


WIEC NEWS

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

WIEC announces “Youth to Washington” Tour Winner

Warsaw Senior wins all-expense paid trip

Kyra Koehler, daughter of Tony and Beth Koehler, Warsaw, has been named WIEC’s “Youth to Washington” tour winner. Kyra, a senior at Warsaw High School, won the all-expense paid trip to Washington DC as the winner of the Youth to Washington Web Quiz. Addison Ufkes, daughter of Brent and Angie Ufkes, Carthage will also go on the trip funding the trip herself as a Willie Wirehand participant.

The girls will visit Washington, D.C. with thousands of other high school students from all over the United States. The trip is the week of June 15-22 and they will visit historically significant national sites, tour some of the most moving memorials and possibly will get to visit the White House. (7529-39) Many participants refer to it “as a trip of a lifetime.”

WIEC congratulates Kyra and wishes both girls have a great time!



Youth to Washington Winner, Kyra Koehler accepts certificate from WIEC Manager Paul Dion

Addison Ufkes, Carthage, will also go on the Youth to Washington Tour.



Looking for photos, fast and important co-op information? Like us on Facebook-- you can find news, photos, storm outage updates and so much more!

(<https://www.facebook.com/westernillinoiselectricalcoop>)

Like WIEC!

Welcome New Members

Walter Beach, Pekin, IL
Ben W & Clara Gerhardt Trust,
Dallas City
Jay Fillman, Mazon, IL
David C Fortado, Nauvoo
Morrison Farms, Burnside
Doug Palmer, Blandinsville

Steve & Leigh Ann Pfeiferling,
Hamilton
Michael A Shadden, Stronghurst
Debra S Spiker, Stronghurst
Samantha Stotlar, Niota
Chris Wood, Bowen



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

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.

Nominating Committee meets



(Left - clockwise) Harold Ravenscraft, Ned Woolverton, Roger Hogan, Spencer Berry, Max Roskamp, Jonathan Fecht, Robert Menn and Jason Jacquot.

Ten members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. were appointed to the 2012 nominating committee. The committee met at the WIEC office on April 9 and April 23 to make nominations for directors. Three directors will be elected at the cooperative's Annual Meeting on June 28, 2012.

The following were nominated for director positions:

- District 1 - Mike Ford, Carman
- District 2 - William R Newton, Burnside
- District 3 - Jay D. Morrison, Niota

The nominations have been posted at the Carthage office, as stipulated by the cooperative's by-laws. Any nominations made by petition will be included on the official ballot if they are brought to the WIEC (789-45-2) office at least 10 days before the meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the annual meeting.

Kids - Learn the basics of wiring and electricity

Sign up for the 4-H Electricity School



The 2012 4-H Electricity School is co-sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension and Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

Participants will be divided into groups depending on their wiring and electrical experience. WIEC electrician Mark Kissinger will help beginning students learn the basic techniques. The more advanced students will make projects that will challenge them as well. All students will take part in skill sessions. The cost of the class will be for materials only.

Students should bring a flat head screwdriver, pliers with a wire cutter, a

wire stripper and a pocket knife (with parental consent.)

Who: Children ages 8-18 who live in Hancock or Henderson County. Students do not have to be a member of 4-H to attend.

When: Friday, June 29th from 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Where: Hancock County Extension Center in Carthage

To register or for more information, contact the Extension office at 217-357-2150.



MEN: When was your last PSA?

Men aged 50 or older, or those older than 40 with family history of Prostate Cancer or other significant risk factors, are encouraged to take advantage of an opportunity to receive a **FREE** screening PSA test during the WIEC Annual Meeting June 28 at the Extension Center in Carthage. The PSA is a blood test, does not require fasting, and is being provided by the Hancock County Health Department with grant funding from the Illinois



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Department of Public Health.

PSA results will be sent to each participating man and to his indicated healthcare provider.

Incidence and mortality rates of Prostate Cancer in Hancock County are significantly higher than state and national rates. Especially if you are an uninsured or underinsured man, please consider taking this opportunity to have a **FREE** PSA. It just could save your life!

Free blood pressure checks

According to the American Heart Association, nearly one in three U.S. adults has high blood pressure, but because there are no symptoms, nearly one-third of these (8628-8) people don't know they have it. Uncontrolled high blood pressure can lead to stroke, heart attack, heart fail-

ure or kidney failure. The only way to tell if you have high blood pressure is to have your blood pressure checked.

The Hancock County Health Department will be at Annual Meeting from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. offering free blood pressure checks to our members.



The WIEC office will close at Noon on Friday, June 29th.

It's all at the WIEC Annual Meeting

Besides hearing important information about your cooperative, pop, chips and a dilly bar will be available to enjoy while visiting with your friends and neighbors. The Energy Efficiency Wall will be there with actual examples of products to use to stop air leaks around outside walls, windows and doors, along with materials to use to stop them.

All registered members will receive a \$10 bill credit and be eligible to win one of these prizes:

- Wal-Mart gift cards
- remote control helicopter
- a work light
- oil change
- free furnace servicing

the grand prize of a \$100 bill for five lucky members

Every Degree=Dollars

\$SAVE!

Don't let summer heat burn your budget. When home, set your thermostat to 78°.

Going out for the day? By turning your thermostat up 10°-15° when you're out of the house, you can cut your electric bill by up to 15 percent. That's a savings of up to 1 percent for every degree you raise your thermostat (based on eight hours).

78°

Source: EnergySavers.gov

Merits of possible consolidation being studied

In March, WIEC members were informed of Adams Electric Cooperative (AEC) and Western Illinois Electrical Coop.'s (WIEC) discussions about the possibility of joining the two cooperatives. The first step was to determine if combining the two entities would be financially beneficial.

To make that determination, the financial data of both co-ops were sent to the National Rural Utilities Finance Corporation (CFC). CFC is a member-owned, nonprofit cooperative and provides financial assistance as well as operating loan funds for cooperatives across America, including WIEC and AEC. After studying the information, CFC will make an independent assessment as to whether or not it would be a good decision for the members of both coops to join. This analysis is just one step in making

a long term decision for the success of both cooperatives. If there is a recommendation to consolidate, each board would analyze the conclusions drawn by CFC and determine what is best for all members and employees.

Since the consolidation discussions have begun, AEC and WIEC have begun working together on several projects. An Okonite training seminar concerning underground cable installations and preparation was held at Adams Electric with both co-ops' linecrews attending. The training provided an opportunity for operations employees to meet and start building relationships.

Adams provided their mapping system capabilities to create maps for WIEC to share with the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR). Adams' expertise will help WIEC obtain the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources spray permit, something that is critical

to maintain our vegetation management practices. The use of Adams' services helped save time and money.

Adams Electric's engineer performed WIEC's Work Order Certification, which is an examination of work order procedures for the past year required annually by CFC. In the past, WIEC would have to hire an outside engineering firm to perform this inspection. AEC, having professional engineers on staff, helped with this requirement. Even if uniting our two coops never happens, it has been beneficial for WIEC to work with our neighbor, Adams Electric.

Both boards will continue studying the long term merits of consolidation with the long term goal of keeping electricity reliable and affordable. We will keep our members updated concerning the consolidation study progress.

The Energy Efficiency Wall

Consumer-member education on "What Makes a Home Energy Efficient?" is the theme of Prairie Power, Inc's (PPI's) "Energy Efficiency Wall" constructed and utilized by PPI and its member cooperatives, including Western Illinois Electrical Cooperative in Carthage, IL. The 16-foot "Energy Efficiency Wall" illustrates various opportunities for air infiltration or leakage within the common home due to poor construction practices and materials. The display address: *energy efficient construction practices and materials, and energy efficient equipment and technologies.* The proper use of caulking around penetration points in the home's external walls, such as window and door openings, gas, water, AC and heating system fuel lines and ventilation systems, and, the selection and installation of energy efficient insulation materials, ventilation equipment and lighting systems are just a few of the energy efficient items illustrated in the



"Wall." Utilizing the displays at member cooperatives' annual membership meetings, NRECA (7717-58) and Touchstone Energy regional events, community college workshops, home-builder shows, county fairs and other events, ... over 358,000 consumers have been exposed to the educational opportunities of the "Energy Efficiency Wall" in 2009.

This will be on display before and after the Annual Meeting. Be sure to come early so you can take in all this free information that this display has to offer.



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Want to beat the heat? Run appliances like dish washers and dryers late in the evening to keep the heat from affecting your comfort. Use cold water to wash clothes, and remember to unplug electric chargers, televisions, and any appliances when you are not using them. Learn more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives