

WIEC NEWS

P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ www.wiec.net ■ 800/576-3125

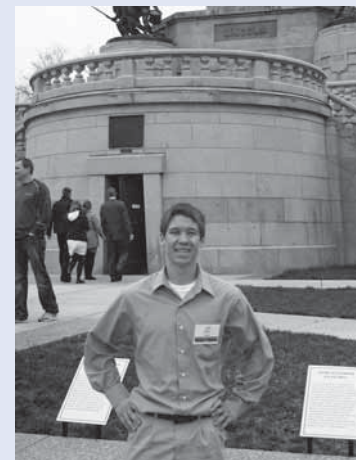
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

WIEC adds new employee

Eric Belshaw hired as groundman

WIEC welcomes a new employee to the WIEC family. Eric Belshaw became a full-time groundman effective September 1. He had been working part time for WIEC the last two summers assisting (7713-60) the line crew.

A Carthage High School graduate, Eric attended Lincoln Land Community College in the Electrical Distribution Lineworker program. Welcome to WIEC, Eric.



Reminder.....

The Youth to Washington entries are due at the WIEC office by
February 14th

For addition information, see your high school guidance counselor, call the WIEC office or go to the WIEC website at www.wiec.net.



Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

524 North Madison | P.O. Box 338
Carthage, IL 62321
www.wiec.net | 800/576-3125

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

800-576-3125

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **David Biery** —
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- **Mike Ford** —
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- **Todd Grotts** — Manager
of Operations
- **Becky Dickinson** — Office
Manager

MAP LOCATION CONTEST

Every month we are printing four member's 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.

Tips for using a programmable thermostat

In most homes, heating and cooling costs are the largest part of energy bills. Staying comfortable as efficiently as possible is an excellent way to conserve energy and reduce bills. Programmable thermostats can help do this. However, the Energy Education Council wants consumers to know that programmable thermostats must be used properly to achieve any benefit.

A programmable thermostat works by changing the temperature depending on your work and sleep schedules. When done correctly, your house will be at a comfortable temperature when you return home or wake up. The only difference you (8611-4) will notice is on your utility bill.

The Energy Education Council has the following tips for better results with a programmable thermostat:

- Only adjust the thermostat for long periods of time—around 8 hours.
- Do not micromanage the thermostat. Pick a temperature for when you are at home and for when you are away. Stick with these tem-



peratures. Frequently adjusting the thermostat increases energy costs.

- Do not create large temperature swings. Adjust the temperature 5 to 8 degrees when you are away from home or sleeping. If you change the thermostat too drastically, your home's heating/cooling system will have to work longer to return your home to a comfortable temperature, running up your energy costs.
- If your home has a heat pump system, you should set your thermostat to run at a constant temperature in the winter in order for your heat pump to perform at its best. You can still make use of a programmable thermostat's settings in the summer months though. There are some programmable thermostats that are specifically designed to work with heat pump systems. If you are interested in one, you should contact an HVAC technician.

For more tips on energy efficiency at home, visit EnergyEdCouncil.org.



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Fighting winter chills? A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill. To cool energy costs, keep the fireplace damper closed when not in use. Caulk around the fireplace hearth. **(7513-9)** Double up on wood-earned warmth by lowering the thermostat setting to between 50 degrees and 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Learn more at www.energysaver.gov.

Fact or fiction—myths about electrical safety

Sometimes conventional wisdom, even if it comes from a trusted source can be deadly—especially if it pertains to electrical safety. This is one time that checking facts just might save your life.

Here are some common electrical safety myths and the truth behind them:

■ **MYTH** – A downed power line will be arcing and smoking if it still has power.

FACT – Power lines do not automatically shut off when they fall and do not necessarily arc, flash, pop, or smoke when they hit the ground. There is no way to know for sure if a line has potentially deadly current running through it unless it has been properly discharged by a utility crew, so stay away from all downed power lines and keep others away.

■ **MYTH** – Household current cannot kill you.

FACT – Household current can and does kill. Case-in-point, 10-year-old Caitlyn Mackenzie was killed by household current when she touched a lamp while still damp from a swimming pool. You can see Caitlyn's story at SafeElectricity.org.

■ **MYTH** – Power lines are insulated.

FACT – The majority of outside power lines are not insulated. The coating you might see on the lines are just weatherproofing that will offer no protection from the electricity flowing through the lines.

■ **MYTH** – Light digging in the yard won't be deep enough to hit any wires or pipes.

FACT – Unless you call 811 and have a professional come to your home and locate the utilities, you

can never be sure where lines and pipes are buried. Even if you are just planting flowers or a shrub, you might come into contact with power lines that could kill you. Keep in mind that the locations are approximate, so if you are digging near one of the marked lines, do so with caution. Find out how dangerous underground digging can be by watching Tom's story at SafeElectricity.org.

■ **MYTH** – Tires insulate my car from electrical dangers.

FACT – If a wire falls on your car while you are in it, the tires are not keeping you from being injured by the electricity. You are not being hurt because you are not a path to ground for the electricity—as long as you stay in the car. Once you step out of the car, you become that path to ground and can be seriously injured or killed. If you

find yourself in a situation where your car has hit a utility pole or has a power line come down on it, the best place for you to be is in the car. Call for help, and keep others away until a utility crew can kill the wires. If you must exit the car, it is critical for you to make sure not to touch the ground and the car at the same time. Jump out of the car, keeping your feet together. Then bunny-hop away. Find out more by watching Safety Expert Kyle Finley's Live Line Demonstration at www.youtube.com/SafeElectricity.

To find out how to keep your family safe from electrical hazards, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Welcome new members

Joshua Alden, LaHarpe
Joyce E Beaulieu & Mary M Lovelock, DeKalb, IL
Rosemary Chamblee & Sandra Wahlbeck, Ft. Madison IA
Robert Clark, LaHarpe
Dorinda Sue Gillham, Warsaw
Brooke Gronewold, Carthage
Kris Judd, Gladstone
Louis John Koutsky, Milan IL
Steven L Mattoon & Susan M. Dahl, Stronghurst
Jay Mitchell & Heather Young, LaHarpe
Allison & Brandon Rothzen, Gladstone
Kevin Swanson, Blandinsville
Amanda & Matthew Thomas, Hamilton
Rodger White, Carthage
Cara Wood, Stronghurst
Amine Zioui, Niota

Capital credit checks remain outstanding

Last October, Western Illinois Electrical Coop. mailed capital credit checks to members who lived on WIEC lines during the year 1979 and 1980.

Below is a list of the member's name whose checks have not been cashed. Due to the advance printing of the WIEC (7812-30) News, any checks cashed after

January 1st will still appear on the list.

If you see your name listed below, please cash your check as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance.

Akers Kathryn L	Cox Warren R	Gittings Marvin L	Knoche Paul	Nelson Ronnie J	Stewart W A
Akers Ron	Crabill Jerry L	Golden Jerry	Kropp Veneta	Newell Paul D	Stokes Dorothy
Allsup Wendell W	Cummings Robert D	Graham Burdet	Kukuk Merle G	Newman Tom	Strausbaugh Gayle L
Ancelet Alvena	Dale Douglas	Green Gary W	Lacroix Larry J	Nichols Danny J	Strawhacker Marion W
Anderson Harold J	Davidson Ronald E	Grupy Wm L	Lantz David	Nickel Dennis E	Stronghurst Twp Garage
Angeletti Charles S	Davis E R	Hamelton Wanda L	Laws William C	Parker Susan E	Strothoff Florence
Annegers Andy J	Dejaynes Charles	Haner Mildred	Leffler David C	Penrod James C	Sullivan Kevin
Annegers Richard	Dejaynes Leota	Hanson Mark E	Leffler Robert	Peterson Dennis R	Sullivan Michael J
Autery Aileen J	Diaz David	Hanson Maxine	Lemaire Leon Jr	Phillips Danny R	Sutton Ron
Bachmann Mary Lee	Dighton Karen S	Harting Elsa M	Limkeman Kim A	Potter Ricky L	Swisegood Robert F
Balmer Christi	Diprima Douglas J	Hasper Charles A	Link Darrell	Prairie Rod & Gun Club	Symmonds William
Balmer Wm	Diseron Ernie	Heisler Rick	Link Rich D	Rand Harold N	Symmonds Wm
Baumann John C	Dixon Jack E	Hellyer Broth Ers	Luder Randy L	Reddick Andy	Tanner Leona I
Beeler Dorothy	Dobbins Billie E	Henry Ellen	Ludwig Carl H	Reed Robert	Taylor Duane
Belshaw Marty	Dooley Roy	Hensley Betty	Lung Steve	Reed Sandra J	Themanson Donald
Bennett Lelia	Downey Norma J	Hensley Randy	Magee Paul	Rettig Gary J	Thomason Clyde A
Berg Myron	Duck Inn Hunt Club Inc	Hickerson R L	Malmgren Clyde L	Rodeffer Wayne C	Thompson Robert W
Bergmann Reinhard	Dudley Pauline	Hitchcock Louise	Manes James	Rogers Newel G	Thomson Caroly J
Bienhoff Mark	Duffie Mike L	Hogan Bernard	Markey Wendell	Rouse Betty J	Thurman Debbie
Big River Coon Hunters	Duncan Robert L	Holford Mildred	Marsden Gary L	Rudd Hilda	Tournear Raymon D
Bisby Roger	Dunn Kathryn	Hollemeak Co Nst Co	Martens Raymond	Rupert Lawren T	Tripp Lloyd
Blodgett Joseph E	Ehmen Ronald L	Hornbaker Philip	Martin Gene	Russell Marg M	Unmisig Kenneth F
Boley Larry I	Evans Danny K	Huffman Geneva A	Martin William	Sanderson Tom	Valentine Randy G
Bolton Dora M	Exline Bonnie	Huls Alan	Massie Kent L	Sapp Doris L	Valiquette Veronis
Boyd Farm Account	Fecht William J	Humble Leroy V	Mcandrew Colleen	Scheetz James	Van Tine Dorothy
Brackensick Gerald W	Felker Joann	Humphry Phyllis M	Mccance Glen B	Schlieper Anna M	Vance William M
Brokaw Mary M	Fenton Herbert	Hunter James H	Mcclaren Duane R	Schroeder Mary J	Vierling Rich A
Brokaw Steven D	Filkins Doug E	Husband James	Mcclure Charles	Schulz Donald L	Voss Randal L
Brown Roy E	Flesner Nolan K	Huston Geraldine	Mccooy Donald	Scott Kirk	Warning Denny
Bryant James C	Fort Lyman R	Issleb Diana L	Mccooy Douglas	Scott Sam	Waterman Conda
Burford Sharon E	Foster Debbie	Jackson John M	Mcdavid R L	Sheffler Doris	Weaver David A & Linda
Burkett Frank M	Fowler Lois	Jarvis Jarvis Fertilizer	Mcentee Gene	Shipman Henry	Wehner Kevin W
Burr Robert R	Frakes Larry K	Jenkins Ronald K	Mckasson Randy	Shirey John F	Welcher Elva Lee
Calvert Robert W	Freeman James E	Johnson Herbert E	Mckoon Paul J	Shryack Lawson G	Whiteman Henry
Campbell Jared	Fross Ted	Jones Joel	Mclain George A	Siedenbug Robert	Whitten Doyle G
Campbell Opal L	Furrow Donald E	Kalleck Edward	Mcmillen Melvin O	Siegrist Hope	Wilhite Curtis D
Casteel Dorsey O	Gaines Robin	Kassing Michael R	Meis Daniel	Simmons Kevin R	Wilkens Annette
Chamlee Scott S	Galbraith Thomas	Kaylor Leroy	Meyer Joann	Simon Monte K	Williams Harold
Chapin Elaine G	Galles Kathryn	Keefe Don	Meyer Shannon J	Smith Jack L	Williams Jacquelyn A
Chipman Shelly	Garrets M J	Kern Dale R	Mikels Fred	Smith Joseph Jr	Wollbrink Bruce
Clark Douglas	Garrets Sandra E	Kiddy Ben	Moore Michael D	Smithson Robert E	Wollenhaupt C K
Clark George W	Garrett Gloria	King Tammi D	Moormann Rosella C	Sparrow Thomas D	Yuskis Stephen L
Cook Clarence W	Gerhardt Clara Belle	Kinkeade R I	Morehouse Larry	Squirrel Ridge	Zern Michael L
Cook Edith E	Gerling Grant H	Kirkenslager Troxel E	Murphy Phines	Stack Robert W	
Cooper Lori	Gibson Harold	Kite Earl E	Nash George E	Steele Ronnie	
Corder Raymond M	Gilpin Russell	Kleopfer Steven L	Neff Eldon	Stevenson Kent E	
Corzatt Robert		Knisley Henry T Jr	Neill Eldon C		