

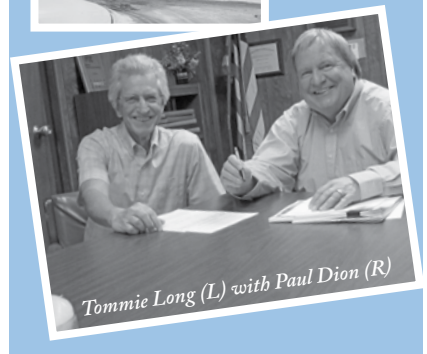
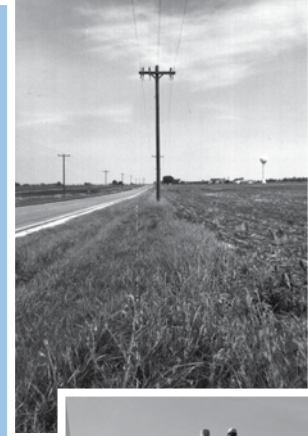
WIEC NEWS

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

For the past eight months, we have invited our members to join us as we look back at the history of WIEC. We have enjoyed seeing just how far we have come, beginning as a small group meeting in the basement of the Carthage Methodist Church to the nationally recognized cooperative we are today. We hope you have too.

As we bring to a close our sentimental journey looking back at the 75 years, this month we would like to look to the future to see what lies ahead for WIEC and its members.



Tommie Long (L.) with Paul Dion (R)

A new chapter

A new chapter will begin in 2014 for Western Illinois Electrical Coop. with the retirement of Manager Paul Dion. Dion became Manager in 1989 and is credited with successfully cutting costs, downsizing the co-op staff and managing WIEC through a difficult period of high rates. Under his guidance, WIEC once again became 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 has had a major impact on its success and the course the coop has taken."

Tommie Long will succeed Paul Dion as Manager effective December

1, 2013. Long previously served WIEC as the Manager of Operations and has been with the cooperative since 1978. "Having worked closely with Paul for 35 years, I have witnessed Paul's dedication to WIEC. His 40 years of knowledge, expertise and dedication will be greatly missed. I am sure he will be contacted many times in the next year for advice and consultation," said Long.

What is in the future for WIEC? First and foremost will be our dedication to maintain the excellent customer service we strive to provide our members. In addition to our service, we will continue to maintain (3625-29-1) and upgrade our electri-

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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

- **Tommie Long** — Manager
- **Todd Grotts** — 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.

■ *"A new chapter" continued from page 16a*

cal distribution system. The electrical load on our system has increased significantly for the past 5-10 years. There are many factors that contribute to this. Memorial Hospital was built on WIEC lines which represents a large and stable load. Over 400 WIEC homes have geothermal heating and cooling which have increased WIEC's kilowatt-hour sales.

Current farming practices, such as electric irrigation, electric grain drying and large hog confinement buildings all use electricity which adds to our load growth.

To continue on the path for success, WIEC will continue to implement and update technology. "We will be looking at load studies to determine where the system needs to be upgraded to support the additional demands that have been added," said Long. To maintain the reliability that you as members have come to expect, our WIEC line crew will continue to implement our vegetation management program and diligently perform line maintenance and system upgrades when necessary.

In August of this past year, Cooperative Response Center, Inc. (CRC) was contracted to handle after hours calls. This was definitely a new direction for WIEC as calls were always handled in-house. We ask your patience as we transition to this new system. The new call service can handle outages calls, receive payments and record inquiries. Unlike many utility

offices in today's world, our business office in Carthage remains open Monday through Friday of each week. Our excellent office staff will still be available to serve you.

To assure future power supply, WIEC has invested – via Prairie Power Inc. (PPI) – in Prairie State Energy Campus, a coal-fired plant to provide reliable low-cost, safe and environmentally responsible base load electricity. Prairie State invested billions of dollars in the newest technologies to make it among the cleanest power plant in the United States. The plant has exceeded expectations with respect to output, efficiency and emission. The energy produced by Prairie State plant is expected to provide WIEC members about 60% of the electricity they (3613-48) will need.

"Our power supplier, Prairie Power, Inc. works diligently to provide affordable power to the WIEC distribution system. In today's political environment, this is becoming increasingly more difficult," said Long. "WIEC and Prairie Power will continue its joint goal of providing stable and affordable electric rates."

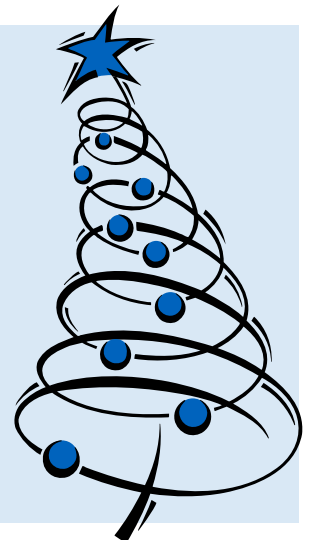
"The future for WIEC looks bright," said Paul Dion. "WIEC has been and remains in good financial position through conservative management, good directors and dedicated employees."

The one constant going forward that you should remember – WIEC is here to serve you, the member.

The board of Directors and employees of WIEC wish our members a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years.

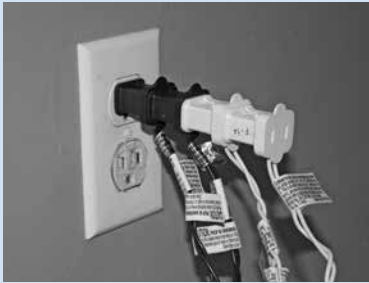
In observance of Christmas, WIEC will close at Noon on December 24 and will reopen on December 26. The WIEC office will also close at Noon on December 31 and reopen January 2 in observance of the New Year's Holiday.

Remember to call 1-800-576-3125 in case of a power emergency anytime day or night.



Don't take the Merry out of your Christmas

Do not overload electrical



outlets. Most lights are designed to connect no more than three strands. Inspect the wires periodically to make sure they are intact and not warm to the touch.

Welcome New Members

Nancy Bouman, Niota
Ronald Featheringill,
Nauvoo
Lance Holtsclaw, Carthage
Rick Leighty, Hamilton
Derek & Rebecca
McAllister, Sutter
Murry Jon Pender, Carman
Stephanie Reyburn, Quincy
Michael Ridder,
Stronghurst
Seth Sparrow, LaHarpe
Terry Thomas, Burnside
Yuskis Enclave, Ltd,
Warsaw

Todd Grotts named new Manager of Operations

Effective December 1, Todd Grotts will become Manager of Operations of WIEC. His duties will include managing the daily operations, maintenance and construction of the WIEC electrical distribution system. He will also be the one whom members call when needing a new service or upgrading existing services.

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In addition to these new duties, Todd will continue to oversee and maintain our Automated Meter Reading (AMR) System and our SCADA system. SCADA (which stands for Supervisory Control And

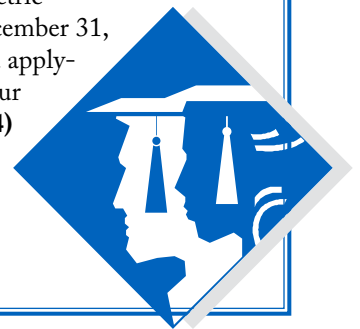


Data Acquisition) communicates load data to Prairie Power, Inc, our wholesale power provider, which helps PPI schedule the purchase and delivery of the electricity that WIEC's members will need.

Todd started at WIEC in February 2008 as staking technician/materials clerk. A Carthage High School graduate, Todd attended Lincoln Land Community College earning an Electrical Technician Associates Degree. Todd and his wife, Chelle, live in Carthage and have four children. He enjoys hunting, golfing and he is active in his kids activities.

Attention high school seniors...

The deadline for applying for the Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarships is December 31, 2013. This applies to both paper applications and applying online. Ask your guidance counselor or call our office for an application and information **(461-64)** from our Web site at www.wiec.net.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Doris McElroy of Sutter who won the \$50 Bill Credit as part of the WIEC 75th Anniversary Quiz in October. We thank our members for joining in on the fun as we had over 75 entries delivered by mail, e-mail and also those who delivered their entries in person on Member Appreciation Day.

Keep on reading the WIEC News!

Solid lighting solutions

LEDs meet (and exceed) 2014 lighting efficiency standards

By Megan McCoy-Noe and Brian Sloboda

A new year calls for updated light-bulb efficiency guidelines. No need to use bulbs with a twist; light-emitting diodes (LEDs) can help you switch on savings.

Congress called for improved energy efficiency standards for traditional incandescent bulbs under the federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. By 2014, lightbulbs using between 40-W to 100-W must consume at least 28 percent less energy than classic bulbs. The change will save Americans an estimated \$6 billion to \$10 billion in lighting costs annually.

When the next wave of standards kicks in next month, traditional 40-W and 60-W incandescents will no longer be available. In their place, some consumers are filling the gap with a solid solution: LEDs.

'Solid' lighting

Incandescent bulbs create light using a thin wire (filament) inside a glass bulb—a delicate connection that can easily be broken, as frustrated homeowners can attest. In contrast, LEDs are at the forefront of solid-state lighting—small, packed electronic chip devices. Two conductive materials are placed together on a chip (a diode). Electricity passes through the diode, releasing energy in the form of light.

Invented in 1960 by General Electric, the first LEDs were red—the color depends on materials placed on the diode. Yellow, green, and orange LEDs were created in the 1970s and the recipe for the color blue—the foundation for white LEDs—was unlocked in the mid-1990s. Originally used in remote controls, exit signs, digital watches, alarm clocks, and car signal lights, LEDs quickly gained momentum for large-scale lighting.

Measuring LED potential

The Arlington, Va.-based

Cooperative Research Network has partnered with several electric cooperatives throughout the United States to test LEDs. Researchers are cautiously optimistic; LEDs offer several benefits:

- LEDs could last longer, perhaps for decades
- The energy to use LEDs could be substantially less than that of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) or other fluorescents
- With no mercury content, LEDs are more environmentally friendly
- The products are rugged and more resistant to breakage
- LEDs perform well in cold climates, especially outdoors
- LEDs can be dimmed and produce a more pleasing light
- However, some consumers avoid LEDs because the price tag exceeds normal lightbulb costs. But the true value lies in the lifetime of the bulb. It takes about 50 traditional incandescent bulbs, or eight to 10 CFLs, to last as long as one LED lamp.

Buyer Beware

Poor quality LED products are flooding the marketplace. Some are manufactured outside of the United States with components that produce low light levels, don't boast a long service life, or make exaggerated energy saving claims.

Don't be fooled. Look for the U.S. Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR logo for guaranteed color quality over time, steady light output over the lifetime, high efficiency, and a warranty.

You can also look for an LED Lighting Facts label. The label helps consumers compare products to manufacturer claims and similar products in five areas:

- **Lumens:** Measures light output. The higher the number, the more light is emitted.

Lighting Facts Per Bulb	
Brightness	510 lumens
Estimated Yearly Energy Cost	\$7.83
Based on 3 hrs/day, 11¢/kWh Cost depends on rates and use	
Life	1.8 years
Based on 3 hrs/day	
Light Appearance	
Warm ←————→ Cool	
2650 K	
Energy Used	65 watts
Contains Mercury	
For more on clean up and safe disposal, visit epa.gov/cfl .	

- **Lumens per watt (lm/W):** Measures efficiency. The higher the number, the more efficient the product.
- **Watts:** Measures the energy required to light the product. The lower the wattage, the less energy is used.
- **Correlated Color Temperature (CCT):** Measures light color. "Cool" colors have higher Kelvin temperatures (3,600–5,500 K); "warm" colors have lower color temperatures (2,700–3,000 K). Cool white light is usually better for visual tasks. Warm white light is usually better for living spaces because it casts a warmer light on skin and clothing. Color temperatures of 2,700 to 3,600 K are recommended for most general indoor and task lighting.
- **Color Rendering Index (CRI):** Measures the effect of the lamp's light spectrum on the color appearance of objects. The higher the number, the truer the appearance of the light. Incandescent lighting is 100 on the CRI.

Sources: *The Association of Electrical Equipment and Medical Imaging Manufacturers, U.S. Department of Energy, Cooperative Research Network*