

WIEC NEWS

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Don't fall victim to a new scam

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. is always looking out for our member's best interests. In that light, we recently became aware of a scam that affected one of our sister co-ops in Ohio and we want to be sure our members don't fall victim to something like this in Illinois.

A member of an Ohio electric co-op recently received a call about renewing his subscription for the statewide association's magazine. Thankfully, that member questioned the caller because he believed he received the magazine for free. When pressed for information, the caller hung up and the member made his cooperative aware of the situation.

Illinois Country Living magazine is just one of the many benefits of your membership in our cooperative. You will never need to renew your subscription unless you were to move out of co-op territory and still wished to receive it.

We here at WIEC will NEVER ask you to pay for your publication. If you receive a call asking for credit card or personal information please hang up and give us a call. Don't fall (4718-15) victim to identity thieves using the familiar name of your cooperative to steal your personal information.

Nominating committee appointed

WIEC's board of directors recently appointed the following members to serve on the 2012 nominating committee: District No. 1 – Douglas Ford, Carman; District No. 2 Spencer Berry, Nauvoo; District No. 3 – Rodney Pence, Dallas City ; District No. 4 – Jason Jacquot, Carthage and Mike Johnson, Basco; District No. 5 – Jonathan Fecht and Tim Brodie, Carthage; District No. 6 – Robert Menn, Plymouth; and District No. 7 - Max Roskamp, Sutter.

Two members are appointed from the districts whose board terms expire each year, with one being appointed from remaining districts. These members will nominate at least one member for a three-year term to represent Districts 4 and 5.

Currently, Calvin Baumann represents District 4 and Dave Biery represents District 5.

The first Nominating Committee meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. March 25th at the WIEC office in Carthage.



WIEC's office will be closed in observance of Good Friday on March 29.

As always, in case of power emergencies, call 217-357-3125 or 1-800-576-3125. Please wait and call for questions concerning billing, payment arrangements, capital credits or other non-emergency matters until normal business hours



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

**DURING OFFICE HOURS,
OR AFTER HOURS
TO REPORT OUTAGE**

217-357-3125
800-576-3125

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Rob Gronewold** —
President, Carthage
- **Jay Morrison** —
Vice President, Niota
- **Janet Spory** —
Secretary/Treasurer, Sutter
- **William R. Newton** —
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer,
Burnside
- **Dave Biery** — Director,
Carthage
- **Calvin Baumann** —
Director, Basco
- **Mike Ford** — Director, Lomax

STAFF

- **Paul Dion** — Manager
- **Tommie Long** —
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.

Outdoor safety during a thunderstorm

Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining and you do not have to see clouds. This means that if you can hear thunder, you're within striking distance, and it is time to take safe shelter. When the storm is over, wait 30 minutes after the last lightning strike you see before going back outside.

If caught outdoors during a thunderstorm and unable to take shelter in an enclosed building, take the following precautions:

- Try to take shelter in a vehicle with a solid metal roof. Close the windows, and avoid contact with electrical conducting paths—such as the steering wheel, ignition, gear shifter, or radio.
- Do not seek shelter under tall, solitary trees; canopies; small picnic or rain shelters; or in any open-frame vehicles such as jeeps, convertibles, golf carts, tractors, or mowers.
- Avoid water, high ground, or open spaces.
- Do not stand near power, light, or flag poles; machinery; fences; gates; metal bleachers; or even other people. If you are in a group,



spread out so that you are at least 20 feet apart.

- If your skin tingles or your hair stands on end, lightning may be about to strike. Squat down low to the ground with your head between your knees making yourself the smallest target possible.

If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You are not in danger of being electrocuted by the victim.

More information on lightning safety can be found at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website at www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov. Additional information on storm safety can be found at SafeElectricity.org.



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Keep energy efficiency in mind as the ground thaws and you plan spring landscaping. Properly selected and planted trees, shrubs, and bushes can create a windbreak that lowers home heating bills in the winter **(4620-27)** and insulates your home year-round. Before you start, check on the right plants and techniques for your climate at EnergySavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Have a successful planting season rooted in safety

As farmers make plans to return to their fields for spring planting, Safe Electricity urges farm workers to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines.

Always be aware of the location of power lines, and designate preplanned routes that avoid hazard areas.

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors are equipped with radios and communications systems that have very tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines. Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators or raising truck beds near power lines, and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

Simply coming too close to a power line while working is dangerous as electricity can arc or “jump” to conducting material or objects, such as a ladder, pole, or truck. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust, and dirt contamination.

When guy wires (a grounded wire



used to stabilize utility poles) are broken, these normally neutral wires can be anything but harmless. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the utility to fix it. Do not do it yourself. When dealing with electrical poles and wires, always call the electric utility.

If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives.

If leaving the cab is necessary, as in the case of fire, the proper action is to jump—not step—with both feet hit-

ting the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area. Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment before the power has been shut off. **(3627-28)**

Managers should make sure full-time and seasonal workers are educated on these safety precautions, and danger areas need to be thoroughly identified and labeled.

For more electrical safety information, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Welcome new members

Coeur Family Farms, LLC, By Richard Coeur,
Marion, IA
Tim & Gay Dickerson, Nauvoo
Adam Housewright, Blandinsville
Jim E Mahan, Gladstone
Anita & Franklin O. Nance, Plymouth

Brock Paben, Bowen
Sharon Marie Poindexter, Dallas City
Dustin Roskamp, Sutter
Gregory J Wilson, Worthington, IN
Michael D Strang, LaPrairie

Planning any spring spruce-ups?

Call WIEC and J.U.L.I.E. before beginning any outdoor projects



Is there a new deck in your future? Did the trees in the back yard die due to last summer's dry spell? Before beginning any spring digging projects, look down. Are there any underground utility lines, water lines or telephone cable in the way?. Even when digging down only a few inches, it's important to know what's there. Many utilities are buried just inches below the surface.

Please call the WIEC office to locate underground electrical lines on either side of the meter. We ask for 24-hour notice. To locate water, sewer, phone, gas, cable and all other utility lines, call JULIE at 8-1-1 (or 1-800-892-0123). They require 48-hour notice. Both services are free.

By having professionals mark any underground lines in the area, you will avoid any potential serious injury and prevent possible damage to the utility lines that could disrupt service to your home and your neighbors. Besides being a good idea, calling (4524-19) J.U.L.I.E is the law.



Call WIEC

1-217-357-3125 • 1-800-576-3125 •

Weekdays 8-5