

WIEC NEWS

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Honoring Veterans one flight at a time

Honor Flight tries to repay debt of a nation

“Yesterday, December 7th, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.” These words were spoken by President Franklin D. Roosevelt informing the nation of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The four-year war resulted in over 400,000 American lives lost and countless injured. Ration books, victory gardens and doing without became part of life during the war. This nation pulled together to do what had to be done to support the troops overseas. But it was the soldiers who made the most sacrifice. They left their homes and families to fight a war to fight tyranny and keep America free.

In April 2004, The World War II Memorial was dedicated to commemorate the brave men and women who won that war. Now, with more than 1,000 WWII veterans dying each day, it was time to express our thanks to these veterans. In an effort to make sure these soldiers see their memorial, the Honor Flight program began. This free service will transport military veterans to Washington DC to visit the World War II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery (Tomb of the Unknown Soldier), Iwo Jima Memorial, Lincoln, Korean and Vietnam Memorials (as time permits). The Honor Flight also allows those veterans to have a real



These veterans were receiving the homecoming they deserved but never got 65 years ago.

homecoming, complete with cheering crowds, motorcades, shaking of hands and patting on the backs to show appreciation of what they accomplished so long ago.

WIEC Member James Spencer, West Point, was 18 when he joined the Navy. He served for three years, serving aboard the USS Caperton as an Electrician's Mate 1st Class. During his Honor Flight, he and 130 other veterans saw for themselves the beauty of the World War II Memorial. Spencer

said, “It was wonderful. They showed the world what we did and we could tell people about it.” Spencer said he talked about his experiences to children that were on a school field trip. When the group visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Spencer was in awe of the silence found there. “Not a sound was made.” he said.

What Spencer remembers were the people who were there to wish them well, cheer and clap when they left Quincy, when they got to Baltimore, MD and all along the way. People, some who weren't even born during the war, wanted to thank those veterans for their service to this country by cheering when the veterans entered the room. “There were lots of people there when we landed in Baltimore at the airport and those same people came back 4 hours later to cheer and thank us again when we left,” he said. During the plane trip back to St. Louis, there was a mail call. Word had gotten out to the friends and families of the soldiers making the trip. Each soldier received cards thanking them for their service to their country. Spencer received cards from people in his church, his children and even some school children in Hannibal who he didn't know.

Jack Ufkes, Carthage, also went on an Honor Flight in October 2011 as a guardian. He too was amazed by the

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Consolidation Update

The Wage & Benefits, Board Governance/Restructuring, Finance, and Bylaw committees met on Tues., Sept. 11 and Weds. Sept. 12. Good progress was made at all of these meetings. The committees will help streamline the process of reviewing all the various aspects of consolidation. However, please keep in mind, that all issues discussed at committee meetings must meet approval by both Cooperative boards before final decisions are made.

The Bylaw Committee is in the process of reviewing bylaws from both Cooperatives.

Adams Electric Cooperative's Manager of Finance Steve Jennings and Western Illinois Electrical Coop.'s

Office Manager Becky Dickinson are in the process of preparing a ten-year financial forecast for the Finance Committee. The forecast will cover rates, capital credit retirements, and equity. The committee is preparing a capital budget plan covering equipment purchases, capital credit retirement rotations and construction work. They will also review insurance levels for a larger consolidated cooperative. In addition, they will look at loan repricing options to examine opportunities and risks.

The Wage & Benefits Committee is reviewing options for the consolidated cooperative's retirement benefits package. Tom Hogan, benefits coordinator from NRECA, was present at the meeting to discuss retirement benefits options. Wages were discussed as part of the retirement benefits discussion. Health insurance will be the main topic at the next committee meeting.

Mike Ohnemus, Adams Electric Cooperative's GIS Mapping Technician, created a new district map for the Board Governance Committee. The committee discussed using section lines where appropriate in determining district boundaries. This committee discussed board term limits, per diem, election processes, training requirements, and ways to reduce the number of directors. At the next meeting, the

committee will start reviewing the board governance policies.

The Communications Committee did not meet recently, but have discussed ways to keep members and employees informed of the consolidation study. Members will continue to receive updates in their member newsletters. The committee also discussed providing informational meetings for members, if needed. All updates will be posted on the cooperatives' websites. **(10529-68)**

The Rates Committee did not meet recently, but at the previous meeting, the committee agreed that a cost of service study should be performed once the new cooperative is established in January 2014. Most rate structures are similar. In general, WIEC's rate structures have lower facility charges and higher kWh charges while AEC's rate structures have higher facility charges and lower kWh charges.

Meetings such as these will be held as both coops try to determine what is in the best interest of both co-op memberships. Ultimately, the decision will be made by the members at a meeting schedule for next spring.



Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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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.



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Your kitchen can yield big energy savings. Check the refrigerator door seal for a tight fit. Run only full dishwasher loads, and use the microwave rather than oven to reheat food and make small **(4825-31)** meals. Finally, unplug small appliances when not in use—many draw power even when turned off. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

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support the Veterans received. Their bus was heading back to Hannibal and about the Bowling Green ramp, when 124 motorcycles came down the ramp, two by two. Each pair would pass the bus containing their group and then take their place in front of the bus. "When we got back to Hannibal, there was even more people, just waving, cheering and welcoming back the veterans," Ufkes said. "Everywhere we went, people were showing their appreciation for what these men had done. Even the maintenance men at the airport were on hand applauding the vets." These veterans were receiving the homecoming they deserved but never got 65 years ago.

This group too went to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, saw the changing of the guard and saw a special presentation of wreaths. "It was very touching for many of the attendees that day," said Ufkes.

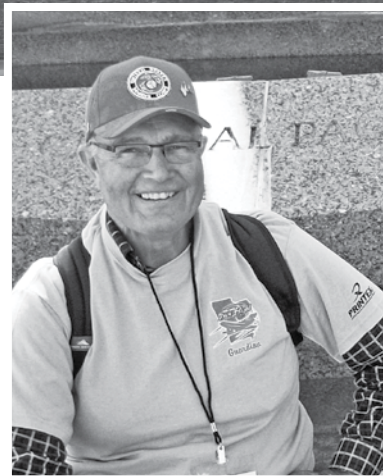
Ufkes served his country as a Corporal in the Marines during peace time and lives on WIEC lines north of Carthage. He was asked to go on the Honor Flight with a family friend to serve as a guardian. Guardians go through an application process, just like the veterans. They are reminded that the day belongs to the vets and guardians should stay in the background until needed. Even though it is a very long day and guardians pay their own way, Ufkes said, "I was honored to be asked and it was something I'll never forget."

The Great River Honor Flight based out of Quincy is the local chapter of this national organization. Applications are found online for both veterans and guardians. World War II veterans are given special consideration, however Korean Veterans are now encouraged to apply. For more information, go to www.wgem.com for more information.

In the mentality of the greatest generation, Mr. Spencer wanted to share the glory for winning the war. He said, "It was the people in this country, in the factories and others that backed us up and built stuff for us. That's why we won in the Pacific; that's why we won in Europe."



▲ *World War II monument*



▲ *Jack Ufkes, Honor Flight guardian*

▼ *James Spencer, World War II veteran*



▲ *Honor Flight motorcade*

Eight 2013 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

Paul M. Dion, WIEC Manager has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives will again in 2013 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. **(856-25)**

The eight scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded in 2013 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial 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. 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 **(3925-62)** directors.

A new eighth 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. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; individuals enrolled in the Lincoln Land lineworker’s school; 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 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. 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 is being sent to area high school guidance counselors and is available for download at the cooperative’s website at www.wiec.net.



Watch for Capital Credit checks

Around Nov. 1, WIEC members who were on our lines in 1978 will be receiving their capital credit check in the mail. Watch for it!

Welcome New Members

Adams Network, Inc, Golden
Kelsey Belshaw, Carthage
Jessica Bush, Carthage
Chih H Chang, Blandinsville
Dean Eddington & Cindy Clancy,
LaHarpe
Travis & Jennifer Hobby, LaHarpe
Todd Hurt, Basco
David W., & Kathleen A. Johnson,
Dallas City
Jeff Miller, Gladstone
Richards Family Farms, Colchester

Ian Rinker & Marcus DePalma,
Gladstone
Rock Creek Swine, LLC, Carthage
Amy & Matt Shanks, Niota
Robert & Mary E Soland,
Springfield, MO
Hunter & Jessi Still, Warsaw
Gilles Torlet, Hamilton
Mikayla Wakefield, Gladstone
Cheyenne Wilson & Andrew
Kindhart, Plymouth
Roger F Wolford, Groveland IL

Office Closed

WIEC office will be closed Nov. 12 in honor of Veteran’s Day.

WIEC office will be closed Nov. 22 in observance of Thanksgiving. Our office will reopen on Fri., Nov. 23rd. WIEC directors and employees wish our members a blessed Thanksgiving.

As always, in case of power emergencies, call 217-357-3125 or 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.