Western Illinois ELECTRICAL COOP.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
NEWS
P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ www.wiec.net ■ 800/576-3125

Attention High School Seniors and Future Lineworkers

The Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarship Program awards twelve $2,000 scholarships annually:

For high school seniors:

SIX scholarships to sons/daughters of co-op members currently receiving service (deadline to apply is December 31, 2020).

ONE Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship for the son/daughter of a co-op employee or director (deadline to apply is December 31, 2020).

FOUR scholarships for sons/daughters of co-op employees/directors or members who plan on attending a two-year Illinois community college full-time (deadline to apply is December 31, 2020). **4614-10-1**

For anyone interested in attending lineworker's school

ONE LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the AIEC in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, IL. This applicant does not need to be the son or daughter of a director, member or employee. They simply need to have an interest in pursuing a career in line work. (deadline to apply is April 30, 2021.)

You may apply online for any of the above scholarships at https://aiec.coop/iec-scholarship/?coop=WST or contact the WIEC office directly at (217) 357-3125 or (800) 576-3125 for additional information.

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

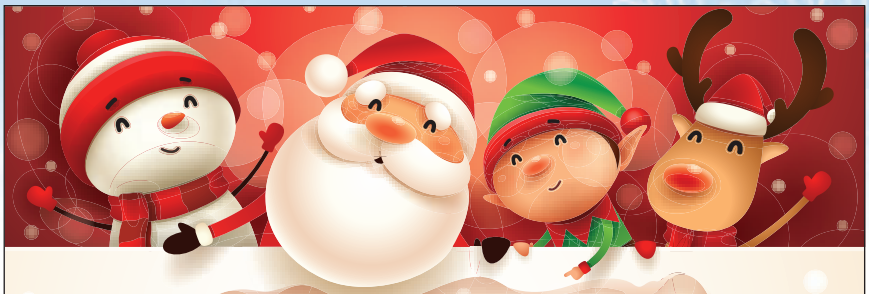
- **Kent Flesner** — President, **West Point**
- **Mark Burling** — Vice President, **Carthage**
- **Janet Spory** — Secretary/Treasurer, **Sutter**
- **William Newton** — Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, **Burnside**
- **Rob Gronewold** — Director, **Carthage**
- **Kim Gullberg** — Director, **Stronghurst**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



Office closings

WIEC will close at noon on December 24th and reopen December 28th.
We will also close at noon on December 31st and reopen January 4th.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

from the WIEC Board of Directors and employees.

New hours for line crew

The WIEC line crew hours have changed. The line crew will now work from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. year-round with no change in hours during the summer months. The Western Illinois Electrical Coop. office remains open as usual from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. **765-10**

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy bills can increase during winter for a variety of reasons, like houseguests, more time spent at home, and shorter days and longer nights. Small actions, like turning down your thermostat, replacing old bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help you save.

Unpacking the different types of electric cars

The electric car movement is gaining speed. Offering many benefits to both owners and the environment, driving an electric car emits 54 percent fewer carbon dioxide emissions per mile than the average new gasoline car. Moreover, the cost of "fueling" an electric vehicle averages $1.20 per gallon, much less than the average cost of a gallon of regular gasoline. **7814-14-1**

With more than 1.5 million electric cars currently operating in the U.S., electric car sales are forecasted to surpass 3.5 million per year by 2030. Not all electric cars operate the same way. Four main types of electric cars exist on the roads today.

Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs) are the type of electric car that has been on the market the longest. HEVs include a small battery pack that is not charged by plugging in, but rather the batteries in hybrids are charged by the internal combustion engine and/or the braking process. HEVs function as battery-assisted vehicles and are not powered solely by batteries at any given time. Many HEVs are touted to make around 50 mpg for both city and highway.

Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) (also known as EVs) do not rely on any gasoline to power the vehicle and have zero tailpipe emissions. EV operators simply plug their vehicles into their home electric grid or a public charging station to charge. BEVs also generate electricity from braking as a secondary energy source. Unfortunately, EVs are somewhat limited in how far they can drive on a single charge. Most EVs have all-electric ranges of 80 to 100 miles, while a few have ranges up to 250 miles. On longer road trips, EVs rely on the availability of charging stations, which are sometimes difficult to find. Depending on the model, it may take anywhere from 30 minutes to several hours to recharge a vehicle.

Plug-in Hybrid EVs run on both battery power and gasoline and have much smaller battery packs than BEVs. The all-battery range in these vehicles is typically between five and 30 miles, and then the internal combustion engine is responsible for anything beyond that. Plug-in hybrids effectively reduce operator emissions for short trips around town; longer trips are powered by gasoline.

Range Extender Hybrid EVs (REHs) function the same as plug-in hybrids, but have higher battery ranges due to design differences. Examples include the BMWi3 and the discontinued Chevrolet Volt. Some REHs drive more than 50 miles on a single charge. In addition to battery power, they also feature a traditional internal combustion engine with some models making more than 40 miles per gallon once the battery is drained.

It is worth noting that EV battery ranges can vary depending on weather conditions. For example, cars must work harder to run in colder temperatures and using the defrost or heat decreases the range. At-home charging times depend on how you charge at home (120 volts versus 240 volts). These are caveats you will want to consider when shopping for an electric vehicle.

For more information about energy efficiency and electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Holiday Safety Tips

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Don't always believe what you hear

MYTH	VS	FACT
Electricity always takes the path of least resistance		Although the path of least resistance is the easiest to take, an electrical current can take any conductive path.
Voltage has to be high to kill		Although the voltage plays a role in how strong the current flows, exposure to the current itself is what's deadly. Even lower voltages can kill.
Heavily insulated tools will always protect against shock and electrocution		Don't let a tool give you a false sense of security; take all precautions even if a tool is marketed as safe or insulated.

LEARN MORE AT SafeElectricity.org®

2021 Operating Budget

Upon request, copies of the Western Illinois Electrical Coop. operating budget for 2021 will be available at the office during regular business hours starting in January. **8614-63**

Welcome New Members

Ford, Bethany
Ford, Randy & Roberta
Long, Kayla & Joslin
Moore, Pam
Riney, Chad
Sullivan, Karla & Matt

September 2020