people and organizations that are such an important part of the fair. Without them, the annual Safety Fair would not be possible.

Sly Fox Food Service –
ordering and preparing the food

Illini West High School Student Council and their sponsor, **Shari Shupe** – chaperones

Support. Treat. Educate. Prevent.

By Cynthia Stewart, BS – Marketing, Communications and PR Director for Unity Point Health – Memorial Hospital

The Hancock County Addiction Coalition (HCAC), formerly known as the Hancock County Opioid Taskforce, was formed in 2016 because of the rise in opioid misuse. The coalition has since begun to tackle all substance misuse, not just opioids. The coalition's mission is "Support. Treat. Educate. Prevent." The coalition committee is comprised of approximately 40 people from various backgrounds. The backgrounds of the coalition members are in law enforcement, healthcare, public health, mental health, corrections, pastoral care, interested community members, education and the judicial system as well as recovering addicts just to name a few. The coalition is multifaceted with one group focused on "Education and Prevention," a second group focused on "Support and Treatment" and another group focused on "Marketing and Awareness." The coalition's main goal is to get people who are in need into treatment, as well as provide education to prevent people from misusing substances. **9612-18-1**

With the support of the 2019 Memorial Hospital Foundation capital campaign, "Hidden in Plain Sight," the coalition was able to fund things like the Hidden in Plain Sight bedroom and trailer; education for schools and community events; housing, transportation and food for individuals who are awaiting acceptance into a treatment facility as there is generally a several-day wait; and placing mental health counselors in all 10 of Hancock County's junior and senior high schools. The Hidden in Plain Sight bedroom set up is a replica of a teenager's bedroom that shows multiple ways that drugs and alcohol are hidden from parents. The bedroom display can be set up inside or, with a newly acquired tent version, even outside at events.

The Hancock County Addiction Coalition takes pride in helping the people of Hancock County find a



path of sobriety. If you are looking for help getting into treatment, need to help someone get into treatment, are interested in joining the coalition or would like to have an educational segment set up for an event, you can reach us at 573-240-0404 or email help@hcacil.org. You can also find us

on Facebook or at www.hcacil.org!

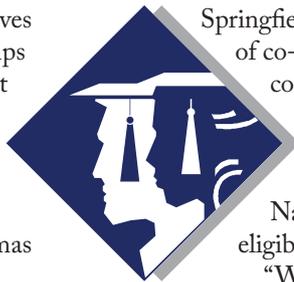
For more information about or to donate to the 2019 Memorial Hospital Foundation "Hidden In Plain Sight" campaign, contact Greta Wetzel, Executive Director, Memorial Hospital Foundation at gwetzel@mhtlc.org or visit mhtlc.org.

Twelve 2020 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

Illinois electric cooperatives will award 12 scholarships in 2020 to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The 12 scholarships, \$2,000 each, will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. **3811-60**

Six scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric co-op member. A seventh scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. Four additional scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The 12th scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, will help pay for costs to attend lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College,



Springfield, IL. Sons and daughters of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors, and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for this scholarship.

"We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships," says WIEC General Manager Todd Grotts. "WIEC and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker's scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker."

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact WIEC directly. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available online at <http://aiec.coop/iec-scholarship/>

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Trim your holiday energy costs by choosing energy efficient LED lights! LED holiday lights use less energy and can last up to 40 seasons. They're also easier to install - you can connect up to 25 LED strings without overloading a wall socket!

Source: energy.gov



Welcome New Members

AUGUST 2019

Branson, Chad, 8633-50
 Dewald, Phillip, 388-5
 Espinoza, Jorge & Amay, 5728-49
 Fink, Aaron, 463-25
 France, Genevieve, 5616-52
 Johnson, Nancy, 6820-16
 Jones, Shea, 5832-59
 Plymouth Pork, 4636-33-1
 Seul, Abigail, 6630-49
 Wetzel, Gracie, 7718-54

Office Closings



The WIEC office will be closed Monday, November 11 in honor of Veterans Day. Take the time to thank a veteran for the freedom we all enjoy.



The WIEC office will be closed Thursday, November 28 to celebrate Thanksgiving. The office will reopen on Friday, November 29. WIEC's directors and employees wish all of our members a blessed Thanksgiving and are thankful for the opportunity to continue to serve.

As always, in case of a power emergency, please call 217-357-3125 or 800-576-3125.