

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

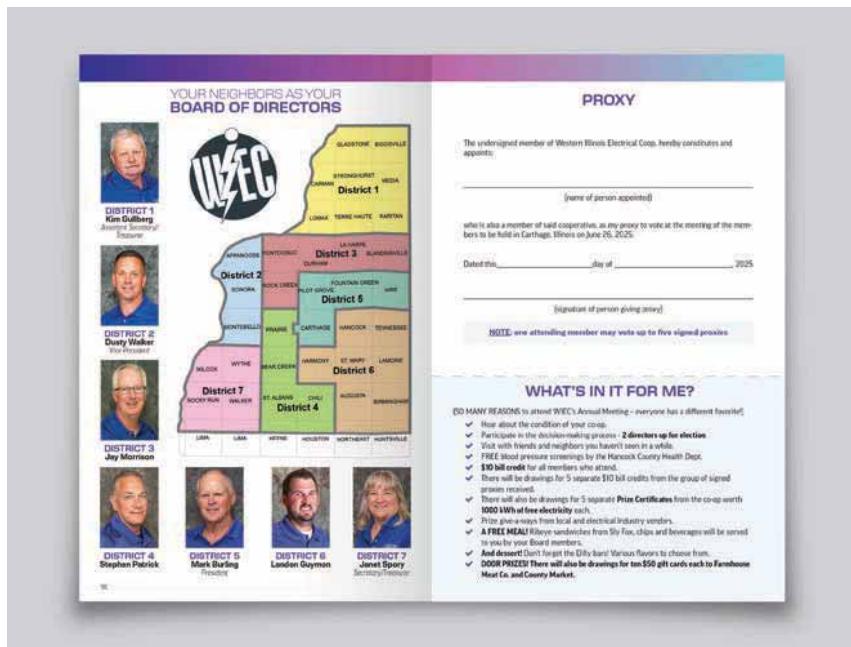
# news

## 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/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. Either way, your vote will count!

All members who sign and return their proxy to be used at the Annual Meeting will be entered into drawings for one of 5 bill credits. **3818-56**



**Time of Service Award  
to be presented at this year's  
85th WIEC Annual Meeting**

**RYAN BIERY, MANAGER OF OPERATIONS  
10 years**





## Western Illinois ELECTRICAL COOP.

524 North Madison | P.O. Box 338  
Carthage, IL 62321  
[www.wiec.net](http://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

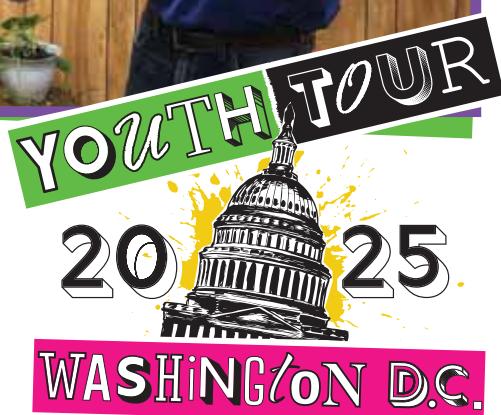
- **Todd Grotts** — General Manager
- **Ryan Biery** — Manager  
of Operations
- **Wendi Whitaker** — Finance and  
Accounting Manager

### 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.



## Vancil selected as Youth Tour winner



For more than 60 years, Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives have given the youth of Illinois the opportunity to learn from and interact with elected public officials from their respective areas. In March, more than 200 students from across rural Illinois represented 22 co-ops during Youth Day in Springfield, including three from Western Illinois Electrical Coop. (WIEC)

During that Springfield trip earlier this year, at the end of the jam-packed day, the youth in attendance participated in interviews for a chance to win an all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capital. Youth Tour, an annual trip to Washington, D.C., is also sponsored by Illinois

electric and telephone cooperatives, including WIEC. 2811-8

After reviewing the interviewers' suggestions, the WIEC board of directors voted to select Drake Vancil as this year's WIEC Youth Tour Winner. Drake is the son of Arbry and Sherri Vancil of Carman, Ill., and will return to Central High School for his senior year at the end of the summer.

This year's D.C. trip will be held June 16-23. During the weeklong trip, Drake and the other participants get to meet their elected officials, see historic sites, learn firsthand how cooperatives work and gain valuable leadership skills.

### Welcome new members

March  
2025

Ben T. Leard

Eric D. and Jennifer L.  
McGuire

Eugenia and Larry C.  
Nilson



IEC MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIPS



## Biery selected as scholarship winner

Western Illinois Electrical Coop is proud to announce that Anna Biery of Illini West High School is one of 16 winners of this year's Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. She is the daughter of Ryan and Erin Biery of Carthage. Anna competed for the scholarship with 293 other students from across the state. The \$2,500 awards are given each year to 16 children of electric co-op members, employees or directors. A seventeenth scholarship is reserved for a student interested in lineworker's college and will be announced at a later date. **3528-39**

The specific scholarship awarded to Anna is known as the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship. It is intended for use at a two-year or four-year university by a student whose parent is an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director, to

honor the legacy of service within the cooperative family.

Anna will be recognized during the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting on July 31, 2025, in Springfield, during WIEC's annual meeting on June 26, 2025, in Carthage, and was also recently congratulated during Honors Night for IW in Carthage last month.

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.

Come this fall, Anna will attend Western Illinois University in Macomb, Ill. Western Illinois Electrical Coop. is honored to have a scholarship recipient and is excited to see how she will represent the community.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of the warmer weather to reduce home energy use. Avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the energy used to power the oven or stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for additional air conditioning.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen and explore new ways to save energy!

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)



# How extreme summer temps impact reliability

When outdoor temperatures soar, our electricity use increases. That's because our air conditioners are running longer and more often to counteract sweltering outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times — in the morning and early evenings — and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

At Western Illinois Electrical Coop., we work closely with Prairie Power, Inc., our generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative, in resource and infrastructure planning to ensure you have the power you need whenever you flip a switch, but the electric grid is much larger than your local co-op and G&T.

In summer months, when even more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for electricity demand to exceed supply, especially if a prolonged heat wave occurs. If this happens, which is rare, the grid operator for our region of the country may call on consumers to actively reduce their energy use or initiate rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the grid. Western Illinois Electrical Coop. will always attempt to keep you informed about situations like this.

We work proactively with our G&T to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular

system maintenance, grid modernization efforts and disaster response planning, but it takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.

To help keep the air conditioner running for you, your family and neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid during times of extreme summer heat:

- Select the highest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it up several degrees whenever possible. Your cooling system must run longer to make up the difference between the thermostat temp and the outdoor temp.

**Pro tip:** Seal air leaks around windows and exterior doors with caulk and weatherstripping. Air leaks and drafts force your cooling system to work harder than necessary.

- Run major appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and dryers during off-peak hours when the demand for electricity is lower.

**Pro tip:** Start the dishwasher before you go to bed.

- Use ceiling fans to make yourself feel a few degrees cooler. Remember, ceiling fans cool people (not rooms), so turn them off in unoccupied rooms.

**Pro tip:** During summer

months, set ceiling fan blades to rotate counterclockwise, which pushes cool air down for a wind-chill effect.

- Close blinds, curtains and shades during the hottest part of the day to block unwanted heat gain from sunlight.

**Pro tip:** Consider blackout curtains with thermal backing or reflective lining to block heat and light. **461-64**

- Use smaller appliances, such as slow cookers, air fryers and toaster ovens to cook meals.

**Pro tip:** Studies have shown that air fryers use about half the amount of electricity of a full-sized oven. Air fryers are smaller and use focused heat, which results in faster cooking times, less heat output and lower energy use.

As we face the challenges posed by soaring summer temperatures, understanding the impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme heat, not only can you save money on your electric bills, but you can also contribute to the resilience of the grid, keeping our local community cool and connected.

## 5 WAYS to Reduce Use During Extreme Heat



1. **Raise your thermostat setting a few degrees higher** than usual. Every degree can reduce cooling energy consumption.
2. **Cook with smaller appliances** to save energy and reduce heat gain in the kitchen.

3. **Keep blinds, curtains and shades closed** during the hottest part of the day to block direct sunlight.
4. **Use fans** to circulate air, which can make you feel cooler without needing to lower the thermostat.
5. **Shift activities** that require a lot of energy consumption to off-peak hours when demand is lower.