

Save  
THE Date!

## WIEC Annual Meeting

The WIEC Annual Meeting will be **Thursday, June 27th**. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for meal service, with the meeting to begin at 7 p.m. **861-22-1**

Watch your mailbox for the Annual Meeting booklet. It will contain your registration card, proxy card and other important information. To save time, please bring the registration card with you to the meeting. There will be additional details in the meeting booklet.

If you will be unable to attend in person, please give your signed proxy card to another member who does plan to attend or drop it by the office so that your vote will count.



## Can't make it to WIEC's Annual Meeting?

*You can still make your vote count! We NEED as many members as possible to vote.*

If you can't come to the annual meeting on June 27th, you can still make your vote count! You'll also help WIEC meet the requirements set by its bylaws for participation. Please consider giving another co-op member your signed proxy card or sending or bringing your signed proxy card to the

office directly. We can then give it to an attendee the night of the meeting to cast your vote. This way your vote will count!

All members who sign and return their proxy to be used at the annual meeting will be entered into a drawing for a bill credit.

## Allocation of WIEC's 2023 margins

If you were a WIEC member who purchased power during 2023, you should receive an allocation notice this month. If you do not receive one, please contact us. **7814-63-1**

One of the main differences between a cooperative and an investor-owned utility is that any margins (sometimes called "profits") accumulated during the year are eventually returned to members in the form of capital credits. Each year, WIEC sends allocation notifications to members detailing their share of the previous year's margins. This year, members should receive their allocation notices via mail in May. The notices inform members of the dollar amounts related to 2023 margins that were added to their individual capital credit balances.



524 North Madison | P.O. Box 338  
Carthage, IL 62321  
www.wiec.net | 800-576-3125

**OFFICE HOURS**

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

**BUSINESS OFFICE**

217-357-3125

**TO REPORT AN OUTAGE**

800-576-3125

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- **Mark Burling** —  
President, Carthage
- **Dustin Walker** —  
Vice President, Burnside
- **Janet Spory** —  
Secretary/Treasurer, Sutter
- **Kim Gullberg** —  
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer,  
Stronghurst
- **Landon Guymon** —  
Director, Carthage
- **Jay Morrison** —  
Director, Niota
- **Stephen Patrick** —  
Director, Carthage

**MANAGEMENT TEAM**

- **Todd Grotts** — General Manager
- **Ryan Biery** — Manager  
of Operations
- **Wendi Whitaker** — Finance and  
Accounting 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.

# 2024 Nominating Committee results

The 2024 nominating committee met in the board room at the WIEC office in Carthage on March 11 and 18 to make nominations for directors. Three directors will be elected at the cooperative's annual meeting on Thursday, June 27.

Serving on the committee were Spencer Berry, Nauvoo; Adam Bollin, Nauvoo; Steve Boyer, Carthage; Rodney Bruns, Carthage; Bradley Flatt, Stronghurst; Harold "Tony" Herdrich, Dallas City; Rodney Pence, Dallas City, as Secretary; 8623-28 Max Roskamp, Sutter; Austin Ufkes, Carthage, as Chairperson; and Todd Woodbury, Stronghurst.

The following were nominated for director positions:

- District 1 – Kim Gullberg
- District 2 – Dustin Walker
- District 3 – Jay Morrison

The nominations have been posted in Carthage at the co-op office as stipulated in the cooperative's bylaws. Any nominations made by petition will be included on the official ballot if they are brought to the WIEC office at least 10 days before the meeting. Per the co-op's bylaws, nominations from the floor at the annual meeting are not allowed.



2024 Nominating Committee members include: (L to R) Rodney Bruns, Bradley Flatt, Steve Boyer, Harold "Tony" Herdrich, Todd Woodbury, Austin Ufkes, Rodney Pence and Adam Bollin. Not pictured: Spencer Berry and Max Roskamp.

**Welcome new members**

February  
2024

- Everett and Genevieve France Trust
- Kelsey M. and Dakota W.D. Hicks
- Ronnie Johnson
- Andrew and Erica Pence
- Tina Persinger
- William and Christine Plummer
- Gary Varner
- Benjamin K. Winterton

**Memorial Day 2024**



Western Illinois Electrical Coop. will be closed Monday, May 27 in honor of Memorial Day.

"We don't know them all, but we owe them all." - unknown

THANK YOU to all U.S. military personnel, past and present, for your selfless service.

# Leaders of tomorrow represent their co-op on Youth Day

For more than 60 years, the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois have given tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to learn from today's public officials. On March 20, more than 200 students from across rural Illinois represented 25 co-ops during Youth Day, including two from Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

"Youth Day gives students across the state an up-close look at democracy in action as they meet their elected representatives in Springfield," said Baylee Flowers, legal and government relations coordinator at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. "State senators and representatives have the opportunity to inspire and encourage the leaders of tomorrow during this annual event."

In addition to meeting elected officials, the students also learned more about their electric or telephone cooperative's role in their own communities and had the opportunity to tour the Illinois State Capitol and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

State Representative Norine Hammond (R-94) met with the students representing Western Illinois Electric Coop. These students included Corin Robinson (Illini West High School) and Savannah Ramsey (Southeastern High School.)

During lunch, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Natalie Phelps Finnie addressed the students. She discussed her background as a healthcare provider and how she got into politics. She encouraged them to follow their passions, live confidently and work hard. **9511-74**

"You're embarking upon adulthood," Phelps Finnie said to the students. "You can do anything you want to do. I just ask that you come to adulthood with the right posture and attitude. ... Don't come with a sense of entitlement that everything is owed to you. Work for it. Earn it."



Participants also met Paris Van Dyke, the 2023-24 Illinois Youth Leadership Council representative, who was sponsored by Wabash Communications during last year's Youth Day. She spoke about her experiences over the past year and challenged attendees to say, "Yes."

"What I want to say to you today is something that I decided to do during this day last year — take every opportunity," Van Dyke said. "You will learn so much if you just choose to say, 'Yes.'"

In addition to Youth Day, Robinson and Ramsey were also selected to participate in Youth Tour, an annual trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives. This year's trip will be held June 14-21. They will represent Western Illinois Electrical Coop. on the weeklong trip and meet their elected officials, see historic sites, learn firsthand how cooperatives work and gain valuable leadership skills.



**WAIT!**  
DON'T PLUG  
THAT IN



**DON'T PLUG THESE  
15 THINGS INTO  
A POWER STRIP**

It is fine to plug in some things into a power strip, such as computers, lamps, phones and other light-load electronics.

However, appliances that require a lot of power should not be plugged into a power strip. Do not use a power strip with the following appliances:

**IN THE KITCHEN**

- × Refrigerators
- × Microwave ovens
- × Toasters
- × Coffee makers
- × Blenders
- × Slow cookers
- × Rice cookers

**IN THE BATHROOM**


- × Hair dryers
- × Curling irons
- × Other hairstyling tools

**IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM**

- × Washing machines
- × Dryers

**ANYWHERE**

- × Sump pumps
- × Space heaters
- × Portable air conditioners

 Do not overload power strips by plugging in appliances that consume more watts than the cord can handle. This can cause the power strip to overheat or start a fire.

**Safe Electricity.org**  
Learn more at:

**ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY**  
TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices.

With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs can help you manage devices through a smart phone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)

