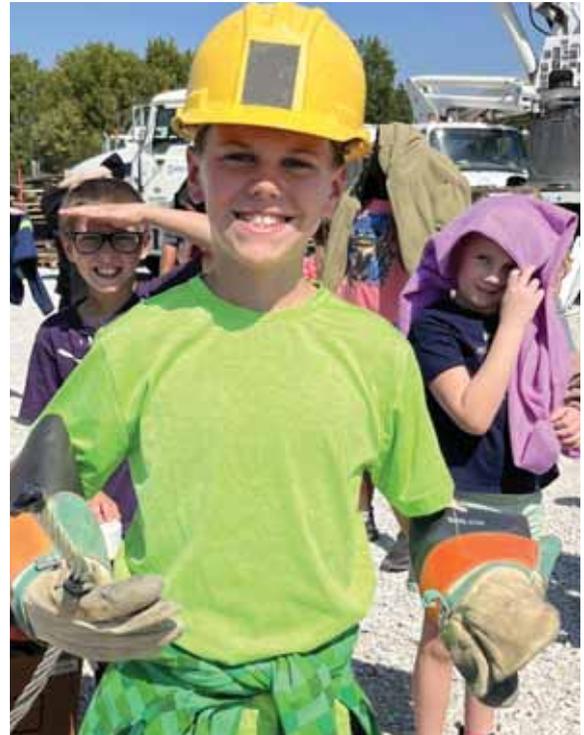


29th Annual Safety Fair

WIEC's annual Safety Fair began in 1994 as a way to equip fifth grade students with knowledge about different ways to be safe in the world around them. The message of "Live Smart, Keeping Safe and Having Fun" has been shared with thousands of students from our area over the years.

This year's fair is again scheduled for September and will endeavor to educate youth at a critical age, when they are just starting to be given more freedom to be independent and handle situations on their own. Past sessions have focused on bicycle safety; farm safety; how to make a 911 call and interacting with an ambulance and its crew; ATV safety, including the importance of wearing proper safety gear; boating safety and how critical it is to wear the correct size life jacket, as well as other boating safety techniques. The presenters do a fantastic job of engaging with the students. Some bring games to play and also have prizes to win! Presenters allow kids to ask questions while helping them to understand the need to be safe. **7819-44-5**

We hope the fifth graders from all area schools are able to attend. Our wish is that they have such an enjoyable time that they remember the lessons they are taught here for years to come.



LABOR DAY

WIEC will be closed on Sept. 2 in observance of Labor Day. In case of a power emergency, please call 217-357-3125. If busy, please hang up and call 800-576-3125.





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.

WIEC board approves capital credit retirement

Manager Todd Grotts is pleased to report that the WIEC Board of Directors has once again approved capital credit retirements for this fall. A refund amount of \$250,000 was approved during the budgeting process for this year. This will retire the capital credits for all of 1994 and most of 1995. The board (directed by co-op bylaws and separate co-op policy) can only approve the retirement of capital credits when it will not adversely impact the cooperative's financial condition. Keep your eyes out for checks to arrive toward the end of September or early October. **862-43**

Capital credits represent the cooperative members' equity in (or ownership of) their cooperative. Your credit for a specific year reflects your individual portion of any margins (a.k.a. profits) earned that year by the cooperative.

Future focused ...

At Western Illinois Electrical Coop., we strongly believe that an investment in the development of area youth and fostering an interest in electricity is beneficial to all. We have a long history of sponsoring awards at the summer's various area 4-H fairs. We hope the small spark ignited in these youth will carry forward into a lifetime of learning and interest in electrification, creating a better future for us all.

The Hancock County 4-H Fair had a total of five exhibitors who brought projects in electricity this year. Evan Starr (right) with the Hamilton Busy Bees received the Best Electricity Exhibit Award and was selected as the State Fair



Alternate. Kaleb Mohr (left) with the LaHarpe 4-Leaf Clovers received the Reserve Best Electricity Exhibit Award and was selected as the State Fair Delegate. Congratulations to both young men on a job well done!

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." —Franklin D. Roosevelt

Welcome new members

June
2024

Bradley J and Teresa G Arthur
Michael W Bundy
Caden H Coffey
Colton K Durand
Joshua W Ferguson

Donald Fisher
Foresman Farms Operation, LLC
William Godden
Stefanie Miller
Eric and Nicole M Wheatley

From the desk of the manager

EPA's power plant rule threatens electric reliability

As a consumer-member of Western Illinois Electrical Coop., keeping the lights on at a cost you can afford is the focal point of everything we do. Transparency is one of our core values, so in addition to sharing co-op successes, I believe we also have a responsibility to tell you about the challenges, too.

In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a rule that impacts energy production from power plants. The power plant rule will undoubtedly threaten access to reliable electricity for our local community and communities across the country. **861-31**

The rule constrains existing coal and new natural gas plants by requiring them to install carbon capture and storage (CCS) — a technology that has potential but has not been proven to be viable as required. No power plant in North America currently uses CCS at the scale and levels mandated by EPA. When power plants aren't able to comply with EPA's CCS requirements, they will be required to shut down, significantly limit operations or switch fuels. These unrealistic standards will force the unnecessary and early shutdown of many power plants that currently provide reliable electricity 24/7.

Renewable sources, such as solar and wind, are important components of our overall generation mix. But, given the intermittent nature of these energy sources, we simply cannot depend on them, because the wind doesn't always blow, and the sun doesn't always shine. The need for always-available power-generating resources is still essential.

The timing of the power plant rule is equally troubling. At the same time the EPA is leading our nation down the path to fewer power plants, utilities are facing a surge in electricity demand — driven by the onshoring of manufacturing, the growth of the

American economy and the rapid expansion of data centers to support artificial intelligence, e-commerce and cryptocurrency.

Many states have already experienced rolling outages, and if the supply of electricity is further threatened by the EPA's power plant rule, the problem will only get worse. In fact, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation's electric reliability watchdog, recently forecasted that over the next 5 years, all or parts of 19 states are at high risk of rolling power outages during normal peak electricity demand conditions.

It's also no secret that when demand is high and supply is low, costs go up. We're concerned about threats to reliability as well as cost increases to our members.

I don't say all of this to worry you, but I do want our members to understand the challenges that lie ahead. Just as we've always done, we will look for solutions that serve our members best. We are joining electric co-ops across the country to fight these regulations, and we are working with our local elected officials to help them



Todd Grotts
General Manager
WIEC

understand the consequences this would have on all Illinois residents.

Co-ops are no strangers to innovation, and we're taking proactive steps to address today's energy challenges and tomorrow's energy needs. Co-ops have led the charge on industry endeavors, such as community solar projects, and we'll continue to explore new technologies and strategies that bolster reliability and our local grid.

Electric cooperatives like WIEC deliver power to 42 million Americans. At the end of the day, our top priority is to meet our members' energy needs, and we must have reliable electricity available to do that.

If you're interested in learning more about policy impacts to power reliability, or to make your voice heard on this matter, visit voicesforcooperativepower.com.

IMPACTS OF THE EPA'S POWER PLANT RULE

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) power plant rule threatens access to reliable electricity for millions of Americans. The EPA's power plant rule will:



- 1 Force the premature closure of many power plants that currently provide electricity 24/7.
- 2 Mandate the deployment of unproven carbon capture and storage technology.
- 3 Jeopardize the reliability of the grid at a time when America is already facing a surge in electricity demand.
- 4 Heighten the risk of rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the electric grid.
- 5 Increase costs for consumers as utilities are forced to pay for new power generation to comply with the EPA rule.

Memorial Hospital Foundation: Honoring our legacy and securing our future

As 2024 draws to a close, Memorial Hospital Foundation proudly reflects on a year dedicated to enhancing health and wellness in our local communities through charitable giving. This year, funds raised by the foundation supported several key projects, including the establishment of Memorial Medical Clinic Mobile.

The “Strengthening Minds, Building Futures” campaign supported Memorial Hospital’s Behavioral Health team in launching a mobile mental health unit. This innovative mobile clinic allows mental health counselors to provide essential support, therapy and resources directly to local students on their school campuses, addressing common mental health challenges more effectively.

Additionally, the foundation continued to fund the Grow Our Own Scholarship Campaign, providing financial assistance and support for staff members seeking to further their education in the healthcare field.

In 2024, Memorial Hospital Foundation also celebrated the remarkable milestone of raising a total of \$2 million since its inception in 2015. The foundation is proud to ensure that 100% of these proceeds were infused directly back into our communities, supporting a variety of projects that have served to enhance health and wellness resources and opportunities locally. The foundation extends its deepest gratitude to the community of supporters who have passionately believed in and supported this mission. The Foundation’s success is a testament to your continued generosity.

Looking ahead to 2025, the foundation is filled with pride as Memorial Hospital prepares to celebrate its 75th anniversary, and the foundation marks its 10th anniversary. These milestones provide an opportunity to reflect on a legacy of excellence in local healthcare and inspire us to consider how we can

continue to strengthen and secure the future of local healthcare for years to come.

In 2025, the foundation will focus on raising funds for the Together We Grow Endowment Campaign. This fund acts as a savings account for the future of local healthcare, ensuring a dependable, perpetual source of funding. As healthcare continues to evolve, endowment funds are crucial for the growth of Memorial Hospital and its services. Contributions of any size are welcomed, including property, bequests, life insurance policies, stock gifts, certificates of deposit and planned giving. **9612-33**

To kick off fundraising efforts for the Together We Grow Endowment Fund, the Foundation is hosting the community-favorite October Moon Barn Dance on Friday, Oct. 18, 2024, at Smokin’ Gun Hunting Lodge & Event Center. Doors open at 6 p.m., with local artist Bocephus Wayne starting the evening’s entertainment at 7 p.m., followed by the Nashville band After Hours at 8 p.m. The evening will also include a live and silent auction, with both professional auctioneers and “local celebrities” taking part in the fun. The evening will be set to theme of “Cowboy Disco” and will feature a photobooth area and more. A food truck will also be on site throughout the event. Cost per ticket to attend is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. The Foundation sincerely hopes that you can take part in the fun while supporting a meaningful cause. To purchase your tickets, scan the QR code above or contact the foundation office at 217-357-8504.



L to R: Colleen Wildrick, Director of Development, Katelyn Murphy, Communication Coordinator, and Greta Wetzel, Executive Director

For more information on how you can contribute to the Memorial Hospital Foundation, please contact our team: Greta Wilson Wetzel, Executive Director at 217-357-8502 or gwetzel@mhtlc.org; Colleen Wildrick, Director of Development at 217-357-8504 or cwildrick@mhtlc.org; or Katelyn Foreman, Communications Coordinator 217-357-8568 or kmurphy@mhtlc.org

Memorial Hospital Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and a subsidiary of Memorial Hospital, supporting Memorial Hospital and Hancock County Senior & Childcare Services, and the communities they serve.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Now is the time to schedule annual maintenance for your home's heating system. During fall months, HVAC technicians are typically less busy, making this an excellent time for maintenance and any necessary repairs before the winter months.

A qualified technician can clean filters, check for leaks and ensure all system components are working efficiently to keep your home cozy and warm when temperatures begin to drop.