



## WIEC holds 82<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting

Members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. (WIEC) gathered Thursday, June 23 at the Hancock County Extension Center for their co-op's 82nd Annual Meeting of Members. Before WIEC leadership provided updates, members were treated to a ribeye sandwich dinner and music by sibling pianists Katie, Anna and Luke Biery.

In his report, Manager Todd Grotts said that while WIEC has come a long way in its 80-plus years, it is

In addition, Grotts explained that federal and state legislatures have created mandates that are forcing the industry into a new era. "This is not an argument against the transition but a recognition that, without a collective focus, system reliability faces risk that is essential to our economy as well as the health and safety of its population," he explained.

Further, Grotts discussed what WIEC is doing at the co-op level and how it is managing reliability for its

"WIEC will continue to carry on the legacy and traditions of the past 82 years," Grotts said. "We would like to thank you for your support over the past year. I would also like to thank our dedicated employees who continue to work hard to provide safe and reliable service to our members."

Board Treasurer Janet Spory reported that WIEC had a strong year with margins of more than \$465,000. **4517-46** Profits made by the co-op are referred to as margins, which are



facing many challenges. "The energy industry is amid one of the most challenging periods in history," he said. "As the pace of change continues to accelerate, grid regulators and operators are beginning to identify elevated reliability risks. Rapidly changing resource mixes and more frequent extreme weather events are among the biggest challenges to reliability."

members. "We know how important reliability is to our members and we will continue to invest in making improvements to our system that will increase reliability to you the member," Grotts said. WIEC is constantly working on reliability through vegetation management, pole and line inspections, daily general maintenance, and substation maintenance.

allocated to each member in proportion to the value of the electricity they purchase.

Spory explained, "Margins are reinvested into the co-op for a period of time prior to being returned to the members to avoid or reduce interest charges related to borrowing other

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**Western Illinois**  
ELECTRICAL COOP.  
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Monday - Friday

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217-357-3125

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- **Mark Burling** —  
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- **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.

# 2022 annual meeting prizes

GIFT	DONOR	RECIPIENT
Rotation and balance auto or light truck	J & R Tire	Vicky Powell
Free tire rotation & 4 standard tire computer balances	Menn's Firestone	Jerry Schmitz
Husky 30oz tumbler	Marine Bank & Trust	Brad Scanlan
\$75 Amazon gift card	CRC	Sally Neil
\$25 gift card to Law Service & Repair	Law Service & Repair	Ruth Burling
\$25 gift card to Law Service & Repair	Law Service & Repair	Donald Sewell
\$25 gift card to Law Service & Repair	Law Service & Repair	Nancy L. Huls
\$25 gift card to Law Service & Repair	Law Service & Repair	David Biery
\$50 Bass Pro gift card	Tallman Equipment Co.	Steven Renard
GRAND PRIZE #1 Bill credit for 1000 kWh of electricity	WIEC	James Sewel
GRAND PRIZE #2 Bill credit for 1000 kWh of electricity	WIEC	Nancy K. Huls
GRAND PRIZE #3 Bill credit for 1000 kWh of electricity	WIEC	Stephen Patrick
GRAND PRIZE #4 Bill credit for 1000 kWh of electricity	WIEC	Ron Nagel
GRAND PRIZE #5 Bill credit for 1000 kWh of electricity	WIEC	Thomas Ohmenus
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meat Co.	WIEC	Mark Buss
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meat Co.	WIEC	Rowen Ziegler
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meat Co.	WIEC	Joe Jefferson
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meat Co.	WIEC	Sherry Vancil
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meat Co.	WIEC	Irene Tukuafu
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meat Co.	WIEC	Karen Murphy
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meat Co.	WIEC	Lawrence Harrell
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meat Co.	WIEC	Jim Morrison Farms
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meat Co.	WIEC	Kenneth Crossland
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meat Co.	WIEC	Flo Martens
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Robert Hoffmeister
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Kyle Roskamp C/O Bob Roskamp Farms
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Jon Fecht
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Wayne Humphry
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Becky Dickinson
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Ross Wear
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Ken Harms
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Norma Neill
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	D&M Farms
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Janet Faulkner



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

*Source: Dept. of Energy*



funds. The retirement of capital credits is a tangible demonstration of the financial value of your ownership in WIEC."

In the past year, the board authorized the return of nearly \$254,000 in general capital credit retirements to current and former WIEC members.

During the meeting, members voted to approve changes to the bylaws. The changes decrease the number of members necessary to constitute a quorum for the business meeting from 150 to 100 members and increase the number a member can vote by proxy from three to five.

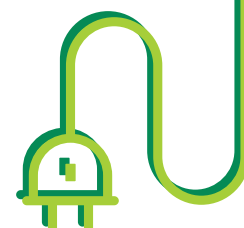
Board President Kent Flesner retired from the board effective at the end of the meeting and was thanked for his years serving WIEC members. "I want to thank you for allowing me to serve on the WIEC board. We have



super people with whom to work. It has been a good ride. Stay involved, be safe at all times and be sure to come back next year," he said.

Taking Flesner's place on the board, Stephen Patrick of Carthage was elected to represent District 4. 4616-25 Mark Burling of Carthage was re-elected to represent District 5.

At the end of the meeting, prizes were drawn. Five grand prize winners received 1,000 kWh of free electricity.





# WIEC student joins national electric co-op Youth to Washington Tour



What do you get when 34 students from 16 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives join 1,000 of their peers from across the United States? You get the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth to Washington Tour!

Alexis Lucie was selected from a diverse group of applicants to represent Western Illinois Electrical Coop. (WIEC) on Youth Tour to enjoy an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. from June 17-24, 2022.

Alexis and the rest of the 36 students in the Illinois delegation visited Capitol Hill and met with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and U.S. Representative Darin LaHood. **5735-8** They also visited historical and cultural sites including Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, the White House, a variety of memorials and the U.S. Capitol. Among fun activities the students enjoyed were an assembly of more than 1,000 Youth Tour participants from across the nation.

“Youth Tour is a great opportunity that changes these students’ lives,” says Ashley Graham, Youth Tour coordinator. “This experience helps prepare them for their futures. **5817-33** After touring our nation’s capital, meeting congressional representatives and learning firsthand how our government works, they return home with valuable knowledge and memories that will last a lifetime.”

Since 1964, the nation’s cooperative electric utilities have sponsored more than 60,000 high school students to visit Washington, D.C., talk one-on-one with their U.S. congressional delegations and learn from energy and grassroots government education sessions. NRECA is the national service organization representing the nation’s more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million consumer-members in 47 states.



*Congressman Darin LaHood with WIEC Youth Tour representative Alexis Lucie.*

## Welcome New Members

AMG Technology Investment Group DBA Nextlink Internet

Adam & Melanie Annegers

Josh Collins

Crystal Fitzjarrald

Luke Johnson

Jason & April Lemley

Andrew McMillen

Judy Mills

James & Joan Mohr

John & Melissa Wegmann

May 2022