

## The power behind your power

### Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11.

You've likely noticed Western Illinois Electrical Coop.'s crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers in the WIEC system are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 50 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career – because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker initially can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? And that there's

ongoing annual training needed? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. **4636-35** Shortcuts are never an option, and there is no room for error in this line or work.

Despite the many challenges, Western Illinois Electrical Coop's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their homes and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, usually hours but sometimes days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here in west central Illinois, Western Illinois Electrical Coop. has seven lineworkers and a groundworker that are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain around 1,221 miles of power lines across four counties and just under 1,040 square miles.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who are sometimes asked to pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews sometimes use

laptops, tablets, and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Linework may not be a glamorous job, but it is essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life. The next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of



the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11. You can follow "#ThankALineworker" on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.



**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**

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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.

# Vegetation management

In order to help maintain reliable electric service, Western Illinois Electrical Coop. has contracted with IFP Landservices LLC (IFP) to handle brush and tree management needs again this year. They will handle spraying, trimming, cutting and removal of trees and brush.

We plan to have crews performing routine brush spraying this spring and summer in Augusta, Chili, St. Albans, Bear Creek, Harmony, St. Mary's, Hancock, Carthage, Prairie, Rock Creek, Pilot Grove, Fountain Green,

LaHarpe and Durham townships all in Hancock County.

Fallen trees and limbs account for many power outages, momentary flickers or blinks. 4727-42 Brush spraying and tree trimming are necessary to provide the continuous service WIEC members deserve and expect.

Due to the advanced printing of this issue of the WIEC News, these plans are subject to change. If you have questions, please contact the office at (217) 357-3125 or (800) 576-3125.



**Office Closed April 15, 2022**

The WIEC office will be closed on Friday, April 15 in observance of Good Friday.



**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**

It's Easy! It's Free!

Planning a digging project in your yard or on your property? If you dig without knowing what is located below, you could damage an underground line.

Not only could you become seriously injured, but you will be responsible for the cost of repairs. To avoid hassles and fines, call 811, the Call Before You Dig number, at least two business days prior to breaking ground. (811 locators do not mark privately owned underground lines or pipes, such as service to outbuildings, sprinkler systems or invisible fences.)

An uneventful digging project is the best kind to have.

**Safe Electricity.org**

**Welcome New Members**

Gary P. Anderson	Devin Kite
Lucas & Kaylene Brunenn	Joseph & Deaira Stewart
Korin Grange	Dalton Vaughan

**January 2022**

# Nominating Committee appointed

At the February WIEC board meeting, current board members appointed the following co-op members to serve as the 2022 Nominating Committee:

- District 1 – Rod Fox (Stronghurst)
- District 2 – Spencer Berry (Nauvoo)
- District 3 – Harold “Tony” Herdrick (Dallas City)
- District 4 – Jason Jacquot (Carthage) and Kendall Bollin (Bowen)
- District 5 – Jonathan Fecht (Carthage) and Austin Ufkes (Carthage)
- District 6 – Robert Menn (Plymouth)
- District 7 – Max Roskamp (Sutter)

Two committee members were appointed from the districts whose board members’ terms expire this year. Other districts each have a single appointee. **4814-18** This committee will nominate at least one member each from Districts 4 and 5 to represent those districts on the WIEC Board of Directors for the following three years.

Current Board Members for the Districts with elections this year:

- Kent Flesner from District 4
- Mark Burling from District 5

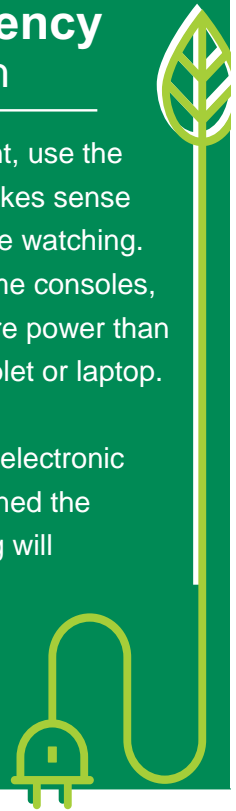
The first Nominating Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 14 at the WIEC office in Carthage at 7 p.m.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Dept. of Energy



## We ♥ Trees, Too.

We know everyone in our community enjoys the beauty and shade trees provide. But trees and power lines can be a dangerous mix without regular trimming during the growing season.

If you see us out in the community trimming, remember the many **benefits it brings:**

- Keeps power lines clear of tree limbs
- Helps us restore power outages more quickly
- Keeps crews and members of our community safe
- Reduces unexpected costs for repairs

Trimming improves service reliability for you, the members we serve.





# I spy with my little eye ... an uncashed capital credit retirement check!

Please take one more look to assure you've cashed your capital credit retirement check from October 2021. **5818-38-5-2**

Also, if you happen to have current contact information for anyone appearing on this list of uncashed checks, please contact our office to aid in our efforts to return as many dollars to WIEC members as possible.

## UNCASHED 2021 CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENT CHECKS

A 1 AG SERVICE	DAGGETT, HELEN	HINMAN, MATHEW D	MCKOON, SHERYL S	SHIPMAN, DEBRA J
ALBRIGHT, MICHAEL	DAINES, DENNIS	HOLMES, CHARLOTTE	MEIER, ROCHNE E	SHOEMAKER, DANNY L
ALLEN, FRANCIS	DANES, ROGER D	HOLTSCLAW, ALICE	METTERNICH,	SIEGRIST, MILDRED
ALLENSWORTH, PAULA	DASKALOS, NICK	HOPP, STEPHEN	BONNIE LEE	SIMPSON, MICHAEL G
AMERICANA SEEDS INC	DAY, MARK	HOSKINS, JERRY D	MINOR, MARJORIE	SLOAN, CHARLOTTE
AMFAHR, GALEN	DAYTON, D JAMES	HOWE, ROY L	MORRILL, JOHN L	SMITH, BETTY LOU
ANDERSON, JEFFERY D	DECKER, ANTHONY D	HUFENDICK, MICHAEL C	MORRISON, JOHN T	SMITH, JACK E
ANTES, MIKE	DENNIS, CHARLES W	HUFF ISLAND HUNT	MUELLER, MICHAEL	SMITH, MARVIN J
AT & SF RAILWAY CO	DEPEW, MICHAEL	& FISH	MUNGER, PAUL	SMITH, WILLIAM
BAINTER, CARL D	DESCHEPPER, RICHARD J	HUFFMAN, MARTIN ALLEN	MURPHY, IRENE M	SOWERS, VALLIE J
BALMER, ROBERT D	DICKERSON, J ALAN	HULS, DENNIS	NEFF, ELDON	SPANGLER, HELEN
BALMER, WILLIAM	DIXON, STEVEN D	HUMBLE, MARK E	NEILL, ELDON C	SPARKS, JAMES R
BARNS, WARREN P	DUNCAN, MARILYN	HUSTON, HELEN J	NESBITT, JOHN W	SQUIER, DON
BATSON, LARRY A	EAVES, KELLY J	HUSTON, TRACEY	NORTHUP, ROLAND H	STEVENSON, ELVA
BERNSTEIN, DOROTHY	EGAN, MARY E	HUTCHESON, KENT	OCHSNER, CECIL F	STEVENSON, MICHAEL
BERRY, ROBERT L	EICHMAN, KEITH	HUTSON, STANLEY J	OCHSNER, GRACE C	STONEKING, TERRY
BETTS, JO ANN	ELKIN, MICKY	JACK, JERRY	PABEN, JAMES L	SWITZER, LES JR
BIGGER, WILLIAM	ELLEFRITZ, SANDRA	JACKSON, IRENE	PAHAMNI RIDGE FARM	SYMONDS, TERRY
BLUME, WAYNE A	ELLIS, SANDRA P	JACKSON, SCOTT	PARKER, A G	TAYLOR, JACK C
BODDEKER, PETER	ENERGY TRANSPORT	JOHNSON, BETTY	PARKIN, YVETTE	THOMPSON, L BETTY
BOEHM, CHRISTOPHER A	ESTABROOK, R B	JONES, IRENE	PATRICK, GORMAN	THOMPSON, DOROTHY I
BOLANDER, SAMUEL H	EWING, PATRICK J	JONES, LYNN	PATTON, LLOYD W	THORELL, ROY
BOLTON, DONALD E	FARRIS, MICHAEL	KANE, LARRY	PENCE, QUINN	THURMAN, STANLEY
BOONE, LARRY	FISHER, DONNA	KAY, DAVID J	PENCE, TIMMY A	TILLMAN, RANDALL L
BOWMAN, PHILLIP JR	FLAHERTY, DAN	KELLEY, JENNIFER K	PHILLIPS, LUCILLE	TIMMERMAN,
BOYER, DENA M	FLYNN, TERRY	KETTELKAMP, STEVEN J	PIERCE, RALPH E	BARBARA JEAN
BOYLES, TONY	FORRESTER, DONALD G	KLAVENSKI, JAMES C	PILKINGTON, DAN C	TOWNSEND, BRUCE J
BP PIPELINES (NA) INC	FORTADO, DAVID C	KLOSSING, DAVID K	PINDELL, LEE	TOWNSEND, CARL A
BROWN, BETTY	FOSTER, MAHALA L	KNOCHE, RON	POTTER, CRAIG	TREADWELL, ROBERT
BROWN, HAROLD E	FOSTER, MICHAEL	KOEHLER, GLADYS	PRICE, WILLIAM	TRIAx COMMUNICATIONS
BROWN, MICHAEL	FYE, CARL	KOLTZENBURG, STEVE	RAMPLEY, WAYNE E	CORP
BUCKERT, LEO	FYE, LENA	KRIEG, ETHEL M	RAMSEY, HERBERT	TRIAx MIDWEST
BUEHL, JANET F	GATES, G ELAINE	KROGMEIER, KEITH	RANDELL, RAY	TROUT, RAMONA E
BULLARD, KEVIN	GEISSLER, JERRY D	L B STABLES	RAYL, RICHARD	VANBEEK, PETER L
BULLARD, KEVIN D	GEISSLER, WILLIAM F	LAMB, RUTH M	REED, JOHNSON	VANCE FARM
BUNNELL, LENORA	GEMMING, LARRY L	LAMBERT, CHARLES	REED, TIMOTHY	VANFLEET, DAVID M
BURG, MAX	GERDES, GEORGE E	LIMKEMAN, DOROTHY	REPPLINGER, ROBERT	VANTINE, GERALD
BUSS, JOHN WILLIAM	GILPIN, BARBARA J	LITTLE, DONALD R	RICH, VIRGINIA	WAGNER, ROBERT R JR
CALIFF, BILL	GITTINGS, REBECCA	LOGAN, BOB	RING, JOHN B	WALLER, HARVEY
CAMPBELL, L L	GOODMAN, DAVE	LOGAN, ROBERT	RIVER CITY AUTO BODY	WARSAW GUN CLUB
CASEY, GARY W	GOSS, ARLENE	LONG, LYDIA	RODEFFER, CARLA	WASHBURN, ALAN
CATLIN, MARVIS D	GRAHAM, ERMA	LOWE, MARGARET A	RODEFFER, RICHARD L	WASSON, RICHARD F
CLARK, WILLIAM	GRANT, STACY	LUTHIN, BILL	ROWLAND, BRADLEY	WATERMAN, HAROLD L
COLLINS, CHARLES G	GRAVES, J S	MALONEY, JAMES P	ROWLAND, MARGARET	WELLS, RICHARD B
COLLINS, CLYDE E	GROSS, EARL T	MANNING, ROBERT B	RUPP, DARLENE	WEPNER, ARDATH M
COOLEY, STEVEN R	HANSON, MARK E	MARKEY, JOHN M	RUPP, HARRY A	WILLIAMS, RUTH C
COOPER, FLOYD	HARL, JIM	MARSHALL, STEVE	RYAN, WALTER J	WINTERS, FRANCES E
CORDER, TODD A	HARRELL, MARK	MARSON, WILLIAM	S A FARMS	WITTER, CAROL J
CORNWELL, NEAL E	HARRISON, DELORES	MARTENS, RAYMOND	SANDAGE, GARY R	WITTMAN, EDNA M
COVERT, FARMS	HARRISON, LEO C	MARTENS, RONALD	SCHHEETZ, THOMAS J	WOLLBRINK, DARIAN
COVERT, WILLA	HARTWEG, BRAD	MARTIN, JEFFREY S	SCHILSON, ELIZABETH	WOLLBRINK, EDWARD
COX, MICHAEL	HAYES, JUDY	MARTIN, RANDALL	SCHUERMAN, FRANK	WORLEY, LAWRENCE
CRIST, RUTH M	HEISLER, RICHARD	MASON, MYRON	SEIGFRIED, ALAN	WRIGHT, GERALD H
CRUM, MARJORIE J	HIEATT, RHEMA M	MCGHGHY, JERRY L	SHARP, JUNE	WUESTENFELD, DAVE