

WIEC NEWS

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

WIEC members hear about the condition of their coop

Members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. (WIEC) were updated on the organization's financial condition, capital credits distribution, the results of the director election and pending regulations that could impact future power cost and supply during their annual meeting of members held at the Hancock County Extension Center on Thursday, June 27.

Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI) is WIEC's power provider, and PPI President/CEO Jay Bartlett updated the group on the Prairie State Generating Campus in Washington County Illinois. This new, state-of-the-art 1,600 megawatt (mw) coal-fired power plant provides power for PPI's energy portfolio and is one of the cleanest burning and most efficient plants in the world. Bartlett said that production of the plant had reached 1,639 mw of power, or above capacity. "We did this burning good, solid Illinois coal that we dug up right next to the plant, which is in my opinion the way things ought to be in the Midwest," said Bartlett. He stated that there is more energy in the coal inside the borders of Illinois than there is in all the oil and natural gas in Saudi Arabia.

Coal, however, is under attack. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing new regulations to greatly reducing carbon dioxide emissions, or



Kelly Logan provided pre-meeting entertainment.

greenhouse gas emissions, from future coal-burning power plants. Rules for new plants have already been proposed. On June 2 the EPA proposed changing the rules for existing coal-fired plants. The goal is to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent from (4522-6) 2005 levels by 2030.

Bartlett said that Prairie Power had already reduced its greenhouse emissions in the total electricity delivered to WIEC members by around 30 percent by moving from old-style plants to the new efficient, clean plant.

Prairie Power is constantly striving

to improve electric service reliability for WIEC members. Bartlett explained, "We have over 80 substations, which we deliver energy to, and there's a fiber optic network that's under construction and nearly completed. This allows us to have much faster and more reliable communication so we can reduce the occurrence of blinks and outages and also control the flow of energy to reduce your electric costs."

Duane Noland, president/CEO

Continued on 16b ▶



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 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.

■ Continued from 16a



Youth to Washington Winners, Caroline Hartweg (l) and Sydney Metternich (r) drew the winning names for the prize drawings.

of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, expressed his concern over the EPA rules regarding coal-fired power plants. He explained, "As cooperatives, we believe in an 'all of the above' energy strategy, which includes coal, natural gas and nuclear power, as well as renewables. The proposed rule is an 'all but one' strategy, and one that excludes coal." Coal currently accounts for nearly 39 percent of electricity generated in the U.S. and is abundant and the least expensive fuel. (4610-44) Noland said cutting coal out of the equation would have a dramatic impact on the price of electricity.

The EPA is required to allow for a 120-day public comment period, and Noland called on the co-op members to take action and let their elected officials know that they are concerned about keeping their electric bills affordable by logging onto www.action.coop.

Board President Dave Biery said that rural electrification was born out of politics and that through its history plenty of politicians on both sides of the aisle have been friends and foes. "In 75 years, there have been plenty of battles waged for, or against us. But whenever an issue arose, so did the membership." He echoed Noland and Bartlett's comments about the EPA rules, saying, "Our voices need to be heard. But let's go further. Letters, calls and e-mails to congressmen and senators don't go unnoticed. Bring this



WIEC Directors served sandwiches and chips to the members.

issue up to your neighbors and friends who aren't here tonight, especially the younger ones. The future of this co-op will be in their hands."

President Tommie Long said that the co-op had been through power supply concerns in the past. He said, "We do want what's best for our environment and renewable energy will be a part of the nation's energy future. However, for now the vast majority of our power production remains coal-fired. With power costs being approximately 70 percent of the total operating budget of WIEC, the possibility of higher rates due to coal regulation is a major concern."

Secretary-Treasurer Janet Spory reported that one of the benefits of being a member of a cooperative is receiving capital credits. At the end of

Continued on 16d ►

ANNUAL MEETING PRIZES - 2014

GIFT	DONOR	RECIPIENT
\$25.00 AMAZON GIFT CARD	ACLARA	Duane Bolton
\$25.00 AMAZON GIFT CARD	ACLARA	Douglas McMillan
\$25.00 Walmart Gift Card	BENNETT & MIDDENDORF, LTD.	Mark Buss
\$25.00 Walmart Gift Card	BENNETT & MIDDENDORF, LTD	Herbert Johnson
\$25.00 Walmart Gift Card	BENNETT & MIDDENDORF, LTD	Mary Scheetz
\$25.00 Walmart Gift Card	BENNETT & MIDDENDORF, LTD	Diane Schulte
Cap & Visor	BROWNWOOD PRESERVING	Alfred Huston
Cap & Visor	BROWN WOOD PRESERVING	Lawrence Harrell
Gift Pack of Spices	BROWNSTOWN ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO., INC	Eli Shirey
\$25.00 Walmart Gift Card	C & S TESTING COMPANY	Dale Kelly
Peerless Lavatory Faucet	E. BEST PLUMBING & HEATING	Mary Bruns
4 Plastic Water Bottles	GRAYBAR	Melvin Wetterich
Laser Range Finder	HD SUPPLY POWER SOLUTIONS	John Radel
Ladies Fleece Apparel	MCFARLAND CASCADE	Troy Greenig
Ladies Fleece Apparel	MCFARLAND CASCADE	Dennis Tubbs
Bag Chair	MCFARLAND CASCADE	Darrel Chaney
Mens Hunting Vest	MCFARLAND CASCADE	Brian Wood
Tackle Box	MCFARLAND CASCADE	Janet Faulkner
Golf Balls	MCFARLAND CASCADE	Francis Allen
Laptop/Computer Case	MARINE BANK & TRUST	Euvon Radel
Utility Tool Set	MARINE BANK & TRUST	Jane Moore
FREE General Service Coupon	PETERS HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING	Julie Weber
FREE General Service Coupon	PETERS HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING	Sonora Gardens %David Wetzel
\$25.00 Gift Certificate to Subway	SPRINGFIELD ELECTRIC	Russell Lawson
Backpack Sprayer	UAP/TIMBERLAND, Terry Allen	Lisa Gann
\$25.00 Sears Gift Card	UNITED UTILITY SUPPLY	Darlene Neill
\$25.00 Gift Certificate	WEBER MEATS, INC.	Brian Riggs
GRAND PRIZE #1 Bill Credit for 1000 kWh of Electricity	WIEC	Kelly Logan
GRAND PRIZE #2 Bill Credit for 1000 kWh of Electricity	WIEC	Michael Rodeffer
GRAND PRIZE #3 Bill Credit for 1000 kWh of Electricity	WIEC	Jerry Schmitz
GRAND PRIZE #4 Bill Credit for 1000 kWh of Electricity	WIEC	Darrel Elsea
GRAND PRIZE #5 Bill Credit for 1000 kWh of Electricity	WIEC	Harmony Twp Supervisor By Sandy Little

Ways to pay your WIEC Bill

- ✓ Pay your bill online through our website www.wiec.net. Members can also view past bills and see historical usage from the (3620-26) website.
- ✓ Call our office and give your credit card number over the phone.
- ✓ Mail your bill. Bills will be considered “on time” if the postmark is the due date or before.
- ✓ Have your bill paid automatically each month by using “Auto Pay”. This free service will automatically pay your bill from either your bank account or your favorite credit card on the due date each month.
- ✓ Use the drive up box in the WIEC driveway.
- ✓ Or come into our office in Carthage and say hello.



WIEC will be closed on September 1 in observance of Labor Day.

Continued from 16b



Grand prize winners with their certificates.

each year, if there is money remaining after expenses are paid, WIEC assigns each member their portion of the operating margins based on their percentage of purchases to total purchases. **(484-10)** Once the cooperative is financially strong enough to do so, capital credits are returned from those allocations. The co-op will be returning more than \$300,000 this fall in capital credits to members who received service in 1981 and 1982. Spory said, “We pay capital credits on a first-in, first-out method, so members who have been on our lines longer get their capital credits first.”

During the meeting, Spory of Sutter and Robert Gronewold of Carthage were re-elected to the cooperative’s board of directors.

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. is a member of Touchstone Energy® — an alliance of more than 750 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. Western is



Manager Tommie Long.

committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The co-op serves more than 3,680 meters over 1,213 miles of line in Adams, Hancock, Henderson and McDonough counties. For more information visit www.wiec.net.

Welcome New Members

Sam R Butts, Niota
John & Stephanie Dowell,
LaHarpe
Cory Evans, Oquawka
Nathan Foulks, Doniphan, MO
Nichole Hall, Basco
James E Hawkins, Nauvoo

Florencio Jimenez, Oklahoma
City, OK
Amber Mathews, Carthage
Pamela Simon, Nauvoo
Squirrel Ridge Repair &
Performance, LaHarpe
Nolan Wilkens, Niota