

Fifteen 2023 IEC Memorial Scholarships available



Illinois electric cooperatives will award 15 scholarships in 2023 to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The 15 scholarships, \$2,000 each, will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Nine scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors whose parent(s) are an Illinois electric co-op member. A 10th scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the child of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. Four additional scholarships are reserved for high school seniors enrolling full time at a two-year Illinois community college

whose parent(s) are an Illinois electric cooperative member, employee or director.

The 15th scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship, will help pay for costs to attend lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Ill. Children of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors, and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for this scholarship.

"We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these

scholarships," says Manager Todd Grotts. "Western Illinois Electrical Coop. and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. **10532-100** One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth and investing in them through programs like this one."

Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2022. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2023. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Karmen Metternich at WIEC. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available online through our website at wieg.net or directly at aiec.coop/iec-scholarship.

The WIEC office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24th to celebrate Thanksgiving. The office will reopen on Friday, Nov. 25th. WIEC's directors and employees wish everyone a blessed Thanksgiving and are thankful for the opportunity to continue to serve.

As always, in case of a power emergency, please call 217-357-3125 or 800-576-3125.





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

- **Mark Burling** —
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- **Rob Gronewold** —
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STAFF

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- **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.



27th annual Safety Fair

WIEC's annual Safety Fair began in 1994 as a way to equip 5th grade students with knowledge about different ways to be safe in the world around them. Due to COVID concerns, Western Illinois Electrical Coop. was unable to hold the Safety Fair in 2020 or 2021, but we were very happy to be able to spend some time teaching the students about safety again this year. The message of "Live Smart, Keeping Safe and Having Fun" has been shared with approximately 5,885 students over the years.

This year's fair was held September 15th with seven schools in attendance and close to 185 students learning about various ways to stay safe in different environments. Students were educated on how to be safe around power lines; fire safety; bicycle safety and protective equipment; how to make a 9-1-1 call and the interaction with an ambulance crew; ATV safety, including the importance of wearing proper safety gear; and farm safety.

The presenters do a fantastic job of engaging with the students. Some of them bring games to play and also have prizes to be won! **3922-49** Presenters allow kids to ask questions while helping them to understand the need to be safe.

The day starts with a crowd favorite -- the Live Line Demonstration from Steve Hancock of Corn Belt Energy, another Illinois co-op located in Bloomington. He brings an energized electrical system and shows the kids the power of 7200 volts by touching a hot dog to the live line. He explains to them that the reaction the hot dog has is similar to what would happen if a person were to touch the line. At lunchtime the students, their teachers and all chaperones are served a hot dog, applesauce and chips meal that all seem to enjoy. Our day ends with Chris Egelston wrapping up. He uses magic, laughter and fun to remind kids to stay drug-free.



Thank You

- Illini West FFA volunteers – Anna Biery, Miranda Klingler, and Olivia Johnson
- Illini West Student Council volunteers – Sara Stinimates, Grant Combites, Chase Yelton, Kayden Swisher, Jacob Clostermery, Andy Zhang, and Paxton Morehouse
- Midwest Performance and Power – Keokuk, IA – ATV safety presentation
- Carthage Clipper Fire Department – Carthage, IL – fire safety presentation
- Bickel's Cycling & Fitness – Burlington, IA – bicycle safety presentation
- Maria Hopp, Hancock County 911 Administrator – Carthage, IL – 911 presentation
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) - Nauvoo, IL – ambulance presentation
- Lineworkers from Western Illinois Electrical Coop – pole climbing and safety equipment demonstrations
- Chris Egleston – Carterville, IL - magician
- Steve Hancock, Corn Belt Energy Corp. – Bloomington, IL – Live Line presentation
- Sly Fox, Inc. – Carthage, IL - lunch preparation and water donation
- Lunch helpers – Becky Dickinson, Janet Spory, and Karmen Metternich
- University of Illinois Extension Center – Carthage, IL - building and facilities

Energy assistance grant program

People who need help with paying their energy bills can apply for a social service program through WIRC-Community Action Agency (WIRC-CAA). The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federal grant that helps income-eligible homeowners and renters with reconnecting their energy service and/or paying their electric, natural gas or propane bills. WIRC-CAA manages the program in Hancock, Henderson, McDonough, and Warren counties in western Illinois.

“Last program season, over 2,000 households in our four-county service area were able to get help with their energy bills,” said WIRC-CAA Public Relations Manager Jamie Roth. “The amount that each household receives depends on their situation.

Households must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty level to receive a benefit from LIHEAP. The 30-day income guidelines for LIHEAP are based on Federal Poverty Guidelines, State Median Income and the number of persons living in the household. The current income guidelines are as follows: \$2,265 for a

one-person household; \$3,052 for a two-person household; \$3,838 for a three-person household; \$4,625 for a four-person household; and \$5,412 for a five-person household. For six-person households or greater, contact WIRC-CAA at 309-837-2997 or visit their website at wirpc.org/liheap to view the income limit chart.

Applicants must submit the following documentation to their WIRC-CAA case worker: proof of gross income from all household members for the prior 30-day period beginning with the date of application; proof of Social Security numbers or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers for all household members (individuals without those can still apply and WIRC-CAA will advise accordingly); copies of current heat and electric bills issued within the last 30 days; and copies of rental agreements (if the household is renting) showing utilities are included, the monthly rental amount and landlord contact information. Other



documents may be needed based on the household's specific situation.

Individuals who received program assistance in the past are welcome to reapply.

Energy assistance applications are taken on a first-come, first-served basis from Sept. 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023. There are no priority groups this program year, meaning any household can apply at any time. All households in need, especially people on fixed incomes, are encouraged to ask WIRC-CAA about the programs and apply.

To apply, call WIRC-CAA at 309-837-2997 to schedule an in-person or phone appointment. WIRC-CAA team members can meet applicants at designated outreach sites in the following communities: Blandinsville, Bowen, Bushnell, Carthage, Colchester, Dallas City, Hamilton, LaHarpe, Macomb, Monmouth, Oquawka and Stronghurst. People with mobility or transportation issues are encouraged to schedule a phone appointment. More information about the energy assistance program can be found online at wirpc.org/liheap.



The WIEC office will be closed Friday, Nov. 11 in honor of Veterans Day. **3814-22** Take some time to treasure and be thankful for the freedom we enjoy every day. Remember and appreciate that our nation's veterans are responsible for giving us that amazing gift.

Welcome new members

August
2022

Annette Allagh	Maxwell & Jessica Gnann	Deanna & Jerry Smith
Mason Beals	Laramie Lughes	Sara & Steven Swallow
Shayne Calzavara	Tamara Kaminski	Bettie & Timothy Tiemann
Adam & Sarah Campbell	Rachelle & Michael Martin	James D. Wilkens
D.A. Moore Trucking, LLC	Annjeanette Moore & Johnny Ryffel	& Gina Marsh

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. **3611-59** If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.

Source: energy.gov