



**Western Illinois**  
ELECTRICAL COOP.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ [www.wiec.net](http://www.wiec.net) ■ 800-576-3125

# news

## Lineworkers are wired for service

**I**n the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, often clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 18, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives. **6517-45**

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

Western Illinois Electrical Cooperative (WIEC) crews travel across our service territory that spans parts of four counties, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, and emergency services remain accessible — a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves



*Back row, left to right: Kyle Tanner, Christian Peacock and Max Dittmer. Front row, left to right: Mitch Reed, Cody Grainger, Colton Ragain, Eric Johnson, Tim Shumate and Andy Lafeber*

in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

WIEC lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is

one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable individuals who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible — lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.



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#### 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.

# New hire started in February

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. (WIEC) is pleased to introduce new hire Max Dittmer. Max was born in Macomb and grew up north of Carthage in the country just outside of Burnside. Max spent summers working at Bergman Farm Supply during high school. Once he graduated from Illini West High School, he then went to work for a local electrical contractor wiring buildings, houses and grain bins.



During the derecho that ravaged the Hancock County portion of WIEC's service territory in June of 2023, Max watched as lineworkers repaired downed wires and poles to restore normalcy to residents and businesses in the area — and he wanted to be a part of it. Max made some plans and eventually headed to Tunnel Hill, Ga., where he attended the Elite Lineman Training Institute and graduated successfully. **6519-26**

In his time away from work, Max mainly likes to hunt. When he's not hunting, he might be found cheering for the Chicago Bears somewhere. Max started as a groundworker and will move up to an apprentice lineworker position when appropriate.

**Welcome to the team, Max!**

#### TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Don't fall for a power restoration rip off. Some scammers will contact you and offer to restore power quickly or in a preferential order if you make an immediate payment. These scams typically occur after major storms or disasters that cause widespread outages. We will never request or require payment to restore power after a natural disaster or storm. If post-storm repairs to customer-owned equipment are necessary, we will advise you to work with a licensed contractor. If any charges are applicable, you will be billed through your account.

*Source: Utilities United Against Scams*



**The WIEC office will be closed on  
Friday, April 18th in observance  
of Good Friday.**

**Welcome new members**

**January  
2025**

Brandon Carl	James R and Kay Schmitz
Aaron R Gerhardt	Kathleen Schrader
Karson Dean Hull	Paul R Wiedemeyer

Cyrus Wood

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Turn your suds into savings. Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle. Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings, and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying cycles, clean the lint filter before each load to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying time.



## Nominating Committee appointed

**A**t the February WIEC board meeting, current board members appointed the following co-op members to serve on the 2025 Nominating Committee:

- District No. 1** — Lyman Ross, Gladstone
- District No. 2** — Spencer Berry, Nauvoo
- District No. 3** — Harold (Tony) Herdrich, Dallas City
- District No. 4** — Steve Boyer and Jason Jacquot, both of Carthage
- District No. 5** — Austin Ufkes and Jason Fecht, both of Carthage
- District No. 6** — No nominee appointed
- District No. 7** — Max Roskamp, Sutter

Two committee members were appointed from the districts whose board members' terms expire this year. Other districts may each have up to a single appointee. **6612-2** This committee will nominate at least one member from District No. 4 and at least one member from District No. 5 to represent those districts on the WIEC Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Stephen Patrick from District No. 4 and Mark Burling from District No. 5 are the current board members.

The first Nominating Committee meeting was scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, at the WIEC office in Carthage.



## Vegetation management

**I**n order to help maintain reliable electric service, WIEC has contracted with IFP Land Services LLC (IFP) to handle brush and tree management needs again this year. They will handle spraying, trimming, cutting and removal of trees and brush.

We plan to have crews performing routine brush spraying this spring and summer in Bear Creek, Harmony, St. Mary's, Hancock, Carthage, Prairie, Rock Creek, Pilot Grove, Fountain Green, Pontoosuc, Durham and LaHarpe townships in Hancock County, Blandinsville township in McDonough County, as well as in Terra Haute, Lomax, Carman, Stronghurst, Gladstone, Biggsville and Media townships in Henderson County.

Fallen or overreaching trees and limbs account for many power outages, momentary flickers and blinks. Brush spraying and tree trimming are necessary to provide the continuous service WIEC members deserve and expect.

Due to the advanced printing of this issue of the WIEC News, these plans are subject to change. If you have questions, please contact the office at 217-357-3125 or 800-576-3125.

# Cash those capital credit checks

Please take one more look to assure you've cashed any capital credit retirement checks from the fall of 2024. **673-18** If you haven't taken care of that yet, now's the time!

In addition, if you happen to have current address or phone information for someone appearing on this list of uncashed checks, please contact our office to aid in our efforts to return as many dollars to WIEC members as possible. Thank you.

360 Communications Co	Day Lewis	Harman James R	Leffler Gary	Ole Miss Cabin Assoc	Sparrow Traci
Adams Emma	Dayton D James	Harman Richard	Leighty Gina	Paben James L	Stamp Linda L
Akers Chris	Dehaven Todd	Harmony Twp Supvr	Leverett Debra	Painter Patricia W	Stevenson Emerald
Allen Howard W	Delaney Jim	Harris Denny	Lewis Genevieve	Parker A G	Stevenson Michael
Altgilbers Cris	Delguzzi Virginia	Harrison Delores	Lieurance Ernest A	Peacock David W	Strohkirch Jeff
Anderson Dorothy L	Dietrich Kay	Harrison Leo C	Limkeman Delbert W	Pettit David	Stromquist Darla J
Anderson Douglas A	Diseron R Grant	Hart Patricia J	Limkeman Dorothy	Peyton William M	Stuehrenberg Ray
Armstrong Terri J	Dooley Lisa	Haskins A Blake	Lisenbee Joyce	Pfeiffer Richard H	Sullivan Bill M
Asher Malissa	Dougher Jim	Haupert Joe	Litchfield Faye	Pierce Annabelle	Sullivan Rita
Bainter Carl D	Douglas Gene	Hedges Paulette J	Litchfield Kenneth	Pierce Jason T	Sutherland Charles
Baird Russell E	Dowell Benny L	Hensley Richard	Little Debra	Plummer James P Jr	Svejda Tim
Baltz Donald	Droppers Wyla W	Henson Dorothy C	Logan Robert	Poggemiller Larry E	Switzer Les Jr
Barr Marion A	Drummond Ronald K	Herkes Donald J	Lomax Welding Inc	Potter Craig	Taylor Clark O
Bawden Kyle	Dulin Clarence D	Hernandez Martin C	Lowe William R	Powelson Jamey	Thomas Tom L
Baxter Kathy	Eagen Vivian M	Hertel Mary L	Lowman Jeff	Powelson Ronnie	Timmerman Barbara Jean
Beard Charles A	Easterday Betty June	Hibbard Carol	Maletta Lewis J	Pruitt Monte	Tindall Matthew M
Benjamin Gary K Or Lorraine	Eaves Kelly J	Hills Linda	Maloney Maureen T	Purtle Leona	Tobias Johnnie M
Bennett Charles H	Eaves Kelly J	Hinman Joan Z	Manley James	Quackenbush Marjorie	Todd Gary
Bess-Melcher Malinda L	Eichman Keith	Hofmann Stacey	Manton Kevin D	Ragona Alice E	Townsend Bruce J
Betts Charles L	Elledge David R	Holtsclaw Alice	Markey Deanna	Ramsey Barbara	Trott Donald C
Bode Ronald L	Ellenberg Edward	Hopson Scott G	Markey Gail W	Randall Ron	Twitchell Karen
Boden Micheal A	Ellis Robert	Hoskins Jerry D	Marshall Katherine	Rea Carl	Ufkes Gregory J
Bollin Douglas	Energy Transp Ort	Hufendick Michael C	Martens Raymond	Reichelt Thomas	Vanbeek Peter L
Bolton Judith	Estabrook R B	Huff Island Hunt & Fish	Martens Ronald	Rhodes Eric	Vance Alan G
Bowman Phillip T Jr	Everhardus Sally	Huffman Charles W	Martin Angela	Ritche Marla K	Vance Farm
Boyer Arlene Or Arnold Boyer	Ewing Patrick J	Hughen Tony	Mason Myron	Rocky Run Softball Assoc	Vance Thea M
Bragg John E Sr	Finley Tammy J	Huser Gregory A	Mason Raymond D	Roelfs Darren J	Vandeusen Daniel L
Brandom Lorraina B	First Community Bank	Hutson Dennis A	Mathews Mark K	Root Cindi	Vanfleet David M
Brecount Georgia	Foresman Anna L	Hutson Edith M	Mathewson Elaine	Rowland Margaret	Vought Virginia M
Bricker Shirley A	Fortado David C	Hutson Stanley J	Mcclain Jennifer S	Ruhs Mary C	Wallingford Joyce
Bridgewater Ronnald L	Fortado Jean	Hymes Linda L	Mcclelland Mike	Rupp Darlene	Walton Ruth E Trust
Briscoe Ron D	Foster Michael	Ikerd Vera J	Mccombs Martin W	Sage Brian K	Warsaw Gun Club
Brown Betty	Frericks Daniel A	Irish Martha	Mcdowell Carole E	Sala James B	Washburn Alan
Brown Nancy	Gabel Daniel	Jacobs Michael	Mcelroy Doris K	Sanchez Roberto	Waterman Catherine
Bryan Margaret E	Geissler Dennis J	Jered Roy	Mcneil Glenn E	Sanders Jenny L	Waterman Conda
Buckert Bros	Geissler William F	Johnson Betty	Mcsparen Tracy D	Sangamo Const Co	Waterman Harold L
Buckert Ruth	Gemming Larry L	Johnson Randy	Mcveigh Ron	Scanlan Donald	Wear Doris I
Bullard Kevin	Gerdes Clarence D	Jones Irene	Meier Rochne E	Schalk Pamela K	Wheatley Robert
Burns Peggy	Gerdes George E	Jones Judith C	Miller Rolland	Schaller James R	Whitaker Dorothy
Byrkit Steve	Gerst Richard O	Jones Karl Blaine	Mixer Norma	Scheetz John	Whitten Scott A
Gibson Mike	Gibson Mike	Kaltenbach William	Moffitt James W	Scheetz Mary	Williams Jamie L
Gillum Loren Jr	Gillum Loren Jr	Kanrich Stephen G	Mohler Leslie A	Scheetz R J	Williamson Alan E
Califf Bill	Gilpin Jamie	Kay David J	Mohr Donna	Scheetz Thomas J	Wilson James A
Cameron David M	Goldizen Richard A	Kelley Jennifer K	Monnier Becky	Schmelze Mark	Wilson Leora
Campbell John S	Gordon Garland	Keokuk Junction Railway	Moore Larry E	Schnedler Dolores	Wilson R Edward
Carel Robin G	Graham Erma	Kettelkamp Steven J	Moore Tom	Schoene Rhonda S	Wilson Thomas
Chandler Carrie S	Grau Helen	Kilpatrick Margaret	Morgan Matt	Schoonover Russell L	Winchester Teresa
Chaney William E	Gray Martha L	Klingler Brian	Morse Betty	Sewell Larry	Winchester Tony
Cheesman Enterprises	Green John F	Knorr Ted	Morton Shirley	Shipman Debra J	Winters Frances E
Classen Ruthie J	Gronewold Kenny	Kochler Tony	Murphy Chris G	Shirey Eli	Witter Carol J
Cochran Lloyd J	Gronewold Lance	Koopmans Garry Lee	Murphy Robert D	Shuman Sherri	Wittman Edna M
Colusa Post Office	Gunn Marlin	Kunz Irene	Mustard Richard	Sickels Myrle	Wollbrink Brian
Comstock Larry D	Haberichter Kenton J	Kunz Jay	Neill Ida	Siegfried Clement G	Wollbrink Edward
Cooper Barbara	Hackemack Glenda J	Lake James E	Nell Gerald M	Siegrist Steven	Womack Penny S
Cox Belinda	Hackett Joyce A	Lambert Charles	Nelson Tom	Siemens Daren	Wright Arla
Cramberg Connie G	Haigh Glen F	Lamma Janet	Newberry Terry Q II	Siens Irrigation	Wuestenfeld Dave
Crawford David H	Hamman Kathryn D	Larson Eric E	Newton Elizabeth	Simpson Dave W	Yarolem Timothy A
Crist Ruth M	Hammel Jeffrey B	Larson Larry H	Newton William	Sloan Charlotte	Yocom David E
Daskalos Nick	Harman Grain	Lawson Elaine	Nicholson Patrick	Sloop William R	Youell Doris
Davis Wayne	& Cattle, Ltd.	Lawson Russell	Northup Roland H	Spangler Helen	
Day Dennis L		Leath David A	O Halloran Richard	Sparrow Brent	