



## New hire starts in January

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. (WIEC) hired a new worker to join the line crew recently. Christian Peacock showed up ready to work during the first full week of January 2025, and we were happy to oblige. Christian was born and raised in Carthage and attended Illini West High School. After high school, he moved on to Illinois College in Jacksonville, where he earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. That degree allowed him to move back home and work for the Hancock County Sheriff's Department, where he served for about five years. Since that time, Christian has worked for Brinks as an ATM tech and route manager, gone back to school to complete the courses required at Lincoln Land Community College to earn his lineworker's certificate, and hauled grain for FS. The path



to line work isn't always a straight one. We are thankful for each one who chooses it. **4727-10**

In his time away from work, Christian enjoys disc golf, exercising and grilling. However, you might also find him cheering for one of his two favorite sports teams on occasion, the Indianapolis Colts or the Chicago Cubs. The vast majority of his down time, though, is spent with his wife Dana and their daughter, Maeve, who is just a few months old. Two corgis, Ollie and Piper, round out the household and keep everyone on their toes.

Christian started as a groundworker and will move up to an apprentice lineworker position when appropriate. He says he chose line work because he wants to be the reason people stay comfortable in their lives and homes.

## Director nomination and election process

In accordance with Article IV, Section 4, of your cooperative's bylaws, a nominating committee must be appointed between thirty (30) and one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the Annual Meeting of Members (June 26, 2025). **5810-9**

Directors shall be elected by and from the membership by ballot and shall serve for a term of three years, or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. The terms of the directors from Districts 4 and 5 expire this year. Directors from both of these districts will be nominated.

District No. 4, currently represented by Stephen Patrick, consists of Bear Creek, Chili, Prairie and St. Albans townships in Hancock County, plus Houston and Keene townships in Adams County, Ill.

District No. 5, currently represented by Mark Burling, is Carthage, Fountain Green and Pilot Grove townships in Hancock County, plus Hire Township in McDonough County, Ill.

The nominating committee must post a list of nominations at the cooperative office at least twenty (20) days before the annual meeting. Any 15 cooperative members may act together and nominate another member by petition. These nominations will be posted with those made by the nominating committee. Nominations made by petition at least 10 days before the annual meeting will be included on the official ballot. No member may nominate more than one candidate.



**Western Illinois**  
ELECTRICAL COOP.  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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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**

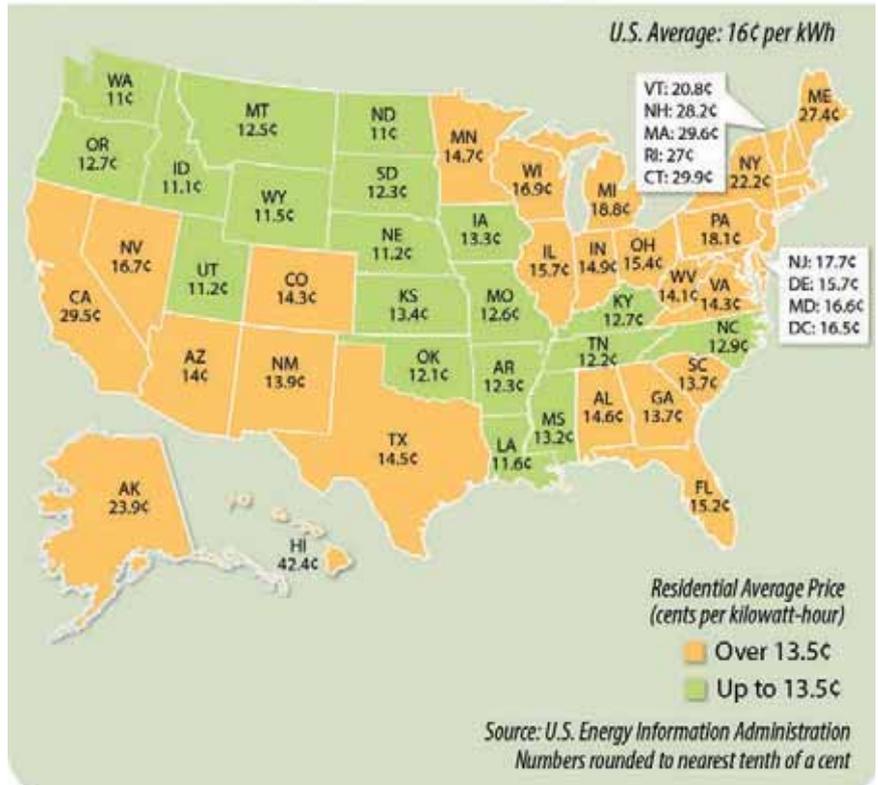
- **Todd Grotts** — General Manager
- **Ryan Biery** — Manager  
of Operations
- **Wendi Whitaker** — Finance and  
Accounting Manager

**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.

**Average Prices for Residential Electricity**

2023 figures, in cents per kWh



**Welcome new member** December 2024

Charles J Staff Trust

## Just a reminder ...

These charts reflect the rate changes that will go into effect for usage starting April 1, 2025. You will see them for the first time on the bills you receive in early May that will be due on May 27, 2025. You can look at your current bill to see what rate (or rates) you are on, then check below to see how they will change on April 1st. **581-9**

Rates 1, 2, 13 Single-Phase	2024 RATE	Rate Effective 4/1/2025
Facility Charge	\$53	\$58
First 2,000 kWh	.1275/kWh	No Change
Over 2,000 kWh	.1025/kWh	.1150/kWh

Rates 3 & 33 Three-Phase	2024 RATE	Rate Effective 4/1/2025
Facility Charge	\$66	\$76
First 2,000 kWh	.1575/kWh	No Change
Over 2,000 kWh	.1025/kWh	.1150/kWh

Rate 4 Large Power	2024 RATE	Rate Effective 4/1/2025
Facility Charge	\$115	\$120
All kWhs	.1025/kWh	.1150/kWh
Demand	\$12/KW	No Change

Rates 40, 41, 403, 413 Electric Heat	2024 RATE	Rate Effective 4/1/2025
Facility Charge	\$6	No Change
*October-April Only		
All kWhs	.1025/kWh	.1150/kWh

Rates 60, 61, 603, 613 Geothermal	2024 RATE	Rate Effective 4/1/2025
Facility Charge	\$6	No Change
All kWhs	.1025/kWh	.1150/kWh

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

March is an ideal time to service your home cooling system, ensuring it runs efficiently when the heat of summer arrives. Routine maintenance, like cleaning or replacing filters, checking refrigerant levels and inspecting parts, can improve your system's energy efficiency and lower your energy bills. By addressing potential issues early, you can avoid costly emergency repairs and extend the lifespan of your unit. Scheduling service in the spring helps you beat the peak-season rush, giving you faster access to qualified technicians. A well-maintained cooling system can save energy and keep your home comfortable all summer long.



# Electric cooperatives bring unique value to their communities

**E**lectric cooperatives stand out from other types of businesses because we are built and led by the communities we serve. As independent, not-for-profit electric utilities, we are owned and governed by our local members — not by outside shareholders or investors. That is a powerful differentiator. **4716-28**

Here are a few ways electric co-ops like Western Illinois Electrical Coop. bring unique value to the local communities they serve:

- **We put people before profits.** Co-ops are not-for-profit and provide at-cost electric service. Any excess revenue is returned to our consumer-members in the form of capital credits, typically as a check in late fall.

- **Community comes first.** We live and work here, too, and we care deeply about our local communities. That's why we engage in development and revitalization projects and sponsor local students for scholarships and youth programs.
- **Affordable, reliable power is our priority.** Western Illinois Electrical Coop. purchases electricity from Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI), our wholesale energy partner. PPI is a generation and transmission cooperative formed by a group of electric co-ops in our state. This cooperative business structure allows us to pool local resources and provide electricity at a lower cost than if we purchased it from outside sources.

As a new year begins, we're focused on our members' energy needs — not only for today but for the long haul. We're advocating for smarter energy policies that prioritize reliability and affordability for all. We recognize we must be inclusive of all energy sources, which is why we work closely with Prairie Power, Inc. to ensure the use of a diverse mix of sources to generate the electricity we provide to our members.

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. is working to power a brighter future through innovation that meets tomorrow's energy needs. Reliable, affordable electricity is more important than ever before, and our focus will continue to be in the best interest of the local communities we serve. To learn more about WIEC, visit [www.wiec.net](http://www.wiec.net).

## Youth Day in Illinois is March 5 this year.

**O**ver the years, thousands of Illinois high school students have learned how government works and why it's important for every citizen to get involved in it. Western Illinois Electrical Coop. is proud to be a part of the group providing this opportunity for the leaders of tomorrow to meet, and to be inspired and encouraged by today's state senators and representatives.

We would like to wish this year's participants a safe and memorable trip.

