

# WIEC NEWS

P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ [www.wiec.net](http://www.wiec.net) ■ 800/576-3125

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Co-op membership: What's in it for me?

*Annual Meeting is just one of the unique benefits.*



**Y**ou set up your electric service account with Western Illinois Electrical Coop. (WIEC) and you think to yourself, "That's done. Now I just have to pay my monthly bill." But the truth is we're more than just a utility provider that you pay each month for electricity. We have more to offer – and we want you, our members, to know about these benefits.

There are more than 900 electric cooperatives in the U.S. that serve 42 million members. WIEC, your local electric cooperative, serves 3,500 members with lines stretching across 1,200 miles. So what makes being a member of an electric cooperative unique?

**We're all in this together.** You are a member of WIEC – not a customer. And that means you have a voice when it comes to the way we do business. On June 26, you will have the

opportunity to vote for two directors at WIEC's Annual Meeting. These directors play a key role in making important decisions for our co-op, which is how members' voices are heard. You will be receiving more information about the meeting in the mail or visit [www.wiec.net](http://www.wiec.net).

**We're local.** It's likely that you know an employee of WIEC. Our employees – your friends and neighbors – share the same concerns for our community that you do. Each year, WIEC participates in 4-H, WIEC's Safety Fair, Farm Safety shows and Youth to Washington contest.

**We're not-for-profit.** WIEC doesn't offer profits to investors—we return money over and above operating costs to you, our members, based on electricity consumption. Annually, electric co-ops nationwide return millions of dollars to members through

the capital credits process. In 2013, WIEC members received \$210,000 in the form of capital credits.

**We're here for you.** At WIEC, our mission is to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. We care about our members' quality of life, which is why our employees are continuously finding innovative ways to improve our service. In 2008, WIEC installed automatic meter reading which has been a great benefit to the cooperative and our members. This is a great tool to help track down high usage, (7815-63) isolate causes of outages and keep billing errors at a minimum.

These are just a few facts about electric cooperatives that make us unique. For more information about WIEC and the services we offer, visit [www.wiec.net](http://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** —  
President, **Carthage**
- **Rob Gronewold** —  
Vice-President, **Carthage**
- **Janet Spory** —  
Secretary/Treasurer, **Sutter**
- **Jay Morrison** —  
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer,  
**Burnside**
- **Kent Flesner** —  
Director, **West Point**
- **Kim Gullberg** —  
Director, **Stronghurst**
- **William Newton** —  
Director, **Burnside**

**STAFF**

- **Tommie Long** — Manager
- **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.

## 2014 Nominating Committee results



*2014 Nominating Committee (l-r) Spencer Berry, Dennis Willard, Gary Akers, Todd Beeler, Max Roskamp, Rodney Pence.*

**N**ine members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. were appointed to the 2014 nominating committee. The committee met at the WIEC office on March 24 and April 2 to make nominations for directors. Two directors will be elected at the cooperative's annual meeting on Thursday, June 26.

Appointed to the committee were Thomas Anderson, Carman; Spencer Berry, Nauvoo; Rodney Pence, Dallas City; Dennis Willard, West Point; Jonathan Fecht and Gary Akers, Carthage; Robert Menn, Plymouth; Max Roskamp and Todd Beeler, Sutter.

The following were nominated for director positions:

- District 6 – Robert Gronewold
- District 7– Janet Spory

The nominations will be posted at the Carthage office, as stipulated by the cooperative's by-laws. Any nominations made by petition will be included on the official ballot if they are brought to the **(7716-9)** WIEC office at least 10 days before the meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the annual meeting.



### Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

When replacing incandescent bulbs from recessed light fixtures, use energy-efficient bulbs that are rated for that purpose. For example, the heat buildup in **(7533-27)** downlights will significantly shorten the life of spiral CFLs.

Source: Department of Energy

# Youth Day 2014

Two students representing Western Illinois Electrical Coop. met with Sen. John Sullivan and Rep. Jil Tracy during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, April 2 in Springfield. More than 200 students from down-state Illinois had an opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action and question their legislators on key issues.

The students were Sydney Metternich, a junior at Hamilton High School who is the daughter of Aron and Karmen Metternich and Caroline Hartweg, a senior at Illini West High School, the daughter of John and Linda Hartweg. They won the trip to Springfield as part of the Youth to Washington WebQuiz Contest.

During breakfast, Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon addressed students and chaperones and challenged them to take an interest (8620-53) in the political process and encouraged them to talk to their state senators and representatives about issues that interest them.

At the Old State Capitol building, Justin Blandford, a Youth Tour alumni and director of the Old Capitol Building, explained the historical importance of the building. It was built in 1839 and served as the state capital until 1876 and was completely reconstructed during the 1960s. Lincoln visited the building frequently as both a lawyer and a politician. This is where Lincoln delivered his famous 1858 "House Divided" speech in Representatives Hall. It also served as headquarters during his 1860 presidential campaign and where Lincoln laid-in-state after his assassination.

As part of Youth Day, the students also were invited into the office of Secretary of State Jesse White who took questions from the students and also explained the Life Goes On campaign which stressed the importance of Donor Registry.



*Chatting with Abe.*

Also on the itinerary were visits to the Illinois State Museum and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. There was even a visit from Ol' Abe himself, portrayed by Fritz Klein, a very believable Abe Lincoln impersonator.

The day was sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electrical Cooperatives and is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. There were 24 co-ops from across the state represented at the event.



*Caroline Hartweg (l) and Sydney Metternich (r) visit the Senate Floor during Youth Day in Springfield.*



*Students learn about the historic Old Capitol.*



*IL Secretary of State Jesse White.*



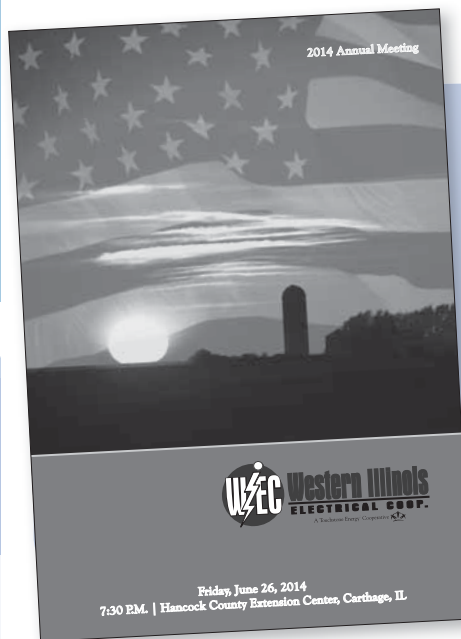
## Mike Ford resigned from WIEC Board

At the March 27, 2014 board meeting, Mike Ford submitted his resignation from the WIEC Board. Mike was elected in 2006 to represent District 1 which includes our service territory in Henderson County. Manager Tommie Long said, "Mike has served his cooperative and his district well. We thank him and wish him well in the future."

Kim Gullberg, Stronghurst was appointed to fill Mike's unexpired term.

## Interested in learning more about electricity and wiring?

Children ages 8-18 who live in Hancock or Henderson County and are interested in participating in the 4-H Electricity School should contact their local extension office. Students do not have to be a member of 4-H to attend. Due to the advanced printing of the WIEC News, the details about the 4-H Electricity School have not been finalized.



Watch for the Annual Meeting booklet in your mailbox. It will contain the registration card, proxy card and other important information. To save time, please bring the registration card to the annual meeting.

See Page 9 for more details about the 2014 WIEC Annual Meeting.

## Welcome New Members

Wayne C Ahrens, Jr., Niota  
 Thomas Duffy, Oakville  
 Rebecca & Benjamin Eaton, Gladstone  
 Brianna L Wolf & Derek K Wilke, Niota  
 Douglas R Kitch, Stronghurst  
 Sean Meyer, Kirkwood  
 Tim & Amber Parrish, Nauvoo  
 James A Rice, West Point  
 Tyler Schilson, Hamilton  
 Rebecca Wepner, Hamilton  
 White Acres Farms, LLC, Carthage

URGE EPA TO RECONSIDER ITS "ALL-BUT-ONE" APPROACH

Visit [ACTION.COOP](http://ACTION.COOP)

WIEC Office will close at Noon on June 27<sup>th</sup>.