

## WIEC Safety Fair

WIEC held its Safety Fair for 175 area 5th graders and their teachers on September 18th. Six schools came to Carthage to learn how to live smart, keep safe and have fun.

This year the topics included Boating Safety, ATV Safety, Farming Safety and Emergency Preparedness. They went through the Smoke House and tried on WIEC linemen's safety gear.



*Kyle Finley showed the students how an electrical distribution system works.*

*It is important to have a designated meeting place to go to during a fire or other emergency. Here the kids were instructed to go to the tree after leaving the smoke-filled house.*



*The different types of life jackets were explained.*



## 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:

- Mike Blazinic and Kelsey Hugg, Il Dept. of Conservation- Boating Safety
- Dwight Hibbard, Outdoor Power, Quincy IL
- Carthage Clipper Fire Dept.
- Dawn Weinberg, University of Illinois Extension
- Maria Hopp, 9-1-1 coordinator – Hancock Co.
- Hancock Co. Ambulance Service



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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

- **David Biery** —  
President, **Carthage**
- **Rob Gronewold** —  
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#### 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.

## Why climate regulations matter to you

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released regulations to limit carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions at new coal-fired power plants that will lead to more expensive electricity for members of WIEC and other cooperatives who get a large share of their power from coal-fired plants.

If you haven't done so already, we're asking everyone to send comments to the EPA through [www.Action.coop](http://www.Action.coop). This easy-to-use online tool directly sends your thoughts to Washington so regulators understand the potential harm of these rules. The deadline has been extended to December 1, which will give everyone more time to speak up and let the EPA know that their decisions will impact the price we pay for electricity.

We're concerned because the EPA has chosen to write regulations that rely on technology for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that has not been proven at commercial power plants. This "carbon capture and storage" method might look good on paper or in the lab, but unlike Washington, we're not willing to take the risk with your electric bills.

In case you're wondering whether the EPA actually will read these comments, consider this: by law the EPA is required to ask the American public how a proposed rule would affect costs to consumers, the quality of life and the economic future of their communities. That's why electric cooperatives are leading the charge with the 42 million members nationwide to raise our voices collectively so we'll be heard loud and clear. (8520-18-1) And with

the extended deadline, more voices can be heard.

Already, tens of thousands of folks from across the country have shared their concerns. The country has not yet climbed out of the recession; many Americans are hurting financially. We need to tell the EPA that cost matters. Anyone can send a comment at [www.Action.coop](http://www.Action.coop) – even if they don't live on co-op lines – so please encourage your family and friends, regardless where they live, to join us.

No matter where our energy comes from, we all have a responsibility to keep electricity reliable and affordable. Like energy policy itself, the regulations proposed by the EPA are technical, but an increase in your electric bill is personal. That's why we need you to speak up.

Jobs in West Central Illinois, families on a budget and the future prosperity of our small towns are threatened by electric bills going up. That's why we must stick together.

We care about the price of electricity because we're a cooperative and we look out for you, our members. We think about our members with every decision we make. And we're concerned that the EPA is making a decision that will force an increase in what we have to pay for power.

That's why we all need to take a stand and urge our families and friends to join us. Please visit [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop). Just as important, get out and talk to people about what we're doing and why we care about electricity prices.



Like us on  
**Facebook**

<http://www.facebook.com/westernillinoiselectricalcoop>



# Ten 2015 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

**T**ommie Long, WIEC Manager, has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives in 2015 will award nine academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” In addition, a tenth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The total of ten scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded in 2015 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Five 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 sixth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative director or/ employee. Three additional 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. **(9612-50)**

The tenth annual scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” was awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$1,500 scholarship will 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, 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; and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard 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 Manager Long. “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. 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 at 217-357-3125. 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](http://www.wiec.net).

## WIEC has had four scholarship winners

**S**ince 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) and Mark Buss, Bowen, (2010), and Alex Ourth (2013).

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.



*Alex Ourth was awarded a Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarship in 2013.*

## Office closed

WIEC office will be closed November 11 in honor of Veterans Day.

WIEC office will be closed November 27 in observance of Thanksgiving. Our office will reopen on Friday, November 28. WIEC Directors and Employees wish our members a blessed Thanksgiving.

As always, in case of power emergencies, call 1-800-576-3125. **(3914-7)**

# New office hours

Take effect January 1

As technology changes, so do the needs of our members. Over the past few years, our office has seen less and less foot traffic. The majority of members pay their bills automatically with credit cards, bank drafting or through the mail. Other members are choosing to pay their bill via our website payment portal. Some simply drop their payment in our drive-up drop box.

Due to the changing way our



members pay their bills, it has become evident we do not need to have extended office hours.

In an effort to improve efficiencies and be cost effective, WIEC will be changing office hours

beginning January 1, 2015.

The new hours will be 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Calls after hours will continue to be answered by CRC, our after - hours call service.



## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

To save energy this month, try lowering your water heating costs. Water heating accounts for 14 to 25 percent of the energy you **(282-22)** consume. Turn the water heater's temperature to the warm setting, which is around 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will save energy – and help you save on your monthly bill.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## Welcome new members

Travis H. Allen, Sutter  
Kelli Cassiday, Stronghurst  
Franz G & Valerie Dunsworth,  
Carthage  
Lance Gittings, LaHarpe  
Suzan Heimer, Carthage  
Jacob Howd, LaHarpe  
Richard E Huss, Jr., Lomax  
Jamin Jones, Smithfield  
Corey Long, Carthage  
Ryan McSparen, Stronghurst  
Clarence A Martin,  
Blandinsville

Joe Radel, Nauvoo  
Paul Edward & Tori Ann  
Savage, Niota  
Michael R Schmitz, Nauvoo  
Rudolph Seals,  
Summerville, SC  
Jerry Stanton, Laredo, TX  
Kristyn Starman, Loraine  
Christian Stuart, Hamilton  
David L & Cheryl Yarbrow, Sr.,  
Niota



## Holiday cooking efficiency tip:

Every time you open the oven door to check that dish, the temperature inside decreases by up to 25 percent!

Hold off on peeking inside so that your oven doesn't have to work harder than necessary to heat holiday treats.

