


WIEC NEWS

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Rural Electric Youth Tour: Shaping our Youth for 50 Years

By Magen Howard, CCC

The Rural Electric Youth Tour is turning 50! And oh, what a tour it's been.

Anyone who's looked after a group of 16- and 17-year-olds in Washington, D.C., for Youth Tour knows how challenging and physically exhausting it is, not to mention how hot and humid the nation's capital can be in the middle of June.

But there's a reason the program has not just endured but thrived for half a century—and why people stick with it year after year: the students.

Youth Tour brings together some 1,600 teens from 43 states for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity culminating in Washington, D.C. Western Illinois Electrical Coop proudly sent two students on this 50th anniversary trip. They were Sydney Metternich, daughter of Aron and Karmen Metternich, Hamilton and Caroline Hartweg, daughter of John and Linda Hartweg, Carthage.

Students danced on a boat cruise down the Potomac and saw the roots of American history. They learned about electric co-ops and grassroots political advocacy. They lived in awfully close quarters for up to a week and were given a small taste of freedom and independence. They slept a little and talked a lot.

These students become college roommates, professional colleagues,



2014 Youth to Washington Winners are (l-r) Caroline Hartweg, winner; Dave Biery, WIEC Board President; Tommie Long, WIEC Manager; and Sydney Metternich, winner.

lifelong friends and sometimes even spouses. For some, it's a fun trip that later brings fond memories. To others, Youth Tour inspires kids to discover the adults they're going to be.

For those accepted into the Youth Leadership Council (YLC), the experience is even richer. These students – one representative from each participating state – work the congressional action center at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Annual Meeting. They also participate in a special meeting one month after the Youth Tour to delve more deeply into leadership and cooperative grassroots (3820-11) issues.

Much has changed during the past 50 years since Youth Tour was born, but the one constant has been the students, who never fail to be amazed, inspired, humbled and grateful. Last year's winner, Alex Ourth said, "Not only has my knowledge of our country increased, I feel that my understanding of citizenship and patriotism has sky-rocketed.

I hope you continue this awesome program. It truly makes a difference!"

"Rewarding" is a common refrain from those involved in the program, from administrators and coordinators to parents and participants—even the bus drivers who stick with a state year after year. Other words such as "awesome", "once-in-a-lifetime" and "amazing" were used in thank you notes

WIEC has received from our past participants.

History

In 1958, an electric co-op in Iowa sponsored the first group of 34 young people on a weeklong study tour of the nation's capital. Later that same year, another busload came to Washington from Illinois. The idea grew, and other states sent busloads of students throughout the summer. By 1959, the Youth Tour had grown to 130 participants.

In 1964, NRECA began to coordinate joint activities among the state delegations and suggested that co-op representatives from each state arrange to be in Washington, D.C., during Youth Tour week. The first year of the coordinated tour included about 400 teens from 12 states.

WIEC began sending students in 1962 and continued until the 1986 when the program was tabled. WIEC's board re-instated it again in 2004.



Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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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

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- **Tommie Long** — Manager
- **Todd Grotts** — Manager of Operations
- **Becky Dickinson** — Office 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.

Kim Gullberg to represent District 1



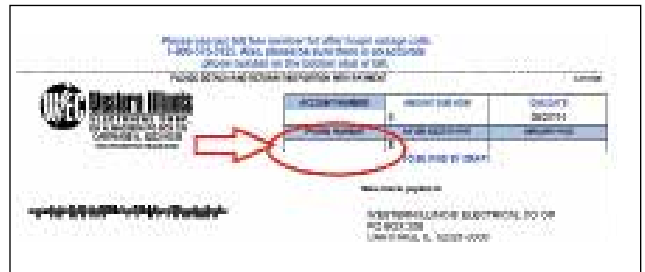
At the March 2014 board meeting, Kim Gullberg, Stronghurst, was appointed to fill the unexpired term for District 1. He is owner of DC Cooper, Stronghurst, a manufacturer of tanks for product heating and melting applications. He is a graduate of Western Illinois University with a degree in business.

Kim and his wife, Sherry have been married for 35 years and have four children and five grandchildren. They enjoy camping, doing home improvement projects and hanging out (399-11) with their grandkids.

Welcome to the board, Kim.

WIEC needs your phone number

Be sure that BWIEC has a current phone number for your account. The current phone number on file will appear on your electric bill each month. If the number that appears is not valid or has been disconnected, please call our office with a new one or write it in on the bill stub when you pay your bill.



Earlier this spring, Ameren was doing repair work on the Lomax substation and had it off-line for several hours in the middle of the night. (9510-58) We realized this would greatly impact WIEC members (and their alarm clocks) who receive their power from the Lomax substation. We contacted Cooperative Response Center (CRC), our after-hours call service and asked them to call all affected members and let them know of this outage. It became apparent that we did not have valid phone numbers for many members.

So we are asking our members to share their phone numbers with us, so we can help you in case a situation like this occurs again.

We thank our members who are using the 800 phone number to report an after-hours outage.

Call
800-576-3125

This number serves as a direct line to CRC.

Memorial celebrates 5 years in new facility



This summer Memorial Hospital will celebrate their 5th year anniversary of the opening of their state-of-the-art hospital while honoring their 64 years of service to the citizens of Hancock County.

On Saturday, August 9th 2014, Memorial Hospital will celebrate this milestone and would like to cordially invite all community members to join staff for this memorable occasion on August 9th from 10 am – 12 pm at the hospital.

What does it take for a small community to make a small rural hospital sustainable for 64 years? One word that best describes it is community! In 2007, this community came together and decided they would launch a 4 million dollar capital campaign to help build the new facility complete with advanced equipment and new furnishings. “We are very appreciative of the generosity of our communities. Great things have been accomplished because individuals understand no matter what the gift it makes a difference and contributes in a meaningful way,” says Ada Bair, Memorial CEO. “Some have given of their volunteer time to help with special events. Others have made financial contributions. Every hour given, every dollar contributed has made our new hospital a reality.”

Not only did the community commit to raise this large amount of money, but the Memorial Hospital employees decided they wanted to show their support. They decided they would raise \$500,000 of the 4 million for the new hospital. Bit by bit, money was raised through barn dances, road races, family photography sessions and other fun activities all aimed to get the community involved while reaching their lofty goal in support of Memorial.

Last summer, the Memorial Hospital Employee Campaign met and actually exceeded their goal, but continues to raise funds for the overall campaign.

Today, the Memorial Hospital Capital Campaign is in the home stretch, with less than \$800,000 to be raised. Individuals and businesses continue to be a part of the campaign along with other projects as Memorial Hospital continues to grow. Before the celebration on August 9th, the fund development office at Memorial Hospital would like to invite the community to join the campaign donor wall located in the hospital lobby.

WIEC is proud to have played a small part in the building of this

new modern hospital. One of seven cooperative principles is “concern for community.” This concern was never more apparent than when WIEC applied for and received loan and grant monies through the USDA Rural Development Program. These funds were used to help the City of Carthage provide the infrastructure neces-

sary for the new hospital. “Rural development, as well as community growth, is vital to the future of our

cooperative,” states Tommie L. Long, manager of WIEC.

Since then, WIEC has also helped with three other USDA Rural Development loan and grants. We have a commitment to our members and our communities to keep good jobs here in our community. Jobs have been leaving our area, both in retail and manufacturing and want to do everything we can to see that this trend stops so our communities will flourish in the future. Memorial celebrates 5 years in new facility.

(For more information on the capital campaign, contact Greta Wetzel at gwetzel@mhtlc.org or call 217-357-8502. Visit www.mhtlc.org for more information about Memorial.)

“Great things have been accomplished”

Trying to budget your money?

Use WIEC's Budget Billing Program to help make it easier

When there are so many expenses in life that can't be controlled, wouldn't it be nice to have one bill that you could prepare for? WIEC has a program that can level out the highs and lows of your electrical usage and make your electric bill easier to manage. It's called budget billing.

This plan will average your electric

payment for the next 12 months, based on your previous 12 months' usage. Assuming your usage remains consistent with the previous years, your electric bill will be the same until July 2015. That month will be the catch-up month where the amount due is the actual balance remaining or no payment will be due if there is a

credit balance. The credit balance will be carried forward to the next year.

The new Budget Billing program begins on July 18. Call our office for more information. (9520-29) Life is full of unexpected expenses; don't let your electric bill be one of them.

Hancock County 4-H BBQ



Wednesday, July 9th, 2014

5:00—7:00 pm

U of I Extension - 550 N Madison, Carthage

\$7.00 (Advanced) - \$8.00 (at Door)

Drive-Thru pick up available in front of WIEC

Menu:

Pork Chop Sandwich Or 2 Hot Dogs ~ Green Beans ~ Applesauce ~ Chips ~ Drink (Dine-in only)

Live Auction of Baked Goods and Themed Baskets at 6:30. Fashion Revue and General Exhibit Awards Show at 7:00

4-H Fair exhibits will be on display during the BBQ



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Replacing your conventional power strips with advanced power strips (APS) can help reduce the electricity wasted when electronic devices are idle. These power strips are a convenient and low-cost way to save.

Source: Department of Energy

Welcome New Members

Gene Audries, Dallas City
Erik Bowers, Niota
Breanna Miller-Broadfield, Carthage
Alex Dillard, Hamilton
Lori A Fillback, Burlington IA
Allison Grand, LaHarpe
Ross Gullburg & Miranda Clark, Stronghurst
S Brice Jack, Smithshire

Kathryn M & Larry B Johnson, Nauvoo
Chantel Martinez & Jeremy Chamberlin-Johnston, Niota
Steve W Jones, Augusta
Myles Lefler, Stronghurst
Jeffrey Mason, Hamilton
Chase Meadows & Alisha Lambert, Niota

Jesse & Deanna Moore, Ponca City OK
Terrence Pompey, Niota
Cheryle & Matt Raynor, Niota
Greg Shoup, Dallas City
David & Brenda Yeast Weber Jr., Hamilton
Beth Yockey, Niota