

WIEC NEWS

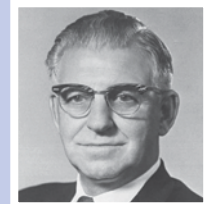
P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ www.wiec.net ■ 800/576-3125

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 would like to honor the men who have led our cooperative from a small gathering who met in the basement of the Carthage Methodist Church to a nationally recognized cooperative. WIEC has been honored for our involvement in our community, having a safe work ethic all while striving to keep our customer service top notch.



L.C. "Pop" Marvel



Lee Leonard



Les Aeilts



Paul Dion

Over the years the cooperative was blessed with four good managers.

L.C. "Pop" Marvel was the co-op's first Manager, serving from incorporation until his retirement in 1952. Longtime co-op leaders remembered him as a conservative, hard-working, no-nonsense manager who helped to see the co-op through the challenging, early growth years. Marvel was succeeded by Lee Leonard, the cooperative's Line Superintendent who was a major part of building the WIEC distribution system from the first pole. Leonard was remembered as an outspoken, stubborn and very conservative early rural electrification leader. He served during many of the combative years with the investor-owned utilities – and Leonard was outspoken regarding his feelings about the IOUs.

"He truly was a lineman, I think," recalled Harold Massie, WIEC Director (1962 – 1983). "He would go out and try to do the foreman's job at times. He gave a lot to this cooperative."

Les Aeilts was named Manager after Leonard's retirement in July of 1973. Aeilts served as Member Service Adviser

for many years and was a specialist in marketing and member service. He was recalled for his work in developing electric heat and other loads and for bringing the cooperative into a more modern era with equipment and technology during the 1970s and 80s. When he retired in December of 1989, Aeilts was followed by Paul Dion, the cooperative's Office Manager.

Dion is credited with successfully cutting costs and downsizing the co-op staff and managing WIEC through a difficult period of high rates. Under his guidance, WIEC is once again a secure cooperative with high customer satisfaction. Current Board President David Biery said, "When you say 75 years as a coop, and Paul has been there for almost 40 of them, it's easy to realize that he (3923-25) has had a major impact on its success and the course the co-op has taken. Paul brought his conservative, no nonsense, lead-by-example style of management to WIEC and it fit perfectly with our employees and members."

Dion's tenure at WIEC will be remembered for his commitment to the

cooperative, the members and the employees. "He has spent endless 'off-the-clock' hours working for the benefit of WIEC that the membership and public never sees," said Tommie Long, Operations Manager. "Paul is the prime example of cooperation as evidenced by the way he makes you feel part of the team rather than being a subordinate who answers to the head man." Dion will retire December of 2013 with Long to succeed as Manager.



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**
- **Mike Ford** —
Vice President, **Lomax**
- **Janet Spory** —
Secretary/Treasurer, **Sutter**
- **Jay Morrison** —
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer,
Burnside
- **Kent Flesner** —
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.

Safety Fair – version 19

Safety Fair began 19 years ago as a way to familiarize grade school students on being safe in the world around them. Almost 20 years and over 4,300 kids later, the WIEC Safety Fair (9516-61) is still reminding kids to “Live Smart, Keeping Safe and Having Fun.”

This year's fair was held September 26th with 7 elementary schools and 215 students learning about topics such as bicycle safety; how to make

a 9-1-1 call and what happens next; ATV safety, including the importance of wearing proper helmets; and other safety gear. The students also could play “Farm Safety Jeopardy” as a fun way to learn about how to stay safe on a farm. The day started out with a presentation by Kyle Finley of Live Line Demo who brings his energized electrical system and shows the kids the power of 7200 volts.





Thank you!

A big thank you goes out to the people and the organizations that are such an integral part of the fair. Without them, the Safety Fair would not be possible.

- Sly Fox Food Service – ordering, preparing the food and donating the bottled water
- Illini West High School Student Council and their sponsor, MJ Palmer
- Marine Bank & Trust - supplying paper goods

We would also like to thank the following presenters for donating their time:

- IL State Trooper Bryan Clausen
- Bryan Smith, (955-64) TNT Action Sports
- Carthage Clipper Fire Dept.
- Dawn Weinberg, University of Illinois Extension
- Maria Hopp, 9-1-1 coordinator – Hancock Co.
- Hancock Co. Ambulance Service



Welcome New Members

Bartlow Farm, By Andy & Bruce Bartlow, Augusta
 Chad & Melinda Boyer, Carthage
 DTS Farms, LLC, Ursa
 Leigh Leaverton, Dallas City
 Bryon & Laurie Newcomb, Burlington, IA
 Ed & Lilah Radel Farms, By Mary M Langan, Davenport, IA
 Jeff VanOosten, Stronghurst

Eight 2014 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

WIEC Manager Paul Dion has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives will again in 2014 award seven academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” In addition, an eighth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The eight scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded in 2014 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial (386-18-1) Scholarship Program.

Four scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The eighth annual \$1500 scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship, was created in 2011 to help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC), Springfield, Ill. LaVern McEntire served

as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the new scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard; and individuals participating in the LLCC lineworker’s program are all eligible for the lineworker’s scholarship.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says Dion. “WIEC and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. Last year, WIEC’s own Alex Ourth of Carthage won a \$1,500 scholarship to help him with his college career. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker’s scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker.”

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact the WIEC office. All necessary paperwork has also been sent to area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative’s website at www.wiec.net. The deadline for the seven \$1,500 college scholarships is December 31, 2013.

WIEC has had four scholarship winners



Since 1998, Western Illinois Electrical Coop. has had four winners of the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarship.

They are Mark Hoemmen, Dallas City, (1998); Debra Meyer, Warsaw (2001); Mark Buss, Bowen (2010); and Alex Ourth (2013) shown above.

We are very proud of these young people and urge all college-bound seniors to consider entering this contest. College is expensive and scholarships like this can help ease the financial impact.

Office Closed

WIEC office will be closed November 11 in honor of Veteran’s Day.

WIEC office will be closed November 28 in observance of Thanksgiving. Our office will reopen on Friday, November 29. WIEC Directors and Employees wish our members a blessed Thanksgiving.

As always, in case of power emergencies, call 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.