

Celebrating Membership

October is National Co-op Month

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When I say Western Illinois Electrical Cooperative celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you! **7715-28** After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for community" is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through

all of our decisions—because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board that's comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

We're proud to support local youth through our Youth Tour and scholarship programs, as well as by financially contributing to various county 4-H programs. Western Illinois Electrical Coop. also organizes and hosts an annual Safety Fair for fifth grade students from area schools to teach them about staying safe in various situations.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working

together towards a common goal—mutually benefitting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in the community in which they live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you. And we're of course here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve.



Member Appreciation Day is October 25th

To celebrate Cooperative Month in October, WIEC will have Member Appreciation Day on the 25th from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Because we are owned by the members we serve, electric cooperatives have strong commitments to the local communities they serve. **7815-54** The better we know you as individuals, the better we can serve you and meet your changing needs. Please stop by the office to say hello or ask questions and have a cookie and some milk or cider.

The 2023 pocket calendars should also have arrived so remember to pick one up while you're there!



Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Mark Burling** —
President, Carthage
- **Rob Gronewold** —
Vice President, Carthage
- **Janet Spory** —
Secretary/Treasurer, Sutter
- **Kim Gullberg** —
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer,
Stronghurst
- **Jay Morrison** —
Director, Niota
- **Stephen Patrick** —
Director, Carthage
- **Dustin Walker** —
Director, Burnside

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.

Welcome New Members

Nich & Sara Andrew
Patricia F. Boecker
Noah Capito
Janet Hoppe
Brian Kreps
Brian Lambert

Robert J. Lewis, Genevieve M.
Lewis Estate
Kenneth D. Pearson
Chad Stewart
Heather J. Uppinghouse
Alicia A. & Jeremy Ussery

July
2022

Focused on YOU.

Electric cooperatives were created to serve their members. Because we're a co-op, we're able to adapt to our community's unique needs. That's the power of co-op membership.

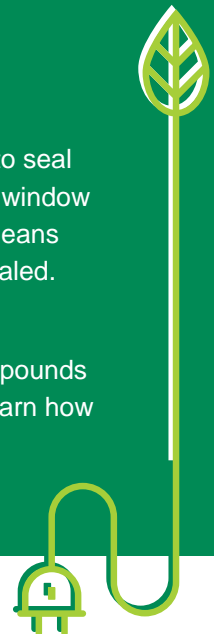
OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

With winter weather on the way, now is the time to seal drafty windows. If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window (movement means possible leaks), the window likely needs to be sealed.

Most window leaks can be sealed with caulk or weatherstripping, which come in a variety of compounds and materials. Visit energy.gov/energysaver to learn how and where to seal air leaks.

Source: energy.gov



Memorial Hospital Foundation “Grow Our Own” Campaign Scholarship Program

Memorial Hospital Foundation is proud to announce its 2022 campaign focus, which will provide funds and other needed support to enhance opportunities for staff members to continue their education in the health care field. In addition, the “Grow Our Own” scholarship program will provide funds for current and aspiring health-care professionals who work within the hospital, clinic or senior services organization.

The “Grow Our Own” scholarship program will provide funding avenues for employees who wish to complete degrees and/or certifications that enhance their skills as health care professionals. The scholarship program will also offer opportunities for local careers and support retention within the organization.

The campaign launch goal for 2022 is \$200,000. The scholarship program will become an ongoing funding opportunity. Contributions will be placed in the Memorial Hospital Foundation Endowment fund allowing for financial growth as donors continue to give to the program for years to come.

According to Memorial Hospital and Memorial Hospital Foundation board member Terry Pope, “Giving to the Memorial Hospital Foundation scholarship fund for current and aspiring health professionals is a great way to support and enhance our community’s wonderful health care system. By investing in their education costs, we help staff achieve their goals and provide an incentive for them to stay here and work in our community. Think of it this way: Greatness Requires Our Willingness. Your willingness to support this scholarship program will help us “GROW OUR OWN” and keep a



Photo courtesy of Sarah Ritter, WIU Photographer

great health care system in Hancock County.”

Memorial Hospital Foundation is in the seventh year of fundraising for community health care initiatives and has raised over 1 million dollars thus far. Memorial Hospital Foundation’s mission is to enhance our community’s health and wellness through charitable giving. Each year the foundation raises funds for a specific project along with endowment-directed funds and funds for senior services at Hancock Village. The foundation also works with volunteers and hosts special events to promote its ongoing fundraising efforts. In addition, Memorial Hospital celebrates providing health care services for Hancock County and the surrounding region for 73 years this October. **862-21-2**

For more information on how you can participate in giving to Memorial Hospital Foundation, please contact Greta Wilson Wetzel, Executive Director, at 217-357-8502 or email at gwetzel@mhtlc.org. Memorial Hospital Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation and a subsidiary of Memorial Hospital, supporting Memorial Hospital, Memorial Medical Clinics, Hancock Village and the communities in which they serve. One hundred percent of the funds are directed to the general campaign or used for specific requests. As always, it is recommended that you check with your tax advisor or attorney when giving to a charitable organization for the best outcomes for estate planning.

DECORATE AND TRICK-OR-TREAT SAFELY THIS

HALLOWEEN

Halloween is a time for candy, costumes and in some cases, outdoor lighting or inflatable decorations. While preparing for and enjoying the holiday, follow these safety precautions:

OUTDOOR LIGHTING

- 🎃 Inspect each electrical decoration. Check cords for cracking, fraying or bare wires, as they may cause a serious shock or start a fire. Also, inspect for damaged plugs.
- 🎃 Replace any damaged decorations.
- 🎃 Make sure any lights, animated displays or other electrical outdoor products are safety tested by a reputable laboratory such as UL (Underwriters Laboratory) and approved for outdoor use.
- 🎃 Do not overload extension cords or allow them to run through water on the ground.
- 🎃 Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into ground fault circuit interrupter-protected outlets.
- 🎃 When decorating outside, always make sure to look up and check that you and any equipment, such as ladders, are at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Always carry a ladder or other long object or tool in a horizontal position.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Division and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offer these tips:

COSTUME SAFETY

- 🎃 Wear costumes that are labeled flame resistant.
- 🎃 Wear bright, reflective costumes or add strips of reflective tape for added visibility.
- 🎃 Do not wear decorative (colored) contact lenses unless you have seen an eye care professional for a proper fitting and instructions on how to use them. **947-24**
- 🎃 Wear makeup and hats rather than costume masks that can obscure or obstruct your vision.
- 🎃 Test the makeup you plan to use in advance for a possible allergy by putting a small amount on your arm.

FOOD SAFETY

- 🎃 Do not let your little ones (or anyone) eat candy or other treats until they have been inspected at home.
- 🎃 Check all labels for potential food allergens.
- 🎃 If you have very young trick-or-treaters, remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies or small toys from the goodie pile.
- 🎃 Inspect commercially wrapped treats for signs of tampering, such as tiny pinholes, tears in wrappers or anything unusual.
- 🎃 Limit your risk of questionable candy by only ringing doorbells attached to homes you know.

ENJOY TREATS AND DECORATE SAFELY.
GET MORE ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS AT
SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG.

