


# WIEC NEWS

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



*Paul Dion, WIEC manager said he was proud of what the WIEC members, directors and employees have accomplished in almost 75 years of existence.*



*Winners of the 2012 Grand Prizes were Jean Nelson, Robert Shutwell, Larry Huls, Irene Sellars and Amy Palmisano. They each won \$100. Congratulations.*



*About 325 filled the air conditioned Extension Center.*

## Good crowd braves heat to attend Annual Meeting

### Members heard about possible consolidation

Members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. (WIEC) learned about a potential consolidation with Adams Electric Cooperative, current and future power supply and cost, plus easy ways to save money on their electric bills during the organization's 72nd meeting of members held at the Hancock County Extension Center on Thursday, June 28.

WIEC Manager Paul Dion and Adams Electric Cooperative General Manager Jim Thompson, PE, discussed the benefits of a potential consolidation between the two cooperatives. They said that with the operations and administrative personnel Adams Electric already has in place, WIEC members would be able to enjoy system upgrades that would improve electric service reliability and

shorten the duration of outages. An added benefit would be the expansion of communications functions.

"These are all very important pieces of the puzzle that WIEC currently does not have and would be very expensive and require more employees to initiate. It would take several years and a lot of money to be even close to where Adams Electric's technology is today," said Dion.

Randy Price, President/CEO of Carroll-White REMC in Monticello, Ind., was on hand (3619-10) at the meeting to discuss the consolidation that just occurred between Carroll County REMC and White County REMC. He echoed both Dion and Thompson's reasoning for considering the consolidation, saying, "For either of our co-ops to have gone it alone

meant not only a loss of savings but significant added costs that would have been passed through in rates."

A study is currently underway, and if it would be in the best interest of both co-op memberships, the consolidation would ultimately be determined by a two-thirds vote of the quorum of members present at a member meeting that would be scheduled for next spring.

One thing that won't change if the co-ops consolidate is the heritage, or culture of the cooperative way of doing business. Board President Robert Gronewold said that WIEC was created because no other electric provider would serve the rural areas. He said that co-op membership matters because it is owned by its member-owners who have a voice in how it is

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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

**DURING OFFICE HOURS,  
OR AFTER HOURS  
TO REPORT OUTAGE**

217-357-3125  
800-576-3125

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- **Rob Gronewold** —  
President, Carthage
- **Jay Morrison** —  
Vice President, Niota
- **Janet Spory** —  
Secretary/Treasurer, Sutter
- **William R. Newton** —  
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer,  
Burnside
- **Dave Biery** — Director,  
Carthage
- **Calvin Baumann** —  
Director, Basco
- **Mike Ford** — Director, Lomax

**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.



*Adams Electric General Manager spoke to the crowd about the benefits of combining AEC and WIEC.*



*Randy Price, Manager of Carroll White Electric REMC shared his experience when consolidating two cooperatives in Indiana.*



*Three directors were re-elected during the meeting. They are Jay D. Morrison of Niota, William R. Newton of Burnside, and Michael L. Ford of Carmen.*



**Energy Efficiency**  
*Tip of the Month*

Look to your windows for energy savings. Use weather stripping on old windows, and, if you can, add storm (4510-31) windows. In hot climates, add solar film screening to west-facing windows to catch heat. For new units, consider double-glazed panes; in cold climates, "low-e" coatings on glass can help reduce heat loss. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

**Source: U.S. Department of Energy**



*Members could see the difference between different light bulbs in the PPI's Wall Display.*

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run and it invests in the community it serves as a not-for-profit entity. The co-op doesn't make profits for investors, so any margins remaining after expenses have been paid are returned to the member-owners in the form of capital credits.

Gronewold said, "WIEC doesn't exist to make profits for distant investors on Wall Street; we exist to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service, and doing so in a way that raises the quality of life in our communities." Consolidating with another electric cooperative would not change this.

Jay Bartlett, P.E., President/CEO of Prairie Power, Inc., WIEC's power supplier, updated the audience on current and future power supply. He said the power cooperative has made significant investments in Prairie State Energy Campus, the most

futuristic and ecologically friendly power plant in the country. This will ensure WIEC members adequate power supply at competitive prices for many years to come.

The country's energy policy continues to threaten the use of new and existing coal-fired power plants that have not met increasingly stringent air and water regulations. Congress is implementing regulation without reviewing all the facts, which is causing significant uncertainty in the market. The bulk of current coal production is due to demand in China and India, which are not heavily regulated Bartlett said, "Illinois is the Saudi Arabia of coal, which could yield some tremendous (4610-27) advantages for our great country." Prairie Power will continue to be actively engaged in this ongoing issue.

Secretary-Treasurer Janet Spory discussed a variety of ways to save money on electricity. They included low-cost no-cost ways to reduce energy use. Cell phone chargers can be unplugged if they're not in use, electronics such as DVD players and TVs can be plugged into a power strip, which can be turned off when they're not in use. And using the microwave instead of the stove or oven can reduce energy use. Hanging wash to dry instead of using your dryer will reduce energy use and keep the house cooler, and using cold water instead of hot water will save on energy use.

During the meeting Michael L. Ford of Carman, William R. Newton of Burnside and Jay D. Morrison of Niota were re-elected to the cooperative's board of directors.

## Welcome New Members

Melissa Green, Carthage  
Erin Hoemmen, LaHarpe  
Brielle Hill, Keokuk, IA  
Daniel W & Billie N Launer, Warsaw  
Andrew Leach, Carthage

Paul F McEntee, Niota  
Cathy McQueen, Basco  
Bethany Pittman, Dallas City  
Rawhouser Rambling Acres, LLC, Biggsville

**WIEC would like to thank our vendors for graciously providing door prizes for our annual meeting.**

Gift	Donor	Recipient
Remote Control Helicopter	Air Evac %Randy Sprunger	Jerry Schmitz
\$25.00 Walmart Gift Card	Bennett & Middendorf, Ltd.	Spencer Berry
\$25.00 Walmart Gift Card	Bennett & Middendorf, Ltd	Ann Vanausdall
\$25.00 Walmart Gift Card	Bennett & Middendorf, Ltd	Norma Mixer
\$25.00 Walmart Gift Card	Bennett & Middendorf, Ltd	Don Rosenboom
Gift Pack Of Spices	Brownstown Electric Supply Co., Inc	Florence Wright/Jean Nelson
Gift Certificate For 1 Oil Change	Carson Ford, Inc	Diana Allen
\$25.00 Walmart Gift Card	C & S Testing, Willard Wiggers	Stuart Kelly
Worklight	Fletcher-Reinhardt Company	Alfred Huston
Bag Chair & Cup	Marine Bank & Trust	Rueben Brown
Bag Chair & Cup	Marine Bank & Trust	Donald David
1 Free General Service On Furnace	Peters Heating & Air Conditioning	Dennis Tubbs
Stand Oscillating Fan	Power Line Supply	Euvon Radel
\$25 Sears Gift Card	United Utility Supply	Alfred Marlett
Cap & Koozie	Vermeer Midwest	Darrell Elsea
Cap & Koozie	Vermeer Midwest	Harmony Township
Cap & Koozie	Vermeer Midwest	James R Baker
Cap & Koozie	Vermeer Midwest	Kenneth Reidner
Stocking Cap & Sunglasses	Vermeer Midwest	Lowell Mohr
Stocking Cap & Sunglasses	Vermeer Midwest	Delbert Bergman
\$25.00 Gift Certificate	Weber Meats, Inc.	Judy A. Johnson
Hawkeye Gift Certificate	Springfield Electric	Glen White
Hawkeye Gift Certificate	Springfield Electric	Keith Neill
Cap	Vermeer Midwest	Leta Fern Pile

## Pay your WIEC bill online

Go to [WIEC.net](http://WIEC.net) for internet payments

In addition to paying your Western Illinois Electrical Coop. bill by mail, phone or at the office, your cooperative is accepting payments online through our website at [www.wiec.net](http://www.wiec.net). Save time and money by using this convenient service 24 hours a day, seven days a week from the convenience of your home.

This service provides you with many features you have come to expect. In addition to viewing and paying your current bill online, members can also look back at previous bill statements. Members can pay using VISA, MasterCard or Discover.

Visit WIEC's website and select Online Bill payment. The first time, you'll have to enter the temporary password that appears on your bill as both the account number and password. After following the steps, members will receive an email confirmation verifying their information and payment. Please read this e-mail carefully as it requires (4714-1) a response.

If members have any problems or questions, please call the WIEC office at 217-357-3125 or 800-576-3125 during normal business hours.

## Proxy contest winners

If a member cannot attend the WIEC Annual Meeting, we encourage them to sign their proxy over to another member who will attend or bring it to the WIEC office. As an incentive to have WIEC members to sign their proxies, all signed proxies received were entered into a drawing for a \$10 bill credit. The five winners were: Richard Hensley, Kenneth Coffman, Bruce Barlow, Harry W. Seipel and Geane Reed. These lucky winners will see the credit on their June bill they will receive around July 11.

## FAQ

### The display on my meter is blinking, but I still have power? What does that mean?

Some of our new AMR meters flash the display and some show the display continually; both are okay. The only thing to remember that if you have no power and there is NO display, then call WIEC. The problem is on our side of the meter, so call us so we can get your power restored.



**NO DISPLAY?**  
Call WIEC!



Check here for a display  
A continually on or blinking  
display – is okay.