

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

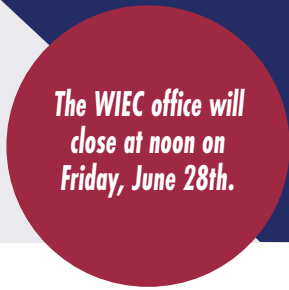
You can still make your vote count!
We NEED as many members as possible to vote.

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/bringing your signed proxy card to the office directly. We can then give it to an attendee the meeting to cast your vote. Either way your vote will count!

All members who sign and return their proxy to be used at the annual entered into drawings for one of five bill credits.



**YOUR
VOTE
MATTERS**



*The WIEC office will
close at noon on
Friday, June 28th.*

Scholarship winner

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. is proud to announce that Jackson Klingler of Illini West High School is one of 16 winners of this year's Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship. He is the son of Samantha and Darrin Klingler of Carthage. Jackson competed for the scholarship with 285 other students from across the state. The \$2,000 awards are given each year to 16 children of electric co-op members, employees or directors. A

17th scholarship is reserved for a student interested in lineworker's

college and will be announced at a later date. Jackson will be recognized during the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting on Aug. 1, 2024, in Springfield.

Candidates were judged on grade-point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay demonstrating their knowledge of electric cooperatives. **3914-53**

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. wishes Jackson the very best in his college career. We are honored to have a scholarship recipient and excited to see how he will represent the community.





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. - 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.

Time of Service Awards to be presented at WIEC's 84th Annual Meeting



DAVID PEER
Staking Technician/
Materials Handler
5 years



KYLE TANNER
Journeyman Lineworker
5 years

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs.

Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energy.gov



Welcome new members

March
2024

Greg Clampitt
Dakota & Josie Myers

Luke Newton
Caleb Speer



Grilling: A delicious and energy-friendly option for cooking

Grilling and America go together like hot dogs, baseball and apple pie. There's nothing like a sizzling grill on a summer day. But guess what? Grilling not only satisfies our cravings for great food, but it also helps preserve the environment. So, let's fire up the grill and save energy!

The cost of staying cool

As refreshing as it is to feel the cool breeze of an air conditioner (AC) on a hot summer day, its energy consumption can be hefty. Depending on the model, it can consume as much energy as a marathon runner (and run almost nonstop), using anywhere from 0.48 to 5.14 kWh per hour. That is enough to make anyone break a sweat.

Did you know that millions of people add to their AC's energy consumption without realizing it? How? By opening the oven door while cooking. According to the book "Bakewise" by Shirley O. Corriher, an oven can lose up to 150 degrees within 30 seconds. Where does all that heat go? You guessed it — right into your home. Plus, even with the door closed, your oven still radiates heat into your home since it has nowhere else to go.

The solution: grilling

If you are looking to maintain a cool vibe and lower your AC's energy consumption, head outside to the grill. Rather than generating heat indoors, the heat is dispersed outside, reducing strain on the AC, which ultimately lowers utility bills. In addition, you will

be chowing down in no time like a true grill master, as grills reach a toasty 375 degrees in just 5 minutes. Compare that to the oven's sluggish 20-minute warm-up, and you'll be laughing all the way to the butcher shop.

Tips for safe grilling

Make sure your next BBQ extravaganza is a sizzling success without any burns or mishaps. Here are some safety tips to follow:

- Take it outside. Only use grills in the great outdoors.
- Keep your grill at least 10 feet from any buildings or structures.
- Make sure your grill is on a flat, steady surface.
- Stay close. Never leave your grill unattended while preheating, cooking or cooling down.
- Dress for success. Avoid loose or long clothing that can catch fire.
- Keep a water spray bottle beside your grill to tackle any little flames that flare up quickly.
- Keep your cool with a fire extinguisher nearby, just in case.
- Keep your grill clean.

Grills should undergo deep cleaning once or twice per year. Follow these steps to keep your gas grill in prime condition:

- **Burn away buildup:** Turn on the grill, close the lid and set the heat to maximum for at least 30 minutes. This process will eliminate any remaining grease or food debris.
- **Scrub it clean:** In a bowl, mix warm water with soap and dip a wire brush into the mixture. Scrub the grates to remove any carbon buildup.
- **Let it cool:** Allow the grill to cool down completely before storing it. Now your grill is ready for your next barbecue feast.
- **Regular maintenance:** In between uses, preheat your grill and then scrape it off with a wire-bristled brush before adding food.

Happy grill, happy life

In addition to keeping it clean, it is also important to regularly check the propane tank and replace it if necessary. Inspect the hoses and connections for any leaks or damage. Make sure the burners are free of debris and are functioning properly. Finally, covering your grill when not in use can help protect it from the elements and prolong its lifespan.

Menu options are truly endless when it comes to grilling. Grab your apron, fire up the grill and get ready to impress your friends and family with your grilling skills while saving energy. **3719-39**

Energy scams unmasked

Consumers with water, gas and electricity connections have long been targets for utility scams. But in today's digital world, every swipe and click increases the risk of potential scams.

Scammers are more sophisticated than ever before, and they understand our increasing reliance on technology. With their sharpened digital knives, scammers have adapted their tactics to trick unsuspecting consumers through a variety of methods. **4634-32**

Western Illinois Electrical Coop wants to help you avoid energy scams, whether a financial loss or leak of your personal information. This month, I'd like to share tips to help you stay safe from even the craftiest scammers.

Spotting a scam

There are several red flags you can watch for to identify an energy scam.

Scammers often use high-pressure tactics to create a sense of urgency, like claiming your electricity or other services will be disconnected if a payment isn't made immediately.

In addition, scammers may ask for unusual payment methods, such as gift cards or cryptocurrency. If someone is pushing for an unusual payment method, it's likely a scam.

You've probably noticed that many digital scams, like emails or text messages, include poor grammar, spelling errors and odd email addresses. These are red flags, so when you see these dodgy forms of communication, consider it a potential scam.

What Western Illinois Electrical Coop will (and won't) do

WIEC will never demand an instant, immediate payment or threaten to disconnect your service without prior notices or warnings. We strive to resolve challenging situations and work with our members to avoid disconnects.

WIEC will never call to ask for your Social Security number or banking details over the phone or through email. We offer several secure payment options, including in-person, online at

www.wiec.net, and automated monthly ACH and credit/debit card payments. WIEC allows members to call in to provide banking details if it is convenient for them, but we will never be the ones to initiate that sort of call.

Avoiding scams

Whether in person, over the phone or online, always be suspicious of an unknown individual claiming to be a Western Illinois Electrical Coop employee requesting banking or other personal information. We do not currently send text messages for any reason. **5529-32**

If you're ever in doubt about a potential energy scam, just give us a quick call at 217-357-1325 or 800-576-3125 so we can assist. WIEC wants to help protect you and our community against utility frauds, and by notifying us about potential scams, you can create the first line of defense. We encourage you to report any potential scams so we can spread the word and prevent others in our community from falling victim.

SIGNS OF AN

ENERGY SCAM

High-Pressure Tactics

Scammers will pressure you, creating a sense of urgency. Claims that your power will be disconnected without immediate payment are common with utility scams.

Sketchy Payment Methods

Scammers may ask for unusual payment methods like gift cards or cryptocurrency. In these cases, it's likely a scam.

Dodgy Communication

Whether an email, text message or letter, utility scams typically include poor grammar, spelling errors or unusual email addresses. These are common warning signs of a scam.

