

WIEC NEWS

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

As we celebrate our 75th Anniversary, we invite our members to join us as we take a look at our journey. This month we look back at WIEC's Youth Programs over the years.



1984 Youth to Washington Winners



Early Youth to Washington Winners



2007 Youth Day Winners



Kyle Finley's Live Line Demo has been a part of WIEC's Safety Fair for many years.

The cooperative's concern for safety runs deeper than purely keeping the employees safe. Over the years, WIEC has invested time in teaching the community about safety and safe practices. The cooperative has also sponsored the WIEC Safety Fair since 1996. The Safety Fair teaches fifth graders to "Live Smart, Play Safe, Yet Have Fun".

In the 17 years WIEC has sponsored Safety Fair, it is estimated over 4,500 kids have attended, including one current WIEC Lineman, Tyler Neally, who attended the first fair back in 1996.

At the Fair, kids are fed a hot dog lunch as well as five or six 20-minute lessons on a multitude of different topics, such as how to be safe around ATVs, bike safety, how to get out of the smoke-filled house and how to

be safe around electrical lines. There always has been a magician there for "dessert" who stresses to live (555-58) drug-free.

One teacher commented to us about Safety Fair, "This is one of the most informative field trips we go on. It's a very educational day for the kids."

The next generation has always been important to WIEC whether it has been about teaching safety, teaching how to make extension cords during the 4-H electrical school or just learning more about cooperatives and our nation's capital. Back in the 1960's and 1970's, then again beginning in 2004, WIEC has sponsored a way for students to view government in action. As part of the Youth to Washington Tour, student can earn a free trip to Washington DC.

Continued on page 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

DURING OFFICE HOURS,

OR AFTER HOURS

TO REPORT OUTAGE

217-357-3125

800-576-3125

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **David Biery** —
President, **Carthage**
- **Mike Ford** —
Vice President, **Lomax**
- **Janet Spory** —
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- **Jay Morrison** —
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer,
Burnside
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Director, **West Point**
- **Rob Gronewold** —
Director, **Carthage**
- **William Newton** —
Director, **Burnside**

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.

■ *Continued from page 16a*



Over 4,500 kids, teachers and chaperones have been served a hot dog lunch at WIEC's Safety Fair.

2013 Youth to Washington Winner, Alex Ourth

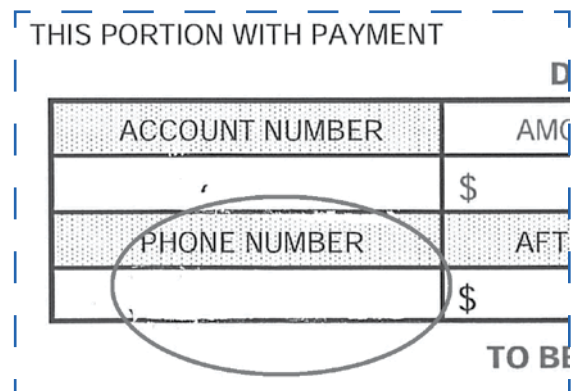


This is what Youth Tour participants (7614-33-1) have to say about their experience.

- "Kids can see what the world is like somewhere else." - Rod, 1969 participant.
- "For a kid like me, it was a once in a lifetime experience and one that I will never forget." - Carrie, 1975 participant.
- "You get to visit places that not everyone can. I even got to meet the President!" - Connie, 1976 tour participant.
- "Nothing can compare—great way to make memories," - Marlena, 1981 participant.
- "You don't have to love history to go." - a chaperone from the 1984 tour.
- "This trip has been a great experience. Thanks!" - Josh, 2004 participant.
- "...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" - Alex, 2013 participant.

Do we have your phone number?

As part of our on-going effort for excellent customer service, there are times we will need to call our members. Please take the time to look at your bill and see if we have your correct phone number. If we don't, please write it on your bill stub and return it, so we can add it to your account information.



FAQs – problems and solutions

As WIEC celebrates our 75th year of service to our members, we want to emphasize the fact that the employees and directors live and work in this area of Western Illinois right alongside the people we serve. Every once in a while, we hear reports about you, our members and our neighbors being treated with less than the respect you deserve.

Problem: One problem we've heard about is people falsely representing themselves as WIEC employees and implying that electrical work needs to be done at the member's home. Someone comes to the door and explains that there are electrical problems inside the home and needs to inspect the wiring. After bullying their way in to do the inspection, the member is informed that expensive

work needs to be done at the member's expense.

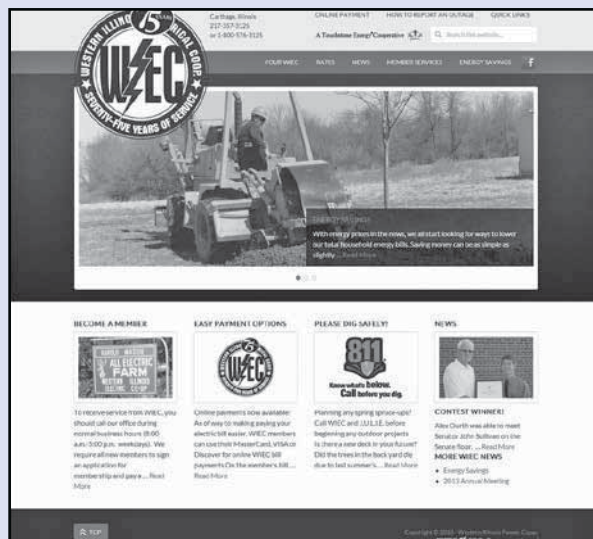
Our suggestion how to handle: Please do not fall for this scam. If someone should come to your door and claim to be a WIEC employee, look on their truck for our logo. If you are still unsure, please call our office immediately and confirm that it is indeed one of our servicemen. You may see our linemen patrol the lines routinely and perform maintenance, but the only time we would need to come inside a private home was if the member called us, telling us about a problem and asked for our assistance.

Problem: Our members are being harassed by telemarketers who offer to change your electrical service provider. Their claim is that by switching electrical companies, they can save the

homeowner lots of money on their electric bill. What they do not realize is that in Illinois electrical cooperatives service territories, including WIEC, are not open (5817-34) to the short-term marketing efforts of these power marketers.

Our suggestion: If a telemarketer called your home with this type of call, just tell them you are a member of a rural electrical cooperative and not an Ameren customer. Then ask to be put on the "DO NOT CALL LIST". Usually, the caller will hang up and should not call you again. However, there may be several companies making these calls, so it is likely you will have to deal with them more than once, but if you are diligent, they should begin to dwindle.

Watch for the newly redesigned WIEC Webpage with new features and a cleaner, easier layout!

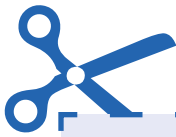


Welcome New Members

Toni L. Boehm, Niota
David Bolen, Nauvoo
Jack Hallman, Nauvoo
Max J & Dona F Hill, Bountiful, UT
Michael Hoener, Sutter

Chris Marshall, Niota
Scanlan & Sparrow Trucking, Inc,
Dallas City
Jason Scheeler, West Burlington, IA
Joseph Stewart, LaHarpe

Kathryn M Tisdale, Hamilton
Larry R Tooley, Hamilton
Rodger Lee & Amanda Woods,
Warsaw



Clip and Save

Out of Power? Call 1-800-576-3125

Using this number will get your call answered quickly and power restored sooner.

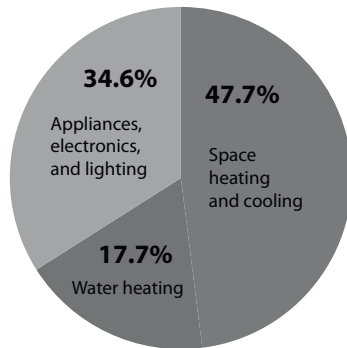
Beginning August 1, all after-hours calls will be answered by a Cooperative Response Center (CRC) dispatcher.

They will confirm your identity and then do what is necessary to get your power restored as quickly as possible.

CRC dispatchers can take payments and can take messages concerning security lights and other routine maintenance. However, they are not allowed to take payment arrangements. For those calls, please call our office during regular office hours.

How Americans Use Energy

New data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows that heating and cooling still accounts for the largest amount of electricity consumption in American homes. But as we use more and more electronic gadgets, that segment is closing the gap.



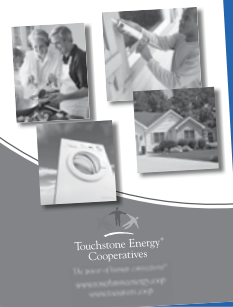
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Congratulations Ben Hollis



of the Hamilton Busy Beavers
The winner of the WIEC Best Electrical Project at the 2013 4-H Fair
Ben also won Best Over-All and was a state Fair Delegate.

101 Low-Cost / No-Cost Home Energy-Saving Measures



With winter approaching, it is time to consider a new heating and cooling system? Western Illinois Electrical Coop. has available an energy saving booklet entitled "101 Low-Cost/No-Cost Home Energy-Savings Measures." This booklet was produced by Touchstone Energy and contains a list of low-cost/no-cost energy saving tips to help you better manage your home's energy costs. Be sure to pick one up at the WIEC office in Carthage.