



# NEWS

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

# AMPLIFY

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT COOPERATION SAFETY EDUCATION COMMUNITY YOUR VOICE

## 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

**THURSDAY  
JUNE 26**  
REGISTRATION 5:30 PM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
EXTENSION CENTER  
550 N. MADISON, CARTHAGE, IL

**SAVE  
THE DATE!**



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.



Map Location Winner – March issue

Darlene Hartweg

*Congratulations!*

## Allocation of WIEC's 2024 operating margins

If you were a WIEC member who purchased power during 2024, you should receive an allocation notice this month. If you do not receive one, please contact us. **681-16**

This allocation of capital credits does not mean cash in hand for co-op members quite yet. That piece of the process comes several years later, after board approval, and is called the retirement portion of the process. The current allocation notice communicates to members how much each has coming to them in the future as a result of 2024's operating margins.

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

### TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



If you suspect you're dealing with a utility scam, it's crucial to slow down and take your time before taking any action. Scammers will often pressure you to make quick decisions or immediate payments. Instead, take the time to verify the legitimacy of the communication by contacting your utility directly. Use a phone number from a reliable source, such as your bill or the utility's website. Taking this simple step can help protect you from falling victim to utility scams.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams



### Welcome new members

February 2025

Lana & Michael Carr  
Dustin Ellefritz  
Francis Markey Trust  
Marilyn Sue Gerdes

David S & Penny M Haage  
Katherine A Hall  
Leo E Hanks, Jr.

S and B Kelly Family Farms LLC  
Stephen J Trott  
Jeffery Thomas Vaughn

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year, and more often if there are pets in the home.

When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance.

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



## 2025 Nominating Committee results

The 2025 nominating committee met in the board room at the WIEC office in Carthage on March 6th and 11th to make nominations for directors. Two directors will be elected at the cooperative's annual meeting on Thursday, June 26th.

Serving on the committee were Spencer Berry as Chairperson, Nauvoo; Steve Boyer, Carthage; Jonathan Fecht as Secretary, Carthage; Harold "Tony" Herdrich, Dallas City; Jason Jacquot, Carthage; Max Roskamp, Sutter; Lyman Ross, Gladstone; and Austin Ufkes, Carthage.

The following were nominated for director positions:

- District 4 — Stephen Patrick
- District 5 — Mark Burling

The nominations have been posted in Carthage at the co-op office as stipulated in the cooperative's bylaws. **8611-10-1** 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.



2025 Nominating Committee members include: (L to R) Max Roskamp; Harold "Tony" Herdrich; Steve Boyer; Jonathan Fecht, Secretary; Spencer Berry, Committee Chairperson; Austin Ufkes; and Lyman Ross. Not pictured: Jason Jacquot

## 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 26th, 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.



## Future leaders meet state officials during 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 5, approximately 200 high school students from across rural Illinois represented 22 co-ops during Youth Day, including three from Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

"Youth Day offers students from across the state a firsthand experience of democracy in action as they engage with their elected representatives in Springfield," said Brooke Gross, member services manager at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and facilitator of its youth programs. "This annual event provides state senators and representatives a chance to inspire and support the next generation of leaders."

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 Capitol Building and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. **9517-12**

State Senator Neil Anderson and Representative Norine Hammond met with the students representing Western Illinois Electrical Coop. These students included Drake Vancil, Isaac Mohr and Mira Shirey.

During lunch, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs addressed the students. He shared his journey

from a small town in Illinois to his current role, emphasizing the importance of finding interesting and challenging opportunities. He encouraged students to pursue their passions and take risks.

"When you push yourself outside your comfort zone, it's uncomfortable at first, but you learn a lot," Frerichs said. "I'm guessing this is a room of people who want to do big things."

Participants also met Paris Van Dyke, the 2023-24 Illinois Youth Leadership Council representative, who was sponsored by Wabash Communications CO-OP during the 2023 Youth Day and Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. She spoke about her experiences representing Illinois' electric and telephone cooperatives.

"I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for this experience two years

ago, because I really got out of my box and decided to try something new," Van Dyke said. "Be proud of yourself for sitting in the chairs that you are in today, because you have an opportunity that not very many students get. So, take advantage of that, and just remember to say yes to the opportunities that come your way." **9514-31**

At the end of the day, attendees were interviewed for the chance to participate in Youth Tour, an annual trip to Washington, D.C., also sponsored by Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives. This year's trip will be held June 16-23. During the weeklong trip they get to meet their elected officials, see historic sites, learn firsthand how cooperatives work and gain valuable leadership skills.



*Left to right: 2025 Youth Day participants Isaac Mohr, Drake Vancil, Mira Shirey*