

## More than ever, now is the time to stand together!

The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply affected each one of us in so many different ways. The team at Memorial Hospital has incredibly stepped up to combat the fear, uncertainty, illness and isolation that COVID-19 has inflicted. In its 70 years, Memorial Hospital and staff have never been tasked with providing healthcare amid a worldwide pandemic. Despite the pain and hardship that has come from this, it has also brought with it the realization that we can endure much more than we think we can. The community can come together to support each other in incredible ways and *Together We Grow!* **4614-10**

The focus of Memorial Hospital Foundation's 2020 Campaign, *Together We Grow*, could not be more poignant and descriptive of the support and togetherness that Memorial Hospital has felt from the surrounding community over these last several months. We are truly in this together and can be strengthened together by the challenges faced in 2020.

The goal of Memorial Hospital Foundation's *Together We Grow* campaign is to provide for the future of local healthcare. Each year, Memorial Hospital Foundation Board of Directors selects a worthy project to fit the mission of the



foundation. The foundation's mission continues to be the forefront of its work. "Enhancing the health and wellness through charitable giving" provides a meaningful focus as goals are realized through monetary gifts. As Memorial Hospital celebrates its 70th anniversary, it's clear that future and continued success is dependent on our current actions and generosity. The Memorial Hospital Foundation Endowment will serve as a meaningful ongoing support to local healthcare, providing a dependable, perpetual source of funding for years to come. 2020 has taught us that we can never be completely prepared for future events, but the Memorial Hospital Foundation Endowment will provide financial resources and a level of preparedness for our future

community to successfully face and overcome these unforeseen events.

Unfortunately, some of Memorial Hospital Foundation's largest fundraisers have been canceled due to COVID-19 contact precautions. However, the foundation, along with Professional Swine Management (PSM) and Carthage Veterinary Services (CVS), made creative plans to still provide the community with a chance to celebrate fall and harvest season.

These teams worked to transform the Harvest for Hope event into a series of mini events on Memorial Hospital's campus throughout the week of Sept. 28 through Oct. 2. This allowed for funds and awareness to be raised for the *Together We Grow* campaign, while also providing fun, family friendly engagement for the community, in a socially distanced and safe manner.

The *Together We Grow* campaign goal is to raise \$140,000. Please consider making a contribution and take part in the growth of the endowment in 2020. With generous gifts, we can make a tremendous difference in the health and wellness of our communities and our healthcare options for many years to come. Your gift will make the real difference in the health, lives and growth of future generations.



524 North Madison P.O. Box 338  
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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

- **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** — General Manager
- **Ryan Biery** — Manager  
of Operations
- **Wendi Whitaker** — Finance and  
Accounting 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.

# Power On: October is National Co-op Month

As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the consumer-members we serve. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local community – and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months. One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is “concern for community.” This principle is the essential DNA of Western Illinois Electrical Coop., and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we “Power On.” Keeping this theme in mind, I recognize the essential role we play in serving a special community like ours. 4713-7

Who would have fathomed in March that the COVID-19 virus would amount to a test of our community and our nation? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we’ve all been challenged to operate differently, and WIEC has stepped up to help our members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors.

As an essential service, and to ensure reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. Our

line crews drove individually while office employees worked on staggered or limited schedules to maintain separation. Some staff worked remotely when possible. In the office, we limited and modified meetings and gatherings to allow for safe separation. We also adjusted our walk-in office availability to ensure the health and safety of our employees and our valued members.

In addition, we decided not to hold an annual meeting this year, choosing instead to postpone business until 2021. For the health and safety of everyone, we think these measures were the prudent course of action for the times. For our members impacted by COVID-19 who needed help with their electric bills, we waived late fees and worked with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements. We have missed seeing you in person!

I tell you about all these efforts not to boast about Western Illinois Electrical Coop. but to explain how much we care about this community – because we live here too. We’ve seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time, because that’s what communities do. While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, I’m heartened to see how everyone is pulling together.

In 1938 WIEC was built by the community to serve the community, and that’s what we’ll continue to do – Power On. 5816-39



# UNDERSTANDING THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values, adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance.

These principles are a key reason why America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of our members first.



## VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Membership in a cooperative is open to all persons who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender or economic circumstances.



## DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

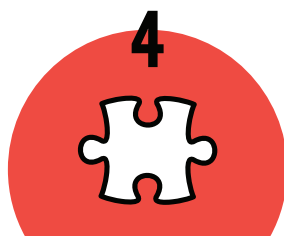
Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

Elected representatives (directors/trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.



## MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.



## AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.



## EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, helps boost cooperative understanding.



## COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

By working together through local, national, regional, and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies and deal more effectively with social and community needs.



## CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.

THESE ARE  
THE WORDS  
WE LIVE BY.



The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is the national service organization for more than 900 not-for-profit rural electric cooperatives and public power districts providing retail electric service to more than 42 million consumers in 48 states and whose retail sales account for approximately 12 percent of total electricity sales in the United States. Learn more at [electric.coop](http://electric.coop)



# Consider electrical safety when preparing for the big hunt

As you prepare for hunting season, keep in mind along with general hunting safety, electrical safety should also be top of mind.

You might be preoccupied and excited about the big hunt but be sure to look up and out for power lines. Never place a tree stand near a power line. Contact with the power line, utility pole or related equipment can alter the path to ground, sending electricity through anyone or anything that comes too close or in direct contact with the power source. Even coming within 10 feet can cause an arc, transferring energy from the power line/source to an object or person.

In addition, don't shoot near or toward power lines, utility poles, transformers or substations. Stray bullets or pellets could damage equipment, possibly interrupting electric service. Even more concerning, they could drop a power line to the ground, causing a hazardous scenario: those who get within 50 feet of the downed line could be shocked or electrocuted. **6835-25**

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. and Safe Electricity remind hunting enthusiasts of these electrical safety tips:

- Familiarize yourself with the area before heading out to hunt. Take note of power lines and equipment,



especially when hunting in densely wooded areas.

- Observe all signs or postings that advise electrical safety, especially when scouting out a location for your tree stand.
- Do not use power poles to support a tree stand.
- Do not locate a tree stand near a power line or pole.
- Be in the habit of looking up and out for power lines and do not come within 10 feet of an overhead line or pole when setting up or taking down a stand.

- Never climb a utility pole.

Please report any damage to a line or other related equipment to us so we can address it. Although we perform routine maintenance, damage may not be noticed for weeks or months, unless an outage occurs, due to the vast amount of lines in our service area. Of course, always take the time to observe general hunting safety measures as well. Best of luck and stay safe out there!

For more information about safety around power lines and other sources of electricity, go to [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Welcome New Members

Brandt, James L.  
Carlisle, Kale  
Heusner, Dal Ton  
Kokjohn, Caele  
Lowman, Brenda & Jeff  
Rikle, Mario Andrew  
Trautvetter, Timothy  
Yuskis, Courtney

July  
2020

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.

Source: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

