

## A little friendly competition

A team of three journeyman lineworker apprentices from Western Illinois Electrical Coop. (WIEC) participated in the annual Lineworker's Safety Rodeo coordinated by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) on Wednesday, Sept. 28. Fourteen teams from 12 electric co-ops, one municipal electric utility and one team of Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) linework students participated in the friendly competition. The rodeo highlights the skills lineworkers use to work safely and efficiently.

Kyle Tanner, Dustin Waddell and Konner Leedy represented WIEC at the rodeo, held at the LLCC Line School Yard in Springfield. They competed against teams from across Illinois in events using skills that focus on agility, speed and accuracy. **5529-61** While these skills are part of the judging criteria, above all, participants are judged on safe work practices.

Line personnel competed in four team and five individual events: a 40-foot climb, hurt man rescue, H-structure obstacle course, a surprise written exam for the mystery event, and a head-to-head climbing challenge.

Scores for each event are based on completion time, proper execution of the task and safety. Deductions were made to a team's or individual's overall performance score due to mistakes such as slipping when climbing poles, dropping tools or executing inappropriate procedures or methods.



*Dustin Waddell, Konner Leedy and Kyle Tanner*

*Congratulations to our lineworkers on their team and individual efforts!*



*Kyle Tanner*



*Konner Leedy*



*Dustin Waddell*



**Western Illinois**  
ELECTRICAL COOP.  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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**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.



**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**

From our co-op family to yours, wishing you a joyous holiday season and a happy and peaceful New Year!

*WIEC will close at noon on December 23rd and reopen December 27th.  
We will also close at noon on December 30th and reopen January 3rd, 2023.*


**Energy Efficiency**  
Tip of the Month

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Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in your ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form.

Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

*Source: energy.gov*



# We loved seeing you

Manager Grotts and the rest of the WIEC employees would like to thank the members who took the time to stop in and see us on Member Appreciation Day in late October. 4715-49 Cookies and cider were enjoyed by many as smiles and laughter filled the lobby. Thanks again for making it a fun-filled event. We hope to see you all again next year!

## Welcome new members

September  
2022

Ashton Bent

Dan and Bethany Scheetz

Josh White

## 2023 operating budget

Upon request, copies of the Western Illinois Electrical Coop. operating budget for 2023 will be available at the office during regular business hours starting in January.

## Fifteen scholarships up for grabs

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

9 scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors whose parents(s) are an Illinois electric co-op member.

1 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.

4 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.

1 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, Springfield, Ill. Children of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or 482-3 directors, and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for this scholarship.

The deadline to apply for the first 14 scholarships is Dec. 31, 2022. The lineworker's scholarship deadline is April 30, 2023. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Western Illinois Electrical Coop. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available online at [wiec.net](http://wiec.net) or at [aiec.coop/iec-scholarship](http://aiec.coop/iec-scholarship).







## Five ways to fight the winter chill and save energy

**W**e all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all the fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. Western Illinois Electrical Coop. is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check.

Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

- 1. Mind the thermostat.** This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.
- 2. Button up your home.** The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weatherstripping around windows and doors is

another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

- 3. Use window coverings wisely.** Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.
- 4. Consider your approach to appliance use.** When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

- 5. Think outside the box.** If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your bills, give us a call at 217-357-3125 or 800-576-3125. **5816-24** We may be able to help identify problem areas or other factors impacting your home energy use and recommend next steps for savings.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills.

*Don't forget to bundle up your furry friends, too.*

