



WIEC holds 23rd annual Safety Fair

On September 15th, WIEC held its 23rd annual Safety Fair. We had 185 fifth graders from six elementary schools come to WIEC and the Extension Center in Carthage to learn about how to be safe in different situations.

They learned how to be safe in an entertaining way. As part of the presentations, some students were able to try on life vests, climb a utility pole, play Farm Safety Jeopardy, make a simulated 9-1-1 call and even participate in a magic show.

The day was filled with sights and sounds, food and fun all aimed at keeping our children safe.

(Continued on p16c)





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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.

WIEC has had six scholarship winners

Since 1998, Western Illinois Electrical Coop. has had six winners of the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarship.

They are Mark Hoemmen, Dallas City, (1998); Debra Meyer, Warsaw, (2001), Mark Buss, Bowen, (2010), Alex Ourth, Carthage, (2013), Sydney Metternich, Hamilton (2015) and most recently Carly Garnett, Carthage (2016).

We are very proud of these young people and urge all college-bound seniors to consider entering this contest. College is expensive and scholarships like this can help ease the financial burden.



Ten 2017 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

Tommie Long, WIEC manager, has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives in 2017 will award nine academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the "electric cooperative family." In addition, a tenth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The total of ten scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2017 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Five scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A sixth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or (9510-19) daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. Three 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 tenth annual scholarship, the "LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship," was awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$2,000 scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric

Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. LaVern McEntire served as a line-man for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; (3915-17) and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for the lineworker's scholarship.

"We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships," says Manager Long. "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 the WIEC office. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative's website at www.wiec.net.

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THANK YOU

A big thank you goes out to the people and the organizations that are such an integral part of the fair. Without them, the Safety Fair would not be possible.

- Sly Fox Food Service – ordering, preparing the food and donating the bottled water
- Illini West High School Student Council and their sponsor, Shari Shupe

We would also like to thank the following presenters for donating their time:

- IL State Trooper Dan Leezer
- Dawn Weinberg, University of Illinois Extension
- Eric Myers of the Illinois Department of Conservation
- Maria Hopp, 9-1-1 coordinator – Hancock Co.
- Hancock Co. Ambulance Service

What's in it for "we"?

By Adam Schwartz

One of the most attractive features of cooperatives is that we answer the popular question, "What's in it for me?" with "What's in it for we!" Cooperatives are formed when the market fails to offer a good or service, with decent quality, at an affordable price. WIEC was formed in 1938 because, when investor-owned utilities realized there was not enough profit to be made in our community, they refused to offer electricity.

The founding members of WIEC went door to door to collect \$5 (3811-27) in order to raise a portion of the original investment the co-op needed. Those "go-getters" realized the only way to get electricity for me was to get it for we, the whole community.

Cooperative ownership is in the hands of the people who use the co-op's goods

and the services (not investors), so not only do co-ops start out answering the question of "What's in it for we?" – they continue to answer that question for as long as they exist.

These days, we often hear about companies that abandon their local communities and move overseas in search of cheaper labor. This negatively impacts the community through job loss, decline in housing values and school closures. Because local residents own a majority of cooperatives, they are less likely to leave their community. In fact, it would be impossible for WIEC to leave western Illinois. The co-op is a critical part of what makes the community a community.

The way co-ops continue to answer the question, "What's in it for we?" is critical to their survival. It is imperative that we

keep you – our members – as the primary focus. Keeping rates as (3724-32) low as possible is one major part of that focus, but ensuring that we provide real value as your trusted energy advisor is also extremely important.

By maintaining that focus with your help and support, we will continue to be able to serve the "me" and the "we" in our community long into the future.

Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @adamcooperative or email him at aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop

Welcome New Members

Stephen R. & Janet K.
Calhoun, Oswego IL
Sherry Ferguson, LaHarpe
Whitney M. Hochgraber,
Warsaw
Joshua Moss, Nauvoo
Brian Sirtak, LaHarpe



Office closed

WIEC office will be closed Friday, November 11 in honor of Veterans Day.

WIEC office will be closed November 24 in observance of Thanksgiving. Our office will reopen on Friday, November 25.

WIEC Directors and Employees wish our members a blessed Thanksgiving.

As always, in case of power emergencies, call 1-800-576-3125

Insulate Your Electric Water Heater Tank

MATERIALS:

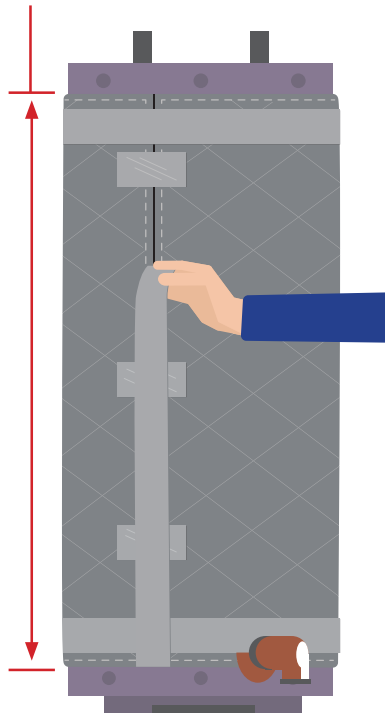
- Water Heater Blanket
- Scissors
- Duct Tape

STEPS:

1. Turn off the electric water heater at the breaker panel.
2. Measure the height of the water heater and cut the blanket to fit if necessary.
3. Leave the top of the water heater open.
4. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and temporarily tape it in place. Position the blanket so that the ends do not come together over the access panels on the side of the tank.
5. Mark the areas, then cut holes where controls are located. For electric water heaters, there will be two panels on the side of the tank. Mark the area where the pressure relief valve and pipe are located. This will be a pipe that protrudes from the side of the water heater.
6. Adhere the blanket. Be careful to line up the cut out areas and then tape it permanently in place.
7. Turn the water heater back on.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Cover the whole tank except temperature and pressure (T&P) valve and drain.



Safety Note: Don't set the thermostat above 130°F on the electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket – the wiring may overheat.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Heating your living space uses more energy than any other system in your home – typically making up about 42 percent of your utility bill. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30 percent on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov



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