



2023 Nominating Committee results

The 2023 nominating committee met in the board room at the WIEC office in Carthage on March 9 and 15 to make nominations for directors. Two directors will be elected at the cooperative's annual meeting on Thursday, June 22.

Serving on the committee were Todd Beeler, Sutter; Spencer Berry, Nauvoo; Steve Boyer, Carthage; Rodney Bruns, Carthage; Rodney Fox, Stronghurst; Harold "Tony" Herdrich, Dallas City; Robert Menn, Plymouth, as Secretary; Max Roskamp, Sutter; and Austin Ufkes, Carthage, as Chairperson.

The following were nominated for director positions:

- District 6 – Landon Guymon
- District 7 – Janet Spory

The nominations have been posted in Carthage at the co-op office as stipulated in the cooperative's bylaws. Any nominations made by petition will be included on the official ballot if they are brought to the WIEC office at least 10 days before the meeting. Per the co-op's bylaws, nominations from the floor at the annual meeting are not allowed.



2023 Nominating Committee members include: (L to R) Austin Ufkes, Harold "Tony" Herdrich, Rodney Bruns, Todd Beeler, Steve Boyer, Spencer Berry, Rodney Fox, Max Roskamp, and (not pictured) Robert Menn. 6712-15



Western Illinois Electrical Coop. will be closed Monday, May 29 in honor of Memorial Day.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them."

- John F. Kennedy

THANK YOU to all US military personnel, past and present, for your selfless service.



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

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

MANAGEMENT TEAM

- **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.

SAVE THE DATE

**Better
Together**

Annual Meeting

June 22, 2023 at 7 p.m.
U of I Extension Center



Allocation of WIEC's 2022 margins

Notices were mailed for late April or early May receipt. If you were a WIEC member who purchased power during 2022, you should receive an allocation notice. If you do not receive one, please contact us.

One of the main differences between a cooperative and an investor-owned utility is that any margins (sometimes called "profits") accumulated during the year are eventually

returned to members in the form of capital credits. Each year, WIEC sends allocation notifications to members detailing their share of the previous year's margins. This year, members should receive their allocation notices in the mail in late April or early May. The notices inform members of the dollar amounts related to 2022's margins that were added to their individual capital credit balances.

Can't make it to WIEC's Annual Meeting?

You can still make your vote count! We NEED as many members as possible to vote.

If you can't come to the annual meeting on June 22nd, you can still make your vote count! You'll also help WIEC meet the requirements set by its bylaws for participation. Please consider giving another co-op member your signed proxy card or sending or

bringing your signed proxy card to the office directly. We can then give it to an attendee the night of the meeting to cast your vote. This way your vote will count!

5822-42 All members who sign and return their proxy to be used at the annual meeting will be entered into a drawing for a bill credit.

Welcome new members

February
2023

Lance Belshaw
Ish-Shakelia Clark
Dane Bundy

Rachel Markey and Ryan
Heavilin
Katelyn E. Montgomery

Ryan J. Morrison
Heather Walters
Jarred T. Wilson

May is Military Appreciation Month

Service. Mission. Country. You likely identified immediately (and correctly) that these three words describe our nation's veterans. They also succinctly describe a core co-op ethos. 9532-5

While veterans are innately motivated to serve, in a similar vein, electric co-ops are guided by foundational principles that put their community first. After all, electric co-ops were founded to bring electricity to rural areas where there was none. In doing so, they powered local economies and helped them to thrive. I believe this close connection to an essential mission is why there are so many veterans in the utility industry and why they are such a great fit for electric co-ops.

Today's veterans are highly skilled because everyone who joins the military is either trained in a tech career field or exposed to advanced technology during their years of service. Many veterans have skills in advanced disciplines such as engineering, electronics and mechanics, which are all beneficial for the utility industry. Western Illinois Electrical Coop. is proud to employ veterans, and we're especially grateful for their contributions to the co-op and to our community.

Leadership and teambuilding skills

Our veteran colleagues joined the co-op equipped with training in leadership and teamwork. That's because while on active duty within their units, servicemen and women work closely together because they know their lives depend on each other's actions. This fosters a high level of self-discipline, a sense of personal responsibility and a passion for excellence.

The utility industry is increasingly complex and is undergoing a profound transformation. While there are the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspects of the utility industry, it now also encompasses

technology, cybersecurity and the electrification of the transportation sector and other areas of the economy. Veterans are adept at responding to changing conditions and learning and adapting to new technologies, which is essential in our evolving industry.

Mission-oriented outlook

Working for an electric co-op is more than a job. There is a clear mission in the work — to help our consumer-members and the community. When you work so closely with the community, you can't help but feel a sense of commitment and responsibility to our members. It's similar to the sense of duty and responsibility that veterans experience in the military. They feel deep, personal responsibility and commitment to their co-op team members and to the members we serve. Veterans are trustworthy and goal-oriented; they want to do right for their co-op and their community.

May is Military Appreciation Month and at Western Illinois Electrical Coop. we are grateful to have veterans within our ranks, and we are proud to serve them and their families within our community. At the national level, electric co-ops support the "Vets Power Us" program, which is aimed at employing and honoring veterans and their families. This effort involves partnering with other electric co-ops across the country, along with the Department of Labor, the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration, and others to hire veterans in the energy industry.

May is Military Appreciation Month, and I hope you'll join me in recognizing the sacrifices veterans have made to our great country — and the many contributions they continue to make to our wonderful community. Veterans, we salute you!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.



Leaders of tomorrow represent their co-op on Youth Day

For the first time since 2019, the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day returned following a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly 200 students representing 22 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives had the opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action and question their legislators on key issues.

“Youth Day is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government,” said Brooke Gross, who coordinates youth programs at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. “Not only do these students interact with their elected officials, they learn more about their electric or telephone cooperative’s role in their own community.”

Representative Norine Hammond (R-94) met with Mitchell Sparrow and Emma Whitaker, students representing Western Illinois Electrical Coop., during Youth Day on Wednesday, March 29 in Springfield. Mitchell is a sophomore at Burlington Notre Dame and the son of Byron



Emma Whitaker and Mitchell Sparrow inside the Capitol.



Emma Whitaker and Mitchell Sparrow on the House floor with Representative Norine Hammond.

and Jennifer Sparrow of Stronghurst. Emma is a junior at Illini West and the daughter of James and Holly Whitaker of Carthage.

During lunch, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs addressed the students. He discussed how he got into politics and encouraged them to follow their passions in life. 4623-24 In addition, students learned more about the cooperative program.

Participants also met Abigail Meyer, the 2022-23 Illinois Youth Leadership Council Representative from Tri-County Electric Cooperative. She spoke about her experiences on the Youth to Washington Tour and challenged attendees to maintain an interest in their cooperatives and the political process. In the afternoon, the students visited the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

Participants were interviewed for the chance to participate in the Youth to Washington Tour, to be held June

16-23, 2023. Both Mitchell and Emma will represent Western Illinois Electrical Coop. on the weeklong trip to meet their elected officials, see historic sites, learn firsthand how cooperatives work and gain valuable leadership skills.

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. (WIEC) is a member of Touchstone Energy — a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to members large and small. More than 700 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 46 states deliver energy and energy solutions to more than 30 million members every day. WIEC is committed to providing superior service based on core principles that include: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The co-op serves close to 3,640 meters over 1,222 miles of line in Adams, Hancock, Henderson and McDonough counties. For more information visit www.wiec.net.